

# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA SEPTEMBER 2007



*The annual Worship Service and Church Picnic at History Park - a glorious tradition!*

*Pastor's Column*

## IF YOU HAVE TO ASK ...

*by The Reverend Doctor Ken Henry*

Once in a while, we simply want answers. My father claims I beat around the bush too much, but then, if you're patient with me, I'll get to an answer, even if it takes a whole sermon. These days, I'm learning if we want an answer, we can always try *googling*<sup>1</sup> it first - kind of like fishing. Then again, we may get more than we bargained for.

For example, if one googles the word, "God," he or she will get about 339,000,000 hits, but I suppose even if you visited all those sites, which would take about ten years, you would probably have little more clarity on the subject of God than you do now.

Enough beating around the bush. For this month's column, here are some questions and answers about the happenings around Stone Church.

*Question: Marge Palmer? Parish Associate? What's up?*

*Answer: Good question. Rev. Marge Palmer, Stone's most recent Interim Pastor, has just been appointed by the session to serve as Parish Associate for our congregation. (Hooray!) Marge's duties will include:*

- ☛ Leading Adult Ed Bible Study
- ☛ Providing leadership for PW groups and Bible Study
- ☛ Assisting the pastor in worship on Communion Sundays
- ☛ Preaching when asked
- ☛ On Call on Mondays (my day off) or when I'm on vacation
- ☛ Available for hospital calls and other visits

This does not mean Marge is an Associate Pastor. According to *The Book of Order*, "... a parish associate is a minister who serves in some validated ministry other than the local parish, or is ... retired, but who wishes to maintain a relationship with a particular church ..." All this to say, we are excited to have both Bill and Marge back in our midst.

*Question: Who is Claudia Hoagland?*

*Answer: Claudia is Stone's new Office Manager. She works from 9 am to 1 pm, Monday through Friday, sending emails, working with volunteers, answering questions, and attempting to keep our copy machines running. In a former life, Claudia worked in as a secretary in a law office and construction company. Welcome Claudia!*

*Question: What will you be preaching on this fall?*

*Answer: For the months of September and October, I will be preaching on selected biblical texts having to do with feasts and famines. Such a sermon series will focus on Jesus' banquet parables, the feeding of the 5000, hunger issues around the globe, as well as probing our understanding of The Lord's Supper. If you want a more complete list, let me know.*

*Question: Any suggestions for Poison Oak?*

*Answer: Sorry, you'll have to google that one. - Rev. Ken*

<sup>1</sup>Being an English major, I'm not exactly comfortable with making the company, "Google," into an active verb - "to google" or "googling" - but since we live near Google headquarters, I'm sure this has become an acceptable part of speech around here. However, throughout my recent close proximity to the home of the University of Oregon "Ducks," we never "ducked" or "went ducking" at any time.

# Adult Study Focuses on Our Work, Ministry, Early Christians

Thought-provoking, discussion-based Adult Study classes are offered Sunday mornings at 11:15 am (note time change) in the Fireside Room.

Here are descriptions of the fabulous fall offerings!

## Work All Day, and What Do You Get ... ? (Sept. 23, 30; Oct. 7, 14)

Work - and its companion, Vocation - are part of everyone's life. For some, it means fulfillment, for others it's a way of affording other more valued activities. We'll review a variety of perspectives on work, think about how faith and the providence of God influence our vocational choices, and consider ways of living faithfully within our workaday world.

David McCreath will lead this class.

## A New Paradigm for Ministry and Mission (October 21)

Our new pastor, Ken Henry, will lead a discussion centered on the book, *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson and David Relin, in terms of a new paradigm for ministry and mission.

A field trip (with carpooling) to hear Greg Mortensen lecture at the San Francisco public library, on November 17, is also planned.

## SPIRIT ALIVE: Comparing Christians of the 1st & 21st Centuries (Oct. 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18; Dec. 2, 9, 16)

What propelled the earliest believers to risk displeasing imperial Rome, other established religions, and popular culture?

Participants in this course will read and discuss the Acts of the Apostles inductively, comparing the Spirit's action then and now. We will probe how the church was formed and energized. Were the narratives about those early years "sanitized" and scrubbed so as not to antagonize?

We'll note how early Christians responded to competing religions, internal dissension, political tensions, and twisted immorality - and eventually decide if early believers were similar to us, or of a totally different mold.

Dale and Barbara Bracey will lead this seven-week inquiry. Participants are requested to read a chapter of Acts before each class.

- Pat Magee, Christian Education

# Church Library: More Great Books and a Fascinating Review

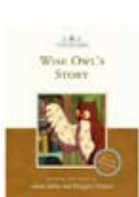
Fascinating books keep coming into the Stone Church Library! Visit the book cart in the social hall, or drop by the library on Sunday after worship, or any time the church office is open. Let us know what kind of books you'd like! - Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

Book Review: *Saving Christianity from Empire* by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer (261.8 Nel)

This is an important and shocking book. "It delineates the critical choices that face American Christians - a choice between a violent, world-dominating American empire supported by an apocalyptic Christianity or a genuinely democratic American republic buttressed by a non-violent, egalitarian Christian. The first choice is leading America and the world to disaster, but it will not be easy to change course when both our religion and our national ideology have long collaborated in promoting a fatal addiction to militarist global domination." Highly recommended by Walt Davis in his Zephyr Experience 2007 class, "On Loving Enemies."

- Reviewed, and donated to the Church Library, by Pat Magee

## New books for young folks:



*Wise Owl's Story* by Alison Uttley (J Utt), given by the van Diggelen family

*Look Again!*

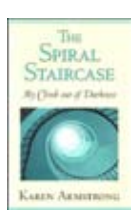
*The Second Ultimate Spot-the-Difference*



Book by April Wilson (J Wil)

*Football Playbook* by Michael Teitelbaum (YA 796 Tei)

## New books in special collections:



*The Spiral Staircase: My Climb Out of Darkness* by Karen Armstrong (Biog ARMSTRONG)

*Sexuality, the Bible, & the Church:*

*Plain Talk About Tough Issues*, edited by Ted Smith (Soc. Iss. 301.4 Smi)

*The Wheelchair Child: How Handicapped Children Can Enjoy Life to Its Fullest* by Philippa Russell (Spec. Needs 362.4 Rus), given by Ruth McCreath



*Women of Faith Daily Devotional* by Patsy Clairmont (Women 242 Cla), given by Ellen Springer

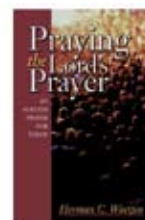
*Samantha Rastles the Woman Question* by Marietta Holley (Women 814 Hol), given by Catherine Amos

## New books for adults:

*Personal Pleasures* by Rose Macaulay (158.1 Mac), given by Kate Williams



*Blessings: A Woman-christ Reflection on the Beatitudes* by Christin Lore Weber (226 Web)



*Praying the Lord's Prayer: An Ageless Prayer for Today* by Herman Waetjen (243 Wae), given by Pat Magee

*Three*

*Cups of Tea: Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Relin (371 Mor), given by Ken Henry



*Enduring Memory: In Stone, In Metal, In Beauty* by the National Sculpture Society (730 Nat)

*Leaves of Gold*, edited by Clyde Lytle (811 Lyt), given by the Amethyst Circle of Stone's Presbyterian Women



# Interpreting the WORD with Kids

Join us for an exciting Church School year beginning September 16 with a new approach. We will be *Interpreting the WORD* through Learning Centers in a multi-age program.

Each child, from preschool to middle school, will be part of our community of learners. They will experience Bible stories, music, and Learning Centers that let them make choices each Sunday.

Following Pastor Ken's worship outline, we will have three themes this fall: *Feasts & Famines*, *Mission & Manners*, and *Advent: From Four Viewpoints*.

Following the anthem in worship, we'll gather in the Fireside Room to meet a special guest each week who will present the Bible story. Music will be a regular part of the program

using a new youth-centered book, *Life Songs*.

Preschool will join us for the Bible story and music and then adjourn to their own room.

Chimes will be added one Sunday a month as a Learning Center for middle school students.

Room D and Room 4 will have permanent Learning Centers set up for church school. The Mouse House, Room B and the kitchen will also be used as Learning Centers.

Volunteer opportunities include a registrar; Learning Center supervisors, and music leader/musician.

Have questions or wish to join the fun? Contact the Children's Subcommittee: Claudia Hamm, Kate Wheatley, Janice Goertz, or Moderator Rosaleen Zisch.



*Kate Wheatley leads the children in crafts projects at the recent Stone Church Family Camp.*

## Notes from Christian Education Committee

### **Middle School: Friendship First**

The middle school fellowship begins September 23 with a new program theme, *Friendship First*. We will meet in the social hall for a make-your-own dinner (taco bar), then have some fun activities. All 6th to 8th graders are invited. Watch for your e-vite with details. The calendar for the year includes a costume party, special guests, service projects, crafts, a spring camp-out, chime lessons, and our November retreat at Cutting Edge Ranch.

### **High School Group: Barbecue**

The high school group starts their regular Sunday night get-togethers with a barbecue at the Ribbles, 6 pm, Sunday, September 16. RSVP to Bill Ribble.

### **Adult Study Classes: Time Change**

Beginning September 23, Adult Study classes in the Fireside Room will start at 11:15 am. This will allow for more time for transition and setup between church school and Adult Study. It will also allow for a bit more socializing over coffee - something we all enjoy!

## Stone Church's Art Collection to be Lovingly and Painstakingly Restored

With most in a state of disintegration and disrepair, the many paintings given to Stone Church through the years have been restored, re-matted, newly framed and hung in Lincoln House.

Inspired by Claudia Hamm and implemented by Lyn Johnson, this project will be complete in September. Watch *The Stone News* for an invitation to appreciate this body of work.

## Come Join the Choir!

Every Sunday, I have heard some fine voices out in our congregation who would add to the sonority of our Chancel Choir, and I would like to extend another invitation to those singers to try the choir out for the month of September (and to stay for the rest of the year!).

It is a great time to see what singing with this group can offer by making a short-term commitment to a couple of hours a week. I believe that choir should be a fun, inclusive, healthy, and fulfilling way to enjoy fellowship and the spiritual messages inherent in the wonderful music we practice together. We will be meeting Wednesdays from 7:30 - 9:15 pm and would love for you to join us.

Our plans for the year will again include a lot of variety with spirituals, contemporary anthems, classical

master works, jazz, and some traditional favorites. You will have the opportunity to hone your vocal skills in our weekly practices, so please come give us a try!

And for those who aren't joining the choir this year, I invite you to tell us what anthems you have found particularly meaningful to you as a listener over the past year. We hope to build a repertory of "special anthems" that have been especially uplifting, and some of these may well be among those we sang last year.

Please feel free to drop me an email or note with your thoughts for our music program. And remember, if you have always wanted to try out Chancel Choir, there is no time better than right now.

*Best wishes for the fall,  
Nancy Wait Kromm*



*Claudia Hoagland is Stone's new Office Manager. We asked her to write a short bio for the News ...*

*Welcome, New Office Manager, Claudia Hoagland*

I was born and raised in Millbrae, third-generation native Californian. My parents, John and Claire Kane, were both school teachers. My work as A-lines Merchandiser for Montgomery Ward brought me to

the South Bay in 1979. I currently live in Campbell with my two children, Clayton, age 14, and Hannah, age 12. While not at work you can find me toiling away in my garden, bicycling or walking on the Los Gatos Creek trail, tending to my two rabbits and one guinea pig and being taxi driver for the kids. Though not an international traveler, I do enjoy short weekend jaunts to points of historic interest within our great state.

Session met for the first time with members of the Class of 2010 and with Rev. Ken Henry.

## Session Beat

Session reviewed the agenda for its August 18 training retreat. Training topics included Ken Henry on *What Stone Elders need to know about being the Session*, information from Treasurer Dick Kistler on finances and vouchering, and discussion led by Clerk of Session Alice Thorn on how our meeting system flows out of Presbyterian polity.

The task of co-opting Session committee members began with approval of members of Church & World and Budget & Finance Committees.

Ellen Springer described Rally Day, a project of the Membership & Evangelism Committee, to be held September 9. It will begin with a pancake breakfast and will include exhibits of all the committees and programs that make up the life of Stone Church.

Carrie Giorgianni explained that the Church & World Committee, as part of its *greening the church* project, had a company called Right Lights survey the lighting in the church basement and recommend more energy-efficient lighting. Session approved replacing downstairs lighting at a cost of \$3,169.17, with some members of the congregation having offered to pay the cost.

A *Green Stone Team* is also working to qualify Stone as a Santa Clara County Green Business, which usually takes six months to achieve.

Session approved a job description and reimbursement for the job of Parish Associate. Marge Palmer, former Interim Pastor, has agreed to take that position. A Parish Associate (which is not the same as an Associate Pastor) is chosen by the Pastor and approved by Session and Presbytery and usually fills a supplemental pastoral role - the exact responsibilities agreed upon between Pastor and Parish Associate.

*- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session*

## C&W Helps Us Give Time and Talent, as Well as Treasure

The Church and World Committee has many mission projects and opportunities for the Stone Church congregation. The committee is producing a calendar of the four annual special offerings, as well as dates for proposed mission projects, so you'll be able to plan for these events and offerings. The calendar will come out soon, as a bulletin insert. One of the offerings, however, is almost here ...

### Peacemaking Offering

When terrorism or war haunts us from every continent, how can we best respond to the cacophony of conflict around the world and in our own towns and families? The annual *Peacemaking Offering* is one way we affirm we can begin where we are.

On Sunday, October 7, we add our gifts to initiate special projects and provide teaching materials that point to Christ's nonviolent way of living. The *Peacemaking Offering* is shared, with 3/4 going to the Presbyterian Church worldwide and our own presbytery; the remainder goes to a group chosen by C&W.

### The Greening of Stone Church

This past month, Rhonda Lakatos coordinated an energy audit of Stone Church with Butch Harris of PG&E. The renovated areas of the church building and Lincoln House were fine, except for the old refrigerator in the kitchen and lack of attic insulation in Lincoln House. Those items will be addressed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Rhonda also got a proposal and quote to upgrade the old fluorescent light bulbs and fixtures in the church basement. Some church families have expressed interest in contributing to the cost of this work. The church will also receive a rebate and should realize a reduction in energy bills too!

Rhonda is heading up the *Green Stone Team*, a C&W sub-committee, which will implement other changes to reduce the church's energy costs and qualify us as a Santa Clara County Green Business. Other members of the team are Bruce Raby, Claudia Hoagland, and Victor Perez.

*If you are also interested in joining this team, please contact Rhonda.*

### Very Worthwhile Shopping Trip

Alice McNelis will have sign-up sheets for people who want to participate in our Mervyn's Shopping Trip for EHC children. This fun and rewarding project is tentatively scheduled for the morning of Saturday, October 20.

### Fred recycles for Heifer ...

As many of you know, Fred Gropuso recycles cans and bottles from Stone Church. As a result of these efforts, \$344.45 has been sent to Heifer International.

### ... and Fred delivers to the Hungry

As if that weren't enough, Fred and the Middle Schoolers have been collecting food items on Communion Sunday each month. They have delivered over 700 lbs. of food for the San Jose Presbytery Hunger Project. This went to Sacred Heart along with 135 bags of clothing and shoes! Keep bringing in your bags of food and gently used clothing and shoes to help increase our donations to this wonderful organization.

*- Carrie Giorgianni, C&W Moderator, with Dale Bracey*



## News from PW

*Heigh-ho, Heigh-ho, it's off to work we go! ...* yes, the schedule is filling fast for September and beyond. Are we ready?

Be sure to keep September 15 open to attend the overview of this year's Bible Study, *Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth*, led by the author, Dr. Carol Bechtel. The event will be held at San Francisco Theological Seminary, and carpooling is encouraged. The Los Gatos PW offers another option: they are hiring a bus, and there is room for those of us who want to be *parking free* for a fee of \$7. The gas would be more than that!

Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate will be sold at the regular time, September 9.

Claudia Hamm has agreed to represent PW on the Nominating Committee.

Rally Day on September 9 promises to be a great lead-in for the Rev. Ken's installation here at Stone Church. Come prepared to learn what we don't know about all of the activities open to all of us.

Scholarships for four of our collage students have been awarded. We remind all who are interested that applications cannot be considered if they are not received or post-marked by the date stated on the application form.

### **PW Schedule for September:**

**Focus Group** 9:30 am, September 4, Elizabeth Shandera's home

**Amethyst Circle**, noon, September 5, Evelyn Radunich's home.

**Emerald Circle**, 9:30 am, September 6, Carolyn Clendenning's home.

**Sapphire Circle**, 7:30 pm, September 10, Sara Holtzapple's home.

**Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, September 11, Taiwan Restaurant (Lincoln Avenue)

**Book Group I**, 1:30 pm, (call Carolyn Clendenning for day), Liz Shandera's home, book: *The Invisible Wall* by Harry Bernstein

**Book Group II**, 2:30 pm, September 17, Karen Scott's home, book: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

**Prayer Shawl Group** (knitting), 4:30 pm, Sept 27, Fireside Room (*Janice Goertz emphasizes this activity is not gender-specific.*)

**Bible Study**, 9:30 am, September 27, church library, led by the Rev. Marge.

- Catherine Amos



A group of 12 guys (most from Stone Church) and 4 airplanes recently went to Castle Air Force Base.

## Men's Groups

Pictured in front of the B-17 from left to right are Art Holtz, Chris Luebcke, Stan Searing (pilot), Ira Lohan, Guy Lohan, Steve Schrepfer (pilot), Ken Henry, Bill Ribble (pilot), and Bob Wagner (pilot). Not pictured are Gabriel Faber (photographer), Bruce Raby, and David McCreath.

Aircraft flying over were a Piper Comanche (Bill), a Cessna 172 (Stan), a Piper Cherokee (Bob), and a Mooney (Steve).

The group left at 9 am, ate lunch at the museum café, and returned about 2:30 in the afternoon. They saw several interesting airplanes, including the B-36, Vulcan, SR-71, F-111 and most of the "century series" fighters.

"A good time was had by all." The weather was perfect - cloudless - and the temperature was moderate (versus hot).

The group sounded interested in doing something similar this fall.

- Bill Ribble-

### **Men's Book Group to Meet ...**

*Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin, is the book for discussion at the Sept. 10 meeting of the Men's Book Group. This book, a centerpiece of one of Dr. Henry's sermons, describes the effort of one man to promote world peace by building schools. All men are welcome to attend the meeting, to be held at Bob James' home, at 7:30 pm.

The October book will be *Banker to the Poor*, by Muhammad Yunus and Alan Jolis, regarding micro-lending in third-world countries.

### **... and to Hold Used Book Sale**

The semi-annual used book sale will be held following worship on Sept. 30. Please bring donated books to the church by Sept. 23.

- David McCreath

### **Men's Mission Team**

Here are the Men's Mission Team worktrips for fall 2007:

☛ September 14-18, Zephyr Point

☛ October 19-21, Westminster Woods (signup deadline 9/16)

☛ Nov. 2-4, Westminster Woods

- Leland Wong



To get to know our new pastor, Ken Henry, members of the congregation have been holding small-group dinners for him in their homes.

At left, Ken is being graciously fêted by (left to right) Catherine Amos, Audrey Clark, and Bea Groppuso.

## Annual Stone Church Golf Tournament

It's getting to be that time of year again. The date for this year's golf tournament at The Villages Golf and Country Club is Saturday, October 13 – if you haven't already, mark your calendar!

Everyone is welcome to play – it's easy and fun! We use the scramble format where each member of the foursome hits a shot, then the foursome picks the best of the four shots as the place to hit the next shot (detailed rules are provided).



You can also invite your family and friends to meet you for dinner afterward in the club dining room.

Tee times begin at 1 pm. The cost is \$72 for those over 19 and \$63 for those 19 and under. This covers greens fees, powered carts, prize fund and snacks.

We're always looking for prizes, so if you have something appropriate, contact Mike Wyllie. There are always lots of prizes for all skill levels.

Look for Mike Donald and friends at the sign-up table in the social hall or courtyard on Sundays in September. Got questions? Contact Mike Donald or Maureen Ryan.

## Consecration Sunday: Giving Unselfishly

As *Consecration Sunday* approaches on Oct. 28, here are some reminders of what giving to our church is all about.

Congregations who approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

*Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, people are treated like followers of Jesus who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward

proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

On *Consecration Sunday*, during morning worship a guest leader will conduct a period of instruction and inspiration. At the end of worship, pledge cards will be distributed for you to make a confidential financial act of worship commitment to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries, in this community and around the world. You will then deposit your pledge card in a designated receptacle at the front of the sanctuary as you go to the social hall for a fully catered celebratory lunch.

We want to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend *Consecration Sunday* worship. Your enthusiastic response on this day is vital to your Stone Church family.

- Derk Johnson, Stewardship Moderator

*Prism of Prayer* was the theme for the annual *Summer Sing* at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center, August 2-5. This event provides support and enhancement of worship, church music, and church choir participation – this year for over 150 participants

Choir members, choir leaders and pastors were invited to work with the faculty of distinguished church musicians, conductors and educators.

In the picture (at right) are the five Stone choir members who attended: Dan and Jean Raby, Bill Downes, and Betty and Don D'Angelo. They encourage other choir members to come next year to share the great music and interaction with members of other churches.





*More Fabulous Photos from the annual Worship Service and Picnic at History Park!*

Carol Martin, who works at Posit Science, recently shared this opportunity:

Are you 65 or older, healthy and interested in joining a research study on memory?

Posit Science in San Francisco is looking at levels of certain naturally occurring growth factors related to memory and cognition in healthy, mature adults.

You will receive \$50 for a one-time visit that includes brief questionnaires and a single blood draw. The visit will last one hour.

If you are interested, please call 1-415-398-0173 and ask for more information about the Memory Study.

*A prayer from Michael Malone, member of Stone Church,  
currently serving in Iraq.*

We find ourselves in the desert walked by our forefathers

The ground is soaked with the blood of our brothers

We weep for their loss

We pray they had come to know the savior

We pray for the soothing waters of faith to sustain us

Sustaining us in a land filled with hate and anger

Lord help us forgive the evil done to our brothers and the  
innocent babes

Wash us clean of the hate for those who do evil

Give us strength to follow your ways

Guide our steps through the desert on our journey home

Heal the scars left upon our souls by what we have seen

In your name we pray.



2007 International Peacemaker, Mr. Mamo Wejega Korjo of Ethiopia, will share his story with us in worship on September 30.

**REMINDER: INSTALLATION OF  
REV. DR. KEN HENRY ON  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, AT 3 PM**

The Presbytery of San Jose will formally install Ken Henry as Pastor at Stone Church on Sunday, September 9, at 3 pm. Rev. David Beamer, Pastor Emeritus, will preach; Rev. Dr. Bob Bowles will give a charge to the congregation; Rev. Marge Palmer will ask Ken the constitutional questions; and Rev. Mark Burnham will charge Ken as pastor.

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*A Stone Church youth member recently chose as his Eagle Scout Service Project a water-conserving form of landscaping for Lincoln House.*

*On August 18 and 19, a team of members and friends showed up to assist.*

*Constructing several planter boxes out of stone and mortar (right) was also part of the project.*

