

# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA NOVEMBER 2012



YOUTH  
GROUP  
HAS AN  
A-MAZE-  
ING  
TIME  
AT ...  
WHAT  
ELSE?  
A CORN  
MAZE!

(see page 2 for  
more Youth  
Group news!)



## I THANK YOU GOD FOR MOST THIS AMAZING

by Ken Henry



i thank You God for most this amazing  
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,  
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth  
day of life and of love and wings;and of the gay  
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any—lifted from the no  
of all nothing—human merely being  
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

—e.e. cummings

Six months ago, I set about  
the task of trying to memorize  
this poem by e.e. cummings.  
And frankly, at first, it was  
*unimaginably* impossible.

The grammarian in me winced  
at cummings' use of the English  
language. Misplaced modifiers  
... uncapitalized beginnings of  
words ... and don't get me started  
on his use of parentheses!

And tell me: What is the dif-  
ference between *unlimitable* and  
*illimitably*? Nothing – except  
when was the last time we told  
anyone there was an *illimitable*  
supply of anything?

It's not that his words are dif-  
ficult to memorize: it's just that  
the rules of grammar appear to  
be *greenly* glossed over, so much  
so that my grammar professor  
in college – Dr. Charles Alva, or  
“Dr. Chuckles” as we called him  
– would have had a heart attack  
to learn that *human merely being*  
could be deemed an acceptable  
part of speech.

(continued on page 2)



## STONE CHURCH YOUTH GROUP – FROM CORN MAZE & PUMPKINS TO LOCK-IN!

The Stone Church Youth Group recently had a fantastic time at a Corn Maze in San Martin.



Next up for this intrepid group is a LOCK-IN, beginning at 7 pm, on Friday night, Nov. 2, until 8 am, Saturday morning, Nov. 3.

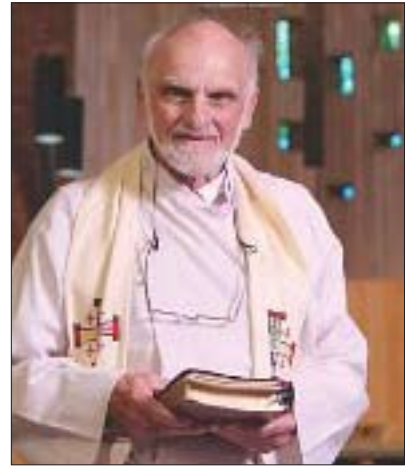
We will play games, have some time of worship and discussion, eat some snacks,

watch movies, do art with Matt, and work on an easy service project!

On Nov. 9, we will have a two-part art project with our fantastic artist, Matt. And on Nov. 16, plans are still forming, but we will no doubt have ... fun! Join us!

*The Stone Church Youth Group meets every Friday night, starting at 7 pm. Everyone from 6th to 12th grade is welcome. Note that there is no meeting on Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving week).*

*For questions, please contact Pastor Irene at the church office.*



## WORLD-RENOWN AUTHOR WALTER BRUEGGEMANN, TO LECTURE, NOV. 9 & 10

Stone Church is honored to welcome Henrietta Perdue Lecturer, Dr. Walter Brueggemann, who will present three lectures on the topic of *Practicing Neighborhood amid Empire*, on Nov. 9 and 10.

Dr. Brueggemann, a world-renown Old Testament scholar and author, will explore the dominant narrative of power, performance, and production in the Old Testament and in our society.

*The cost is \$20 for the Friday lecture, \$20 for the two Saturday lectures, or \$30 for the complete program. Tickets can be purchased in the church office and will also be available on Friday evening.*

*- Pat Magee, Chair  
Adult Study Subcommittee*

## I THANK YOU GOD ... K.D.H. HENRY

*continued from page 1*

How can *ears awaken*? I thought eyes did that. Still, by intentionally breaking the rules of syntax, e.e. cummings does force us to take a second look, to read more closely, and to wonder if describing the sky as *a blue true dream* is somehow more perceptive and eloquent than other more mundane descriptions.

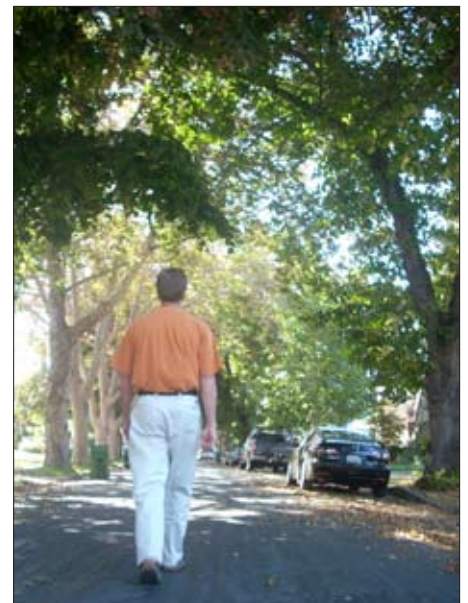
In sum, paying attention to how rules are violated or stretched causes us to go deeper. Look at Jesus: a “Law-breaker,” a teller of disturbing parables with no clear answers, and one who often said things like, “The Sabbath was created for

humans; humans weren’t created for the Sabbath.”

Indeed, Jesus took what those around him took for granted and turned it around. While others thought the kingdom of God was located in some ethereal heavenly realm above the earth, Jesus taught that the kingdom of God was here, now, all around, and within us.

In this season of Thanksgiving, may we find ourselves giving thanks in unexpected and unpredictable ways. And may the birth of each new day give to each of us ... *life and love and wings ...*

*- k.d.h. henry*



# ADULT STUDY EXPANDS ON BRUEGGEMANN LECTURES, WELCOMES KETCHPEL

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

## Nov. 4: Religion and the Presidential Election, with Jim Bennett, Professor of Religion, Santa Clara University

Despite the Constitutional prohibition of a religious test for office, religion has long played an important role in Presidential elections and the American Presidency. The 2012 Presidential election marks a new chapter in that story as the major party candidates represent a unique combination of religious affiliations in U.S. electoral history. How have those identities shaped the candidates and the election, and what are the implications for the Presidency of the winning candidate?

## Nov. 11, 18: Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today

Walter Brueggemann shows how our "production-consumption society" today takes us out of covenant and returns us to slavery. An expansion of Dr. Brueggemann's lectures, *Practicing Neighborhood amid Empire*.

- ✿ Nov. 11: *The Way Out*
- ✿ Nov. 18: *The Decalogue*

## Nov. 25: Author Steven Ketchpel Discusses His New Book "Giving Back"

Volunteering and donating are key parts of our Christian faith. They also make us happier, healthier, and impart values of gratitude, generosity, and compassion to our children.

Dr. Stephen Ketchpel, PhD., discusses his new book, *Giving Back* (see related article, page 6).

## Dec. 2-16: Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today (continued)

- ✿ Dec. 2: *Countering Caesar*
- ✿ Dec. 9: *An Act of Imagination*
- ✿ Dec. 16: *On Not Doing God Any Favors*

## Dec. 23: The Birth of Jesus - The Gospel According to Matthew

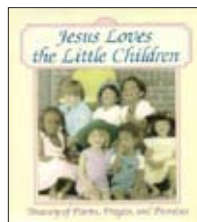
Though an avowed atheist, Pier Paolo Pasolini, in 1965, wrote and directed *The Gospel According to Matthew*. Shot in the arid foothills of southern Italy, it is a solemn, sincere illustration of the Gospel that many film critics regard as the greatest Biblical adaptation ever created.

Contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Subcommittee, for questions on any of these classes. There is no Adult Study on Dec. 30.

# CHURCH LIBRARY HOLDS MANY TREASURES: BOOKS ON HOLIDAYS, HISTORY & MORE

We think of holidays, hearth & home, heritage & history. We have so much to give thanks for - including books!

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

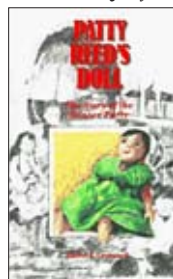


**New for our younger members:**  
*Jesus Loves the Little Children: Treasury of Poems, Prayers, and Promises* by Sylvia Seymour (Read-Aloud J 242 Sey), given by Charlotte Dickson

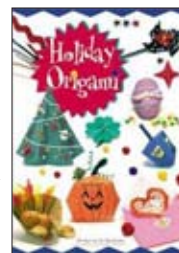


*Angel Island* by Alice Flanagan (J 979.4 Fla)  
*I am an American: A True Story of Japanese Internment* by Jerry Stanley (YA 940.5 Sta)

*Patty Reed's Doll: The Story of the Donner Party* by Rachel Laurgaard (YA 979.4 Lau)

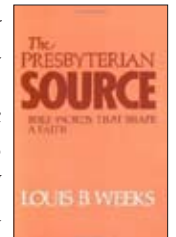


*Holiday Origami* by Jill Smolinski (YA 745 Smo)

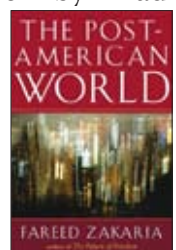


*The Big Book of Presbyterian Stewardship* by Elaine Barnett et al. (254.8 Bar), given by the McCreaths

*The Presbyterian Source: Bible Words that Shape a Faith* by Louis Weeks (285.1 Wee), given by Claudia Hamm



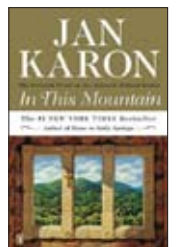
*The Overland Migrations: Settlers to Oregon, California & Utah* by David Lavender (917.8 Lav), given by Brad Bauer



**In our adult special sections:**  
*The Post-American World* by Fared Zakaria (Soc. Iss. 337 Zak), given by Sara Holtzapple



*The Friday Night Knitting Club* by Kate Jacobs (F Jac), given by the Bowers

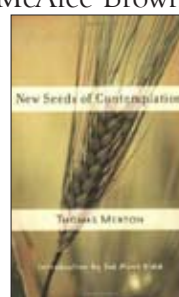


*In This Mountain* by Jan Karon (F Kar), given by Betty Moran



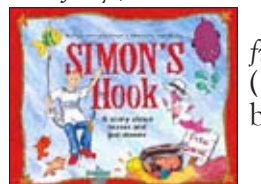
**On the adult side:**  
*Is Faith Obsolete?* by Robert McAfee Brown (234 Bro), given by Ivan Kolte

*New Seeds of Contemplation* by Thomas Merton (248.8 Mer), given by Dulcie Janzen

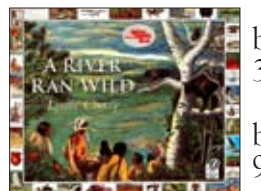
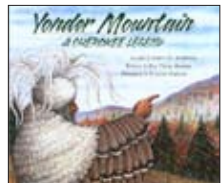


*Simon's Hook: A Story about Teases & Put-downs* by Karen Burnett (J Bur)

*Yonder Mountain: A Cherokee Legend* by Kay Bannon (J 398.2 Ban)



*Praise Him (words from Saint Francis)* (1st Bks J Sto), given by the Thorns



*A River Ran Wild* by Lynne Cherry (J 974 Che)

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

## MEN'S MINISTRY



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

### Men's Book Group, Nov. 19

The Men's Book Group will meet on Nov. 19, beginning at 7:30 pm. The book to be discussed is *What If?: The World's Foremost Military Historians Imagine What Might Have Been*. The author, Robert Crowley, reviews some of the world's most significant events and "counterimagines" them ... what would history be like if conditions changed and different outcomes happened?



All men of the church are welcome to attend. Rod Thorn is the host.

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

### Men's Mission Team Helps Out at Westminster Woods

The Men's Mission Team provided assistance to the facility maintenance crew at Westminster Woods, Sept 12 - 16.

The Stone team split into two groups; one reinforcing the bench seats used at campfire (made earlier by Stone Church men) and the other building new screens for the windows in several different buildings. Attendees included Leland Wong, Gary Weiss, Wynn Barnes, David McCreath, Art Holtz, Lawrence Summers, and Bill Ribble. Bill flew Wynn and Gary up to Santa Rosa in his plane.



### Men's Wine-Making Group

A group of Stone Church men who make communion wine, as well as wine for their own consumption, picked and crushed about three-quarters of a ton of grapes in Napa, on Oct 14. It was a beautiful warm fall day, and the crush and a sumptuous lunch, provided by Mike Wyllie, included the picking



crew (Salvador, Jesus, and Miguel), as well as Mike, John & Chris Lococo, Wynn Barnes, and Bill Ribble. We trailed the crushed *must* back to Bill's house where we began the fermentation. We will next press the fermented juice from the skins for settling and aging. - Bill Ribble

## PRESBYTERIANS AMONG THE "GYPSIES" HELP TO HEAL U.S./RUSSIA RIFTS

Al and Ellen Smith are Presbyterian mission co-workers in Russia, with a particular focus on the Roma people. The Roma came to Europe from India and were first known as "Gypsies." Yet, even after several centuries of living in Russia, they are still held in contempt, for they are not ethnic Russians. The result is a group of people with limited educational opportunities and bleak employment prospects, who face increasing violence.

The Smiths have worked alongside their Russian partners to conduct a ministry of compassion and inclusion. They have cooperated with Russian churches to hold summer camps for children and youth. They have also helped to relieve areas of extreme poverty among the Roma. And they have helped to build increasing accep-

tance of the Roma among the surrounding communities.

Some Reformed Churches have ministered to spiritual and physical needs of the Roma, including ministry to the elderly, prison ministries, and orphanages. The Smiths consider their ministry as one of healing the deep rifts between Russia and the U.S. during the cold war period. The Smiths have seen relationships grow between U.S. and Russian congregations, and joint ministries flourish, enhancing the congregations on both continents.

For a related article on PCUSA mission worker Nadia Ayoub, who fights odds to teach Roma kids, please see:

[www.pcusa.org/news/2012/10/23/school-daze/](http://www.pcusa.org/news/2012/10/23/school-daze/)

- David McCreath

## STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING AT TRINITY

Stephen Ministry leadership at Stone Church can provide opportunities for interested members to participate in training, even when classes are not being held at Stone.

To that end, Stone member Jutta Sargent began Stephen Ministry training with a class at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Sept. 17.

When her training is complete, Jutta will join Stone's Stephen Ministers in both their caring ministry and supervision.

Please give Jutta your encouragement and support. The program always needs new trainees as both Stephen Ministers and Leaders.

If you are interested in training, or if you are experiencing one of life's crises that might benefit from a listening ear, please contact Joan Peckham.

- Judith Mohr

Hold on – we’re almost there! Just think, after the sixth, we’ll be free of the TV ads for various propositions and having our mailboxes stuffed to the gills with political promotions: let us give thanks on Thanksgiving that this happens only once every four years!

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**Thank Offering Luncheon, Nov. 3**

We shall meet in the Social Hall for our annual *Thank Offering Luncheon*, on Nov. 3, at noon. *Thank Offerings* are used by Presbyterian Women (churchwide) for aid in many countries and for many projects that promote the well being of women.



Our speaker will be the Rev. Glenda Hope from San Francisco; she is engaged with a group that is helping those on the streets to live productive lives for themselves and their children.

RSVP to Rosaleen Zisch. A \$5 donation is requested.

**Emmaus House**

Emmaus House had a busy summer with a full house. They are in dire need of towels – new or gently used.

Bring them to the *Thank Offering Luncheon*, give them to Claudia Hamm, or take them directly to the house in Hollister. If you have never visited, it is well worth a trip, as it is truly an amazing place!

**Fair Trade Christmas Baskets**

The church calendar always provides the regular dates for Fair Trade Sales; however, Sally Magee will take orders for Christmas Baskets featuring Fair Trade products anytime up until Nov. 11. Sally and the *Elves* need notice so they can be sure to get all of them done. After the eleventh, you have to negotiate with Sally! Baskets will be ready on Dec. 9.

**“Gifts of Women” Nominees**

Every year on *Gifts of Women Sunday*, it has become our custom to recognize individuals (women and men) who have contributed to the work of Presbyterian Women of Stone Church. The Search Committee needs your input for nominees; please contact Joan Peckham or leave a note in the PW box in the church office with your suggestions by Dec. 1.

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

Thanksgiving is a time for baking so let’s concentrate on the many Pillsbury items that can help us be truly thankful!

- PW Schedule for November**  
**Emerald Circle**, 9:30 am, Nov. 1, Fran Cole’s home  
**Thank Offering Luncheon**, Nov. 3, noon, Social Hall  
**Focus Group**, 9:30 am, Nov. 7, June Tablak’s home  
**Amethyst Circle**, 1 pm, Nov. 7, Church Library  
**PWCT**, 9:30 am, Nov. 8, Social Hall  
**Prayer Shawl Group**, 3 pm, Nov. 10, call Janice Goertz for location  
**Fair Trade Sales**, 10:30 am, Nov. 11, Social Hall  
**Sapphire Circle**, 7:30 pm, Nov. 12, Fireside Room  
**Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, Nov. 13, Taiwan Restaurant, Lincoln Ave.  
**S.I.T. with Rev. Ken Henry**, 2 pm, Fireside Room, Nov. 14  
**Bible Study with Rev. Marge Palmer**, 9:30 am, Nov. 15, Church Library, Lesson 4, *Dispatches to God’s Household: The General Epistles*  
**Book Group II**, 2:30 pm, Nov. 19, Rhonda Lakatos’ home, discussing *Fierce Compassion* by Kristin and Kathryn Wong  
**Book Group I**, 1 pm, Nov. 26, Hazel James’ home, discussing *The Hare with Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal  
**Date to Remember**  
 Memorial for Jeanette Clemenco, 11 am, Nov. 17 - Catherine Amos

**PAST RECORDED SERMONS NOW EASIER TO ACCESS**

In late April of this year, Stone’s Webmaster, Rod Thorn, changed the links to past recorded sermons in a way that, at the time, promised to be clearer and simpler.

While this new arrangement worked for many, Rod recently learned it was not working for everyone. (Note to geeks: You needed an RSS Reader, and not all computers have one.)

Rod has now re-done the *Sermon Index Page* to make it more accessible. To select a sermon, just go to:

[www.stonechurch.org/Sermons/index.php](http://www.stonechurch.org/Sermons/index.php)

Thanks, Rod, for fixing this!



*It’s time to save the date!*

**The Stone Church Annual Winter Luncheon**  
**Saturday, December 8**  
**from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm**

*There will be music! And good food!  
 A delightful time with old friends & new!*

**Brought to you by the Stone Church Deacons.**

*More information will be available at the reservation table during Coffee Fellowship on all Sundays in November. Transportation will be available for those who request it. For questions, please contact Steve Stark or Charlotte Dickson.*



## JEANETTE RAPP TRACKS DOWN THE “MYSTERY OF THE LATIN” ON BANNER

For Irene Pak’s and Ken Henry’s recent sermon series on “Worship and Music,” Jeanette Rapp created the banner pictured above for the front of the church.

Many people, especially the choir, were curious about the meaning of the Latin, so Jeanette embarked on a translation quest!

Jeanette said, “I tried Bellarmine’s faculty, as well as Santa Clara University’s, but got no response. Then I tried the Administrative Assistant in the Classics Dept. at Santa Clara, and she passed it on to a Medievalist faculty friend in the History Department.

And after all of this, Jeanette wanted to share what the Medievalist told her:

“As far as I can tell, the words are from a *musical ordo* or *Liber Usualis*, a collection of the proper prayers to be sung at the various religious feasts on the Catholic liturgical calendar. If the banner preserves the style of the script, it

was probably written sometime in the 1200s to 1400s.

“One of the words is abbreviated, as was common in manuscripts; the abbreviated word is apparently *probato*. The four dots in the shape of a diamond are a punctuation, the rough equivalent of a colon.

“The full text reads *Die probato ferialis in resurrectione domini*, which translates into English as *On the approved day of the celebration of the Lord’s resurrection*.

“The phrase instructs the reader to use the music on Easter. There were undoubtedly similar instructions throughout the manuscript telling the reader to use other music on Pentecost, Christmas, etc. The *approved day* refers to the fact that Easter is a moveable feast; its date was determined annually by ecclesiastical authority (using calendars).”

Thanks, so much, Jeanette for solving this mystery!

## STEVE KETCHPEL, AUTHOR OF “GIVING BACK,” TO SPEAK AT ADULT STUDY, NOV. 25

On Sunday, Nov. 25, at the regular Adult Study time of 11:15 am, come



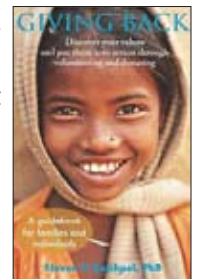
meet author Steve Ketchpel, PhD., who will speak on his new book, *Giving Back: Discover your values and put them into action through volunteering and donating*.

Volunteering and donating are key parts of our Christian faith. They also make us happier, healthier, and impart values of gratitude, generosity, and compassion to our children.

Dr. Ketchpel will present a process for finding causes and organizations that can make the best use of the time, talent, and treasure you have to share. He’ll provide exercises, discussion guides, and web resources for you to use on your journey of giving back.

The class is appropriate for teens through retirees.

- Don Skipwith, StoneWorks



## SESSION RENEWS CONTRACT WITH REV. PAK, REVIEWS WORSHIP/MUSIC SERIES

The most important action taken by the Session at its meeting on Oct. 16 was to sign the renewal of the contract between the Session and Associate Pastor Irene Pak. PCUSA guidelines indicate that contracts with Temporary Supply pastors cannot be for more than one year at a time, so the Session hired Irene for part of a year dating from her hiring, then renewed the contract to coincide with our fiscal year.

It was exciting for Session to hear from Irene that she is meeting with young families and hearing enthusiasm from newcomers about their experiences. She is also getting a

good start with the Youth Group and starting to learn which members will be her core group. A *Lock-In* (overnight party) for the Youth Group is scheduled for Nov. 2 - 3.

Irene also reported that she will travel to Israel and Palestine next month with a PCUSA leadership group.

Ken Henry reviewed his recent five-part series on worship and music, saying that it has been a journey about faith intertwined with music. The experience was intense and stretched all members of the staff. Session gave thanks for the work of both pastors, as well as for Stephen Boniface who was not only organist

but pianist extraordinaire, and for Nancy Kromm and the choir.

Following on the signing of the contract with Irene came the good news that the church mortgage is getting steadily whittled down, a condition that will allow budgeting for the Associate Pastor position. The mortgage will be below \$100,000 by 2013, and the Session will go to a minimum payment schedule.

The Session accepted with regret the resignation of Glen Casner from active Session service; he will continue being a member of the Building and Grounds committee.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING FUN AND EXCITING HAPPENING AT STONE CHURCH!

On Reformation Sunday, we were visited a wonderful Bagpiper, Bruce Cotter (left) and by "John Knox" (aka Derk Johnson!) (below).

The three other pictures are from the Men's Mission Team and Men's Wine-Making Group.



## COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS, THURSDAY, NOV. 8



Have you ever wondered what Stone Church is all about – its ministry in the community, what Presbyterians believe, and the history of our church?

And have you ever wished to get to know the pastors in a more informal setting?

Now, there are two opportunities for just such a conversation with both the Rev. Irene Pak and the Rev. Ken Henry.

On Nov. 8, you can meet them for coffee (or tea!), at 3 pm at Le Boulanger, or 7 pm at Starbucks – both in Willow Glen.

Sign up during Coffee Fellowship on Nov. 4, or contact Virginia Holtz, chair, Fellowship & Renewal Committee.

## “PARENTS’ DAY OUT” SATURDAY, DEC. 1, 10 AM - 2 PM



To all Stone Church Parents: Let the Deacons watch your kids (12 and under) so you can shop, exercise, run errands, or do nothing at all, on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 am to 2 pm.

Lunch, activities, and crafts are provided, and it’s free!

You must sign up in advance during Coffee Fellowship on any Sunday in November, or contact Chris Nilson or Nancy Hopson.

Please also contact Chris or Nancy if you would like to volunteer to help.

## STONE’S FAMILY SNOW TRIP, JAN. 25 - 27, 2013



Time to think snow ... as in the 2013 Stone Church Family Snow Trip, that is!

Stone Church families are invited to participate in this annual event at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center, Friday, Jan. 25 - Sunday, Jan. 27.

We will again stay at the Tallac Center, the newest housing unit at Zephyr Point. The Rev. Irene Pak will join in the fun and lead Sunday morning Worship.

Start dreaming about building snowmen, skiing down the slopes (or cross-country), taking a snowshoe hike, cruising around Lake Tahoe, or visiting a ghost town!

For more information or to reserve a space, contact Katherine Webb Calhoon.



## STONE CHURCH “SHUTTERBUGS”

Anyone interested in the many facets of photography is invited to be part of a new group, the *Shutterbugs*, being formed and led by David McCreath and Dan Raby. All are welcome – neophytes, beginners, and experienced photographers.

Come with whatever equipment you use: smartphones, point-and-shoot cameras, or complex digital cameras. We will explore composition, camera settings, editing and printing. We will explore a variety of projects and perhaps have an exhibit of our members’ best work!

The next meeting is Thursday, Nov. 8, at 7 pm, in the church library.

For more information, contact David McCreath or Dan Raby.

## TRAILWALKERS ON HIATUS ‘TIL MARCH 2013



The Stone Church Trailwalkers ended the hiking year in style with a nine-mile adventure at Alum Rock Park!

As we prepare for the Advent Season and the return of winter weather, the walkers will take a break and return to their monthly adventures in March 2013.

If you have ideas, or would like to lead a walk, contact Katherine Webb Calhoon or Virginia Holtz.

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phone: 408-269-1593  
www.stonechurch.org  
Rev. Dr. Ken Henry, Pastor  
Rev. Irene Pak, Associate Pastor  
Jennifer Scott-Brand, Office Manager*

### **The Stone News Staff:**

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and “Church Mouse”*

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*Sally Magee, Jody Meacham,*

*Fred Oliver, Lizanne Oliver*

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*Wynn Barnes, Caryl Westerberg,*

*Don Skipwith, Jeanette Rapp*