

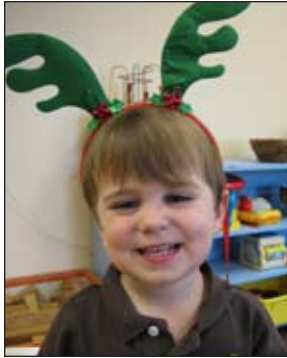
THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

JANUARY 2012



STONE'S BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN AT THE DEACONS' PARENTS' DAY OUT



MY TOP TEN LIST FOR 2011

by the Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

Every year about this time, I consider how I ought to improve myself for the coming year.

For example, I promised Heather I would start cooking dinner once a week. We'll see how that goes.

After the Christmas rush is over and the tree is gone, like you, I sense it's time to clean house, trim away some of my less-than-healthy habits, and set a few goals. Someone told me recently that he thought *50 was the new 30*, and the secret to living is to keep reminding ourselves that we are only as old or as young as we feel. Not sure this outlook works for me all the time, especially since I feel 50 on most days - okay, 51.

Anyway, all advice aside, and before I get ahead of myself with all

the things I expect to accomplish in the coming year, I want to express my thanks for what transpired last year

So instead of listing my New Year's resolutions (propositions that often fade by April), here's my list of thanksgivings for 2011, à la David Letterman:

10. Our soldiers came home from Iraq.

9. We had 7 baptisms, and 17 people became members of Stone.

8. The Henrys purchased a home with Stone's help. (Thanks for helping us move, too.)

7. My wife Heather and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary.

6. Stone's Chancel Choir sang Henry's Mollicone's *Beatitude Mass. Beautiful.*

5. The sixth and final installment of Harry Potter was shown in the movie theaters.

4. Jennifer completed her first year as Stone's Office Manager (Jan. 3).

3. In 2006, worship attendance on Sunday mornings was 163; in 2011, we averaged 196.

2. Our soldiers came home from Iraq. (I know. I already mentioned this, but I am doubly grateful.)



1. I am thankful for all the people of Stone Church and how God is making us into a compassionate community of grace and welcome.

Limiting myself to 10 was more difficult than I thought. Still, before plunging into 2012, I wonder ... what's on your top ten list?

Thanks be to God for God's indescribable gifts! - Blessings, Ken

MIDDLE SCHOOL GOES ICE SKATING ... AND THERE ARE NO SERIOUS FALLS!

The Middle School Fellowship had laughs and such fun skating in December.

Whipping around the rink were Emma, Matt, Sean and Grant.

Making a fashion statement with her penguin hat was Julia.

Santa hats were what made Maggie and Isabel stand out.

Ben and Heather had distinctive styles all their own.

We finished our outing with popcorn balls and cider - toasting each other!

2012 will be kicked off with our Epiphany Celebration on Jan. 8 at the church. We will look at the traditional

and non-traditional views of Jesus' birth, as well as set goals for the New Year.

Our next outing is a bowling party on Jan. 22.

Come and join us! We would love to have you!

For more information, please contact Rosaleen Zisch.



“KINDERGARTEN READINESS ACT OF 2010” MAY AFFECT YOUR 4-YEAR-OLD OR YOUNGER CHILD

Does your 4-year-old or younger child have a birthday between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1?

The *Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 (SB 1381)* takes effect next fall for the 2012-2013 school year. This act changes the *cutoff date* to Sept. 1, that is, a child must be 5 years old by Sept. 1 to begin kindergarten.

Districts may choose to implement this act all at once, or one month per year. San José Unified is using a three-year option, so the cutoff date for 2012 is Nov. 1, the cutoff date for 2013 is Oct. 1, and the cutoff date

for 2014 is Sept. 1. (If you are not in SJUSD, please contact your school district to find out about their specific policy.)

This act also provides funding for *Transitional Kindergarten (TK)*. This is a two-year program providing a more hands-on, developmental curriculum the first year, followed by regular kindergarten the second year. It is offered in selected sites throughout the districts.

Here's an exciting fact for families who feel their child is not ready for regular kindergarten, even if he/she

meets the age requirements: it is *optional* for you to enroll in regular kindergarten if space is available in *Transitional Kindergarten*.

Thus, if you're worried your child isn't ready for kindergarten, check into the TK program.

- Della Smith

Editor's Note: Della began teaching preschool in 1978 and has had a teaching credential since 1984. She began teaching kindergarten in the Evergreen District in 1997.

If you have any questions, please contact Della; she welcomes all inquiries.

ADULT STUDY STARTS NEW YEAR WITH JOHN'S GOSPEL AND NOAH'S FLOOD

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

Jan. 8, 15, 29; Feb. 5, 12:
"John's Intimate Gospel"
 with Dale & Barbara Bracey

The good news of Jesus Christ, according to John, differs enormously from the other three gospels.

Christians have asked why is this so, and who has the more accurate understanding of Jesus?

John was written after the first three gospels and after 70 AD. The gospel is responding to the changed times and culture, and it reacts to the philosophy of the later times. It looks more on

who Jesus is and the prospect of being united with him and finding life in new dimensions.

This is an intimate journal of a man who knew Jesus personally – who can tell us not only what Jesus did, but what he thought and felt!

Feb. 19, 26: "When the Great Abyss Opened: Interpretations of Noah's Flood" with David Pleins

The story of Noah's flood is one of the best-loved and most often retold biblical tales – the inspiration for numerous children's books and toys, novels, and even films.

Whether as allusion, archetype, or literal presence, the American landscape is peppered with "re-creations"

of the ark – the story of Noah's animals and the ark resonates throughout American culture and the world.

While most think of Noah's ark as a dramatic myth, others are consumed by the quest for geological and archeological proof that the flood really occurred. Is there a reality behind the ancient tale of Noah? More to the point, why does it matter?

David Pleins is professor of Old Testament at Santa Clara University and author of *When the Great Abyss Opened: Classic and Contemporary Readings of Noah's Flood*.

There is no class Jan. 1 or 22 (Congregational Meeting). For more information, contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Sub-Committee.

CHURCH LIBRARY HAS MANY BEAUTIFUL 2012 CALENDARS, AS WELL AS NEW BOOKS!

Do you need a calendar? We have dozens of beautiful ones in the library – just get what you need. And please keep bringing in your extras. We'll share them with folks at Sacred Heart.

The titles of our new books feature lots of action – discovering, daring to care, learning, living, making a difference, taking power, getting there, finding God. Happy reading!

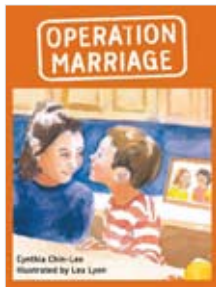
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

New for our younger members:



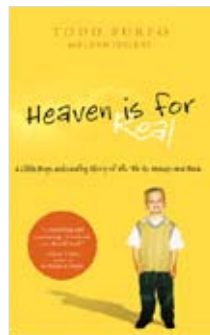
Old Testament Stories Lift and Learn by Allia Zobel-Nolan (1st Bks 220 Zob)

Operation Marriage by Cynthia Chin-Lee (J Chi), given by Marcia Ludwig



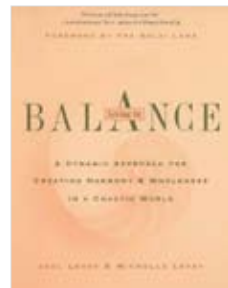
Barnyard Prayers by Laura Godwin (1st Bks 811 God)

On the adult side

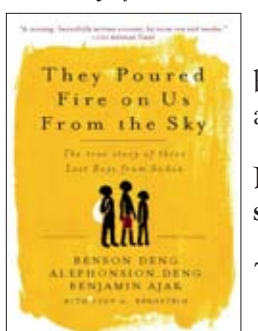


Heaven Is for Real by Todd Burpo (133.9 Bur), given by Joan Helms

Living in Balance: Creating Harmony & Wholeness in a Chaotic World by Joel & Michelle Levey



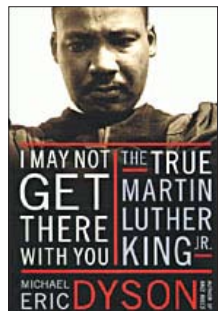
(158.1 Lev), given by Dulcie Janzen



They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: The true story of three Lost Boys from Sudan (158.1 Lev), given by Dulcie Janzen

by Benson Deng et al. (962.4 Den)

In our adult special sections:
I May Not Get There with You: The



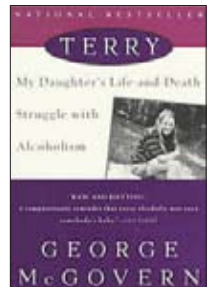
The True Martin Luther King by Michael Eric Dyson



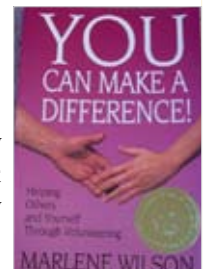
by Lorna Siggins (Biog ROBINSON)

Terry: My Daughter's Life and Death Struggle with Alcoholism by George McGovern (Spec Needs 616 McG)

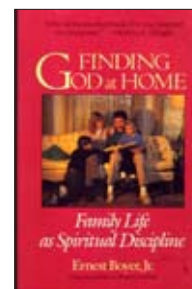
Dare to Care: Caring for Our Elders by Cheryl Carmichael (Spec Needs-A 649.8 Car), given by Stone's Health Ministry Committee



YOU Can Make a Difference! Helping Others and Yourself



Through Volunteering by Marlene Wilson (Soc Iss 361 Wil), given by Dulcie Janzen



Finding God at Home: Family Life as Spiritual Discipline by Ernest Boyer (Fam-R 249 Boy) (rec. by Madeleine L'Engle, Frederick Buechner, Henri Nouwen)

DEBBIE ROACH TO BE HONORED WITH NEW MOLLICONE ANTHEM, "PATER NOSTER"

As many of you know, long-time Stone Church member, Debbie Roach, has been valiantly battling cancer for some time.

Debbie and Walter, and Debbie's sister, Della Smith, have been dedicated members of the Stone Church Chancel Choir for many years. Music has always been an important part of Debbie's life.

Some of Debbie's friends from church met with her recently to discuss how the church, especially the choir, might honor her. Debbie immediately said, "Music for church."

The Stone Church Chancel Choir therefore commissioned local



Debbie and Walter at the Stone Church picnic in August 2011

composer, Henry Mollicone, to write an anthem in Debbie's honor.

Henry has already completed the beautiful anthem, *Pater Noster* (Our Father), and the choir is rehearsing it to be given as a gift to Debbie.

The tentative date for the world premiere of this piece is Sunday, Jan. 8, during our Worship service.

If you would like to make a donation to help cover the cost of this anthem, please contact the church office, Lizanne Oliver or Mary Johnson.

Checks should be made payable to Stone Church with "Debbie Roach/Mollicone Commission" in the memo section.

Debbie and Walter will be notified about all contributions.

JOIN YOUR STONE CHURCH FRIENDS FOR ZEPHYR EXPERIENCE AT LAKE TAHOE

Held annually at the Zephyr Point Conference Center at Lake Tahoe, the *Zephyr Experience* is a five-day intergenerational educational conference, for families, couples and individuals.

The 2012 conference will run July 8 - 13 and will again be hosted in the beautiful Tahoe Center with its 43 guest rooms.

Join in this stimulating and enriching event, surrounded by the unparalleled splendor of Lake Tahoe and the Sierra.

Stone Church is traditionally one of the largest groups, both in participation and in leadership.

The daily schedule includes two morning periods (8:45 and 10:30 am) for adult classes. Afternoons are free. Short worship services are held Monday and Wednesday evenings. The annual talent show is on Thursday evening. A closing Communion Service is held at noon Friday.

Attendance is limited. Enroll *now* for this exciting week at Lake Tahoe.

Detailed information and registration forms will be available on the Zephyr website (www.zephyrpoint.org)

and in Stone's Church Office by mid-January.

Here is a description of the program for this year's conference:

Bible

- * First Period: *God Does Not Punish*, with Herman Waetjen, Professor Emeritus, SFTS
- * Second Period: *Science and the Christian Faith*, with Greg Love, Professor, SFTS

Spirituality

- * First Period: *The Necessary Miracle*, with Julie Love, MFA, Creative Writing, USF
- * Second Period: *At the Crossroads: What Path? Which Way? Why Now?*, with Marjorie Hoyer-Smith, Spiritual Director and Retreat Leader

Church and Society

- * First Period: *Ethics at the Edges of Life*, with Lisa Fullam, Assistant Professor, Jesuit School of Theology

- * Second Period: *World Religions - Soteriology and Spiritual Guidance*, with John Mabry, Professor, Interfaith Theology and Spiritual Direction, Chaplaincy Institute for Arts and Interfaith Theology, Berkeley

Children's and Youth Programs

- * Ages 4 - 9: *God's Abundance*, with Della Smith, School Teacher, Stone Church
- * Ages 10 - 13: *Prophets Old and New*, with Tom Nolen, Hospital Chaplain, Portland
- * Ages 14 - 17: *How Do Moral Decisions Fit Into Daily Life?*, with Ellen & Brandon Williams, Stone Church High School Leaders

Cost

The costs, for shared rooms, are as follows (children under 2 are free):

	Tahoe Center	Cabins 32 and 33
Adults	\$545	\$490
Children/Youth (3-17)	\$290	\$290

- Pat Magee

Bells ring, sirens go off, funny hats, noise makers, count down until the ball drops, **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Here we are in 2012. We look forward to continuing and new activities at Stone Church.

Because this is an equal opportunity organization, all women and



men are invited to the Epiphany Tea on Jan. 8 in the Social Hall. The highlight will be a special Taizé service.

The Focus Group has been working on an

interesting topic, *A Free and Energetic Government* (see page 6 for more detail).

Our circle leaders, Jean Raby (*Sapphire*), Hazel James and Jan Keifer (*Amethyst*), and Diana Lim (*Emerald*) are always welcoming of new members. Since this is a *New Year*, it might be the right time to get in on the companionship that circles offer.

Cold season is here, so the coupon emphasis is on Kleenex and other Kimberly-Clark products.

PW Schedule for January

Amethyst Circle, 1 pm, Jan. 4, Church Library

Emerald Circle, 9:30 am, Jan. 5, Charlotte Dickson's home

Fair Trade Sales, 10:30 am, Jan. 8, Social Hall

PWP Epiphany Tea, Jan. 8, 2 - 4 pm, Social Hall

Sapphire Circle, 7:30 pm, Jan. 9, Joyce Summer's home

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, Jan. 10, Taiwan Restaurant (call Ida Raby)

PWCT, 9:30 am, Jan. 12, Social Hall

Book Group II, 2:30 pm, Jan. 16, Kathie Lloyd's home, discussing the *Silicon Valley Reads'* choices.

Book Group I, 1 pm, Jan. 23, Hazel James' home, discussing *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova

Bible Study, 9:30 am, Jan. 26, *Confessing the Beatitudes, Lesson 6*, with the Rev. Marge Palmer, Church Library

Prayer Shawl Group, 4 pm, Jan. 26, Church Library

Dates to Save

Valentine Tea, Feb. 11, 2 - 4 pm, Social Hall

2012-2013 PW Bible Study Overview, Sept. 8, SFTS

- Catherine Amos

The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work

MEN'S MINISTRY



team, a book group, and a flying group.

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

Men's Book Group Reading "Fair Game" in January

The Men's Book Group will meet on Jan. 16, beginning at 7:30 pm.

Our host will be Bob James, and the book for review and discussion will be *Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House*, by Valerie Plame Wilson.

We will also select books for spring reading. All men of the church are welcome.

Men's Mission Team Benefit "Italian Dinner," Sat., Feb. 25, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

The Men's Mission Team is planning their annual *Italian Dinner* on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, in the Social Hall.

This is always a great opportunity to invite your friends and family to come to the church for a delicious meal and a very good cause!

For more information, please contact John Lococo.



IN DAYS GONE BY

Bea Groppuso sent this photo to us recently, marking it for the "In Days Gone By" department. Pictured above are Bea, Jan Keifer, Chris Osborne, Blair Hurst, June Tablak, Connie Gum, Betty Spicher, and Barbara Gleichman. Jan said this picture was taken at a Christmas event at the Keifer home circa 2003-2004. Thanks, Bea, for sharing!

STONEWORKS NEEDS CSI LUNCH COORDINATOR COULD YOU HELP?

Happy New Year from the StoneWorks Committee! We hope you've had a wonderful holiday season.

This last December, we were excited to dedicate our Giving Tree efforts to the Bill Wilson Center. We were able to provide gifts and clothing for eight children, and our committee wholeheartedly agreed that we would like to be assigned many more children next year. Thank you to everyone who generously donated toys and clothing. We will be sharing more information soon about the those who were helped this Christmas.

We begin 2012 with an urgent need. For the last few years, Stone Church has served Commercial Street Inn by providing a lunch meal on the third Saturday of the month. In order to continue this program, we need someone to coordinate the efforts. This involves communicating with the Stone Church community and CSI staff and volunteers, enlisting groups or individuals to provide meals and following up with reminders and reporting back to the StoneWorks Committee.

Without someone to take on this role, we will not be able to continue helping at this time. If you feel called to do this important work, please contact Maureen Chandler.



Steve Nelson (above) and Ann Pierce (right) at a recent Church Workday. For more of these great pictures, see the next page.



COME DISCUSS "A FREE AND ENERGETIC GOVERNMENT"

Do you think California government is a disaster? Are you concerned about late state budgets, mediocre schools, poor roads, etc.?

A group of concerned people will meet on Jan. 4, 11 and 25 to prepare for five adult education classes studying, *A Free and Energetic Government*. This study guide has been prepared by the California Council of Churches to help concerned citizens learn how California's

problems came about and what changes can make our government work better.

For a PDF of the study guide, go to: www.calchurches.org/1-ca-governance.html. On the right side of the page is a link to the *Congregational Study Guide* – click on the underlined A Free and Energetic ...

Please contact Bea Gropuso or Sally Magee for more information or for a printed copy of the study guide.

DOROTHY STEVENS SHARES IMPORTANT IRA CONTRIBUTION DISCOVERY

Dorothy Stevens, a long-time member of Stone Church, wants to share with other church members a discovery she made while planning for the final distribution of her estate.

Dorothy has an IRA from which she has needed to take a distribution each year since she was 70½ as required by law. She has been having that distribution directed to Stone, which meant she did not have to include the amount of the distribution as income on her tax returns.

The discovery she made was that she could set up her IRA now to be given to Stone at her death, and none of the IRA would be included in her estate subject to estate taxes.

Working with her financial estate planner, Dorothy needed to have some particular details ready. Anyone making similar plans will need the following for a bank, broker, or other financial institution in order for the gift to be prepared:

Name: Stone Church of Willow Glen

Address: 1937 Lincoln Avenue, San José, CA 95125-3447

Phone: 408-269-1593

EIM #: Obtain this number from the Church Office

Contact: Clerk of Session and/or Treasurer of Stone Church

Whole or partial gift: Part of the process is to decide if your IRA gift will benefit more than one 501 (c-3) organization; you will need to decide what portion will go to each group. Separate forms will be filed for each organization.

Dorothy's generosity led her to give her entire IRA to Stone when her estate is liquidated.

She is sending a letter to the Session that she has made the gift and how she hopes that gift will benefit Stone Church.

- Ruth McCreath



THANKS TO
EVERYONE
WHO COMES
OUT ON
WORKDAYS
TO MAKE
OUR CHURCH
LOOK
BEAUTIFUL!



A LAST LOOK AT CHRISTMAS 2011 IN PICTURES!



The Family Christmas Eve Service, with several "Mary and Josephs," but only one "Baby Jesus," lots of Shepherds, and even "Tom Bodett" (aka Jody Meacham!)



Betty & Don D'Angelo and Nancy & Russell Kromm at Jean Raby's Sweet Adeline "Jingle Bell Tea"



The always beautiful and reverent closing hymn, "Silent Night," on the Church Patio, at the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

REV. ANN JEFFERSON TO LEAD WOMEN'S RETREAT



The annual Stone Church Women's Retreat is coming! The theme this year is *We've Come This Far by Faith: African-American Sacred Music and Social Change*.

Hold March 16 - 18 open for what will surely be a wonderful experience with the Rev. Ann Jefferson, a well-known researcher (and performer) of historical gospel music. We will study women's contributions to the genre and the social justice ramifications of the music.

Rev. Jefferson was raised Southern Baptist, but is now working with the UCC and attending and presenting at the Pacific School of Religion.

It should be a rousing good time! Watch for registration to begin soon.

For more information, please contact Ann Pierce.

WHEN YOU NEED HELP, STONE CARES!

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

If you need a ride to the doctor or a few meals to help out when you are ill, or if you just want to alert Stone Cares to someone else in need, please contact the following people, 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

Church Mouse:

June Tablak & Suzanne Wolf

Chief Photographer:

Sylvia Snyder

Assistant Editors:

Rhonda Lakatos, Pat Magee,
Sally Magee, Jody Meacham,
Fred Oliver, Lizanne Oliver

Additional Photographs:

Bea Groppuso, Dan Raby,
Rosaleen Zisch