

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

APRIL 2013



The 2013 Stone Church Women's Retreat – led by the Rev. Irene Pak – was an enjoyable and inspiring time for all.

SEALED WITH A KISS: THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

Several years ago, serving as a solo pastor, I found myself talking to a group of kids about the meaning of baptism.



I was sitting with four or five elementary school-age children and their parents, explaining the finer points of Jesus' baptism and how baptism is a sign of God's love and grace, when one little boy summed up my pastoral lesson: "So, baptism

is like God's great big sloppy kiss!" Yikes! While at first his answer triggered memories of my beloved aunt from Idaho chasing me around her living room, smacking her lips and trying to give her nephew a kiss, my next thought was: he is absolutely right.

According to *The Book of Order*, baptism in the Presbyterian Church (USA) means that by the symbol of water sprinkled on our foreheads, we "participate in Jesus' death and resurrection." In the Sacrament of Baptism, in a spiritual sense, we "die to what separates us from God and are raised to newness of life in Christ."

The sign of water spilling and running over reminds us that God's grace cannot be contained and that God's love for us is overflowing.

(continued on page 8)

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

by Rev. Irene Pak

As we continue to celebrate the resurrection and new life, I want to share something that has energized me and brought me new life recently.

I had been at Stone a whopping three months when I was approached to be the keynote speaker and leader for the annual Women's Retreat. It is a retreat that has been going on since 1988.

I had never gone before, and here I was being called to lead it. After some thought, I said yes because I knew it would be a great way for me to get to know some of the women of Stone Church better, and vice versa.

As the retreat drew closer, I started feeling the weight of the task before me, along with the cultural voices in my head and heart telling me there was something wrong with a younger woman leading those older and wiser.

(continued on page 8)

2013 CROP HUNGER WALK HAS NEW ROUTE, STARTING AT SAN JOSE CITY HALL

Please join with the always fun and boisterous group of Stone Church walkers for the annual *South Bay CROP Hunger Walk*, on Sunday, April 21, with registration starting at 12:30 pm, at San José City Hall, and the walk starting at 1:30 pm.



Stone's Youth Group with Rosaleen Zisch at the 2012 CROP Hunger Walk

CWS started the walks in 1969 to raise funds and awareness to end hunger *everywhere*, with 25% of the funds distributed locally (Second Harvest and Sacred Heart are the main recipients here) and 75% distributed worldwide by CWS.

And here's a little background on CWS: it is a "cooperative ministry of 37 Christian communions working together to eradicate hunger and poverty and promote peace and justice among the world's most vulnerable people." And we're proud to report that PCUSA is one of those 37 "communions." We are also proud to report that only "four cents per dollar" go to administrative costs - so 96% of your donation goes to fight hunger.

To sum it up, the *LA Times* reported that CROP Hunger Walks are "viewed by many as the granddaddy of charity walks" [Oct. 26, 2009].

We really hope you will join the walk - it's fun, good exercise, and a good chance to meet new people - and this year, the route is particularly interesting and educational. But if you can't make it, consider sponsoring a walker - we'll have a table at Coffee Fellowship on April 7, 14, and 21.

For more information, or to get registration materials, please contact Lizanne Oliver or Emily Meacham.

The local organizers have this year chosen to move the route from the Rose Garden area to downtown San José, with the objective of giving the walk more visibility and interest.

For those of you who don't know about CROP, here's a little background. Originally, CROP stood for the *Christian Rural Overseas Program*, which was formed in 1947 by Church World Service (CWS) to help Midwest farm families share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia.

Today, CROP stands for *Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty*.

TRAIL WALKERS TO EXPLORE LOS GATOS CREEK TRAIL



Put on your walking shoes, and join the Stone Trail Walkers at 9 am, Saturday, April 27.

We will spend three hours exploring the Los Gatos Creek Trail. This urban trail offers recreational opportunities for walkers, joggers, bicyclists, skaters, non-motorized scooters, bladders, and nature lovers.

Our starting point will be Blackford Elementary School, 1970 Willow Street (near Leigh).

For more information, please contact Katherine Webb Calhoun.



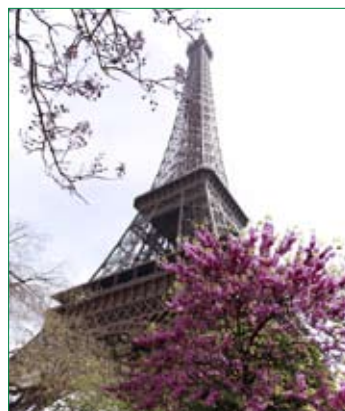
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN STONE CHURCH?

Have you been thinking about joining Stone Church?

If so, then come hear everything you would ever want to know about what it means to be a Presbyterian and about Stone Church!

The next *Get Acquainted Lunch* is slated for Sunday, April 28, from 11:15 am to 1 pm, in the Social Hall.

For more information, please contact Virginia Holtz.



DEACONS' SPRING TEA, APRIL 27, "SPRINGTIME IN PARIS"

Mon Dieu! It's that time of year again!

The annual Deacons' Spring Tea will pay homage to *Springtime in Paris*.

Our own nightingale, Agnes Mah, will be back by popular demand.

And the Vivace Young Men's Choir will also perform.

So, mark your calendar for Saturday, April 27, from 2 to 4 pm. See you there, *mes bons amis!*

RSVP to Bob Cole.

ADULT STUDY: FAITH JOURNEYS OF STONE COUPLES; ATTORNEY LYNN STUTZ

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.

April 7 & 14; May 5 & 12: Faith Journeys of Couples at Stone



Hazel & Bob James

In past years, individual members of Stone Church have discussed their faith journeys with the Sunday morning class.

This spring, couples will share

their joint journeys of faith, why they joined Stone, and why they remain faithful to Stone:

- ♥ April 7: Bob & Hazel James
- ♥ April 14: Chris Nilson & Suzanne Wolf
- ♥ May 5: Fred & Lizanne Oliver
- ♥ May 12: Bob & Fran Cole

April 21 & 28: Wills, Trusts, and Powers of Attorney, with Lynn Stutz

Wills, trusts, and powers of attorney are legal documents that can help you and your family deal with the financial aspects of incapacity and death. Attorney Lynn Stutz will discuss these documents and what can

be accomplished with each, including the goals of maintaining privacy, simplifying the burden of handling financial affairs, and avoiding expensive court costs and attorneys' fees.

May 19: The Church Divided – Understanding Why Some Churches Are Leaving the PCUSA and Why We Are Not, with Ken Henry

May 26: Being Spiritual, But Not Religious, with Ken Henry

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

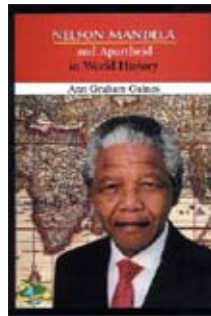
ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF THE CHILDREN'S CHAPEL LIBRARY!

We are very happy to announce the opening of the Children's Chapel Library!

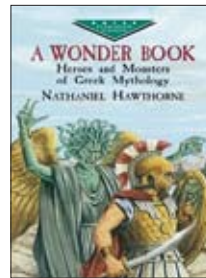
This wonderful room in the Church School area houses books that are Read-Aloud, 1st Books, and Juvenile. We hope many children and parents will visit often and check these books out.

Our regular library in the Lincoln House includes the Young Adult collection and a very small selection of children's books.

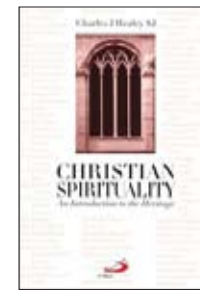
We invite you to enjoy both libraries and our book cart near the Social Hall.
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator



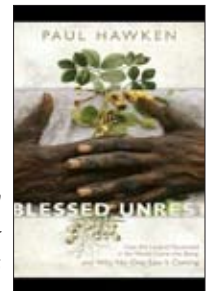
Nelson Mandela & Apartheid in World History by Ann Graham Gaines (Biog YA MANDELA)



A Wonder Book: Heroes and Monsters of Greek Mythology by Nathaniel



Christian Spirituality: An Introduction to the Heritage by Charles Healey (248 Hea), given by Rebecca Kuiken



In our adult special sections:

Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Social Movement in History Is



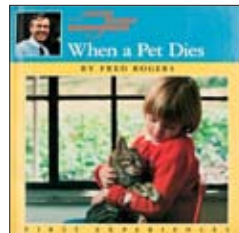
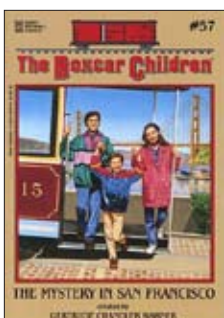
New for our younger members: Where Else in the Wild? More Camouflaged Creatures Concealed by Schwartz & Schy

(Read-Aloud J Sch)

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle (1st Bks J Car)

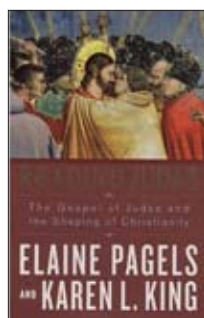


The Mystery in San Francisco by Gertrude Warner (J War)

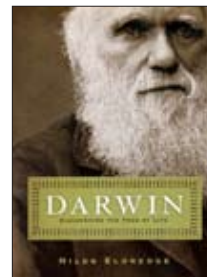


Hawthorne (YA 398.2 Haw) When a Pet Dies by Fred Rogers (J-Spec Needs 155.9 Rog)

...If you Lived at the Time of the Great San Francisco Earthquake by Ellen Levine (J 973.91 Lev)



On the adult side: Reading Judas: The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity by Elaine Pagels & Karen King (229 Pag), given by Pat Magee

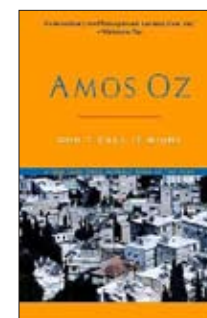
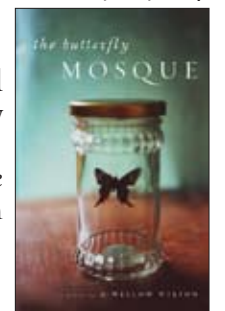


Restoring Grace, Justice, & Beauty to the World by Paul Hawken (Ecol 333.7 Haw)

DARWIN: Discovering the Tree of Life by

Niles Eldredge (Ecol 576 Eld), given by Brad Bauer

The Butterfly Mosque by G. Willow Wilson



(Biog WILSON), given by Claudia Hamm

Don't Call It Night by Amos Oz (F Oz), given by Joy Moriconi

STONE CHURCH CHILDREN SHOW “KOINONIA” TO JOANNE AND HOUSING 1000

On Sunday, March 3, the children of our Church School presented a hand-made quilt to Jennifer Loving, Executive Director of Destination: Home, to be given to a woman named Joanne, who is getting a new place to live after being homeless for many years, as part of the Housing 1000 campaign.



Jennifer Loving, receiving the quilt in Worship

Several pictures were made of the event. Some were taken in the Fireside Room, where Rhonda Lakatos realized how the Greek word, *Koinonia*, on the mantle, carried the “wonderful rich meaning of sharing, relationships, and community to the early Christians.”

Rhonda additionally noted this interesting definition from Wikipedia:

Koinonia embraced a strong commitment to “Kalos k’agathos,” meaning “good and good,” an inner goodness toward virtue and an outer goodness toward social relationships.

Those who have studied the word find there is always an implication of action included in its meaning.

The children certainly had a sense of community and action when they created pictures of homes to decorate the quilt. And when Jennifer presented the quilt to Joanne, the circle of relationship was enlarged.

Joanne wants the children to know how much she appreciates her new quilt and pillow.

And we at Stone very much appreciate Deborah Crim, who began this project, and Deborah’s mother, Evelyn Tower, who pieced the quilt. We also appreciate the opportunity given to us by Joanne and Jennifer Loving, which surely helped to expand the children’s understanding of *koinonia*.



Joanne, with her new quilt and pillow



Deborah Crim, in front of “Koinonia” on the mantle

Editor’s Note: Thanks to Deborah Crim, for the Stone Church photos, Rhonda Lakatos, for content, and Alejandra Herrera Chávez, Destination: Home, for the photo of Joanne



A big thank you is extended to the Stone Church Youth Group and their advisers. With enthusiasm and creativity, they colored 14 dozen eggs for the Deacon-sponsored Easter Egg Hunt held on Palm Sunday.

The younger children of our church enjoyed the results of their efforts, as you can see at right!

More very cute pictures of the Easter Egg Hunt can be found on page 8 and on the back of the calendar.

- Nancy and Gary Weiss



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



It looks as though we did not get a "March Miracle" rain this year, so let us hope for many "April Showers," which are needed not only for "May Flowers," but for crops, livestock, scenery, and our general well-being.

PWP Spiritual Nurture Retreat, April 13, Santa Teresa Hills Pres.

How is your *Spiritual Life*? If it needs a kickstart or nurturing, come to the *Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San José - Spiritual Nurture Retreat*, at Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church, from 9 am to 2:30 pm, on Saturday, April 13. We shall be guided by the Rev. Eugenia Gamble to *Imagine: A Life of Limitless Gratitude*. (See also the flyer below right.)

Fair Trade Products, April 14

If you missed Easter, remember Pentecost when the faithful spoke in "many tongues," by supporting Fair Trade products during Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, April 14, in the Social Hall.

Coupons Help Our Schools

Coupons go a long way to help supplement schools' enrichment programs.

This month, we are concentrating on granola bars, but don't forget all the other great products with coupons!

PW Schedule for April

Amethyst Circle, 1 pm, April 3, Church Library

Emerald Circle, 9:30 am, April 4, Gail Chaid's home

Sapphire Circle, 7:30 pm, April 8, Claudia Hamm's home

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, April 9, Taiwan Restaurant, Lincoln Ave.

PWCT, 9:30 am, April 11, Social Hall

PWP Spiritual Nurture Retreat, April 13, Santa Teresa Hills Pres.

Fair Trade Sales, 10:30 am, April 14, Social Hall

Book Group II, 2:30 pm, April 15, Alice Thorn's home, discussing *The Elegant Gathering of White Snows* by Kris Radish

Focus Group, 9:30 am, April 17, June Tablak's home

Bible Study with Rev. Marge Palmer, 9:30 am, April 25, Church Library, Lesson 9, *Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles*

Mother's Day Cards, April 28, 10:30 am, Social Hall (also May 5)

Book Group I, 1 pm, April 29 Hazel James' home, discussing *Proof of Heaven* by Eben Alexander

Prayer Shawl Group: Please contact Janice Goertz.

Date to Remember

May 19: PWP Annual Gathering at Stone Church

- Catherine Amos

MEN'S MINISTRY



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

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

Men Book Group to Meet on April 15

The Men's Book Group will meet on April 15, beginning at 7:30 pm. Art Holtz will host.


The book for discussion is *Highest Duty: My Search For What Really Matters*, by Capt. Chesley (Sully) Sullenberger. All men of the congregation are welcome to attend, and to join the discussion.

Men's Ministry Spring Book Sale on April 21

The Men's Ministry Spring Book Sale will be held April 21 in the Social Hall, following Morning Worship.

The proceeds from the sale will be used in the projects of the Men's Ministry. A large box will be available for contributions of books beginning April 7.

Novels and historical, political, and children's books are most welcome, but, please, no textbooks or technical books.



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San José
Invite you to a
A Spiritual Nurture Retreat Day for Women

Imagine:
A Life of Limitless Gratitude

on
Saturday, April 13, 2013; 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Please arrive between 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. for registration and refreshments.


at
Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church
5370 Snell Ave., San Jose, CA

Registration fee: \$30.00 if received by April 1, 2013
\$35.00 if received after April 1, 2013
The Registration fee includes lunch

Presenter: The Rev. Eugenia Gamble

Share in a day of going deeper into the Grace and Presence of God by practicing the Magnitude of Gratitude. Using Biblical teaching, prayer, sharing and creative expression, The Rev. Eugenia Gamble will lead us in a day of reflection and inspiration. Together we will learn to identify the blessings of life, even in the hard times, and explore practices that can help us live lives of peacefulness and gratitude.

(Please bring 10 strips of ribbon, 6" each, along with you!)



The Rev. Eugenia Gamble serves as pastor of Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church in Nipomo, California. She is widely acclaimed as one of the finest speakers in church circles today. Her in-depth Biblical analysis, combined with great wit and humor, keep participants highly involved. She has authored books, Bible study guides, and articles including *Out of the Whirlwind*, a continuing column appearing in *Horizons* magazine for 17 years.

It is such a pleasure to be able to offer a day's experience with Eugenia Gamble!



The 2013 Stone Church Confirmation Class

SESSION WELCOMES CONFIRMANDS; ACTS ON "\$2 PER PERSON" PROJECT

At its regular meeting on March 19, Session had the joy of welcoming nine members of the Confirmation Class (pictured above) into membership at Stone Church. Each young person had written a personal statement of faith, which he or she read to the Session. Rosaleen Zisch, who led the process for the fourth time, explained that the class used the Presbyterian confirmation materials – a curriculum that encourages youth to explore faith by asking questions. Four of the new members will be baptized when they are received before the congregation on April 14.

When Ken Henry mentioned, on Sunday, March 17, a friend on the East

Coast whose church will give \$2 per person present on Easter Sunday to a mission project, he wondered what it would look like if Stone Church did a similar thing. After the service, an anonymous donor promised to make such a project happen at Stone. Session acted to receive the gift, placing the funds in the pastors' discretionary fund, with Ken and Irene having the responsibility for deciding how best to use them.

Associate Pastor Irene Pak described her delight in leading the Women's Retreat and getting to know so many women. A total of 66 women (see picture, page 1) were present on Saturday when a contingent of commuters

arrived. Fifty-two women stayed the full weekend.

Session approved the purchase of a new commercial refrigerator and freezer to replace those currently in the kitchen. Memorial and wedding receptions, as well as dinners given by church groups, place high demands on kitchen facilities.

Mel Goertz of Budget and Finance brought great good news that he had found a different carrier for church insurance, thus saving close to \$10,000 in the budget. Session approved the change and approved restoring previously cut funds to the Christian Education and StoneWorks budgets.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

STEPHEN MINISTRY ANNOUNCES THAT IT IS TAKING A BREAK

The leadership team of Stone Church's Stephen Ministry is announcing that the Ministry will take a few months' break.

Both Stephen Leaders and Ministers are in need of a break, since the current Leaders have served for five years and the current Ministers have served a minimum of four years after commissioning.

A celebration potluck is planned for April 4; then, the program will be on hiatus until the fall.

During the interim, the Ministry will be considering candidates for new trainees, both for leadership and caregiving.

The Ministers will also assist the Leaders in planning a Stephen Ministry renewal for the fall. This includes publicizing the steps for becoming a

Stephen Leader or Minister and preparing for a fall training class.

In August, the current Ministry will meet for an overnight retreat, which will include reflection, renewal, and recommitment.

In the fall, both caregiving assignments and monthly supervision sessions will resume.

Stephen Ministry appreciates prayers during this period as they refresh and take a break. Faithful ministry can be demanding, but it is usually very rewarding and satisfying.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry, talk with Joan Peckham, Marsha Wadley, Dale Bracey or Judith Mohr. - Joan Peckham



front row: Pauline Moore, Judi Kaiser, Gail Chaid, Marsha Wadley; back row: Jutta Sargent, Dale Bracey, Sara Holtzapfle, Joan Peckham, Derk Johnson (not pictured), Charlotte Dickson, Judith Mohr, Floyd Farlow



**SOME
GREAT
PALM
SUNDAY
AND
EASTER
EGG
HUNT
PICTURES
FROM
DAN
RABY!**



STONE PHOTO GROUP TO MEET APRIL 25

The Stone Photo Group will meet on Thursday, April 25, at 7 pm, in the Church Library.



We will share photos in and of gardens. We will also use the photos to learn more about taking pictures of flowers and other plants.

For more information, please contact Parish Associate David McCreath.



Some lovely photos of the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday 2013.

For more, see page 7.



CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

by Rev. Irene Pak

(continued from page 1)

Ken and I had chosen the theme of *Crossing Boundaries* for our sermon series during Lent, and it was appropriate that I continue with that theme for the retreat.

However, leading a retreat that challenged us to think about the

boundaries we see – and do not see – and that focused on the lines we draw to separate culture and generation also *challenged me* as I prepared for it. As a matter of fact, I would dare to say that I had to cross many boundaries I did not even know were there to lead this topic and this retreat.

If there is a space to be vulnerable, while simultaneously presenting and receiving a challenge, it is at the Stone Church Women's Retreat.

I guess I want to share that I am humbled and honored to be serving as the associate pastor at Stone Church, as authentically and wholly as I am. What does that mean? It means that I can embrace the hyphen identity I

bear in the words “Korean-American” and straddling Generation X and the Millennial Generation. It means that although part of my culture tells me I should keep quiet around those who have lived longer lives than I, and to honor and respect them, I can do so and still lead and speak in the ways God is calling me, in this community, without fear.

I love that this place is a place of giving and receiving. We might not be perfect at it, but we are genuinely seeking how to live out God's kingdom on earth.

I am glad to be part of that effort and look forward to continuing the journey together.



SEALED WITH A KISS: THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

by Rev. Dr. Ken
Henry

(continued from page 1)

In other words, baptism is God's great big sloppy kiss.

Our baptism also indicates that we are united with the people of God. Through baptismal waters, God welcomes us into the congregation with a kiss. And with this holy baptismal gesture, “barriers of race, gender, status, age, nationality, history and

practice are transcended and overcome (W-2.3005).”

On any given Sunday in April, during the Worship hour, we will experience and participate in several baptisms at Stone Church of Willow Glen.

And if you or your children have not been baptized, this might be a good time to consider being sprinkled on a Sunday morning. Please contact Irene or me if you are interested in being baptized.

*Child of blessing, child of promise,
Baptized with the Spirit's sign.
With this water God has sealed you
Unto love and grace divine.*

from Hymn #498,
“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

*The Stone Church of Willow Glen
Presbyterian Church (USA)
1937 Lincoln Avenue
San José, CA 95125-3499
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:

*June Tablak, Editor Emerita
and “Church Mouse”*

*Sylvia Snyder, Photographer Emerita
Emily Moak Meacham, Editor*

Assistant Editors:

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

Additional Photographs:

*Deborah Crim, Dan Raby, Jay Evans,
Irene Pak, Ken Henry, Rosaleen Zisch,
Nancy & Gary Weiss, Susan Bedolla*