

# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA DEC 2009/JAN 2010



## TO BLESS AND CHALLENGE BY KEN HENRY

At Stone Church, it's the last sermon we receive every Sunday morning.

After the organ postlude, as we gather our belongings and stretch our backs, stiff from sitting too long in a hard pew, we turn to receive one more blessing. Up high, over our heads, etched in stained glass, is Jesus, looking down at us from his circular and mosaic heaven - arms raised, offering us his final pastoral benediction:

*My peace I give unto you.*

The Alpha and Omega - Greek letters indicating the beginning of

time and the end of the age - flank his sides. It is appropriate that these ancient symbols hover over our place of worship - a place where infants are baptized, marriage vows are spoken, and people we have loved through sickness and death are offered into God's hands.

Recognizing beginnings and endings is part and parcel to living the spiritual life. Actually, the entire passage reads:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.* John 14:27

More than 50 years ago, when this window was first installed, someone described it as "a window to bless and challenge as people leave" and indeed it has.

As the year 2010 approaches, my prayer is that these words would continue to bless and challenge God's people. May Christ's glassy benediction continue to descend upon us, encouraging and comforting all of God's children.

And every Sunday morning, as worship draws to a close and we make our way to the exit, may the peace of Christ go with us, now and forever more.

*Amen*

## WORSHIP DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT STONE CHURCH: "THAT GREAT LIGHT" IS ADVENT THEME; TWO SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS EVE



Advent and Christmas are very special at Stone Church. Please join us for the many worship services offered during this extraordinary time.

### Advent

Ken Henry has chosen the theme, *That Great Light*, for Advent this year at Stone Church. This theme is based on Isaiah 9:2:

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.*

Here are the particular themes, and liturgy, for the Sundays in Advent:

- ◆ Nov. 29, First Sunday of Advent: *The Coming Light of Christ* (A Candle of Hope); 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36.

- ◆ Dec. 6, Second Sunday of Advent: *A Messenger to Light the Way* (A Candle of Preparation); Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6.
- ◆ Dec. 13, Third Sunday of Advent: *The Light of Baptism* (A Candle for Baptism); Chancel Choir Concert and Baptism; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18.
- ◆ Dec. 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent: *The Light that Illuminates Peace* (A Candle for Peace); Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55.

### Taizé Services in Advent

During Advent, Taizé services will be offered on Tuesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22, for those seeking a time of nurturing quiet, music, and peace during this busy season. The sanctuary opens at 6:30 pm, and the service begins at 6:45 and ends at 7:30.

### Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

Ken Henry describes Stone's two unique Christmas Eve services:

### ◆ 7 pm "Ringing Bells"

At the 7 pm service, the emphasis will be on families, with an extended children's sermon.

We'll light candles and sing carols, like *Go Tell it on the Mountain* and *Away in a Manger*.

The feeling will be festive and informal, and the service will last about 45 minutes.

I invite you to bring your favorite bell to assist in the carols – maybe even two or three!

### ◆ 11 pm "Hearing our Heavenly Choir"

At the 11 pm service, the feeling will be more meditative and reflective.

The choir will sing anthems, and the congregation will sing traditional favorites.

The emphasis will be on contemplating this holy and joyful event.

I will also preach a Christmas Eve sermon, and yes, we'll light candles at this service, too.

## "HAMMERIN' IN THE HILLS" OF EASTERN KENTUCKY

Want to go on a mission trip to Appalachia next summer? Want to worship with members of First Presbyterian Church in Hazard, KY? Want to travel and work with a group of adults and youth from Stone Church?

Don Skipwith and Ken Henry are planning a mission trip to Eastern Kentucky (tentatively July 11-18, 2010). The trip will include educating ourselves

about this impoverished US region, working at a building site each day, and learning about our faith, which calls us to love our neighbors, near and far.

On Sunday morning, Dec. 13, from 11:15 to noon, we will gather in the pastor's office in Lincoln House to hear more about this exciting mission opportunity. The meeting will include everything we need to know, including costs, travel arrangements, and where we'll be sleeping. There will be a similar meeting at the same day at 6:30 pm, if you cannot attend the morning session.



Five unsuspecting middle-schoolers were "kidnapped," then treated to games and pancakes at the annual "Kidnap Breakfast," on Halloween morning. Vampire teeth got them in the mood for the day! Line-dancing, scrapbooking, cooking, caroling, puppet-dramas and a ranch retreat are all part of this year's Middle School program, whose theme is "God is Great."



for the teenager in your home, as well as for yourself.

And here is some information about where we're going:

"Perry County, with a population of 29,279 people, is in the heart of the coal fields of Eastern Kentucky, and the need for affordable housing is severe. Of the residents of Perry County, 29.1% are below the poverty line, as documented in the 2000 Census. This makes Perry County the 102nd poorest county in the nation, according to the Housing Assistance Council (HAC).

"Our community is indicative of the consistent economic distress the Central Appalachian region has suffered during the last century. Creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income families and individuals has contributed immeasurably to systemic, sustainable economic development in our community." - Ken Henry

ing costs, travel arrangements, and where we'll be sleeping. There will be a similar meeting at the same day at 6:30 pm, if you cannot attend the morning session.

Please prayerfully consider this opportu-

## STONE'S CHURCH SCHOOL MAKES A JOYFUL NOISE!

by Mary Jo Blazek,  
Children's Ministry  
Coordinator

Children's activities at Stone Church are in abundance this holiday season. Our congregation is rich with the sounds of our children's voices and their dreams for the future.

The fourth and fifth grade church school class recently created a wonderful *Godly Walk*. This is a ten-station devotion and prayer labyrinth that they set up and shared with the younger children and other church members. They took a lot of pride in this activity and learned about prayer and about being leaders.

Another wonderful tradition here at Stone Church is the presentation of Bibles to our fourth graders. This event took place during the Worship service on Nov. 22. Recipients included Ryann McManus, Ginger Luebcke, Jillian Ritchie, Isabel Jaffer, Ben McDaid, Maggie Curtin, and Ellie Peyton. Congratulations to all of you!



The Children's Chimes Choir, led by Jean Raby, is meeting Sunday mornings from 11:15 to 12:15, downstairs in Room 6. Children from third grade and up are invited to join, and they do not need to know how to read music. The children are planning to show their talents at the Christmas Eve Family Worship Service (the 7 pm service).

*Parents' Day Out* is a popular event for both parents and children. Sponsored by the Deacons, children are invited to spend the day doing crafts, playing games, watching movies, and having lunch. Their parents get time to shop, do errands, or just relax. This year's event takes place

Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 am to 2 pm. If you would like to participate, please let me know.

In Worship every Sunday during Advent, one of our Stone Church families will light the Advent Candle, recite a prayer, and share a personal hope for the future.

The Christmas Eve Family Worship Service will include the holy family with a *real* new baby. All children are invited to come early to dress in period clothing (from our costume closet) and join the holy family as they process into the Sanctuary.

And put this event on your calendar now: the *Family Epiphany Party* returns Jan. 3, from 2 to 4 pm. This is a time for the whole family to enjoy the season together with their friends at Stone. There will be crafts, cookie decorating, music and a special presentation from the middle school group. You won't want to miss it.

As the new year approaches, there are many opportunities for all members of Stone to be involved in guiding our children to learn about God's love. Be a part of it. You will be making great memories for the children and for yourselves.



## CHURCH LIBRARY LOOKS AT THE C'S OF CHRISTMAS!

**C is for Christmas** – may yours be most merry!

**C is for calendars** – please take those you'd like, and give us your extras.

**C is for cart** – in the Social Hall, which will hold Christmas books in December and Stone Church favorites in January.

**C is for cheerful workers** – we will need one or two to replace Ruth White (to whom we're wishing farewell). If you're available the first and third Tuesday mornings of the month, come by to see if you'd like to work with us.

### Recent additions for young members:

*I'm Thankful Each Day!* by P. K. Hallinan (1st Bks Hal)

*Angelina's Christmas* by Katharine Holabird (1st Bks Hol)

*The Last Straw* by Fredrick Thury (J Thu), given by Della Smith in honor of singers in *Three Wee Kings*, 2007

*Toys! Amazing Stories behind Some Great Inventions* by Don Wulffson (YA 688.7 Wul)

### New on our adult side:

*A Book of Angels* by Sophy Burnham (158 Bur), given by Sylvia Snyder

*The Future of Christianity* by Arthur Bellinzoni (230 Bel), given by Pat Magee

*The Little Book of Jesus* by Priya Hemenway (232 Hem)

*A Pocketful of Prayers* ed. by Ralph Woods (243 Woo), given by Betty Moran

*Zen & the Art of Knitting: Exploring the Links between Knitting, Spirituality & Creativity* by Bernadette Murphy (746 Mur)

### In our special sections:

*A Feast of Families* by Virginia Stem Owens (Fam 306.8 Owe), rec. by Madeleine L'Engle

*The Power of Family: Strength, Comfort, and Healing* by Paul Pearsall (Fam 306.85)

*Far from Home: Tales of Presbyterian Exiles* by Alice Anderson (SocIss-S 241 And)

*Taking a New Look: Why Congregations Need LGBT Members* by Life Quest Publications (SocIss-S 241 Tak)

*The last two were given by StoneWorks.*

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

## ROBERT RUSSELL TO BE HENRIETTA PERDUE MEMORIAL LECTURER

Noted physicist and theologian, Dr. Robert Russell, will be *Henrietta Perdue Memorial Lecturer* on Feb. 5-6, 2010.



*Exploring Science and Theology in Creative Interaction*, he will discuss a variety of issues on the active frontier between modern science and

Christian theology, with particular focus on Big Bang cosmology and neo-Darwinian evolutionary biology.

In the Friday evening overview lecture, Dr. Russell will survey five key issues in theology and science. Starting with Einstein's Big Bang cosmology, he asks whether an absolute beginning of the universe at "t=0" and the cosmic fine-tuning of the laws and constants of nature support belief in God. Next he explores "theistic evolution" as a theological interpretation of neo-Darwinian evolution against its competitors: atheism and Intelligent Design. We face the challenge of suffering in the evolution of life, and Dr. Russell asks how we can respond theologically. He concludes by exploring predictions for the far future of the universe: "freeze or fry." Do these undermine Christian hope for a New Creation? Are there any alternatives?

In the two Saturday morning lectures, Dr. Russell will probe the theological implications of cosmology and evolutionary biology in more depth and detail. What is the significance of Big Bang cosmology for Christian faith? Can the God "who acts" truly act and affect the universe?

Dr. Russell is the Ian G. Barbour Professor of Theology and Science in Residence at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, and Founder and Director of the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS). He holds a Ph. D. in physics and advanced degrees in theology and is the author of many books on the relationship between science and religion.

Tickets are \$15 for Friday evening, \$15 for Saturday morning, or \$20 for the complete program. They can be purchased after Worship beginning Dec. 27. - Pat Magee

## ADULT STUDY TOPICS RANGE FROM CALVIN TO GREEN ENTREPRENEURS TO ECONOMICS

The following adult study classes are offered at 11:15 on Sunday mornings during December and January.

### The Life and Legacy of John Calvin, Dec. 6 & 13; led by Rev. Dr. David McCreath

David McCreath examines some of the important writings of John Calvin, the French/Swiss theologian whose 16th century writings became the foundation of the Reformed Churches, including the Presbyterian Church (USA). On Dec. 6, the class will review Calvin's life in France and Geneva, and how the beginnings of the Reformation shaped his writings. On Dec. 13, the class will review Calvin's major work, the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Particular attention will be given to his understanding of the church, and the expectations of the Christian life.

### Green Entrepreneurs, Jan. 10 & 17; led by Alison van Diggelen

In July, Mike Cassidy wrote in the *San José Mercury News*: "For the past

eight months, the Scottish immigrant has been quietly producing podcasts on green living and green technology from her Almaden Valley home. Her guests? Tom Friedman, Charlie Rose, Maureen Dowd, Jack Welch and a host of Silicon Valley tech execs." In these classes, Alison will share her "green" interviews.

### San José Economic Development, Jan. 31; led by Kim Walesh

Last April, Kim Walesh, *Chief Strategist for the City of San José*, summarized the major forces of change (demographic, economic, environmental) shaping the long-term future of cities across the nation, with emphasis on San José. Kim returns to discuss San José's economic development.

### Exploring the Old Testament - part I, led by Ken Henry, Barbara Bracey, and the Parish Associates

This class continues through December and most of January.

There are no classes on Dec. 20 or 27, or Jan. 3. - Pat Magee

Ho! Ho! Ho! Not in the Christmas mood yet? That's all right, because we have the Advent Season to get ready, not for Santa Claus, but for the birth of Jesus.

Our Christmas project this year is to provide items for children to select as gifts for their mothers at the *Next Door Solutions* shelter. These should be unwrapped, as the children are allowed to view the items to make their selections. Please bring contributions for this worthwhile endeavor to your December circle (money is also welcome).



Claudia Hamm is still receiving *life stories*: if you knew someone who is now a member of the *cloud of witnesses* and can tell about her, please send a short story to Claudia, along with your own.

Please save your Campbell and Swanson labels this month while cooking and baking all those delicious treats for the holidays.

Put this date on your calendar: the Epiphany Tea on Jan. 10, featuring a Taizé worship experience.

Fair Trade Sales will be held Dec. 13: they will revert to the normal third Sunday schedule in January.

The search committee needs input for nominations for *Honorary Life Memberships* to be presented on *Women's Sunday*. If you have a nomination, contact Hazel James by Jan. 3.

**PW Schedule for December:**  
**Amethyst Circle**, noon, Dec. 2, Jan Keifer's home

**Emerald Circle**, 10:30 am, Dec. 3, Gail Chaid's home

**Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, Dec. 8, Taiwan Restaurant

**Sapphire Circle**, 7:30 pm, Dec. 8, Jeanette Rapp's home

**Coordinating Team**, 9:30 am, Dec. 10, Social Hall

**Fair Trade Sales**, 10:30 am, Dec. 13, Social Hall

**Bible Study**, 9:30 am, Dec. 17, Church Library with Rev. Marge

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 4 pm, Dec. 17, Fireside Room

**Book Group II**, 2:30 pm, Dec. 21, Karen Scott's home, reading *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer, Annie Barrows

- Catherine Amos

The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work team, a book group, and a flying group.

**MEN'S MINISTRY** For more information about any of these groups, contact Parish Associate David McCreath.

### Men's Book Group

The Dec. 14 meeting of the Men's Book Group will be at the home of Bruce Raby at 7:30 pm.

At that meeting the group will choose books to read from January through April.

All Stone Church men and friends are invited, and everyone with a book idea should be prepared to "pitch" the book to the group. The four books with the most votes will be selected.

We are trying to read one classic and one spiritual book during each half-year period.

- Bill Ribble

## SESSION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS, CONSIDERS SAFE PRACTICES AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

At its regular meeting on Nov. 17, the Session had the joy of receiving as new members three people with long-time ties to the Presbyterian Church and experience in leadership. Michelle Lee Vasquez transferred from Colorado, and Glen and Norah Casner transferred from Southern California.

The Session discussed a mandate from the Presbytery that officers and staff be trained in "Safe Church Practices," prevention of child abuse and the responsibilities of Mandatory Reporters. The concern grows out of lawsuits brought against the Presbytery, as well as concern for the safety of all - children and adults alike. Mel Goertz and David McCreath were authorized to create a task force to design this training for Stone.

The Stewardship Committee reported the results of Consecration Sunday: As of Nov. 16, the committee had received 148 pledges for \$382,181, with an additional \$25,000 coming by

way of automatic withdrawals. There are 15 pledges from people who did not pledge last year, and there are 41 who pledged last year who have not yet pledged this year.

The Budget and Finance Committee reported that the budget shows a shortfall in pledged giving for 2009, although loose offerings show an increase. The Session voted to have loose offerings from both Christmas Eve services go to the general fund.

The Session held beginning discussions on resources that Stone might provide in case of a major disaster. The experience of churches in the Presbytery after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake is a source of information. With limited space, we probably could not stockpile food or supplies, but could maintain lists of folks who live alone and provide for contacting them. There will be further discussion on this at the December meeting.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

## LOOKING FOR NEXT ELDERS & DEACONS

Stone's Nominating Committee has begun its work of finding church leaders for terms beginning July 1, 2010. These new Elders, Deacons and Nominating Committee members will join the continuing members in their respective groups.

If you are interested in serving as a leader, or if you would like to suggest a pledging member as a leader, please contact moderators Gail Chaid or John Lococo, or any committee member (Maureen Chandler, Mel Goertz, Bea Groppuso, Virginia Holtz, Derk Johnson, Diana Lim, Pat Magee, Kaye Moore, Steve Nelson, Ida Raby, Leland Wong, or Ruth McCreath).

If you need clarification about what it means to be an Elder or Deacon, please ask a committee member; they are enthusiastic and motivated to help you discover your potential to be a leader. The committee next meets on Jan. 3, 2010 at 11 am. - Gail Chaid

# STONEWORKS REACHES OUT TO REFUGEES, HOMELESS ... WON'T YOU HELP?

Wouldn't you like to make 2010 a brighter year for someone in need? StoneWorks has so many ways to do just that.

## Muiruri Support Gathering, Dec. 8

Many of you responded to the call to support Tony Muiruri and his refugee family. His wife and daughter have not yet had their visa interviews, but his two teenage sons may arrive in December. A team from Stone will work with Catholic Charities to welcome and mentor family members as they arrive.

It is very important, however, that *everyone* at Stone be part of a loving and welcoming community to this family as they learn the subtleties of life in the USA, especially Silicon Valley.

To learn more about what we need to do to help the Muiruri family, the entire congregation is invited to a *Gathering* in the social hall from 7:45 to 9 pm, Dec. 8 (after Taizé). Attendees will include our assigned case worker, a Catholic Charities representative, and Elsa Amboy and Melissa Kreisa, *Refugee Ministry Advocates* from the San José Presbytery. Please come and get involved. *Contact: Maureen Ryan*

## Christmas Joy Offering Dec. 20

Please give generously to the *Christmas Joy Offering*, one of four special offerings designated by the PCUSA. This particular offering supports the Board of Pensions' Financial

Assistance Programs and Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges. You should receive a letter with an enclosed offering envelope around Dec. 9. Bulletins will include envelopes on Dec. 20. Donations will also be accepted for a short time afterward.

## Commercial St. Inn Saturday Lunches

StoneWorks members prepared and served lunch to the women and children of InnVision's Commercial Street Inn on Nov. 21. It was a wonderful experience, and you are cordially invited to take part in this ministry.

StoneWorks has committed to serve lunch every 3rd Saturday for the next 12 months. We hope church committees, as well as families, will participate. It's an easy way to share God's love with some very needy people. *Contact: Project Leader, Melanie Peyton, or Charlotte Pizzo*

## Mission Services Bulletin Board

To help refugees in Silicon Valley, a new area on the StoneWorks bulletin board titled, *Do You Need? – Mission Services*, lists a variety of refugee skills so you can safely hire multi-talented workers for your household needs.

Ask Walter Roach about a new costume made by a refugee Afghan seamstress. *Contact: Maureen Ryan or Charlotte Pizzo; note that all postings must be approved.*

## Wonder of Our Water Works Tour

StoneWorks' visit to the San José Waste Water Treatment Facility was truly amazing. We began in the classroom with an overview of the water cleansing process, which takes waste water to 99.9% purity. We then boarded buses for a tour of the plant. The first stop was the intake pipe (and yes, it did smell). All those stickers on fruits and vegetables, and wipes marked *biodegradable*, must be "raked" out of the waste water, so please don't put them down your drains and toilets. Gases produced by the processes help to power the plant, and the final inert dirt caps nearby landfills. In the end, clean water goes to the bay and to water area golf courses; this reclaimed water may someday replenish our aquifers.

After the tour, we visited the *Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge*. The weather was perfect for meandering along the seasonal pond and viewing a levee lined with white pelicans and other birds. At lunch, we heard a talk about two restoration projects: reversing the salt ponds back to wetlands and recreating new upland habitats for birds. The butterfly garden and visitor center were of particular interest.

## Communion Sunday Food Drive

Fred Groppuso delivered 105.75 lbs. of food to Sacred Heart on Nov. 1. Thank you for your generosity!

## FOUR STEPHEN MINISTERS COMMISSIONED IN WORSHIP ON NOVEMBER 8

Four new Stephen Ministers, Pauline Moore, Gail Chaid, Karen LeFever and Charlotte Dickson (pictured below),



were commissioned during Worship on Nov. 8. With 50 hours of training, they are prepared to accompany members of the church and community on journeys through difficult times. Here are introductions to each of them:

*Pauline Moore* is a mother and grandmother (even to a *granddog!*). She and significant other, Brad, enjoy reading, playing word games and doing Christmas puzzles in front of the fire. Pauline is the *Senior Manager of Homeowner Asso-*

*ciations* at a local company. She is also Stone's current *Moderator of Deacons*. To stay in shape, she does water aerobics, yoga and occasionally boot camp.

*Gail Chaid* is a wife, mother, stepmother and grandmother. She is retired after 38 years of teaching home economics, social problems, mathematics and more. She was also a planetarium director for 18 years, teaching astronomy to all ages. She enjoys traveling, reading, cooking, time with her grandchildren, and taking her dog to the dog park. She also loves looking at the fall colors of the trees and sitting in the sun.

*Karen LeFever* is a creative director specializing in computer motion graphics and design, most recently for Adobe Systems. In addition to time with husband Jim and ten-year-old daughter Emma, Karen enjoys making music,

chasing her German shepherd, and dabbling in various right-brained activities. Karen is a member of St. Francis Episcopal Church and feels fortunate to have *two* church families.

*Charlotte Dickson* is an aunt, great-aunt, volunteer, dog-owner/companion, and retired teacher. She enjoys time with friends and family (including pug dog Scout), reading, music, arts, computer work, driving, traveling and worshiping and studying at Stone. She currently serves on San José Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry. She dreams of resuming her golfing life, becoming an expert on soups and casseroles, and enjoying a dogsled ride and the Northern Lights. Listening to others is a particular joy; becoming a Stephen Minister will give her many such opportunities. *-Joan Peckham*



*And lo, I am  
with you  
always, even  
unto the end  
of the world.*

*- Matthew 28:20b*

## BUDGET & FINANCE'S YEAR-END REMINDERS

### **Contributions for 2009 Due "On or Before" Dec. 31, 2009**

In accordance with IRS regulations, 2009 pledge contributions *must* be made during the calendar year to be deductible on your 2009 tax return. Please make sure contributions toward your 2009 pledge are received in the church office or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2009, so your 2009 giving statement will comply with the tax law. Contributions received after Dec. 31 must be recorded in 2010.

### **2010 Pledge Envelopes**

Pledge envelopes will be available in the social hall on Sundays during December. Those who pledge

on a weekly basis receive 54-envelope boxes. Those who pledge on a monthly or quarterly basis receive 14-envelope boxes. Pledge envelopes are not provided if you make a one-time contribution or have set up automatic withdrawal of funds from your bank account.

### **In-Kind Donations Need Church Receipt**

How often do you buy something for our church, but don't ask to be reimbursed? Many of us generously supplement church programs and just keep our receipts for tax deductions. New IRS rules will not accept such receipts as legitimate deductions.

You must now have a receipt from Stone Church.

To have these *in-kind* contributions included in your annual church giving statement, please follow these steps:

1. Keep all contribution receipts for which you are not reimbursed.
2. Sort receipts by contribution category: CE, PW, Men's Ministry, etc., labeling each one.
3. Place the sorted receipts in an envelope with your name on it, and see that Sally Magee receives it before Dec. 31, 2009.

*For questions, contact Sally Magee (on Mondays in the Church Office) or Mel Goertz.*



After the Worship service on Dec. 6, look for the **Make-Your-Own-Yule-Log** event on the Patio. Materials will be provided to create a *masterpiece* for your fireplace or other choice spot. You don't even have to burn it to enjoy having a yule log as part of your Christmas tradition. See Fred Oliver for details.



The always fun and very delicious **Men's Mission Team Dinner** will be held **Sat., Jan. 30, 2010**. The dinner and accompanying raffle raise funds to support the mission and ministry of this hard-working, dedicated team. See Mike Wyllie (*center*) or John Lococo (*right*), pictured above with Leland Wong (*left*), for details in mid-December.



Mark your calendar now for **Stone's Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner**, on **Sat., Oct. 9, 2010**, at the Villages Golf and Country Club. As usual, that's the second Saturday in October. Take some lessons now and start practicing - or not! It's a fun day for all levels of players.

The Personnel & Administration Committee is currently preparing **Ken Henry's Annual Review Comments** about Rev. Henry's work are welcome any time of year, but input from now until

**Dec. 20** can be included in this review. Communicate by phone, email or in person with any P&A member (Susan Bedolla, Jerry Keifer, Rhonda Lakatos, Chris Nilson, Lynn Stutz, or Ed Tablak).



This lovely young lady is reading her Santa Clara County Health Department booklet on the flu - are you reading yours? Health Ministry encourages you to read this helpful booklet to be prepared. If you have not yet received a copy, please ask a committee member. Stay healthy this flu season.

## WAKING UP TO JOHN IN THE NEW YEAR

Wake up to (the Gospel of) John during a six-week, early morning study beginning in January. Come to any or all of the classes listed below; they'll start promptly at 6:30 am in the Library and run exactly one hour. The only requirements are that you read the assigned scripture before class and bring a Bible. Coffee will be provided; donuts and pastries may show up occasionally. Commiserating with others who are not morning people, including the pastor, will be the norm. See you there bright and early! ~ Ken Henry

| date | scripture      | date | scripture      |
|------|----------------|------|----------------|
| 1/7  | John 1:1-34    | 1/28 | John 6:1-7:52  |
| 1/14 | John 1:35-2:25 | 2/4  | John 8:12-9:41 |
| 1/21 | John 3:1-5:47  | 2/11 | John 10        |

## NEWS ABOUT THE STONE NEWS

◆ Beginning with the February issue, *The Stone News* will no longer be mailed (in hard copy) to homes for which we have an email address.

If you continue to receive a hard copy, but have an email address, would you let the church office know?

This has been done in order to follow our directive as a "green" church, as well as to save money in these tough economic times.

◆ Due to Christmas holidays and vacations, there will not be a separate January issue of *The Stone News*.

- Emily Moak Meacham, Editor

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