

# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

APRIL 2011



*The Middle School group recently turned their creative talents to making Ukrainian Easter Eggs. Only two eggs broke during the process (the eggs remain raw for this method), and heartbreakingly, one egg broke after it was carefully and beautifully decorated, but it is captured "for posterity" in several of Kathleen Oliver's beautiful pictures (see page 2 for more of them).*

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER: DON'T SNEAK IN AT THE END

by Ken Henry

Holy Week and Easter complete the story of Jesus.

On Palm Sunday, the story begins with Jesus riding into Jerusalem. Like a ticker tape parade welcoming soldiers home from a war, Jesus, the hero, is welcomed by rejoicing crowds waving palm branches.

Then, over the course of the week, the tone of the story turns more serious. On Maundy Thursday, we find Jesus meeting with his disciples in an upper room and, for one last time, sharing the bread and cup with his closest friends.

Like the dark clouds that rolled over San José a few weeks ago, the story now grows dimmer and more bleak. There is an arrest scene. Jesus is tried and found guilty of sedition.

By Good Friday, we realize that the same one who welcomed children and raised the dead cannot escape his own execution. Bleeding and dying on a cross, he whispers, "It is finished." The story comes to a somber and sobering finale.

But then on Easter Sunday, a sequel appears. Apparently, *The Author* wasn't quite finished with Jesus, or for that matter with us.

Over several years of Holy Weeks and Easter Sundays, I sense we know this story all too well. And because of our familiarity, we have decided to pick and choose the parts we like over the parts we don't.

After all, it's a well-known fact that each year hundreds and thousands skip the parade and supper scenes, and move right to The Resurrection. Others come to the parade (who doesn't love a parade?) and then go directly to the empty tomb – kind of like "Passing Go and Collecting \$200" in a game of Monopoly.

I suppose a small minority, like me in my teenage and college years, show up only for the food on Thursday and then leave won-

dering why Jesus said this would be the last time.

To me, all this picking and choosing can be likened to the individual who sneaks in at the end of a movie he or she has already seen several times. Why watch all of *Citizen Kane* or *The Sound of Music* or *E.T.* when the end will suffice?

Still, Holy Week is not simply a re-telling of the story of Jesus' final days on earth. Holy Week is also experiential, even spiritual.

And so once again, I invite us all to participate in Holy Week and Easter Services, but this year, let's try not to sneak in at the end.

Who knows? There may be other parts of this story that connect us with our own.

*Holy Week at Stone Church*

**April 17 - Passion/Palm Sunday**

9:30 am: Worship Service

**April 19 - Tuesday of Holy Week**

6:45 pm: Lenten Taizé Service

**April 21 - Maundy Thursday**

7 pm: Worship Service

**April 22 - Good Friday**

12 to 3 pm: Sanctuary Open

**April 24 - Easter Sunday**

6:30 am: Sunrise Service

9:30 am: Worship Service



## PEGGY SPOOL BEGINS AS STONE'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR

*Peggy Spool is Stone's new Children's Choir Director. She wrote this letter for The Stone News.*

Dear Stone Church Families and Young Singers,

It was great to meet you all in December and to work with the kids on *Good King Wenceslas*. The kids sang very well, and I was thrilled to see them take part in the pageant.

I'm pleased to tell you that we will be launching an ongoing Children's Choir as part of the Church School class, beginning March 20.

This spring, the children will sing on April 17 (Palm Sunday) and on May 8 (Mother's Day).

In the fall, they will sing on Oct. 2 (Peacemaking Sunday) and on Dec. 11 (Third Sunday of Advent).

We will rehearse during the Church School class for about a month before each service.

Stone Church has been a wonderful home for Vivace Youth Chorus,

and I am delighted to be bringing music to the children in the church, as well.

I grew up in a Presbyterian church in Ohio, and my first choral experience was in the church children's choir.

I think it will be great for the kids to participate more fully in the musical life at Stone, and to make music and singing a part of worship!

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

In Song,  
Peggy Spool

## LENTEN TAIZÉ SERVICES



"This is a calm, quiet refuge in a busy world of noise. It is a chance to pray and meditate in silence; to relax and become one with God."

"The experience of this service fills my soul. I feel very close to God when I'm here."

"I come here for the opportunity to be in sacred silence with others and for the beauty of the music that feeds my soul."

"This service draws me into myself, deep inside. I feel my pain, but I am not afraid."

"This is a holy place of intimate worship. Thank you!"

These words ... a sampling of comments from a survey last year ... reflect the significance of our monthly Taizé service for our own church members, as well as for many people from the surrounding community whose lives are touched by this time of prayer.

During this Lenten season, we are offering Taizé meditation services every Tuesday, running through April 19. The sanctuary is open at 6:30 pm for silent reflection and prayer, and the service begins at 6:45.

We hope that you will make this service part of your own Lenten spiritual practice and discover the depth, inner peace, and nourishment for the soul that others are finding in this experience of shared silence and chant and prayer.

- Hilleguus Faber



More photos of the Middle School group's recent Ukrainian Easter Egg-making experience. Rosaleen Zisch adds, "We also tried borscht soup - a Russian beet soup!" She didn't mention whether or not they liked it!

Top picture: Some of our middle-schoolers with the eggs.  
Bottom picture: Close-up of the beautifully decorated eggs.

# ADULT EDUCATION LOOKS AT THE REFUGE OF PRAYER, EARTH DAY, ORDINATION

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!

## April 3: The Refuge of Prayer with the 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.

## April 10: In the Beginning There Was - Water?

Eric Rosenblum, Director of South Bay Water Recycling Program, San Jose Environmental Services, and Chair of the Jewish Community Relations

Council of Silicon Valley, will speak on the intriguing topic, "In the Beginning There Was - Water?"

## April 17: Water Challenges and Future Plans to Ensure Reliable, Safe Water for Residents & Ecosystems

Linda J. LeZotte, Vice Chair/Director of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, will discuss the mission of the Water District and its importance to all of us. As an environmental attorney, Linda is familiar with sustainable water practices and environmental laws and is a leader in developing Green Policies.

## May 1: Sermon Feedback - Jim Moiso

The Rev. Jim Moiso preaches this morning. He joins the Adult Study class to discuss his sermon, his long career as a Presbyterian pastor, and his family ties to Stone Church.

## May 8: That All May Freely Serve: Ordination of Gays & Lesbians

By early May, we should know the outcome of votes in the 173 Presbyteries as to whether gays and lesbians will, for the first time, be officially allowed to serve as pastors, elders and deacons. We will review the long history of voting on this issue (six times since 1996) and the meaning of this year's vote.

## May 22, 29: Faith Journeys at Stone

Members of Stone Church talk about their faith journeys, why they were attracted to Stone, and what ties them spiritually to Stone today.

*There are no classes on April 24 (Easter) or May 15 (Congregational Meeting). Contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Education Sub-Committee, for more information about any of these classes.*


# CHURCH LIBRARY HAS MYRIAD AND DIVERSE "COVERS" FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

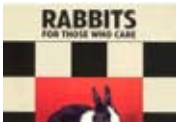
Can you tell a book by its cover? If so, our newest ones encourage caring, living, praying, singing and growing. And in what manner? Mindfully, simply, gracefully, creatively, with liberty, and in the company of others!


- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

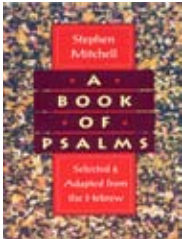
## New for our younger members:

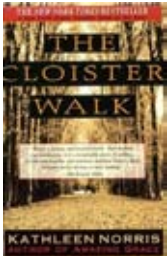
 *Jack's Garden* by Henry Cole (1st Bks J Col)

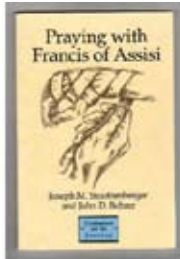
 *Junie B. Jones Has a Peep in Her Pocket* by Barbara Park (J Par)


 *Rabbits: For Those Who Care* by Anmarie Barrie (YA 636 Bar)

 *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer (YA 821 Cha)

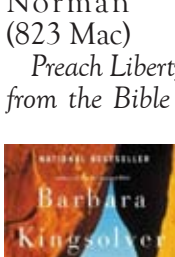
 **On the adult side:** *A Book of Psalms* by Stephen Mitchell (223 Mit), given by Chris Osborne

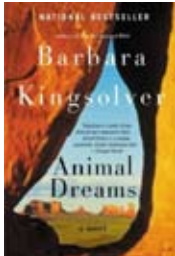
 *The Cloister Walk* by Kathleen Norris (242 Nor), given by Claudia Hamm

 *Praying with Francis of Assisi* by Stoutzenberger and Bohrer (242 Sto)

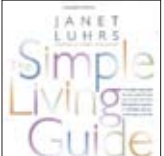
 *Present Moment Wonderful Moment: Mindfulness Verses for Daily Living* by Thich Nhat Hanh (294 Han), given by Janice Goertz


 *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean (823 Mac)

 *Preach Liberty: Selections from the Bible for Progressives* ed. by Steve Bachmann (261.8 Bac)

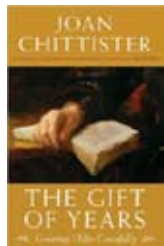
 **In our adult special sections:** *Animal Dreams* by Barbara Kingsolver (F Kin)


 *In the Company of Others* by Jan Karon (F Kar), given by Sara Holtzapple


 *The Simple Living Guide: Strategies, Stories, Resources, Inspiration* by Janet Luhrs (Soc Iss 261.8 Luh), given by Dulcie Janzen

 *The Golden Hymnbook*

 *Music to Make the Heart Sing* ed. by R.W. Stringfield (Lg Print 264 Str), given in memory of Jim & Julia Shriver

 *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully* by Joan Chittister (Spec Needs A 200.8 Chi), given by Claudia Hamm

 *Aging: The Fulfillment of Life* by Henri Nouwen (Spec Needs A 301.43 Nou)

 *Creative Spirituality: The Way of the Artist* by Robert Wuthnow (BB WUTHNOW)



## STONE'S PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PRESENT HONORS AT GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY

On *The Gifts of Women Sunday*, (Feb. 27), the Rev. Dr. Judy Yates Siker, VP and Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at San Francisco Theological Seminary, spoke about the importance of the deeds of women.

On that day, in keeping with long tradition, Stone's Presbyterian Women presented Honorary Life Memberships to Ken Stutz and Rosaleen Zisch (pictured above left) as individuals who consistently give their best through their involvement with Stone and our extended community.

In addition, Jeanette Rapp (pictured above right) received a Stewardship Award noting

her many accomplishments and her varied talents.

It was a day of celebration, recognizing the strides women have made in the church, just within the last few years.

Many thanks go to the Rev. Marge Palmer and Claudia Hamm, who prepared the service, to greeters Norah Casner and Sue Evans, and to ushers Sheri Cunningham and Jeanette Rapp.

We especially thank the young women, Madison McManus, Megan Ritchie, and Meghan Schroeder, for their involvement. They are the future of Presbyterian Women.

- Jan Keifer, Moderator, PWCT



## DAN & JEAN RABY ATTEND CHORAL WORKSHOP

For more than ten years, singers have gathered in picturesque Mendocino/Ft. Bragg for a weekend of choral music, usually during whale-watching season. At this year's event, Feb. 26-27, there were 74 singers from as far away as San Diego and Washington State.

Allan Petker, a well-known composer (see also [allanpetker.com](http://allanpetker.com)) always serves as conductor and clinician.

On Saturday, singers rehearsed all day, ending with a wine and cheese tasting and a salmon barbecue. The weekend culminated in an ecumenical Worship gathering on Sunday morning at the Ft. Bragg Pres. Church.

For the past 12 years, we have attended this workshop, and over the years have always enjoyed the music, friendships and the beautiful scenery in this area. We look forward to attending again next year. - Dan and Jean Raby



## 2011 WOMEN'S RETREAT, WITH JANE ODELL, A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE, AS USUAL!

Fifty Stone Church Women gathered for a wet weekend, March 18-20, at the St. Francis Center in San Juan Bautista. Despite the weather, we were cozy, thanks to the beautiful fireplace of our meeting room and the leadership of

Jane Odell. She inspired us to ask questions and to share our stories using the book, *This is Not the Life I Ordered*.

We were grateful for the musical talents of Miriam Rowan and Laraine Pitcher, who led us in part-

ner songs and old favorites. Good food and lots of laughs completed a memorable retreat.

Many thanks go out to this year's co-chairs, Colleen Blackburn and Rosaleen Zisch.

The calendar says it is spring: Is it really, or is this the ultimate April Fool's joke? It seems the day's celebration goes back to the 1600s ... but why?

The annual retreat of Women in the Presbytery, *Letting Scripture Read You;*

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*Experiencing God Through Guided Meditation*, promises

to be a rewarding day. It will be led by the Rev. Kim Engelmann, pastor of West Valley Pres. Church, and Nancy Aird of Menlo Park Pres. Church. For more information and registration, please contact Claudia Hamm, Moderator of PW in the Presbytery.



Everything appears to be costing more each year. How do these prices sound - thirteen cents for a measles inoculation, ten dollars for a mosquito net (malaria prevention), two dollars for prenatal care and delivery of a baby?

That is how some of your donations for PW's Mothers' Day Cards are spent to promote women's and

families' health in Africa. The suggested donation is only ten dollars - maybe your child could afford this? (For more details, see the related article below.)

Have you seen the new cushions at the rear of the sanctuary for use by those of us who find the pews getting harder and harder by the year? They are the gift of a group of women organized by Karen Scott. Thanks to all of you!

Our coupons, S.H.A.R.E.S. cards and the Safeway program continue to do well. The principal of Della's school joined us for the Valentine Tea and reported that, through these donations, we help to support field trips, which enrich the children's experiences: many of them have never visited such sites as Happy Hollow Zoo or History San José. You can also get credits through Target's program - ask at the store if you shop there.

And don't forget to shop for your Fair Trade products on April 17th!

### PW Schedule for April

**Amethyst Circle**, 1 pm, April 6, Church Library

**Emerald Circle**, 9:30 am, April 7  
Lea Lawrence-Moiso's home

**Sapphire Circle**, 7:30 pm, April 11,  
Sally Magee's home

**Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, April 12,  
Taiwan Restaurant

**PWCT**, 9:30 am, April 14,  
Social Hall

**Fair Trade Sales**, 10:45 am, April 17,  
Social Hall

**Book Group II**, 2:30 pm, April 18,  
Nancy Weiss's home, discussing *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver

**Book Group I**, 1 pm, April 25,  
Hazel James' home, discussing Liz Shandera's memoir

**Focus Group**, 9:30 am, April 27,  
Bea Groppuso's home

**Bible Study with the Rev. Marge Palmer**, 9:30 am, April 28,  
Church Library. This will be Lesson 9 of the Book of Revelation. The study is open to everyone interested.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**, April 28,  
4 pm, Fireside Room

**Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery's Spiritual Retreat**, April 30,  
9 am - 2:30 pm, Santa Teresa Hills Pres. Church

- Catherine Amos

The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work team, a book group, and a flying group. For more information about any of these activities, contact Parish Associate



David McCreath.

### Men's Book Group

The Men's Book Group will meet Monday, April 18, beginning at 7:30 pm.

The host will be Bruce Raby.

The book for review is *Nothing To Envy*, by Barbara Demick, a story about North Korea.

All men of the church are welcome.

### Men's Book Group Semi-annual Book Sale, Coming April 10, to Benefit Mission Trips

The Men's Book Group will hold its Semi-annual Book Sale following Worship on April 10 in the Social Hall.

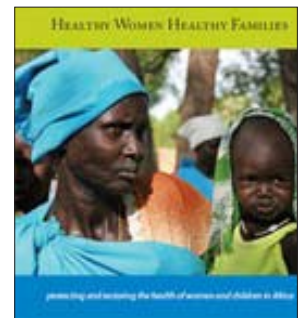
This is one of the projects of the Men's Ministry that helps to support their mission trips.

This will be a great opportunity to find new volumes for summer reading.

It will also be a good time to clean out your book shelves to make room for all of your new selections.

There will also be a children's book table, with a charge of 25 cents per book. These proceeds will go to the Heifer Project.

## HONOR YOUR MOTHER, OR EVEN A SPECIAL FRIEND, AND HELP OTHER WOMEN



The annual Mother's Day Project, a mission activity co-sponsored by International Health & Development and Presbyterian Women, is taking place at Stone over three Sundays. Watch for the display about the work being done in The Congo, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Malawi.

Helping women to have healthy families is the goal. It is achieved through prenatal care, childhood immunizations, malaria

prevention, and other preventive care.

To support this vital work you can give a donation (\$10 suggested) and receive a Mother's Day Card to give to a beloved woman in your life - not just a Mom. The cards are beautiful, and they tell this important Presbyterian mission story.

The cards will be available at Coffee Fellowship on April 10, 17, and May 1.

Contact Rosaleen Zisch for more information.

## MEET NEW MEMBER, GLENDA BOWMAN

Glenda Bowman, who is Carrie Giorgianni's sister, recently joined Stone and wrote this article for *The Stone News*.



I was born in Wooster, Ohio. My dad taught Sociology at The College of Wooster (founded by Presbyterians) for 42 years, so we had some Presbyterian upbringing even though we went to a Church of the Brethren.

Our family was active in the church, and I have missed having that in my life. The first time I came to Stone Church with my sister and nephews, I felt like I had come home after a long journey - everyone has been so friendly and welcoming.

I lived in Wooster for most of my youth, but we went on one-year sabbatical leaves every five years, and we spent summers in various college

towns. It was a wonderful, but scary experience for kids. We learned how to make friends in all the places we lived and learned to love the art of packing and travel! We lived in many places - St. Louis, MO; Nashville, TN; Silver Spring, MD; Lexington, MA; Chapel Hill, NC; State College, PA - just to name a few. I think I could be transplanted anywhere and thrive!

My sister Carrie moved to Santa Clara in the early 70s, and I followed in 1980 as a permanent Californian. Our younger brother also came west, and now our parents live nearby at Lincoln Glen. I returned as a late (not old!) student to Santa Clara University and graduated with a Marketing degree. I worked in the electronics industry in Marketing and Sales. I met and then married Dave Bowman in 1987 and have two wonderful stepdaughters, Kristen and Carrie. Kristen has blessed us with three grandchildren: Ava is 9, Alexandra is 4 going on 45, and Nathan is 18 months. They are a lively bunch and live in Los Gatos. What a joy they have added to our lives.

Dave retired early from Apple

Computer, 3DFX, and Chips & Technologies. We left the area in 1992 and have spent the last years with homes in Idaho, Oregon, and Lake Tahoe. We enjoy fishing, 4-wheeling, camping, hiking, and providing fun vacation experiences in different places for our whole family. We were fortunate to travel extensively around the country in our RV and enjoy the warm winters in the Palm Springs area for the last 20 years. We made a conscious effort to visit as many National and State Parks as we could. We have also done a lot of world travel, going to the Orient on numerous occasions, Europe, the Mediterranean, Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, and a number of cruises to the Caribbean and the Panama Canal.

We have enjoyed learning that people are the same no matter where you travel. It all depends on the old credo of treating people the way you would like to be treated.

I have enjoyed visiting and worshipping at Stone Church for the last year, and I am looking forward to becoming a contributing member of the Stone community.

## SESSION DISCUSSES FEES, APPROVES INTERN ROLE

The regular meeting of the Session on March 15 set a record for brevity; the Elders met for just one hour. In that time, they took care of two major items of business.

The first item was to set up a policy of how fees will be determined for the use of the social hall and kitchen. Four categories of use have been established:

(1) For events requested by Elders, church committees, or church staff, there is no charge;

(2) For events in keeping with the mission of the church, requested by members or non-members, there is a \$25 application fee, but no additional charges;

(3) For private events for members, there is a \$275 charge;

(4) For private events for non-members, there is a \$550 charge (no application fees are required if there is a charge for the social hall).

Also, for memorial service use and for weddings, members are charged \$550 and non-members \$1100.

The second item was a proposal to hire a Seminary Intern from the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in Berkeley. The intern would be at the church on Tuesday nights and Sundays, for a total of 15 hours a week. The cost would be a \$500 per month stipend, and a probable \$500 expense account.

Ken Henry had already interviewed two people and found one who would fit Stone's needs. PSR has established a *Learning Serving Covenant* for the purpose of reviewing this arrangement.

Session voted to approve the intern position; if everything works out, the intern will begin in September and be with us through May.

Session also learned that Ken has finished publication of his book, *The Refuge of Prayer: Prayers for the 21st Century*, and has a new website, [www.theridgepath.com](http://www.theridgepath.com).

Session approved adding a PayPal link to our website to encourage giving, as suggested by Stewardship.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

## CHURCH OFFICE TO ELIMINATE FAX CAPABILITY

As of May 1, the church office staff is canceling the dedicated fax phone line, which will eliminate incoming/outgoing fax capability in the church office.

With changes in technology, and limited fax usage, the cost of over \$300 a year for this line is better directed to other budget items.

As an alternative, the church office can scan documents and convert them to an Adobe PDF file, which can then be sent via email, instead of by fax.

Fax capability is also available at local copy centers for a small fee, and many members have fax capability in their homes.

- Donald Foster



*The Men's MissionWork Team completed three projects at Westminster Woods in March: removing portable heating units in a cabin and dining hall (where central heating will be installed later), repairing a deck, and building a retaining wall out of interlocking stones. Participants were Brad Bauer, Andrew Edwards, Gabriel Faber, Art Holtz, Bill Lakatos, David McCreath, Pat McDaid, Rod Thorn, Gary Weiss, and Leland Wong. (photos by Rod Thorn; for more, see [stonechurch.org](http://stonechurch.org))*





## STONE CHURCH WORKDAYS ARE FUN!

These great pictures are *living proof* that Stone Church Workdays are lots of fun!

Many different skills are used by the volunteers – if you can clean a dishwasher, trim a bush, pull weeds, dust Sanctuary pews, or straighten out committee storage shelves, there may be a workday in your future.

The next workday takes place June 18. You can sign up during Coffee Fellowship on June 5 and 12. There will be tasks suitable for all volunteers.

Contact Steve Nelson or Judi Kaiser to sign up or for more information.



## SPRING IS HERE ... SUMMER IS NEAR!

Save the date: Sat., April 30!  
The Deacons are planning a very special event for you.

Meet us at the church from noon until 2 pm.

You'll have the opportunity to put together your own delicious spring salad for lunch. We'll provide all the makings. We'll also have rolls and desserts.

Relax with some musical entertainment and time to visit with your friends.

We can easily arrange transportation if you would like.

Contact Norah Casner or Mary-Ann Hudson to sign up or for more information.

## EXERCISE CLASSES RETURN TO STONE CHURCH!

Exercise classes at Stone Church are back!

Led by Hilleguus Faber, a certified Exercise Instructor, you can expect the following from these classes:

- ♥ Cardiovascular exercises – to get better oxygen flow through your whole body
- ♥ Balance exercises – to prevent falling and tripping
- ♥ Strength exercises – to keep muscles strong for daily activities
- ♥ Flexibility exercises – to maintain better posture and healthy joints
- ♥ Music – to enhance participation
- ♥ A safe environment – for all levels

Two sets of one-hour classes (one starting at 8:30 am, the other at 10 am) will be held on Mondays, starting April 11. The price is \$20 for 10 weeks.

Contact Hilleguus Faber to sign up or for more information.



## HARVEY COX TO SPEAK 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.

For more information, call 377-7121.

Sue Evans reports that she took 148 pounds of food to Sacred Heart in March. Thank you for your generosity!

*The Stone Church of Willow Glen  
Presbyterian Church (USA)*

1937 Lincoln Avenue  
(corner of Clark Way & Lincoln)

San José, CA 95125-3499

phone: 408-269-1593

[www.stonechurch.org](http://www.stonechurch.org)

Rev. Dr. Ken Henry, Pastor

Jennifer Scott-Brand, Office Manager

### **The Stone News Staff:**

June Tablak, Editor Emeritus, Church Mouse

Emily Moak Meacham, Editor

Rhonda Lakatos, Pat Magee,

Jody Meacham, Fred Oliver,

Lizanne Oliver: Assistant Editors

Sylvia Snyder, Chief Photographer

Kathleen Oliver, Dan Raby,

Rod Thorn, Rhonda Lakatos,

Bill Ribble: Additional Photos