

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

MAY 2012



Isn't it wonderful to have so many lively children in our midst on Sunday mornings? Here they are, singing to us on Palm Sunday 2012

MY WEEK IN UPSTATE NEW YORK: A JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS

by Ken Henry

If we had the opportunity to spend a week assessing our life, would we do it?

If we had a chance to fly away to a far-off place, land in the middle of woods surrounding a lake and spend every day with peers who would listen to us, would we catch the next flight?

If we could take some personal time off to explore the ins and outs of our identity – our spiritual self, our physical self, our emotional self, our vocational self and our financial self – would we be brave enough to touch on each aspect and then be transformed by what we discovered?

If we ever answer “yes” to any of these questions, there is no doubt

in my mind that our life will change. Add to this our love for God and God's love for us, and such an examination of the soul, mind and body might create a future we never before imagined.

We might even be healed, or at the very least, understand that we

are not alone with our questions and doubts.

For eight days in April, I attended a conference sponsored by The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The conference is called CREDO, which means “belief.” *(continued on page 2)*



MY WEEK IN UPSTATE NEW YORK: A JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS

*(Ken Henry's column,
continued from page 1)*

With thirty-one other Presbyterian pastors, I found myself listening to ways in which I could become more attuned to my spiritual and physical health, as well as to my sense of call.

In over twenty years of ministry, I have never sat with a group of pastors discussing such personal issues as taxes, exercise, proper diet, work habits, the need for relaxation, and what happens after a pastor retires.

Indeed, we may say to ourselves and to others that we have a grasp on all the *pieces of the pie*, and we feel secure in such matters of the heart and head. Yet, I wonder if we are being completely honest or simply putting up a good front for others to see. Yes, we all want to appear confident and self-sufficient ... but let's face it ... when was the last time any of us really looked in the mirror?



The Rev. Dr. Ken Henry with a poster from the show, "The Biggest Loser," in Buffalo, New York.

I want to offer my thanks to the members of Stone Church for allowing their pastor some valuable time away – after all of the Easter festivities.

I especially enjoyed getting up each morning and going for a run around the lake (pictured on page 1).

And, during the week, while we were gaining insights about ourselves, the producers and soon-to-be-screenstars of the TV series, "The Biggest Loser," were getting ready to shoot on location. I confess, I have never actually watched this show, but this year, I might.

It's a bit ironic, though – while these folks patrolled the conference grounds strategizing on how to become the next "biggest loser," I felt quite the contrary.

Over the course of the week, taking time for self-reflection and self-care, I definitely felt like the "biggest winner."

God is so good!

Thank you, Ken

LEARN HOW TO BE A LITURGIST ON SUNDAY, MAY 6

Have you ever wanted to be a Liturgist at Stone Church, but didn't have the foggiest idea of where to begin?



Are you interested in giving the church your voice and presence?

Have you been a long-time liturgist and want to brush up on your skills?

Our own Seminary Intern, John Aney (pictured above) will lead a Liturgist Training Class after worship on Sunday, May 6, in the Sanctuary. All are invited.

Topics include overview of duties, preparation of liturgists, figuring out how to pronounce those names, and technical challenges and how to overcome them.

COME "MEET & EAT" AT THE SPRING POTLUCK, SUNDAY, MAY 20

Spring has sprung, and we can once again enjoy our outdoor spaces California Style!



Tables will be set up inside and out for the *Spring Meet & Eat Potluck* following Worship on Sunday, May 20.

We ask you to bring a dish to share.

We will also continue with our *Going Green* theme and ask that you bring your own plates, utensils, beverage containers and napkins.

To sign up, please look for Claudia Grohitzer during Coffee Fellowship on May 6, 13 and 20.

For more information, please contact Katherine Webb Calhoon.






WANT TO LEARN TO FISH? MEET WITH LAWRENCE IN MAY!

Word has gotten out that a few Stone Church members go fishing now and then!



Lawrence Summers [pictured at left (blue shirt) with Art Holtz]

would like to see if there is any interest in forming a group of "fisher-persons," by holding a meeting on May 24 or 31, at his home, to discuss the following topics:

-  Some of the varieties of fish that can be caught
-  Types of fishing gear
-  Where to go fishing locally
-  Some basic fishing lessons
-  Plans for a first fishing trip

If you are interested, please contact Lawrence Summers.

ADULT STUDY: "KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE" AND "THE BOOK OF ACTS"

Adult Study classes meet on Sunday mornings after Worship, in the Fireside Room, from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm.

Note to Parents: We want you to be able to attend adult study classes. Therefore, childcare will be available in the Nursery during the Adult Study hour from May 6 through June 17.

May 6: "Keeping Our Children Safe," Mel Goertz, Safe Church Coordinator

While everyone at Stone Church should be aware of the Presbytery requirements for keeping children safe, the awareness is most important for parents of church school-age children.

The Presbytery of San José and Stone Church are committed to keeping our children safe. To this end, all persons dealing with children within the church

are required to have special training in recognizing and preventing child abuse of all kinds, and what their responsibility is when such abuse is suspected or occurs. A key element in this training is a two-part video produced by the Episcopal Church which has been suggested as *important* enough to be seen by all parents of young children.

This class, with limited discussion, is likely to last a bit over an hour, with childcare provided so as many parents of young children as possible may attend.

May 27 - June 17: "When the Spirit Says," Ken Henry & Marge Palmer

The Revs. Dr. Ken Henry and Marge Palmer offer a four-week class focusing on themes presented in *The Book of Acts*. Through lecture and discussion,

we will see how a fledging religious movement became the established Church.

✿ May 27: The Birth of the Church and the Coming of the Holy Spirit (chapters 1 and 2)

✿ June 3: Witnesses and Martyrs (chapters 4 through 7)

✿ June 10: Breathing Threats of Murder: Paul (chapters 8 and 9)

✿ June 17: Visions and Great Escapes (chapters 10 through 12)

And to think, this class begins on ... of course ... Pentecost Sunday!

There is no Adult Study class on May 13 (Congregational Meeting) or May 20 (Spring Potluck).

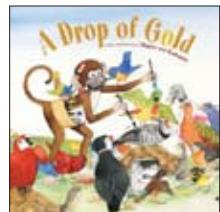
For more information, please contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Subcommittee.

LOOK FOR "FIERY, SPIRIT-FILLED," AS WELL AS "MOTHERLY," BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY!

Thoughts turn to Pentecost and Mother's Day this month, suggesting a number of library additions that may be of interest. Please visit our library and book carts, and let us know what you'd like!

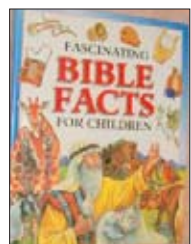
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

New for our younger members:



A Drop of Gold by Vlasta van Kampen (1st Bks J van)

Birdhouse for Rent by Harriet Ziefert (1st Bks TALL J Zie)



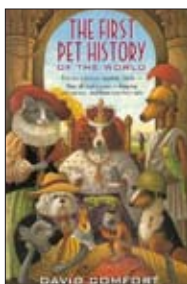
Fascinating Bible Facts for Children (J 220.5 Pub), given by Bea & Fred Gropuso

The First Pet History of the World by David Comfort (YA 636 Com)

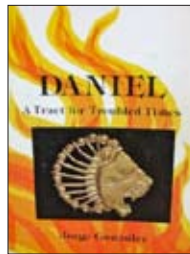


The First Pet History of the World by David Comfort (YA 636 Com)

Run Away Home by Patricia McKissack (YA Mck)



On the adult side:



Daniel: A Tract for Troubled Times by Jorge Gonzalez (224.4 Gon), given by Ivan Kolte

ACTS: The Gospel of the Spirit by Justo Gonzalez (226.6 Gon)

Time-Out for the Spirit edited by Lucile Allen (242 All), given by Dulcie Janzen

Mystical Visions by Hildegard von Bingen (248.2 von), given by Colleen Blackburn

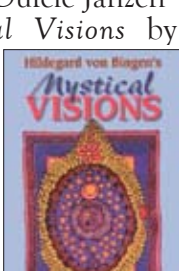
Silence on Fire: The Prayer of Awareness by William Shannon (248.3 Sha), given by Brad Bauer

A Gradual Awakening by Stephen Levine (294 Lev), given by Janice Goertz

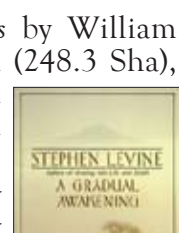
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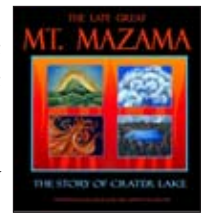


A Gradual Awakening by Stephen Levine (294 Lev), given by Janice Goertz

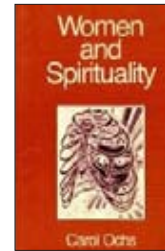


Souls on Fire: Portraits & Legends of Hasidic Masters by Elie Wiesel (296.8 Wie), given by Catherine Amos

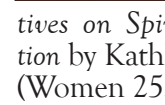
The Late Great Mt. Mazama: The Story of Crater Lake by Lonna Fagan (551 Fag)



In our adult special sections:



Women and Spirituality by Carol Ochs (Women 248.8 Och)

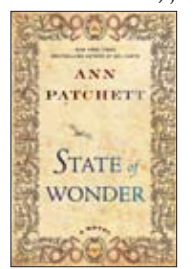


Women at the Well: Feminist Perspectives on Spiritual Direction by Kathleen Fischer (Women 253 Fis)



Women Food and God: An Unexpected Path to Almost Everything by Geneen Roth (Women 616 Rot), given by Charlotte Dickson (rec. by Anne Lamott)

State of Wonder by Ann Patchett (F Pat), given by Catherine Amos



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

MEN'S MINISTRY

David McCreath.

For more information about any of these activities, please contact

Parish Associate

Men's Mission Team to Daybreak Camp on May 19 - Day Trip Only



A local mission trip is being planned for May 19 to Daybreak Camp in the Santa Cruz mountains (www.daybreakcamp.org).

This is a *day trip only* and is not too far away.

Leland Wong, a mission worktrip leader, says, "This is a great opportunity for all guys who have wanted to go on a mission trip, but for whom overnights are difficult."



For more information, please contact Leland Wong.

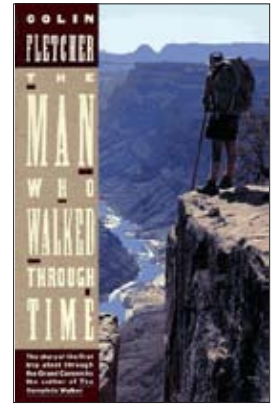
Men's Book Group to Meet Monday, May 21, at 7:30 pm

The Men's Book Group will meet on Monday, May 21, beginning at 7:30 pm.

The book for discussion will be *The Man Who Walked Through Time: The Story of the First Trip Afoot Through the Grand Canyon*, by Colin Fletcher.

The author tells of his experience in seeing the Canyon as a hiker and reflects on the geologic and Native American histories along the way.

The host for the evening will be David McCreath.



WHERE ARE THE PRESBYTERIANS? TRY THE MISSION YEARBOOK, MISSION CROSSROADS

Presbyterian mission workers are in countries around the world, in places that are exotic, mundane, and at times dangerous. Yet they serve faithfully to bring the ministries of the church as medical personnel, educators, community organizers, language translators and more.

Stories of Presbyterian mission workers can be found in two easily-accessed resources published by the General Assembly Mission Council, located in Louisville, KY.

♥ The *Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study* has been published annually since the 1890's. Each day of the year focuses on one of the "mission units" of our church: a presbytery or synod, a partner church in another country, or one of our ecumenical partners. Hard copies are available through the San José Presbytery office, and each day's selection is available on the internet at: www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook

♥ *Mission Crossroads* is a quarterly magazine-style publication that provides information about mission workers, reviews critical global issues from mission points of view, and provides avenues for contributing to the global mission work of the Presbyterian Church USA. Subscriptions are available, and you can get much more information on the internet at: www.pcusa.org/missioncrossroads
- David McCreath

STONE CHURCH CERTIFIED AS "EARTH CARE CONGREGATION" BY PCUSA

Stone Church was certified as an *Earth Care Congregation* by Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Environmental Ministries in April 2012.

This honor speaks to the great commitment of Stone's members to caring for God's earth.

To become an Earth Care Congregation, Stone affirmed the *Earth Care Pledge* to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of its church life.



Stone's members also completed projects and activities in the fields of worship, education, facilities and outreach.

The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

"It is exciting that Stone Church of Willow Glen is dedicated to intentional care of, and action for, God's earth. The congregation's activities and commitment are an inspiration to people of faith nationwide who are answering God's call to care for the earth," says Rebecca Barnes-Davies, Associate for Environmental Ministries for the PCUSA.

The Earth Care Congregations program was started in 2010 by PCUSA Environmental Ministries. The goal of the program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all of their church life.

The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make that commitment and encourages others to follow their example.

For more information about Stone's Earth Care program, please contact Steven Graham.

For more information about the Earth Care Congregations program, go to www.pcusa.org/earth-care-congregations

"A-tisket, a-tasket, a green and yellow basket ..." What is it about May that brings out the inner child? Whatever it is, let's celebrate!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Memorial Day is a bit of somberness in the midst of this, but we do need to remember those who fought for us (and honor those still fighting).

"Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery" to Meet at Stone, May 20

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery will be meeting at Stone Church on Sunday, May 20, at 2 pm.

At this event, in addition to receiving annual reports, the participants in the



Churchwide Gathering will be commissioned, and Communion will be led by the Rev. Marge Palmer.

Those wishing to support the mission of the gathering can do so by purchasing and donating \$20 gift cards from Walgreens, Costco or Target. The cards will be used by Beth-el to alleviate hardship in the migrant worker communities in Florida. Bring them to the meeting, or give them to one of the three participants from Stone Church. Stone's Coordinating Team voted to contribute \$60 from our PW.

Mother's Day Cards on Sale, May 6

Mother's Day card contributions are used to promote women's and children's health and education in Africa. This started with a campaign to prevent the spread of malaria and has grown to include so much more. The cards will be available on May 6 during Coffee Fellowship.

Stone in "Top 250" in Fair Trade Sales

Our hard-working members who manage the Fair Trade Sales have received word that Stone is among the top 250 groups in selling the products. It is hard to believe that we are among the largest groups!

Look for Pepperidge Farms and Pillsbury Coupons this Month

Dorothy Stevens urges us to look for coupons on Pepperidge Farms and Pillsbury cookies this month. Our little *cookie monsters* will soon be out of school and needing snacks at home. The box for coupons is on the bottom shelf of the library cart to be found in the hallway on Sunday mornings. (If you have trouble bending down to it, ask a child.)

PW Schedule for May

Amethyst Circle, 1 pm, May 2, Church Library

Emerald Circle, 9:30 am, May 3, Carolyn Clendenning's home

Mother's Day Card Sale, May 6, 10:30 am, Social Hall

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

PWCT, 9:30 am, May 10, Social Hall

Fair Trade Sales, 10:30 am, May 13, Social Hall

Sapphire Circle, 7:30 pm, May 14, Kate Wheatley's home

Focus Group, 9:30 am, May 16, June Tablak's home

PW in the Presbytery Annual Meeting, 2 to 4 pm, May 20, Stone Church Social Hall

Book Group II, 2:30 pm, May 21, Nancy Weiss' home, discussing *Mistress of the Art of Death* by Ariana Franklin

Prayer Shawl Group, 4 pm, May 24, Church Library

Book Group I, 1 pm, May 28, Hazel James' home, discussing *Defending Jacob* by William Landay

Future Dates and Notes

Picnic and Birthday Offering, noon, June 9, Jan Keifer's home

Note that Bible Study is on hiatus until August, while the Rev. Marge Palmer is on vacation.

In August, we shall start the 2012-2013 *Horizons Bible Study, Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles* by Nancy Benson-Nicol.

- Catherine Amos

PCUSA'S "ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING" RECOGNIZED WITH PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Rhonda Lakatos, one of the San José Presbytery's representatives to the regional Self Development of People committee,

shared this "interesting recognition of a program from our One Great Hour of Sharing offering." It is written by Gail Strange,

General Assembly Mission Council, for Presbyterian News Service.

The Presbyterian Church USA's Self-Development of People (SDOP), Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) ministries of the Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry area are leading the way in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and the world is taking notice.

The West Africa Initiative (WAI) was selected to receive the prestigious Equator Initiative Award from the United National Development Program. The WAI is a SDOP, PHP and PDA-led partnership between several US denominations and ecumenical partners in Liberia and Sierre Leone.

"We celebrate the West African Initiative, Liberia, on many levels," says Cynthia White, coordinator for

the PCUSA's SDOP program. "This is one of the first collaborative efforts of the ministries supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

"This was truly an ecumenical effort. We worked in partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief and the United Church of Christ, as well as our religious and community partners in Liberia.

"However, the greatest blessing in all of this is seeing the joy on the faces of the farmers as they are now able to feed their families and contribute to the economic well-being of their community.

"Receiving this award attests to the great work being done."

FIRST QUARTER 2012 BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT

For the first quarter of the year, we are about \$20,000 behind budgeted income and about \$6,500 below budgeted expense, a net of about \$13,500 behind budget for the year.

The amount below budget in income comes entirely from a shortfall in anticipated pledge payments.

Budgeted income and expenses are modeled using our previous five-year history, so we hope the amount below budget in pledge income is just a timing issue, with pledges being paid more slowly this year than the prior five-year average.

- David Jaffer, Chair,
Budget & Finance Committee

The financial statement for March 2012 is summarized below.

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Income & Expense YTD	YTD Actual v. Budget
Income	509,850	166,941	146,901	(20,040)
Expense	509,850	133,370	126,862	(6,508)
Cash Flow	--	33,571	20,039	(13,532)

ONLINE GIVING EASIER THAN EVER

If you could not find the online donation link for Stone Church (on the Stewardship web page), we have good news - there's now a link to this page on Stone's home page.

You can now simply click "Contribute Online" (the last of the green tabs running down the left side), and you're there!

It's the perfect way to give to Stone safely and securely whenever the Spirit moves you. Don't forget that PayPal takes about 3% of any such donation, however. Thanks to webmaster Rod Thorn for this enhancement.

- Guy Lohman, Chair, Stewardship Committee

EACH STONE CHURCH MEMBER IS ASKED TO PAY PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

Each year, most of Stone's membership generously makes a financial pledge to Stone Church of a certain dollar amount to support our budget. To assist you in contributing your gift over the year, a box of envelopes is provided. In the front of that box there is a set of additional envelopes for some exceptional gifts.

A *Per Capita* envelope is enclosed in your pledge envelope box with a colored sheet that explains the "per capita" (which means "per member") calculation. If you are not from a Presbyterian Church background, this

may seem odd, but it is the way the broader Presbyterian Church chooses to fund its needs.

Per Capita is a financial apportionment asked of all churches to cover the specific operational costs of the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly. The 2012 amount is \$28.50 for each member (\$57 per couple).

Tradition at Stone Church has always excluded the *Per Capita* apportionment from the annual pledges. It is important and is not optional - when we don't receive gifts for this

as requested from the membership, it must be taken out of our general operating funds as an exceptional expense and pulls from other programs. In other words, it is paid per member whether we receive your gift or not.

The Budget & Finance Committee urges each member of the congregation to make this special gift separately using the envelope provided, so that 100% of your pledge dollars can be used for Stone Church programs.

- David Jaffer, Chair,
Budget & Finance Committee

SESSION LOOKS AT STAFFING DESCRIPTIONS & NEEDS, INCLUDING ASSOC. PASTOR

The Rev. Marge Palmer moderated the April Session meeting while Ken Henry was in Buffalo, NY, at a conference. Session had perfect attendance.

This meeting covered several administrative issues - work on job descriptions for Choir Director and Organist, as well as for the Children's Ministry Coordinator. The Personnel & Administration Committee has concentrated on ensuring that current job descriptions are approved by Session.

Session continued to work on the process for finding an Associate Pastor to help Ken Henry. Stone is an active congregation, and having

pastoral help for its multifaceted program is of prime concern.

This is close to the end of the program year, and P & A will work on Session job assignments for 2012 - 2013 at its next meeting, discerning how best to provide leadership for the church. New elders will be elected at the congregational meeting on May 13.

The Budget & Finance committee expressed concern that the PayPal option for contributions to Stone has been on the web site for 6 months with no response. Session voted, however, to keep it and perhaps move it to better placement on the website (see article above). There was concern that newer generations of members

are more internet savvy. Session will re-evaluate in one year.

The next Presbytery meeting is on June 2 and will include a celebration lunch in honor of John Lococo (senior), long time Stated Clerk of the Presbytery. Under a new system of allocation, Stone has four Elder Commissioners to Presbytery: Diana Lim, Marcia Ludwig, Alice Thorn and Rhonda Lakatos.

At the General Assembly meeting (June 30 to July 7 in Pittsburgh, PA), Parish Associate Aimee Moiso will be a commissioner and will chair the committee on Civil Union and Marriage Issues.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

GREAT PICTURES FROM THE EASTER EGG HUNT ON PALM SUNDAY, 2012
PHOTOS BY DAN RABY



STONE CHURCH TRAILWALKERS TO SHORELINE PARK ON MAY 19

Join the Stone Church Trail Walk on Saturday, May 19, beginning at 9 am, at Shoreline Park, and see how many different kinds of birds you can name!

Shoreline Park is a safe and expansive waterway for many water sports, including sailing, windsurfing, kayaking and canoeing. But there is more! It is also a wildlife sanctuary and home to many rare, migratory birds, such as the burrowing owl.

Directions to the Shoreline Aquatic Center (and Lakeside Cafe): Heading north on Hwy. 101 from San José, take the Shoreline

Bldv. exit and make a right at the stoplight onto N. Shoreline Blvd. heading northeast. As you continue on N. Shoreline Blvd., you will pass through the gatehouse and enter the Shoreline Regional Park. Continue on Shoreline Blvd. as it winds through the park, past the golf course, and Rengstorff House. Follow the signs to the Lakeside Café/Sailing Center. Shoreline Blvd. will dead-end in the parking lot.

For more information, please contact Katherine Webb Calhoon.



photos from the most recent Trail Walk at Coyote Creek Park

CAN YOU HELP TO PROVIDE WEEKDAY RIDES?

The Deacons' *Stone Cares* program is in need of folks who could provide weekday rides - mostly taking someone to a doctor appointment.

If you can help, please contact Steve or Bill (see below for contact details).

And of course, if you need a ride to the doctor, or you have another need, or know of someone in need, please contact the following people, in this order:

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

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