

# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

DECEMBER 2013



*Christmas Eve at Stone Church: Our traditional candlelit "Silent Night" at midnight on the patio*

**CHRISTMAS 2013 AT STONE CHURCH**  
Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 at 8:25 am  
Advent Morning Prayer  
(see Ken's column and page 2)  
Dec. 3, 10, 17 at 6:45 pm  
Advent Taizé Services  
(see page 2)  
Dec. 6, from 5 to 8:30 pm  
"Bethlehem Bound" Event  
(see page 2)  
Dec. 7, from 2 to 4 pm  
Deacons' Christmas Tea  
(see page 8)  
Dec. 8 at 10:30 am  
Christmas Carols on the Patio  
(see page 8)  
Dec. 14, from 10 am to 2 pm  
Parents' Day Out  
(see page 8)  
Dec. 15 at 9:30 am  
Advent & Christmas Choral Celebration  
**Dec. 24: Christmas Eve**  
**5:30 pm Family Service**  
Informal and Joyous  
Children's Pageant  
Bring a bell to accompany carols!  
**11 pm Candlelight Service**  
Meditative and Reflective  
Stone Church Chancel Choir  
Christmas Eve Sermon

## SLEEPERS, WAKE!

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

I have never been described as a morning person – just ask my wife, Heather.

For being a high energy kind of guy, it might surprise you to learn that I start my mornings slowly: wiping sleep from my eyes, putting on an old sweatshirt, saying "good morning" to the family cat, and starting the kettle boiling for my morning cup of coffee. It takes me awhile to find my bearings.

My mornings might also include exercise, stretching, offering a prayer, and/or attempting to memorize a Psalm (fyi, I think memorization keeps the mind sharp!).

So, by the time I've finished my second cup of coffee, and the sun begins to rise, I start to feel ready – in soul, mind, and body – to face the coming day.

When I pull up to Stone Church and get out of my car, I also say one

more prayer: "O Lord, let me rise to the challenges of this day."

Many of us have morning rituals and routines. We each have unique ways of summoning up the right attitude, so we can be more fully engaged in our everyday relationships. Indeed, we all need some time in the morning to wake up.

During the four Sundays of Advent, Irene and I would like to invite you to begin your day in prayer with one of us. On Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22, at 8:30 am, in the Church Library, we will invite participants into the spiritual practices of readingscripture, keepingsilence, offering prayers, and preparing our hearts and minds for Worship.

Each session will last 30 minutes, promptly ending at 9 am. If you plan to attend any or all of these times of prayer and meditation, please consider coming five minutes early, so we can start on time. And you are welcome to bring your morning cup of coffee with you.



*Early Morning Walk at Almaden Quicksilver Park*

One of our Advent hymns (#17) begins this way: "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us ... In my opinion, this classic hymn calls us to prepare for Christ's coming. In essence, the hymn says, "Wake up! Wipe the sleep from your eyes! Put on an old sweatshirt! Stretch out! Get ready!"

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6, KJV)*

Merry Christmas! - Ken



*Stone Church Intergenerational Family Event*

*Everyone is welcome: "young and not so young"*

*Friday, Dec. 6  
5 to 8:30 pm*

*Gather in the Social Hall.*

*Pizza and salad dinner will be served.  
Bring a sweet treat to share.*



*All are Stars!*

*For more information,  
please contact  
Mary Jo Blazek in the  
Church Office.*



## TAIZE SERVICES OFFERED DURING ADVENT ON DEC. 3, 10, AND 17

Are you ready for the birth of the Christ Child?

That sounds so different from: Are you ready for Christmas?

We all know about the helter-and-skelter of Christmas preparations, but a Taizé experience prepares us for the birth of the Christ.

Listen to the words of those who have been coming:

"When I come to Taizé, I know it will provide a peaceful setting, a time of reflection, an ecumenical focus, and beautiful music."

"It's a time to meditate, forget the world, and give prayers to God."

"It changes my life and helps me to cope with major changes in my life."

"It feeds my soul; the beautiful music washes over me like a healing balm."

"It draws me into myself, deep inside. I feel my pain, but I am not afraid."

You are warmly invited to your own experience of Taizé worship. It will help you prepare for the birth of the Christ.

Taizé services will be held Dec. 3, 10, and 17, in the Stone Church Sanctuary.

At 6:30 pm, there is prelude music and silent reflection. The Taizé service of prayers, silence, chants, and scripture then takes place from 6:45 to 7:30 pm.

Please come for any or all of our Advent Taizé services.

- Charlotte Dickson



## JOIN KEN AND IRENE FOR MORNING PRAYER IN ADVENT

A new Advent experience awaits you on Sunday mornings: Meet with Ken and Irene on Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22, at 8:25 am, in the Church Library. From 8:30 to 9 am, they will invite participants into the spiritual practices of reading scripture, keeping silence, offering prayers, and preparing our hearts and minds for Worship.

And yes, you are welcome to bring coffee ...

## COME LEARN SOME NEW ADVENT HYMNS & AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AT ADULT STUDY

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.

Please note that there will be no Adult Study on Dec. 29; classes will resume on Jan. 5, 2014, with a program on *Hospice of the Valley*, sponsored by Health Ministries (see page 6).

### Dec. 1, 8, 15: "People, Look East" – A Study of Advent Hymns

David McCreath leads a series on Advent hymns. Classes will be held in the Sanctuary, so Stephen Boniface may accompany the class singing the hymns. Rev. Ken Henry will use the

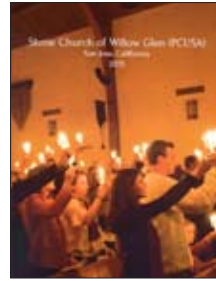
hymns during Advent Sunday Worship. Come, join the class as we prepare for the Christmas event.

### Dec. 22: Learn American Sign Language

New members Bill Raby, Mike Brown, Fran Basso, and Julia Kraemer will teach us American Sign Language so we can learn to communicate better with our deaf friends. And this coming Christmas Eve, the four new members have volunteered to sign a Christmas Carol as part of Worship.

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

## STONE'S NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES HAVE ARRIVED!



Stone's new Pictorial Directories arrived on Nov. 13 and have been available for pick up during Coffee Fellowship. The remaining directories are in the Church Office, where they can now be picked up.

All families who had photos taken get a free directory. Others who want a copy can pay \$5. A large number of directories has been reserved for the new members who will join during the next few years.

Many thanks are due to the Pictorial Directory Committee. Carrie Giorgianni signed up families on Sunday (156 families were photographed). Lynn Stock laid out the twelve wonderful picture pages of Stone children, youth, adults, and activities, with photos primarily supplied by Emily Meacham from her archives. Dan Raby was chief photographer, and Pat Magee masterminded the effort and interfaced with the publisher, Life Touch.

## BRING YOUR EXTRA 2014 CALENDARS TO THE CHURCH LIBRARY – OR PICK ONE UP!

As usual, we are collecting calendars for next year – both in the church library and on the cart. Help yourself if you need one, and share your extras! Thanks!

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

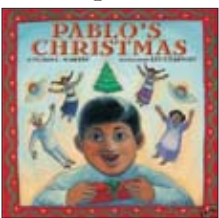
### For our younger members



*What's Coming for Christmas?* by Kate Banks (Read-Aloud J Ban)



*A Small Miracle* by Peter Collington (Read-Aloud J Col)

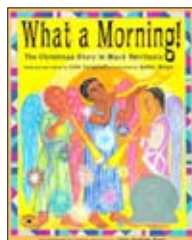


*Pablo's Christmas* by Hugo Martin (1st Bks J Mar)

*The Witness* by Robert Westall (J Wes), given by Claudia Hamm



*The Traveler's Gift* by Mark Moulton (J Mou), given by Glen Casner



*What a Morning! The Christmas Story in Black Spirituals* ed. by John Langstaff (J 783 Lan), given by Rosaleen Zisch



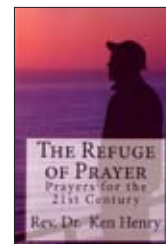
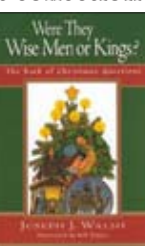
*Memory* by Margaret Mahy (YA Mah)  
*The Moonlight Man* by Paula Fox (YA Fox)



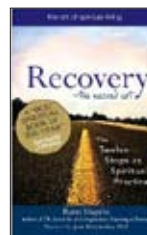
*Were They Wise Men or Kings? The Book of Christmas Questions* by Joseph Walsh (394 Wal)

*The Bridge of Stars: 365 Prayers, Blessings & Meditations* from *Around the World* ed. by Marcus Braybrooke (291.4 Bra)

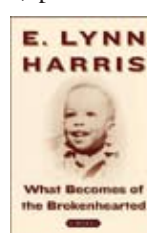
*Carta's Historical Atlas of Jerusalem* by Dan Bahat (933 Bah), given by Pat Magee



*The Refuge of Prayer: Prayers for the 21st Century* by Ken Henry (243 Hen), given by Mary & Mike Breuleux

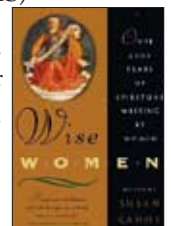
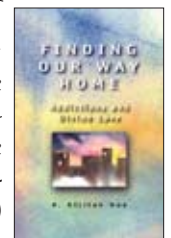
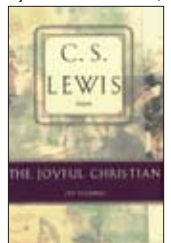


*The Joyful Christian: 127 Readings* by C.S. Lewis (230 Lew)



*Recovery: The Twelve Steps as Spiritual Practice* by Rami Shapiro (Spec Needs 204 Sha) and *Finding Our Way Home: Addictions & Divine Love* by K. Killian Noe (Spec. Needs 259 Noe), both given by First Christian Church, San José

*What Becomes of the Brokenhearted* by E. Lynn Harris (Biog HARRIS)



## 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. Contact David McCreath for more information.

### Men's Breakfast, Dec. 7

The Men's Breakfast will be held Dec. 7, from 9 to 10 am in the Social Hall, and will feature Stone member

Stephen Stock. The breakfast is free, though donations will be gratefully received. (For more information, please see the article below.)

### Men's Book Group, Dec. 9

The Men's Book Group will meet on Dec. 9, beginning at 7:30 pm. Jim Hagan will be the host.

We will select books for late winter and spring reading.

- David McCreath



## AWARD-WINNING REPORTER, STEPHEN STOCK, TO SPEAK AT MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast on Dec. 7 (that day of infamy) will feature "Breakfast News" for busy (and not so busy) guys.

Stone member Stephen Stock, award-winning investigative reporter, will speak in an open forum about his experience as a reporter working in the public eye, including his infamous bloopers, Christianity in a secular world, space launches, and whatever else you all want to chat about with Stephen.

Don't miss a great opportunity for fellowship, fun, and camaraderie.

RSVP to John Lococo.

## MEN'S MISSION TEAM AT WESTMINSTER WOODS



Twelve members of the Men's Mission Work Team went to Westminster Woods the weekend of Nov. 1-3 to do various volunteer jobs in helping to maintain the facility.

We painted, did carpentry, applied preservative to a large mosaic at the kids' playground, and split wood to fireplace-log size. We also enjoyed visiting or just relaxing during off hours, had an interesting discussion

Saturday night, and finished with communion.

Pictured above are David McCreath, Wynn Barnes, Gabriel Faber, Bill Lakatos, Lawrence Summers, Peter Nelson, Steve Nelson, Art Holtz, Bill Blodgett, and Phil Curtis. Pictured below is the same group, plus Rod Thorn and Leland Wong (but minus David, who took the photo).

- Rod Thorn



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



*Christmas! The season of giving with thanks for the Gift we have received. Now let's see – the shopping list is done (you did your shopping when?), the cookies are baked, the tree is trimmed, the gifts are wrapped – so*

*it's off to Stone Church for the Christmas Eve service. Then, the children are off to bed with "visions of sugar plums" in their dreams, and the adults collapse, get rested for the full day ahead, and gratefully acknowledge Christmas!*

### Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence Needs Gifts by Dec. 15

*Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence* is a haven for abused women and their children. Each year they have a Holiday Boutique so the women can choose gifts for their children and the children for their mothers.

If you would like to contribute to their selection, please bring a *new* item suitable for giving to your December circle meeting or bring it to Stone by the Dec. 15. Claudia Hamm will deliver them to Next Door. If you feel a call to volunteer for the boutique (they need adult volunteers to help the *shoppers*) it is from Dec. 19-21. Claudia has details.

### Fair Trade Sales Also Help with Anti-Slavery Efforts

Did you know that Fair Trade products have a connection to the anti-slavery campaign? By providing an opportunity to earn a decent living, they save many young people who might otherwise be lured into slavery-type situations.

And it appears that the new flavors of chocolate bars from our Fair Trade Sales are a great success. Need a stocking stuffer? A package of 25 mini bars is available at only \$5.

It is hoped you got your order for a Christmas basket in, so you can look forward to receiving it!

### Would You Like to Sew "Little Dresses for Africa"?

There are some among us who feel a need for *hands-on* mission. If you are one of them and would like to participate in *Little Dresses for Africa*, please contact Jeanette Rapp for the website and other information.

### Save Your "Coupons for Education" During Holiday Shopping

Remember those cookies from the first paragraph? While you are shopping for the ingredients – and all of the other items needed for the festivities – watch for the *Coupons for Education*. Also, those cash-register receipts are valuable for the S.H.A.R.E.S. card program (Save Mart, Smart Foods, Food Max, and Lucky stores).

**PW Schedule for December**  
**Amethyst Circle**, noon, Dec. 4, Luncheon at Jan Keifer's home  
**Emerald Circle**, 11:30 am, Dec. 5, Luncheon at Gail Chaid's home  
**Fair Trade Sales**, 10:30 am, Dec. 8 Social Hall

**Sapphire Circle**, 6 pm, Dec. 9, Supper at Claudia Hamm's home  
**Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, Dec. 10, Taiwan Restaurant, 1306 Lincoln Ave.  
**PWCT**, 9:30 am, Dec. 12, Social Hall

**Blood Pressure Checks/Turn in Unused Prescriptions**, 11 am, Dec. 15, Church Library, with Mary Johnson, Parish Nurse  
**Book Group II**, 2:30 pm, Dec. 16, Nancy Weiss' home, discussing *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce

**Bible Study**, 9:30 am, Dec. 19, Church Library, led by Alice Thorn, Lesson 5 of *An Abiding Hope* (2013-2014 *Horizons* Bible Study)

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

**Focus Group and Book Group I** will not meet in December.

**Future Dates to Save**  
**PWP Epiphany Tea**, 2 to 4 pm, Jan. 5, 2014, Social Hall  
**Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday**, Feb. 23, 2014

- Catherine Amos

## NEW SOUL FEAST GROUPS FORMING

Soul Feast Groups are groups of eight church women who gather for study, conversation, spiritual growth, and usually food. The groups that have formed in Stone Church have developed into supportive networks that connect members more deeply to Stone Church and to God.

In January, we will be forming some new groups and adding women to existing groups that would like to welcome new members. If you have an interest in being a part of such a group, please contact Rhonda Lakatos, Soul Feast Coordinator.

## E-SEWJOURN AT PEACE FAIR ON DEC. 14

e-SewJourn, a local sewing class of East African immigrant women supported by our Presbyterian Women, will be selling items at the Holiday Peace Fair, at Campbell United Methodist Church, on Dec. 14, from 11 am to 4 pm.

Pick up a discounted admission ticket and see sample items at the PW Fair Trade table on Dec. 8.



### "Beauties" on Top of Cameron House!

Joyce Summers, Sally Magee, Jean Raby, Marcia Ludwig, Claudia Hamm, and Jeanette Rapp, all "beauties" and all members of Stone's PW, are pictured here on top of Donaldina Cameron House in San Francisco, on Oct. 28. They attended the Donaldina Cameron House Auxiliary's Luncheon (Yum Cha) and Program, and had a tour of Cameron House, including the rooftop play area and garden. Claudia reported, "It was a gorgeous day, too!"

## STONE SUPPORTS RECOVERY CAFE SAN JOSE

Dana Bainbridge, Pastor of First Christian Church, San Jose, and Founding Director of Recovery Café San José, visited Stone Church on Sunday, Nov. 3, sharing her vision for this important organization during an Adult Study Class.

Recovery Café will provide a sanctuary from the streets to help participants develop tools and the ability to access other community resources for stabilizing the recovery of homeless people suffering from drugs and/or alcohol.

Meaningful daily activities and a positive community are powerful forces delivered by Recovery Café's vision that can help break the patterns and challenges of addiction, unemployment, and homelessness.

Stone Church is helping to build Recovery Café through a donation provided by StoneWorks. Ken Henry and Michelle Walters, StoneWorks committee member, presented Dana with a check after the class (pictured at right).

Dana continues to raise the funds necessary to renovate space within First Christian Church, located



behind City Hall, for Recovery Café, and to hire the appropriate staff.

You can also help this important mission by donating at [recoverycafesj.org/donate-to-recovery-cafe-san-jose](http://recoverycafesj.org/donate-to-recovery-cafe-san-jose)

Recovery Café is also looking for a volunteer to help set up Quickbooks and train the bookkeeper to launch Recovery Café. If you know of anyone, please let StoneWorks and/or the Church Office know. Thanks! - Don ("Skip") Skipwith

## HELP THOSE IN NEED IN THE PHILIPPINES



One of the worst recorded typhoons in history, Haiyan has left many dead, hundreds of thousands displaced, and extensive damage. The initial response includes provision of non-food items, drinking water, and emergency shelter kits.

Presbyterian Disaster Relief (PDA) will respond with *One Great Hour of Sharing* and designated funds as assessments are completed, needs are identified, and an appeal for assistance is issued.

If you would like to help, you can make a check out to Stone Church and write on the memo line, "Philippines Typhoon," and turn it into the Church Office or place it in the offering plate.

You can also go online to get up-to-date information about the situation:

[presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pda/philippines/](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pda/philippines/)

StoneWorks thanks you for your generosity. - David McCreath, Don Skipwith

## ED WENDLER, HOSPICE VOLUNTEER, TO SPEAK AT ADULT STUDY, JANUARY 5

We are fortunate to have Ed Wendler, volunteer with *Hospice of the Valley*, as our Adult Study speaker on Jan. 5, 2014.



*Hospice of the Valley* is a non-profit organization that has helped patients and their families

focus on quality of life for individuals and their family caregivers when cure from illness is no longer an option. This care can take place at home, in a hospital, or at a nursing home.

Ed speaks from personal experience as he shares how his family received wonderful support when his mother was dying. That experience made him want to pay back that gift, and he has been volunteering at this organization since

2009. Ed will explain what hospice is, how it works, and who is eligible. Perhaps you know of members of our Stone Church community who have benefited from the variety of services offered by this excellent organization.

Ed comments that the most common feedback they receive is, "We wish we would have known about you sooner." Since none of us knows what the future holds, the appeal of this presentation is widespread. Ed's goal is to make sure folks are aware of the services and support available ahead of time, so they can avail themselves of the excellent support if they, or a loved one, be in need down the road. Ed is an enthusiastic speaker and is happy to answer your questions. Do take the opportunity to learn more on Jan. 5. - Kathie Lloyd

## DECEMBER IS STEPHEN MINISTRY MONTH

On Dec. 1, 8, and 15, Stephen Leaders and Ministers will be at a table during Coffee Fellowship to chat and distribute information about our caring ministry that offers one-to-one listening when typical life crises become a challenge. These crises can include grief, divorce, loss of any kind, illness, and other difficult changes.

Stephen Ministers receive fifty hours of training supplemented by on-going supervision and continuing education at monthly meetings. They are committed to spending an hour or two each week with their care receivers in an on-going, supportive conversation over several months.

A new training class will start in the new year, so ask about the application process when you stop by the Stephen Ministry table in December. Confidentiality is the foundation of the program, but the caring Stephen Ministry provides is no secret! - Judith Mohr



*The Blessing  
of the  
Animals*

*photos by  
Dan Raby  
and  
Rev. Irene Pak*





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.

Sign up during  
 Coffee Fellowship, or  
 contact Mary Burfine.



# 16th Annual Parents' Day Out

Saturday, December 14

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Sign up after church in the Social Hall

Let the **Deacons of Stone Church**  
 watch your **kids** (12 and under) for a few hours  
 so you have **time** for shopping, lunch  
 or just **relaxing** while your children **enjoy**  
 crafts, games, movies and lunch!

A Christmas gift to you from the Deacons • 2013



Christmas Carols on the Patio  
 Sunday, Dec. 8  
 During Coffee Fellowship



The guitar students of local music teacher Tammy Alcosta  
 will add to the joy of the season by performing  
 Christmas carols on the patio 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, contact Barbara Krause.

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