

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

JANUARY 2013



HARMONY

by Irene Pak

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

- Colossians 3:14-15

I would have never believed you if you told me 2012 would end in harmony for me.

The past couple of years on or around Epiphany, a clergy covenant prayer group I am part of randomly draws a star with a word or spiritual gift written on the back of it. This ritual was introduced to us by the brilliant Aimee Moiso.

The word is not supposed to be magical, but it is to “guide” us into the New Year and

perhaps help us to be aware of how that word is playing out in our lives. Some of the words include: honesty, love, justice, patience, etc. My word for 2012 was harmony.



I won't lie, I felt disappointed. Nothing in my life felt harmonious at that time. I had just found out that the church I was then serving was going to have to let me go mid-year because they could no longer sustain the associate pastor position. I was sad about

leaving a call before I felt ready to go. I felt nervous and skeptical about how I would find another call in this economy – when so many pastors are seeking positions and not finding them.

My personal life was also a bit shaky as a result, and I could not even see the possibility of *harmony* happening. I did not even want to hope for it. It felt unrealistic to want that word for my life.

One of my mom's coined phrases to me growing up was, “Who knows? God knows.”

God truly works in mysterious ways. And just as I was settling into disappointment and living into uncertainty, everything began falling into place ... *harmoniously*. Stone Church just happened to be in the beginning stages of looking for an associate pastor.

(continued on page 8)

Let us Gather for Worship

You and your friends and neighbors are invited to participate in a Worship experience sponsored by Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San José, on Friday, January 11, 2013, **Human Trafficking Awareness Day**, at 10:30 am, in the Social Hall of The Stone Church of Willow Glen Presbyterian Church (USA), 1937 Lincoln Avenue, San José, California.

Remembering that human trafficking is modern-day slavery, we will gather for Worship:

- ✚ to hold in prayer the men, women and children impacted by human trafficking around the world.
- ✚ to explore ways we can support eradication of human trafficking.
- ✚ to share resources for assisting in this process.

“One must never forget that slaves are first and foremost people. Their lives are filled with sorrow and injustice – but also ... they are touched with humor and joy. Just like regular people. Just like free people.”

- Richard Holbrooke,
Noted U.S. Diplomat

Prayer for Christmas Eve 2012

*Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.*

*O God of Comfort, we gather in this place seeking your grace and mercy.
We come with both joyful and heavy hearts.
We come sleepy and awake.
We come restless and calm.
We come with family and friends from far away.
We come wondering what tomorrow will bring.
So we pray ...*

*Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.*

*We lament the violence we've seen across this country.
We feel helpless watching others grieve the loss of their children.
We worry about the safety of our own children and grandchildren.
We wonder if there will ever be a solution--
If peace is possible here in the United States and abroad.
So we pray ...*

*Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.*

*A voice cries out "... every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low ..." [Isaiah 40:3ff.]
It is a voice that cries out for change.
It is a voice that reminds us that our circumstances can turn around –
That it's not too late;
That obstacles can be removed and challenges overcome.
It is the voice that calls people of faith to be bold and courageous.
It is the voice of Emmanuel, God-With-Us, Our Comfort and Strength.
So we pray ...*

*Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.*

*May God bless and comfort God's people on this holy night
and may we continue to feel the Holy Spirit's presence
long after the last candle is extinguished and the last carol sung.*

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among
those whom God favors." Amen.*

- Ken Henry



Hazel & Bob James look on as they are serenaded by carolers from the Youth Group and the Deacons on a rainy evening just before Christmas 2012.

ADULT STUDY LOOKS AT POVERTY, TOUGH QUESTIONS, CATHOLICS/PROTESTANTS

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.

Jan. 6 – New Insights on Global Poverty, with Hans Rosling

In Dr. Rosling's hands, data sing. Global trends in health and economics come to vivid life. The big picture of global development, with some surprisingly good news, snaps into sharp focus. This outstanding TED talk dispels common myths about the so-called developing world. Many countries today are developing twice as fast as the West did at a similar time in history.

Jan. 13 - 27, Feb. 10 – Questions of Faith (That Few Dare to Ask), with Dale & Barbara Bracey

This class will be a time for speaking our hearts and minds about awkward questions and differences of experience and a time to probe beyond the way we assume we are expected to think.

Here are some of the questions we can consider:

- ✿ *I Believe in God, But Do I Have to Believe in Jesus?*
- ✿ *Religion and Politics Don't Mix, Do They?*
- ✿ *What Good is Prayer?*

- ✿ *Who Needs Organized Religion Anyway? It's often very divisive!*
- ✿ *Is There Really a Heaven and a Hell?*

February 17 & 24 – Protestants and Catholics: Dialogue, Differences, and the Holy Catholic Church, with Aimee Moiso

Please contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Subcommittee, for questions about any of these classes.

*Note that class will meet in the Sanctuary on Jan. 6 and that there is no class on Feb. 3 (Congregational Meeting).

CHURCH LIBRARY - GREAT PLACE TO START NEW YEAR'S READING RESOLUTIONS!

January is a good time to consider endings, beginnings, faith, and life. We hope you'll enjoy these books.

And remember to please keep bringing extra calendars to share with Sacred Heart Community Service.

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

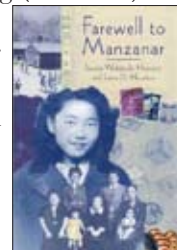


When Will This Cruel War Be Over? The Civil War Diary of Emma Simpson by Barry Denenberg (YA Den)

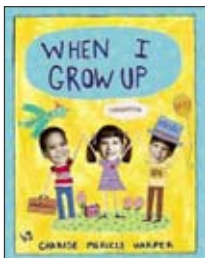


The Art of Discernment: Making Good Decisions in Your World of Choices by Stefan Kiechle (248.4 Kie), given by Bill

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne & James Houston (Biog YA HOUSTON)

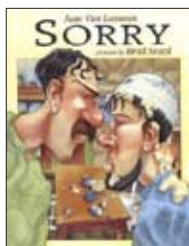


New for our younger members:

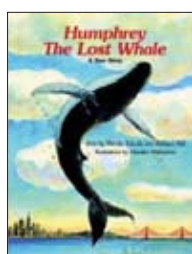


When I Grow Up by Charise Harper (1st Bks J Har)

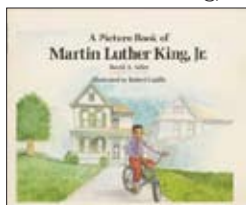
Sorry by Jean Van Leeuwen (J Van)



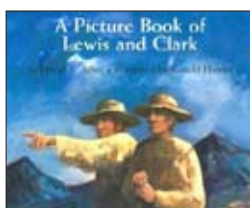
Humphrey the Lost Whale: A True Story by Wendy Tokuda & Richard Hall (J 599 Tok)



A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr.

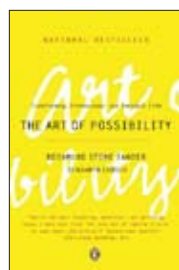


by David Adler (Biog J KING)



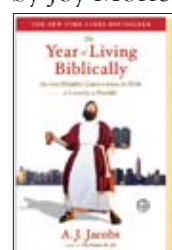
A Picture Book of Lewis and Clark by David Adler (BB J Adl)

On the adult side:



The Art of Possibility: Transforming Professional & Personal Life by Rosamund & Benjamin Zander (153.7 Zan)

Beyond Tolerance: How People Across America Are Building Bridges Between Faiths by Gustav Niebuhr (201 Nie), given by Joy Moriconi



The Year of Living Biblically by A.J. Jacobs (220 Jac), given by Sara Holtzaple

Revelations: Visions, Prophecy & Politics in the Book of Revelation by Elaine Pagels (228 Pag), given by Pat Magee



Ribble

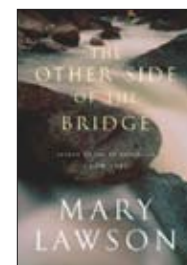
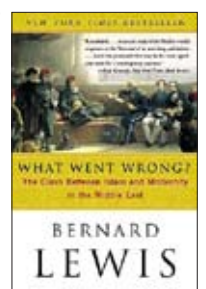
Create Your Best Life: How to Live Fully Knowing One Day You Will Die by Duke Robinson (248.4 Rob), given by Sara Holtzaple



American Mania: When More Is Not Enough by Peter Whybrow (301 Why)

In our adult special sections:

What Went Wrong? The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East by Bernard Lewis (Soc Iss - Middle east 956 Lew)



The Other Side of the Bridge by Mary Lawson (F Law), given by the Bowers family

YOUTH GROUP ASKS FOR YOUR HELP WITH “GIFT OF THE HEART” KITS FOR SANDY VICTIMS

The long-term recovery from Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath will be especially hard during this Advent and Christmas season. And reports are that the need for even simple everyday items will continue for months afterward.



The Youth Group Caroling in December

To help with some of these simple needs, the Stone Church Youth Group will be assembling “Gift of the Heart” kits on Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013. This project was established by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pda/making-gift-heart-kits/

We invite the congregation to help us create these kits by bringing one or more of the items (at right) to the church on Epiphany. We’ll have a collection area during Coffee Fellowship. Thank you for supporting our service project and for caring for the hurricane victims.

Each Baby Kit is to include:

note: All items should be new and under 12 months in size.

- ♥ 2 T-shirts or undershirts
– no onesies
- ♥ 2 gowns or sleepers
- ♥ 1 sweater or sweatshirt
- ♥ 2 washcloths
- ♥ 2 receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)
- ♥ 6 cloth diapers
- ♥ 2 diaper pins

note: While cloth diapers are not as commonly used in the US, they are a necessary part of the layette. 12-packs of cloth diapers can be purchased at Target and at some Sears.

Each Hygiene Kit is to include:

- ♥ 1 hand towel – about 16” x 28”
– no fingertip or bath towels
- ♥ 1 washcloth
- ♥ 1 wide-tooth comb
- ♥ 1 nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- ♥ 1 bath-sized bar of soap in wrapper
- ♥ 1 toothbrush in original packaging
- ♥ 6 Band-Aids or other adhesive bandage strips

For more information, please contact Rosaleen Zisch.

ANONYMOUS DONOR SENDS BLANKETS AND HATS TO BROOKLYN CHURCH AFTER SUPERSTORM SANDY

Late in November, the Rev. Samson Tso, pastor of Brooklyn’s Homecrest Presbyterian Church, received an unexpected package from a woman he has never met. Inside were hand-knitted baby blankets and hats – and a letter explaining that the donor hoped they could be given to people who had lost their homes and belongings in Superstorm Sandy.

“Please tell your people that even us folks over on the West Coast are thinking of you and doing what we can to help and are sending our positive thoughts, hugs, and prayers your way,” the donor’s letter reads.

The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, lives in Washington State. The donor’s connection to the Presbyterian Church (USA) remains a mystery. Tso called Presbyterian congregations in the donor’s town, but none had heard of her.

“It’s just a very touching story – someone who really cares for someone who’s a total stranger,” Tso said. “I just want to thank her for her thoughtfulness.” – David McCreath



The Chancel Choir with (left to right, back to front) Judy West (Director), Christy Wait, Donald Foster, Ken Henry, Ellie and Grant Nilson (all soloists), and Nancy Wait-Kromm (Musical Director), rehearsing for “King Island Christmas,” Dec. 2012

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Happy New Year! How quickly the days fly by.

It seems we have dodged yet another "day the earth shall end" - this one predicted by the ancient Mayans.

Maybe it was meant only for the Mayans? At any rate, we are still here.

Thank You for Helping "Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence"

Claudia Hamm reports that the response from our members for gifts and other items for the *Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence* shelter was most generous and heartwarming.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Fair Trade Christmas Baskets Were Beautiful and Tasty!

Sally Magee and her *elves* did another wonderful job with the Fair Trade Christmas baskets - they were beautiful and the contents tasty!

Needless to say, our fair trade inventory was low, but Rhonda Lakatos has restocked everything, so come by the Fair Trade table to restock *your* pantry on Jan. 13.

Epiphany Tea on Sunday, Jan. 6

This year, we get to celebrate Epiphany Sunday on the correct date, Jan. 6, which is yet another reason not to miss the *Epiphany Tea*.

There will be dessert followed by a special Taizé Service in the Sanctuary. Taizé is a wonderful time during which we can meditate on the past year and what we may accomplish in the coming year.

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

It seems that *Indian Summer* is over and cooler - if not cold - days are here. What do we crave? Soup, of course. Look for all the Campbell and Progresso flavors, and warm yourself up! Also note that Costco has a special on cereals with generous coupons for schools.

Worship Experience for Human Trafficking Awareness, Friday, Jan. 11

PW in the Presbytery is sponsoring a Worship experience on *Human Trafficking Awareness Day*, Friday, Jan. 11, at 10:30 am, in the Social Hall.

PW Churchwide and the PCUSA are alerting us to this terrible problem. We have heard stories from abroad and right here in our backyard (newspaper accounts come to mind). To end the abuses of women and children, we must know more about what is already being done, as well as what more we can do (see also page 2).

PW Schedule for January
Amethyst Circle, 1 pm, Jan. 2, Church Library

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

Epiphany Tea, 2 - 4 pm, Jan. 6, Social Hall

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, Jan. 8, Taiwan Restaurant, Lincoln Ave.

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

PWCT, 9:30 am, Jan. 10, Social Hall

Worship Experience for Human Trafficking Awareness, 10:30am, Social Hall, Jan. 11 (see page 2)

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

Sapphire Circle, 7:30 pm, Jan. 14, Fireside Room

Book Group II, 2:30 pm, Jan. 21, Jan Keifer's home, discussing *The Long Walk* and *Minefields of the Heart*

S.I.T. with Rev. Ken Henry, Fireside Room, 2 pm, Jan. 23

Bible Study with Rev. Marge Palmer, 9:30 am, Jan. 24, Church Library, Lesson 6, *Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles*

Book Group I, 2:30 pm, Jan. 28, Hazel James' home, discussing *Peace Like a River* by Keith Enger

Prayer Shawl Group: call Janice Goertz
Dates to Remember

Gifts of Women Sunday, Feb. 10
Valentine Tea, Sat., Feb. 16

- Catherine Amos

MEN'S MINISTRY



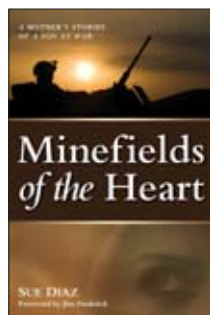
For additional information about any of these activities, please contact Parish Associate David McCreath.

Men's Book Group Selects Winter/Spring Books

The Stone Church Men's Book Group recently selected four books for late winter and spring reading.

On Jan. 21, at 7:30 pm, the group will meet at the home of Bill Ribble

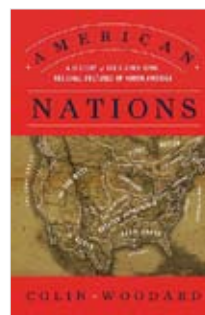
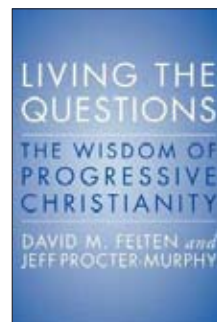
The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work team, a book group, a flying group, and wine- and beer-making groups.



⌘ *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*, by David M. Felten and Jeff Procter-Murphy

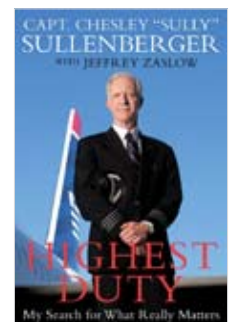
to discuss *Minefields of the Heart: A Mother's Stories of a Son at War*, by Sue Diaz.

Selections for later months include:



⌘ *Highest Duty: My Search for What Really Matters*, by Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and Jeffrey Zaslow

⌘ *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*, by Colin Woodard



ZEPHYR EXPERIENCE COMING JULY 7 - 12, 2013 ZEPHYR POINT AT LAKE TAHOE

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

This stimulating and enriching event is surrounded by the unparalleled splendor of Lake Tahoe and the Sierra. Stone Church is traditionally one of the largest groups at this conference.

Two morning periods (at 8:45 and 10:30) are scheduled for adult classes; afternoons are free. Short worship services are held Monday and Wednesday evenings; Tuesday evening there is sunset music at Donaldson Amphitheater. The annual talent show is Thursday evening. A Communion service at noon Friday concludes the week.

Accommodations are in the beautiful Tahoe Center with its 43 guest rooms. The prices are the same as last year!

Detailed information and registration forms are currently available on the Zephyr website (www.zephyrpoint.org) and will be available in the Church Office by the end of January.

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

Following are a few more details about classes and costs.

First Period:

- ☼ Bible - *God in the Old Testament*, with Greg Love, SFTS
- ☼ Church & Society - *Zionism: The Doctrine that Drives the Demand for a Jewish State*, with Walt Davis, SFTS

Second Period:

- ☼ Bible - *Early Christianities*, with John Mabry, interfaith pastor
- ☼ Church & Society - *Economic Justice*, with James McDonald, president, SFTS
- ☼ Spirituality - *Deep River: Praying the Spirituals*, with Ann Jefferson, Pacific School of Religion

Children's and Youth Programs:

- ☼ Ages 4 - 9: *Fun and Adventure in Day Camp*, with the Zephyr Summer Day Camp Staff
- ☼ Ages 10 - 13: *David - Life and Times*, with Tom Nolen, Hospital Chaplain, Portland, OR
- ☼ Ages 14 - 17: *Christian Contribution*, with Ellen & Brandon Williams, Stone Church

Cost (shared room):

	Tahoe Center	Cabins 32 & 33
Adults	\$545	\$490
Ages 3-17	\$290	\$290
Ages 2 & under	free	free

For more information, contact Pat Magee.

NEW MEMBER CLASS, TO BE HELD JAN. 20, AFTER WORSHIP



Are you a frequent visitor or friend of Stone Church who is already involved in the life of the church?

Have you considered taking the next step - to join our community of faith?

A New Member Class will be held Jan. 20, 2013, after Worship.

Meet with Ken and Irene in the Sanctuary, and enjoy lunch in the Social Hall afterward.

Please contact Virginia Holtz if you would like more information or plan to attend.

SESSION DISCUSSES MEN'S MINISTRY, BUDGET, ROYCOTT HOUSE REPAIRS

At its regular meeting held Dec. 18, the Session began by hearing a presentation from John Lococo on a proposed charter for the Men's Ministry at Stone. This ministry began under Art Mills, with Leland Wong spearheading work trips, and has continued and expanded: it now includes a book group, a flying group, wine and beer-making groups, as well as the mission work team. The charter proposal came about from a need to address accountability and communication. Under the proposal, the group would not have a formal position on the Session as committees do, but

would report to Session regularly (as Deacons and PW do).

In his Pastor's Report, Ken Henry gave an overview of the work being done to revise the *Gracious Dismissal* policy whereby the Presbytery of San José would deal with churches that want to leave the denomination. Several Session members noted that they are not happy with the idea of churches leaving the denomination and simply taking their property with no compensation to the Presbytery.

The Budget Review Committee has begun work on the budget for 2013, with a projected pledge income of

\$455,000. The final budget cannot be done until the end of 2012 figures are complete; there is still a shortfall on pledge income, although the BRC is hopeful that significant payments are still coming in.

Session also heard a report from the Personnel and Administration Committee on needed repairs to Roycott House.

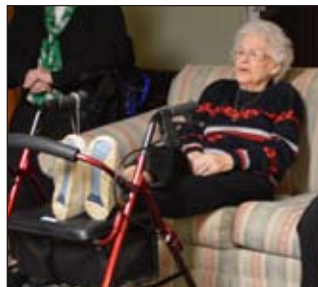
Session members were urged to participate in an online survey helping with Ken Henry's evaluation, and committee chairs were asked to complete evaluations of church employees.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

A LAST LOOK AT CHRISTMAS 2012 ... IT WAS A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS INDEED!

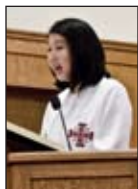


DEACONS' WINTER LUNCHEON
PHOTOS: DAVID MCCREATH



KING ISLAND CHRISTMAS
PHOTOS: DAN RABY

DEACONS AND YOUTH GROUP CAROLING
PHOTOS: JODY MEACHAM



CHRISTMAS EVE
PHOTOS: DAN RABY



WOMEN'S RETREAT MARCH 15 - 17, 2013 ST. FRANCIS

Be sure to save the weekend of March 15 - 17, 2013, for the Stone Church Women's Retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista.

Our own Rev. Irene Pak will lead this year's retreat. While the oversight of the retreat has moved to Presbyterian Women, many things will stay the same. It will still be a wonderful opportunity for the women of Stone Church to become better acquainted and to have time for personal spiritual renewal.

The results of the Women's Retreat Survey have provided good guidance for the Retreat Planning Committee. Based on survey feedback, there will be a break from the Saturday evening show and the White Elephant sale. Also, attendees will have the option to join for the entire weekend, come Saturday morning and spend one night, or just come for the day on Saturday.

There will also be a connection between the retreat and Women's Ministries at Stone Church in 2013.

Watch for pricing information and other details next month.

For more information, or to volunteer for the Retreat Planning Committee, please contact Catherine Edwards, Rhonda Lakatos or Ann Pierce.

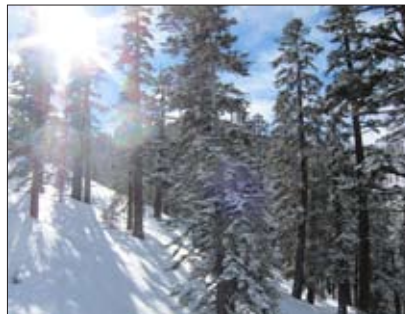
STONE CHURCH PHOTO GROUP MEETING JAN. 21

A small and dedicated group has begun a Stone Church Photo Group (Stone Pictures? Pictures of Stone?).

The next meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 21, 2013, beginning at 7 pm, in the Church Library.

Bring your camera, smart-phone, or older equipment, as well as examples of photos you have taken. We will share ideas and make plans for late winter and the spring.

For more information, please contact David McCreath or Dan Raby.



COME TO THE MEN'S "PANCAKE MIXER" JAN. 19

A Men's Pancake Mixer ... huh?! That's right!

On Saturday, Jan. 19, beginning at 8 am, the Men's Ministry of Stone Church is hosting a pancake breakfast in the Social Hall for all men of the church - and it's called a Pancake Mixer!

This event is an opportunity to meet one another, to hear about the variety of men's programs at Stone Church, and to enjoy all the pancakes you can eat!

For more information, please contact David McCreath.

FAMILY SNOW TRIP STILL HAS ROOM!

Don't miss the Stone Family Snow Trip, Jan. 25 - 27, 2013!

A few rooms are still available - please contact Katherine Webb Calhoun if you are interested.

BRUEGGEMANN LECTURES VERY SUCCESSFUL!

The Henrietta Perdue Memorial lectures by Dr. Walter Brueggemann on Nov. 9 and 10, 2012, were an outstanding success. 172 tickets were sold for the Friday evening lecture, and 113 for the

Saturday morning lectures. In addition, fifty-three books by Dr. Brueggemann were sold. Forty-seven DVD sets of his lectures have been ordered and will be delivered in January. - Pat Magee

HARMONY

by Irene Pak

(continued from page 1)

Someone told someone else about my situation. Interviews happened. And then, not only was it an open position, it was a calling.

Harmony.

Now that 2012 has come and gone, if you have talked to me or seen me, I hope that I am radiating harmony

in my life. In fact, ever since I came to Stone Church, I wake up every day grateful and mystified at how beautifully everything worked out. Thank you for welcoming me so quickly.

I'm not saying my Epiphany star was magical, but now reflecting back on 2012 and looking toward 2013, I give thanks to God for the harmony that is ever so present in my life right now.

I look forward to what the new year holds; especially in my journey with you.

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