

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

AUGUST 2011



Sunset
at
Zephyr
Point

photo by
Rod Thorn

RIDING THE ROLLER COASTER: A WEDDING SERMON

*Rev. Ken Henry wrote this homily
for a summer wedding.*

A slow ascent ... almost coming
to a complete stop ... holding your
breath ... then a sudden plunge into
darkness ... but not for long ...

Then another slow and gradual
climb ... up, up, up ... you feel
some traction underneath you ...
catching and taking hold ...

You're gaining confidence:
there's a light at the end of the
tunnel. As the light draws closer,
it gets brighter and bigger. Finally,
you are immersed in daylight. You
can see where you're heading now,
but then it dawns on you: *this is
only the beginning.*

What have I been describing?

A roller coaster ride? Maybe.

Some might compare what I've
just said to what you're doing right
now: a slow ascent up carpeted

stairs to stand in front of friends
and family; coming to a full stop
before the minister; realizing the
organ music has faded away; for-
getting to breathe ...

The ride continues as you say
words of commitment to each
another and exchange rings.

At the end of the ceremony,
when the pastor pronounces you
husband and wife, it dawns on
you: *this is only the beginning.*

I know what you're thinking:
buying a ticket for a real roller
coaster ride at the Santa Cruz
Boardwalk would have been so
much easier.

Sorry - not today.

Of course, some will say what
I'm really talking about is what
happens *after* you walk down the
aisle and out those doors: the
sudden plunge into the unknown,
the ups and downs and unex-
pected turns that naturally occur
when two people seek to under-
stand and love each other over the
course of a lifetime.

Indeed, to say to our beloved, "I
will stay with you through sickness
and health, in joy and sorrow, in
plenty and want, as long as we
both shall live," is, in essence, to
say, "I will hang on to you for dear
life, no matter how exhilarating or
terrifying the ride."



And yet, after 10 years, 20
years, 30 years of marriage, what-
ever happens along the way, there
remains God's enduring promise
that two people - two people who
are willing to work together, for-
give each other, and uncondition-
ally accept each other - can always
begin again. *(continued on page 2)*



WHERE THE FABRIC IS THIN ... BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

Many of us from Stone were truly blessed to attend this year's *Zephyr Experience* at the Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center in south Lake Tahoe.

The weather was amazing, and the sunsets spectacular. And we even had a great view on the 4th of the fireworks on the north shore.

There were classes each morning for the adults, and programs for the children and youth. Adults could discuss *Ethics and Mysticism* with Lisa Fullam; hear Ben Daniel read about

immigration from his book *Neighbor*; discuss the Bible with Frank Hamilton; sing with Ann Jefferson and Mary Lynn Tobin; or hear Greg Love's theory on *Why Bad Things Happen To Good People*.

Then, it was off to the beach in the afternoon, or hiking, beading, knitting, marquetry, or any of the wonderful things to do around Lake Tahoe.

Of course we had wonderful services, but in keeping with Presbyterian tradition, not every day. And then, there was the *not-to-be-missed* Thursday

evening Talent Show and Ice Cream Sundae event.

This is a wonderful family experience, and both Zephyr and Stone Church are looking at the possibility of offering partial scholarships. Guest rooms with private baths at the Tahoe Center are fully ADA accessible, and cabins are also available.

Think about joining us next year, from July 8-13, at the *Zephyr Experience*. Registration begins Jan. 2012. Hope to see you there!

- Maureen Ryan

A NEW BEGINNING: INFANT BAPTISM CLASS

by Mary Jo Blazek,
Children's Ministry Coordinator

"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

There is something wonderful about a baptism – a new beginning.

Rev. Ken Henry is offering an Infant Baptism Class on Sunday, Sept. 4, at 11:15 am, in his office.

For this class, *infant* is defined as birth to three years old.

Parents and babies are welcome. Childcare is available by request.

RSVP to the church office if you are interested in attending this class.



RIDING THE ROLLER COASTER: A WEDDING SERMON

(continued from page 1)

Some might say this is what it means to love someone, because "love" also takes many perilous turns.

Yes, as Paul wrote, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude."

But love is also what keeps us *on track*. Love keeps us in our seats, next to our soul mate. And in those

times, when we feel like getting off this roller coaster ride, it is love that endures and gives us the strength to keep going forward.

So, here's a suggestion: when the ride you're on feels a bit bumpy, don't call me – call these people sitting behind you.

They know all about the dips and curves of love. They know how love can be broken. They know how love can put things back together. They know love makes for laughter and joy in a marriage. And by the way, they are here today because they love you.

"Marriage is like a roller coaster," someone once said to me, "Through twists and turns, unexpected ups and downs, we hang on and enjoy the ride."

And so, with this person by your side, I say to you: by the joining of hands and giving of rings, hang on and enjoy the ride.

And if you're excited today about becoming husband and wife before God and all gathered here today, just think:

This is only the beginning.

- Ken Henry

ADULT STUDY: VISIT UNIQUE PLACES OF WORSHIP, MEET NEW INTERN, JOHN ANEY

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

All are welcome!

July 31 - Aug. 14: Places of Worship: Mosques, Temples and Churches

A topic of significant interest in the recent *Adult Study Class Questionnaire* was "Other Religions." In response, an informal travel series focusing on beautiful and unique places of worship throughout the world is presented. Each class is self-contained; join us when you are in town.

July 31: Taoist Temples of the Overseas Chinese

Aug. 7: Orthodox Icons, Screens and Churches

Aug. 14: Russian Orthodox Churches in Alaska

Sept. 11: Intro to Church School & Adult Study Classes for School Year

Sept. 18: A Conversation with our Seminary Intern, John Aney

Our new Seminary Intern, John Aney, will be preaching this morning. He joins the Adult Study class to discuss his sermon and his reasons for becoming a Presbyterian minister.

Sept. 25: Training Session on Serving Home Communion

Oct. 2, 9, 16: Crises and the Journey of Faith with Dr. John Van Hagen

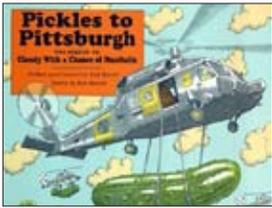
Dr. Van Hagen is a psychologist in San Francisco and consultant to the San Francisco Archdiocesan Tribunal and St. Patrick's Seminary. For the past eight years, Dr. Van Hagen has had an ongoing dialog with Tom Sheehan of Stanford's Department of Religious Studies, regarding recent research on the historical Jesus and its implications for a believing community.

There is no class on Aug. 21, the Church Picnic [see page 8] or Sept. 4 (Labor Day Weekend). For more information about any of these classes, contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Sub-Committee.

CHURCH LIBRARY HAS SOME INTRIGUING TITLES FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE!

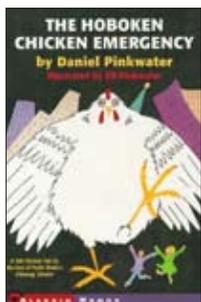
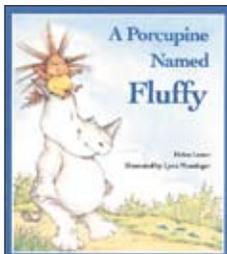
This month we feature books with rather unusual titles - hope you enjoy them! - Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

New for our younger members:



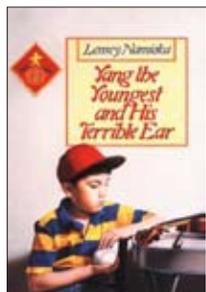
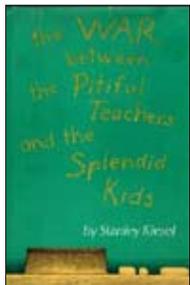
Pickles to Pittsburgh by Judi Barrett (1st Bks Bar)

A Porcupine Named Fluffy by Helen Lester (1st Bks Les)

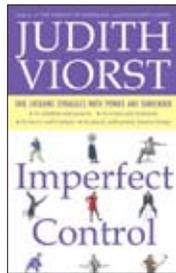


The Hoboken Chicken Emergency by D. Manus Pinkwater (J Pin)

The War Between the Pitiful Teachers and the Splendid Kids by Stanley Kiesel (YA Kie)



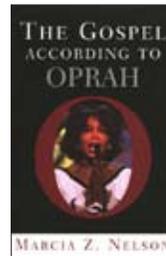
Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear by Lensey Namioka (YA Nam)



On the adult side:

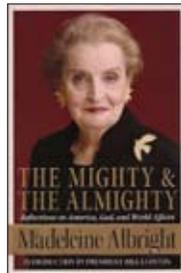
Imperfect Control: Our Lifelong Struggles with Power and Surrender by Judith Viorst (158.1 Vio)

The Gospel according to Oprah

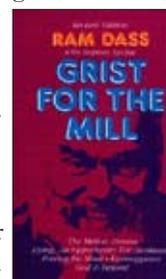


by Marcia Nelson (230 Nel), given by Dulcie Janzen

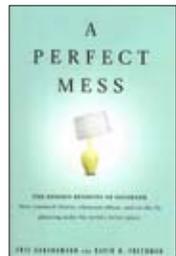
The Mighty & the Almighty: Reflections on America, God, and World Affairs by Madeleine Albright (261.7 Alb)



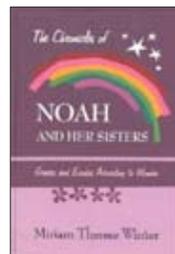
Grist for the Mill: The Mellow Drama by Ram Dass with Stephen Levine (294 Das), given by Chris Osborne



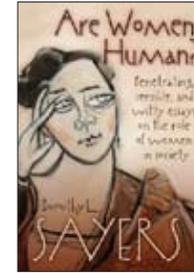
A Perfect Mess: The Hidden Benefits of Disorder by Eric Abrahamson & David Freedman (650.1 Abr)



The Chronicles of Noah and Her Sisters: Genesis & Exodus



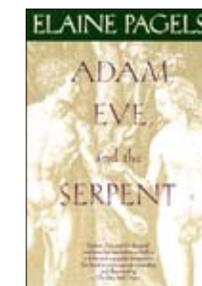
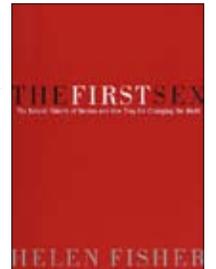
According to Women by Miriam Therese Winter (813.54 Win), given by Alice Thorn



In our adult special sections:

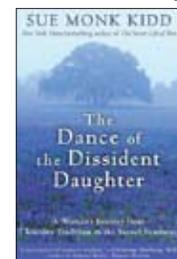
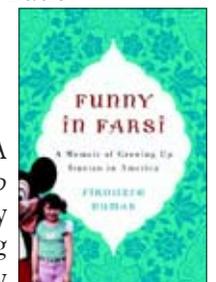
Are Women Human? by Dorothy Sayers (Women 305 Say), given by Claudia Hamm

The First Sex: The Natural Talents of Women & How They Are Changing the World by Helen Fisher (Women 305.4 Fis), given by Colleen Blackburn



Adam, Eve, and the Serpent by Elaine Pagels (Soc Iss-Sex. 241 Pag), given by Brad Bauer

Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America by Firoozeh Dumas (Biog DUMAS), given by Betty Moran



The Dance of the Dissident Daughter: A Woman's Journey from Christian Tradition to the Sacred Feminine by Sue Monk Kidd (Biog KIDD)

STONE MEMBERS RALLY FOR FARM WORKER JUSTICE

In the depths of winter, we're able to eat tomatoes, thanks to farm workers in south Florida.

But the workers have faced sweatshop conditions, including stagnant, sub-poverty wages, no right to overtime pay, no right to organize, no benefits whatsoever, sexual harassment, and in extreme cases, modern-day slavery.

Our national church, PCUSA, has long supported justice for farm workers, and since 2002, has specifically spoken out in solidarity with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) of south Florida, a worker-led movement providing solutions to the human rights crisis in the fields.

The voices of people of faith have provided leverage to encourage companies to do the right thing.

On July 15, Charlotte Dickson, Maureen Ryan, Janice Goertz, Claudia Hamm, and Rhonda & Bill Lakatos joined 35 others outside Trader



A photo from the CIW website, where they mention the support of the PCUSA, which included our enthusiastic Stone Church folks!

Joe's market on Coleman Avenue to educate customers and to ask Trader Joe's management to sign a binding agreement with the CIW.

And Ginger and Gabriel Luebcke made great signs for our group to carry.

To date, nine corporate food retailers, including Whole Foods, McDonald's, and Burger King, have signed on to participate in the Fair Food

Program, and it has made a difference.

At the rally, some CIW folks told us that pressure from McDonald's resulted in the investigation and firing of a sexually harassing line supervisor.

The CIW has also assisted authorities in investigating and prosecuting six cases of slavery in the U.S. agricultural industry, freeing more than 1,000 slaves.

For more information about this national campaign, see www.ciw-online.org,

or pick up a small flyer from the Presbyterian Women bulletin board near the Social Hall.

In the spring the Rev. Noelle Damico, from PCUSA's Fair Food Ministry, will be speaking in our area (gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/fairfood).

We look forward to learning more about how we can be socially and faithfully responsible consumers.

- Rhonda Lakatos



JOAN'S BIRTHDAY RIDE!

Joan Helms' son Steve recently took her on a birthday "bike" ride to Alice's Restaurant in Woodside.

In Joan's words, "Steve picked me up, and we took the winding back road from here to Los Gatos, then Highway 9 through Saratoga, up the mountain to Skyline Drive, and north to Woodside."

"Alice's is a bikers' stopover, and there were a lot of them there. We ate lunch and came back home - about a 68-mile round trip. The sky was clear, and we could see across the bay on one side and the ocean on the other side."

Happy belated birthday, Joan! This was a very special way to celebrate!



A MEETING IN GRAZ!

Maureen Chandler and Barbara Roberts (left) & Rich Frohlich (above) recently met in Graz, Austria, where their separate travel plans had a happy confluence!

August is, of course, named for Augustus Caesar, but have you ever thought of it as an adjective? It means a "dignified or imposing presence of noble birth or high rank." Now, how are all of our "august women"?

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Our search committee, chaired by Sara Holtzapple, has given us a wonderful slate of *Coordinating Team* members for 2011 - 2012, as follows:

- ♥ Rhonda Lakatos, Moderator
- ♥ Jean Raby, Moderator-elect
- ♥ Claudia Hamm, 1st Vice-moderator for Program
- ♥ Rosaleen Zisch, 2nd Vice-moderator for Mission
- ♥ Bea Groppuso, 3rd Vice-moderator for Justice and Peace
- ♥ Sheri Cunningham, Secretary

- ♥ Sally Magee, Treasurer
- ♥ Ida Raby, Treasurer of Hudspeth Trust
- ♥ Jan Keifer, Mission Secretary of Hudspeth Trust
- ♥ Carolyn Clendenning, Historian
- ♥ Joan Peckham, Chair of Search Committee
- ♥ Jan Keifer and Hazel James, Amethyst Circle Leaders
- ♥ Diana Lim, Emerald Circle Leader
- ♥ Jean Raby, Sapphire Circle Leader

Wouldn't you like to work with these women?

The annual *August Brunch*, sponsored by the Focus Group, will take place Saturday, Aug. 20. [See the article below for more detail.]

Don't forget those coupons! I just discovered that *Land of Lakes* butter supports this program.

PW Schedule for August

- Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, Aug. 9, Taiwan Restaurant
- Fair Trade Sales**, 10:45 am, Aug. 14, Social Hall

Focus Group, 9:30 am, Aug. 17, Bea Groppuso's home

Coordinating Team, 9:30 am, Aug. 18, Social Hall

August Brunch, 9:30 am, Aug. 20, Social Hall [see article below]

Book Group I, 1 pm, Aug. 22, Hazel James' home, discussing *Blood, Bones & Butter* by Gabrielle Hamilton

Bible Study, 9:30 am, Aug. 25, *Confessing the Beatitudes*, with the Rev. Marge Palmer (she's back!)

Prayer Shawl Ministry, Aug. 25, 4 pm, Fireside Room

Save this future date

Horizons Bible Study Day at SFTS, Sept. 10. Registration closes Sept. 2. Contact Rhonda Lakatos for forms and more information.

On 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. - Catherine Amos

"PUTTING TOGETHER THE HEALTH CARE PUZZLE" WILL BE THEME OF PW AUGUST BRUNCH

Have you been wondering about the health care changes in store for you and the people of California?

Do you want to know how current health care legislation will impact you and your family?

Presbyterian Women are hosting an *August Brunch* on Saturday, Aug. 20, from 9:30 to 11:30 am, in the Social Hall, with the theme of *Putting Together the Health Care Puzzle*.

At the brunch, the Rev. Dr. Ken Henry will share his thoughts on *Faith Values and Health Care*.

In addition, Elizabeth Sholes, the Director of Public Policy, California Council of Churches/California Church Impact, will speak on *California and Health Care*.

All are welcome - please come and share your questions and

opinions. A brunch of quiche, fruit, muffins, coffee and tea will be served.

A donation of \$5 for the brunch is requested.

We also ask that you bring toiletry items for Emmaus House, the only shelter for victims of domestic violence in San Benito County.

Emmaus House, a recipient of the PW Thank Offering in the early 2000s, has seen its income drop significantly over the last two years and will gratefully accept any monetary donations.

Please make reservations by Aug. 15 with either Hazel James or June Tablak.

Childcare reservations must be made by Aug. 6 with Hazel.

- Sally Magee

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

Flying Trip to McMinnville, OR

Art Holtz is organizing a weekend/overnight flying trip to the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum at McMinnville, OR, near Portland (www.evergreenmuseum.org/the-museum). The cost is estimated at \$150-200/person. Pilots will be Bill Ribble and friends. If you are interested, contact Art. All men of the church are welcome.

Men's Book Group to Meet Aug. 15

The Men's Book Group will meet Aug. 15, beginning at 7:30 pm. Steve Buckley is the host. The book for discussion is *At Home: A Short History of Private Life* by Bill Bryson. We invite visitors; if you have not had a chance to read the book, come and enjoy the conversation anyway! - Bill Ribble and David McCreath

SESSION AUTHORIZES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, ASKS COM TO REOPEN ASSOCIATE PASTOR POSITION

At its regular meeting on July 19, Session welcomed the new Elder Class of 2014: Glen Casner, Mel Goertz, Virginia Holtz, Steve Nelson, Dawn Predium, Mike Roberts, Matt Schroeder, and Della Smith.

The evening's main topic of discussion was a proposal to hold a capital campaign to raise \$200,000; funds would be used to pay down the mortgage, and for possible smaller projects.

Session has talked about the need for such a campaign; the current yearly budget has \$108,000 dedicated to interest and payments. Paying off much of the mortgage (currently a bit less than \$400,000) would free up budget dollars for other uses, including getting pastoral help for Ken Henry.

Session voted to authorize a two-year \$200,000 campaign, to begin Sept. 1, under the coordination of a committee composed of Susan Bedolla, Jan Keifer, Steve Nelson, Fred Oliver and Mike Roberts, with Mel Goertz and Pat Magee as co-chairs. The actual campaign will last about one month, with payments expected over a two-year time span.

Session also acted to tell Presbytery's Committee on Ministry that Stone wishes to reopen the Associate Pastor position. This is a procedural vote, allowing Session to move in the direction of hiring someone when the budget makes it possible.

Session discussed co-opting of committee members. Each year brings the challenge of finding persons willing to step in to serve on committees and to move into leadership in the church.

Kathie Lloyd, chair of the Health Ministries Committee, highlighted the experience of serving home communion to persons who cannot make it to the Sunday worship service. The Health Ministries Committee will manage this, and all ordained Elders and Deacons are encouraged to participate in the ministry.

The Worship Committee announced that the church has purchased the handbell set from the First Presbyterian Church of San José. Stone has had the use of the bells for at least three years at no cost. Purchase price was \$7,000.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session



A NOTE FROM DEACON MODERATOR CLAIRE RIBBLE

I am very pleased to be the new Deacon Moderator for 2011-2012.

We continue to expand the Stone Cares program, and we are always looking to add volunteers to our list of providers of meals, rides, visits, etc.

We will be hosting two Senior Events this year, one in December and one in the Spring.

Our new Deacon Class of 2014 includes Brad Tips, Ed Tablak, Donald Foster, Charlotte Dickson, Phil Curtis, Fran Cole and Mary Burfine.

If you know of people in need, please contact me (Claire Ribble), a Steven Minister, or the Rev. Ken Henry, as you think appropriate.

MID-YEAR BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT

Here is Stone's financial statement for June 2011 (YTD = year to date):

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Income & Expense YTD	YTD Actual vs. Budget
Income	507,100	276,161	289,917	13,756
Expense	507,100	255,099	243,577	11,522
Cash Flow	--	21,062	46,341	25,278

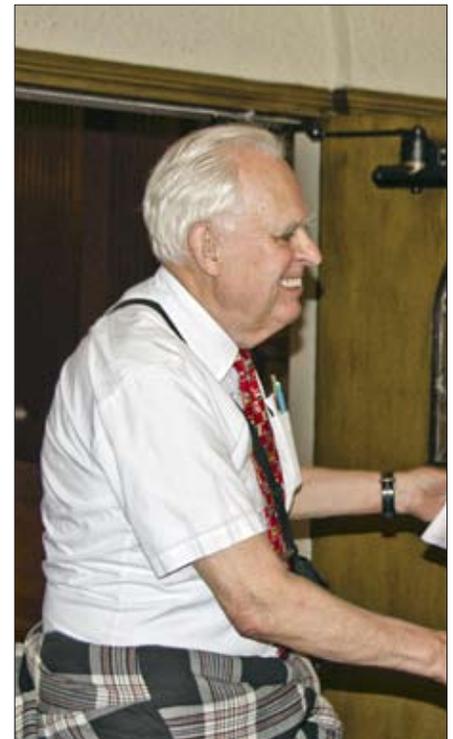
For the first half of the year, Stone Church is about \$14,000 ahead of budgeted income and about \$11,000 below budgeted expense.

These account for a current cash position that is about \$25,000 ahead of our budget going into the second half of the year.

The first half of the year did not have any large anticipated expenses, and pledge payments and loose offerings are a bit ahead of budget.

We appear to be in good condition to meet our budget for the year.

- David Jaffer



*The Rev. Bill Palmer,
on a recent Sunday*

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES AT STONE CHURCH ARE ANYTHING BUT DULL!



Ken Henry as Jacob, and Derk Johnson as ... well, he played many roles that day (as always!) ... but here, we think he was portraying Laban, Jacob's father-in-law.



The Vintage Harmonies (which include our own Bill Downes, at right) are always a welcome summer musical treat!



Jean Raby leading Stone's fabulous handbell choir ... is that Derk again? Boy, he does get around!



The Rev. Charles (Chuck) Rawlings was Stone's guest preacher on July 3. He is pictured above with the Rev. David McCreath (on the left) after Worship.

DON'T MISS STONE'S ANNUAL WORSHIP AND PICNIC IN THE PARK



Join us on Sunday, Aug. 21, when Stone Church will once again worship and picnic 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 during Coffee Fellowship.

- Katherine Webb Calhoon



The Trailwalkers at Rancho San Antonio in July: Andrew and Catherine Edwards, Jim Hagan, Emily Meacham, and Maureen Chandler. Jody Meacham also walked and took this picture.

TRAILWALKERS TO TOUR HISTORIC GUADALUPE RIVER IN AUGUST

The Stone Church Trailwalkers will meander along the Guadalupe River through downtown San José, on Saturday, Aug. 20, beginning at 9 am.

On this interpretive walk, we will discover our sister cities' plazas, the historic River Street District, and the flood protection project.

Along the way, we will see public art honoring

Mukwema Ohlone, agriculture, and recent immigrants.

Meet at the parking lot on Woz Way behind the Children's Discovery Museum to begin the almost 4-mile loop.

If you prefer going only one way, we can arrange a pick-up for you.

For more information, contact August trailwalker leader, Virginia Holtz.

SACRED HEART DONATIONS

Stone Church continues to donate many items for the wonderful work of Sacred Heart Community Service.

Thank you for your unending and loving generosity!

Cathy Marshall recently took the following to Sacred Heart:

- ♥ 12 bags of clothing and shoes
- ♥ 9 bags of toiletries
- ♥ 2 bags of grocery bags
- ♥ 2 bags of egg cartons

Sue Evans recently took the following to Sacred Heart:

- ♥ 150 pounds of food

STONE CARES CONTACTS

The Deacons' Stone Cares program is standing by to help!

If you need a ride to the doctor, a few meals to help out when you are ill, etc. - or if you want to alert Stone Cares to someone in need, the following people should be contacted - in this order:

- ♥ Steve Stark [Deacon Leader]
- ♥ Bill Ribble [Deacon]
- ♥ Glenda Bowman [Volunteer]

*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
Rev. Dr. Ken Henry, Pastor
Jennifer Scott-Brand, Office Manager*

The Stone News Staff:
*June Tablak, Editor Emeritus
Emily Moak Meacham, Editor
Suzanne Wolf & June Tablak,
Church Mouse
Sylvia Snyder, Chief Photographer*
Assistant Editors:
*Rhonda Lakatos, Pat Magee,
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