

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

JULY 2011



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL WAS, AS ALWAYS, A HUGE BUNCH OF FUN!
(FOR STORY AND MORE PICTURES, SEE PAGE 2)

THAT'S LIFE

by Ken Henry

This past week, I've been hearing the commonly used phrase, "That's life," quite a bit.

From struggling to make a doctor's appointment over the phone, and being put on hold for an interminable amount of time, to discovering how much paperwork is involved in buying or selling a home – in the midst of it, someone shrugs his or her shoulders and concludes:

"That's life."

I'm guessing what this person really meant is, "I didn't get what I wanted," or "I did get what I wanted, but it sure took a whole lot of personal effort and time."

On the other hand, when someone says, "That's life," it almost sounds as if that person has been resigned to a less than acceptable

reality, a reality in which you believe that life is totally random – a luck of the draw, an unforeseen misstep, a roll of the dice.

In other words, we wish life could be more predictable. We wish life could be better. But because it's not, "That's life."

In 1966, Frank Sinatra recorded a song entitled, "That's Life."

"That's life," Sinatra sonorously mused, "that's what all the people say. You're riding high in April, shot down in May!"

Really? That's life? In Paul's letter to the Philippians, the apostle writes:

I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (4:12-13)

It seems to me Paul would not be satisfied with assuming life is

what happens when things don't work out. On the contrary, at least for Paul, the quality of life is not dependent on circumstance, but rather on an inner strength that comes from one's faith in God through Jesus Christ.

As life's trials press upon us, my prayer is that we would find this inner strength at Stone Church.

Through worship, fellowship, prayer, study, children's programs, tears, and laughter, may God give us the assurance that Paul felt and knew: that through times of feasting or famine, in good times and bad, when we find ourselves living with less, or blessed with more than we need, the peace that surpasses understanding resides within a supportive community for faith.

And upon discovering new strength for the journey, may we also find ourselves giving thanks, and even exclaiming:

"Now ... that's life!"



EVERYONE HAD FUN, AND LEARNED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT, AT VCS!

This year's *Fruit of the Spirit County Fair Vacation* Emma Prusch Farm, which helps low income families receive fresh fruits and vegetables. Each day the children played a coin toss game, with proceeds going to this worthy organization.

This environmentally focused program inspired kids and adults to *Grow Love, Sprout Joy, Plant Peace, Produce Patience, and Pick Kindness* as they explored the *Fruits of the Spirit*. All were encouraged to use the practices of recycle, reuse, and reduce to follow Stone Church's commitment to be green.

Over 40 lively youngsters have learned about God's good gifts through singing, planting, making crafts, playing games, and volunteering to do some weeding at Emma Prusch Farm (on one of the hottest days so far this year!).

Our mission project this summer was to support

Veggielution, a community garden located at the Emma Prusch Farm, which helps low income families receive fresh fruits and vegetables. Each day the children played a coin toss game, with proceeds going to this worthy organization.

Children and families were invited to bring their pets for a special "Blessing of the Animals" by the Rev. Ken Henry and the Rev. Bill Palmer.

Other activities during week included puppet shows and a skit, while the "Exhibit Hall" featured a variety of items made by the participants.

Stone's County Fair nurtured our sprouts, seedlings and stalks with love and joy, and produced peace, patience, and kindness!

- Lizanne Oliver



TOUR UNIQUE PLACES OF WORSHIP THIS SUMMER IN ADULT STUDY

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

There is no class on Aug. 21, the Church Picnic (see page 8). For more information about any of these classes, contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Sub-Committee.

July 3: Open Door: A Conversation with Ken Henry

Ken Henry invites everyone to his office hour – an open-door conversation in his Lincoln House office, from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. 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

A topic of significant interest in the recent Adult Study Class Questionnaire (see page 4 for related article) was “Other Religions.” In response, an informal travel series focusing on beautiful and unique places of worship throughout the world is presented this summer.

July 10: Hindu Gods, Shrines and Temples

July 17: Buddhist Temples

July 24: Islamic Mosques

July 31: Taoist Temples of the Overseas Chinese

Aug. 7: Orthodox Icons, Screens and Churches

Aug. 14: Russian Orthodox Churches in Alaska

Each class is self-contained; join us when you are in town.

Aug. 28: Open Door: A Conversation with Ken Henry

There is no Adult Study class – join Ken for his office hours!

DISCOVER WONDERFUL SUMMER READING POSSIBILITIES IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Summertime means more relaxing and more time to enjoy books!

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

New for our younger members:



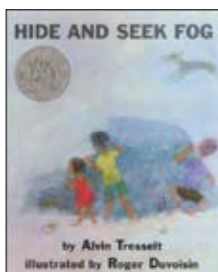
The Best Way to Play by Bill Cosby (1st Bks J Cos)

The Bag I'm Taking to Grandma's by Shir-



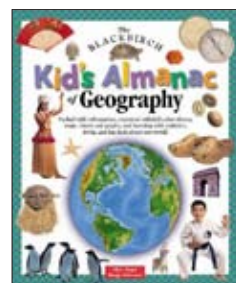
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Hide and Seek Fog by Alvin Tresselt

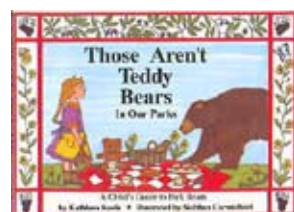


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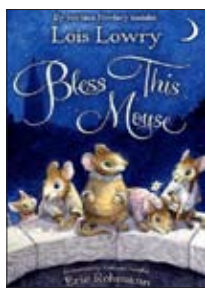
Kid's Almanac of Geography by Alice



Siegel & Margo McLoone (YA 910 Sie), given by Charlotte Dickson



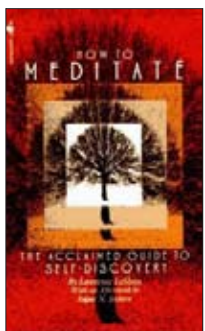
Those Aren't Teddy Bears: A Child's Guide to Park Bears by Kathleen Keefe (J 599 Kee)



Bless This Mouse by Lois Lowry (YA Low), given by Claudia Hamm in honor of “our Church Mouse,” June Tablak, on her 90th birthday

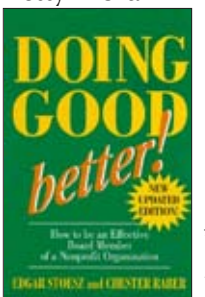
On the adult side:

Wisdom Distilled from the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today by Joan Chittister (242 Chi),

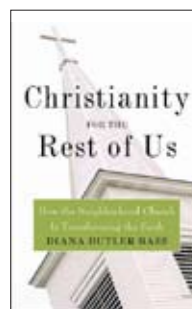


given by Alice Thorn How to Meditate by Lawrence LeShan (248.3 LeS) and Christian Growth through

Meditation by Fay Conlee Oliver (248.3 Oli), both given by Betty Moran



Doing Good Better! How to Be an Effective Board Member of a Non-profit Organization by Edgar Stoesz & Chester Raber (658 Sto)



Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith by Diana Butler Bass (280 Bas) [Editor's Note: Dr. Bass will lecture at Stone

O c t .

21-22]

April 1865: The Month that Saved America by Jay Winik (973.7 Win)



In our adult special sections:

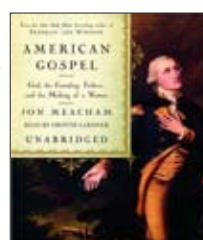


Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn (Women 362.8 Kri), given

by Betsy

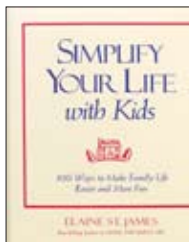
Williams in memory of Liz Shandera

American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation by



Jon Meacham (Soc 155 322 Mea), given by the Groppusos

Simplify Your Life with Kids: 100 Ways to Make Family Life Easier & More Fun by Elaine St. James (Fam 646 St.)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSES TO THE "ADULT STUDY CLASS QUESTIONNAIRE"

The Adult Education Subcommittee thanks everyone who responded to the recent *Adult Study Class Questionnaire* and gave suggestions for Sunday morning classes.

All of your suggestions were excellent, and we have already scheduled several classes in response and plan to add even more.

One of your favorite topics was "Other Religions," and we will be running a series, *Places of Worship: Mosques, Temples, and Churches*, during July and August (see Adult Study article, page 3).

Responding to your request for more Bible study, Dale and Barbara Bracey will lead a five-week class in January and February on *John's Intimate Gospel*.

We have two outstanding outside speakers scheduled during the coming school year. Dr. John van Hagen, a participant in the *Jesus Seminar*, will speak in October on the topic, *Crises and the Journey of Faith*. David Plein, Old Testament professor at Santa Clara University, will lead a series related to Genesis in February.

While classes conducted by Stone Church clergy are always popular, there was also a strong desire to meet our new Seminary Intern, John Aney. John will preach on Sept. 11, and then join the Adult Study class (at 11:15 am).

For a complete list of the responses to the questionnaire, contact Pat Magee, Adult Education Subcommittee Chair.

STONE CARES HAS NEW CONTACTS

With the changing of the church year, Stone Cares would like to provide some new contact information.

Stone Cares is organized by the Deacons, but consists of anyone at Stone who wants to help provide food, rides, and other services for the elderly, shut-ins, and anyone in need.

If you would like to help with these services, please contact Steve Stark (see contact information below).

If you need services, or if you want to alert the Deacons to someone in need, the following people should be contacted - in this order:

- ♥ Steve Stark (Deacon Leader)
- ♥ Bill Ribble (Deacon)
- ♥ Glenda Bowman (Volunteer)

STEPHEN MINISTRY HAS A WONDERFUL PROBLEM

Stephen Ministry is thriving at Stone Church: the trained caregivers are assigned and busy listening to those in need of their skills.

With more people requesting care, more Stephen Ministers are needed to serve our congregation and community. A training class will be offered starting Sat., Sept. 17, and continuing through May 6 on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 at the church. Both men and women are needed for training, commissioning, and serving.

The program also needs one or two people willing to serve as Stephen Leaders. The next Leader training is Feb. 6-12, 2012, in Anaheim. To receive an early registration discount, applications must be in by Dec. 29.

We ask any and all who have thought about serving as a Stephen Minister or Leader to prayerfully consider the current need.

For more information, please contact Judith Mohr.



June and Ed Tablak both recently celebrated their 90th birthdays, and Stone members were honored to be invited to a festive birthday celebration in the Social Hall on June 19. Top photo: The lovely couple, June and Ed Tablak.



Bottom photo: Jeanette Rapp and Jan Keifer serving the beautifully decorated birthday cake.

Photographs by Sylvia Snyder, Stone Church Photographer

The corn tops ripe and the meadows in the bloom, 'tis summer ...

In the "good old summer time," we can get a head start on our coupons

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

better, for collecting coupons and for our other programs from various stores (see the PW bulletin board for details on the latter).



With all the opportunities for festive gatherings of friends and family, it seems a good time to bake all those Betty Crocker cookies - both from mixes or from the frozen food section - so as to gather many coupons.

Have you ever wondered what your PW Co-ordinating Team (PWCT) does? Where does your offering go? Who plans all of those wonderful programs for us? What is the Hudspeth Fund, and how is it used? Why do we have fair trade sales?

And you may have even more questions and/or suggestions.

You are welcome to attend any meeting of the PWCT on the second Thursday of each month (except July) at 9:30 am, in the Social Hall - maybe you'll also be inspired to answer a call from the search committee.

PW Schedule for July

Fair Trade Sales, 10:45 am, July 10, Social Hall

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, July 12, Taiwan Restaurant

Book Group I, 1 pm, July 25, Hazel James' home, discussing *The Year of Living Biblically* by A. J. Jacobs

Prayer Shawl Ministry, July 28, 4 pm, Fireside Room

Save this future date

PW August Brunch, Aug. 20, 9:30 am, Social Hall, with a panel of experts on *Putting Together the Health Care Puzzle*

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 25, when we will begin the 2011-2012 *Horizons Bible Study, Confessing the Beatitudes*, by Margaret Aymer.

- Catherine Amos



Stone's Presbyterian Women recently held their annual picnic in the lovely garden of Jan Keifer. Pictured above, starting top left: Diana Lim, Catherine Amos, Norah Casner, and Mary Margaret Teel. Top right: Jeanette Rapp and Claudia Hamm. Bottom left: Rhonda Lakatos, Carolyn Clendenning (who provided these photos), and hostess Jan Keifer. Bottom right: Maureen Ryan and June Tablak.



MEN'S MINISTRY

The Men's Ministry recently had two exciting outings: a very peaceful and productive fishing expedition and a tour of the Military Vehicle Technology Foundation in Portola Valley.

Our pastor thinking about his next sermon. Top right: Art Holtz and Lawrence Summers with their daily limits. Bottom left: The fishing group at dinner (eating chicken!?) and yes, that's former Stone Church Pastor Art Mills.

Bottom right: At the military museum, the group included Art Holtz and his grandson, Bill Ribble, Tony Muiruri, David McCreath, Gabriel Faber, and Gary Weiss. The group was joined by a group from Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church led by Steve Buckley. - David McCreath

SESSION BIDS ELDER CLASS OF 2011 ADIEU; WELCOMES SEVEN NEW MEMBERS

The meeting of June 21 was the last meeting of the Session for the Elders in the Class of 2011.

It was a meeting that demonstrated the vitality of Stone's congregation, as Session approved the baptisms of five babies, to be held in September, and welcomed seven new members, all by Reaffirmation of Faith: Catherine Lynn Marlatt; David and Leta Leggitt; Wynn Barnes; Mattias Lathe; Christian Nelson and Emma Tripp.

Ken Henry noted that the burgeoning nursery population means some creativity may be needed to

accommodate all of the youngsters. The average Sunday is still manageable, but an occasional Sunday has strained capacities.

Session heard the glad news that this year's Vacation Church School has close to 45 children enrolled, with 15 to 20 helpers.

There were elections: Alice Thorn was re-elected as Clerk of Session. Corporate Officers David Jaffer, President; Mel Goertz, Vice President; Alice Thorn, Secretary; and Mary Breuleux, Treasurer were elected for one-year terms.

David Jaffer presented the recently completed audit of Stone's finances, which included the conclusions that the church's processes, in general, are followed, transactions are being correctly recorded, there are no material errors in the church's financial statement, and books and records are orderly and easily accessible to the audit team.

Audit team members included Ida Raby, Carolyn Clendenning, Mel Goertz, Bill Lakatos, and John Ritchie (chair).

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL: THE SMILES TELL THE STORY!





TRAILWALKERS TRY RANCHO SAN ANTONIO THIS MONTH

The Stone Church *Trailwalkers* will tackle the trails at Rancho San Antonio, on Saturday, July 16, at 9 am.

We will make a very easy-to-moderate 5.5-mile loop hike, with only about 800 feet in elevation change. The trailhead elevation is around 350 feet. The hike is flat for about a mile, climbs on a moderate grade to about 1045 feet, descends to about 330 feet, and returns to the trailhead on a level grade.

This is a good hike for beginners starting to stretch their legs

a bit; experienced hikers will probably find it easy.

Directions from Willow Glen: Take Interstate 280 going North. Exit on #13 Foothill Expressway. Go left (following signs for Foothill Boulevard) and take the first right on Cristo Rey Drive. Drive about 1 mile and turn left into the park. In the park, bear right and drive to the last parking lot, at the end of the park road.

For more information, contact Emily Meacham, this month's hike leader.



BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT AT THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND HYMN SING

Join the fun at Stone's annual *Ice Cream Social and Hymn Sing* to be held on the front patio on Sunday, July 24, at 6:30 pm.

Grab a carton of your favorite ice cream flavor to share (the Fellowship and Renewal committee will provide the sundae toppings) and join in fun at an early evening gathering of your friends at Stone Church.

Do you have a favorite hymn? Let us know and we'll sing 'em all!

For more information (or to sign up to assist with set up and clean up), contact Katherine Webb Calhoun, Chair, Fellowship and Renewal Committee.



STONE'S WORSHIP IN THE PARK AND PICNIC GOES "GREEN"

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Aug. 21, when we will once again worship and enjoy picnicking together on the beautiful grounds of the History Park at Kelley Park.

We will go "green" this year by asking you to bring your own plates, utensils, beverage containers, and napkins. Sign-ups will be held in August, but put this popular event on your calendar now!

SACRED HEART DONATIONS

Karen Scott recently took the following to Sacred Heart:

- ♥ 7 bags of clothes
- ♥ 4 bags of toiletries
- ♥ 2 bags of men's shoes
- ♥ 1 bag of shoes and slippers
- ♥ 3 bags of bags
- ♥ 7 boxes of women's clothes and shoes

Thank you for your unending and loving generosity!

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