

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

NOVEMBER 2014



STONE CHURCH YOUTH GROUP VISITS UESUGI FARMS PUMPKIN PARK

The Stone Church Youth Group recently visited the Uesugi Farms Pumpkin Park in San Martin, where the highlights included seeing (and sitting on!) all those pumpkins and getting lost and scared in the Corn Maze!

[See page 6 for more great pictures from Irene.]



HELP, THANKS, WOW

by Rev. Irene Pak

“When you are aware of all that has been given to you, in your lifetime and the past few days, it is hard not to be humbled, and pleased to give back.”

- Anne Lamott

Author Anne Lamott’s 2012 book is entitled, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*.

I have not had the opportunity to read it through yet, but the simple title expresses my sentiment of functioning as a pastor at Stone Church while the Rev. Ken Henry has been on sabbatical.

As this November newsletter comes out, Ken will be coming back (*Hallelujah!*). It was not too long ago that I was writing with a bit of anticipation about the three months to come, and now I write reflecting on the three months past.

Here’s what I’d like to say to you, Stone Church, about this time and maybe provide some guidance for all of us:

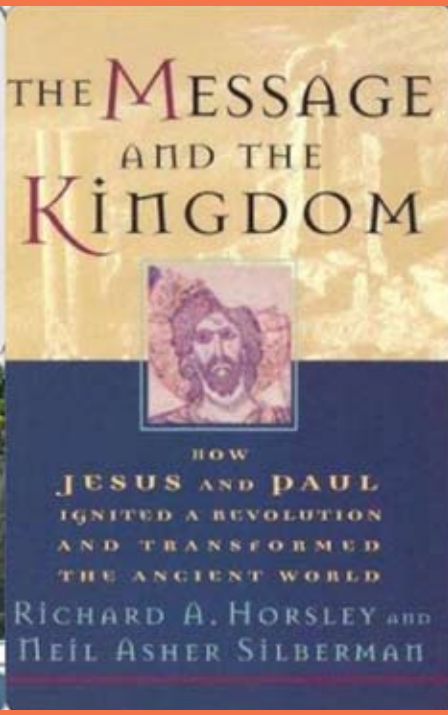
Help: It’s been humbling to acknowledge the spaces and places where I have had to ask for help, but I am so thankful that I did. It allowed me to be a better pastor overall, and it allowed me to lift up the gifts of so many here at Stone Church.

Asking for help also taught me that there is nothing wrong or deficient about me in the asking, but learning how to be honest with my limitations. When we are not able, someone is able, and God is *always* able, so let’s never be afraid to ask for help.

[continued on page 6]

MANY EXCITING EVENTS COMING IN NOVEMBER!


Dr. Richard Horsley
November 14-15
Register now at
stonechurch.org



**THE MESSAGE
AND THE
KINGDOM**

HOW
JESUS AND PAUL
IGNITED A REVOLUTION
AND TRANSFORMED
THE ANCIENT WORLD

RICHARD A. HORSLEY AND
PEIL ASHER SILBERMANN



*You are cordially invited to the
Triennial Art Exhibit of
Lynden Keith Johnson*



*10 am to 6 pm, Saturday Nov. 29
10:30 am to 4 pm, Sunday, Nov. 30
Social Hall, Stone Church of Willow Glen*

Thanksgiving at Stone

This Thanksgiving, Nov. 27, you and your friends are invited to attend a Stone Church Thanksgiving Dinner Feast in the Social Hall.

The turkeys and *fixins* will be provided. You are asked to bring one, or some, of your favorite Thanksgiving side dishes or desserts to share.



Dinner will be served around 1:30 pm, but the doors will be open at noon for some pre-dinner snacks and fellowship.

So, if you're looking for a place to have a relaxing

Thanksgiving dinner without the muss and fuss of cooking turkeys, this is the spot for you. Elder Chris Lee will be our chef of the day!

Look for the sign-up table during Coffee Fellowship on the Sundays before Thanksgiving.

For more information, please contact Fred Oliver, Chair, Membership & Communication Committee.



Holidays in Hawaii

The Deacons' annual pre-holiday tea will be held Saturday, Nov. 22, from 2 to 4 pm.

Though in the past this event was advertised as the "senior tea," all ages are invited this year.

This year's theme is "Holidays In Hawaii." Come listen to and sing Christmas/Island songs accompanied by ukuleles; partake of yummy desserts; get your instant holiday photo taken; and, visit with your church friends. Come decked-out in your Hawaiian shirt and Christmas hat - we'll give you a floral lei!

See you at the sign-up table during Coffee Fellowship on Nov. 9 and 16, and then see you at "Holidays In Hawaii"!

For more information, please contact Maureen Ryan.

ADULT ED: INTRO TO DR. HORSLEY; ISRAEL/PALESTINE; WHY ARE YOU CHRISTIAN?

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 about any of these classes, please contact Pat Magee, Adult Education Subcommittee Chair.

Nov. 2 & 9: Empire vs. the Common Good: Introduction to Dr. Richard Horsley's "Henrietta Perdue Lectures"

As an introduction to Dr. Richard Horsley's *Henrietta Perdue Lectures* (Nov. 14-15), Walter Hudson leads discussions of the political, social, and religious times of Jesus:

† Nov. 2: **The Kingdom of God Movement Made Plain** - In his book, *The Message and the Kingdom*,

Dr. Horsley explores the full spectrum of Jesus and the Early Church within Roman imperial history, and how the message and practice of the church was molded by their social and political conditions.

† Nov. 9: **How Can We Get from There to Here?** - In his book, *Jesus and The Powers*, Dr. Horsley uses a thorough rethinking of the "religion versus politics" conundrum as a launching point for laying a challenge to the contemporary church: when will we use our power from God to withstand the seduction and intimidation of modern Powers?

Nov. 16 & 23: **What Can Be Done About Israel and Palestine?**

Have you felt frustrated about facts

on the ground in Palestine and Israel and wondered what could be done?

We will focus on learning more about the situation, and taking action to help support peace and justice in this part of our world.

The program will include guest speakers from Palestine and a representative from the Jewish Voice for Peace.

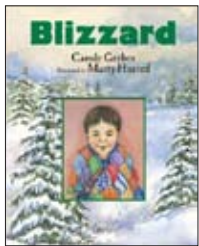
Nov. 30: **You Say You Are a Christian?** with the Rev. Marge Palmer

For most of its history, our country was considered a Christian nation. That is no longer true. A vast number of Americans, when asked to state their religion, reply "None."

If a "nones," or a member of another faith, asked you why you are a Christian, or what does it mean to be a Christian, how would you respond?

CHURCH LIBRARY: A CORNUCOPIA OF GREAT THANKSGIVING READS!

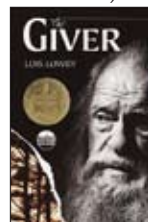
Over the river and through the woods ... plays in my mind as I select the books for this month. Happy reading!
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator



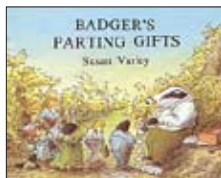
For our younger members
Blizzard by Carole Gerber (1st Bks Ger)



Where Is Grandpa? by T.A. Barron (J-Spec. Needs Bar)



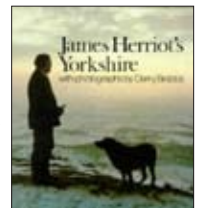
The Giver by Lois Lowry (YA Low), given by Claudia Hamm



Badger's Parting Gifts by Susan Varley (J-Spec. Needs Var), given by Glen Casner



San Francisco Encore: A Cookbook by the Junior League (641.5 Jun), given by Fran Cole

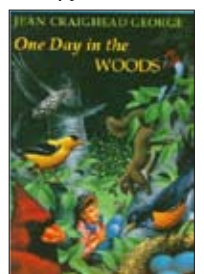


James Herriot's Yorkshire (941 Her), given by Glen Casner



The Incredible Indoor Games Book by Bob Gregson (793 Gre)

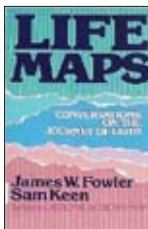
The Quilt Story by Tony Johnston (1st Bks Joh)



One Day in the Woods by Jean George (J Geo), given by Jutta Sargent

Additions to our regular adult collection

Life Maps: Conversations on the Journey of Faith by Jim Fowler & Sam Keen (234.2 Fow), given by Ivan Kolte



Encounter with Silence: Reflections from the Quaker Tradition by John Punshon (264 Pun)

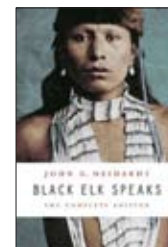
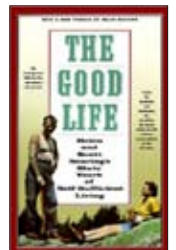


In Whom We Live & Move & Have Our Being: Pantheistic Reflections on God's Presence in a Scientific World ed. by Phillip Clayton & Arthur Peacocke (291.1 Cla), given by Pat Magee

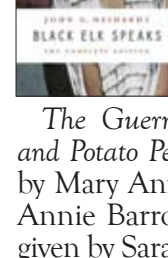


New to our special collections

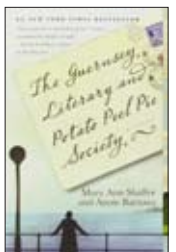
The Good Life by Helen & Scott Nearing (Ecol 179 Nea), given by Fran Cole



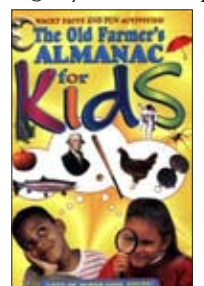
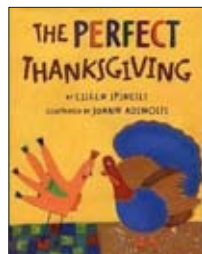
Black Elk Speaks by John Neihardt (Soc. Iss.-Multi-Cul. 970 Nei), given by Brad Bauer



The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows (F Sha), given by Sara Holtzapple



The Perfect Thanksgiving by Eileen Spinelli (J Spi)



The Old Farmer's Almanac for Kids ed. by Janice Stillman (J 031 Sti)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The PW of Stone Church extends grateful thanks for all those in our church participating in Session, Deacons, committees, church school, soulfeast, and PW activities.

We hope everyone has had a chance to contribute to the PW Thank Offering. If not, please contact me. Contributions to our PW Ministries Offerings support women and children locally and worldwide.

World Community Day, Nov. 7.
World Community Day is organized by Church Women United, an ecumenical organization of Christian women who are working to strengthen families.

World Community Day, Nov. 7.

World Community Day is organized by Church Women United, an ecumenical organization of Christian women who are working to strengthen families.

World Community Day focuses on justice and peace around the world and is typically celebrated on the first Friday in November.

Double-check Your Coupons

For our PW Coupon program, please be sure to bring only those coupons labelled **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**. Other coupons will not count toward this program. See also this website for more information:
www.boxtops4education.com



Focus Group Provides Help with Upcoming Propositions

Mid-term elections are very close, and most of you have received your sample ballots. The Focus Group has some helpful websites to aid you in making informed decisions on the propositions:

- ✿ Secretary of State site: www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov
- ✿ California Church Impact Ballot recommendations: www.churchimpact.org
- ✿ League of Women Voters recommendations: www.lwvc.org

PW Calendar

Amethyst Circle: Nov. 5, 1 pm, Church Library, leader Jan Keifer

Emerald Circle: Nov. 6, 9:30 am, leader: Carolyn Clendenning

World Community Day: Nov. 7

Fair Trade Sales: Nov. 9, 10:30 am, Social Hall

Sapphire Circle: Nov. 10, 7:30 pm, Sheri Cunningham's home

Lunch Bunch: Nov. 11, 11:30 am, Taiwan Restaurant, 1306 Lincoln Ave.; contact Ida Raby

PWCT: 9:30 am, Nov. 13, Social Hall

Book Group II: Nov. 17, 2:30 pm, Betty Spicher's home

Focus Group: Nov. 19, 9:30 am, June Tablak's home

Bible Study: Nov. 20, 9:30 am, Church Library; led by the Rev. Irene Pak

Book Group I: Nov. 24, 1 pm, contact Mary-Margaret Teel for more information

Prayer Shawl Ministry: contact Janice Goertz for more information
 - 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, please contact the Rev. Dr. David McCreath, Parish Associate.

Men's Book Group, Nov. 17

The Men's Book Group will meet on Monday evening, Nov. 17, beginning at 7 pm.

Jim Hagan will be the host. We will discuss a few of the recent books members have read.

And we will select books to review in the next several (winter) months.

- David McCreath

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE



Several members of Stone Church are interested in efforts to improve the situation for Palestinians.

The Presbyterian Foundation has established a program of investing in Palestinian programs to encourage a stronger economic base for Palestine.

Two short videos can be found by following these steps:

- ✿ Go to: www.presbyterianfoundation.org
- ✿ In the Search box, type: "transformational investing"
- ✿ Select the top entry: Transformational Investing.
- ✿ You will see a page of text, with two videos, one describing the investments, the other an interview about work in Bethlehem. Sometimes the videos download slowly, so please be patient.

- Rev. Dr. David McCreath



The Photography Group recently traveled to Sacramento by train. Here, Jody Meacham, Jay Evans, Jean Raby, David McCreath, and Guy Lohman are at the California State Railroad Museum (photo by Dan Raby).

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD; TAIZE ADVENT SERVICES BEGIN DEC. 2

Have you experienced the calm of a candlelit Taizé service?

In the rush of the Christmas season, do you long to find the peace of the Christ child?



scripture reading, contemplative prayer, and beautiful Latin and English chants, patterned after those first practiced in the small village of Taizé, France.

Would you welcome time to sit quietly, surrounded by beautiful music and candlelight, and prepare yourself to receive the gift of the baby Jesus?

Come gather in our candlelit sanctuary for a simple service of music, meditation, and silence.

Find peace, healing, reconciliation, and calm, through

Taizé services will be held each Tuesday night in Advent beginning Dec. 2, and continuing Dec. 9, 16, and 23.

The sanctuary opens at 6:30 pm for music and meditation.

The service begins at 6:45 and concludes about 7:30.

- Fran Cole

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM THE DEACONS: PARENTS' DAY OUT

Attention all Stone Church parents:

Parents' Day Out is coming on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 am to 2 pm.



Let the Deacons watch your children (12 and under), so you can shop, exercise, run errands, or do nothing at all.

Lunch, activities, and crafts are provided. It is *free*, but you *must* sign up in advance during Coffee Fellowship, starting Nov. 16.

For more information, to sign up, or to volunteer to help, please contact Lawrence Summers.

NEED HELP WITH RESOURCES? USE THE HUMAN SERVICES HELPLINE, 2-1-1

If you or a friend or family member need help and don't know where



to turn, pick up the phone and dial 2-1-1.

Those three digits will connect you to a trained specialist who can direct you to the agencies that can best address your human services needs.

Frequent referrals are for such areas as food, housing, utilities and shelter; low- or no-cost legal assistance; mental health, alcohol and substance abuse counseling; domestic violence resources; transportation, and employment resources; services for pre-school children or for the elderly.

2-1-1 is free and confidential. The phones are answered by trained, live specialists 24/7/365. Calls are handled in English, Spanish, Vietnamese,

Cantonese, Mandarin, and more than 150 other languages. The service is also available on the web at www.211sc.org.

The service is available in all Bay Area counties and most counties in the state.

In Santa Clara County, 2-1-1 is operated by United Way Silicon Valley, with significant funding from United Way donors, the County of Santa Clara, City of San José and other municipalities and institutions.

Larry Olmstead, an elder at Stone Church, is the senior United Way executive responsible for 211 SCC. He is also chair of 211 California, the state association. Please contact him with any questions.

And please avail yourself of this important resource if needed, and encourage others to use it.

2015 Stone Church Women's Retreat

Searching for Understanding and Respect: An Intimate Dialogue between Christian and Muslim Women

Save the weekend of
March 6 - 8, 2015, for an
exciting and interesting
time with other
Stone Church Women.

SESSION CLARIFIES FUNDRAISING POLICY FOR MEN'S MISSION WORK TEAM EVENTS, APPROVES A VARIETY OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS

The semi-annual book sales of the Men's Mission Work Team, as well as their annual Crab Feed, are popular events, familiar to us all.

The Stone Church fundraising policy, intended to prevent members from being subjected to an excessive number of fundraisers, has now been modified to clarify how these, and other work team fundraisers, will be handled.

As a result of Session's action at its October meeting, the two annual book sales have been exempted from the limitation on the number of fundraisers allowed by a group, similar to the way that Presbyterian Women's Fair Trade Sales are handled.

All other work team fundraisers will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Also, the team will make quarterly reports to Session on its fundraising and spending plans, and all money raised will go to the church's general fund.

Most of Session's other work at the meeting was approving the following motions by committees:

- ⊗ A Stone Church Family Camp the weekend of May 15, 2015, at Westminster Woods, at the request of the Membership and Communication Committee.
- ⊗ A Thanksgiving Dinner in the Social Hall for members and

friends without other plans, also at the request of Membership and Communication.

- ⊗ A Red Cross Blood Drive Saturday, Dec. 6, in the Social Hall, at the request of the Health Ministry Committee.
- ⊗ A personnel search for a new nursery supervisor and nursery assistant at the request of the Christian Education Committee.
- ⊗ A contract renewal for the annual retainer of attorney Lynn Stutz for 2015, at the request of the Budget and Finance Committee.
- ⊗ Serving communion the first Sunday of each month in 2015, at the request of the Worship Committee. The *Book of Order*, the constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA, requires that the Session approve both sacraments (communion and baptism), and it is Stone Church's practice to serve communion monthly. Communion on special occasions such as Maundy Thursday or at the Women's Retreat are approved by Session as needed.
- ⊗ The nomination of ruling elder Maureen Ryan as vice chair of Nominating Committee. Carrie Giorgianni is chair.

- Jody Meacham, Elder



More great pictures from the Youth Group's Pumpkin Park adventure!



HELP, THANKS, WOW

by Rev. Irene Pak

[continued from page 1]

Thanks: I wish everyone could feel the abundant gratitude I feel for all of the support, cheers, notes, and appreciation that you have showered on me along the way. It sustained me through the more difficult patches that come along with ministry. Living with an attitude of gratitude during

these months of transition in job and home really lighted my path.

I recently celebrated six years of ordination as a minister of word and sacrament, and this time of functioning as a solo pastor for the Stone Church community was a good and empowering experience for me. Thank you for helping facilitate that.

Wow: Wow! Three months has passed, and the time has come where I have the privilege, and yes, I consider it a full privilege, to function again as your Associate Pastor. Wow! I have a beautiful new home to live in now, thanks to the many hands,

hearts, time, and resources of this church and the investment into its own property. Thank you for trusting me with it.

Wow! In these three months, I was able to celebrate the sacraments of communion and baptism with you, facilitate two memorial services, and preside at a wedding for two of our members. These are all privileges that I enjoy as a pastor.

Thank you for believing in me and trusting me as one of your pastors during this sabbatical time.

Also, WELCOME BACK KEN!

Help, thanks, and wow, Pastor Irene



So much is going on at Stone ... (left to right, top to bottom) Children's Choir with Peggy Spool and Derk Johnson; Welcome Guest, the Rev. Aimee Moiso, serving Communion with the Rev. Irene Pak; Blessing of the Roycott House; [bottom half are of Photography Group on train trip to Sacramento] "Conductor David McCreath"; "Photographer Jody"; Jay Evans, Guy Lohman and Jody Meacham "riding the rails"; Jean Raby and Guy at the California State Railroad Museum; Dan Raby, Jean, Guy, Jay, and David at the Delta Queen on the Sacramento River.





AN EARLY MORNING IN SAN DAMIANO

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

At 6:30 am, I awaken at the Hotel Pallotta, slide out of bed, and make my way to San Damiano. I read somewhere that the Franciscans offer morning prayers at 7 am.

It is a steep, cobbled walk down to this small church. The hills are lined with olive trees. The morning air is crisp. It feels good to walk. At this time of the morning, no tourist buses are revving their engines, and no religious types are crowding the narrow lanes of Assisi.

I imagine that when I arrive at San Damiano only a few people will come for prayer. After all, the small church that St. Francis restored in the early 12 c. holds only about 50 people. There's nothing terribly ornate or artistic about its sanctuary. Its stone walls are narrow, and the lighting is poor.

But when I arrive, to my surprise, the sanctuary is filled with pilgrims, and I can only sit outside. I hear the monks chanting the Psalms and reading the New Testament lessons in Italian.

Albeit I am physically, linguistically, and culturally an outsider here, still something about this site speaks to me, both past and present.

San Damiano is the legendary place where St. Francis heard Jesus say, "rebuild my church." And that's what he did. Brick by brick, stone by stone, St. Francis and his Franciscan brothers restored an old broken-down church and rebuilt it into the small chapel that still stands today.

In the 8th grade, I remember watching the Franco Zeffirelli movie, *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*, at a church youth group movie night. I remember being moved by St. Francis' renouncing of materialism and worldly wealth in order to draw closer to God.

Sitting outside San Damiano, I recall the Donovan song from the film:

*If you want your dreams to be, build it slow and surely.
Small beginnings, greater ends, heartfelt work grows purely.
If you want to live life free, take your time go slowly.
Do few things but do them well. Simple joys are holy.
Day by day, stone by stone. build your secret slowly.*

*If you want your dream to be, build it slow and surely.
Take your time, go slowly.*

Of course, I had to look up these lyrics for this article, but Donovan's haunting melody has never left me. I have never forgotten the song's insistence that God calls us to take our time, go slowly, and build slowly.

Going "slowly" has never been my strong suit. As a pastor, like St. Francis, I wonder if God is calling me and others to "rebuild" the Presbyterian Church USA, to start from scratch, to somehow restore what was and has been. I think my vocational life has been dedicated to this purpose.

O Lord, like this song, like St. Francis of Assisi, may I experience the holiness of simple joys, of taking my time, and of going slowly.

Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. - Matthew 6:25ff.

Blessings, Ken

ANOTHER WONDERFUL RECIPE FROM HEALTH MINISTRY: CARROT, TOMATO & COCONUT SOUP

Here is a simple, healthy and quite tasty recipe - Carrot, Tomato & Coconut Soup (modified from greenkitchenstories.com). Don't skip the ceviche for the topping - it's easy and really adds a punch of texture and flavor. Enjoy!

Ingredients for the Soup

- 1 tablespoon coconut oil or olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground turmeric (optional)
- 10 medium-sized carrots, rinsed and sliced
- 1 can (14 oz.) plum tomatoes
- water enough to cover
- sea salt and black pepper
- 1 can (14 oz.) full-fat coconut milk

Preparation for the Soup

Heat oil in a pot. Add onions, garlic and turmeric, and sauté until soft and fragrant. Add carrots and tomatoes, and cook for a minute or so, while stirring. Add water, sea salt and black pepper,

cover and let simmer for 15-20 minutes until the carrots are tender. Meanwhile, prepare the ceviche topping.

When the soup is ready, use an immersion (hand) blender to puree until smooth. Alternatively, you could do this in batches in a blender. Once blended, stir in the coconut milk, taste and adjust the flavors.

Serve the soup in bowls with a couple of spoonfuls of the ceviche topping and a drizzle of olive oil.

Ingredients for the Ceviche

- 2 fresh corn cobs, husks removed
- small handful of Italian parsley
- juice from 1-2 limes
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- sea salt and black pepper

Preparation for the Ceviche

Cut off the corn kernels from all sides. Chop the parsley. Place in a bowl. Combine all ingredients and season to taste. - Ashley Neufeld, Health Ministry

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