

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

MAY 2015



LIVING FRESCOS ON MAUNDY THURSDAY

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

The Stone News editor was waiting for my article regarding Easter services during Holy Week.

Time to make a checklist:

- ☑ Palm Sunday: processional hymn, children's choir singing, Easter Egg hunt, and people shouting, "Hosanna!?" – Check.
- ☑ Easter Sunrise Communion, planned by the Rev. Irene Pak: guitars tuned, hot-cross bun bakers alerted, heat turned on in the Social Hall at 5:45 am? – Check.
- ☑ Easter Worship: oboe, cello, timpani, trumpets, two infant baptisms, and spill-over seating in the Social Hall? – Check.
- ☑ Good Friday: Sanctuary open from noon until 3 pm for those wanting to pray during daylight? – Check.
- ☐ Maundy Thursday?

No check ... Not sure ... What could we do differently?



For over 25 years, I've created Maundy Thursday experiences, and for all my planning and promoting, perhaps a third or less of the congregation has ever attended.

How do you make *The Last Supper* and meditating on the last week of Jesus' life a draw for people to come out on a Thursday evening?

This may sound strange, but the answer to this question came to me when my mind drifted back to Italy last summer.

Heather and I saw hundreds of scenes from Jesus' life painted on the walls of cathedrals and chapels. It was mesmerizing for us to gaze at so many artistic renderings of Jesus' life ... and that's when I got the idea!

Why not create "living frescos" on Maundy Thursday?

Why not have a group of guys at Stone Church portray in "still life" the scripture passages that describe what Jesus went through?

So, that's what we did. Twelve guys and Jesus (played by Roland Neufeld) became living frescos. People who came saw such scenes as *The Last Supper*, *Jesus' Betrayal in the Garden*, *Jesus Being Taken Away to be Crucified*, *The Centurion's Confession Beneath the Cross*, and *Peter's Denial of Jesus* (pictured above).

Add the Handbell Choir, the Chancel Choir, a French horn, and guards with lit torches standing outside the Sanctuary doors (pictured at left) and guess what? Check.

Thanks to all who participated in re-creating Jesus' final days on earth. And if you missed this special night of sacred scenes, communion, and music - no worries. I'm already planning on doing the same thing next year. Blessings, Ken



photos courtesy of Dan Raby



Stone Church recently welcomed five confirmands in Worship. They are pictured here with the Rev. Irene Pak and Confirmation Class Leader Rosaleen Zisch. Left to right: Isabel Jaffer, (Irene), Elle Nilson, Rebecca Hopson, (Rosaleen), Ginger Luebcke, and Larissa Bitterli.

photo courtesy of Marion Lee

SESSION WELCOMES CONFIRMANDS; ELECTS NELSON FIFTH COMMISSIONER

Session unanimously welcomed five young people into membership of the Presbyterian Church USA at its April meeting.

Larissa Bitterli, Rebecca Hopson, Isabel Jaffer, Ginger Luebcke, and Elle Nilson have been participating in Confirmation Classes since February, learning about being a Presbyterian through activities such as a beach retreat, Bible study, writing prayers, group discussions, and attending a Presbyterian Women's tea.

Session's role in this process, which is prescribed by our denomination's constitution, *The Book of Order*, was to hear the confirmands' professions of faith, examine their understanding of the meaning and responsibilities of church membership, and authorize the baptism of any confirmands not already baptized.

After their examination, Ruling Elder Stephen Stock addressed the confirmands as full members of the

church, able to vote and participate in all aspects of church life, and he advised them to take full advantage of their new status.

[Editor's Note: The new members and congregation took vows at the Youth Sunday morning Worship on April 26, and Isabel Jaffer was baptized. See picture above.]

Session also had to deal with a bit less joyous business in voting to rescind its previous authorization to hire two Nursery Assistants, because the two women who were hired have not reported for work.

It was a disappointing setback in what has been a long search for Nursery staff and means that parents will be asked to volunteer a while longer and will consequently miss morning Worship.

Attempts will be made to contact the two Nursery workers to investigate why they declined to accept employment.

In other Session business:

✿ Steve Nelson was elected Stone Church's fifth commissioner to San José Presbytery.

We previously had four commissioners, but with the transfer of several congregations to a new denomination, Stone represents a greater share of presbytery membership, so we gained a seat.

✿ The Presbyterian Women's request to hold the 2016 Women's Retreat on March 4-6 was approved, and Communion at that event was authorized.

✿ Ruling Elders submitted their requests for committee assignments for the 2015-16 church year.

- Jody Meacham, Ruling Elder

ADULT STUDY: "DIVINE INTERPRETATION," IMMUNIZATION CONTROVERSY, PAUL IN ASIA

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.

There is no class on May 17 (Family Camp) or May 31 (Congregational Mtg.).



May 3: "Divine Interpretation and the Word of God," with the Rev. David McCreath

It is one thing to say that Psalm 23 is inspiring; it is something else to say that it is the inspired word of God. What is the difference? How do different defini-

tions of "inspiration" help us understand what we read in the Bible? Is the inspiration of the artist the same as the inspiration of the Biblical writers?

May 10: "Immunization: Friend or Foe? Separating Fact from Fiction," presented by Health Ministry

While vaccines are lauded by the scientific community as one of humanity's most significant achievements, skepticism continues regarding their safety.

Vaccines arguably suffer from their own success, fueling the perception that they are not needed. Aren't the measles and chicken pox just a "right-

of-passage"? Does the MMR vaccine cause autism? Is the flu shot safe? These questions and more will be discussed.

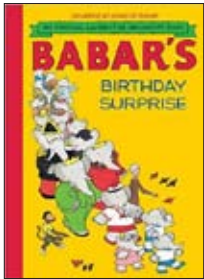
May 24; June 7, 14, 21: "Paul's Missionary Travels in Asia Minor," with Pat Magee

Join preeminent New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan on location in Turkey as they trace the Apostle Paul's footsteps through Asia Minor (western Turkey). We'll discuss the message of the Kingdom of God, its challenge to Roman imperial theology, and the apostle's radical relevance for today.

LIBRARY HAS FASCINATING BOOKS ON BIRTHDAYS, DE-CLUTTERING, EVEN MISTAKES!

In these warm spring days, we recall the music of Easter and anticipate Pentecost. Enjoy!

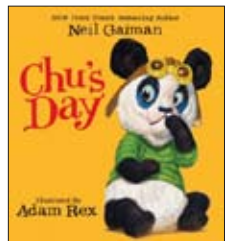
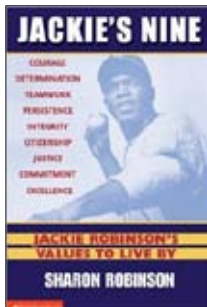
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator



For our younger members

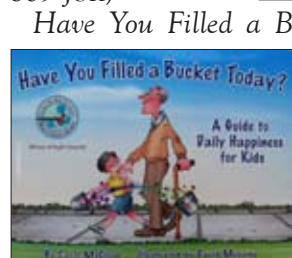
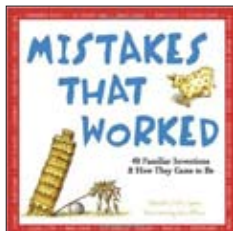
Babar's Birthday Surprise by Laurent de Brunhoff (1st Bks deB)

Jackie's Nine: Jackie Robinson's Values to Live By by Sharon Robinson (J 170 Rob)

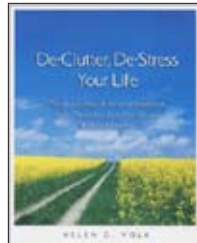


Chu's Day by Neil Gaiman (1st Bks Gai), given by Paulette Dudley

Mistakes That Worked: 40 Familiar Inventions by Charlotte Jones (YA 609 Jon)



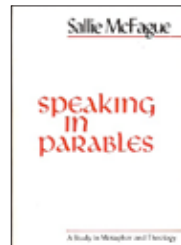
Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids by Carol McCloud (J 170 McC), given by the Cole family



Additions to our regular adult collection

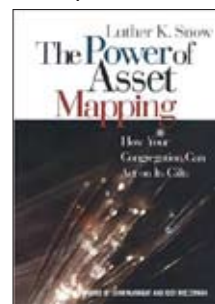
De-Clutter, De-Stress Your Life by Helen Volk (158 Vol)

Crisis & Communion: The Remythologization of the Eucharist by John Mabry (230 Mab), given by Pat Magee



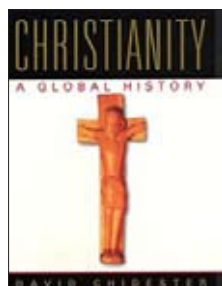
Speaking in Parables: A Study in Metaphor and Theology by Sallie McFague (230 McF), given by Rebecca Kuiken

How to Meditate without Leaving the World by Avery Brooke (242 Bro), given by the Whitesel family



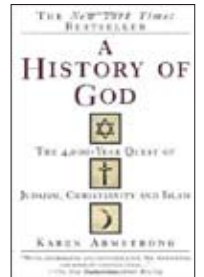
The Power of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act on Its Gifts by Luther K. Snow (254 Sno)

Christianity: A Global History by David Chichester (270 Chi)



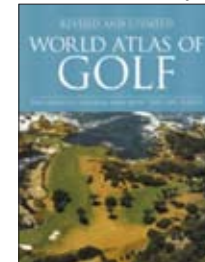
Renewing the Vision: Reformed Faith for the 21st Century ed. by Cynthia Campbell (285 Cam)

A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity & Islam



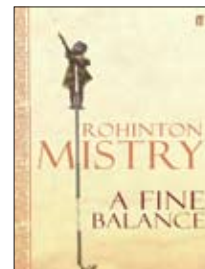
by Karen Armstrong (291.2 Arm)

The World Atlas of Golf by Pat Ward-Thomas (796.3), given by the Zisch family



New to our special collections

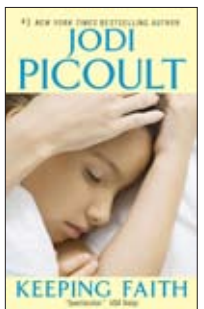
Birthday Parties by Vicki Lansky (Fam 641.7 Lan)



A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry

(Fic Mis), given by Brad Bauer

Keeping Faith by Jodi Picoult (Lg Print Pic)





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Here's a cause that PW supports: *United for Prophetic Vision* for Justice and Peace. The California Council of Churches and California Church IMPACT have embraced moral economy as the central focus of their public-policy education and advocacy.

They are the voice of denominations and judicatories in the state capital, representing the Christian moral values of compassion, tolerance, peace, and justice in the California legislative process. For more information, see calchurches.org.

Highlights in the May Calendar

Don't miss these events in May:

- ✘ On May 3, at Coffee Fellowship, your donations for Mother's Day Cards support the *Healthy Women Healthy Families* program.
- ✘ On May 9, America's largest community-based anti-human trafficking event will be held at Levi's



Stadium. For more information, see freedom-summit.org.

- ✘ On May 17, from 2 to 4 pm, *history comes alive* with a dramatic portrayal of Juana Briones (1802-1889), a pioneering and influential woman in the Bay Area. PWP presents Olga Loya as Briones, at History San José, in the Renzel Room of the Pacific Hotel. RSVP to Jackie Mattison.

Save These Important Dates!

And don't miss these future events:

- ✘ On June 13, starting at noon, at Jan Keifer's home, during the *Picnic and Installation of Officers*, for the *Birthday Offering* and donations for SCVMC's Public Health nurses will be received. The *Birthday Offering* (\$10) helps improve the lives of women and children in Colombia, SA, and empowers victims of sexual human trafficking, prostitution, and addiction in Memphis, TN. The nurses' donations (Target gift cards are appreciated) help women and children in poverty.

- ✘ On June 27, starting at 8:30 am, PW leaders are holding a retreat, with the theme of *Focus on the Future*, facilitated by Jane Odell.
- ✘ On June 18-21, the *Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women* will convene in Minneapolis, MN. Claudia Hamm, Rosaleen Zisch, Linda Hagan, Michelle Walters, and Joyce Summers will represent Stone Church. Target gift cards will be collected to help the American Indian Family Center in St. Paul.
- ✘ On August 15, from 9 am to noon, in the Social Hall, the PW August Brunch will feature a *Multi-Faith Panel: Shared Values among Faiths*, presented by the Islamic Networks Group (ING).

Pray for Our Mission Co-Workers

Please pray for mission co-workers, Dong Ho Choi, former moderator of San José Presbytery, and Sook Nim Choi and the people of Indonesia.

PW Calendar

Mother's Day Cards, May 3, Coffee Fellowship

Amethyst Mission Circle: May 6, 1 pm, Church Library

Emerald Mission Circle: May 7, 9:30 am, Joyce Degan's home

"Not in Our Town," May 9, Anti-Trafficking Event, Levi's Stadium
Fair Trade Sales: May 10, Coffee Fellowship

Sapphire Mission Circle: May 11, 7:30 pm, Michelle Walter's home

Lunch Bunch: May 12, 11:30 am, Taiwan Restaurant, 1306 Lincoln Ave.; contact Ida Raby

PWCT: 9:30 am, May 14, Social Hall

PWP Event, History San José, May 17

Book Group II: May 18, 2:30 pm, Rhonda Lakatos' home. Discussing *Franklin and Eleanor: An Extraordinary Marriage*, by Hazel Rowley.

Focus Group: May 20, 9:30 am, June Tablak's home

Book Group I: May 25, 1 pm; Hazel James' home

Bible Study: May 28, 9:30 am, Church Library

Prayer Shawl Ministry: May 30, 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 Breakfast, May 9

The *Men's Breakfast* will be held on Saturday, May 9, from 8:30 to 9:30 am, in the Social Hall.

The Rev. Jay Bartow, recently retired from First Presbyterian Church, Monterey, will discuss his ministry with *Living Waters for the World* (livingwatersfortheworld.org), a



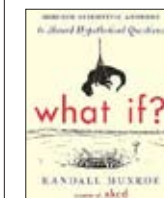
Presbyterian ministry that brings clean water to towns

and villages in need. Jay's work, in particular, has been in Peru.

Living Waters for the World has designed a simple and effective water purification system that can be maintained by the villagers. In the short span of a few years, this group has served many communities around the world and in the US.

Men's Book Group, May 18

The Men's Book Group will meet on Monday, May 18, beginning at 7 pm.



The book for discussion is *What If? Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions*, by Randall

Monroe. Bob James is the host.

Book Lover's Fair, May 24

The *Book Lover's Fair* (formerly *Men's Book Sale*) will be held on Sunday, May 24, at Coffee Fellowship.



It's a good time to stock up for summer vacation reading.



Save the Date!

*Irene Pak & Marion Lee
are getting married on*

*Sunday, January 17, 2016,
Stone Church of Willow Glen.*

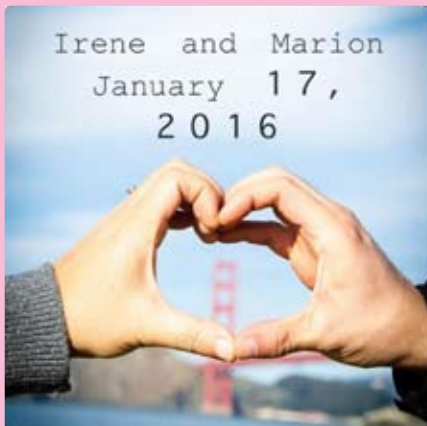
*The ceremony is open to anyone
who would like to attend.*

*Immediately following the service,
a simple and brief reception*

*will be held in the
Stone Church Social Hall.*

All are welcome!

*An invitation-only evening reception
will be held for family & friends.*



top photo courtesy of Jason Leibowitz

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL: “CLEAN WATER FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN,” JUNE 15 -19

Clean Water for all God’s Children is 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 *Playpumps International*. This is a wonderful organization that provides villages with play structures that pump water out of the ground - for the whole village - when the children turn it around.

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

Registration for Vacation Church School has begun and is open to children in kindergarten through 5th grade, with youth helpers in the 6th grade and up. It will run each day from 8:45 am until noon, with a family event on Sunday, June 21, during the regular 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-shirts and snacks. All are welcome, so please do invite your friends and neighbors.

If you would like to enroll, would like more information, or would like to volunteer, please contact Mary Jo Blazek in the Church Office.



Mary Jo with the children on a recent Sunday

STONE CHURCH JOINS TEAMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR “REBUILDING TOGETHER”

Eight Stone Church members and friends met last Saturday morning at the Chateau LaSalle Trailer Park on Monterey Highway.

We were part of work team #59, and we were asked to rehabilitate a mobile home owned by Steve, a partially disabled former construction worker.

Steve had qualified, through Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley (RTSV), for a work project to replace much of the skirting around his home (to keep out “critters”), to replace and caulk the trim around his windows, to shore up flooring damaged by water leaks, and to replace a bathroom floor and reinstall the toilet.

Volunteers provided most of the tools, including skill saws and cordless drills, work surfaces, and other small tools. RTSV provided about \$1,000

of building materials, as well as painting materials, a first aid kit, water, shirts, and lunch.

Volunteers worked from 8 am to about 5:30 pm and accomplished about 80% of the original goal. Often, it is hard to assess the scope of work until well into a job, and sometimes, volunteers need to return to finish a job.

Rebuilding Together is a national organization that fielded work teams across the country last Saturday and will do the same in October. RTSV had about 700 volunteers at about 30 job sites in Silicon Valley.

Many thanks go to the eight Stone Church volunteers: Leonard Brezinski, Maureen Chandler, David McCreath, Craig Murphy, Jeanette Rapp, Bill Ribble, Julia Roberts, and Della Smith.

- Bill Ribble

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS & MORE

You’ve just received admission to a college or two, and now you’re beginning to wonder how to make it happen financially.

The Presbyterian Women of Stone Church want you to know about the College Scholarships offered each year to undergraduate students by the Hudspeth Trust, which is administered by PW.

Application forms and related materials for these scholarships are available in the church office in the PW box, or you can request electronic delivery by contacting Jan Keifer, Mission Secretary of PWCT.

The deadline for receipt of college applications and recommendations is July 15, 2015. We look forward to hearing from you by that date. If you have any questions regarding the application form or the scholarship process, please feel free to contact Jan.

We also want you to know that throughout the year, PW considers applications from individuals and groups associated with Stone Church seeking funds for training or educational programs, retreats, and conferences. Applications for these types of aid are available in the church office and may be submitted for consideration any time during the year. - Jan Keifer

PHOTOS FROM THE STONE CHURCH “REBUILDING TOGETHER” WORKDAY



photos courtesy of Bill Ribble



Scenes from the Deacons' Tea, featuring our own Hilleguus Faber and "Portraits of the Past" from History San José

Photos courtesy of Dan Raby



Scenes from Stone's Recent Intergenerational Kite-Making and -Flying Class!

Photos courtesy of Pat Magee and Jan Keifer

**STONE
HIKERS
HEAD TO
RANCHO SAN
ANTONIO;
JOIN US FOR
AN EASY HIKE
OR A
CHALLENGE!**



photo courtesy of Fred Oliver

The April Hiking Group at Fremont Older Preserve

Join with other Stone Church hikers on Saturday, May 30, starting at 9 am, for a morning at Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve.

If you prefer an easy hike, it is approximately 1.5 miles over a mostly paved level pathway from the parking lot to Deer Hollow Farm. At the farm, you will see many animals and their young. Deer, wild turkeys, and

quail have been spotted. There are also fruit and vegetable gardens to see. You may pack a snack, or even lunch, and eat at the picnic tables under the open-sided barn just beyond the farm.

If you are ready for a more adventurous outing, you can take the trails up to the top of some of the hills for fantastic views. The woods always seem quiet and cool.

Although there is a large parking lot, parking is hard to come by, so we will again plan to carpool from the church. Meet in front of the church no later than 8:15 am.

Sign up at Coffee Fellowship on May 17 and 24. For more information, please contact Mary-Ann Hudson or Rebecca Schroeder.

**HEALTH MINISTRY: START YOUR DAY OUT
RIGHT WITH A DELICIOUS SMOOTHIE!**

Breakfast has been shown to be the most important meal of the day, but mornings can be crazy sometimes.

So, instead of skipping breakfast all together, why not try breakfast on the go with this Peanut Butter Banana Green Smoothie?

- Ashley Neufeld

**Peanut Butter Banana
Green Smoothie**

Ingredients

- 1 frozen banana
- 1 cup kale
- 1 cup almond milk
- ½ cup plain yogurt
- 1 tablespoon peanut butter
- 4 or 5 dates

Preparation

Place all ingredients in your blender. Depending on your blender, you may need to let this go for a minute or so to really get things mixed.

Notes

- ✦ Modified from organizemyselfskinny.com
- ✦ If you don't keep frozen bananas ready for blending, use a ripe banana and a good handful of ice cubes instead.
- ✦ Regular cow's milk will work just fine if you don't have almond milk on hand.
- ✦ You can substitute 1 tablespoon of maple syrup or agave if you don't have dates.

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