

# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

JUNE 2011



*Our lovely Children's Choir, led by Peggy Spool, sang beautifully during Worship, on Mothers' Day, 2011.*

## PCUSA RELAXES CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITION ON GAY AND LESBIAN ORDINATION

A majority of the 173 presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church (USA) last month ratified an amendment to the church's constitution, removing the provision that flatly prohibited the ordination of sexually active unmarried Presbyterians as church officers.

The 87th vote in favor of the measure - dubbed Amendment 10-A - was cast on May 10 by the Twin Cities Presbytery.

The change will take effect July 10. Ordaining bodies - local church sessions for elders and deacons, and presbyteries for ministers - will now have more flexibility in determining individual candidates' fitness for ordained office.



Stone Church has long argued for this change. Stone proudly flies the *Rainbow Flag* as a symbol of our welcoming of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Our Mission Statement includes the phrase, "We welcome diversity and sing our differences in harmony and without fear."

We have, over the years, quietly ordained gays and lesbians as both

elders and deacons - in the face of the old prohibition.

Presbyterians are not of one mind about the wisdom of this reform and the interpretation of scripture in matters of sexual ethics.

The constitutional change recognizes this fact - that Presbyterians hold and respect diverse views.

All of us need to work to promote dialogue and shared mission within Stone Church and across the church.

More detailed information about this important change can be found on the San José Presbytery's website ([www.sanjosepby.org](http://www.sanjosepby.org)).

- Pat Magee

# INFANT BAPTISM CLASS AT STONE

by Mary Jo Blazek,  
Children's Ministry Coordinator



We christen this child today,  
placing him in the loving arms of the one who has cleansed our sin,  
who loves us more than we can even imagine.

May this child always be loved,  
always be guided,  
always be protected.

May he grow to know the One who cares,  
deeply within his heart.

May we always be part of his journey,  
good guides in this world to show the way,  
lights in the storm of life.

This child today is christened, united with Christ,  
and we are grateful to welcome him into our faith.

Childbirth is over, the house is filled with baby paraphernalia, and you haven't had a good night's sleep in forever ... so what's next?

Baptism?

Our congregation has been very blessed with many newborn babies who fill our nursery on Sunday mornings.

Rev. Ken Henry is offering an *Infant Baptism Class* for all those interested, on Sunday, June 19, at 11:15 am, in his office. In this case, *infant* includes children from birth to three years.

There is something wonderful about a christening ... a new beginning ...

*For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. - Jeremiah 29:11*

Parents and babies are welcome; childcare is available by request. RSVP to the church office.

## HIGH SCHOOL GROUP MISSION TRIP 2011 AT CAMP DAYBREAK IN SANTA CRUZ

For their Mission Trip this year, June 6 - 10, the High School Group will be going to a new location - Camp Daybreak in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

This Christian camp depends entirely on volunteers to do repairs, clear land, and help with other activities.

Located off Highway 9, between Felton and Scotts Valley, the camp serves campers from many different towns and small cities in the area.

Daybreak has 300 acres of land (92 are actually used by the camp), beautiful hiking trails, great camping in a meadow, and a fully equipped large kitchen.

The camp's director, Rich Burdick, was previously employed at Westminster

Woods before coming to Daybreak. Rich is really looking forward to Stone's Mission Trip.

These annual High School Mission Trips are a week of work, sharing, caring, and creating community - an experience not to be missed. On this trip, the group will do some small building and repair projects, land clearing, and general maintenance.

This year, there is an opportunity for others to join the group. The youth leaders would love to have more people - more teens and more adults - if only for a day.

Please contact Kate Wheatley, a member of the Youth Group Ministry Team, if you can help.



*The children continue to work in the backyard garden - and they really seem to enjoy it - especially wielding those large sticks!*



# ADULT STUDY HEADS INTO SUMMER WITH A DIVERSE ASSORTMENT OF TOPICS

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

For more information about any of these classes, contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Sub-Committee.

## June 5: Faith Journey at Stone Church with 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

Please see the article on page 4.

## June 19: Special Birthday Celebration for June and Ed Tablak

June and Ed Tablak are celebrating their 90th birthdays on June 23 and June 30, respectively. On June 19, they want to celebrate with the Stone Church community during an extended Coffee Fellowship. Come join us!

(So all may attend this event, there is no Adult Study class on June 19.)

## June 26: Torture Awareness Presentation by StoneWorks

Please see the article on page 6.

## July 3: Open Door: A Conversation with Ken Henry

You are invited to Ken's office hours!

Ken Henry invites everyone to an open-door conversation in his Lincoln House office at 11:15 am. This is an opportunity to meet with others who want to talk about such things as God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, scripture, belief, sermons, movies, books, church, Presbyterianism, and life in general.

(As many are traveling to Lake Tahoe for the Zephyr Experience conference, there is no Adult Study class on July 3.)

## July 10 - Aug. 14: Places of Worship: Mosques, Temples, and Churches

This summer, Adult Study presents an informal travel series focusing on beautiful and unique places of worship throughout the world.

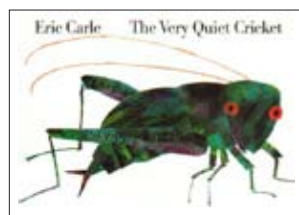
# CHURCH LIBRARY HAS SO MANY TITLES FOR YOUR SUMMER READING PLEASURE!

What is summer? Travel, graduation, play, nature, gardening, county fairs, picnics, and taking time to delve into a good book! Here are some we recommend. Visit the book carts and library for many more.

Also new in the Library Annex are issues of *Presbyterians Today*, thanks to Fred and Bea Groppuso.

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

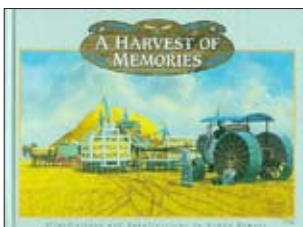
## New for our younger members:



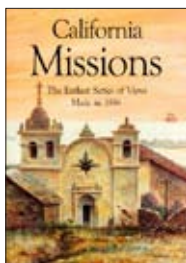
*The Very Quiet Cricket* by Eric Carle (1st Bks J Car), given by Charlotte Dickson



*Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr (J Coe)



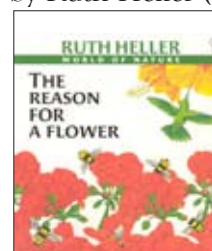
*A Harvest of Memories* by Randy Penner (J Biog Pen), given by Dulcie Janzen



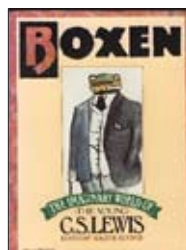
*California Missions: The Earliest Series of Views* by Henry Miller (J 979.4 Mil)

ed. by Walter Hooper (YA Lew)

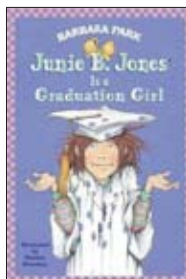
*The Reason for a Flower* by Ruth Heller (1st Bks J Hel)



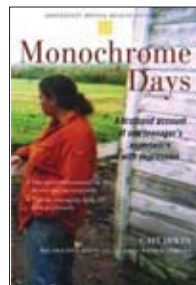
*Boxen: The Imaginary World of the Young CS Lewis*



*Junie B. Jones Is a Graduation Girl* by Barbara Park (J Par)

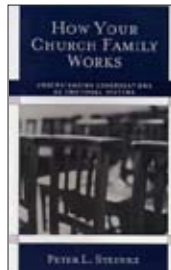
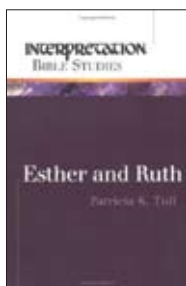


*Monochrome Days: A firsthand account of one teenager's experience with depression* by Cait Irwin (YA Spec Needs 616 Irw)



On the adult side:

*Interpretation: Esther and Ruth* by Patricia Tull (220 Int v.8), given by Alice Thorn



*How Your Church Family Works: Understanding Congregations as Emotional Systems* by Peter Steinkamp (254 Ste), given by Mel Goertz

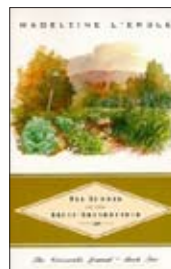
*Inheriting Our Mothers' Gardens: Feminist Theology in Third World Perspective* ed. by Letty Russell et al (261.8 Rus)



In our adult special sections:

*Xeriscape Gardening: Water Conservation for the American Landscape* by Connie Ellefson et al (Ecol 635.9 Ell)

*Cool Cuisine: Taking the Bite Out of Global Warming* by Laura Stec (Ecol 641 Ste), given by Dulcie Janzen



*The Summer of the Great-Grandmother* by Madeleine L'Engle (Biog L'ENGLE), given by Chris Osborne

*More Mudpies: 101 Alternatives to Television* by Nancy Blakey (Fam 649 Bla)



# STONE CHURCH COUNTY FAIR, VCS 2011

by Mary Jo Blazek,  
Children's Ministry Coordinator



*Our always  
handy  
custodian,  
Victor Perez,  
hanging the  
VCS banner*

... 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 to enjoy, and fun for all.

Following 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:** Registration forms are available during Coffee Fellowship, in the Church Office, or on line at [www.stonechurch.org](http://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!

## SPECIAL INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN COUNCIL ON AGING'S PILOT PROGRAM

The Health Ministry Committee, and Danielle Myers-Rickard, Program Coordinator for the Council on Aging Silicon Valley, invite anyone who is interested to participate in a new *Aging Education and Preparation Program* being offered by the Council on Aging.

This program is designed to teach participants what to expect from aging and how to plan for it, in order to stay healthy and safe and to be prepared.

The program will be offered in the summer, beginning July 7 (on Tuesdays and Thursdays), and in the fall, beginning Oct. 3 (on Mondays and Wednesdays), from 6 to 8:30 pm at Santa Clara University.

There will be ten workshops in each series, on a variety of topics, including *Brain Health and Memory Loss*, *Health and Long-Term Insurance*, and *Effective Family Caregiving*.

The program is offered at no charge in 2011, but the estimated value of each series is \$500. And each attendee will be able to enroll two additional family members, if they would like.

For more information, or to sign up for the program, contact Danielle Myers-Rickard at the Council on Aging.

The link for more information on the program is [www.thecoasv.com/aep](http://www.thecoasv.com/aep)

- Alice Bailey,  
Health Ministry Chair

## COME HEAR ABOUT THE GOOD WORK OF STEPHEN MINISTRY

Please join Stephen Leaders and Ministers on Sunday, June 12, in the Fireside Room, during Adult Study time (11:15 am - 12:15 pm) for an informative discussion of the Stephen Ministry program.

Within the boundaries of confidentiality, Stephen Ministers will share some of their caring experiences to illustrate the types of caregiving the program provides.

Leaders will briefly explain the training needed to become a Stephen Minister and provide an overview of the upcoming training class that will begin Sept. 25.

There will also be time for questions, so if you have been curious about the workings of Stephen Ministry, come join us on June 12.

- Judith Mohr



"June is busting out all over," or so says the song. After a rather cool and rainy May, we certainly hope so!

Make that salad! Get out your sun-bonnet! Drive to Minnesota Avenue and join in the fun at Jan Keifer's for our annual picnic at noon on June 11.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

for our public health nurses to give to underprivileged new mothers. (They tell us it is nice to have some things to take to older siblings, too.)



We are, as is the custom, receiving layette items

It is also time for our Birthday Offering and installation of Co-ordinating team members for 2011-2012.

Winding up the program year for PW in the Presbytery (PWP) will be the annual meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of San José, on June 5, from 2 to 4 pm. Steve Yvaska will offer informal evaluations of

members' treasures: by the time you get this, it will be too late to reserve a time for yours, but it will be interesting to view what others bring.

All donations at this event will go to aid Emmaus House, a shelter for abused women and children. Steve is giving three door prizes - two Hummels and a surprise - tickets will be two dollars for one and five dollars for three. Refreshments will be provided. Claudia informs us that parking is available in the parking structure across from the church on Fourth Street.

Here in the *good old summer time*, we can get a head start on our coupons for schools. The past year was very good for them, but next year can be even better.

### PW Schedule for June

**PWP Annual Meeting**, June 5, 2 - 4 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 49 North First Street, San José

**PWCT**, 9:30 am, June 9, Social Hall

**PW Annual Picnic**, noon, June 11, Jan Keifer's home

**Fair Trade Sales**, 10:45 am, June 12, Social Hall

**Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, June 14, Taiwan Restaurant

**Focus Group**, 9:30 am, June 15, Bea Groppuso's home

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**, June 23, 4 pm, Fireside Room

**Book Group I**, 1 pm, June 27, Hazel James' home, discussing *Love Wins* by Rob Bell

### Save these future dates:

**PW Brunch**, 9:30 am, Aug. 20, Social Hall

### On summer vacation:

Amethyst, Emerald, and Sapphire Circles are on vacation until September.

Book Group II is on vacation until Sept. 19, when they will meet at Karen Scott's home to discuss *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck.

Bible Study is on hiatus, as 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

## MEN'S MINISTRY

group. For more information about any of these activities, contact Parish Associate David McCreath.

### Join 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](http://www.mvtf.org).

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

### Book Group Selects Summer Titles

The Men's Book Group meets on the third Monday of each month, beginning at 7:30 pm. All men of the church are welcome to join for stimulating reading and discussions, and for fellowship.

The group has made the following selections for their summer reading:

- \* **June:** *What's So Amazing About Grace?* by Philip Yancey
- \* **July:** *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind*, by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer
- \* **August:** *At Home: A Short History of Private Life*, by Bill Bryson



The "ladies who lunch," aka the "Lunch Bunch," meet the second Tuesday of each month at the Taiwan Restaurant. Top: Marge Palmer and Pauline Moore Center: Catherine Amos, Jean Raby, Ida Raby Bottom: Charlotte Dickson, Carolyn Clendenning, Gail Chaid

## COME HEAR ABOUT UN INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE

Sunday, June 26, is the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

Did you notice that the name includes "United Nations" and "International," but not "United States"?

But several years ago, religious and human rights organizations in the United States declared the entire month of June to be *Torture Awareness Month*. On Jan. 20, 2010, the day of his inauguration, President Obama signed an Executive Order banning U.S.-sponsored torture.

Does torture still exist in the world? Of course it does. And when President Obama leaves office, his Executive Order terminates unless it is signed into law before then. So what are we to do?

We are encouraged to focus on the need for accountability for U.S.-sponsored torture since Sept. 11, 2001. Through your petitions, letters, postcards, and emails, we

call for a nonpartisan Commission of Inquiry to be appointed by the President and/or Congress, and we call on the Attorney General to appoint a Special Prosecutor to investigate the use of torture.

We also need to ask for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to make public their report into our past interrogation practices.

Please read about Torture Awareness at the *National Religious Campaign Against Torture* (NRCAT) website ([www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org)), and send emails to Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer at [www.nrcat.org/tam](http://www.nrcat.org/tam).

On Sunday, June 26, join the Rev. Dale Bracey at Adult Study time (11:15 am - 12:15 pm), when he will present NRCAT materials, including a new video, *Repairing the Brokenness: A Faithful Response to U.S.-Sponsored Torture*. Also, be sure to read the information and prayer in the bulletin that day. - Maureen Ryan

## REFUGEES SAVED FROM EVICTION THANKS TO YOU

In March of this year, Stone's Refugee Ministry account had a \$3,500 balance, thanks to your generosity and that of our Presbytery.

The Muiruri family - Tony, Steve and Paul - well on their way to being self-supporting, now need very little assistance from us.

Knowing this, the StoneWorks Committee voted to donate \$1000 from this fund to Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County for refugee resettlement.

Our timing could not have been better. Claire Collins, Supervisor of Refugee Resettlement, stated in her thank you letter, "We were able to put it to immediate use, saving one family from eviction and putting a deposit for another family to move into a new apartment."

If you have any doubt that God answers prayers, Claire also said, "Just before we received your call, we were wondering what we were going to do, because we currently have no funds for these kinds of emergencies. It was truly a case of God answering our prayers."

Claire ended her letter with this blessing, "Stone Church has always been an example of 'Welcoming the Stranger' and supporting refugees." - Maureen Ryan

## SESSION DISCUSSES INTERN, AMENDMENT A, BUDGET

At the regular Session meeting on May 21, Ken Henry spoke of his conversations with John Aney, a Seminary Intern who is coming to Stone on Sept. 11. Ken and John are agreeing on John's responsibilities in the areas of youth ministry, visitation, and Christian Education.

The passing of Amendment A is a notable change for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Enough Presbyteries throughout the country have voted yes that the following language will be removed from the *Book of Order*: Officers shall "live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness." Removal of this language opens the way to ordination of LGBT men and women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, as Elders, or as Deacons.

Session held an extensive discussion of the mortgage and its impact

on the budget, particularly in preventing the hiring of an Associate Pastor. There was concern that a lone pastor has too great a work load at Stone, because of the size of the congregation and its level of activity. The mortgage currently amounts to \$376,000, including member notes.

Session voted to authorize Mel Goertz and Pat Magee to put together a proposal for a capital campaign with a list of Task Force members to assist, and to bring the proposal back to Session for review and possible approval.

Bea Groppuso reported for Presbyterian Women that after 15 years Sue Williams is retiring as Hudspeth Trust Secretary.

Maureen Ryan reported for StoneWorks that the bin for collecting materials for backpacks was recently emptied by persons unknown.

-Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

## SACRED HEART DONATIONS

Sue Evans reports that she took 93 pounds of food to Sacred Heart in May.

Karen Scott also took the following items:

- ♥ 10 bags of clothes plus a large box of clothes and a large wicker hamper of clothes
- ♥ 8 pair of pants on hangers
- ♥ 13 bags of toiletries
- ♥ 2 bags of blankets
- ♥ 6 bags of paper bags
- ♥ 2 bags of egg cartons

Thank you for your unending and loving generosity!



# ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY ... YOU'LL FIND A LOT OF LIFE AT STONE CHURCH!



*Mary Alice Collins congratulates Miriam Rowan at Miriam's 90th Birthday Celebration on May 22.*



*And Miriam admires the beautiful artwork created for her by Stone Church Artist Lyn Johnson and given to Miriam by the Choir and Friends.*



*Rhonda and Bill Lakatos celebrated their 40th anniversary on Sunday, May 29.*



*Bruce Raby and Katherine Webb Calhoun share a laugh on a recent Sunday.*



*Nancy Kromm looks intent on getting the choir to "sing pretty"!*



*Aimee Moiso and Derk Johnson are probably up to something ... good!*





## 2011 STONE CHURCH CONFIRMATION CLASS WELCOMED BY CONGREGATION

*The 2011 Stone Church Confirmands were welcomed by the Congregation in Worship on Sunday, May 8.  
Congratulations to this wonderful group!*

## “HORIZONS OF THE SPIRIT” TV SERIES TO INCLUDE SHOWS ON MENTAL ILLNESS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ECONOMIC CRISIS

The Interfaith Broadcasting Commission (IBC), whose partners include the Presbyterian Church, USA, has announced four television specials that will comprise NBC’s *Horizons of the Spirit* series this year.

In addition to these shows, IBC will produce a Christmas special for NBC, to air on Christmas Eve of 2011.

Here are summaries of three of the shows (the first already aired May 1):

**Shadow Voices: Finding Hope in Mental Illness** (June 12) takes an inside look at what it’s like to live with mental illness and how individuals and their families find their way through a tangle of mental, medical, governmental, societal, and spiritual issues. It includes interviews with former First Lady

Rosalynn Carter and other experts, as well as stories from families living with mental illness.

**Lives for Sale: Immigration & Human Trafficking** (Sept. 25) exposes the painful, rarely seen human side of illegal immigration – *human trafficking* – the growing black market trade in human beings in the U.S.

**Journey into Action: Helping Hands in the Economic Crisis** (Nov. 13) looks at how Episcopal churches are helping people get back on their feet and the vital presence of local churches in communities hit hard by the downturn, from the inner city, to organic farms, to the Great Plains, to people overseas.

- from a press release by Jerry L. Van Marter, Presbyterian News Service, submitted by the Rev. David McCreath

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