

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

MAY 2014



Dancing in the Courtyard!

DON'T LET LIFE PASS YOU BY: A SHORT STORY IN TWO PARTS

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way. [Mark 10:51-52]

Anthony De Mello, prolific writer and speaker on spirituality, once said, "The shortest distance between a human being and the truth is a story." I love stories. I love storytelling. I believe stories and storytelling, like

the story of how Jesus healed the blind man, have the capacity to lead us to a deeper truth about God and the world. Stories have power. Stories are what Jesus used to tell us about the Kingdom of God. And stories can, if we let them, reveal something about ourselves. That's why the Bible is full of stories.

Don't Let Life Pass You By, Part I

Life was not going his way. It hadn't in a while. Growing up, his neighbors assumed he'd been born with a silver spoon in his mouth, but most recently, he had fallen on hard times. He'd had a falling-out with his family. Indeed, his family was well respected in the community and well off, but the last time he'd spoken to his father, his dad looked him straight in the eye and told him never to

come back again. He'd run out of second and third chances. Now, he spent the majority of his days on the city streets and in and out of shelters and youth hostels. He looked much older than his 25 years of life.

*In Timothy's better days, he had attended a private high school, and his parents had even paid out-of-state tuition to a college up north. And though, while attaining his degree, he had indulged in many "extracurriculars," he'd also graduated *summa cum laude*.*

But a year after leaving college, an incident changed all that, or so he believed. He'd been out late one night drinking with friends. He had been appointed the designated driver for the evening, but that didn't mean he should have been the one behind the wheel.

[continued on page 6]

SESSION ASKS THAT DISMISSED PASTORS & CHURCHES BE PROHIBITED FROM PARTICIPATING IN PRESBYTERY

Session has asked San José Presbytery to include language in its dismissal policy that would prohibit congregations dismissed from the Presbyterian Church, USA, from participating in future presbytery meetings.

The issue arose because several churches from our presbytery are leaving, or are considering leaving, because of theological differences with our denomination. However, some have indicated they still wish to function as presbytery members after their dismissal.

Our Session's letter says this creates a conflict of interest "with potential for significant harm" to the presbytery. "Only those committed to their respective denominations should participate in the life and government of those denominations," the letter concludes.

Dismissal requests from First Presbyterian of Salinas, Carmel Presbyterian, and Morgan Hill Presbyterian are expected to be the first the presbytery considers, and the votes on them will likely be scheduled for the presbytery's June 7 meeting.

The Salinas church's 2,247 members make it the presbytery's largest congregation and give it the largest voting bloc in the presbytery, with 15 commissioners. Its pastor, the Rev. Mike Ladra, wishes to remain in that pulpit, as well as to remain a member of our presbytery. Together, the three churches have 22 commissioners.

If our Session's request is enacted, these churches will cease to have any voice or vote in the presbytery after they are dismissed. Session elected Claudia Hamm, Mary Johnson, Jody Meacham, and Alice Thorn as Stone Church's four commissioners to the June presbytery meeting.

Session also took two other actions. It voted to create an unpaid "Lay Pastor of Welcome" position whose duties will involve welcoming visitors and potential new members, and it approved adding a \$200 honorarium for our pastors to the members' fee schedule for memorial services. The honorarium may be waived at the pastor's discretion.

- Jody Meacham, Elder



CAROL STEPHENSON OF SACRED HEART VISITS STONE CHURCH

Carol Stephenson (pictured above with Ken Henry), Community Engagement Coordinator for Sacred Heart Community Service, provided a *Minute for Mission* during our Worship service on March 16. Sacred Heart, one of Stone's primary mission partners, is dedicated to bringing our community together to address poverty in Silicon Valley. Bill Ribble, Stone's liaison with Sacred Heart, arranged the visit.

When Carol asked that all Sacred Heart volunteers stand up, more than 20 people rose from their seats ... yes, we are a giving church. Over many years of collaboration, Stone has provided gleaners (people who pick up donated food from grocery stores), home renovators, clothes and food sorters/distributors, and of course, cash donations.

And continuing in that tradition, the Rev. Dr. Ken Henry presented Carol with a \$2,000 donation at the service.

Sacred Heart's vision is a community united to ensure that every child and adult is free from poverty. Thanks to everyone involved in making this mission partnership a success. - Don Skipwith, chair, StoneWorks

STONE'S YOUTH PLANNING MISSION TRIP TO LA INNER CITY - AND NEED YOUR HELP

This summer, Stone will send five or six youth, and four adult leaders, to Los Angeles, to serve in the inner city. This will be the first mission trip for these youth and promises to be a life-changing experience.

We are asking for the congregation to begin praying for the youth and the leaders, as we prepare to go.

You will also see some youth fundraisers for this trip, and we would

appreciate your support. We still have about \$3,500 to raise (about \$350 per person).

If you would like to support this trip, please donate to Stone, writing "Youth Mission Fund" in the check's memo line.

Also, if you would like to be a prayer partner, let the Rev. Irene Pak know, and she will set that up for you!

- Rev. Irene Pak



ADULT STUDY LOOKS AT "CRITICAL DECISION POINTS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE"

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 27 - May 25: "Critical Decision Points for God's People and Human Life," with Dale Bracey



For each session: what does the passage mean in the context of when it was written, and how does it apply in societal and political issues today?

April 27: Pushed out of Eden, humans have to choose.

What will they be and do; where will they go; how will they (and us) relate to others and to God?

May 4: After the Reed Sea crossing.

When the Lord rescued a nation "clogging the Egyptian chariot wheels," it ensured they would have a future.

How did this special treatment affect their pride and destiny?

How about our American assumption that we are the Christian nation and God is on our side?

May 11: Now we have a king and are a world power.

When you get what you asked for, watch out; it can pervert your destiny.

What does it mean to be "a nation under God"?

May 18: After Jesus was gone.

What happened for the disciples, and what happens for us today?

So many rivals claimed to have the true Jesus in their pocket.

How should we relate to people of other faiths: Muslims, Jews, Mormons, Christian Fundamentalists?

May 25: When leadership makes decisions with which we disagree.

When the Council of Jerusalem abandoned traditional beliefs, did it get it right?

For us today: why do we stay in the denomination, while other churches are leaving?

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

CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY BY READING A BOOK WITH A FEMININE THEME

Mother's Day suggests some interesting books about women and children. Our committee hopes you enjoy them!

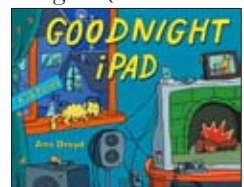
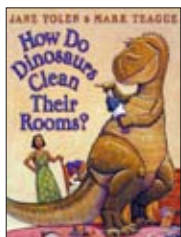
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

For our younger members



You're Just What I Need by Ruth Krauss (Read-Aloud J Kra)

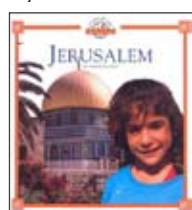
How Do Dinosaurs Clean Their Rooms? by Jane Yolen & Mark Teague (1st Bks Yol)



Goodnight iPad by Ann Droyd (J Dro)

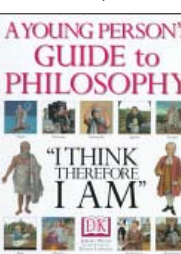


The New Way Things Work by David Macaulay (J 600 Mac), given by the Zisch family



Jerusalem by Deborah Kent (J 956 Ken)

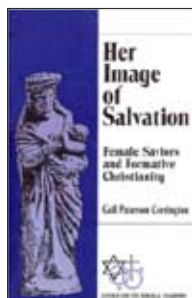
A Young Person's Guide to Philosophy ed. by Jeremy Weate (YA 100 Wea), given by Charlotte Dickson



Additions to our regular adult collection

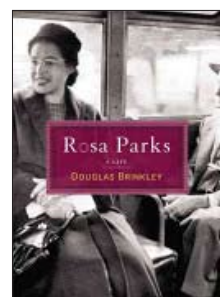
Reformed and Feminist: A Challenge to the Church by Johanna Van Wijk-Bos (220.1 Van)

Her Image of Salvation: Female Saviors and Formative Christianity by Gail Corrington (234 Cor)



Faith Forward: A Dialogue on Children, Youth & a New Kind of Christianity ed. by David Csinos & Melvin Bray (259 Csi)

Church in the Round: Feminist Interpretation of the Church by Letty Russell (262 Rus)



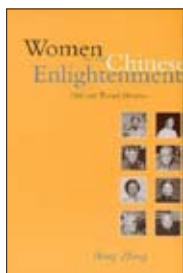
New to our special collections

Rosa Parks by Douglas Brinkley (Biog PARKS)



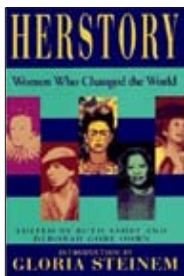
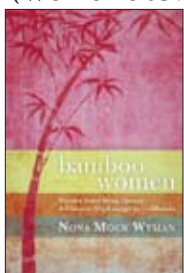
Readings for Older Women: A Compilation of Wit and Wisdom by Meg Bowman & Diane Haywood Langford (Women 170 Bow), given

by Dulcie Janzen
Women in the Chinese Enlightenment: Oral and Textual Histories by Wang Zheng (Women 305.42 Wan), given by Sara Holtzapple



Bamboo Women: Stories from Ming Quong, a Chinese Orphanage in California by Nona Mock Wyman (Women 362 Wym), given by Claudia Hamm

Women Who Love Psychopaths by Sandra L. Brown (Women 646.7 Bro), given by Gail Chaid



Herstory: Women Who Changed the World ed. by Ruth Ashby (Women 920 Ash), given by Glen Casner

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Our annual retreat was a gift from God and the place to be this April. Sixty-nine women spent a glorious weekend together at St. Francis Retreat in San Juan Bautista.

Conversations between God and

Me extended to meaningful conversations with each other, too. We were thankful for the gifted leadership of Rev. Linda Holbrook (pictured below) and retreat chair, Susan Bedolla, who guided all of the volunteers.

This spiritual event, which meets so many needs, is a tradition that continues only with many helping hands. Please think about what you could do to help make our 2015 retreat just as wonderful. Contact Susan, or watch for a meeting to make future plans.



Horizons Bible Study 2014-2015

The *Horizons* Bible Study for 2014-2015 is out, and it looks very intriguing. The title is *Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*, and the author is Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty. Stone's own Rev. Irene Pak provided the "Suggestions for Leaders," which accompanies the study. These studies are award-winners and work for serious students,

as well as novices to the Bible. If you would be interested in helping to form a new Bible Study Circle this fall, see page 5 for more information.

Presbyterian Mission Workers Visit, Connect to Mother's Day Project

In April, some of us had tea with Brian and Sandi Thompson-Roper. They will be serving Christ in Guatemala and asked for our prayers for their work with women's organizations.

A few days later, I received the material for the annual Mother's Day project. The design for the Mother's Day cards is new and includes photos of families in Guatemala, as they are an added area of focus for *Healthy Women Healthy Families*. This project, partly funded with Mother's Day card donations, is in its thirteenth year. Their mission outreach still includes parts of Africa.

The lovely Mother's Day cards will be available May 4 and 11 (for more information, see page 5).

Annual Spring Gathering of the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San José, May 17

Everyone is invited to the annual PWP Spring Gathering, with the theme, *Abide in Hope: Sharing Stories*. Connie Clark, who represented our region at the Mission Experience in Eastern Tennessee and North Carolina last year, is the speaker. We will also have a storyteller who will share stories in that southern tradition.

The gathering, which includes installation of PWP leaders, takes place Saturday, May 17, from 2 to 4 pm, at Los Gatos Presbyterian Church.

The annual installation and picnic for Stone's PW will take place Saturday, June 14. Save the date!

Box Tops for Education

Yes, we are still collecting *Box Tops for Education*. It is amazing how many things K.R. Smith School can acquire by our cutting and saving these little coupons.

Only a few months are left before we deliver our big bag to the school. Containers for collection are near the PW bulletin board or in the church office. Attached to our bulletin board is a list of all the companies that participate in the program. Check it out!

PW Schedule for May

Emerald Circle, 9:30 am, May 1, Carolyn Clendenning's home

Amethyst Circle, 1 pm, May 7, Church Library

PWCT, 9:30 am, May 8, Social Hall

Fair Trade Sales, 10:30 am, May 11, Social Hall; check out the new chocolate bars!

Sapphire Circle, 7:30 pm, May 12, Sue Evans' home

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, May 13, Taiwan Restaurant, 1306 Lincoln Avenue

Prayer Shawl Ministry, May 17, 10 am - 1 pm, Linda Hagan's home

Book Group II, 2:30 pm, May 19, Karen Scott's home, discussing *Canada* by Richard Ford

Focus Group, 9:30 am, May 21, June Tablak's home

Book Group I - no May meeting; meeting twice in June (2 and 30).

- Rosaleen Zisch, PW Mission Chair

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 the Rev. Dr. David McCreath, Parish Associate.

Book Group to Discuss "Fierce Compassion," May 19

The Men's Book Group will meet on May 19, beginning at 7 pm. The book for discussion is *Fierce Compassion: The Life of Abolitionist Donaldina Cameron*, by Kristin and Kathryn Wong.

All men of the church are invited. The host is David McCreath.



Mission Work Team Plans One-day Trip to Camp Daybreak, May 31

The Men's Mission Work Team is planning a one-day mission trip to Camp Daybreak, on May 31.

The camp is located in the town of Felton, in the Santa Cruz mountains.

For more information, please contact Leland Wong.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AGAIN OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Are you attending college next year? If so, you might want to look into the Hudspeth Trust's College Scholarships, administered by the Presbyterian Women of Stone Church.

PW offers assistance to undergraduate college students each year. Scholarship forms are available in the church office in the PW box. Or the forms can be emailed to you if you make a request to Jan Keifer.

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please also

contact Jan, who is Mission Secretary of PWCT.

The deadline for receipt of the application forms and related materials is July 15, 2014.

Throughout the year, PW also considers applications from individuals and groups associated with Stone Church seeking funds for training or educational programs, retreats, and conferences.

Applications for these types of aid are also available in the church office. Submission for consideration may be done at any time during the year. *- Jan Keifer*



HONOR YOUR MOTHER WITH A CARD THAT HELPS

Mother's Day is around the corner ... but don't buy a Hallmark card. Honor a woman in your life with a card from the *Healthy Women Healthy Families* project. For 13 years, Presbyterian Women have joined with the General Mission Council of PCUSA to support this important work.

On May 4 and May 11, a display will be set up during Coffee Fellowship to show the focus for ministry this year: Sudan, Congo, Madagascar, and Guatemala.

Any donation is welcome to receive a beautiful Mother's Day card and help our mission coworkers in many programs. It is estimated that three million children under five years of age die of undernutrition each year, so working to improve food security through intensive gardening is one such program.

For more information, please contact Rosaleen Zisch, PW Mission Chair.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP FORM A BIBLE STUDY CIRCLE?

Presbyterian Women would like to start a Bible Study Circle that would begin meeting in September 2014 and continue through May 2015.

The *Horizons* Bible study for 2014-2015 is *Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*, and the author is Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty. Stone's own

Rev. Irene Pak provided the "Suggestions for Leaders," which accompanies the study.

If you are interested in helping to form this group, please contact Joyce Summers.



FIRST PRES, SAN JOSE, NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Claudia Hamm shared these two flyers that ask for help with the very caring lunch program at First Pres., in downtown San José. She said, "I would so like us to support First Pres. with their important ministry."

First Presbyterian Church of San Jose, 49 N. 4th St. (Between St. John and Santa Clara Streets), San Jose

VOLUNTEER!

Help feed the homeless in Downtown San Jose
Front Door Ministry
First Presbyterian Church of San Jose

FPCSJ serves 120-150 hungry people at their front door each morning!

About Front Door Ministry: Started at First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Jose four years ago. From serving 35-50 people a week we now serve 120-150 (or more) per DAY. In 2013 we made and distributed more than 15,000 lunches!

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Front Door Ministry Manager or Managers
(This position could be split into 2 or 3 roles):

- Be available to be at the Front Door Ministry at least a morning or two each week
- Train, supervise, motivate and thank volunteer Lunch Bag Makers
- Attend Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB) Food Handling classes on specifics of dealing with food for others. They currently are offered the third Friday of the month. Make sure all Lunch Bag Makers attend as well.
- Fill in if volunteers don't come
- Make sure Lunch Bag Makers who work at the Front Door keep count of customers each day
- Keep track of customer tally each month for SHFB and for church publicity
- Order food each week from SHFB online
- Take weekly inventory of shorted items
- Make food supply run to SHFB on Wed at 11:15 a.m. (other volunteer can go with you to help load and unload items; a van helps—we get a lot of food each week)
- Buy protein and misc. supplies not provided by SHFB (like bags, spoons, napkins) at Costco or SmartFinal

First Presbyterian Church of San Jose, 49 N. 4th St. (Between St. John and Santa Clara Streets), San Jose

VOLUNTEER!

Help feed the homeless in Downtown San Jose
Front Door Ministry
First Presbyterian Church of San Jose

FPCSJ serves 120-150 hungry people at their front door each weekday morning!

About Front Door Ministry: Started at First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Jose four years ago. From serving 35-50 people a week we now serve 120-150 (or more) per DAY. In 2013 we made and distributed more than 15,000 lunches!

VOLUNTEER POSITION

Lunch Bag Maker

- We need upbeat, hard-working people to join this ministry
- Lunch Bag Makers needed to be consistently available at least 1 morning each week from 9 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. We can move people around to cover sick days and vacations.
- Attend Second Harvest Food Bank training on Food Handling (one hour class on a Friday morning)
- Training is provided on Front Door Ministry procedures.
- Set-up for the day (bring out lunch components to the pantry) and lay them out so an assembly line can quickly make lunches
- Make lunches as a team (laughter is a big part of this ministry, but we move fast to make 150 lunches quickly)
- If you want to, you can be the person who gives out lunches at front door. You can switch off with lunch bag makers. Be upbeat, interested and compassionate (you may be the best thing about this person's day!) We try to say "Have a nice day," or "God bless you," to each customer as possible.

WHAT GOOD IS GOD FOR GRIEF AND LOSS?

Grief and death anxiety are inextricably linked with human existence. In a real sense, loss permeates our lives. According to research in the realm of existential psychology, as well as a venerable tradition in existential philosophy, constructive acknowledgement of death anxiety can be a major motivator of positive functioning, whereas avoidance or denial of such anxiety can be a source of dysfunctional behavior and even psychopathology.

A free class is offered by the Ignatian Center, Santa Clara Univ., in the William Room, Benson Memorial Center, on Wed., May 7, from noon to 1:15 pm (lunch provided). Speakers are David Feldman, Santa Clara Univ., and Robert Gressis, California State Univ. For more detail and to make a reservation: www.scu.edu/ic/bannan/2013-14/spring.cfm?b=474&c=16631

DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND "UP TO TEN" FANTASTIC CLOTHING ITEMS - AND HELP SACRED HEART AND STONERWORKS

If you enjoy *thrifting*, then you're in luck - the Stone Church "Up to Ten" Event: Adult Women's Clothing Exchange is coming up on Saturday, May 3!

This is an opportunity for women to have a fun "splurge," while benefiting a couple of very worthy causes.

It's called "Up to Ten" because that's how it works - you bring in ten clean, gently used women's clothing items, and you can take up to ten items that have been donated by others.

This event takes place at the Stone Church Social Hall on Saturday, May 3, from 10 am to 2 pm.

A \$5 donation is suggested at the door.

Clothing Donation Guidelines:

- ✿ Bring "up to ten" clothing items.
- ✿ Be sure to bring all items on hangers.

- ✿ Do bring gently used items in Grade-A condition, including adult women's clothing, handbags, jewelry, belts, scarves, sweaters, and coats.
- ✿ Do not bring shoes, socks, hats, underwear, or other intimates.
- ✿ Ensure that all donations are clean and gently worn, with no tears or stains.
- ✿ "BYOB" [Bring Your Own Bag]

How to Drop Off Donations:

- ✿ Bring items for donation to the Stone Church Social Hall either on Friday, May 2, from 4 to 7 pm, or on Saturday, May 3, from 9 to 10 am. (Sorry, no early shoppers!)
- ✿ You will receive one ticket for each ("up to ten") item donated.
- ✿ When shopping begins, you may exchange each ticket for an item donated by someone else.

Who Benefits from This Event:

- ✿ This event is sponsored by the Fellowship & Renewal Committee, with all proceeds going to the StoneWorks Committee.
- ✿ Leftover clothing will be donated to Sacred Heart Community Service.
- ✿ Bring something to benefit these two worthy causes - while finding something "new to you"!



If you have any questions, please contact Michele Chandler.

DON'T LET LIFE PASS YOU BY: A SHORT STORY IN TWO PARTS

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

[continued from page 1]

After all, he'd had as many shots as the guys who laughed and spoke loudly in the backseat of his car. So, when his wheels locked around a sharp curve on Mt. Hamilton Road, and the tires on his parents' Camry began skidding off the road, everything became dreamlike and surreal. He never remembered the accident.

When he awoke, blackness enveloped his world. He could feel the soft bed beneath him and hear people talking about rooms and charts out in the hallway. There was an antiseptic feel in the air. Timothy guessed he was in a hospital. He wasn't absolutely sure, but, then he couldn't see

where he was either. Under thick bandages wrapped around his eyes, his head throbbed, his mind spun; his nausea came and went. And when his parents informed him that his other friends had died in the accident, and that his reckless driving caused suffering to their parents, the nausea didn't go away, and neither did the pain. Maybe it never would. He was not completely blind, but his eyesight would never again be 20/20.

Now, the cracked and uneven pavement beneath him felt hard and cold. He fingered one of the folded dollars that people often dropped onto his lap. "So young, so young," he could hear a passerby say. They pitied the young man sitting on the sidewalk, but rarely did anyone speak to him, especially in the early morning when commuter traffic was so bad. He heard the slow steady stream of cars a few feet away, the hurried stop and go of everyday busy people. Everyone was in such a hurry. Only a few years ago, he'd been one of them.

The air seemed colder this morning, his head heavy with guilt and grief. His past plagued his every thought. He could see the faces of his friends that night; he could still hear their laughter rising from the backseat of his car. In his mind's eye, he saw the faces of his friends' parents as they sat shoulder to shoulder in the wooden pews of the crowded church where the memorial had been held - their painful stares, tears of frustration streaming and streaking down their cheekbones. That day, no one had said a word to him, not even the minister.

Someone took his hand. Her touch shook him from his dark ruminations. The hand was small and soft. It was a little girl.

"Timothy. Timothy. Remember me? I'm Willow," the child piped up.

"Have mercy on me," he whispered to the small voice. "Have mercy."

[To be continued in the June edition of *The Stone News*.]



“Little
Dresses
for Africa”
event on
April 26

photos by
Maureen
Searing





WOMEN'S RETREAT 2014 – BOOKED TO CAPACITY! – WHAT A LOVELY WEEKEND!

Sixty-nine women (a capacity crowd!) gathered at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in San Juan Bautista, the weekend of April 4-6, to learn about ways to have "Conversations between God and Me."

The Rev. Linda Holbrook asked us to think about our own prayer style and then led us to consider other ways of praying. As always, Stone Church women play well, and pray well, with others.

It was truly a lovely weekend. Stay tuned for next year ... we already have some fantastic ideas!

- Susan Bedolla,
Women's Retreat Coordinator



Even
more fun
in the
garden
on a
Sunday
after
Worship!



The Stone Church of Willow Glen
Presbyterian Church (USA)
1937 Lincoln Avenue
San José, CA 95125-3499
phone: 408.269.1593
stonechurch.org
Rev. Dr. Ken Henry, Pastor
Rev. Irene Pak, Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. David McCreath,
Parish Associate
Rev. Chris Hansen, LTJG, CHC,
Parish Associate
Jennifer Scott-Brand, Office Manager

The Stone News Staff:
June Tablak,
Editor Emerita & Church Mouse
Sylvia Snyder,
Photographer Emerita
Emily Moak Meacham, Editor
Assistant Editors:
Rhonda Lakatos, Pat Magee,
Sally Magee, Jody Meacham,
Fred Oliver, Lianne Oliver,
Lynn Peithman Stock
Additional Photographs:
Dan Raby, Irene Pak,
Joan Peckham, Don Skipwith,
Maureen Searing