

# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

JANUARY 2015



A last glimpse of Christmas 2014 ...

## STAR GIFTS: YOUR WORD TO PONDER ALL YEAR LONG

by Rev. Irene Pak

Happy New Year, everyone! A new year has arrived, and along with the hopes we carry into a new time, I think we tend to feel a slight letdown after the holidays have passed.

Because of that, it's easy for the season of Epiphany go by unnoticed. We always learn that the magi (aka wise men or women) were at the manger scene. However, when we pay closer attention to the scriptures, it is more likely that Jesus was a toddler by the time they got to the "house" (yes, it was a house!) where Jesus lived. Travel took a lot longer back then.

These magi who traveled great distances to offer their gifts to Jesus were doing this in response to God's gift to them in Christ.

Since I have been at Stone Church, I have offered a star gift to every person at the church on

the first Sunday of January closest to Epiphany. I write these gifts out one by one in a posture of prayer for all who will receive them. They are not magical or somehow going to predict anything for you in this New Year, but I would invite you to reflect and ponder the word throughout the year. Whatever star gift you receive, you are encouraged to be aware of that word in your day-to-day life. What might God be trying to share with you?



My 2014 star gift was the word, *gladness*. It was a good word for me to have for 2014, because there were moments when *gladness* was something difficult for me to experience and times when it was very easy. I had it up in my office, so I saw it every day. Sometimes I ignored it completely, and other days I remembered that it is really a gift to experience gladness, even in times of despair or sadness. If you remember your 2014 word, how did it play out for you? [continued on page 4]

## JOY PRAYER

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

God of Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and all our days, Remind us that this life we're living is not a dress rehearsal for something better.

That even in our darkest and most discouraging moments, Joy can be found in surprising ways, people, and places: When a child is baptized, when we sing Christmas carols, When we gather for worship as brothers and sisters in Christ, When we remember the birth of your son, Jesus – All these expressions of faith assist us in rekindling our joy.

Remind us that joy, God's deep and abiding presence, lies within each of our hearts If we will only dare to open mouths to sing your melody of grace and mercy.

We sing, "Joy to the World! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her king." Let us sing these words again and again Until we can breath again.

Help us to believe that you still have the power To lift up the lowly, to mend the broken-hearted, And forgive us even when we find it hard to forgive ourselves and others; and lead us by the hand when we are not sure where to turn.

Lord, we are seeking the waters of joy, today. We have come to the well to draw the waters of life. Sing us a song of joy!

And heaven and nature sing And heaven and nature sing And heaven, and heaven, And nature sing. Amen.

## MEN'S MISSION TEAM FUNDRAISING DINNER TO FEATURE CRAB, SAUSAGE, LASAGNA, AND GREAT AUCTION ITEMS



It's coming! The annual Men's Mission Team Fundraising Dinner (also known as the *Crab Feed*) will be held Jan. 31, at 5:30 pm. Crab, Sausage, and Lasagna are on the menu, and some fun items will be auctioned off.

Proceeds from the dinner will support the team's outreach activities, which over the past two years have included work at Westminster Woods, Camp Daybreak, Sacred Heart, and Roycott House. The team also helps to connect all men in the church community with quarterly breakfasts and monthly book club meetings. In 2015, we are looking to expand our outreach – potentially to Veggielution, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, and Emmaus House.

Cost: Adults – \$30 each; Youth (11 to 17) – \$15 each; Children (6 to 10) – \$5 each; Children under 5 are free! Sign-ups begin on Jan. 11, but if you can't wait that long, RSVP to John Lococo.



## REV. CHUCK RAWLINGS TO SPEAK ON THE "WEALTH GAP" AT MEN'S BREAKFAST ON JAN. 17

Don't miss the next "XY Chromosome" Breakfast (that is, Men's Breakfast) on Jan. 17, from 8:30 to 9:30 am, in the Social Hall.

The Rev. Chuck Rawlings (Honorably Retired), who attends Stone Church regularly, will speak on "Filling the Widening Wealth Gap: How Stone Church Could Make a Difference."

Chuck served as Coordinator for Urban Programs at the National Council of Churches in the 1990s and in the 80s as executive director of the New Jersey Council of Churches. He has also served as executive director of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches.

Chuck's presentation will outline how we could develop real opportunities to sustainably lift people out of poverty and become viable participants in the local economy and social structure.

Come for a good breakfast, some fine fellowship, and a challenging presentation. - John Lococo & David McCreath



Presbyterian Women of San José Presbytery invite you to celebrate with us at our Annual Tea & Candlelight Taizé Worship Service

"Reconcile with Hope and Joy"  
Sunday, January 4, 2015  
2 to 4 pm

Stone Church of Willow Glen  
RSVP to Rosaleen Zisch

## STONE CHURCH WALKERS TO TACKLE GUADALUPE RIVER PARK TRAIL



Serious about exercise and walking off those extra holiday calories? Join the Stone Church Walkers for an excursion on Jan. 17, from 9 am to noon, on the

Guadalupe River Park Trail, starting at the Children's Discovery Museum.

Almost three miles long, this paved path goes from the Discovery Museum to Route 880, near the airport. Along the way, we will stop at Discovery Meadow, McEnery Park, Arena Green, Confluence East, and the Park Avenue Bridge. There are many points of interest: art, sister city flags, gardens, Veterans' Memorial, AIDS Memorial Grove, a suspension bridge, and more.

Our plan is to stop at these points of interest on the northward journey and hike back at a faster rate. Join us for as long as your interest and energy last. This would be a good time to use our light rail system.

Sign up during Coffee Fellowship, on Jan. 4 or 11, or contact Mary-Ann Hudson or Rebecca Schroeder.

*The November hike to Fremont Older is being rescheduled for later in the spring when the weather will hopefully be better.*

# ADULT ED STARTS 2015 WITH INTERFAITH RELATIONS, FACEBOOK, CHOCOLATE

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.



## Jan. 4: "Interfaith Relations: The Dialogue of Life," with the Rev. Dr. Christine Hong

In today's diverse world, we strive to engage people in all walks of life, including those of other religious commitments. Come learn what it means live the interfaith life and cultivate abiding relationships with our neighbors of other faith tra-

ditions, all while coming to a richer understanding of our own reformed faith and traditions.

Dr. Christine Hong is the Associate for Theology: Interfaith Relations in the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Her office focuses on bringing together and assisting the interfaith efforts of Presbyteries and congregations. A second-generation Korean American, she has a deep commitment to Asian American theology and Asian American studies.

## Jan. 11: "Facebook and Instagram 101," with the Rev. Irene Pak

Do you want to learn the basics and etiquette for using social media on Facebook and Instagram? Join us

to get some basic training on how to best utilize these tools for yourself and to advertise events using your connections. Bring your laptop if you have one, and get one-on-one training on how to use your Facebook page.

## Jan. 18: "The Dark Side of Chocolate," with Claudia Hamm

Love chocolate? Purchase Fair Trade chocolate at church each month? "The Dark Side of Chocolate" documents the exploitation and slave trading of African children to harvest chocolate. It provides a window into the chocolate industry from the European corporate arena to West Africa cocoa farms.

[For Jan. 25 class, please see page 5.]

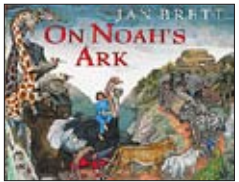
# HAVE SOME "READING RESOLUTIONS"? COME TO THE CHURCH LIBRARY!

Welcome to a new year! If you need a calendar, look in the library. We'd welcome more of your extras, and we've already given many to Sacred Heart.

Some of our new books relate to storms, civil rights, ethics, and making changes. Happy reading!

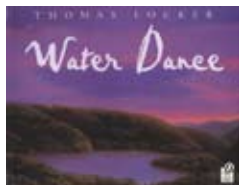
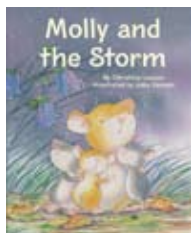
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

## For our younger members



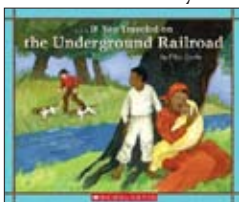
On Noah's Ark by Jan Brett (1st Bks J Bre)

Molly and the Storm by Christine Leeson (1st Bks J Lee)

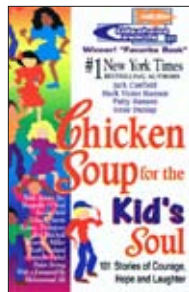


Water Dance by Thomas Locker (J Loc)

What Is God? by Etan Boritzer (J 291 Bor), given by the Roberts-Frohlich family

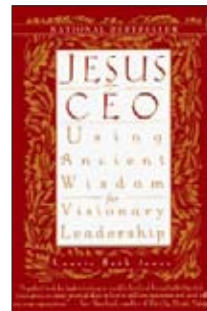
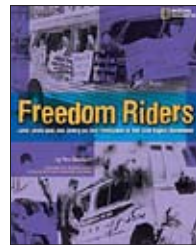


... If You Traveled on the Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine (J 973.6 Lev)



Chicken Soup for the Kid's Soul by Jack Canfield (YA 158.1 Can), given by Glen Casner

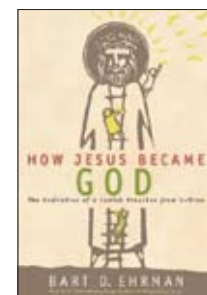
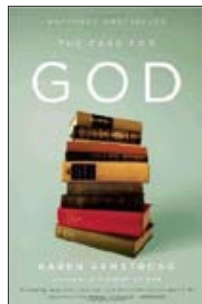
Freedom Riders: Civil Rights Movement by Ann Bausum (YA 323 Bau)



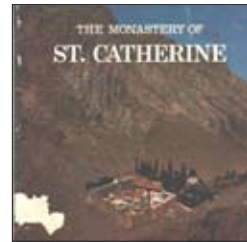
Additions to our regular adult collection

Jesus CEO: Using Ancient Wisdom for Visionary Leadership by Laurie Jones (158.4 Jon)

The Case for God by Karen Armstrong (211 Arm)

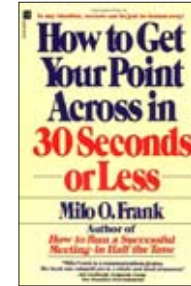
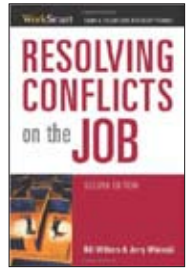


How Jesus Became God: Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee by Bart Ehrman (232 Ehr), given by Pat Magee



The Monastery of St. Catherine by Evangelos Papaioannou (726 Pap), my gift in memory of Catherine Amos

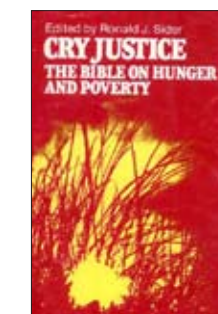
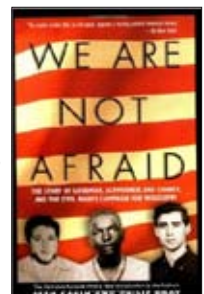
Resolving Conflicts on the Job by Jerry Wisinski (650 Wis)



How to Get Your Point Across in 30 Seconds or Less by Milo Frank (650 Fra)

## New to our special collections

We Are Not Afraid: The Story of Goodman, Schwerner & Chaney & the Civil Rights Campaign for Mississippi by Seth



Cagin & Philip Dray (Soc. Iss. Multicultural 976.2 Cag)

Cry Justice: The Bible on Hunger & Poverty ed. by Ronald Sider (Soc. Iss. Hunger 261.8 Sid)

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



*Celebrating a New Year! In our bible study lesson, Paul writes (2 Corinthians 5:17): "Anyone in Christ is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold the new has come." New opportunities abound!*

### Women's Gathering Place

A new shelter, Women's Gathering Place, an off-shoot of Front Door Ministries, sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of San José, has been given a grant to help implement a place where women can get a warm meal and sleep in a safe environment. Our PW treasury has sent monies to support the Women's Gathering Place.

### PW Epiphany Tea, Jan. 4

The PW Epiphany Tea, with the theme, "Reconcile with Hope and Joy," will be held Sunday, January 4, 2015, from 2 to 4 pm

*[Please see the full article on page 2.]*

### "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" Sunday, Jan. 11

On "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" Sunday (Jan. 11, 2015), the Rev. Ann Rhee Menzie will be our guest preacher. Since this is also Human Trafficking Awareness Day, issues concerning the lives of women and girls will be explored using the theme: "Hidden Injustice."

*[Please see the full article on page 5.]*

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been busy. Carolyn Clendenning recently made six scarves, which were donated to a homeless shelter in Portland, Oregon.

### Box Tops for Education

Don't forget to bring your Box Tops for Education to church to help Della Smith's school, Katherine R. Smith Elementary.

## PW Calendar

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

**Amethyst Circle:** 1 pm, Jan. 7, Church Library

**Emerald Circle:** 9:30 am, Jan. 8, contact Carolyn Clendenning

**PWCT:** 9:30 am, Jan. 8, Social Hall

**"Celebrate the Gifts of Women" Sunday, Jan. 11**

**Fair Trade Sales:** Jan. 11, 10:30 am, Social Hall

**Sapphire Circle:** 7:30 pm, Jan. 12, Claudia Hamm's home

**Lunch Bunch:** Jan. 13, 11:30 am, Taiwan Restaurant, 1306 Lincoln Ave.; contact Ida Raby

**Book Group II:** Jan. 19, 2:30 pm, Joyce Summers' home

**Focus Group:** Jan. 21, 9:30 am, June Tablak's home

**Bible Study:** Jan. 22, 9:30 am, Church Library; led by the Rev. Irene Pak

**Book Group I:** Jan. 26, 1 pm, contact Mary-Margaret Teel

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Please contact Janice Goertz.

*- 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.

For all of these events, all men of the church are welcome to participate (and even to help).

### Men's Breakfast, Jan. 17

Don't miss the next "XY Chromosome" Breakfast (that is, Men's Breakfast) on Jan. 17, from 8:30 to 9:30 am, in the Social Hall.

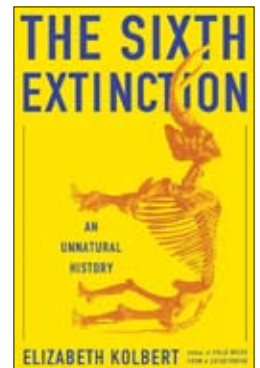
The Rev. Chuck Rawlings (Honorable Retired), who attends Stone Church regularly, will speak on "Filling the Widening Wealth Gap: How Stone Church Could Make a Difference."

*[Please see the full article on page 2.]*

### Men's Book Group, Jan. 19

The Men's Book Group will meet on Jan. 19, to discuss *The Sixth Extinction, An Unnatural History*, by Elizabeth Kolbert.

Bruce Raby is the host this month.



### Annual Men's Mission Team Fundraising Dinner, Jan. 31

It's coming! The annual Men's Mission Team Fundraising Dinner (also known as the Crab Feed) will be held Jan. 31, at 5:30 pm.

Crab, Sausage, and Lasagna are on the menu, and some fun items will be auctioned off.

Proceeds from the dinner will support the team's outreach activities.

*[Please see the full article on page 2.]*

*- David McCreath &  
John Lococo*

## STAR GIFTS: YOUR WORD TO PONDER ALL YEAR LONG

*by Rev. Irene Pak*



*[continued from page 1]*

These star gifts will be available at the worship service on Jan. 4, but I will continue to have them in my office if you are not able to get one on that day.

I encourage you to take it home and hang it up, or put it somewhere you can see it; maybe on your bathroom mirror or next to your computer screen or your refrigerator.

Whatever you do with it, please receive your 2015 star gift; your word to ponder all year long.



## REV. ANN RHEE MENZIE TO PREACH ON “CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN” SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015

“Celebrate the Gifts of Women” Sunday is set aside for two reasons: to celebrate and honor the individual women who contribute their gifts to church and community, and to lift up issues of women’s rights.

This special Sunday provides an opportunity for congregations to recognize particular women whose faithful service makes a difference in the church’s life. It also gives congregations a chance to lift up specific issues of concern to women locally, nationally, and internationally.

Taking place this year on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2015, this date is also Human Trafficking Awareness Day. This issue and other issues concerning the lives of women and girls will be explored using the theme: “Hidden Injustice.”

To aid in this exploration, the Rev. Ann Rhee Menzie will join us as our guest preacher. Ann is a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary and is an ordained Teaching Elder in the PCUSA. From 2000 to 2012, she worked to help Korean women

domestic violence survivors in the San Francisco Bay Area through Shimtuh (Korean Domestic Violence Program) at the Korean Community Center of the East Bay. Ann is currently working with Korean American Family Counseling services in Los Angeles to organize Korean pastors in their work against domestic violence.

Be on the lookout for the color orange! Wearing orange is to take a stand on ending violence against women and girls. Officially, Orange Day is the 25th of each month. This program is part of the United Nations UNITE to End Violence Against Women Campaign. It reminds us that, in Christ, we are called and freed to love one another and to pursue justice for all – each day and every day.

In addition to the bulletin insert that Sunday, an information table in the Social Hall will have a variety of materials on the issue of ending violence against women and girls for you to peruse and pick up. There may even be something orange!

- Claudia Hamm

## LISA FULLAM TO SPEAK AT ADULT EDUCATION ON JANUARY 25, 2015

Lisa Fullam, Assistant Professor of Moral Theology at the Jesuit School of Theology, Santa



Clara University, will be the Adult Education guest speaker at 11:15 am, on Sunday, Jan. 25.

Dr. Fullam is well known by Stone

members, as she has led classes at several Zephyr Experience conferences at Lake Tahoe. Her topics have included Christian Sexual Ethics; Ethics at the Edge of Life; Virtues and Issues: A Character-Based Approach to Making Moral Decisions; and the Connection between Mystical Prayer and Christian Moral Life.

[Editor’s Note: The subject for the Sunday morning class had not been set at press time.]

## CONTAINING EBOLA: A MISSION LETTER FROM CONGO (FROM PCUSA.ORG)

*Larry and Inge Sthreshley are mission co-workers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They are serving at the invitation of Presbyterian Community of Congo (CPC) and the Presbyterian Community of Kinshasa (CPK); seconded to IMA World Health (Larry); and with the Methodist Presbyterian Hostel (Inge). Inge wrote this letter from Kinshasa.*

It was 2007 and Ebola had just been confirmed at the town of Luebo.

Larry was coordinating for a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) team to get set up on the ground at Luebo Presbyterian Hospital to help contain the Ebola outbreak. Two CDC folks were already in Kinshasa and more of the team would be arriving in the next two days.

The team would need a place to stay at Luebo. An old mission home was available, but it would take a lot of work to get it

ready. Larry called me, “Inge, could you and Katherine go shopping tomorrow and buy everything needed to set up a “guesthouse” for a maximum of 16 people and food for one week?”

If I was going to be shopping the next day to set up house for 16 people, I needed to work on a major shopping list. I made the initial list and then walked through my own house to see what was absolutely essential in each room.

Early the next morning my friend Katherine Niles and I picked up the \$10,000 for the shopping trip. We each put \$1,000 into our purses and \$4,000 into the bottom of one of our shoes. Shopping with credit or debit cards was not an option and carrying around that much money in a purse was a risk.

We compared and finalized lists and hit the ground. David Law, another mis-

sionary, was buying all the tools and materials to work on the house itself, the plumbing, generator, lights, screening for windows, etc.

By late afternoon we got back to the Methodist Presbyterian Hostel (MPH) Guesthouse and deposited everything down one of the large hallways. After a break for supper, we worked into the night, packing everything up in boxes with the help of folks staying at the MPH Guesthouse.

Each box needed to be prioritized, labeled, and the weight written on the box, so it would all be ready to ship to Luebo with MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship). MAF would be flying David and the supplies up the next day and making flights throughout the next week. By the time we were finished we were all exhausted.

[continued on page 7]

## COME HELP PLANT TREES AT VEGGIELUTION

Stone's congregation has an opportunity to help San José's low-income residents obtain affordable fruits and produce by participating in a workday at Veggielution, the city's community farm at Emma Prusch Farm Park.

StoneWorks and the Men's Mission Group have given the farm \$1,200 to purchase new fruit trees for its orchard. Now, volunteers are being sought to plant the trees under the guidance of the farm staff, from 10 am to 1 pm, on Saturday, Feb. 7.

We will be placing young trees in pre-dug holes, loading and push-

ing wheelbarrows a short distance to add backfill, installing irrigation hose, adding ground cover, and painting tree trunks white to prevent sunburn. All tools will be provided by Veggielution - you need only to bring gloves and a water bottle and wear closed-toe shoes.

In a typical year, Veggielution, which relies on the work of volunteers, grows 56,000 pounds of vegetables, with almost two-thirds distributed for free or below market rate. Signage in the orchard will recognize Stone Church's contribution.

Sign up during Coffee Fellowship on Jan. 18 and 25 and Feb. 1.

- Jody Meacham



## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING "THE GIVING TREE"

The Giving Tree this year was a resounding success. Stone Church members fully subscribed to the multiple gifts for each of 20 children and delivered them back to the church in time for us to take to the Bill Wilson Center collection point.

The StoneWorks Committee thanks you, the congregation, for your wonderful support of this great community organization. There will be at least some happiness for many kids in less than desirable family circumstances because of your generosity.

- Bill Ribble & Joyce Degan



## STONEWORKS CONTINUES TO INVEST IN PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

StoneWorks has supported United Campus Christian Ministry (UCCM), now known as *Progressive Christians*, at Stanford since 2010. UCCM was born in 1963 and was originally supported by the Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, Methodist, and American Baptist faiths.

Over the past year, this privately funded ministry has received support from two denominations - PCUSA and Methodist - and twelve local churches.

On Saturday, Dec. 13, Meredith Wright (center of picture), Chair of



StoneWorks, attended the UCCM board meeting in Palo Alto to present Geoff Browning (left), Campus Minister, and Nan Swanson (right), retired Presbyterian minister and board president, a check for \$2,000.

UCCM members (students and adults alike) are empowered to live a different way of life - from a different center. Our ministry is changing the lives of the best and brightest!

UCCM is looking for additional support - financial, preparing meals for students, conducting Taizé services, serving on a committee or board, or simply spreading the Good News.

*If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Meredith Wright or Don "Skip" Skipwith.*

## LECTURES AT THE IGNATIAN CENTER FOR JESUIT EDUCATION, SCU

January's lecture series at the Ignatian Center, Santa Clara University, explores the role of faith within the practice of Ignatian leadership, engaging the foundational witness of Jesus, the leadership of Pope Francis, and the catalyzing examples of women and men with Ignatian vocations.

The lectures also highlight the import and impact of interreligious dialogue and encounter in transforming and healing our world.

Following are brief descriptions of each lecture.

✠ **Pope Francis' Witness at the Margins: Dialogue & Scandal as Signs of the Times**, with Angela Senander, on Jan. 15, at 4 pm, in the St. Clare Room, Library and Learning Commons

✠ **Encountering Jesus: Who Do You Say that I Am?** with James Martin, S.J., on Jan. 22, at 4 pm, in the Forbes Conference Room, Lucas Hall 126

✠ **A View from the Bus: Reflecting on the Axles of Faith and Justice**, with Simone Campbell,

S.S.S., on Jan. 27, at 4 pm, in the St. Clare Room, Library and Learning Commons

✠ **Day of Meditation and Mindfulness: Ignatian-Buddhist Dialogue and Practice**, with Sarita Tomayo-Moraga & Rob Scholla, S.J., on Jan. 31, at 9 am, in the Multifaith Sanctuary, St. Joseph's Hall, with a fee of \$25, lunch included.

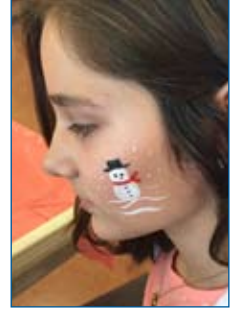
*Additional information is available at [www.scu.edu/ignatiancenter/bannan](http://www.scu.edu/ignatiancenter/bannan).*

- Pat Magee



Wonderful pictures from Parents' Day Out 2014!

With thanks to Lynn Peithman Stock, Joyce Summers, and Jody Meacham.



**Letter from Congo** [cont. from page 5]  
The CDC team thought it would take three months to stop the epidemic at Luebo. Together with the Congolese staff and MSF (in English – Doctors Without Borders), they were able to shut it down in six weeks.

I knew at the time the collaborative effort we were all involved in was important and urgent. But I have to admit, it has not been until recently in reading the headlines of the extent of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa that I have come to grasp the importance of rapid action and a thorough containment strategy. In places with limited material and financial resources, it is easy for the Ebola virus to get the upper hand and then containment becomes very difficult and very expensive – not to mention the loss of lives.

In August of this year there was another outbreak of Ebola here in Congo, near the town of Boende. It is unrelated to the epidemic in West Africa. Needless to say, health officials have been all over this outbreak. As of this writing, there have been no new cases and containment looks hopeful.

One of the reasons the 2007 Ebola outbreak was contained so quickly was that protective materials were already in place. Months before Ebola broke out, Larry had shipped kits of protective gear from Project Cure to all the Presbyterian hospitals, including the Luebo and Bulape hospitals. When a man infected with the Ebola virus showed up at the Bulape hospital, the doctor and nurses had the protective gear they needed to care for the patient and there was no transmission of the virus to the medical staff.

In light of past experiences with Ebola outbreaks here in Congo and with the extent of the epidemic in West Africa, this past month Larry has been working on getting 200 kits of protective gear through Project Cure to key mission hospitals and those assisted through the Accès de Soins de Santé Primaire (ASSP), translated as Access to Primary Health Care Project.

The Equateur and Kasai provinces are considered high-risk areas, so kits will be placed in 38 hospitals in those regions. Kits will also be pre-positioned in Kisangani (Oriental Province) and Kindu

(Maniema Province) and here in Kinshasa.

In addition, as funding comes in, medical staff will also be trained in detecting Ebola, getting samples safely to an appropriate lab, treating infected patients, tracking contacts in the community, and how to protect staff.

If you would like to give to this preventative effort for protective kits and training for health care providers in Congo and West Africa to respond to Ebola, donations can be made through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. Through your support over the years, you have helped bring medical care to thousands of people here in Congo and at some very critical times. We ask for your continued prayers and financial gifts for our sending and support.

Please pray for those on the frontlines of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and here in Congo and also those who are ill from this virus. Pray that God will provide them with exactly what they need as they combat this virus.

For more about our mission workers, see [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/) -reprinting of article suggested by David McCreath

## DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT, MARCH 6 - 8, 2015, FEATURING PROGRAM ON CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

Planning is well underway for Stone Church's annual Women's Retreat, to be held March 6 - 8, at the St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista.

This year's program is designed to expand our intellectual and spiritual horizons by examining the similarities and differences between Christianity and Islam. The roots of the two religions are the same, but because of world events, distrust of Muslims is widespread.

As open-minded women who cherish diversity, how can we learn and contribute to a healthy dialogue in our communities to promote understanding?



In addition to our speaker, a Muslim woman who is a Stanford religious scholar, the Revs. Marge Palmer and Irene Pak will lead us in an exploration of the roots of Christianity and guide us in an exercise on cultural proficiency.

All that, plus crafts, free time, shopping, traditional worship, fellowship and fun! Details and registration begin in January.

For more information, please contact Mary Stone Bowers. The photo is from last year's retreat.

## SESSION APPROVES NEW STONE CHURCH LOGO

Stone Church has had a need for a 21st century identifying logo, and at its December meeting, Session unanimously approved the Membership and Communications Committee's high-tech solution.



M&C submitted a "logo design request" to a crowd-sourcing design website that made the project available to graphic designers and artists worldwide.

Sixty-nine designers responded to the challenge, and after whittling the choices down to a handful, M&C submitted them to Session members to see which one they liked best.

The winning design was created by Antonio Urribarri from Venezuela, who drew his inspiration from what he could find by surfing Stone Church's website. His design focuses on the small steeple atop the church's original chapel building, where the Church School rooms now are located.

You may have already noticed the logo showing up on Stone's social media web pages and website, and it will become more visible in the future.

Urribarri said via email that he was honored to do the work and asked that our congregation pray for him. Under the terms of the website's working agree-

ment with contributors, he will receive the \$195 fee that M&C paid to commission the project.

Session also had a lengthy discussion about the periodic process of reviewing Stone's membership roll and removing the names of those who rarely, if ever, attend. The focus was on children of members who have graduated from college and have moved away. Session agreed that these members should be contacted individually and directly by the church to ascertain their wishes about membership status.

In other business, Session:

- ✦ Approved the baptism of Arthur Matthew Othick, son of Matthew and Catherine Othick, on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2014.
- ✦ Received a sabbatical report from the Rev. Dr. Ken Henry.
- ✦ Approved technical changes to the Budget and Finance Committee's charter to bring it in-line with current practice.
- ✦ Approved the Christian Education Committee's motion for a youth mission trip to Chicago July 5-11, 2015.
- ✦ Approved a \$5,000 Vision Grant Proposal to San José Presbytery for continued support of Stone's American Sign Language ministry.

- Jody Meacham, Elder

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