

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

MAY 2011



THE DOOR IS OPEN: TALKING ABOUT LIFE

by Ken Henry

In the fall of 2004, I left pastoral ministry to teach communication studies at Northwest Christian University in Eugene, Oregon.

In the beginning, trading pastoral visits and writing sermons for preparing lectures and grading papers was challenging, but as every professor realizes, working with 19- and 20-year-olds has its own rewards – and besides, you get weekends and summers off!

I also discovered that one of the great perks I enjoyed was *office hours* with my students. As you may know, every professor is required to be available to students by posting office hours. And as you can probably guess, some students took advantage of this reserved time, while others never darkened my door.

What surprised me most about office hours, however, is that when one of my students actually showed up for some professor

time, rarely did he or she want to discuss upcoming assignments, speeches, or how to get an A in Professor Henry's class.

Indeed, perhaps because I had been a pastor, students wanted advice on parents, roommate problems, dating, and marriage. While I was prepared to discuss Cicero or the effects of television on children, they wanted to talk about *life*.

All this is to say that when Katherine Webb Calhoon approached me last week about having office hours – every other month or so, on Sunday mornings, in the pastor's office – I thought, "Why not? I've done this before!"

Thus, starting on May 15 at 11:15 am (in this case, after the congregational meeting), I will be holding office hours in my office over at The Lincoln House.

And just note that there *are* a few ground rules:

◇ *Coming to an office hour with Ken* does not mean receiving individual counseling. Rather, office hours on Sunday mornings with the pastor means meeting in the pastor's office with others who want to talk

about such things as God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, scripture, belief, sermons, movies, books, church, and Presbyterianism.

◇ *Coming to an office hour with Ken* will never take the place of the Building and Grounds committee. This simply means we will stay away from such topics



as heat, lights, the hardness of the pews, the sound system, the kitchen, or replacing the *ner tamid* in the sanctuary with a shimmering disco ball.

◇ *Coming to an office hour with Ken* means talking with the pastor, which essentially means, talking about life.

Looking forward to seeing you in my office on a Sunday morning.

Blessings, Ken

STONE CHURCH COUNTY FAIR, VCS 2011

by Mary Jo Blazek,
Children's Ministry Coordinator



Here are the details of the Stone Church County Fair VCS 2011:

Dates: June 20 - 24, 9 am - noon, with the Stone Church County Fair on Sunday, June 26, after Worship.

Ages: All children 4 years through 6th grade are invited, and friends are always welcome.

Registration: Begins May 1. Forms available during Coffee Fellowship, in the Church Office, or on line at www.stonechurch.org

Suggested Donation: \$40 per child or \$70 per family.

Souvenirs: Everyone will get a T-shirt!

See you at the Fair! It will be a VCS like no udder!



... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control ... - Galatians 5:22-23

The County Fair is coming to Stone Church!

We will celebrate the *fruit of the Spirit* at this year's Vacation Church School (VCS) 2011.

At the Stone Church County Fair, our children will learn that Jesus is their loving Savior, who will help them grow the *fruit of the Spirit* in their lives.

They'll try their hands at real-life farm activities, create their own blue ribbon arts and crafts, go "hog-wild" playing fun games, make and eat farm-fresh snacks, sing down-home songs, and perform hilarious skits!

Each day we will explore a different "God's daily truth" ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness ... while having good old-fashioned fun.

The week will end with a real-life county fair right here at Stone Church, on Sunday, June 26, with goodies to eat, games, and fun for all to enjoy.



STONE WELCOMES FOUR NEW CONFIRMANDS!

Four Stone Church Confirmands were enthusiastically received into the Stone Church congregation by the Stone Church Session on Tuesday, April 19.

After reading their heartfelt faith statements, the four youth were unanimously welcomed as members of the Stone Church community.

As part of their *journey*, the

group walked the Labyrinth at the Presentation Center in Los Gatos with their mentors.

We are very grateful for these wonderful and caring young people!

ADULT STUDY WELCOMES JIM MOISO, BOB & HAZEL JAMES, KATHERINE CALHOON; ALSO LOOKS AT GAY/LESBIAN ORDINATION AND "OIKOCREDIT"

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

May 1: A Conversation with the Rev. Jim Moiso

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

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

As the May Stone News goes to press, only three additional "yes" votes (of 30 Presbyteries) are needed for gays and lesbians to be officially allowed to serve as pastors, elders, and deacons. Ordination of gays and lesbians will surely

be approved this year. In the class, we will review the long, painful history of gays and lesbians in the church, the meaning of this year's vote, and its implications for the future of the Presbyterian Church.

May 22: Faith Journey at Stone Church Bob and Hazel James

Bob and Hazel James talk about their faith journey, why they first came to Stone, and what continues to tie them spiritually to Stone.

May 29: "Oikocredit" – Socially Responsible Investing

Oikocredit is a cooperative society that offers loans or investment capital for microfinance institutions, cooperatives, and small to medium-sized enterprises in developing countries. It is one of

the world's largest private financiers of the microfinance sector. Marijke Faka-siieiki, SF Outreach Coordinator for Oikocredit USA, will speak about the issue of socially responsible investing from biblical and practical sides.

June 5: Faith Journey at Stone Church Katherine Webb Calhoon

Katherine Webb Calhoon talks about her faith journey, why she was attracted to Stone, and what Stone means to her today.

June 12: Special Stephen Ministry Presentation

There is no class on May 15 (Congregational Meeting). For more information about any of these classes, contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Sub-Committee.

CHURCH LIBRARY ADDS PERIODICALS; BOOKS ON MONSTERS, CANNONS, BIG BANG!

Our Library Annex offers some very attractive periodicals that are newly added and newly organized.

From Brad Bauer we have *The Christian Century*, as new as 2010; *Image: Art, Faith, Mystery*, as new as 2008; and *Weavings: A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life*, as new as 2007.

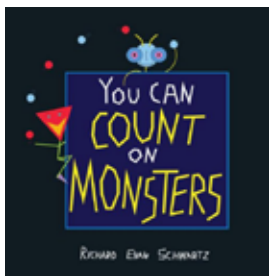
From Pat Magee we have *Theology and Science*, as new as 2009, and from Don D'Angelo we have *Bible Review* and *Biblical Archaeology Review*, both as new as 2004.

Feel free to borrow these. And note that, in our giveaway box, there are additional archaeology magazines you are welcome to take and keep.

This month's new books all have rather unusual titles. We hope they'll be interesting to you.

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

New for our younger members:

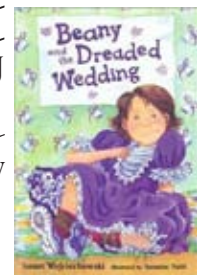


You Can Count on Monsters by Richard Schwartz (J 512 Sch), given by Derk and Mary Johnson



The Meanest Thing to Say by Bill Cosby (1st Bks Cos)

Beany and the Dreaded Wedding by Susan Wojciechowski (J Woj)

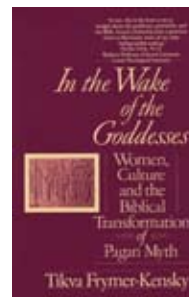


Who Comes with Cannons? by Patricia Beatty (YA Bea)

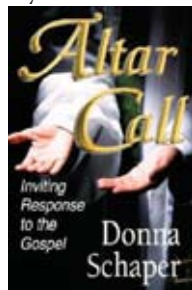


On the adult side:

In the Wake of the Goddesses: Women, Culture & the Biblical Transformation of Pagan Myth by T. Frymer-Kensky (204 Fry), given by Rebecca Kuiken



Altar Call: Inviting Response to the Gospel by Donna Schaper (269 Sch), also from Rebecca



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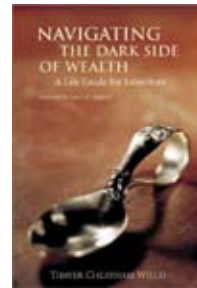


God & the Big Bang by Daniel Matt (291.1 Mat)

We Are Still Married: Stories & Letters by Garrison Keillor (813.54 Kei)

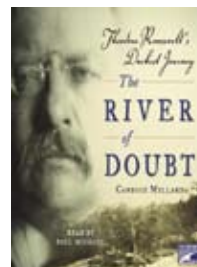
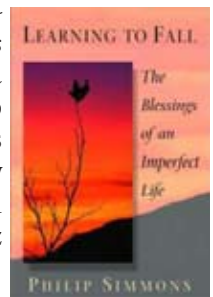


Navigating the Dark Side of Wealth: A Life Guide for Inheritors by Thayer Willis (332 Wil)



In our adult special sections:

Learning to Fall: The Blessings of an Imperfect Life by Philip Simmons (Spec Needs 616.83 Sim), given by Mel Goertz



The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey by Candice Millard (Biog ROOSEVELT)

Tears

*I didn't like the movie — perhaps it was that song.
I never liked our wedding pictures — my hair was simply wrong.
Our daughters' educations cost a pretty sum.
Now, one is off to college, the other, nearly gone.*

*Day by day, our family changes.
We've got pictures in the hall.
That day I tossed it underhand,
She really creamed that ball.*

*Why do I keep ancient thoughts?
Why can't I just move on?
Yet recalling and remembering,
Such memories are so strong ...*

*That tears of joy and sadness flow;
They fill my eyes, then burst.
O Jesus, I see you weeping;
Come satisfy my thirst.*

- Ken Henry

*The Rev. Dr. Ken Henry read this poem
during Worship, on April 17, 2011.*

The
"Kens"
- Ken
Stutz
and
Ken
Henry
- on
Palm
Sunday,
2011.



WHERE CAN I SEE THE FISH LADDER?

Many of you asked about visiting the Guadalupe River Fish Ladder after Ken's video sermon, *The Water Story*, on April 10.

To see the Fish Ladder from a short distance, go east on Blossom Hill Road (toward, but not as far as Oakridge Mall). After the stop light at Sanchez, continue across the Guadalupe River, and turn right into the next shopping center (with Payless, Baha Fresh, and Togo's). On foot, take the sidewalk in front of Payless to the trail entrance on your left. The Fish Ladder is less than a quarter of a mile away.

If you continue south on the Guadalupe Trail, it connects to the Los Alamitos Trail, eventually ending near Santa Teresa County Park (for a trail map, see www.sjpark.org/Trails/GRiver/GRiverUpperMap.asp).

The Santa Clara Valley Water District staff (265-2600) leads guided Fish Ladder group tours. - Virginia Holtz

TIME TO JOIN THE CHOIR!

by Nancy Wait-Kromm,
Director of Music Ministry



Hello everyone! It is hard to believe, but I will complete my fifth year as your Choir Director this June!

It has been a great joy to lead the Stone Church Choir, and I look forward to great music ahead.

This has been another rich year for music at Stone, with our first Chancel Opera during Advent, and lots of memorable and great anthems.

I invite those of you who love to sing out in the congregation to become part of our music program - join us in the choir! The spiritual and health benefits of singing are legion, and you will be taking a physically active role in amplifying the scripture and spiritual writings of worship.

We are planning a presentation of *The Beatitude Mass* of Henry Mollicone in June, and we are in the planning stages of "taking it on the road" next fall for a mini-concert tour in the Sacramento area. We will be singing at several

churches and with other choirs in that area, and will also spend some time touring Old Town and having a generally fun time. So, if you have ever thought about joining the choir, now is the time!

Some of you have said, "You have so many people up there, you don't need me!" But we *do* need you! There is plenty of room in the chancel for anyone who wants to sing with us. And you don't have to read music - another question I am asked. We do many different kinds of music, and there are many opportunities to learn it. So just do it!

What are you waiting for? Rehearsals are full of music and laughter, and run from 7:30 - 9 pm on Wednesdays. We meet at 8:30 am on Sundays (easy to get a parking space!).

If not now, when! If not you, who? Come join the choir - you will be glad you did, I promise. And bring a friend! The more the merrier - now is the time!

JOIN STONE'S HIGH SCHOOL YAHOO GROUP EMAIL LIST

The Stone Church High School Group now has a Yahoo group email list.

We'd like to extend an invitation to families with high school kids to

join this email group to learn about high school activities.

If you are not already on the list, please contact Caryl Westerberg.

May Day, May poles, May baskets, Cinco de Mayo – take your pick to celebrate (or do all of them). Back in my youth (never mind how long ago), this was also promoted as “Good Health Celebration Day.”

We had a report from the K.R. Smith School, reflecting last month’s visit from its principal, that some of the young-

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

sters had their first-ever field trip, funded in part by our coupons, Safeway, and Target programs. This project seems to keep on growing, so keep up your contributions! Dorothy Stevens and Marilyn Gardner have done outstanding work to implement the program. This month we are emphasizing Kimberly-Clark paper products.

Sunday, May 1, will be the last chance to get your Mother’s Day



cards, which support women’s and families’ health in Africa. Donations may be in any amount.

The Prayer Shawl group is always busy. This past month, they presented one shawl and two quilts to members and friends who have health challenges. One of the neat things about knitting is that you can do two things at once, for example, listen, talk, watch TV.

Please note that Fair Trade Sales will now occur on the second Sunday of each month, beginning May 8. If you want chocolate, order now as they do not ship it during the summer.

PW in the Presbytery has a wonderful afternoon planned on June 5. Claudia will have the details for us later; for now, just save the date. Also, save the date for the annual PW Picnic and Installation of Officers on June 11.

PW Schedule for May

Amethyst Circle, 1 pm, May 4, Church Library

Emerald Circle, 9:30 am, May 5, Joyce Degan’s home

Fair Trade Sales, 10:45 am, May 8, Social Hall

Sapphire Circle, 7:30 pm, May 9, Sue Evans’ home

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, May 10, Taiwan Restaurant

PWCT, 9:30 am, May 12, Social Hall

Book Group II, 2:30 pm, May 16, Charlotte Dixon’s home, discussing *Lost Horizon* by James Hilton

Focus Group, 9:30 am, May 18, Bea Groppuso’s home

Book Group I, 1 pm, May 23, Hazel James’ home, discussing *The Year of Fog* by Michelle Richmond

Prayer Shawl Ministry, May 26, 4 pm, Fireside Room

Save these future dates:

Annual Meeting, Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery, Sun., June 5, 2 - 4 pm

Stone’s PW Picnic and Installation of Officers, Sat., June 11, noon

Bible Study Note: The Rev. Marge Palmer is on vacation until August, when we will begin a study of the Beatitudes.

- 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 MINISTRY

Men’s Book Group

The Men’s Book Group will meet at the home of David McCreath.

The session will begin at 7:30 pm. This will be the time to make selections for reading during the summer and early fall.

All men of the church are welcome to attend.



Join the Men’s Group for a Tour of the Military Vehicle Technology Foundation

Arrangements have been made for a June 18 group visit to the Military Vehicle Technology Foundation in Portola Valley.

Formerly known as the Jacques Littlefield Military Vehicle Museum, the Foundation oversees one of the largest and most significant collections of historical military vehicles in the world – 220 armored military vehicles of the 20th and 21st centuries.

All men of the church are invited to join the tour. The cost is \$20 per person.

For more information about the Foundation, see www.mvtf.org.

Contact Art Holtz, David McCreath, or Bill Ribble if you would like to join the group.

PW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS COMING

The Presbyterian Women of Stone Church announce their 16th year of college scholarships and other grants under the Ruby M. Hudspeth Trust.

July 15 is the deadline for Stone Church youth applying for college scholarships.

Applications will be available in the PW mailbox in the church office by May 15.

There will be some changes this year in guidelines and procedures, made necessary by the low rate of return on investments and the expected large number of applicants.

- Sue Williams



CROP WALK 2011: TWENTY-SIX STONE CHURCH MEMBERS WALK FOR THE HUNGRY

About 417 walkers took part in the 34th Annual South Bay and Peninsula Area CROP Hunger Walk, on Sunday, April 3, 2011.

This is a wonderful increase over the past two years (276 in 2010, and 342 in 2009). It is so good to see a renewed interest in this very important show of solidarity with those who are hungry and in need of our

help. This large number of walkers surely brings awareness and hope for a day when this problem will no longer exist.

Stone was the top Presbyterian Church with 26 walkers, and we tied for fourth largest overall with Campbell United Methodist Church.

We sincerely appreciate the donations given by and for our walkers.

The funds are divided as follows: 75% go to Church World Service, and 25% go to local organizations, which this year are Sacred Heart Community Service and Second Harvest Food Bank.

Many thanks to our very generous donors and to our dedicated and energetic walkers! – from your organizers, Lizanne Oliver & Emily Meacham.

ARTS, IDENTITY, AND OBAMA IN EL SALVADOR?! SBSC AND STANFORD DELEGATES TO REPORT MAY 22

Stone Church member Chris Nilson will join ten Stanford students, and members of South Bay Sanctuary Covenant, to report on their March delegation to El Salvador, at 4 pm, May 22, at First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto.

Delegation trips, which are open to anyone, are eye-opening, but inspiring, immersions into both urban and rural realities in Central America. And a new collaboration with the Stanford Liberation Theology study group has enriched the experience greatly in recent years.

Come to hear the group's reflections on the trip and about the partner

community's efforts to use arts and culture to strengthen bonds among community's members, especially youth, who are faced with few opportunities, other than risking everything to work in the US.

President Obama's El Salvador visit, which coincided with the delegation trip, gave a unique opportunity to experience Salvadorans' attitudes toward their North American neighbors.

So, join us on the 22nd! The event includes a Salvadoran dinner, crafts, and other refreshments.

Contact Chris Nilson or Dale Bracey for more information.

SACRED HEART DONATIONS

Sue Evans reports that she took 94 pounds of food to Sacred Heart in April. Karen Scott and Judy West also took the following items:

- ♥ 21 bags of clothes
- ♥ 50 egg cartons
- ♥ 9 bags of bags
- ♥ 2 bags of towels
- ♥ 1 bag of packaged food
- ♥ 7 toys
- ♥ 35 books

Thank you for your unending and loving generosity!



MORE OF OUR WONDERFUL
EASTER EGG CREW!





COYOTE CREEK TRAIL WALK WAS SO MUCH FUN, WE'RE DOING IT AGAIN!

The group of 12 who gathered on Saturday, April 16, to walk the Coyote Creek Trail had so much fun, they've decided to make this a regular event.

Mark your calendars for 9 am on Saturday, May 21, to take an aerobic morning walk on the Los Gatos Creek

Trail. This trail offers recreational opportunities for walkers, jogger, bicyclists, skaters, non-motorized scooters, bladders, and nature lovers.

The Stone Church Trail Walkers will spend approximately 2-1/2 hours on this outdoor adventure.

Future Trail Walks are being planned for the Third Saturday of each month through the summer.

Contact Leland Wong or Katherine Webb Calhoun for more information. Directions and maps for the Los Gatos Trail Hike will be available soon.

SERENDIPITY CHOIR "LOVE FEST" WILL UPLIFT YOUR SPIRITS!

It's not "just another choir concert" – it's a "love fest"!

Join the Serendipity Choir, on May 21, at 7:30 pm, for an evening that will uplift your spirits and bring pleasure to your life.

The choir will fill the sanctuary with songs about love, and we expect your voices to also be part of this love fest.

Not only will there be choir pieces, but individuals from the choir will perform solos, duets, and small group songs. In between these renditions, the audience will be invited to sing along.

After the concert, refreshments will be served in the social hall. A love donation will be accepted at the door, with a suggested minimum of \$10 per person.

For more information, contact Pamelah (Tablak) Landers.

Also, please visit www.serendipitychoir.com.

CELEBRATING THREE (!!!) VERY SPECIAL 90TH BIRTHDAYS

Three of our most distinguished and beloved members will soon be celebrating their 90th birthdays.

On Sunday, May 22, to honor **Miriam Rowan's** birthday, join us during Coffee Fellowship for some cake and singing! Miriam is a faithful and longtime member of Stone's Chancel Choir.

On Sunday, June 19, both **June** and **Ed Tablak** are celebrating their 90th birthdays and want to share the day with their Stone Church community. Join the festivities during Coffee Fellowship! [June and Ed are also celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary on May 3.]

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