

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

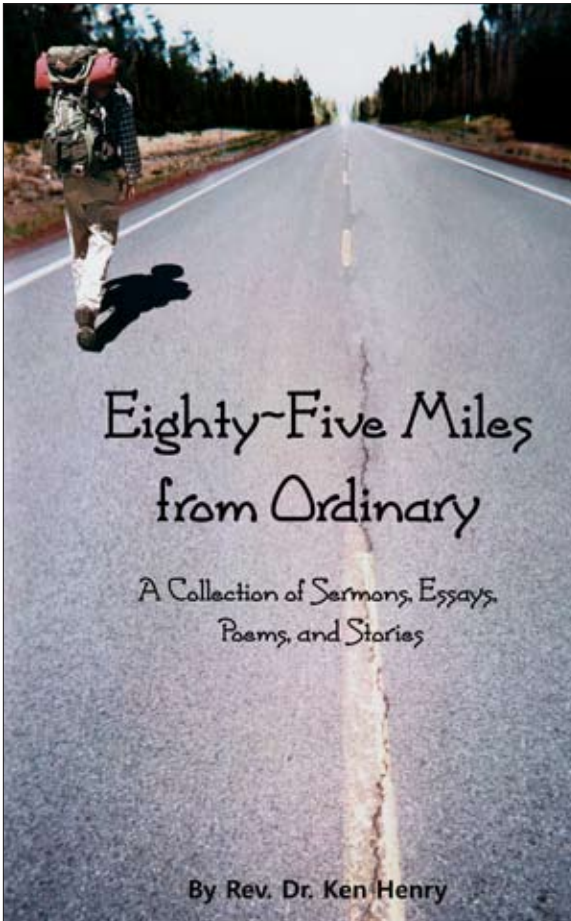
NOVEMBER 2011



MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSIDERS, "IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT!"

The Middle School Group recently had a two-day retreat at Cutting Edge Ranch in Morgan Hill, with the theme: *If you can dream it, you can do it!* (a quote from Walt Disney).

Led by Rosaleen Zisch [with helpers Kate Wheatley, Steve Nelson (our photographer), and Emily Meacham], the energetic group basked in the beauty of the ranch, as they enjoyed diverse activities such as rewriting *The Lord's Prayer* in their own *lingo*, creating individually embellished crosses, taking a spooky evening walk, playing games, and more! (see also page 2)



KEN HENRY PUBLISHES SECOND BOOK, "EIGHTY-FIVE MILES FROM ORDINARY"

Imagine attending Worship at your local Presbyterian church and, after being seated in your favorite pew, listening to a sermon based on Shakespeare's *Richard III*, or, as you're perusing the bulletin, noticing that John Muir is the guest preacher that morning.

How about hearing a sermon based on Hollywood's portrayal of Jesus in the movies, or, as a congregation, reflecting on the artistic work of William Blake?

Imagine coming to hear a sermon each week and never knowing what to expect.

In his newest book, *Eighty-Five Miles from Ordinary: A Collection of Sermons, Essays, Poems, and Stories*, the Rev. Dr. Ken Henry shares a collection of innovative approaches to preaching and storytelling.

All of the sermons in the book were preached at Stone between 2007 and 2011. In addition, the book offers a series of essays, stories and poems. These writings have come from Ken's many years of leading congregations to reflect more deeply on their relationship with God, as well as to explore creative expressions in spiritual growth.

On Saturday, Nov. 26 (from 10 am to noon) and on Sunday, Nov. 27 (from 10:30 am to noon), Ken will sign copies of his new book in the Social Hall, as part of the *Triennial Art Exhibit of Lynden Keith Johnson*, who designed the book's cover (see page 8 for more about the exhibit).

The purchase price of the book is \$16, and 10% of all proceeds will be donated to Stone Church.

JOIN US FOR STEPPING STONES PLAY DAYS!

Mary Jo Blazek
Children's Ministry
Coordinator

If you are around Stone Church on Nov. 8, between 10 am and



noon, you will notice that the Social Hall has been transformed into a playland – the site of Stone's very first *Stepping Stones Play Day!*

This twice-a-month event is an opportunity for parents, grandparents and caregivers of young children to meet for coffee, fellowship and support, while their children play games, work on art projects, have snacks and sing songs. With the rainy days ahead, this is the perfect time

to come and let your little ones run and play with friends in a fun and relaxing environment.

Stepping Stones Play Days will occur every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, from 10 am until noon.

Children from birth to five years are invited to join in on the fun.

The cost is minimal: \$2 each time to cover snacks and supplies.

RSVP to Mary Jo Blazek at the Church Office.

A WONDERFUL TIME WAS HAD BY ALL AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT!



At the recent Middle School Retreat, one of the most interesting activities was the rewriting of *The Lord's Prayer* in a more familiar lingo!

Here is a new interpretation of the New Zealand version of *The Lord's Prayer*:

OMG maker, bearer, giver,
Source of all that is created,
Mother and Dad of us,
Loving God who is in heaven,
Your name echoes though the universe,
Justice followed by the dudes o' earth,
We shall do as you plan,
You help bring peace to Earth,
Feed us,
Spare us from peer pressure,
Keep us from temptation and tests,
Free us from evil,
You have the power of forgiveness forever.
Amen (Hang Loose).
[make "Hang Loose" hand gesture]



ADULT STUDY LOOKS AT GREEN PRACTICES, MESSIAH, GIFTS, SAN JOSÉ, CHRISMONS

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

All are welcome!

Nov. 6: “Green Dialogues” with Alison van Diggelen

Alison van Diggelen, host of *Fresh Dialogues*, an interview series featuring green entrepreneurs and experts, will discuss the significant work being done by some of Silicon Valley’s green companies, including Google, Adobe, and Bloom Energy. She will also share green practices you can adopt at home and in your workplace to lower your carbon footprint.

Nov. 13 & 20: “Handel’s Messiah”

We will hear, see, and study Handel’s *Messiah*, listening to the sublime music, as well as reviewing the scriptural quotes that form the libretto. This beloved

oratorio was originally performed by fewer than forty instrumentalists and thirty boy trebles and men. To this tradition Christopher Hogwood, the Academy of Ancient Music, and the Choir of Westminster have returned.

Nov. 27: “Alternative Gifts for the Holidays” with Rosaleen Zisch

Due to the commercial atmosphere, Christmas gift giving can be a burden rather than a pleasure. The message of Christ’s birth can get overshadowed. Come to learn about gifts that inspire and offer opportunities to many families around the world.

Dec. 4: “Envision San Jose 2040” with Kim Walesh

Kim Walesh is the Chief Strategist for the City of San José. She will outline the *Draft 2040 Plan*, which will guide the city’s continued growth through the year 2040.

Dec. 11: “The Power of Story: How Our Stories of Christmas Enhance, Distract or Draw Us Closer to the Story of Jesus’ Birth” with Ken Henry

Ken will invite class members to share their personal stories and experiences of Christmas and explore the theological significance of storytelling.

Dec. 18: “The Symbols of Christmas - An Expanded View” with Sue Williams

The wonderful symbols on our Chrismon tree (manger, star, staff, cornerstone, etc.) carry meanings that go far beyond our traditional awareness. The stories of Jesus’ birth are also rich in symbols that include characters, names, actions, words, objects and literary forms. Because of the work of scholars, symbols are well understood today.

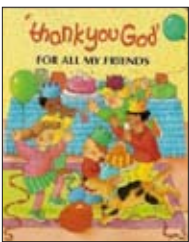
There is no class Dec. 25. For more information on any class, please contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Sub-Committee.

CHURCH LIBRARY HAS GOOD “NOVEMBER” BOOKS, ON THANKS, FEASTING, AND MORE

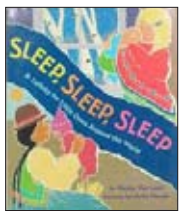
‘Thank You, God,’ feasting, conversation, journeys, towns, struggles, and hope ... these are a few of the topics brought to mind by November ... and by our new books.

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

New for our younger members:



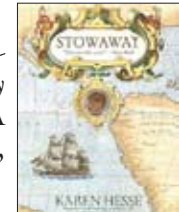
‘Thank You, God’ for All My Friends by Katy Rhodes (1st Bks J Rho) Sleep, Sleep, Sleep: A Lullaby for Little Ones



Around the World by Nancy Van Laan (1st Bks J Van)



The Always Prayer Shawl by Sheldon Oberman (J Obe)



Stowaway by Karen Hesse (YA Hes)



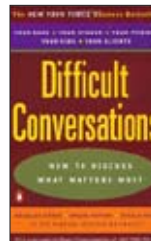
My Two Uncles by Charlotte Dickson My Two Uncles by Judith Vigna (J Vig)



Ghost Boy by Lain Lawrence (YA Law)

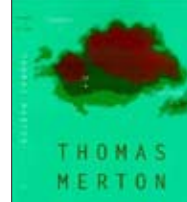
On the adult side:

Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters

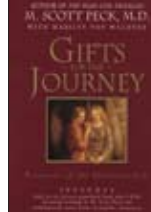


Most by Douglas Stone et al. (158.2 Sto)

Thoughts in Solitude by Thomas Merton (242 Mer), given by Betty Moran



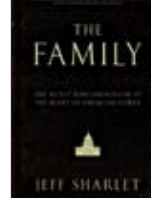
Gifts for the Journey: Treasures of the Christian Life by M. Scott Peck (248.4 Pec), given by Brad Bauer



Journeyman: A Spiritual Guide for Men (and for women who want to understand them) by Kent Groff (248.8 Gro), given by Mel Goertz



The Family: The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power by Jeff Sharlet (277.3 Sha)

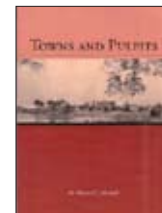


Feasting Naturally, Feasting Naturally with Our Friends, Feasting Naturally from Your Own Recipes by Mary Ann Pickard (641 Pic)

Harry Lieberman: A Journey of Remembrance by Stacy Hollander (750 Hol)



In our adult special sections:



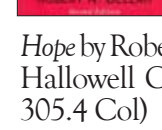
Towns and Pulpits by Maurice Mitchell (Biog MITCHELL), given by Mel Goertz



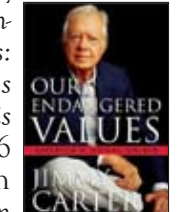
Our Endangered Values: America’s Moral Crisis by Jimmy Carter (Soc Iss 306 Car), given by Dulcie Janzen



The Broken Covenant: American Civil Religion in Time of Trial by Robert Bellah (Soc Iss 322 Bel)



Women in Crisis: Lives of Struggle and Hope by Robert Coles & Jan Hallowell Coles (Women 305.4 Col)





CHRISTMAS SONGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Nancy Wait Kromm
Director of Music
Ministry

Hello friends!

After completing our performances of the *Beatitude Mass*, the Chancel Choir now turns to the joy of presenting music for Advent and Christmas.

Along with our Children's and Handbell Choirs, this year we will celebrate music from many international traditions!

You can look forward to these highlights of the Advent and Christmas season, featuring *Christmas songs from around the world!*

First Sunday of Advent: We welcome the season with American composer Pepper Choplin's setting of *I hear the prophet callin*, as well as the majestic *There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob* and *Lo how a rose e'er blooming* by German composers Felix Mendelssohn and Michael Praetorius.

Second Sunday of Advent: With the Children's Choir, we will sing *African Noel* and the spiritual, *Go tell it on the mountain*.

Third Sunday of Advent: Joyeux Noel! The Chancel Choir celebrates a French Christmas this year on the third Sunday of Advent with our major work, Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Song of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ*, a lovely pastoral setting for chorus, soloists and strings. Interspersed with the cantata will be familiar French Christmas carols, including *Bring a*

Torch, Jeannette, Isabelle (attributed to Charpentier), *Angels we have heard on high, Angels from the Realms of Glory* and *Ding Dong Merrily on High*.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: O great mystery! We sing this week settings of *O magnum mysterium* by Spanish composer Tomas Victoria and American Morton Lauridsen.

Christmas Eve, 11 pm service: The Welsh lullaby, *Suo Gan*, will be featured, along with the setting of the words of Simeon, *Nunc Dimittus*, by Russian composer Alexander Gretchaninoff.

Christmas Day, 9:30 am: The Chancel Choir presents English composer Gustav Holst's medley of Christmas Carols, *Christmas Day, Merry Christmas!*

New Year's Day, 9:30 am: Karen Kirk Thielen brings her beautiful harps to celebrate the first day of the New Year. Happy New Year!

STONEWORKS: PEACEMAKING & INNVISION TRIP SUCCESSFUL; NOW NEED COATS & GIFTS

The days are definitely getting shorter, but the giving at Stone Church never wanes.

Peacemaking Offering

The Peacemaking Offering was received on Sunday, Oct. 2, and to date the giving has totaled \$3,165. Twenty-



five percent of that (\$791) will go to the Stone Church Mission Trip fund and 75% to the Presbytery. Thank

you again for your generosity. If you missed this offering, it's not too late to give.

Back-to-School InnVision Shopping

On Saturday, Oct. 8, a wonderful group of Stone Church members and friends got up very early to meet kids from InnVision for our annual *Back-to-School Clothes Shopping Trip*.



We offer our thanks for the generosity and kindness of the staff at Kohl's on

El Camino Real in Santa Clara for hosting this event.

With gift cards in hand, everyone set out to see how far they could stretch their \$100. No sales tax and a 20% discount increased the buying power

considerably! A few of the thank you notes from parents show how much they appreciate what the shopping trip does for their children and families:

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for offering to help Bless my kids with this event."

"May our Lord Bless those who help bring joy and comfort to those we serve. Thanks Stone Church - you're in our prayers."

"Thanks for putting smiles on the faces of the children. We need more people like you."

"Thank you for your kindness, thank you for being the church you are, kind and thoughtful. Sensitive and considerate, generous and thoughtful givers. Thank you for your unselfish ways. Thanks you for putting others before yourself. Thank you for allowing our kids to feel special."

After shopping, everyone gathered for a light breakfast, comparing of purchases and many hugs and thanks!

Coat/Sweater/Umbrella Drive

Winter can be cold and harsh, and the warmth of a coat can make a huge difference in someone's life. Gather your gently used coats, sweaters and umbrellas for a drive, sponsored by the San José Presbytery, for the homeless in our community. If you don't have anything of your own,

consider shopping at your local thrift store for items to donate.

Christmas Gift Giving Tree

This year, StoneWorks is excited to announce a new program for our annual Christmas Gift Giving Tree - the Bill Wilson Center *Adopt-A-Family Holiday Giving Program*.

[Our former recipient, Friends Outside, does not have a San José program this year.]



In order for children to participate in the Bill Wilson program, they must currently be in the social services child

welfare system. They would receive few gifts, if any, for the holidays.

The timeline is a bit earlier, so please take note - the tree will go up Nov. 13, and we will need to receive the gifts by Nov. 27. Yes, that's only two weeks! We can do it! Let's make a child's Christmas filled with joy this year. - Wendy Lord

Thank You for Your Giving & Caring

As always, there is much more going on, but space is limited! Thank you for being such giving, caring people.

Please contact Maureen Chandler, Chair, with any suggestions, thoughts, or questions.

"We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the ground, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand." Well, most of us don't 'plow and scatter,' but we all give thanks for the bounty of the earth and the people who do the work to get it to us.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

God's almighty hand." Well, most of us

The Thank Offering is one of our special giving opportunities. You are cordially invited to join us at



12:30 pm, on Nov. 19, in the Social Hall, for lunch and a program, presented by Director Jennifer Loving, on *Destination Home*, an organization that tries to find permanent solutions for homelessness. A donation of \$5 is requested for the lunch.

Remember Next Door Solutions? (a refuge for battered women and children) Their annual *Holiday Boutique* is scheduled for Dec. 13-16. Mothers may choose gifts for their children, and children may choose gifts for their mothers. Donations of new items, for infants to adults, are needed to stock the boutique. **Please bring donations for the Holiday Boutique to Stone by Dec. 11.**

Sally Magee and her *elves* are again taking orders for Christmas Gift Baskets made with Fair Trade products. It is wise to get your order in early before all supplies and workers are exhausted!

With all the special products that appear for the holidays, be sure to check for *coupons for education* on them, as well as on your usual purchases.

PW Schedule for November

Amethyst Circle, 1 pm, Nov. 2, Church Library

Emerald Circle, 9:30 am, Nov. 3, Rhonda Lakatos' home

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, Nov. 8, Taiwan Restaurant (call Ida Raby)

Fair Trade Sales, 10:30 am, Nov. 13, Social Hall

Sapphire Circle, 7:30 pm, Nov. 14, Sara Holtzapfle's home

Focus Group, Nov. 16, time and place to be determined, will discuss the *Intersection of Faith and Government* (see article below).

Bible Study, 9:30 am, Nov. 17*, *Confessing the Beatitudes, Lesson 4*, with the Rev. Marge Palmer

Prayer Shawl Ministry, Nov. 17*, 4 pm, Fireside Room

Thank Offering Luncheon, Nov. 19, 12:30 pm, Social Hall

Book Group II, 2:30 pm, Nov. 21, Rhonda Lakatos' home, discussing *The Weight of Heaven* by Thrity Umrigar

Book Group I, 1 pm, Nov. 28, Hazel James' home, discussing *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay

*Date change due to Thanksgiving on Nov. 24.

- Catherine Amos

The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work team, a book group, and a flying group.

MEN'S MINISTRY

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

Men's Mission Trip to Westminster Woods, Nov. 4-6

The Men's Mission Team will again head to Westminster Woods for a worktrip Nov. 4-6.



The guys always have a great time, so don't miss this trip!

And there is no particular skill level required - the *old hands* will train you!

For more information, please contact Leland Wong.

Men's Book Group Meeting in November and January

Here are the details of the next two meetings of the Men's Book Group:

* **Nov. 21:** *The Unlikely Disciple: A Sinner's Semester at America's Holiest University* by Kevin Roose. Host: Steve Buckley

* **Jan. 16:** *Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House* by Valerie Plame Wilson. Host: Bill Ribble

Men's Mission Team Announces Annual Crab Feed is Coming!

The Men's Mission Team is planning their annual Crab Feed.

This is always a fabulous meal and a wonderful time to get together with church friends for delicious food and warm fellowship. More details will be provided as soon as possible!

JOIN PW FOCUS GROUP FOR DISCUSSION ON INTERSECTION OF FAITH AND GOVERNMENT

The Focus Group of Presbyterian Women is planning a discussion on the intersection of faith and government, using the following two resources:

- * *A Free Energetic Government*, a study guide written by Elizabeth Sholes for the California Council of Churches and California Forward
- * a paper written by the Rev. Jennifer Butler, a Presbyterian minister, who is the Executive of the Faith and Public Life movement

We hope many in the congregation will be interested in this endeavor, and if you are, please contact Bea Groppuso, Diana Lim, Sally Magee, June Tablak, or Joyce Summers.

The date is set for Nov. 16. The time and place hinge on the number of people who express interest in the program.

- Bea Groppuso, Facilitator, PW Focus Group

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD: TAIZÉ ADVENT SERVICES BEGIN NOV. 29

Have you experienced the calm of a candlelit Taizé service?

In the rush of the Christmas season, do you long to find the peace of the Christ Child?

Would you welcome time to sit quietly, surrounded by beautiful music and candlelight, and prepare yourself to receive the gift of the baby Jesus?

Come gather in our candlelit sanctuary for a simple service of music, meditation and silence. Find peace, healing, reconcilia-



tion, and calm, through scripture reading, contemplative prayer, and beautiful Latin and English chants, patterned after those first

practiced in the small village of Taizé, France.

Taizé services will be held each Tuesday night of Advent, beginning Nov. 29, and continuing Dec. 6, 13 and 20.

The sanctuary opens at 6:30 pm for music and meditation. The service begins at 6:45 pm and concludes about 7:30 pm.

- Fran Cole

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN STONE CHURCH?

Are you ready to join Stone Church?

You've been attending Worship, enjoying the joyful music and enlightening sermons, and making new friends, of course!

Are you ready to join?

If so, please come to our next *New Member Class*, scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 13, from 11:15 am to 1:30 pm, in the Church Library (in the Lincoln House). A light lunch will be served.

You will learn all you would *ever want to know* about what it means to be a Presbyterian and about what makes Stone Church special!

For more information, please contact Katherine Webb Calhoun.

DEACONS TO HOST "PARENTS' DAY OUT" ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Attention all Stone Church families: the Deacon's *Parents' Day Out* is coming, Saturday, Dec. 3!

Let the Deacons watch your children (12 years and younger), so you can shop, exercise, run errands or do nothing at all.

The event runs from 10 am to 2 pm. Lunch, activities and crafts

are provided. It is *free*, but you *must* sign up in advance during Coffee Fellowship in the Social Hall on a Sunday in November.

For more information, or to volunteer to help, please contact:

* Chris Nilson
or
* Nancy Weiss



Stone's wonderful Children's Choir, led by Peggy Spool

STONE'S SESSION MUST DEAL WITH BURGEONING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The Stone Church Session held its regular meeting on Oct. 18, 2011.

Session authorized baptism of Evy Ann Mattan, child of Jeffrey and Kim Mattan, on Oct. 23. This is the eighth baptism of a child at Stone in 2011. There were ten child baptisms in 2010.

The above statistics help to explain a report from Deborah Crim on Christian Education, which brought the good news/bad news that the Church Nursery and Church School are outgrowing their space. There is a legal prohibition against putting the youngest children into rooms downstairs. Session members agreed to think about possible solutions

and to come back in November for a focused discussion.

Deborah also praised the work of Peggy Spool in teaching music to the children.

A new midweek children's play program starts Nov. 8. It goes from 10 am to noon on Tuesday mornings twice a month. It is designed to give parents a chance to connect in a less structured setting (*see also page 2*).

Members rejoiced with Ken Henry that he and his family have finally found a permanent house.

Session members were reminded that all officers and all who work with children are required to take Safe Church training. The church as an

institution has a legal and a moral responsibility to be aware of potential abuse and to know how to respond in the event that any abuse occurs.

Mel Goertz reported that to date 58 people had given or pledged \$140,000 for the *Moving Forward* campaign. He also told about a memorial gift given by the children of Audrey and Lowell Clark. Session received the gift with thanks and agreed to allocate \$4,000 to the *Moving Forward* campaign, \$1,000 to the music special fund, and \$1,000 to Presbyterian Women. Music at Stone Church held special meaning for Lowell, and Audrey was fully involved with PW.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session



OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE REALLY SOMETHING SPECIAL!

... from our beautiful children, shown here with new Seminary Intern, John Aney ... to a recent abundance of baptisms ... to welcoming new members ... to artists like weaver Mary Johnson ... to all of our wonderful choirs ... the Handbell Choir led by Jean Raby ... the Chancel Choir led by Nancy Wait Kromm ... the Children's Choir led by Peggy Spool ... well, each service is memorable! Don't miss any of them!





You are
cordially invited
to the
Triennial Art Exhibit of
Lynden Keith Johnson.

November 26th, 10 am to 6 pm
November 27th, 10:30 am to 4 pm

Social Hall
Stone Church of Willow Glen

Ken Henry will sign copies of his new book, *Eighty-Five Miles from Ordinary*, on Nov. 26, from 10 am to noon, and on Nov. 27, from 10:30 am to noon (see also page 1).



JOIN STONE'S FAMILY THANKSGIVING DINNER!

Family is at the heart of Stone's Family Thanksgiving Dinner tradition, as the Roach and Smith families take the lead in preparing a sumptuous feast to share in the Social Hall.

We are blessed to have Chef Walter prepare turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy (always with enough for leftovers). Walter could use some extra hands in the kitchen this year - if you are available, please let him know as soon as possible.

Those planning to attend are invited (but not required) to bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share. Dinner is served promptly at 2 pm, so plan to arrive well before that time. You are invited to enjoy a casual continental breakfast in the late morning if you would like to come early to help and to socialize.

Sign-ups will be taken during Coffee Fellowship on Sundays in November to help estimate the count for the turkeys. However, there is always plenty, so if the Spirit moves you to drop by on Thanksgiving Day, come on in!

For more information, please contact Katherine Webb Calhoon.



ORDER BEAUTIFUL PW FAIR TRADE GIFT BASKETS FOR CHRISTMAS UNTIL NOV. 13

The Presbyterian Women are taking orders for customized Christmas Baskets up until Nov. 13. The contents of the baskets include PW's Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate and more.

Deliveries of all finished baskets should be completed by Dec. 11.

For more information, please contact Sally Magee.

GOLF TOURNAMENT WAS FABULOUS, AS USUAL!

What a glorious October Day! Not too warm; not too cool; just right for the 12 golfers playing at The Villages Golf and Country Club in Evergreen for Stone's annual golf tournament.

The deer were a frequent sight on the course, as were ducks, geese, crows, hawks and buzzards.

Since our players represented all levels of golfers, we played a scramble format and recognized the teams with the lowest and highest scores and closest to the pin.

Many thanks go to Mike Wyllie and Gene Fasano. Mike donated two boxes of golf balls and golf for two with lunch. As always, Gene, of Golf Heaven, donated a golf club - this year a putter with a head cover.

The wonderful dinner afterward was attended by 23 guests and held in the clubhouse Sunset Room. Though the fish, beef and chicken were delicious, the *pièce de résistance* was brownie à la mode - outrageous!

- Maureen Ryan

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