

# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

MARCH 2015



## MY LENTEN PRACTICE

by Rev. Irene Pak

*"If we walk one step toward God, God will run ten steps toward us." - Anonymous*

The season of Lent has officially begun.

As a pastor, coming up with themes and ways to engage the congregation to have a meaningful Lenten season can also mean that I forget to find ways to have a meaningful Lenten season for myself.

Actually, being a pastor means that a lot of times, I forget to tend to my own spiritual needs and spiritual life with God.

I mean, I pray ... a lot ... for other people and for the world. That's good, right?

I mean, I'm busy ... a lot ... navigating a healthy and busy church, and 10,000 things that I really care about and love about what I do. [ cont. on page 6 ]



The inaugural meeting of the "Stone Church Walking and Running Group" at the Campbell Community Center Track. Come and join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES FOR 2015, AT STONE CHURCH

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

### **Palm Sunday: March 29, 9:30 am**

Come and join the parade of children waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!"

Holy Week begins with God's people welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem.

### **Taizé: A Service of Meditation & Silence, March 31, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

The Stone Church sanctuary will be glowing with *The Spirit of Christ*. If you desire a place to sit in prayerful meditation, surrounded by the community of faith, consider coming to this experience of chanting, singing, silent prayer, and lighting candles on behalf of ourselves and those whom we love.

### **Maundy Thursday: Final Scenes, April 2, 7 - 8 pm**

Those in attendance will witness firsthand the final scenes of Jesus' life. We will watch the disciples gathering around the table for the Last Supper, walk through the Garden of Gethsemane, see the arrest of Jesus, and, finally, ponder together his death on the cross.

Like a living fresco painted on a cathedral wall, we will watch the story of Jesus' final days unfold. Irene and I hope this Maundy Thursday will be unforgettable!

### **Good Friday: Stone Church Sanctuary, April 3, noon - 3 pm**

Over your lunch hour, between errands, driving by the church, or finding some extra time you never expected, feel free to stop by the Stone Church sanctuary on Good Friday for a personal time of reflection and prayer.

The sanctuary will be open to neighbors, friends, and members.

**Easter Sunday!  
He is Risen  
Indeed!**



### **Easter Sunrise Communion, 6:30 am**

At 6:30 am sharp, we will gather in the social hall for Easter worship and the Lord's Supper. At this early hour on Easter morning, we will sing our alleluias, listen to the Easter Story, and shout, "He is Risen!" All are welcome. Oh, I almost forgot ... afterward, we'll drink coffee and eat hot cross buns.

### **Easter Worship, 9:30 am**

Accompanied by brass, organ, and our own Stone Church Chancel Choir, we will greet *The Risen One* by raising our voices in song.

We will also celebrate the baptism of two children.

May this culmination of Holy Week truly be a resurrection experience for all.

*During Lent  
 Meditation Services  
 in the style of the  
 Taizé community of France  
 March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31  
 Gather in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm  
 for music and meditation  
 Service begins at 6:45 pm*



*"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
 I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
 May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
 For I rejoice in the Lord."  
 - Psalm 104: 33-34*



*"Assumption of the Virgin,"  
 a large oil painting by  
 Italian Renaissance artist  
 Titian, executed in 1516-  
 1518, located on the high  
 altar in the Basilica di  
 Santa Maria Gloriosa dei  
 Frari in Venice, Italy.*

The Assumption of Mary  
 A meditation on a painting hanging in the Frari  
 by Ken Henry

When she died that morning, the day was still, too still.  
 The air hung with grief and heavy dew.  
 There was a sadness that folded over itself, an unnamed ache that throbbed  
 like the persistent thump of a drum leading a funeral march.  
 The disciples who were still alive took her body and prepared it for burial.  
 Even those who did not believe she was the mother of Jesus, the mother of  
 our Lord, were struck by the eerie stillness.  
 As they wrapped Mary in her funeral clothes, some remembered how she  
 often spoke of the rivulets of muddy waters mixed with blood flowing  
 on either side of his cross.  
 She often recalled how the chalky streams that ran that day were the  
 color of burnt siena.  
 She had never stopped remembering the blackness of her son's death, the  
 way her warm sticky hands felt as she assisted others in lowering his  
 body to the ground.  
 (A mother's grief is never mended, not in a thousand lifetimes.)  
 But now, in death, she could finally let him go.  
 When it happened, they say a spring wind blew freshness into the room,  
 causing the drapery to flap and dance.  
 Billows of clouds rolled in off the ocean.  
 They were the color of white marble, veined, chipped, and pried from a  
 high mountain quarry.  
 They floated unevenly across the sky, seemingly pushed and prodded  
 upward by invisible hands, by angels running underneath  
 them, dodging and darting, like children running through and into  
 and around and between sheets hanging on the line to dry.  
 The people below could not see the young and beautiful woman now  
 standing aloft, trying to keep her balance.  
 Held and lifted, she goes to a known and an unknown place;  
 a place where angels and children still run between and  
 dodge in and out of and sometimes, they run right into each other,  
 smacking heads and falling onto the grass –  
 where they roll and hold their sides, and laugh.

# EXPLORE "DR. WHO," OUR CHURCH LIBRARY, SILICON VALLEY GOD-COMPLEX

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.

There are no classes on March 8 (Women's Retreat) or March 29 (Palm Sunday).



**March 1: Religion and Doctor Who, with Laura Brekke, Santa Clara University Campus Minister**

What does it mean to be human? How would we reengage aliens, if we ever encountered them? Can aliens have a soul? These are the questions explored in the televi-

sion series, *Doctor Who*. We will discuss the theological anthropology of the show, and ask if it agrees and disagrees with our own Christian understanding of what it means to be human.



**March 15: Learn about Stone Church's Library, with Sue Williams, Library Coordinator**

Have you ever wondered what's in the Church Library, and how it's arranged? Learn the secrets of our constantly developing collection. After a discussion in the Fireside Room, we will visit the Children's Chapel Library and the main collection housed in two rooms of Lincoln House.



**March 22: Innovators, Religion, and the God-Complex, with the Rev. Dr. Ken Henry**

Do CEOs of successful tech companies truly believe they have become "gods," who have omnipotent control over their employees, while providing for their every need?

Is the local church in competition with tech companies?

Have profit margins and the quest for innovation replaced the God of the New and Old Testaments?

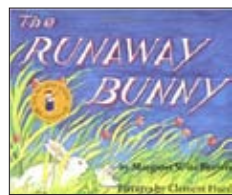
The Rev. Dr. Ken Henry will lead a discussion on belief and spirituality in the Silicon Valley.

- Pat Magee

## REFLECT ON EXPERIENCES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH A GOOD BOOK

As we proceed through Lent, books can help us reflect on experiences and relationships. Here are some new ones.

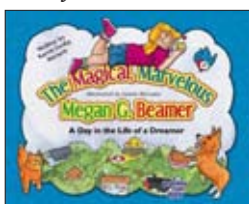
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator



**For our younger members**

*The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown (1st Bks J Bro)

*The Magical, Marvelous Megan G. Beamer: A Day in the Life of a*

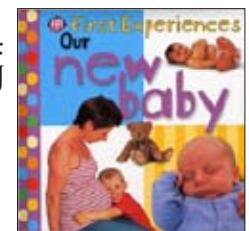


*Dreamer* by Karen Burnett (1st Bks J Bur), given by Glen Casner

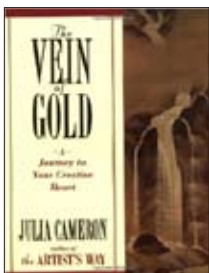
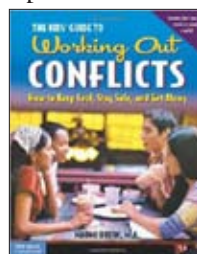
*Wee Sing for Baby* by Pamela Beall & Susan Nipp (J 780 Bea)



*First Experiences: Our New Baby* (J Spec. Needs Pri)



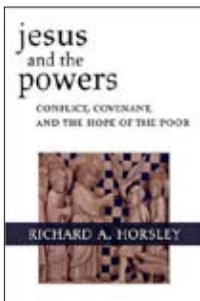
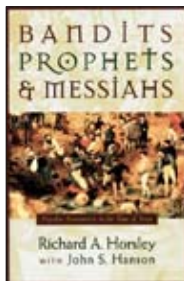
*The Kids' Guide to Working Out Conflicts* by Naomi Drew (YA 303.6 Dre)



**Additions to our regular adult collection**

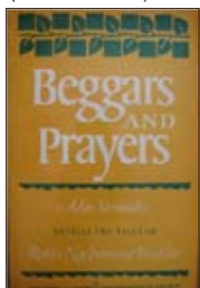
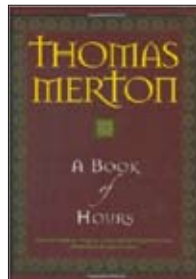
*The Vein of Gold: A Journey to Your Creative Heart* by Julia Cameron (153.3 Cam), given by Charlotte Dickson

*Bandits, Prophets & Messiahs: Popular Movements in the Time of Jesus* by Richard Horsley (225.9 Hor), given by Pat Magee



*Jesus and the Powers: Conflict, Covenant, and the Hope of the Poor* by Richard Horsley (232.9 Hor), given by Pat Magee

*A Book of Hours* by Thomas Merton (242.2 Mer)



*Beggars and Prayers* by Adin Steinsaltz (296.8 Ste)



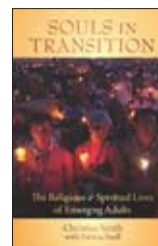
*For the Time Being* by Annie Dillard (814.54 Dil)

**New to our special collections**

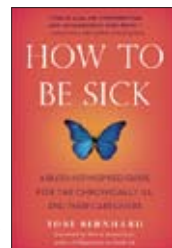
*My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor (Bio SOTOMAYOR)



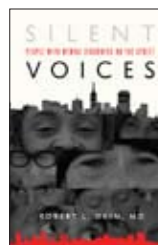
*Souls in Transition: The Religious & Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults* by Christian Smith (Fam R 200.8 Smi)



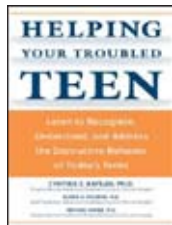
*How to Be Sick: A Buddhist-Inspired Guide for the Chronically Ill and Their Caregivers* by Toni Bernhard (Spec. Needs 294.3 Ber), given by Barbara Roberts



*Silent Voices: People with Mental Disorders on the Street* by Robert Oki (Spec. Needs 305.5 Oki)



*Helping Your Troubled Teen* by Cynthia Kaplan et al. (Spec. Needs 616.8 Kap)



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*What brings us women together?*

*Our mission in community giving and service; nurturing our faith through prayer and Bible study; and*

*working through education for justice and peace.*



### Soul Feast Groups Forming

Are you interested in joining a group of women for fun and fellowship?

June Tablak has volunteered to be the Soul Feast coordinator, so contact her for more information.

### 2015-16 PW Moderator Appointed: Maureen Searing

Maureen Searing has accepted appointment as PW Moderator-Elect for the term 2015-16. Thank you, Maureen!

### Churchwide Women's Gathering, Minneapolis, June 18 - 21

Registration for the Churchwide Women's Gathering, with the theme, "One Body, One Spirit," in Minneapolis, from June 18 - 21, is open until June 1 ([presbyterianmission.org/pwgathering](http://presbyterianmission.org/pwgathering)).

### PW in the Presbytery Forum on Human Trafficking, March 21

The PW in the Presbytery Forum on Human Trafficking will be held March 21, at Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church, from 9 am to 2:30 pm. The theme is *Reconciling with Faith and Freedom*. Speakers are the Rev. Karen Peterson-Iyer and Sally Lieber, former California State Assembly Speaker.

Come by the information table on human trafficking and modern-day slavery issues on the second Sunday of each month, when PW sells Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate.

### PCUSA Joins Interfaith Coalition Opposing Trade Injustice

Jean Raby brought our attention to the seriousness of "Fast Track" votes in the US Congress. The PCUSA urges transparency in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) fair trade agreement currently under negotiation between 12 participating countries across Asia-Pacific, with the goal of changing trade

policies. It is controversial and secret, affecting sovereignty and environments throughout our planet ([pcusa.org/news/2015/2/24/presbyterian-church-us-joins-interfaith-coalition-/](http://pcusa.org/news/2015/2/24/presbyterian-church-us-joins-interfaith-coalition-/)).

### World Day of Prayer, March 6

This year, the Bahamas have developed the message and materials for *World Day of Prayer - Church Women United*. This is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer.

### International Women's Day, March 8

The theme of this year's International Women's Day, which is March 8, is *Make it Happen*.

This theme represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality. This day was started in 1911 by various organizations (charities, UN, World Assn. Girl Guides, and Girl Scouts) to raise awareness of equality.

### PW Calendar

**Amethyst Mission Circle:** March 4, 1 pm, Church Library

**Emerald Mission Circle:** March 5, 9:30 am; Charlotte Dickson's home

**World Day of Prayer - Church Women United:** March 6

**Women's Retreat:** March 6-8, St. Francis Retreat Center

**Fair Trade Sales:** March 8, 10:30 am, Social Hall

**Sapphire Mission Circle:** March 9, 7:30 pm, Ida Raby's home

**Lunch Bunch:** March 10, 11:30 am, Taiwan Restaurant, 1306 Lincoln Ave.; contact Ida Raby

**PWCT:** 9:30 am, March 12, Social Hall

**Book Group II:** March 16, 2:30 pm, Kathy Lloyd's home

**Focus Group:** March 18, 9:30 am, June Tablak's home

**PW in the Pres. Forum:** March 21, 9 am - 2:30 pm, Santa Teresa Hills Pres. Church; contact Joyce Summers, to make reservations by March 15

**Book Group I:** March 23, 1 pm; Hazel James' home

**Bible Study:** March 26, 9:30 am, Church Library; led by the Rev. Irene Pak

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** March 28, 1-3 pm, Linda Hagan's home -Joyce Summers

## MEN'S MINISTRY

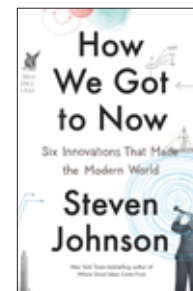


The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work team, a book group, a flying group, and wine- and beer-making groups.

For more information about any of these activities, please contact the Rev. Dr. David McCreath, Parish Associate.

### Men's Book Group, March 16

The Men's Book Group will meet on Monday, March 16, beginning at 7 pm.



The book for discussion is *How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made The Modern World*, by Steven Johnson.

The host is David McCreath (please contact him for address and directions).

*Save the Date*

*2015 CROP Walk*

*Sunday, April 19, 2015*



*The walk returns to the Rose Garden this year (starting at Hoover Middle School).*

*For more information, please contact Emily Meacham or Lizanne Oliver.*

## SESSION HIRES NURSERY ASSISTANT, CONSIDERS ANOTHER GRANT FOR ASL

Stone Church is now half-way toward the restaffing of our church nursery.

Kadija Munu of San José, a medical assistant with Women's Physicians Associates in Los Gatos, was hired by Session at its February meeting, pending the completion of background checks.

Rhonda Lakatos, chair of the Personnel and Administration Committee, thanked fellow Elder Larry Olmstead for leading the successful search.

Rhonda also noted that the search continues for a second person for the nursery.

In other business, the Session voted to apply for a grant from the Synod of the Pacific, possibly to fund American Sign Language (ASL) classes for members of the congregation, although a final use

for the money is yet to be determined.

Stone used a grant from San José Presbytery to initiate our ASL ministry, by funding the first year of ASL interpreters for Sunday worship services. Under the terms of that grant, Stone was not to use additional grants as a continuing source of program funding, which is why \$8,000 was added to the church's 2015 budget to continue our ASL ministry.

Finally, the Session approved guidelines for use of the new Stone Church logo to prevent its use outside the congregation, except with the church's permission, to prevent modifications to its design and to prevent using it in ways that discredit the church or are false or misleading.

- Jody Meacham, Elder



Stone Church recently donated 20 fruit trees to Veggielution, a nonprofit that provides fresh produce to the community. A stalwart group of "farmers" turned out to plant those trees!

## NEW GENERAL ASSEMBLY IMMIGRATION COORDINATOR, LAURA POLK

New General Assembly Immigration Coordinator, Laura Polk, a professional experienced in immigration issues and committed to justice, has accepted the position of coordinator for advocacy in the Office of Immigration Issues within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The position, lodged in the Office of the General Assembly, helps to interpret and implement PCUSA policy on immigration issues and coordinates the development and distribution of resources related to immigration issues.

Polk began work the week of Jan. 19. Among her duties will be to facilitate the continued development and expansion

of the networks of Presbyterians for Just Immigration and the Presbyterian Immigrant Defense Initiative, and to coordinate network training opportunities for leaders in immigration advocacy work in their regions, consistent with the mandates of the General Assembly.

"I am looking forward to continuing this office's work of strengthening networks, as well as forging new relationships in order to stand in solidarity with immigrants," said Polk, whose life experience includes living in Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, and Ecuador, and working as a community organizer.

- David McCreath

## STONE CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

The Stone Church Youth Group is open to everyone in 6th through 12th grades.

Here is the upcoming schedule:

### Sunday, March 8

- ✘ 5-6 pm: Middle School study; High Schoolers will be planting/community service
- ✘ 6-7 pm: Dinner and games together

### Sunday, March 22

- ✘ 5-7 pm: Middle School and High School will be painting Ukrainian Eggs and eating dinner together.



*The Stone Church Youth Group recently participated in a San José Presbytery-wide Lock-In at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church. A lot of fun, although not necessarily a lot of sleep (!), was had by all.*

## MY LENTEN PRACTICE

*by Rev. Irene Pak*

[ cont. from page 1 ]

I mean, I'm planning a wedding ... and it feels like the spare moments that I do have need to be spent there, figuring out what in the world I want and need to do. It's a whole new world!

I mean, I take time with God as I prepare worship and sermons ... isn't that enough?

There are lots of jokes out there right now mocking those who would take this season of Lent "to start their diet plan," and I know I am one of those folks who work best within a framework and timeline to give up sweets, etc.

But as I reflected on myself and Lent, and what is missing in my life

these days, it really is exercise and remembering my health journey. I was slow and steady for so many years and had reached a place of health and maintaining a good balance.

I've definitely lost that balance in my life for many reasons ... but along with that was my time to connect with God for myself. The discipline of walking/running/exercise was also my time to sync my body with my faith and prayer and God ... and that has been missing for a while.

So, during this Lenten season, I have committed to some form of exercise for at least 30 minutes every day. It does not need to be strenuous or sweaty - it just needs to be constant.

I'm nervous that I've committed to something that will be really difficult to follow through with to the end, but I'm doing this.

I hope this will also be my constant way to check in with God every day about my own spiritual health, as well. As a result, I am hoping that both my physical and spiritual health will grow stronger each day.

I'm sharing this because it keeps me accountable to it.

And speaking of accountability, I am also starting a walking/running group, in connection with the Health Ministry Committee, that will meet at 6:30 pm every Wednesday night at the Campbell Community Center track. Join me and others to walk/run/jog, or just move together.

Whatever you have chosen to do, or not do, during this season of Lent, I pray that it is meaningful for you and will reconnect you to the God who abides with us as we examine our hearts and lives.

*Blessings on the journey, Pastor Irene*



The youth group recently held a bake sale to raise money for their summer mission trip. Delicious!



At the PW Valentine Tea, the confirmation class and their mentors wore hats from Rosaleen Zisch's mother's collection (top picture), delicious food was enjoyed by all (middle and bottom), and Heather Henry shared a "favorite thing" – beautiful clothes peg dolls handmade by her mother (left).



More pictures from the "Stone Church Running and Walking Group" that meets Wednesdays at 6:30 at the Campbell Community Center Track.



## STONE CHURCH TRAILWALKERS HOPE TO SEE LOTS OF WILDFLOWERS AT SANTA TERESA

Are you a nature lover who appreciates our bounty of local wildflowers here in California? Do you yearn to stretch those limbs outside in the fresh air of a local park with friends from Stone? Do you need an excuse to put off those weekend chores and errands?

If you can answer “yes” to any of these questions, then consider joining the Stone Church Trailwalkers on a 2.6-mile wildflower hike at Santa Teresa County Park, on Saturday, March 14, starting at 9 am.

Stile Ranch Trail is well-known for wildflower viewing in the springtime. Poppies and other colorful species should be on full display if we get some rain. If not, we will still enjoy the fresh

air, scenic views, and companionship.

The hike will take approximately two hours. Stile Ranch Trail is moderately hilly, with some rough, rocky areas, so please wear sturdy shoes. Most of the trail is out in the open, so be sure to wear a hat and sunscreen and bring water to drink. There is no bathroom. Parking is very limited and carpooling is strongly encouraged. If you would like to car-



pool from church, please let us know, and be at the church by 8:30 am.

Sign up at Coffee Fellowship on March 1 or 8, or contact Mary-Ann Hudson or Rebecca Schroeder.

## RECIPE FOR SPINACH & FETA PIE WITH OAT CRUST

I probably could have eaten at least half of this Spinach & Feta Pie with Oat Crust myself, but I was writing a devotional on gluttony at the time. This pie is rich, but quite light and so very delicious.

### Crust Ingredients

½ cup oat flour (grind rolled oats in a food processor)  
1/3 cup almond flour  
2 tablespoons cornstarch  
½ teaspoon sea salt  
3 tablespoons coconut oil or butter  
3 tablespoons ice-cold water

### Filling Ingredients

3 eggs  
6 oz. feta cheese  
1 tsp. dried or fresh oregano  
½ teaspoon red chili flakes (optional)  
½ teaspoon nutmeg  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
2 green onions, finely chopped  
1 garlic clove  
2 cups fresh spinach, firmly packed  
salt and pepper

### Preparation

Preheat oven to 350° F. Combine oat flour, almond flour, cornstarch, and sea salt in a bowl. Add coconut oil and ice-cold water. Using hands, work dry ingre-

dients toward center until dough forms. Gather dough into a ball, wrap in plastic wrap, and chill for about 30 minutes.

Press dough evenly into an 8-inch tart pan. Trim dough flush with the edge of the case. Prick bottom with fork and blind bake for about 10 minutes. Reduce oven to 325° F.

Crack eggs into mixing bowl, whisk for 30 seconds, and crumble in feta cheese. Stir in oregano, chili flakes (if using), nutmeg, and pinch of salt and pepper. Set aside.

Heat olive oil in large frying pan at medium-high heat. Add green onions and garlic, and fry for about 3 minutes until golden. Add half of spinach and a pinch of salt. Stir spinach gently until it wilts, then add the rest, and keep on stirring until all is wilted. Remove from heat, and pour into the mixing bowl with the egg and cheese mixture. Stir well until everything is combined.

Spoon filling into crust. Bake for about 30 minutes until the filling is firm and golden. Let cool before serving

### Notes

✂ Modified from [greenkitchenstories.com](http://greenkitchenstories.com)  
✂ Just as good at room temp, so you can make it ahead of time or take it on a picnic.  
- Ashley Neufeld

*The Stone Church of Willow Glen  
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