

## **The Rev. Thomas Simpson (1945-1958)**

Thomas H. Simpson was born on June 20, 1884 in Ireland, then came to the U. S. and Princeton Theological Seminary for ministerial training in 1908. In June, 1910, he answered a notice of a pastoral position in the state of Washington for a “young man not afraid to put on overalls” to build a church. He wired, “Save the overalls for me” and traveled to Concrete, Washington, the home of several cement companies in a small community. He met his future wife Mary, a recent graduate of Western Washington Teachers’ College in Bellingham, who had come to Concrete to teach.

They were married in September 1911 and set up housekeeping in a log manse next to the little log church. After the arrival of the first baby, they moved to the larger town of Aberdeen on the Washington coast. In addition to work in his church, Tom became a “Sky Pilot” or traveling pastor to the nearby lumber camps, leaving Mary and (by 1916) two little daughters. During World War I he was needed full time in one of the large camps.

Tom Simpson was always a man on the move--churches from Olympia to Seattle to San Francisco--always accepting a challenge to build a new or restore a foundering parish. A son had been added to the family and they were living in San Francisco, where Tom was an industrial chaplain, when the call came in 1945 to serve a Mission Church in Willow Glen. He was sixty-one years old.

The Simpson family moved to 1163 Clark Way in 1947, the first house they had ever owned. During the busy years of building Stone Church, Mary kept the home, protecting the privacy of her husband, and listening to the callers who came to their house for help.

Cancer attacked Tom in 1954, was controlled by surgery, and served as an added incentive to the Session to drive for the completion of the Sanctuary so that the man whose dream it was could preach there. Dedication was in 1955, and Tom Simpson served until forced to retire in 1958. As a farewell gift from a grateful congregation, he and Mary were given a trip to Ireland--an unforgettable, happy period for her.

After Tom’s death on October 12, 1960, people still came to her home for comfort, advice, and just for fun. She kept up her yard, harvesting and preserving its fruits. She was a great cook, a weaver, a lover of books, and a tireless writer. An independent soul, she would seldom accept a ride if she could get to her destination by bus.

(Based on an article written by Edith Smith for the *Stonewall News*, January 1979.)

## **The Rev. Robert Stuart Vogt, Assistant Pastor (January 1957 - November 1958)**

Bob Vogt graduated from the University of California in Berkeley in 1943 with majors in psychology, history and sociology. He received his Bachelor of Divinity Degree from

Princeton Theological Seminary in 1946. (In those days everyone received a B. D., he says. M. Divs. were later awarded retroactively, but he never got around to getting the paperwork done.) He was ordained in May of 1946 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sacramento. He then had pastorates in Calvary Presbyterian, San Francisco; First Presbyterian, Seattle under Paul McConkey; and a New Church Development in Milwaukee, Oregon. After Stone, he went to Pleasanton, where his pastorate lasted 30 years. He retired in 1987.

He is married to Sallee (formal name Esther), and they had one son, Robert-John Stuart, who was five when they moved to San Jose. Their son later died in a drowning accident.

### **The Rev. William Perdue, Pastor (February 1959 - February 1969)**

William Morton Perdue was born in Columbus, Ohio on September 17, 1915. He graduated from Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, PA in 1937 with a BA degree. He was graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1940 with an M. Div. degree. Immediately after arriving at Stone, he was honored by a Doctor of Divinity Degree from the College of Idaho. In 1987 his alma mater, Washington and Jefferson College, gave him the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters.

His first pastorate, from 1940 to 1944, was a three parish National Missions field in the upper Peninsula of Michigan comprising St. Ignace, Rudyard and Hessel. He was ordained on July 15, 1940 by the then Lake Superior Presbytery. He went on to serve churches in Detroit, Michigan and Jerome, Idaho before coming to Stone.

He was married to Henrietta, and they had four sons.

Dr. Perdue's resignation came before the session in November 1968, to be effective December 7, 1968. He wrote "Sometimes in the course of a man's pilgrimage an event, a circumstance, or a series of events compel him to make a decision which he truly believes is for his own best interests. As well as the best interests of his family, his friends, all those that he cares about most--and he may even believe that God is leading him in that decision. So it is with me now.

"It is not that I want to give up fighting battles; but there are some battles in the warfare of life that I do not have the margin, the desire, or really the opportunity to fight any longer in San Jose--due, in a large measure, to very personal reasons largely associated in one way or another with Henrietta's death last March."

His letter also said, "Let me conclude with three concerns:

1. That . . .it be impressed upon the congregation that my decision to resign is a very personal one and not related in any way to any pressures--real or imagined that have been "put on me" by members of Stone Church.

2. that . . .it be impressed upon the congregation that my leaving in no way affects the very solid and firmed-up relationship of Mr. Cummins and Mr. Beamer to the congregation and

3. that we all acknowledge that in life there seems to be an eternal pattern written in the very heavens--a pattern of death and resurrection.”

In the minutes of the congregational meeting held to accept Dr. Perdue’s resignation, a resolution was passed which said, members “note in these minutes their deep love and appreciation for Dr. Perdue who is both a leader whom the Congregation has followed to dream dreams, and realize new horizons; and a man whose personal life so exemplifies love that as a congregation we find ourselves called to act with conscience enlightened by the Word of God.”

After Stone he went to Westminster in Tiburon from 1969 to 1980; from there he retired and was named Pastor Emeritus.

### **The Rev. Edward Frost (January 1962 to November 1965)**

Edward Frost received his undergraduate training at the University of Texas, and also received a law degree from there; he received his theological training at Yale University Divinity School. He was ordained November 1958 by the Presbytery of Kendall, and his first pastorate was in the First Presbyterian Church, Malad City, Idaho. He was called as Associate Pastor to Stone. He was married to Signe and they had four children. While at Stone he was active with the Council of Churches, the United Campus Christian Ministry at San Jose State [College] and in Presbytery matters. “This church, through individuals and corporately, is quite active in the community--in issues of civil rights; migrants; and local politics,” he wrote in his resume.

Effective December 1, 1965, he became pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Watsonville. (While at Watsonville, he saw the rejoining of Chapel Hill Presbyterian and his church into the United Presbyterian Church. Chapel Hill had split off in 1952 in a dispute over a conservative pastor.)

He later became a Pastoral Counselor, and at the Presbytery meeting of February 2, 1980, he was released from the exercise of ordained office and transferred as a lay member to the United Presbyterian Church, Watsonville.

### **The Rev. Sherwood Cummins (1965 to 1974)**

Sherwood Cummins was Associate Pastor from October 1965 as Minister of Christian Education; called as Associate Pastor in June 1966; became Co-Pastor with David Beamer in 1969; resigned in July 1974, effective 9/15/74 to go to the Redwood Presbyterian Church, Larkspur.

Cummins received his undergraduate training at the University of California at Berkeley and his theological training at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo. He was married to Patti, and had two sons.

### **The Rev. David Beamer (1966 to 1980)**

David Beamer became Associate Pastor August 1966 and assumed the responsibilities of Senior Pastor effective December 7, 1968 when William Perdue's resignation took effect. He was called as Co-Pastor with Sherwood Cummins June 1969; he resigned effective November 30, 1980, to become pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Ashland, Oregon.

Beamer received his undergraduate training at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington and his theological training at Princeton Theological Seminary. His previous pastorate was at the Bethel Presbyterian Church in San Leandro. He was married to Betty and they had four children. He and Betty were divorced during his pastorate at Stone. He and Terry Rymer were married at Stone on July 21, 1979.

### **The Rev. Robert Samuel Bowles (1975 to 1994)**

Robert S. Bowles was called as Associate Pastor on 10/19/75 and installed in December; 10/25/81. The congregation then voted to call him as pastor; he was installed December 6, 1981; he resigned effective July 30, 1994 to become Pastor of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Aptos.

Bob Bowles received a B. A. from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, attended McCormick Theological Seminary in Chaco, received his M. Div. from Louisville Theological Seminary, Kentucky, and his D. Min. from San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, CA. He was ordained July 4, 1971.

Bob was national leader of the Young Pastor's Conference in 1975-1977. From 1976 to 1981, he and Margie served as a Presenting Team for Presbyterian Marriage Encounter. In September 1978, Session endorsed and supported Bob and Margie as the National Clergy Couple for Presbyterian Marriage Encounter for a two year term beginning January 1, 1979. In 1980 to 1982 He served the United Presbyterian Church Young Pastors' Seminar, and was its Co-Dean. Bob served on the Presbytery of San Jose Ministerial Relations Committee from 1978-1984; he was moderator of the committee in 1984. He served on the Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry from 1987-1992 and was committee moderator in 1991-1992.

He and Margie have a son Rob and a daughter Amber.

**The Rev. E. Eugene Huff and the Rev. Joan Galvin Huff**  
**(1982- 1986)**

Gene and Joan Huff joined the Stone Church staff as Assistant Pastors, 8/15/82 and were installed 10/17/82; they were called as associates on 1/22/84; they resigned 12/01/85, effective February 14, 1986. They were the first clergy couple to serve Stone, and the committee which screened candidates for the position made a conscious decision to call a couple. Part of the reasoning was the desire to include women pastors as part of Stone's staffing, with the belief/hope that acceptance would come through this action. In the *Stonewall News* of October 1982, Gene wrote of how unusual it was to have a church actually seek out a clergy couple and design the set of positions as part of the pastoral team.

Joan Huff was raised in a Roman Catholic family; one of her uncles a priest serving as chaplain at St. Mary of the Woods College in Terre Haute, Ind. and another who had been teaching in a Jesuit school in Seattle until his death. She graduated from Manhattanville College and received a Masters in Counseling from Farleigh Dickenson University in New Jersey. She worked on the administrative staff of the Presbyterian Board of National Mission and New York Theological Seminary. She received her theological training in the School of Theology, Claremont, Ca. and she was ordained in 1980. She was an intern at two Presbyterian churches, in Lavern and in Ontario, California. She and Gene were married in 1972.

Gene is an only child who grew up in Oklahoma where his father was a farm manager. Both his parents were active in the First Presbyterian Church in Chickasha, Oklahoma. Gene graduated from Park College in Missouri and from McCormick Seminary in Chicago.

His earlier pastorates were in Morton Grove, IL., a suburb of Chicago, and in New Rochelle, N. Y. He worked 3 years with the Presbytery of Chicago and 11 years on the staff of General Assembly agencies in New York. There is served as a consultant in local church mission and new church development and coordinated a large staff department in mission strategy and evangelism. He travelled to all but two states and to Japan, Germany, Switzerland and the Carribean.

Together the Huffs were co-pastors in the Presbyterian Church in Cottage Grove, Oregon, and Interim Co-pastors at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church, California.

The Huffs have two sons, Mark and Joel.

Joan worked with PACT, People Acting in Community Together, a community organizing group; with the Council of Churches and with Presbytery. Gene was liaison to Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church, San Jose, in their development, and worked in New Church Development for the Presbytery.

### **The Rev. Betha Hoy, Interim Pastor (1986-1987)**

Betha Hoy was Interim Pastor March 1, 1986, through January 11, 1987. She came out of Cameron House, San Francisco and was junior high youth group leader for Leland Wong some years before she went to seminary. She was director as a lay person of the Presbyterian Distribution Service office in San Francisco which was responsible for providing denominational materials for 1300 churches in the western region of the US. She is one of the few (only?) women pastors of her generation of Chinese American women.

### **The Rev. Paula Kelso and the Rev. John Kelso (1986 - 1995)**

John and Paula Kelso were called as Associate Pastors December 21, 1986. They were ordained and installed on February 22, 1987. They became interim co-pastors after Robert Bowles' resignation, and served until December 1995.

Paula graduated from William Woods College, Fulton, MO, in Spanish, with minors in English, German and Education. She received her Theological training at Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey. She was a junior high school Language Arts and high school Spanish and English teacher, then a Director of Christian Education before going to seminary.

While at Stone Church, she served on the Presbytery of San Jose Racial Ethnic Ministries Committee and was liaison to the Hispanic New Church Development; on the Christian Education Committee; and on the Committee on Ministry, becoming its Chair in 1994.

John Kelso received his undergraduate degree from Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio in Political Science and Economics. He received his M. Div. from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, though part of his work was done at Princeton Theological Seminary and transferred to Pittsburgh.

Earlier, John served in U.S. Army intelligence and the National Security Agency as a Russian linguist. He also held several business positions.

He served on the Presbytery of San Jose Committee on Polity and Government and was its chair from 1992 - 1994.