

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

AUGUST 2012



STONE CHURCH EXTENDS THE MOST LOVING OF WELCOMES TO TWO OF “GOD’S GREAT ACTS,” REV. IRENE PAK AND ORGANIST STEPHEN BONIFACE



“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”
– Ecclesiastes 3:11

Irene Pak and Stephen Boniface, children of the Creator, have each experienced the disconcerting feeling at one or more points in their lives that they were not welcome parts of Creation.

But this summer they joined the staff of our congregation, which pledged in its Mission Statement of 1995 “... to hold God’s great acts ever in mind and to keep God’s commandments.”

Irene and Stephen are among God’s great acts, and our commandment is to love them.

The Rev. Irene Pak was born and raised in Utah, a Presbyterian among Mormons, a second generation Korean-American amidst the West’s early white settlers, a very tall woman and (as she discovered at Chicago’s McCormick Seminary) a theological liberal.

She is Stone’s new associate pastor.

“Even though I don’t like to be put into boxes,” Irene said, “there’s

a comfort in being able to fit in. I know that I’m not alone in that. Everybody has those things where they feel like they don’t fit. We’re all kind of navigating.”

Stephen Boniface, with degrees in piano performance and software engineering from San José State, is now beginning his degree work at UC San Francisco to serve the sick and aged as a nurse practitioner.

Through it all, he has played the organ for a succession of local churches including the First Christian Church downtown, where he first came out to himself, and then the congregation, as gay.

He is Stone’s new organist.

“They really sort of took me under their wing and were very supportive,” Stephen said of First Christian. “They taught me about religion in different ways, but mainly that religion is about the people in the church, not the dogma. It helps me see past some of the callousness and ironies and corruption that I saw in other places and helped me put that in perspective.”

Of all the ways that Irene felt she didn’t fit in, the one that troubled her most was dealing with fellow

Presbyterians who were resistant to a clergywoman.

“Part of the reason I do what I do is because maybe that will make that difference for somebody else who feels crazy to be called to ministry,” she said. “Some young girl may think, ‘I feel crazy, but I think God is talking to me.’ That inspires me when I think of that.”

Stephen was organist and choir accompanist for 12 years at St. Joseph’s Cathedral Basilica, where he was among several gay musicians whose contributions to Worship were cherished – they toured Europe and performed at the Vatican – but whose identity as individuals was not.

“Everybody knew,” he said, “but it was sort of a ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ situation. We were an odd community of people who fly in the face of what the church finds acceptable. They preached about it when we were right under their noses.”

Their individual spiritual journeys will now become part of ours. And ours will become part of theirs.

Jody Meacham, a journalist for over 25 years, wrote this article for The Stone News.

“DIVE INTO FAITH,” THIS YEAR’S VCS, WAS A WONDERFUL SUCCESS!

by Mary Jo Blazek,
Children’s Ministry Coordinator

The Stone Church Narthex was transformed into a submarine that took us to an underwater wonderland in the Sanctuary ...

No, it wasn’t a dream – it was Stone’s Vacation Church School 2012, *Dive into Faith*.

Thirty children and many adults enjoyed a week of crafts, games, cool science projects and yummy snacks, as together we learned about people from the Bible who had amazing faith. Many Stone families participated, as well as many families from the community.

At the end of the wonderful week, we gathered together during Worship to share songs and stories with the congregation.

Thank you to all who helped make this week such a success – storytellers, photographers, set designers and gathers of “stuff,” those who provided treats, office staff, and those who prayed for us during the week.

All of you contributed to making the children understand what it is like to have a village of folks who care.

For more photos, please see page 7, and please go to:

stonechurch.org/images/Stone_VCS_2012/album/index.html



ADULT STUDY: HENRIETTA PERDUE ENCORES, GA HIGHLIGHTS, CHURCH TOUR

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

Childcare is available in the Nursery during the Adult Study hour.

Aug. 5 - 28: Henrietta Perdue Lecture Encores

Highlights from past outstanding Henrietta Perdue Lectures are presented. Join us for one or all of them!

- ✿ Aug 5: Marcus Borg: Two Visions of Christianity
- ✿ Aug 12: Barbara Brown Taylor: Job
- ✿ Aug 28: Patrick Miller: The Psalmist Praises God

Sept. 9: GA Highlights with Aimee Moiso, Irene Pak & Chuck Rawlings

The 2012 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) was held in Pittsburgh from June 29 to July 7.

Stone's Parish Associate, Aimee Moiso, was moderator of the Committee on Civil Unions and Marriage, which dealt with the contentious issue of pastors officiating at same-sex marriages. Stone's new pastor, Irene Pak, was a staff consultant and is a member of the National Racial Ethnic Ministries. Retired pastor and "friend" of Stone Church, Chuck Rawlings, focused on the Israel-Palestinian issue.

These three will summarize the meeting and assess the direction of the national church.

Sept. 16: Tour the NEW and IMPROVED Stone Church

Tour Stone Church's Lincoln House, with its reorganized offices, the Christian Education Wing (the original church), the Church Nursery (why does it have two doors, but only one is in use?), the catacombs downstairs, the Social Hall (to hear the history of its stained glass window), and the Sanctuary (to learn about master mason, Manuel Sunyer, and his wonderful stonework).

A tour booklet will be available, and interpreters will be at each station.

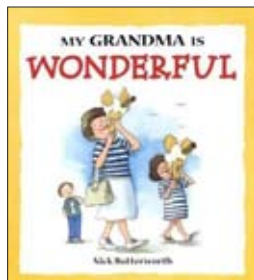
Adult Study will not meet Sept. 2 (Labor Day weekend). For more information, contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study

CHURCH LIBRARY ADDS BOOKS ON DONALDINA CAMERON, SAN JOSÉ, CAREGIVING

Interesting new books keep flowing in! Please look for them in our Church Library and on the Book Cart!

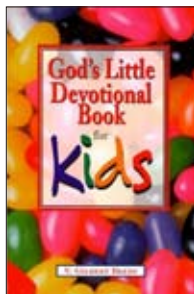
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

New for our younger members:



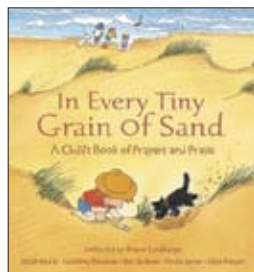
My Grandma is Wonderful by Nick Butterworth (1st Bks J But)

God's Little Devotional Book

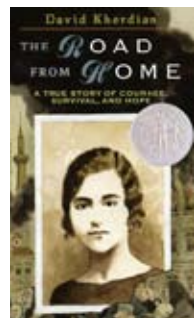


for Kids by V. Gilbert Beers (J 242 Bee), given by the Bowers family

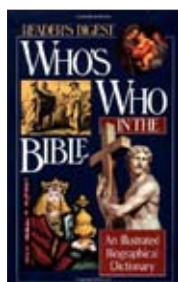
In Every Tiny Grain of Sand: A Child's



Book of Prayers & Praise ed. by Reeve Lindbergh (J 291.4 Lin)



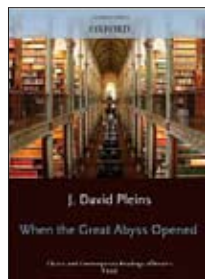
The Road from Home: A True Story of Courage, Survival & Hope by David Kherdian (YA Biog KHERDIAN)



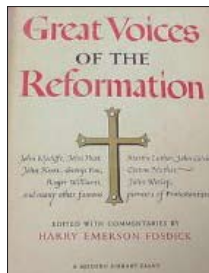
On the adult side:

Who's Who in the Bible by Reader's Digest (220.9 Rea), given by Bea & Fred Groppuso

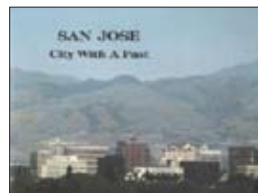
When the Great Abyss Opened: Classic and Contemporary



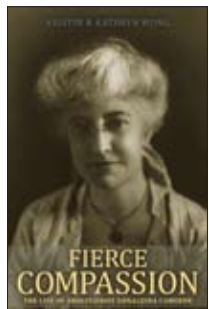
Readings of Noah's Flood by J. David Pleins (222.11 Ple), given by Pat Magee



Great Voices of the Reformation ed. by Harry Emerson Fosdick (270.6 Fos), given by Ivan Kolte

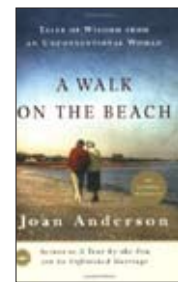


San Jose: City with a Past by Kathleen Muller (979.4 Mul), given by Dulcie Janzen



In our adult special sections:

Fierce Compassion; The Life of Abolitionist Donaldina Cameron by Kristin & Kathryn Wong (Biog CAMERON), given by Diana Lim



A Walk on the Beach by Joan Anderson (Women 170 And), given by Claudia Hamm

In the Neighborhood: The Search for Community on an American Street by Peter



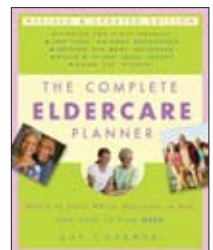
Lovenheim (Soc Iss 307 Lov)

Three books have been given in honor of newly retired Deacons



Joyce Degan, Carrie Giorgianni, Bill Lakatos, Jody Meacham, Bill & Claire Ribble, and Joyce Summers:

Leaning into Sharp Points: Practical Guidance & Nurturing Support for Caregivers by Stan Goldberg (Spec Needs 362.1 Gol)



The Complete Eldercare Planner by Joy Loverde (Spec Needs-A 613 Lov)



Navigating the River of Aging by Marilyn Slaby (Spec Needs-A 613 Sla)

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

MEN'S MINISTRY



David McCreath.

Men's Mission Team Announces Upcoming Projects – with one of them “not just for men”!

Here is a preview of some upcoming Mission Team Work Projects:

♥ **Sept. 8 – Sacred Heart:** This mission work project is

open to all, not just the men! For more information, please contact Bill Ribble.

♥ **Sept. 14-18 – Westminster Woods:** For more information, please contact Leland Wong.

Men's Book Group to Meet Monday, Aug. 20 – to select books for fall reading

The Men's Book Group will meet on Aug. 20, beginning at 7:30 pm, at the home of Bill Ribble.

The task for the evening will be to select books for review during the fall.

All men of the church are welcome to participate.

For more information, please contact David McCreath.

IS YOUR FOOD FROM A FARM OR A LAB? COME SEE THE FILM, “THE FUTURE OF FOOD,” ON SUNDAY, AUG. 12

Is your food from a farm or a lab?

Without labels, we just don't know. In the past decade, GE (*genetically engineered*) foods have quietly made their way into our grocery stores. Independent laboratory tests and industry disclosures indicate that upwards of 75% of all non-organic foods contain ingredients from GE crops, but they are not required to be labeled.



These foods have never been tested for safety, and mounting scientific evidence links them to numerous health and environmental problems.

It is important to be aware of GMOs (*genetically modified organisms*) and the movement in California to require their labeling, which led to the addition of Proposition 37 on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Health Ministries is sponsoring an Adult Study program to show the film, *The Future of Food*, which presents these issues, on Sunday, Aug. 12, from 7 pm to 9 pm, in the Sanctuary. A discussion will follow the film, with time for questions.

The goal is to present information and answer questions so everyone can be better informed and better able to make a decision on the ballot measure. (Session has discussed these matters, and Stone Church is not taking a position on Proposition 37 – just providing an educational forum for information about the issues.)

A Sunday evening was selected rather than the usual Sunday morning Adult Study time, because we wanted to open this meeting to the community so they can become more informed as well.

So please invite your friends and neighbors to join you.

And if you need childcare, please contact Jean Raby by Aug. 5.

For more information, go to:

www.carighttoknow.org

- Jean Raby, for Health Ministries

WALTER BRUEGGEMANN TO LECTURE ON “PRACTICING NEIGHBORHOOD AND EMPIRE,” NOV. 9 - 10, AT HENRIETTA PERDUE LECTURES

Dr. Walter Brueggemann, world-renown Old Testament scholar and prolific author, will explore the dominant narrative of power, performance and production in the Old Testament and in our society at the Henrietta Perdue Lectures on Nov. 9 & 10.



Here is a summary of each of the three lectures:

Friday Evening Lecture: Realism amid Ideology

The notion of “being chosen” deceived ancient Israel into thinking it was immune to the vagaries of history and to moral accountability.

The prophetic alternative told the truth about historical reality that could not be covered over by ideology.

First Saturday Morning Lecture: Grief amid Denial

The ideology of chosenness encouraged denial among the opinion makers in ancient Israel and the way in which the prophets summoned Israel to grieve about its real losses that could no longer be denied.

Second Saturday Morning Lecture: Hope amid Despair

The prophetic accent on loss was correct: Jerusalem was destroyed, and its leading citizens were displaced; there was a general sinking into despair. The prophets countered that despair with the hope that declared the capacity of God to create new futures “out of nothing.”

Cost is \$20 for the Friday lecture, \$20 for the two Saturday lectures, or \$30 for the complete program. You can purchase tickets during Coffee Fellowship or online at:

stonechurch.org/events/Brueggemann-flier.pdf

- Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Subcommittee

August ... the "Dog Days of Summer" ... bring on the iced tea and lemonade ... tall and cool with lots of ice!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

While most of us have been off duty, some groups have continued to pursue the interests of PW.

August Brunch

The Focus Group brings us the *PW August Brunch*, and, as usual, they have a great program planned. We shall



also be accepting items for Emmaus House - they are on a tight budget, and our donations help conserve funds for other services.

Also at the brunch, the K. R. Smith School will be presented with the coupons for education that you have saved over the past year.

For more information about the brunch, please see the article below.

Coupons and S.H.A.R.E.S. Cards

Speaking of coupons, for those of you new to PW's *Coupons for*

Education Program, be aware that many companies participate: all Pillsbury products, all Campbell Soup products, Kimberly-Clark, Land-o-Lakes butter - just to name a few.

Coupons can be received anytime during the year. Put them in the box for coupons on the bottom shelf of the Book Cart (located in the hallway between the Social Hall and Education Wing on Sunday mornings). If you have trouble bending down to it, ask a child to help you.

Then, there are the *S.H.A.R.E.S. Cards*. Participating stores will contribute a percentage of your total to a designated school when you present your card at check-out. (I don't know how self-check works - ask at the store.) When you sign up, please name K. R. Smith as the school.

For more information about either the *Coupons for Education* or *S.H.A.R.E.S. Cards Programs*, see the *PW bulletin board*.

Churchwide Gathering

Participants of the 2012 *PW Churchwide Gathering* came back energized and well-informed about the work of PW across the country.

The next *Gathering* will be in 2015: talk to one of the women who attended - it just might motivate you to go!

Bible Study

Once again, we are blessed to have the Rev. Marge Palmer, *Pastor Emerita of Stone Church*, lead our Bible Study.

The *Horizons Bible Study* for 2012-2013 is *Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles*, by Nancy Benson-Nicol.

PW Schedule for August

Focus Group, 9:30 am, Aug. 8, June Tablak's home

PWCT, 9:30 am, Aug. 9, Social Hall

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, Aug. 14, Taiwan Restaurant, Lincoln Ave.

PW August Brunch, Aug. 18, 9:30 am, Social Hall

Fair Trade Sales, 10:30 am, Aug. 12, Social Hall

Bible Study with the Rev. Marge Palmer, 9:30 am, Aug. 23, Church Library, discussing *Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles*, by Nancy Benson-Nicol

Book Group I, 1 pm, Aug. 27, Hazel James' home, discussing *Killing Lincoln*, by O'Reilly and Dugard

Circles and Book Group II are on hiatus until September.

- Catherine Amos

TERRY CHRISTENSEN, SJSU POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR, TO SPEAK AT BRUNCH ON AUG. 18

Everyone is cordially invited to join Stone Church's Presbyterian Women on Saturday, Aug. 18, at 9:30 am, for a delicious brunch.



Following the brunch, Dr. Terry Christensen, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at San José State (pictured at left), will speak on the *Consequences* of the November ballot. Here is your chance to raise

questions, gain information and explore the ramifications of *your important votes*.

PW will also be collecting items needed monthly by Emmaus House, a shelter for battered women and children in Hollister (which the National PW helped to start). Be sure to pick up a flyer at the sign-up table for a list of needed items.

You can make reservations, through Aug. 12, during Coffee Fellowship, or contact Rosaleen Zisch.

If you need childcare, please make your reservation by Aug. 5.

A \$5 donation to cover the cost of the brunch is requested.

- Sally Magee



Scenes from a Sunday at Stone!

WALTER HUDSON TO LEAD STUDY ON “LET THE CHURCH HEAR THE WOMEN!”

This fall, Walter Hudson offers a ten-week Sunday evening study of *This Will Be Remembered of Her*, by Megan McKenna, an enthralling and delightful discussion of the power and message of women who live in and live out of the Biblical Word.

The book’s reflections uplift ancient and modern children and women and their traditions from around the world. “Who and what we remember,” McKenna writes, “is a revelation of who and what we are and hope to be.”

Combining memory with the stories associated with women is a potent idea because traditionally women are the ones who do much of the remembering, acting as family storytellers, while their own stories are often forgotten or neglected.

Rhonda Lakatos adds, “I’m glad we will be studying this book together. It is a dense book about living and learning in community that is worthy of being chewed and digested slowly in a group. The author looks ‘at women working in resistance, tender-

ness and justice and their decision to be the good news in their place and time.’ This book invites men and women to listen to these stories and decide what will be remembered of us.”

Join us Sunday evenings in the Fireside Room at 7 pm for lively and open-ended discussion. The first class will be Sunday, Sept. 9.

Books will be available for purchase by the middle of August.

For more information, please contact Walter Hudson.

STONE’S 2012 PLEDGES ARE LAGGING

Through June 30, 2012, anticipated pledges are \$30K behind budgeted amounts. While there may be seasonal fluctuations in pledges, our budget is structured to take this into consideration.

Stone Church operates on a budget that is based on financial commitments made by the congregation, where budgeted expenses rely on the

income from these commitments. It is vital to our ministry and mission in God’s service that we keep our giving as up-to-date as possible.

The following chart shows our pledge summary through June 30.

If your pledge situation has changed, please contact Mel Goertz, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, or Jennifer Scott-Brand, Office Manager.

| | Annual Budget | Budget to Date | Actuals YTD | Actuals v. Budget YTD |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Pledge Income | 460,000 | 251,525 | 221,390 | -30,135 |



At the last choir rehearsal before the summer break, Nancy Kromm, Director of Music Ministry, presented Donald Foster with a certificate of appreciation for all he has done for the church’s music program over the past year – church organist, accompanist to the choir, choir president – not to mention all of his work on the Worship Committee and upkeep of the church computers. He’s everywhere! We all sincerely appreciate Donald’s constant and loving devotion to our church.

SESSION SETS ORDINATION DATE, NOTES B & G STILL NEEDS CARETAKERS

The regular meeting of Session, the first with Elders from the class of 2015, met in the Social Hall on July 17.

This meeting had a light agenda, with the only item needing action the approval of a job description for the choir director. Session’s Personnel and Administration Committee has worked this past year to get updated job descriptions for all employees of the church, since “employing administrative staff of the church,” is one of the responsibilities of Session listed in the *Book of Order*.

Another Session responsibility is “training, examining, ordaining and installing those elected by the

congregation as ruling Elders and Deacons.” Training took place at the Session retreat June 30, and Session designated Sept. 9 as the date for ordaining and installing new Elders and Deacons. Officers of the church are granted the power to govern when the congregation elects them; ordination and installation are “church rites,” signaling their ecclesiastical responsibilities.

Session welcomed Ken Henry back from vacation and noted with joy the coming of Stephen Boniface as organist. Members also looked forward to Aug. 1 when Irene Pak will arrive as Associate Pastor. Still

another change comes in the Nursery, where Debra Brezil has left after ten years, and Gabriela Varga is to move into the supervisor’s position. In one final staff item, the Buildings and Grounds Committee is still looking for caretakers.

Deborah Crim reported for the Christian Education Committee that the children’s books will be moved from the Church Library into the Fireside Room. She asked for cooperation from non-CE users of that room to please put furniture back as it was, so CE volunteers don’t have to spend time moving furniture.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

MORE WONDERFUL VCS 2012 PHOTOS FROM DAN RABY





Ken seemed to enjoy last year's picnic!

ENJOY WORSHIP AND "PICNIC IN THE PARK" HISTORY PARK AT KELLEY PARK, AUG. 19

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Aug. 19, when we will worship and picnic together on the beautiful grounds of the History Park at Kelley Park. We will again go "green" this year by asking you to bring your own

plates, utensils, beverage containers, and napkins.

Sign-up during Coffee Fellowship. Maps showing the way to History Park will be provided.

- Pat Magee, Fellowship & Renewal Com.

MEET KRISTI VAN NOSTRAN, STONERWORKS (AND YOUR!) PARTNER IN MISSION

StoneWorks has exciting news in the *small world* department.

We are establishing a relationship with PCUSA mission worker Kristi Van Nostran who is currently serving in El Salvador with *Joining Hands Against Hunger*.

Stone Church has been connected with El Salvador for many years through *South Bay Sanctuary Covenant*. As StoneWorks considered supporting a mission worker, Ken Henry and I casually began to look through one of the mission yearbooks, and Kristi's photo caught Ken's eye. It turns out they are acquainted, so it seemed an obvious choice. When I contacted Kristi, she responded enthusiastically: "Greetings from El Salvador! Thanks so much for getting in touch. It is

a very small world; my dad is good friends with Ken, and I know Ken and his daughter, Katie, from Cascades Presbytery summer camps."

Here's a little about Kristi, from www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/van-nostran-kristi/

"As the *Joining Hands* network facilitator in El Salvador, Kristi is helping to build bridges of solidarity between churches in the United States and a network of churches, grassroots groups and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in El Salvador. Together they work to combat the root causes of poverty and suffering through community education, advocacy, alternative economic activities, lifestyle changes and spiritual grounding. The goal is to restore the wholeness of God's

creation and the healing of the human family through prayer, mutual visits, humble accompaniment and mutual transformation."



Be sure to read the rest of the article (at the link provided). Perhaps take time to email Kristi. We will be sending financial support in the next month, but want to make this a full and meaningful relationship by offering prayer and spiritual support. We hope to learn of other ways to connect and will share those with you as well. - Namaste, Maureen Chandler, Chair, StoneWorks

STONE'S TRAILWALKERS TO EXPLORE THE LOWER GUADALUPE RIVER



Ryland Parkway Trail

The Stone Church Trailwalkers will be exploring the lower reaches of the Guadalupe River, on Saturday, Aug. 11, from 9 am until noon.

Meet at Ryland Park between San Pedro and North First, in downtown San José (restrooms!).

For a map, click this link:

www.sjparks.org/Trails/GRiver/GRiverMapN.asp

We will head north on a paved trail and explore what the river basin looked

like decades before development ... riparian grasses, fruit orchards, natural water channels ...

The return trip will allow us to view the modern, developed downtown skyline on the horizon.

Join us for good exercise, great company and fascinating San José history!

For more information, please contact Steven Graham, who will lead the hike.

*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

Chief Photographer:
Sylvia Snyder

Assistant Editors:

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

Additional Photographs:
Dan Raby, Rod Thorn, Irene Pak