

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA MARCH 2011



THE REV. MARGE PALMER HONORED AS “PASTOR EMERITA” OF STONE CHURCH

On Sunday, January 30, the congregation of Stone Church voted unanimously to bestow the title of *Pastor Emerita* on The Rev. Marge Palmer.

Marge wrote the following letter to express her gratitude for this honor:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for voting, at the Congregational Meeting on Jan. 30, to honor me with the title, *Pastor Emerita*; for the generous *purse* you presented to me; and most of all, for the outpouring of love you showed me that day.

As I told you, I was overwhelmed, but I should not have been surprised because that is who you are as individuals and as a congregation – generous kind and loving!

It was a great privilege to have served as a Parish Associate under

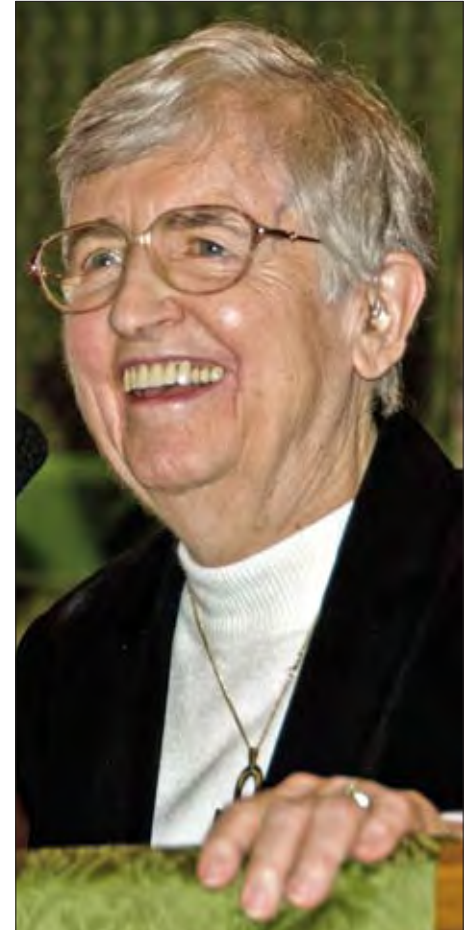
Art Mills, to have been called as Interim Pastor for two years and three months, and to have served as Parish Associate for the last three years under Ken.

When Bill and I came to Stone Church from New York nearly eleven years ago, both designated as *honorably retired*, I did not expect to be very deeply engaged in ministry. But God often has plans for us that we don't foresee. When I resumed my ministry at Stone Church, I was told by friends that I had *failed* retirement.

So, now I will try again. You may see me in the Chancel from time to time, or occasionally involved in some program. But, by and large, I will work at *passing* retirement, while always keeping you in my prayers!

With much love and gratitude,

Marge



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY GROW UP?

*Exploring Youth Ministry at
Stone with Adults and Teens*

by Ken Henry & Ellen Williams

What will the youth group at Stone Church look like in 2016?

Right now, your elementary school-age child may be attending Stone's vibrant Church School program each week, but what will happen when he or she is 13? What will the Presbyterian Church offer her when she enters high school? Who will be there for him when

he graduates and heads off to college? After our children leave the nest, will they have faith?

Lately, among Presbyterian churchgoers, the question of our children's faith – that is, when they grow up – has been of great concern. Because while Stone currently provides a nurturing environment for both children and youth, parents of small children might begin to wonder what the program will look like years from now, for their own youth.

On March 9, at 7:15 pm (following our Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30), Ellen Williams and I would like to begin a discussion with parents and teens who are interested not only in the current program, but also in exploring the shape

and direction of youth ministry at Stone years from now.

We'll start off together in the Fireside Room. After introductions and instructions, Ellen will continue talking to parents, while Ken disappears downstairs with the youth to talk about their hopes and dreams for the program. Of course, we'll all come back together for a closing time – along with pie and ice cream.

All parents of any age child or youth are welcome. We also invite anyone interested in volunteering for or leading our youth program. We ask only that you sign up after worship, or RSVP to our office manager, Jennifer, by March 6.

Will our youth have faith? Come explore this question with us.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP: ROCKING WITH SUCCESS!

Eleven middle school “rockers” attempted to stay awake all night, while they ate, decorated Valentine cookies for Coffee Fellowship, watched movies (*The Princess Bride* was their favorite), and “just visited,” at Stone’s annual *Rock-a-Thon*, Feb. 12 - 13, from 7:30 pm to 7:30 am, in the Fireside Room.

A big thanks goes out to everyone who loaned us a rocking chair; to Guy

Lohman who brought us yummy ice cream; to Kelley and Joe Durdella who provided Round Table Pizza and stayed to visit; to Steve Nelson who cooked us a pancake breakfast; and to our two all-night chaperones, Kate Wheatley and Kathleen Oliver.

Our pledge total of \$814 will take us a long way on our Church School *Friendship Garden* project.

Blessings all around! - Rosaleen



Thanks to Kathleen Oliver for these great pictures of the Rock-a-Thon!



CONFIRMATION JOURNEY HAS BEGUN FOR FOUR STONE YOUTH

We ask for your prayers for four Stone Church youth, and their mentors, as we grow and learn together during their *Confirmation Journey*:

- ♥ **Madison McManus**
mentor: Janice Goertz
- ♥ **Madeline McNelis**
mentor: Rhonda Lakatos
- ♥ **Grant Nilson**
mentors: Emily & Jody Meacham
- ♥ **Meghan Schroeder**
mentor: Rosaleen Zisch

- ♥ Mentor Assistant: Claudia Hamm
- ♥ Retreat Assistant: Steve Nelson

The Confirmation Journey began in January with a family meeting and continues through May with a meeting with Session to share *Statements of Faith*. Many activities and explorations will take place in the next few months to help these wonderful youth understand what it means to be a Christian and a member of our Presbyterian Church. - Rosaleen Zisch



ADULT EDUCATION LOOKS AT JEREMIAH, "THE REFUGE OF PRAYER," EARTH DAY

Stone offers fascinating and varied Adult Education classes on Sunday mornings at 11:15 in the Fireside Room. Child-care is provided. All are welcome!

Feb. 27 - March 20: Jeremiah: Prophet for Our Time? with Dale and Barbara Bracey

Jeremiah saw his country through the stormy years of national catastrophe and, by his interpretation of events, pointed the way forward into a new era. His name has been misrepresented in the popular mind as being synonymous with a gloomy complainer. Far from being a prophet of despair, he was the one man who knew how Judah might have a future. He would have

a lot to say about how we in the 21st century should respond to our conflict of visions and directions today.

March 27 & April 3: The Refuge of Prayer with Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

The Refuge of Prayer is a devotional book by Ken Henry that faithfully considers how to pray and how to maintain the discipline of prayer when you are bombarded daily by emails, constant distractions, and the urgent voice that pulls you away from reflecting more deeply on your spiritual path.

Books will be available for purchase in the Social Hall during Coffee Fellowship, beginning March 13 (two weeks before the class).

April 10: Stone Church Celebrates Earth Day

April 17: Will Earth Day be a Success or a Failure?

Twenty-five years from now, will mankind be substantially better or worse off than today? Will the objectives of Earth Day have been achieved?

We highlight challenges and opportunities in five key areas: world population, standard of living, food production, energy resources, and climate change.

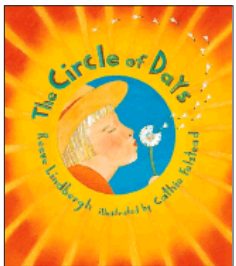
There is no class on April 24, Easter. For more information about any of these classes, contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Education Sub-Committee.

CHURCH LIBRARY COMMITTEE ADDS BOOKS TO HOPEFULLY "SPEAK TO YOUR HEART"

New books in Stone's Church Library concern many serious subjects, including struggle, pain, despair and homelessness. But they also relate to the gospel, hope, power, and the heartbeat of God. Our committee hopes you find books that speak to your heart!

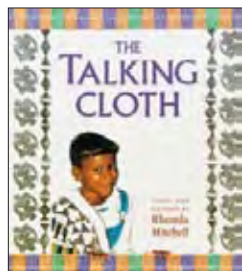
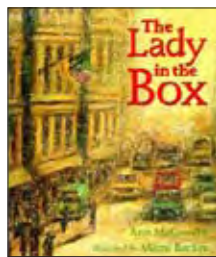
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

New for our younger members:



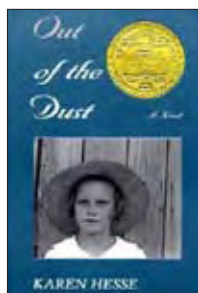
The Circle of Days by Reeve Lindbergh (1st Bks 246 Lin), given by the Lohman family

The Lady in the Box by Ann McGovern (J McG), given by Judy West



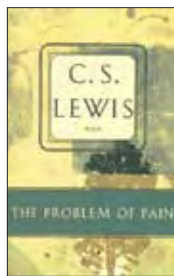
The Talking Cloth by Rhonda Mitchell (J Mit)

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse (YA Hes)



On the adult side:

The Gospel According to Jesus by Stephen Mitchell (226.1 Mit), given by Chris Osborne

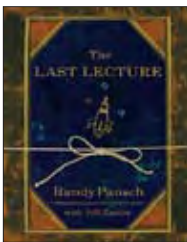


The Problem of Pain by C. S. Lewis (231 Lew)

Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope by Joan Chittister (248 Chi),

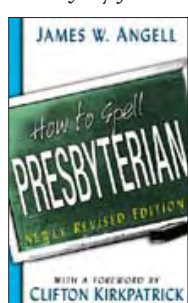
given by Claudia Hamm

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch (170.4 Pau)



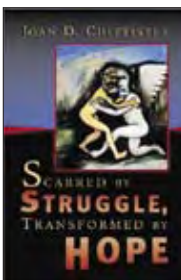
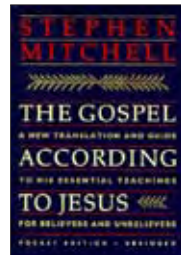
Book of Common Worship Daily Prayer by PCUSA (264.05 Pre) and

Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality by J. Philip Newell (270.08 New),

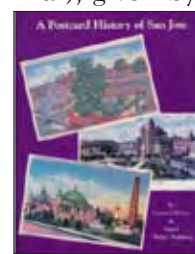
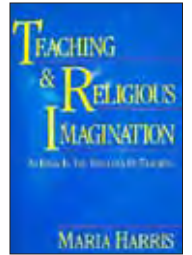


both given by Dulcie Janzen

How to Spell PRESBYTERIAN by James Angell (285 Ang)



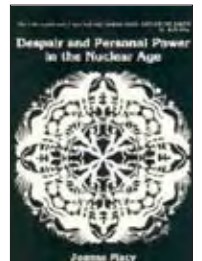
Teaching & Religious Imagination: An Essay in the Theology of Teaching by Maria Harris (371 Har), given by Rebecca Kuiken



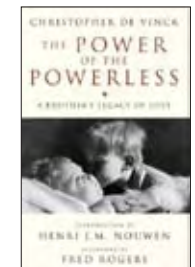
A Postcard History of San Jose by Leonard McKay & Nestor Wahlberg (979.4 McK), given by Dulcie Janzen

In our adult special sections:

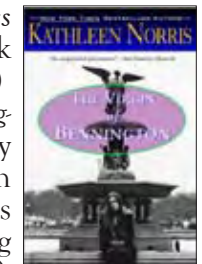
Despair & Personal Power in the Nuclear Age by Joanna Macy (SocIss-Peace 172 Mac), given by Rebecca Kuiken



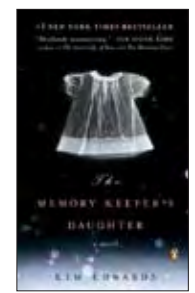
The Power of the Powerless by Christopher deVink (SpecNeeds 248.8 deV)



The Virgin of Bennington by Kathleen Norris (Biog NORRIS), given by Claudia Hamm



The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards (F Edw)



STONEWORKS ASKS IF YOU WILL BE A “LAND STEWARD” FOR A DAY, THANKS YOU FOR SACRED HEART DONATIONS, REMINDS YOU OF PRODUCE MOBILE

The StoneWorks Committee continues to offer ways for us to help our brothers and sisters in need, as well as, for Earth Day, to help preserve our beautiful world.

Be a Land Steward for Earth Day!

Since the *official* Earth Day falls on Easter weekend, Stone is celebrating Earth Day on Saturday, April 2, with a restoration project near Uvas Reservoir on land owned by the Open Space Authority (OSA).

This “Land Steward Project” has space for 20-25 adults ~ yes, unfortunately OSA policy is adults only (defined as 18 or older).

Presbyterian Women will supply us with lots of fruit and cookies, and OSA will bring coffee, tea and water refills.

OSA will also provide work gloves, safety equipment, tools and training.

As a volunteer, you should bring your own water bottle and bag lunch and dress for working outside, that is, with sturdy closed-toe shoes with good tread, long pants, and layers for your upper body. Hats and sunglasses are a personal choice.

Note that some hiking will be required to get to our work site.

The project will run from 10 am to 3 pm, with a lunch break about 12:30.

Look for sign-ups to begin March 13 and continue on March 20 and 27.

Come and join us ~ be a Land Steward for Earth Day!

Sacred Heart Community Service Food and Other Donations

StoneWorks thanks you for your generous donations!

During the month of January, Karen Scott took the following donations to Sacred Heart Community Service:

- ♥ 20 bags clothes
- ♥ 12 bags toiletries
- ♥ 8 bags of bags
- ♥ 2 bags of egg cartons
- ♥ 2 bags of towels

And our food donations at February’s Communion Sunday totalled 121 pounds, which Sue Evans also delivered to Sacred Heart.

Second Harvest Food Bank “Produce Mobile” at Valley Med – East Valley Clinic

Pat Plant sent some wonderful photos to June Tablak of Stone Church folks helping with the Second Harvest Produce Mobile at the Valley Med – East

Valley Clinic, on Saturday, Feb. 12. On that day, they helped 243 individuals and families! Why don’t you consider going next month to help?

This wonderful opportunity occurs the second Saturday morning of each month.

Top photo:: Roland Neufeld and his son on their bike at the Produce Mobile.

Bottom photo: Maureen Ryan and Ashley Neufeld serving clients at the Produce Mobile.



"Beware the ides of March!" Caesar's wife had to "be above suspicion," but Presbyterian Women are above suspicion so maybe there is nothing to beware of.

PW in the Presbytery will hold their Spring Gathering, *Come and Encounter*

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Immigration, at Foothill Presbyterian, on Saturday,

March 12, from 2 to 4 pm. The Rev. Ben Daniel will introduce his book, *Neighbor: Christian Encounters With*



"Illegal" Immigration, and will lead a discussion on the issues involved. The book will be available for purchase at \$15.

Has everyone heard of the Prayer Shawl Ministry? As they knit or crochet each beautiful shawl, these dedicated women pray for the comfort and healing of the recipient. They also knit caps and other items for newborns. Janice Goertz informs us that there is yarn available if you feel called to

participate in this outreach even if you can't come to the meetings.

Response to coupons, S.H.A.R.E.S. cards, and the Safeway program has been most heartening. We may be able to provide enough so other money can be used to purchase a much-needed new copier at Della's school. Instead of highlighting a product this month, we urge you to take note of TV ads that stress support for schools.

Equal Exchange (the supplier for our Fair Trade products) will be raising the price of tea with our next order; in the meantime tea will be available at the present price as long as the current stock lasts. (Weather in tea growing regions has been unfavorable this year, leading to some shortages.)

PW Schedule for March:

Amethyst Circle, 1 pm, March 2, Church Library

Emerald Circle, 9:30 am, March 3, Heidi Whitesel's home

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, March 8, Taiwan Restaurant

Ash Wednesday Services, March 9, 6:30 am and 6:30 pm, Sanctuary

PWCT, 9:30 am, March 10, Social Hall

PW in the Presbytery, March 12, 2 pm, Foothill Presbyterian Church

Sapphire Circle, 7:30 pm, March 14, Sheri Cunningham's home

Fair Trade Sales, 10:45 am, March 20, Social Hall

Book Group II, 2:30 pm, March 21, Karen Scott's home, discussing *The Tattoo Artist* by Jill Ciment

Focus Group, 9:30 am, March 23, Bea Groppuso's home (see related article below)

Bible Study with the Rev. Marge Palmer, 9:30 am, March 24, Church Library. This will be Lesson 8 of the Book of Revelation. The study is open to everyone interested.

Prayer Shawl Ministry, March 24, 4 pm, Fireside Room

Book Group I, 1 pm, March 28, Hazel James' home, discussing *Through the Heart of the South* by Jody Meacham - Catherine Amos

The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work team, a

MEN'S MINISTRY

book group, and a flying group. For more information about any of these



activities, contact Parish Associate David McCreath.

Request for High Chairs!

The Men's Mission Team has a slightly unusual request for a men's workgroup - portable high chairs! They noticed at their wonderful dinner the other night that a few portable high chairs would be handy for church dinners. Do you have one you could donate?

Contact David McCreath or Leland Wong.

Men's Mission Team

The next worktrip of the Men's Mission Team is to Westminster Woods, March 4 - 6. The team is also planning a day work project at Emmaus House in Hollister; details are forthcoming.

For more information, contact Leland Wong.

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club is meeting this winter and spring, as follows:

March 21: at Art Holtz's home, discussing *Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler.

April 18: discussing *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* by Barbara Demick [host is to be determined].

May 16: selecting books for the following months [host is to be determined].

For more information about the Men's Book Club, please contact Bill Ribble.

PW FOCUS GROUP EXTENDS INVITATION TO JOIN "TABLE TALK & TABLE TOPICS"

To Sisters and Friends of Stone Church:

The Focus Group of the Presbyterian Women of Stone Church invites you to join us on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am for *table talk on table topics*.

Table talk and table topics are part of the heritage of our reformed faith.

This special interest group was birthed after the first August Brunch in 2002.

The monthly sessions are facilitated by the PW Vice Moderator for Justice & Peace. The focus and table topics are suggested by participants, and resource information comes from a variety of networks: PCUSA Washington Office, CA Council of Churches IMPACT,

PW Churchwide Justice & Peace Committee, etc.

Throughout the years, the group has discovered that there are staple issues in the advocacy diet.

Some of the issues revisited from year-to-year include budget, healthcare, food insecurity, women and children.

Come join us as we gather for *table talk on table topics* that impact our lives and the lives of our neighbors.

Our meeting dates, times and places can be found in the PW column of *The Stone News* and the Sunday bulletin.

Sisters in Christ,
Bea Groppuso, Convener
Diana Lim
Sally Magee
June Tablak

CHURCH LEADERS WANTED!

This message is for everyone who cares about and loves Stone Church!

Stone's Nominating Committee has once again begun its yearly task of finding leaders in the church to serve as Deacons and Elders for terms beginning in July 2011.

There are several ways that nominees may come to the attention of the Nominating Committee.

First, pledging members are welcome to submit their own names for consideration. This is very welcome and highly encouraged!

Second, names may be suggested to the committee by a third party.

We invite all church members to seriously consider those whom you would like to have serving in leadership at Stone Church and submit your suggestions as soon as possible to any of the following members of the Nominating Committee, either in person, by email, or by phone:

Maureen Chandler, Carrie Giorgianni, Mary Johnson, June Tablak, Brad Tips, Mike Breuleux, Ashley Neufeld, Kerry House-Nelson, Jean Raby, Cathy Marshall, Judi Kaiser, Jan Keifer, Bob Lowry, Mel Goertz, Diana Lim, or Catherine Amos.

Thank you for your important part in the work of Stone Church.

- Maureen Chandler,
Nominating Committee Chair

DIANA BUTLER BASS TO LECTURE THIS FALL!

We are excited to announce that this fall's *Henrietta Perdue Lecturer* will be best-selling author, Dr. Diana Butler Bass, who will speak on the intriguing, yet sobering topic, "Is There a Future for Christianity in America?"

Every recent survey of American religious practice shows that conventional religion is in serious decline; at the same time, people express high levels of enthusiasm for spirituality.

On Oct. 21 and 22, Dr. Bass, author of *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, will help us explore this conundrum.

More details are forthcoming!

SESSION ADDRESSES NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MINISTRY HELP, ESPECIALLY PASTORAL CARE & CE

At its regular meeting on Feb. 15, the Session welcomed new member Glenda Bowman, who is the sister of Carrie Giorgianni.

The Session and Ken Henry are working on how to get professional ministerial help for Ken. One area of need is in pastoral care, and another is with the burgeoning Christian Education program. As one avenue of search, three people from Stone will go to the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley at the end of February to a job fair, to check out the potential for finding a seminary intern.

Because the April 19 Session meeting falls within Holy Week, Session gave assent to having that meeting be the combined meeting of Session and Deacons, as required by the PCUSA *Book of Order*, rather than a regular business meeting. The content of the meeting is being worked out.

Following on January's Congregational Meeting, where the budget implications of the mortgage result-

ing from the Social Hall remodeling were explained, Session took on the topic of the mortgage and discussed ways and means of paying it off. The yearly cost of the mortgage, approximately \$100,000, equals the cost of an Associate Pastor, which a church of Stone's size could really use. Paying the mortgage would presumably free up that money. The discussion was an attempt to discern future financial planning.

Each Session agenda includes reports from committees and Presbyterian Women. PW is unique in having a separate organization and budget. This separation grows out of the history of the place of women in our denomination. In recent years, there has been a move to integrate the organization into the life of the church, without destroying its cherished traditions. One answer was to give a PW representative a place at Session meetings, with the privilege of speaking. Sheri Cunningham was PW rep at this meeting.

- Alice Thom, Clerk of Session

HARVEY COX, HARVARD DIVINITY PROFESSOR, TO SPEAK ON "THE FUTURE OF FAITH" AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Noted scholar and author, Harvey Cox, Hollis Research Professor of Divinity at Harvard, will present a free lecture on *The Future of Faith*, on Sunday, April 10, at 3:30 pm, at the First Congregational Church,



1980 Hamilton Avenue.

Dr. Cox is a prolific author. His book, *The Secular City*, published in 1965, became an international best-seller and is considered one of the most influential books of Protestant theology in the 20th century.

In his most recent book, *The Future of Faith*, he writes, "Today we cannot avoid asking ... what the drastic transformation of all we know about the early Christians suggests for the future. Understanding our past can re-open roads that might have been taken, but were not. This is why it is so imperative that we have both the most accurate picture of the origins of Christianity possible and the clearest grasp of the sweep and dynamism of the new global Christianity."

Everyone is invited, free of charge, to hear Dr. Cox in the Sanctuary of the First Congregational Church, as well as to attend a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the presentation. For more information, call the First Congregational office.



January 30 was a very exciting day in the life of Stone Church. First, we had a lovely Worship service, including the "Serendipity Choir," led by Stone member Pamela Landers. Then, we voted to honor the Rev. Marge Palmer with the title of "Pastor Emerita." And that afternoon, the Deacons hosted a wonderful Winter Tea for our seniors.

*Counter-clockwise from top right: The Rev. Marge Palmer greets Chris Osborne; Ken Stutz, Miriam Rowan, Bill and Connie Gum enjoy the Winter Tea; Dean and Joan Helms, Dorothy Stevens and Marilyn Gardner also enjoy the Winter Tea; Pamela Landers leads the Serendipity Choir.
- photos by Sylvia Snyder*





COME JOIN US FOR THE CROP WALK THIS YEAR!



Last year's CROP walkers... and Ken and Heather Henry joined us along the way!

The 34th annual South Bay and Peninsula CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, April 3, 2011.

This event raises funds to fight hunger, both in our local area, through supporting Second Harvest Food Bank and Sacred Heart Community Service, and around the world, through Church World Service.

The walk starts promptly at 1:30 pm, at Hoover Middle School, 1635

Park Avenue, San Jose. There are one- and five-mile options. Both walks are in the beautiful Rose Garden area, and the weather is almost always just gorgeous (hope we didn't jinx it!).

So, take a beautiful and healthy walk, and raise awareness about hunger here and around the world.

For more information, contact Lizanne Oliver or Emily Meacham.

STONE CARES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Stone Cares is a program started by the Deacons to provide different forms of care to those who may need help on a temporary basis.

Care may take many forms, but typical needs are food, rides, social visits, small household tasks, etc.

The Deacons have distributed sign-up forms so members and friends of Stone Church may indicate the services they might provide (what, when, where, etc.) when called upon by a Stone Cares representative.

The Stone Cares team of resource managers include Steve and Kathy Stark, Ken Stutz, Don Skipwith, and Bill and Claire Ribble. If you have not yet completed a sign-up form indicating your preferences for helping, please see one of these resource managers.

Stone Cares is not intended to replace any existing programs but to provide an organized supplement. The Deacons greatly appreciate your support.

- Bill Ribble

INSPIRED HIKING FOR SPRING!

Dust off your hiking shoes, and join us on Saturday, April 16, for a spring hike on the Coyote Creek Trail.

We will spend three hours on this gentle outdoor adventure.

More details are forthcoming, but for more information at this time, please contact Katherine Webb Calhoun or Leland Wong.

WANT TO JOIN STONE CHURCH? NOW, IT'S EASIER THAN EVER!

It is easier than ever to join Stone Church! New Member Classes will be held bimonthly for the remainder of 2011 on:

- ♥ April 10
- ♥ June 12
- ♥ August 14
- ♥ October 9

New members need only attend one session. During the class, you'll learn about the Stone Church community, how the Presbyterian Church is organized, some history of

our congregation, and even "how to speak Presbyterian."

Classes will be held from 11:15 am to 1:30 pm. A light lunch will be served, and childcare (by reservation) is available.

For more information and/or to request childcare, please contact Katherine Webb Calhoun.



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