

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

APRIL 2015



photos: Dan Raby & Jody Meacham

We All Had Fun at the Deacons' Annual "Palm Sunday" Easter Egg Hunt!

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! A PASTOR'S EXPERIENCES WITH DEATH

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

Over the past 26 years of pastoral ministry, one of my great privileges has been to be with individuals preparing for death and, in death's aftermath, to help families say their final good-byes.

When friends and family members die, when grief and loss seek to overwhelm us, when someone faces his or her own mortality, or when living without someone feels utterly impossible, I have spent time with people with questions about the afterlife.

Over the years, in planning memorials and funerals, I have never felt depressed, dragged down, discouraged, or afraid of my own death. Indeed, it might surprise you to know that dealing with end-of-life situations has only bolstered my convictions regarding The Resurrection.

In death, in mourning, in sadness, and in grief, I believe I have experienced firsthand the pervading presence of God's mysterious peace – a peace that comes at the end of life. It's never a peace we accept easily, and yet, it is a peace that I sense every person longs for.

So when Jesus says, in Luke's Gospel, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," I think I know what he means. Death is a time of release, of moving on, of relinquishing control, of peace. And though life will change because someone is gone from our daily living, I find solace in Romans 8:38: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life ... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Easter Sunday is about death, but it is also a day when we celebrate life. Easter Sunday is about hearing the resurrection stories from scripture, but it is also about letting go and moving on.

But most of all, Easter, for me, lies not in denying death's finality, but rather, in accepting and embracing all of life's goodness – from beginning to end.

Here are a few of my experiences with death:

"There was no need for you to visit me today, pastor," the woman, looking out her bedside window, says to me. "Jesus came to me last night and told me I'm going home today."

My friend, Gary, in the last stages of AIDS, turns to a friend to tell him, "My angel's wings are at the cleaners today being pressed and ready."

Marjorie, a woman in her 40s and a quadriplegic says to me with her dynamite smile, "When I get to heaven, I'm putting on a dress and going out dancing."

A few months after his death, my grandfather comes to me in a dream and says, "Thank you for reading the paper to me when I was in the hospital. I'm okay."

When I go into the kitchen, there is classical music playing in the background, candles lit all around, and a dog, a champion Frisbee-catcher, lying on the dining room table. The dog's owner, a veterinarian in Eugene, Oregon, asks me to say a few last words for his best friend.

*"Where, O death is your victory?
Where, O death is your sting?"*

1 Cor. 15:55

CONFIRMATION JOURNEY 2015



Confirmation Journey this year has involved a retreat at the beach, Bible work, writing prayers, talking, going to a PW tea, and lots of fun. Making decorated cupcakes with our gifted teacher Laraine Pitcher was a treat for all including the mentors.

April holds a few more important stops in our journey toward membership and learning what being a Presbyterian Christian at Stone Church entails.

This year's class has five lovely young ladies and dedicated mentors. They are Ginger Luebcke with Lynn Stutz; Elle Nilson with Judy West; Isabel Jaffer with Mary-Ann Hudson; Rebecca Hopson with Claire Ribble; and Larissa Bitterli with Heather Henry.

*Prayers are appreciated,
Rosaleen*



STONE IS THRILLED TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Stone Church welcomed new members on a recent Sunday. Pictured above are: Elder Rhonda Lakatos, Rev. Ken Henry, New Members: Mary Anne Williams, Brandon Walters, Marion Lee, Ryan & Jill Grandfield, and Diane & Glenn Van Den Bosch; and Rev. Irene Pak. We are so happy to have you as part of our church family! (Editor's Note: More new members have been welcomed since this photo – we'll have their pictures in next month's edition.)

ADULT STUDY LOOKS AT NEXT CHURCH GATHERING, KITE-MAKING, STONE HISTORY

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 is no class on April 5 (Easter).



April 12: NEXT Church National Gathering, with the Rev. Irene Pak

The Rev. Irene Pak will report on the 2015 NEXT Church National Gathering held at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, in March.

Key speakers at the gathering stressed “the necessity of diversity for innovation,” and speaker Diana Butler Bass discussed “the landscape of spiritual awakening.”



April 19: “Flying Paper” – Intergenerational Kite-Making

The documentary, *Flying Paper*, tells the uplifting story of resilient Palestinian youth in the Gaza Strip on a quest to shatter the Guinness World Record for the most kites ever flown. In the spirit of *Flying Paper*, the Church School and the Adult Class will join together to make kites and fly them in the afternoon.



April 26: The History of Stone Church, Part 2, with Alice Thorn & Pat Magee

Stone Church, between 1960 and 2000, focused significantly on social justice: Dr. Perdue’s travel to Selma, the Rumford Fair Housing Act, Angela Davis and the Black Panthers, the Rotating Shelter Program, Jane Spahr’s sermon, the Covenant of Dissent, and support of gays and lesbians symbolized by a Rainbow flag. We explore this important period of Stone Church history.



- Pat Magee

GOOD BOOKS ON EASTER, EARTH DAY, AND SPRING ABOUND!

Our newest books might be good reading for Easter, or spring, or Earth Day. Enjoy!

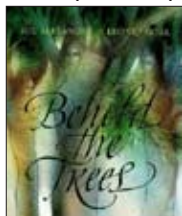
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator



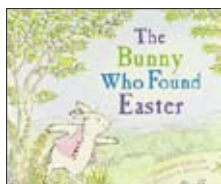
For our younger members

The House I'll Build for the Wrens by Shirley Neitzel (1st Bks Nei)

Behold the Trees by Sue Alexander & Leonid Gore (J Ale)



The Bunny Who Found Easter



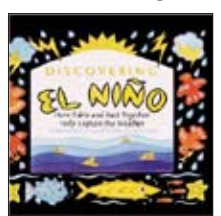
Easter by Charlotte Zolotow (J Zol)

A Child's Book of Grace



Grace by Wendy Wax et al. (J 242 Wax), given by Charlotte Dickson

Discovering El Nino:



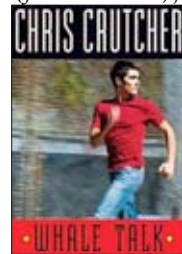
How Fable and Fact Together Help Explain the Weather by Patricia Seibert (J 551.5 Sei)

The Forest by David Bellamy (J 574 Bel), given by the Roberts-Frohlich family

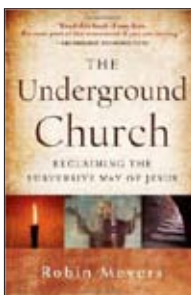


Weird & Wonderful Wildlife by Michael Marten (J 591 Mar), given by Glen Casner

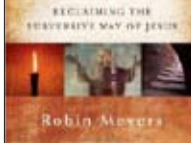
Talk by Chris Crutcher (YA Cru)



Additions to our regular adult collection

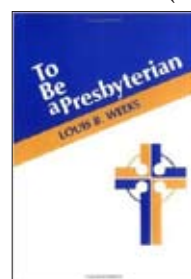


The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus by Robin Meyers (262 Mey)

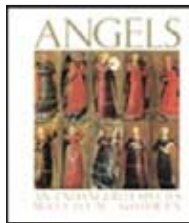
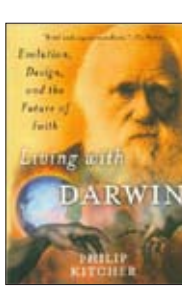


In the Name of Jesus by Henri Nouwen (262.1 Nou)

To Be a Presbyterian by Louis Weeks (285 Wee), given by Claudia Hamm

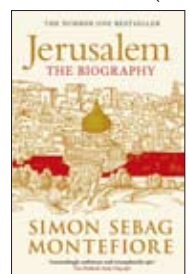
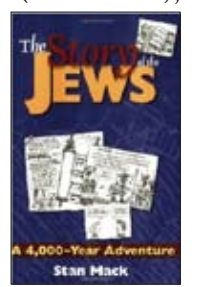


Living with Darwin: Evolution, Design and the Future of Faith by Philip Kitcher (291.1 Kit), given by Pat Magee



Angels: An Endangered Species by Malcolm Godwin (291.2 God), given by Caryl Westenberg

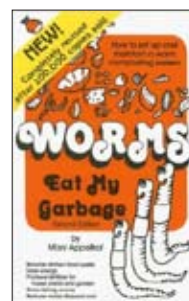
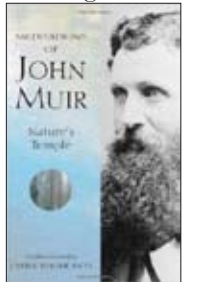
The Story of the Jews: A 4,000-Year Adventure by Stan Mack (909Mac)



Jerusalem: The Biography by Simon Montefiore (956 Mon), given by Pat Magee

New to our special collections

Meditations of John Muir: Nature's Temple (Ecol 508 Mui)



Worms Eat My Garbage by Mary Appelhof (Ecol 639 App), given by Fran Cole

A Thomas Merton Reader ed. by Thomas McDonnell (Biog MERTON)





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

The women of Stone Church are involved in many different groups: from Soul Feast, to Book Groups, to Bible Study, to Mission Service. We work for justice and peace, and help women and children in our community and worldwide.

Would You Serve PW?

Positions for next year's PW are open for nomination. If you are interested in serving on our coordinating team, please contact Joyce Summers.

Women's Retreat 2015 Was Stimulating and Insightful!

Stone's annual Women's Retreat was "stimulating, insightful, and an opportunity to stretch your mind and spirituality." Enjoying the event and grounds at St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista were 75 Stone Church women.

Many thanks go to Mary-Stone Bowers and Barbara Krause for chairing this fantastic event!

Choose Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, and More to Benefit Small Farmers



Sunday, April 12, we will be offering for sale Fair Trade coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate bars, which benefits small farmers in Central and South America and Africa.

Mother's Day Cards Provide Medical Treatment to Families in Need

Watch for Mother's Day cards, starting Sunday, April 26, during Coffee Fellowship.

The donation of your choice goes to the *Healthy Women, Healthy Families* program, which offers medical treatment and education to women and their families in Africa.

Those Box Tops for Education REALLY Help! Keep Saving!



Please continue to collect *Box Tops for Education*. Our collection benefits K. R. Smith School here in San José. The collection box is in the hallway under the library cart.

For more information, please contact Sue Evans.

PW Calendar

Amethyst Mission Circle: April 1, 1 pm, Church Library

Emerald Mission Circle: April 2, 9:30 am; Diana Lim's home

PWCT: 9:30 am, April 9, Social Hall

Fair Trade Sales: April 12, 10:30 am, Social Hall

Sapphire Mission Circle: April 13, 7:30 pm, Sally Magee's home

Lunch Bunch: April 14, 11:30 am, Taiwan Restaurant, 1306 Lincoln Ave.; contact Ida Raby

Book Group II: April 20, 2:30 pm, Alice Thorn's home. Discussing *Blood Brothers*, by Elias Chacour. [Those of us who attended the Presbyterian *Mosaic of Peace* conference in Israel last year met Archbishop Chacour at his church and school.]

Focus Group: April 15, 9:30 am, June Tablak's home

Book Group I: April 27, 1 pm; Hazel James' home

Bible Study: April 23, 9:30 am, Church Library; led by the Rev. Irene Pak

Prayer Shawl Ministry: April 25, 1-3 pm, Linda Hagan's home

- Joyce Summers

MEN'S MINISTRY



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

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

Men's Book Group, April 20

The Men's Book Group will meet on April 20, starting at 7:30 pm. The group will discuss *The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution*, by Walter Issacson.



by Walter Issacson.

Rod Thorn is our host for this month's gathering.

Men's Mission Team to Either Westminster Woods or Rebuilding Together

The men of the church have two options for community service late in April.

The annual spring Westminster Woods Mission Trip will be the weekend of April 24 - 26. The tasks for the weekend will

be to work *westminster woods* on a loft conversion and/or to build a yurt.

Also, Saturday, April 25, is the date of *Rebuilding Together*, a county-wide effort to repair and improve low-income and sub-standard housing.

For the Westminster Woods trip, please contact Leland Wong. For the Rebuilding Together project, please contact Bill Ribble.

(Editor's Note: Unfortunately, at press time, sign-ups have ended for Rebuilding Together.)

SESSION APPROVES REMOVAL OF CEDARS AND NEW TRIFOLD PEW BROCHURE

The three large deodar cedars – many people mistake them for pines – on the northern and eastern walls of Lincoln House will be removed because their roots are undermining Lincoln House’s foundation.

Session voted unanimously at its March meeting to accept the low bid of Ian Geddes Tree Care for \$11,620 to remove those trees, which includes pruning others, on the motion of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, which has been investigating damage caused by their growth. The removal will be done in six to eight weeks at the earliest, depending on city permitting.

Ultimately the trees will be replaced with a smaller species as part of a more extensive re-landscaping of the church’s back yard that will preserve the remaining trees.

But committee chair Judi Kaiser said there was no choice regarding the cedars. “It’s either them or Lincoln House

that goes,” she said. “Damage has already been done.”

B&G has been working on the further re-landscaping plans for several months, made necessary because the walking hazards caused by crumbling asphalt paving must be removed. But B&G won’t present a formal plan with cost estimates until the April Session meeting, Judi said.

Session also approved the design of a new trifold brochure for the pew racks. This was proposed by the Membership & Communication Committee.

Finally, Session approved the hiring of a second nursery assistant, pending the completion of background checks. If her hiring is finalized, the nursery will be back to full staffing, since, at the February meeting, Session approved the hiring of Kadija Munu, whose fulltime job is as a medical assistant in Los Gatos.

- Jody Meacham, Elder

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE DEACONS’ ANNUAL TEA



“SPRINGTIME AT DOWNTON ABBEY”

Saturday, April 18, 2015,

from 2 to 4 pm,

in the Stone Church Social Hall.

History San José’s “Portraits of the Past”

will present a fashion show and

vignettes from this bygone era.

Transportation will be provided if needed.

Sign up during Coffee Fellowship in April.

PRESBYTERIAN SELF-DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) has approved grants totaling \$180,110 to 11 self-help projects in the US and Belize. The money for the projects comes from the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering.

The program enables members and non-members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to form partnerships with oppressed and disadvantaged people to help them achieve self-sufficiency. SDOP is also focusing significant funding on projects in Belize to strengthen partnerships in specific regions of the world. PCUSA intermediary partners work directly with communities of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people in different parts of the world.

Here are descriptions of some of the program grants:

- ✦ **Calumet Laurium Holistic Senior Center** [Calumet, MI, \$15,000] was founded and is operated by low-income, disabled senior citizens – many with diabetes – to help themselves overcome isolation and develop better self-care and management of diabetes.
- ✦ **African Immigrant Support Group** [San José, CA, \$15,000] is a group of refugees, primarily from East Africa, who are building a strong social support system by holding language classes, vocational training, social networking, orientation and referral, as well as fitness and health education.
- ✦ **Sandy Beach Women’s Cooperative Society Limited** [Hopkins, Belize, \$22,500] will use their grant to purchase an additional cabaña, to extend kitchen facilities,

and to develop strategies to market the cooperative business owned and operated by this group of indigenous Garifuna women.

- ✦ **Trio Farmers in Development Pre-Cop** [Toledo District, Belize; grant: \$20,000] will use their grant to enable farmers of this cooperative to try new methods of growing seedlings in tunnels to improve the yield of their crops.

SDOP is constantly looking for ways to engage communities of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people in partnership, as well as to promote and interpret the ministry in Presbyterian congregations.

To learn more about SDOP, visit pcusa.org/sdop or [facebook.com/SelfDevelopmentOfPeoplesdop](https://www.facebook.com/SelfDevelopmentOfPeoplesdop).

- David McCreath

ENROLL NOW FOR "ZEPHYR EXPERIENCE" AT BEAUTIFUL LAKE TAHOE, JULY 5 - 10

The *Zephyr Experience* is an annual five-day intergenerational, educational conference for families, couples, and individuals, hosted in the Tahoe Center of the Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center.

This stimulating and enriching event will be held July 5 - 10, surrounded by the unparalleled splendor of Lake Tahoe and the Sierra. Come, spend a week, relax, and grow in faith and relationships.

Two morning class periods are scheduled (8:45 and 10:30 am). Afternoons are free. Short worship services will be held Monday and Wednesday evenings.

On Tuesday evening, we'll sing sunset campfire songs at Donaldson Amphitheater. The annual talent show will be held on Thursday evening. A Communion service at noon on Friday concludes the week.

Enroll now for this exciting week. Registration forms and more details are available in the Church Office and on the Zephyr website (zephyrpoint.org).

Here are short descriptions of the classes offered:

First Period:

- ✿ **Bible:** *Vulnerability, Courage, and Power: The Biblical View of Personhood*, with Greg Love
- ✿ **Church & Society:** *Neighbors and Strangers: Can't We All Just Get Along?*, with Aimee Moiso
- ✿ **Spirituality:** *Christ, Our Companion*, with Marilyn McEntyre

Second Period:

- ✿ **Bible:** *Hope in the Midst of Catastrophe: A Contemporary Reading of the Book of Job*, with John McEntyre
- ✿ **Church & Society:** *Let's Talk About Sex*, with Lisa Fullam
- ✿ **Spirituality:** *Christian Mysticism*, with John Mabry

Children and Youth Classes:

- ✿ **Ages 5 - 9:** *Fun and Adventure in Day Camp*, with the Zephyr Summer Day Camp Team



Ken Henry leading last year's campfire singing

- ✿ **Ages 10 - 13:** *Dissolving the Divide*, with Nicole Trotter
- ✿ **Ages 14 - 17:** *Stereotypes, Expectations, & Taboos of Religion and Society*, with Hannah Nolan & Natalie Taylor

Price:

For a shared room in the 43-room Tahoe Center:

- ✿ Adults: \$560
- ✿ Children & Youth (3-17): \$295
- ✿ Children under 2: Free

For more information (and a brochure), please contact Pat Magee.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL: "CLEAN WATER FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN," JUNE 15 -19

Clean Water for all God's Children will be the theme of this year's Vacation Church School, June 15-19.

In light of the recent threat of drought and water rationing, we decided to bring awareness to this issue. The theme will not only address our immediate water problems, but give the children an insight into water issues globally.

Each day through crafts, games, stories, music, and snacks, the children will gain an understanding of the statement, "Jesus Christ is the living water for our bodies and our souls."

Every day we will also learn about a child from another country and their water challenges.

Our mission project will be Play-pumps International. This is a won-

derful organization that provides villages with play structures that pump water out of the ground - for the whole village - when the children turn it around and around.

I believe that this is a project our children can understand; also it will reassure them of how very important we are to each other.

Registration for Vacation Church School begins on April 15 and is open to children in kindergarten through 5th grades, with youth helpers in the 6th grade and up. It will run each day from 8:45 am to noon, with a family event on Sunday, June 21, during the regu-



lar Worship service at 9:30 am. A donation of \$40 per child or \$70 per family is requested. All youth helpers are asked to pay \$10 to cover T-shirt and snacks.

All are welcome, so invite your friends and neighbors!

If you would like to enroll or would like more information, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Jo Blazek.



More Great Pictures
from the Deacons'
Easter Egg Hunt

*With thanks to
Dan Raby and Jody Meacham*



The Photography Group recently visited the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Mateo. Dan and Jean Raby, Bruce Raby, David McCreath, Jay Evans, and Jody Meacham enjoyed seeing a variety of aircraft and light planes at San Mateo Airport.

STONE CHURCH HIKERS INVITE YOU TO "COME HIKE WITH US!"

Put on your hiking shoes, and join the Stone Church Hikers for an outing at Fremont Older Open Space Preserve, on Saturday, April 18.

This will be an amazing hike with wonderful views. There is a mixture of sun and shade; climbs, downward slopes, and flat areas; open areas and quiet meditative areas.

This is the hike that was "rained out" last fall and that we hope to enjoy now.

We will meet at the preserve at 9 am or at the church to carpool at 8:15 am. Parking is very limited so carpooling is encouraged. You will want to bring water and sunscreen.

Sign up at Coffee Fellowship on April 5 (Easter) or April 12. For more information, please contact Mary-Ann Hudson or Rebecca Schroeder.



CROP WALK RETURNS TO ROSE GARDEN ON 4/19; STARTS AT HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL AT 1 PM

The 2015 South Bay CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, April 19, starting at 1 pm at Hoover Middle School (located at the intersection of Park Avenue and Naglee in San José).

There will be 1-mile and 4-mile walk routes in the Rose Garden area.

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church

World Service and organized by religious groups, businesses, schools and others to raise funds to end hunger in the US and around the world.

Sign up at Coffee Fellowship in April. For more information, please contact Emily Meacham or Lizanne Oliver.

HEALTH MINISTRY HELPS US INDULGE OUR "SWEET TOOTH" ... BUT IN A HEALTHY WAY!

I like dessert, a lot! So, I'm always interested in desserts that have health benefits as well as combat my sweet tooth. These *Powerhouse Cookies* do just that.

Powerhouse Cookies
*recipe adapted from
chef-in-training.com*

Ingredients

3 ripe bananas
1/3 cup applesauce
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 tablespoon honey
2 cups old fashioned oats
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup almond flour
1/2 cup dried cranberries

Preparation

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl, mash up the ripe bananas. Stir in applesauce, vanilla, and honey, and mix to combine.

Mix in oats until fully incorporated. Add cinnamon, salt, and almond flour and stir until combined. Fold in cranberries.

Using a cookie scoop, or your hands, drop cookie dough onto prepared baking sheet. Bake for 20 minutes or until the edges turn slightly brown. Let cookies cool a bit, and then transfer them to a wire rack and let cool completely.

- Ashley Neufeld

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