

# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

NOVEMBER 2013

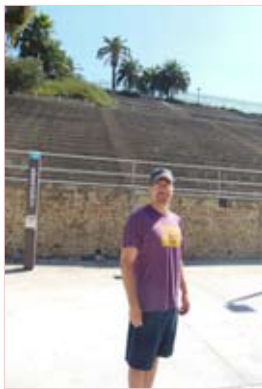


The Children's Choir recently wrote new lyrics for a well-known song, using our Worship theme of "Bread" ... "He's got Pita Bread in his hands, He's got Banana Bread in his hands, He's got Gluten-Free Bread in his hands, He's got the whole world in his hands!"

## THE PLACE WHERE HE SPOKE

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

In June of 1963, Pres. John F. Kennedy delivered the commencement address at San Diego State University. Today, we can watch Kennedy's speech, along with the motorcade that delivered him to the SDSU campus, on YouTube. In my opinion, this was not one of his best or most memorable speeches.



On that day, he spoke about the importance of education in the state of California, the ideals of a free society, and the necessity of giving every child opportunities to develop his or her talents.

All right, Kennedy also made the following comment: "To govern is to choose and the ability to make those choices wise and responsible and prudent requires the best of us all."

(continued on page 4)

## THE PRACTICE OF GIVING THANKS

by Rev. Irene Pak

It has become an exploding social media trend every November to post images and words for things you are grateful for every day.

Personally, I love this. I love seeing and hearing about what my friends and family post for those things they are thankful for on a particular day.



It's the practice of being intentional and thoughtful that I appreciate.

Yes, sometimes I read and see silly things like a random food they ate that day, but sometimes they are more meaningful things like a phone conversation with a parent or grandparent, the laughing sound of their child, or the kindness of a stranger.

(continued on page 4)

# MANY EXCITING EVENTS COMING UP IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER!

*Deacons' Christmas Tea*  
*Saturday, Dec. 7*  
*2 to 4 pm*



*"Home for the Holidays"*

*Be of good cheer – the Deacons' Christmas Tea is near!*

*Join us for good food, fellowship, and entertainment, including a Christmas carol sing-along, on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 2 to 4 pm.*

*Sign up during Coffee Fellowship, starting the second Sunday in November, or contact Mary Burfine.*

*Christmas Carols on the Patio*  
*Sunday, Dec. 8*  
*after Worship*



*The guitar students of local music teacher Tammy Alcosta will add to the joy of the season by performing Christmas carols on the patio after Worship on Dec. 8.*

*Tammy will bring sheets with lyrics to encourage everyone to sing along.*

*Want to join the group with your guitar? We'd love it! Come to a short rehearsal Friday, Dec. 6, at 7 pm, in the Church Library.*

*For more information, please contact Barbara Krause.*

*Parents' Day Out*  
*Saturday, Dec. 14,*  
*10 am to 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. 14, 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 Lynn Stock.*

*Please also contact Lynn if you would like to volunteer to help.*

## ROBIN MEYERS: AUTHOR, SPEAKER, EDUCATOR, AND PASTOR AT STONE, NOV. 15 & 16

The Rev. Dr. Robin R. Meyers will be Stone Church's *Henrietta Perdue Lecturer*, on Friday evening, Nov. 15, and Saturday morning, Nov. 16.



He will also preach on Sunday, Nov. 17.

Lecture topics, taken from his most recent book, *The*

*Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus*, will include:

✘ Friday, 7:30 pm: *From Galilean Sage to Supernatural Savior (or How I Became a Heretic with Help from Jesus)*

✘ Saturday, 9 am: *God-Talk: How Quantum Physics is Redefining "Almighty"*

✘ Saturday, 11 am: *The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus*

A nationally known progressive UCC pastor, professor, and peace activist, Dr. Meyers is also the author of six books about Christianity and American society, including:

📖 *Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus*

📖 *Why the Christian Right is Wrong: a Minister's Manifesto for Taking Back Your Faith, Your Flag, Your Future*

📖 *The Virtue in the Vice: Finding Seven Lively Virtues in the Seven Deadly Sins*

Dr. Meyers has been the senior minister of Mayflower Congregational UCC church, Oklahoma City, for 27 years, and is a tenured full professor of rhetoric in the philosophy department at Oklahoma City University.

In April, Dr. Meyers was a featured speaker at the *Westar Convention* (formerly known as *The Jesus Seminar*). Just before coming to Stone, he will have presented, at Yale Divinity School, the prestigious Lyman Beecher Lectureship on Preaching, given each year since 1871.

Costs for the lectures are \$20 for Friday, \$20 for both Saturday lectures, or \$30 for all three. Student prices are \$10 for Friday or Saturday, or \$20 for all three. Tickets can be purchased in the Church Office or at the door on Friday or Saturday.

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

# DIVERSE STUDIES: RECOVERY CAFE, SOURCEWISE, ROBIN MEYERS & ADVENT HYMNS!

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. 3: Recovery Café Homeless Ministry (sponsored by StoneWorks)



The Rev. Dana Bainbridge, Pastor of First Christian Church, San José, will join us to talk about *Recovery Café San José*. Rev. Bainbridge, an ordained minister for 22 years, is the founding director of this ministry.

*Recovery Café San José* is a therapeutic community that provides resources and relationships for stability and healing. With an ongoing recovery-oriented system of care, it effectively addresses the challenges of addiction, mental illness, and homelessness in our community.

## Nov. 10: Sourcewise – Formerly Council on Aging Silicon Valley (sponsored by Health Ministries)



Tere Johnson, Community Resource Specialist and Agency Outreach Coordinator for *Sourcewise*, will present an overview of the services provided by this newly renamed organization and will bring some helpful handouts.

*Sourcewise* is the new name for the *Council on Aging Silicon Valley*, which since 1974 has provided services and support to seniors in Santa Clara County. The name change reflects the fact that their outreach now includes persons with disabilities and *all* adults in our county. By collaborating with county, state, and local networks, they provide a streamlined approach to service and support systems. - Kathleen O'Brien

## Nov. 17: Robin Meyers, Guest Preacher in Worship & Adult Study Leader

Following his Henrietta Perdue Memorial Lectures, Robin Meyers will be guest preacher and will join Adult Study for a discussion of his new book, *The Underground Church* (see also page 2).

## Nov. 24 & Dec. 1, 8, 15: The Sounds of Christmas – Advent Hymns

There's no such thing as *Advent* in the Bible, and there certainly isn't anything about lighting differently colored candles. Yet the four weeks of waiting for Christ's coming are more than just made-up ways to get excited about Christmas. Led by Ken Henry and David McCreath, we will study and sing some well-known and unusual Advent Hymns.

For more about any of these classes, please contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Ed Subcommittee.

# CHURCH LIBRARY CATALOG OF OVER 4,100 TITLES NOW ON STONE'S WEBSITE!

We're pleased to announce that the church library catalog is now on the Stone Church website! ([stonechurch.org/Library/index.php](http://stonechurch.org/Library/index.php) or from the home page, select *On Sunday*, then *Church Library*) There's finally a way to locate authors and titles in our 4,100+ listings. Please give us your input.

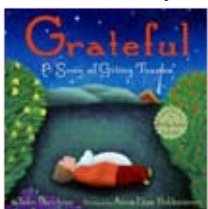
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

## New for our younger members



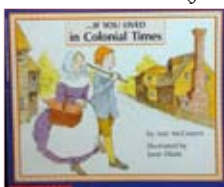
*Hand Rhymes* by Marc Brown (Read-Aloud J 811 Bro)

Meet Samantha, An American Girl by Susan Adler (J Adl)

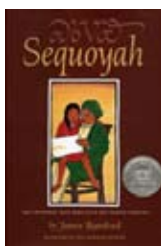


*Grateful: A Song of Giving Thanks* by John Bucchino (J 789 Buc)

*Preacher's Boy* by Katherine Paterson (J Pat)



*...If You Lived in Colonial Times* by Ann McGovern (J 970.02 McG)

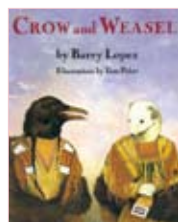


*Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing* by James Rumford (J 975 Rum), given by Glen Casner

*Sleeping with Bread: Holding*



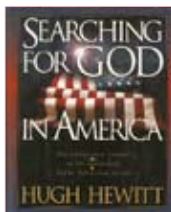
*What Gives You Life* by Dennis, Sheila & Matthew Linn (YA 248.4 Lin)



*Crow and Weasel* by Barry Lopez (YA 813.54 Lop), given by Glen Casner

## Additions to our regular adult collection

*Searching for God in America* by Hugh Hewitt (200.9



Hew), given by Alice Thorn  
*Love Wins* by Rob Bell (234 Bel)



*Middle Church: Reclaiming the Moral*

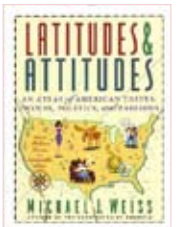


*Values of the Faithful Majority from the Religious Right* by Bob Edgar (277.3 Edg)

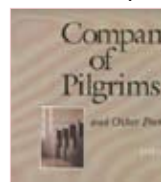


*Anger: Wisdom for Cooling the Flames* by Thich Nhat Hanh (294.3 Nha), given by Glen Casner

*Latitudes & Attitudes: An Atlas of American Tastes, Trends, Politics, & Passions* by Michael Weiss (306.4 Wei)



*Company of Pilgrims and Other Poems* by James A. Gittings (811.54 Git)



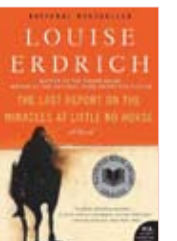
## New to our special collections

*Dissent from the Homeland: Essays after September 11* ed. by Hauerwas & Lentricchia (Soc.Iss.-Peace 172 Hau)



*Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey* by Lillian Schlissel (Women 978 Sch)

*The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse* by Louise Erdrich (F Erd)



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

### Help Improve Roycott House

Work on Roycott House will continue, as we improve that property as an asset to the church.

Men with handyman skills - or who wish to learn them - are invited to join in. For more information, please contact David McCreath.

### Men's Mission Trip to Westminster Woods, Nov. 1-3

The Men's Mission Team has a work trip to Westminster Woods planned from Friday, Nov. 1, to Sunday, Nov 3 (home by noon).

Keep in mind that:

- ✘ Leaving times are flexible, and Friday night departures can be arranged.
- ✘ If you can get away only for the weekend, that's fine.
- ✘ Skills of all levels, including beginners, are welcome.

To sign up, or for questions, please contact Leland Wong.

### Castle Air Museum Flight, Nov. 9

Bill Ribble is arranging a flight to Castle Air Museum in Atwater (near Merced) for Nov. 9, from 9 am to 4 pm.

Men interested in the trip should contact Art Holtz or Bill Ribble.

### Men's Book Group, Nov. 18

The Men's Book Group will consider such issues as: What happens when you become sick to your stomach in a space suit? How does a toilet flush in zero gravity? The book is *Packing For Mars*, by Mary Roach.

We will meet Nov. 18. The location will be determined soon - watch for an announcement.

### Men's Breakfast, Dec. 7

The Men's Breakfast will be held Dec. 7, from 8 until 9 am in the Social Hall.

The breakfast is free, though donations will be gratefully received.

- David McCreath

## THE PLACE WHERE HE SPOKE

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

(continued from page 1)

That's worth remembering. And yet while this comment stands apart, what is of more interest to us is that President Kennedy's life would be taken from him five months later.

November 22, 2013, marks the 50th anniversary of that terrible day when we lost one of the most popular presidents in U.S. history.

When Heather and I visited our daughter down at San Diego State for parents' weekend, I was surprised to learn that while SDSU has developed into a state of the art college campus, the concrete bleachers on which students and faculty once sat listening to Kennedy have been set aside in remembrance of the event. Indeed, adjacent to the Aztec basketball arena sits a salient piece of American history - the old with the new, the past with the future, hope mixed with grief. Standing there, I imagined how exciting it must be for parents, students, and professors to hear such an eloquent speaker and icon.

As we move closer to the national holiday of Thanksgiving, my prayer is that we would give thanks for leaders in our churches, nation, and community: for their courage in times of doubt, for their willingness to serve the needs of others, for voting their conscience rather than from popularity or party affiliation, and for their ability to make wise choices ... for as John F. Kennedy once said, "... the ability to choose ... requires the best of us all ..."

Blessings, Ken

## THE PRACTICE OF GIVING THANKS

by Rev. Irene Pak

(continued from page 1)

My birthday was at the end of May, and I entered into what I'm calling my *Jesus year*. For those of you who may be curious, the *Jesus year* is usually the 33rd year of a person's life; it was known to be Jesus' final year before his death. This sounds morbid, I know, but many have used their *Jesus year* as an impetus for being more courageous, taking risks, or doing something with their lives that they've always wanted to do.

One practice I decided to take on during my *Jesus year* is the practice of giving thanks. A friend of mine gave me a journal, and I decided that at the end of each day during my *Jesus year*, I would write down or draw three things for which I was thankful. Five months later, I am happy to report that I am still doing this practice faithfully, and it has been a great experience so far.

You see, some days, writing or sketching down three things

is very easy. On those days, limiting the list to only three things is the hardest part! On other days, I am really digging to come up with three things to list. But this ritual and practice has been incredibly good for me. On the good days, it reminds me how life is so good, and on the hard days, it reminds me that goodness still resides in my life.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I encourage you to try this practice. Don't be limited to words only. Drawing or taking photos of those things you are thankful for is also a great way to be aware of what's around you.

And if you have a photo or an image that you take of gratitude, send it to me. Ken and I would love to incorporate your images into a Worship service on Nov. 24. Let us all practice giving thanks.

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. God's love endures forever. (Psalm 136:1)*

Blessings, Irene

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



*November already? It seems like yesterday that we were celebrating a new year ... how time flies when you are having fun! So this is the month of Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day (don't we give thanks every*

*day?) ... when winter weather arrives ... and through it all, Stone Church continues to be a place for faith, action, and meditation.*

### Thank Offering Luncheon, Nov. 9

We are observing 25 years of being Presbyterian Women (although women have been the backbone of mission since colonial times). We adopted the PW designation with the reunion of the Northern and Southern branches of our denomination.

Join us in celebration at the *PW Thank Offering Luncheon*, at 11:30 am, on Nov. 9, in the Social Hall.

Cheryl Chin from Freedom House will be talking about prevention and healing of victims of human trafficking. Thank Offering envelopes will be available at the event or from your circle leader.

### Gifts of Women Sunday 2014

February seems a long time away but it really isn't. It is our custom to honor a member or members with an Honorary Life Membership or Certificate of Appreciation on *Gifts of Women Sunday* (Feb. 23, 2014).

If you would like to propose an individual who has contributed to the health and mission of Stone Church, please provide his or her name to Joyce Summers as soon as possible. It takes time for the committee to make a decision and to contact PW Church-wide to obtain the certificate(s).

### Fair Trade Sales - New Chocolate!

There are three new flavors of chocolate bars at the Fair Trade Sales table: lemon ginger, espresso bean, and milk caramel crunch. Are you off caffeine? Decaf tea is also available.

### Welcome, Sue Evans, to Coupons!

Sue Evans has graciously agreed to be our *Coupon Lady* this year. When doing your Thanksgiving shopping, watch for coupons on all of your various items.

### PW Schedule for November

**Amethyst Circle**, 1 pm, Nov. 6, Church Library

**Emerald Circle**, 9:30 am, Nov. 7, Rhonda Lakatos' home

**PW Thank Luncheon**, Nov. 9, 11:30 am, Social Hall

**Fair Trade Sales**, 10:30 am, Nov. 10, Social Hall

**Sapphire Circle**, 7:30 pm, Nov. 11, Joyce Summers' home

**Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, Nov. 12, Taiwan Restaurant, 1306 Lincoln Ave.

**PWCT**, 9:30 am, Nov. 14 Social Hall

**Blood Pressure Checks/Turn in Unused Prescriptions**, 11 am, Nov. 17, Church Library, with Mary Johnson, Parish Nurse

**Book Group II**, 2:30 pm, Nov. 18, Rosaleen Zisch's home, discussing *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

**Bible Study**, 9:30 am, Nov. 21, Church Library, led by Claudia Hamm, Lesson 4 of *An Abiding Hope* (2013-2014 *Horizons* Bible Study)

**Book Group I**, 1 pm, Nov. 25, Hazel James' home, discussing *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini

**Prayer Shawl Group** should contact Janice Goertz for date and time.

**Focus Group** will not meet in November or December.

### Special Notice

**CHRISTMAS BASKETS** can be ordered on Nov. 10 and 17, for delivery starting Dec. 8.

- Catherine Amos

## A MOMENT FOR TAIZÉ



*"The Taizé service is an island of peace and comfort for me in my busy life. Thank you."*

- Cindy Skrivanek

## ADOPT-A-FAMILY HOLIDAY GIVING PROGRAM

Please join us in providing holiday cheer to local foster youth. This year we would like to increase the number of children we sponsor here at Stone Church.



We are looking for church groups or families that would like to sponsor a child or family. The suggested donation for each child is somewhere between \$150 and \$200. Please talk with your church groups, and let us know if you would like to participate in sponsoring a child or family. This is also a great opportunity to get to know a new family in our congregation

by working together to shop for a child/family in need. We will also be having our typical giving tree in the Social Hall with gifts printed on ornaments in November.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child or a family, please contact Wendy Lord or Ashley Neufeld by Nov. 5.

# STONE SUPPORTS PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT STANFORD

StoneWorks, the mission committee of Stone Church, supports several missions, including Progressive Christians at Stanford, also known as UCCM (United Campus Christian Ministry, [uccm.stanford.edu](http://uccm.stanford.edu)).

Stone Church has been involved in this campus ministry for over three years. StoneWorks chair, Don (“Skip”) Skipwith, serves on the UCCM Board of Directors.

On Saturday, Oct. 12, at the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, UCCM celebrated its 50th Jubilee Anniversary. Alice and Rod Thorn, Maureen Chandler, Don Skipwith, and Irene Pak all attended.

A panel discussion was held with the current campus minister, Geoff Browning, and four former campus ministers: Dick Roe, Byron Bland, Jim Burklow, and Elena Larssen. At the event, Irene Pak presented Nan Swanson, UCCM President, and Steve Ketchpel, UCCM Vice President, with a donation from Stone Church (picture at right).

UCCM at Stanford is a Progressive Christian fellowship that welcomes all students. Funding is solely through donations – from churches, supporting

denominations (United Church of Christ, Presbyterian, Methodist, American Baptist), and individuals.

The mission of UCCM is dedicated to exploring spirituality and social justice where UCCM participants value questions as much as answers. UCCM programs include weekly dinner and discussion groups (“Bread & Belonging”), Bible study, Alternative Spring Break, service with local community organizations, Interfaith and service retreats, summer fellowships, and meditation.

All Stone Church members and friends are invited to attend the UCCM 50th Jubilee event, “A Conversation about Christian Views of Modern Marriage,” featuring the Rev. Gene Robinson, the Rev. Geoff Browning, and Gabe Lyons, on Sunday, Nov. 3, from 7 - 9 pm, at the Stanford Memorial Church (for more information, see the flyer below).



If you would like to meet the presenters prior to the event, a limited number of dinner tickets are available for a \$50 per person donation.

*For more information, please contact Don (“Skip”) Skipwith*

Please Join

## UNITED CAMPUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY @ STANFORD

as part of our 50th jubilee anniversary (1963 - 2013):

### A Conversation about Christian Views of Modern Marriage

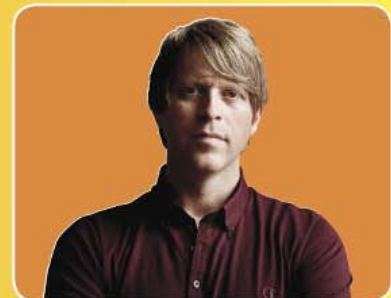
Stanford Memorial Church,  
Sunday, November 3rd, 2013 7PM - 9PM



**REVEREND GENE ROBINSON**  
Retired Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire,  
Episcopal Church



**PASTOR GEOFF BROWNING**  
Campus Minister  
United Campus Christian Ministry @ Stanford



**GABE LYONS**  
Author and Founder of Q, a learning community  
mobilizing Christians to advance the common good



*Just your typical  
Sunday at  
Stone Church!  
photos by Dan Raby*

## REV. LINDA HOLBROOK TO LEAD WOMEN'S RETREAT, APRIL 4 - 6, 2014

*Conversations between God and Me* is the theme of next year's Stone Church Women's Retreat, scheduled for the weekend of April 4 - 6, 2014, at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in San Juan Bautista.

We are so fortunate to have engaged the Rev. Linda Holbrook as our leader. She is an award-winning and gifted Methodist minister; a spiritual director who

has led workshops in visioning, strategy, team-building, and conflict resolution; and a woman with leadership and spiritual gifts and a great sense of humor. (We may have cloned the Rev. Marge Palmer, including height!)

Plan to come Friday afternoon and leave Sunday morning after our Worship service.

And for those of you who can come only for Saturday, we are planning a full day of program (morning and afternoon sessions with Linda) and activities. Also, lunch and dinner will



*Having fun at last year's retreat!*

be included, as well as a fun evening after dinner.

Stone's 30+ years of Women's Retreats have a beautiful tradition of warmly welcoming women of all ages and with all levels of church experience and membership! It is a wonderful opportunity to meet new members, to renew old friendships, and for personal spiritual renewal.

Details will be coming soon, but please mark your calendars now!

For more information, please contact Susan Bedolla.



*Washing the dishes on Consecration Sunday!*



*The Youth Group recently "got lost" in the "Korn Maze" in San Martin!*

*The Stone Church of Willow Glen  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
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