

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

DECEMBER 2014



**Wishing you a most joyous
and blessed Christmas!**



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AND SERMON SERIES: “MEETING JESUS’ EXTENDED FAMILY”

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

We know the story of Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus. We know the story of the shepherds living in the fields and keeping watch over their flocks by night.

We know about John the Baptist proclaiming that *The Messiah* was soon to come, and we’d better get ready pronto. And of course, who hasn’t heard the legend of the Wise Men from the East bearing gifts and coming to pay homage to the child born in Bethlehem?

And yet, in the wake of these leading roles in the Christmas Story, we often overlook two people who experienced the birth of Christ

in a unique way. We might even call them Jesus’ *extended family*.

This year, for the four Sundays of Advent, through both sermons and liturgy, the Rev. Irene Pak and I will focus our attention on Jesus’ birth from the perspective of Elizabeth and Zechariah.

We’re told in the first chapter of Luke’s Gospel that Zechariah was a priest, and Elizabeth was his wife, and they were an older couple without any children. But this was soon to change.

In preparation for this Advent series, Irene and I invite you to read the story of Elizabeth and Zechariah and to discover what happened to them on the way to celebrating the birth of the Christ Child.

*By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and
in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

“The Song of Zechariah,” Luke 1:78-79

Advent & Christmas at Stone Church

- Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23: Taizé Services (pg 5)
- Dec. 12: “In Bethlehem Inn” (pg 2)
- Dec. 13: Parents’ Day Out (pg 2)
- Dec. 14: “Misa Criolla” (pg 2)
- Dec. 14: Blue Christmas Service (pg 5)
- Dec. 14: Youth Christmas Party (pg 2)

Christmas Eve:

- 5:30 pm - Family Service, with Children’s Pageant, Lighting Candles
- 11 pm - Candlelight Service, with Chancel Choir, Christmas Sermon



A Christmas Ornament that Ken purchased while in Orvieto, Italy

CHANCEL CHOIR TO SING "MISA CRIOLLA," A MASS IN SPANISH



Musicians Eduardo Madeo and Yayo Quesada (members of The Border), with composer Ariel Ramirez and Jaime Torres at the Vatican, delivering a copy of the work [Misa Criolla] to Pope Paul VI. [1967]

One of the reasons Presbyterians remember the Catholic Church's Second Vatican Council in 1965 was that it meant we could finally attend a mass and understand the language.

Truth be told, it also meant the same thing for many Catholics.

Argentine composer Ariel Ramirez immediately took that new freedom to its logical conclusion, not only abandoning Latin for Spanish in his new first mass, *Misa Criolla*, or *Creole Mass*, but also using instruments and rhythms from the pampas and Andes of his native land.

The Chancel Choir will perform *Misa Criolla*, accompanied by piano, guitar and percussion, during Advent at Stone's regular worship service on Dec. 14.

"I felt that I had to compose something deep and religious that would revere life and involve people beyond their creeds, race, color or origin," Ramirez told the *Jerusalem Post*. He said it was a tribute to human dignity, courage and freedom, with a distinct message of Christian love.

Misa Criolla was first performed publicly in Germany in 1967. On Dec 12 (two days before our performance) it will be performed for the first Argentine (and Spanish-speaking) pope, Francis, at the Vatican. - Jody Meacham

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. The event is free, but you must sign up in advance during Coffee Fellowship or by

contacting Lawrence Summers.

Also contact Lawrence if you would like to help, or just need more information.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY!



On Sunday, Dec. 14, from 5 to 8 pm, the Stone Church Youth Group is invited to a Christmas Party at the home of Rosaleen Zisch.

Join us for food and goodies, and our annual Christmas Bible Trivia Quiz and White Elephant Gift Exchange!

Bring a wrapped gift (\$5 and under please!), and come prepared to have a great time.

Please contact Pastor Irene if you have any questions.



"In Bethlehem Inn"

Come one, come all, to an interactive dinner theater, *In Bethlehem Inn*, on

Friday, December 12,
from 6 to 8 pm

This is an event for the whole family!

A donation of \$5 per guest is requested to pay for our humble meal.

Please sign up during Coffee Fellowship, or contact Mary Jo Blazek for more information.



ADULT ED TACKLES "WHY ARE YOU CHRISTIAN?" AND CHRISTMAS UPS & DOWNS ...

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.

Note that there is no Adult Education class on Dec. 28.

Dec. 7: 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?

Dec. 14: Blue Christmas, with the Revs. Irene Pak and Ken Henry

Blue Christmas is a time designed for people who, alongside the joy of the holiday season, are experiencing sadness, pain, loss, and grief. It is a time for prayer and a place to

acknowledge the grief that also comes along with this season (see also page 5).

Dec. 21: Christmas Unwrapped: The History of Christmas

People all over the world celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25.

But why is the Nativity marked by gift-giving, and was He really born on that day?

And just where did the Christmas tree come from?

We take an enchanting tour through the history of Christmas and trace the origins of its enduring traditions.

CHURCH LIBRARY HAS BOOKS TO GET YOU IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

Welcome once again to the beautiful stories, music, and art of Christmas!

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator



For our younger members

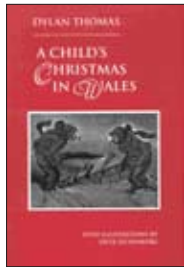
Sharing Christmas by Kate Westerlund & Eve Tharlet (1st Bks Wes)

Where Do You Sleep, Little One? by Patricia Hooper (1st Bks Hoo)



Ben's Christmas Carol by Toby Forward (J For)

A Child's Christmas in Wales by Dylan Thomas (J Tho)



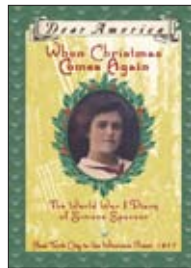
This Is the Star by Joyce Dunbar (J 232.9 Dun)



Feliz Navidad by Jose Feliciano (J 390 Fel)



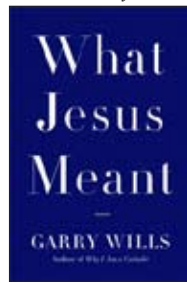
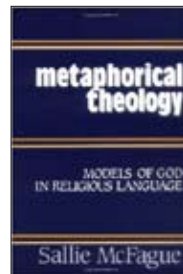
Silent Night: The Song and Its Story by Margaret Hodges (J 782 Hod)



When Christmas Comes Again: The WWI Diary of Simone Spencer by Beth Levine (YA Lev)

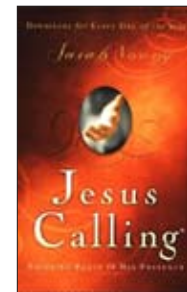
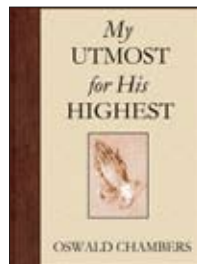
Additions to our regular adult collection

Metaphorical Theology: Models of God in Religious Language by Sallie McFague (231 McF), given by Pat Magee



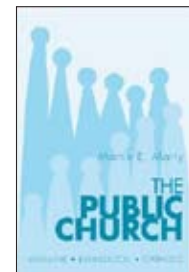
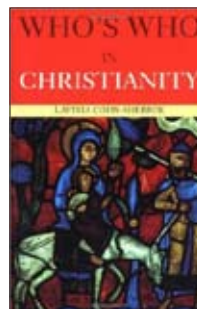
What Jesus Meant by Garry Wills (232 Wil)

My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers (242 Cha), given by Evelyn Tower



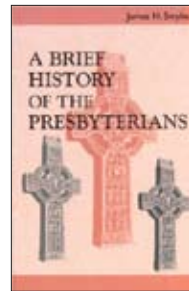
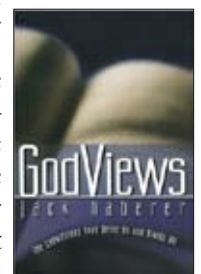
Jesus Calling: Enjoy Peace in His Presence by Sarah Young (242.2 You), given by Gail Chaid

Who's Who in Christianity by Lavinia Cohn-Sherbok (270 Coh)



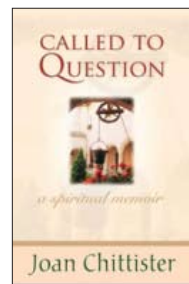
The Public Church: Mainline, Evangelical, Catholic by Martin E. Marty (277.3 Mar)

That Drive Us & Divide Us by Jack Haberer (285 Hab), given by Pat Magee



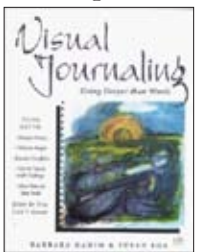
A Brief History of the Presbyterians by James Smylie (285 Smy), given by Claudia Hamm

Concerning the Spiritual in Art by Wassily Kandinsky (700 Kan)



Called to Question: A Spiritual Memoir by Joan Chittister (Biog CHITTISTER)

Visual Journaling: Going Deeper than Words by Barbara Ganim & Susan Fox (Spec. Needs 615.8 Gan)



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Advent and Christmas: Seasons of Giving, Hope, and Peace.

I like the music and seeing joy in the faces of children.

PW and Individual Donations

PW is using its trust interest to give charitable donations to the SFTS Advent Children's Party, Freedom House, Emmaus House, Immanuel House, Front Door Ministry, and the Bill Wilson Center.

Individual contributions to mission co-workers can be made to their work by sending checks to Presbyterian Church (USA), Post Office Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700 (or pcusa.org/donate/).

Here are the names of our co-workers: Brian and Sandi Thompson-Royer serving the people of Guatemala (E200334 ID), Dong Ho and Sook Nim Choi serving Christ in Indonesia (E200523 ID), and Kate Taber serving Christ in Israel-Palestine (E200516 ID).

Next Door Solutions

Next Door Solution's 22nd Annual Holiday Boutique is Dec. 11. Contact Claudia Hamm if you want to donate a new, unwrapped gift (the deadline may have passed by the time you are reading this).

Especially needed are gifts for women and children's books in Spanish.

Holiday Peace Fair, Dec. 6

The e-Sew-Journ (refugee sewing class) will participate in the *Holiday Peace Fair*, held Dec. 6, from 11 am to 4 pm, at the Campbell United Methodist Church (corner of Hamilton and Winchester).



The e-Sew-Journ group will sell handmade aprons and other items, and the proceeds will be used to support their sewing class in the new year.

Still Time to Create Your Own Basket with Fair Trade Items



If you didn't get to order a coffee and chocolate basket from Sally Magee for your gift-giving, you can still order or purchase coffee, tea, and chocolates to gift on your own.

This month, Fair Trade Sales will be held on Dec. 14, during Coffee Fellowship.

While Holiday Shopping, Don't Forget "Box Tops for Education"

Don't forget to purchase items with *Box Tops for Education*.

Be sure to check out paper products this month!



PW Epiphany Tea, Jan. 4, 2015

The PW Epiphany Tea will be held on Jan. 4, 2015, in the Stone Church Social Hall (*more information in the January newsletter*).

PW Calendar

Amethyst Circle: Noon, Dec. 3, Jan Keifer's home

Emerald Circle: 11:30 am, Dec. 4, Gail Chaid's home

Sapphire Circle: Dec. 8, 7:30 pm, contact Sheri Cunningham

Lunch Bunch: Dec. 9, 11:30 am, Taiwan Restaurant, 1306 Lincoln Ave.; contact Ida Raby

PWCT: 9:30 am, Dec. 11, Social Hall

Fair Trade Sales: Dec. 14, 10:30 am, Social Hall

Book Group II: Dec. 15, 2:30 pm, Claudia Hamm's home

Focus Group: Dec. 17, 9:30 am, June Tablak's home

Bible Study: Dec. 18, 9:30 am, Church Library; led by the Rev. Irene Pak

Book Group I: Dec. 22, 1 pm, contact Mary-Margaret Teel

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Dec. 27, contact Janice Goertz

PW Epiphany Tea: Jan. 4, 2015, Social Hall

- Joyce Summers

MEN'S MINISTRY

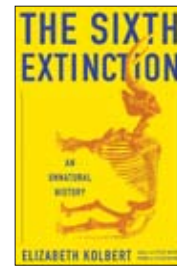


The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work team, a book group, a flying group, and wine- and beer-making groups. For more information about any of these activities, contact the Rev. Dr. David McCreath, Parish Associate.

Men's Book Group

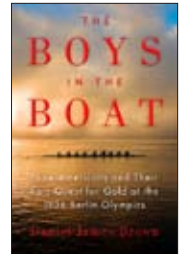
The Men's Book Group has selected books for winter reading. They include a range of subjects, reflecting the range of interests in the group. The group meets at 7 pm on the third Monday of the month. All men of the congregation are welcome to join the conversations.

Here are the dates for each event, the book to be discussed, and the host.

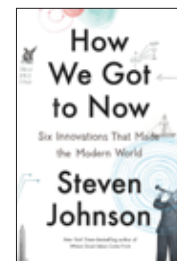


Jan. 19: *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, by Elizabeth Kolbert. [Bruce Raby, host]

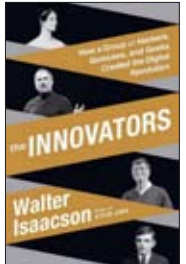
Feb. 16: *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*, by Daniel James Brown [Bill Ribble, host]



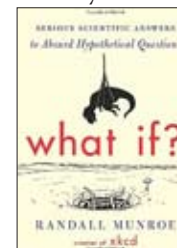
March 16: *How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World*, by Steven Johnson [David McCreath, host]



April 20: *The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution* by Walter Isaacson [Rod Thorn, host]



May 18: *What If? Answers to Absurd Scientific Questions*, by Randall Munroe [Steve Buckley, host]



- David McCreath

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD; TAIZE ADVENT SERVICES DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23

Are you longing for some quiet time to deepen your spiritual experience of Christmas?

Time to break away from shopping, wrapping, baking, card writing, decorating, and partying? Time to listen for God's word? Time to get in touch with the true meaning of Christmas? Time to prepare yourself to receive the blessed gift of the baby Jesus?

Each Tuesday night in Advent (Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23), the Stone Church sanctuary is lit with a multitude of candles, creating



a most peaceful, beautiful, and sacred space. Our services are patterned after those first practiced in the small village of Taizé, France, and include Latin and English chants that help to quiet the mind and bring peace, calm, and a sense of God's loving and healing presence.

The sanctuary opens at 6:30 pm for music and meditation. The service begins at 6:45 pm and concludes about 7:30 pm.

All are welcome. Do come!

- Fran Cole

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE SUNDAY, DEC. 14



Blue Christmas is an intimate time and service of worship, acknowledging that the season of joy is not always joyful for everyone.

It's designed for anyone who might be holding grief, pain, loss, or loneliness, alongside the joy of the season.

It is a place to hold light to the grief and allow space for those feelings.

Join us in the Fireside Room at 11:15 am, following the regular worship service on Dec. 14. All are welcome. - Rev. Irene Pak

JOIN THE SOUTH BAY SANCTUARY COVENANT DELEGATION TO EL SALVADOR IN MARCH 2015

You are invited to join the *South Bay Sanctuary Covenant Delegation* to El Salvador, March 20/21-29, 2015.

On March 24, you'll participate in events commemorating the 35th anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero and see how he is alive in the struggles of his people:

- ✿ More people are learning to read and write.
- ✿ School packages and free education are being provided to grammar and high school students.
- ✿ Some free healthcare is now available.
- ✿ Support to farmers, as well as food production, have increased.

You'll see how *Voices on the Border* helps people deal with:

- ✿ challenges of impunity and violence
- ✿ unjust US immigration and drug policies

- ✿ hurtful effects of 10 years of CAFTA, a free (not fair) trade agreement

You'll enjoy solidarity with Salvadorans and those on the delegation by:

- ✿ growing in understanding of Christian faith and liberation theology.
- ✿ experiencing great hospitality by spending three nights in our rural partner community.

The delegation will be led by *Voices on the Border* staff:

- ✿ José Acosta, El Salvador Director of VOICES
- ✿ Luz Deras from SBSC, as our Interpreter

The cost is \$880 for lodging, food, transportation, and leaders, plus airfare. Some scholarship help for youth is available; please request an application.

For more information, please contact Arlene Schaupp.

NEWLY TRAINED STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE "READY TO LISTEN"



Jutta Sargent became a Stephen Minister at a commissioning ceremony during worship on Nov. 2. She had completed fifty hours of training with a class at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Another group of four new Stephen Ministers will complete their training at Stone Church this month and will be commissioned in January. They are eager to serve our congregation with their listening skills.

The Stephen Ministry program is available year-round, especially during this time of year, when many experience stress and some revisit sad memories.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a Stephen Minister who has been trained to provide regular listening care to anyone dealing with life challenges, such as loss, grief, health crises, and relationship issues, please contact Joan Peckham.

The Stephen Ministry program will hold their holiday celebration on Dec. 18 with current and soon-to-be Stephen Ministers and their leaders.

- Judith Mohr

STONE CHURCH IS THRILLED TO WELCOME TWELVE NEW MEMBERS!



Stone Church is extremely happy to welcome twelve new members!

Top row: Allen Bartu, Priska Bitterli, Felix Bitterli, Dina Colella, Catherine Othick with her new baby

Second row: Wayne Martin, Janet Miller, Amber Rasura, Ricky Rasura

Bottom row: Patty Hart Wilson, David Wilson, Sharon Knox (at right)



SESSION APPROVES BACKYARD MAKEOVER, VEGGIELUTION EVENT, CRAB FEED

Stone Church's backyard is undergoing a makeover, which was given Session's approval at the November meeting.

Part of this makeover has already happened. The duplex on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Roycott Way has a new fence separating it from Stone Church's Lincoln House and Roycott House, where the Rev. Irene Pak, our associate pastor, lives.

Session authorized paying half the cost of the fence, for up to a maximum of \$3,000 from the major maintenance fund.

Other changes are taking place in two stages, one of which is under way. Because the growth of our redwood tree had raised the concrete walk that passed over its roots, causing a tripping hazard, the walk has been jack-hammered into oblivion.

Sod has been placed there temporarily, but next spring a larger landscaping makeover is planned to refurbish the yard.

In other business, Session approved:

- ✿ three motions from the persistently and prolifically productive Personnel and Administration Committee: (1) to revise the church employees' holiday policy; (2) to set the annual congregational meeting to Sunday, Feb. 1, for the presentation of the budget and to approve the pastor terms of call (salary and benefits in plain English); and (3) to donate \$150 to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, which works to reform the national

denomination's policies regarding gays and lesbians.

- ✿ a motion from the StoneWorks Committee for an all-church work and picnic event on Saturday, Feb. 7, to help plant fruit trees in the Veggielution Community Garden at Emma Prusch Park. StoneWorks will contribute \$1,000 toward the purchase of the trees. More details will be in the January edition of *The Stone News*.
- ✿ a request from the Men's Mission Team to hold the annual Crab Feed fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 31. John Lococo, the group's chair, also gave a detailed report of the event's history and a summary of future Mission Team plans.

- Jody Meacham, Elder



Deacons' Holiday Tea
"Holidays in Hawaii"



Siena (a poem by Ken Henry)

What can I write of Siena?
Truly my favorite Tuscan town.
What can I say of El Campo?
So filled with light and sound.

How can I describe its history
of horseraces, art, and Black Death?
Where thousands once died;
Where Sienese once cried;
Where old men breathed their
last breaths.

Siena, Siena, will you ever change?
A city of merriment mixed with pain.
Where St. Catherine built her home.
Where crusaders once did roam.

Ask once.
Ask twice.
Ask a thousand times:
Where a tower still stands
With a church so grand –
Oh, what can I write of Siena?



ANOTHER WONDERFUL RECIPE FROM HEALTH MINISTRY: APPLE, GOAT CHEESE AND PECAN PIZZA

What? You love pizza too?! Well then this *Apple, Goat Cheese and Pecan Pizza* will not disappoint. This is a perfect fall pizza and a great deal healthier than your standard pepperoni and cheese.

Ingredients

1 pizza dough rolled out (both Trader Joe's & Whole Foods have good ones)
1 thinly sliced apple (Fuji, Granny Smith, or something similar)
4 oz. crumbled goat cheese
2 teaspoons finely chopped thyme
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1½ teaspoons honey
2 cups arugula or spinach
3 tablespoons chopped pecans, toasted

Preparation

Preheat oven and pizza stone to 450 degrees.

Place pizza dough on a baking sheet or pizza stone. If using a baking sheet, give

it a coat of cooking spray first. Arrange apple slices evenly over pizza dough, and top with cheese. Sprinkle thyme evenly over cheese.

Bake for 12-15 minutes or until cheese begins to brown.

While pizza is baking, whisk together olive oil, Dijon mustard, and honey.

Remove pizza from oven, drizzle with sauce, and sprinkle with arugula and pecans.

Notes

🔪 Recipe modified from myrecipes.com.

🔪 Cooking time may vary if using a baking sheet, so watch your pizza.

🔪 I always double this recipe to feed my family of 4, although I don't feel the need to double the cheese. I buy a 5 oz. sleeve and find that it's enough for 2 pizzas. Personal preference though.

- Ashley Neufeld, Health Ministry

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