

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

SEPTEMBER 2014



Annual Church Picnic & Worship in the Park – a good time was had by all!



A TALE OF TWO AUGUSTS

by Rev. Irene Pak

Two years ago, on Aug. 1, 2012, I walked into my office for the first time to begin my call at Stone Church.

When I reflect back, I remember mixed feelings of anticipation, joy, nerves, and wondering if I could actually do this job well for this community.

Fast-forward two years, to Aug. 3, 2014, and as I high-fived and hugged the Head of Staff goodbye and wished him well as he left for a well-deserved three-month sabbatical, I found myself feeling the same mixed emotions of anticipation, joy, nerves, and wondering if I could actually do this job well for this community in a different role.

So here I am, Stone Church! You have been such a wonderful community of faith to do ministry together with, and yes, the weight of my role has shifted and is felt, but honestly, there is no other place I would rather be right now.

Here are three reasons why I am excited about the next three months.

First, we have elected, installed, and ordained a new class of elders and deacons, many of whom are new to these leadership roles, which means there is a new energy and new vision for the ways in which our church is progressing. One elder is deaf, and he is challenging us to expand the ways in which we welcome and do ministry for the deaf community. We also have a solid base of leaders who know the inner workings of the church to guide and nurture “the process,” but who also come with needed care and skills.

Second, we have an awesome youth group! If you have not yet heard me rave on and on about the wonderful youth at Stone Church, then ask me about it, and I will rave on and on to you about them. We have a new group of sixth graders entering the youth group this year. This is the biggest wave of youth entering in a long time, and that’s exciting! We are also adding a time for devotions and Bible study, in addition to, and separate from, our youth group fun, food, and

fellowship time. I am hoping to make many of these youth more visible in our worship services over the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for our rising young leaders.



*“Waters of Life”
by
Shawna
Bowman*

Third, the choir and music program is kicking off on Sept. 14! Church School also begins! A four-week sermon series on the theme, “Waters of Life,” will also be starting that day, and we will be exploring the different ways water is utilized in scripture and how that can be applied to our lives. The different inner workings of the worship experience have been planned to hopefully make it more engaging for all who walk in the doors of Stone Church.

So yes, I am still feeling the emotions of anticipation, joy, nerves, and wondering, but I look forward to ministry together with you.

With peace, The Rev. Irene Pak

STONE CHURCH YOUTH GROUP KICKS-OFF THE YEAR ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 14, FROM 5 TO 7 PM!



Calling all sixth through twelfth graders!

Another fun-filled year for the Stone Church Youth Group begins on Sunday, Sept. 14, from 5 to 7 pm.

Bring your friends for a night of food, fellowship, games, and new friendships!

This year, we will be meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

For those of you who would like to have a more in-depth devotional and study discussion time, we will be splitting into middle school and high school small groups, from 4 to 5 pm, on those Sundays.

Then, we will all come together for food and fellowship, from 5 to 7 pm.

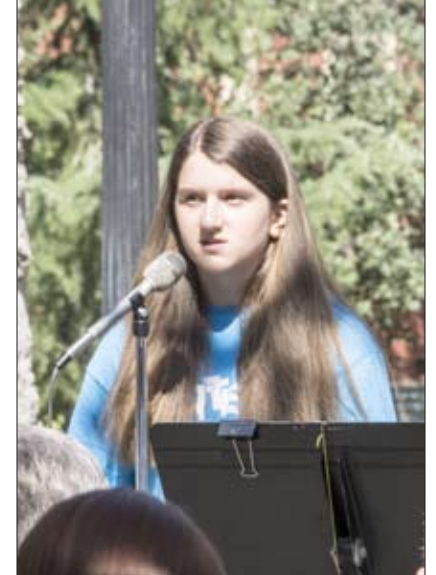
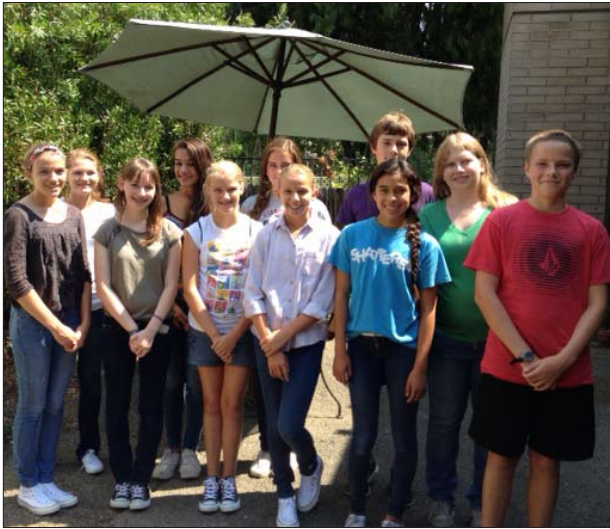
So the schedule will look like the following:

STONE CHURCH YOUTH GROUP
meeting dates: 2nd and 4th Sundays
time: 4 - 5 pm – Middle School and High School Devotional/Study
5 - 7 pm – All-Youth Food and Fellowship

Throughout the year, we will have service days, lock-ins, our annual corn maze trip, and much more!

Hope to see you at the kick-off and all year!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Irene in the Church Office.



The Youth Group is always busy doing something, from supplying food and serving lunch to the homeless at Front Door Ministry at First Presbyterian in downtown San José, to assisting with worship at the Annual Church Picnic and Worship in the Park.

ADULT EDUCATION: ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS, 2014 GA, CHURCHES LEAVING

Adult Education classes meet on Sunday after Worship, in the Fireside Room, from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. Childcare is available in the Nursery.

For more information, contact Pat Magee, Adult Education Subcommittee Chair.

Sept. 7: Awareness of Alzheimer's Disease

Did you know that Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the US and the only one in the top ten that *cannot* be prevented, cured or slowed? More than five million Americans have Alzheimer's disease today, and this number is expected to triple by 2050. Come and learn about this terrible sickness that affects so many in their older age.

[Also, be sure to attend a Benefit Concert, on Sept. 14, in support of Alzheimer's research (see page 6).]

Sept. 14: Church School Kick-Off

Learn about plans for the coming Church School year. Join us in the Fireside Room for goodies and good news. Children are welcome.

Sept. 21: 2014 General Assembly

Rev. David McCreath and Marcia Ludwig will report on key results of the 2014 General Assembly. Marcia served on the Mission Considerations Committee (one *consideration* was changing the Peacemaking Offering), and David served on the Mid-Council Committee.

Sept. 28, Oct. 5: Why Are Some Churches Leaving the San José Presbytery? Why Are We Staying?

In June, three member churches (out of a total of 46) of the San José Presbytery left the PCUSA. Seven more plan to leave by the end of the year.

What events have caused these long-time, solid Presbyterian churches to decide they must leave? Is the PCUSA no longer true to God, Jesus, and the Bible? Is the PCUSA too "radical"? What is the position of Stone Church?

Would Stone ever consider leaving the denomination?

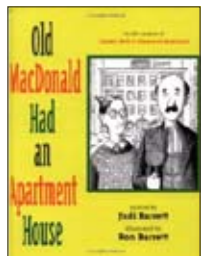
Oct. 12: Campus Ministry at Stanford And Associated Peace Study Initiatives, with Geoff Browning, Stanford Campus Ministry

Where will the next generation of churchgoers come from? What will the increase of NONES (non-religious youth) mean for the church? What are the challenges and opportunities for campus ministry?

Peace study initiatives at Stanford will also be discussed.

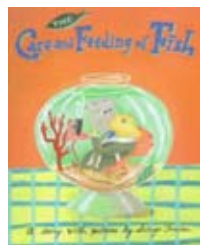
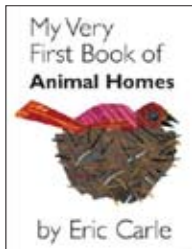
BRING "HOME" A GOOD BOOK FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

September brings some people back home, and to their normal lives. Some of our newer books relate to home. Enjoy! - Sue Williams, Library Coordinator



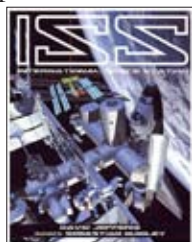
For our younger members
Old MacDonald Had an Apartment House by Judi Barrett (1st Bks J Bar)

My Very First Book of Animal Homes by Eric Carle (1st Bks J Car)

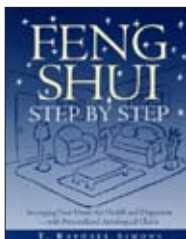


The Care & Feeding of Fish by Sarajo Frieden (J Fri), given by Glen Casner

ISS International Space Station by David Jeffers (J 629 Jef)

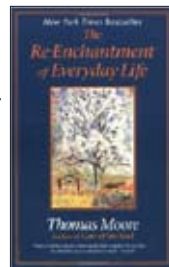


The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis (YA Lew)

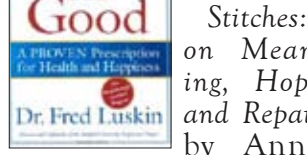


Additions to our regular adult collection
Feng Shui: Step by Step by Raphael Simons (133 Sim)

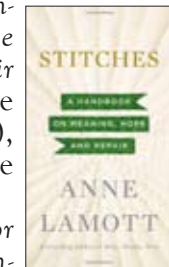
The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life by Thomas Moore (158 Moo)



Forgive for Good by Fred Luskin (158.2 Lus)



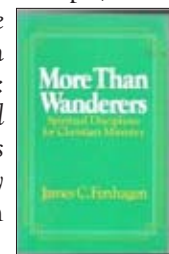
Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair by Anne Lamott (204.4 Lam), given by Charlotte Dickson



Jesus for the Non-Religious by John Shelby Spong (232.9 Spo)



More Than Wanderers: Spiritual Disciplines for Christian Ministry by James Fenhagen (242 Fen)



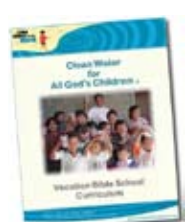
Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: A Journey into the Evangelical Subculture in America, 4th ed., by Randall Balmer (277.3 Bal), given

by Pat Magee

Saving Stuff: How to Care for & Preserve Your Prized Possessions by Don Williams (640 Wil)



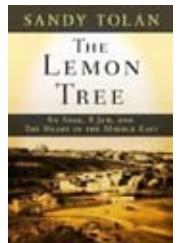
Politically Correct Bedtime Stories by James Finn Garner (813.54 Gar)



New to special collections
Clean Water for All God's Children by PCUSA (Ecol 574 Cle - DVD)

Home Is Where I Live by Camilla Warrick (Spec. Needs 362.1 War)

The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, & the Heart of the Middle East by Sandy Tolan (Soc.Iss.-World-Mideast 956 Tol)



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Back to school and back to business! September begins, and so do we, under the leadership of new Presbyterian Women Moderator, Virginia Holtz. Our Bible Study Circles, as well as our other activities, start up their regular meetings this month.



The Rev. Irene Pak will lead the *Horizons Bible Study Day*, at San Francisco Theological Seminary, on Saturday, Sept. 13, from

12:30 to 4:30 pm. [To register, call 415.451.2830, or go to at.events@sfts.edu.]

Fair Trade coffee and chocolate sales continue, on the second Sunday of the month, with new chocolate products coming. Check us out!



We continue to collect *Box Tops for Education* for Della Smith's school, Katherine R.

Smith Elementary. Thanks to Sue Evans for organizing this.

PW Calendar

Amethyst Circle: Wed., Sept. 3, 1 pm, Church Library

Emerald Circle: Thurs., Sept. 4, 9:30 am, Gail Chaid's home

Sapphire Circle: Mon., Sept. 8, 7:30 pm, Joyce Summers' home

Lunch Bunch: Tues., Sept. 9, 11:30 am, Taiwan Restaurant, 1306 Lincoln Ave.; contact Ida Raby for more information

PWCT: Thurs., Sept. 11, 9:30 am, Social Hall

Horizons Bible Study Day: Sat., Sept. 13, 12:30 - 4:30 pm, San Francisco Theological Seminary, 40 Kensington Road, Alexander Hall, San Anselmo, CA, 94960

Fair Trade Sales: Sun., Sept. 14, at Coffee Fellowship (10:30 am)

Book Group II: Mon., Sept. 15, discussing *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd, at Jan Keifer's home

Book Group I: Mon., Sept. 22, Hazel James' home; contact Mary-Margaret Teel for more information

Bible Study: Thurs., Sept. 25, 9:30 am, Church Library; led by the Rev. Irene Pak

New Horizons Bible Study Group: Fri., Sept. 26; contact Carrie Campbell for more information

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Sat., Sept. 27, 1-3 pm, Linda Hagan's home

- Joyce Summers

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, contact the Rev. Dr. David McCreath, Parish Associate.

Men's Book Group, Sept. 15

The Men's Book Group will meet on Sept. 15, beginning at 7 pm. The book for review is *Lost Technologies of Ancient Egypt*, by Christopher Dunn. Bruce Raby is the host.



Men's Quarterly Breakfast, Sept. 20

The Men's Quarterly Breakfast will be held on Sept. 20, at 8:30 am, in the Social Hall. All men of the church are welcome to join in the good food and fellowship.

Semi-Annual Book Sale, Oct. 19

The Men's Ministry Semi-Annual Book Sale will be held on Oct. 19, during Coffee Fellowship. This is a good time to give summer reading books to the sale, and to find new books for fall and winter. Funds received support the mission efforts of the Men's Ministry.

Westminster Woods, Oct. 31 - Nov. 2

The Men's Mission Team is planning a worktrip to Westminster Woods the weekend of Oct. 31 - Nov. 2.

Contact Leland Wong for more information.



Where in the World is Ken Henry?

Joyce and Lawrence Summers, along with Stan Searing, recently traveled to Oregon to "re-provision" Ken, as he hiked along the Pacific Crest Trail.

Stan then joined Ken as he continued his hike, as seen in the picture at right.

At press time, Ken had completed the hike and was in Oregon with family and friends, prior to leaving for Italy with Heather.

We keep Ken in our prayers and hope he is truly enjoying his Sabbatical.



SESSION DISCUSSES LEADERSHIP & TRAINING OF NEW ELDERS AND APPROVES CONCERT

At the first of three Session meetings over which she will preside alone, the Rev. Irene Pak asked the elders of Stone Church to step up as leaders by volunteering for more duties.

“Leadership does not mean lording it over people,” she said at the Aug. 19 meeting.

Instead, according to the *Book of Order*, part of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA, “Ruling elders [elders elected by congregations], together with teaching elders [ministers, like Irene], exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation, as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships.”

Irene told the Session that this means volunteering more often to serve as liturgists at Sunday worship services, serving communion in church and in the homes of shut-ins, focusing on learning about new members, and venturing into the *Book of Order*

to learn more about the church’s governance.

This talk fit into the major theme of August’s meeting, which was dealing with some of the training details for the new class of elders our congregation elected in May. This training would have been covered in the July Session retreat, but the retreat had to be rescheduled.

All elders, who have not previously done so, were asked to register for one of the Safe Church Training programs offered locally in September or October. Our church requires workers and volunteers to take this training to learn about potentially significant safety risks, particularly in regard to child abuse.

The Session voted approval of two items, an Oct. 12 concert benefiting Stone Church’s special music fund and \$1,000 toward organist Stephen Boniface’s attendance at an American Guild of Organists’ conference earlier this year in Boston.

- Jody Meacham, Elder

SPEND TIME WITH A “TEEN IN NEED” AT STONE’S ANNUAL INNVISION CLOTHING TRIP

Our annual shopping trip for teens from InnVision Shelter Network is coming up!

Why join us? Reaching out, directly, to those in need is a Stone Church way! We could just distribute gift cards to shelters, but this event is about more than just the clothes. Being invited to a special event, shopping before a store opens, getting attention from an adult who cares, and eating a celebratory snack afterward make this much more personal than just receiving a donation.

We have had a father walk his son all the way from the Alum Rock neighborhood to Santa Clara Kohl’s to participate. Mothers have shed tears of thanks saying that this trip means the world to them. Some teens have opened up to share stories with their shopping partners: stories of domestic violence, deported parents, debt from illness.

Please plan to join us for this Stone Church tradition of a festive morning of shopping for some truly deserving teens.

when: Saturday, Sept. 20, 7 am

where: Kohl’s of Santa Clara

who: 20 teens from InnVision Shelter Network

sign-ups: during Coffee Fellowship, or contact Alice McNelis or Alison van Diggelen



STEPHEN MINISTERS PROVIDE “CARE IN STRESSFUL TIMES”

Some of the most common causes of stress include the death of a loved one, divorce, unemployment, financial trouble, poor health, personal relationship issues, pregnancy or infertility, and other life-altering occurrences.

Sometimes we struggle alone with such stresses, thinking we should be able to cope using

our own resources or faith. However, often just talking about our concerns helps to relieve some of the stress.

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide caring, confidential listening during stressful times.

If you would like more information about care from a Stephen Minister, please contact Joan Peckham, or talk to any Stephen Leader: Dale Bracey, Marsha Wadley, or Judith Mohr.



STONE TRAIL WALKERS TO VENTURE OUT IN SEPTEMBER!

The Stone Trail Walkers are heading out on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 9 am to noon.

The location is still to be determined, so look for more detail in the *Weekly Updates* sent out by Fred Oliver, or contact Mary-Ann Hudson.

STEPHEN BONIFACE AND KATHRYN CAMPBELL TO GIVE ALZHEIMER'S BENEFIT RECITAL

Stone Church will host the 2014 American Guild of Organists' annual recital to benefit the Alzheimer's Association, at 2 pm, Sunday, Sept. 14.

Stone Church organist Stephen Boniface, a frequent Bay Area recitalist who has performed internationally including at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, will join with soprano Kathryn Campbell of Rancho Cordova, a former featured soloist at the Basilica Cathedral of St. Joseph in San José, in an eclectic program ranging from classical and opera to musical theater.

Proceeds from the recital, a component of the Stone Church Organ Recital Series, will benefit the Alzheimer's Association's mission-related initiatives of care, support and research into this fatal disease, which afflicts more than five million Americans and is the nation's sixth-leading cause of death.



Stephen Boniface, who began his musical studies as a 6-year-old in Australia, is the recipient of many piano and organ performance awards. He has served for more than 20 years as organist and/or music director at Bay Area churches. He has accompanied numerous choirs and performers and served as artist liaison for the San Francisco Symphony in 2009. Stephen is also an Adult Gerontological Nurse Practitioner (RN, MSN, MSE).

Kathryn Campbell, choral director at Rancho Cordova High School and the Yuba Sutter Master Chorale, has performed in numerous recitals, oratorio, opera, and musical theater productions. She is a frequent performer in Northern California including leading roles with the Borgamaria Lyric Opera Company. She is a former music teacher at Willow Glen High and Middle Schools.



Join us for this exciting event. The Deacons and StoneWorks will host a reception after the recital. - Jody Meacham

HENRIETTA PERDUE LECTURES, NOV. 14-15, WITH RICHARD HORSLEY ON "EMPIRE AGAINST COMMUNITY AND THE COMMON GOOD"



Dr. Richard Horsley will be the featured speaker at the annual Henrietta Perdue Lectures, on Nov. 14-15.

Dr. Horsley will present three lectures on the theme of "Empire against Community and the Common Good."

On Friday evening, at 7:30 pm, his lecture is titled, "Jesus, Community and Empire."

On Saturday morning, his first lecture, at 9 am, is titled, "Taking the Gospel as a Whole." His second lecture, at 11 am, is titled, "Covenant Economics and Community Renewal."

Dr. Horsley is Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and the Study of Religion at the University of Mass., Boston, and author of numerous books on Jesus and the Gospels in the social-political context of first-century Galilee and Judea.

Dr. Horsley has pioneered the recognition that the people among whom Jesus lived and worked were under the rule (empire) of Rome and required tribute to Caesar. Jesus, in opposition to the Roman imperial order, which meant disorder, debt, and poverty for the people,

preached the direct rule (kingdom) of God.

In contrast to scholars who focus narrowly on Jesus' sayings, Dr. Horsley insists that the Gospels be taken whole as stories of Jesus' mission.

In the Gospels, Jesus was not just a teacher of individuals, but a prophet, like Moses and Elijah, engaged in healing the effects of Empire and generating a movement of resistance in the villages of Galilee and beyond. He focused on renewal of the Mosaic covenantal community, pressing the people for cooperation and mutual support in pursuit of economic rights and the common good.

Jesus' renewal in the Gospel story also meant resistance to the Empire. He declared that it was against the Mosaic covenant for the people's livelihood to be siphoned off in tribute to Caesar.

Jesus was executed as a leader of nonviolent resistance to imperial rule. However, his crucifixion only energized the renewal of covenantal community and continuing resistance to the Empire.

Ticket sales will begin in early October. Cost for the Friday night lecture: \$25; for the two Saturday lectures: \$25; and for the complete program: \$40. - Pat Magee

Ed Tablak has just added a book of poetry by Evelyn Tower to his website, tabsbookcorner.com.

Don't forget to check out this wonderful resource, which also contains writings by Ken Henry, Jody Meacham, Mike Breuleux, Bob James and Ed, himself.

And as always, any donations to the website are given to the American Red Cross.

TABSBOOKCORNER.COM





Photos from the PW August Brunch, with Rev. Dr. Teresa Chavez Saucedo, speaker (bottom row, first), and Nanette Donohue, Assistant Principal, Katherine R. Smith School (bottom row, second)

**RABYS ALWAYS ENJOY
"SUMMER SING" AT ZEPHYR**



Once again, Jean and I participated in the annual *Summer Sing* at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center, on the shores of Lake Tahoe.

Summer Sing is a conference for choir members and is really a "church" that comes together to sing, worship, and care for each other. The days are filled with rehearsals, worship, and devotional times. The event concludes with a festival worship service on Sunday.

Summer Sing was the vision of Mel Olson, and the first event was held in 1988. Carrying on Mel's legacy are

Katharin Rundus and Allan Petker. Anyone who has participated in recent history knows the blessing we have in Kathi and Allan. This year we were fortunate to have Brad Ellingboe as a guest clinician. Brad teaches music at a university in Albuquerque and brought a delightful style and energy.

Jean and I have enjoyed our times at *Summer Sing* for about 15 years. We have made many friends, whom we see every year, plus we enjoy meeting new friends each year.
- Dan Raby



Stone recently welcomed eight new members (from left to right):

Jason Lebowitz, Steve and Sarah Ciccarello, JoAnn Arreola, Louis Burgyan, Carol Lathrop, Ginny and Neale Barret

ANOTHER WONDERFUL RECIPE FROM HEALTH MINISTRY: CRISPY KALE & TOFU WITH COCONUT

Hello all. Here is a recipe for Crispy Kale and Tofu with Coconut.

This is another family favorite! My kids love this dinner, and amazingly, it's quite healthy because kale is so fantastically good for you. The crispiness of the kale and coconut are delicious together. Don't be scared ... just try it!

Crispy Kale and Tofu with Coconut

Ingredients

- 1 cup brown rice
- Salt
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- 2 Tablespoons Braggs liquid amino or soy sauce
- 1 bunch kale – stems and ribs removed, torn or chopped into bite-sized pieces
- ½ cup unsweetened coconut flakes
- ½ pound extra-firm tofu cut into ¼-inch cubes

Preparation

Prepare brown rice following the directions for the type that you have at the house.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees, and position racks in the lower and upper third of the oven.

In a small bowl, whisk the olive oil with the sesame oil and liquid amino or soy sauce.

Put kale, coconut, and tofu into a large bowl. Toss to coat with about two-thirds of the sauce. Reserve the rest of the sauce for later.

Spread the mixture on two rimmed foil-lined (for easy clean-up) baking sheets.

Bake 25 minutes. Stir once halfway through, and switch the pans up and down to ensure even baking.

Return the mixture to the large bowl, and toss with remaining sauce.

Serve over brown rice and enjoy!

Notes

☀ This recipe has been modified from foodandwine.com.

☀ You can find unsweetened coconut and liquid amino at Sprouts and Whole Foods. Unfortunately, Trader Joe's does not carry them.

- Ashley Neufeld, Health Ministry

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