

# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

DECEMBER 2011



## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT STONE CHURCH



- 12/3 10 am Deacons' Parents' Day Out (pg 2)
- 12/4 **Second Sunday in Advent:**  
9:30 am Worship  
10:45 am Making Yule Logs  
5 pm Middle School - Making Gingerbread Houses for Shut-ins (pg 8)
- 12/6 6:45 pm Taizé Service (pg 2)
- 12/10 2 pm Deacons' Senior Christmas Party (pg 2)
- 12/11 **Third Sunday in Advent:**  
9:30 am Worship with special music, Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Song of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ*
- 12/13 6:45 pm Taizé Service
- 12/18 **Fourth Sunday in Advent:**  
Christmas Joy Offering  
5 pm Middle School - Ice Skating at *Christmas in the Park*
- 12/20 6:45 pm Taizé Service
- 12/24 **Christmas Eve:**  
5 pm Family Service  
10 pm High School Group Reunion  
11 pm Candlelight Service
- 12/25 **Christmas Day:**  
9:30 am Worship

### MAY I HAVE SOME BREAD, TOO?

Teaching Our Children About Communion

by the Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

*Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may come to the Table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus.*

-from the PCUSA Directory For Worship

On the first Sunday of each month, during Worship, a minister stands behind a beautiful wooden table and invites those present to come forward to eat, to drink and to remember.

At Stone Church, this sacrament is done by intinction.

This means we either tear off a piece of bread from a loaf (made by

our very own Mary Johnson) or procure some gluten-free bread, set out on the table (which I think Mary also makes). We then dip our bread into either the dark-colored liquid (wine specially made by a group of men in the church) or the light-colored liquid (grape juice, just whatever is on sale).

Sometimes, the pastor provides these basic instructions before inviting people to partake of this sacred meal (that is, if he or she remembers).

This sacrament goes by many names: *Holy Communion, The Lord's Supper, Breaking the Bread, The Eucharist ... The Last Supper*. In the end, it is simply *the joyful feast of the people of God*.

However, some parents of young children may have questions about their child's readiness to receive Communion.

And when our children ask us what it means, what do we say? How do our children approach the *Table*? What do Presbyterians believe about children taking Communion? What did Jesus mean when he said, *Take and eat.*

*This is my body broken for you.*

On Dec. 4 (Communion Sunday), during Church School, I will meet with parents and children to discuss the meaning of *The Lord's Supper* and to share some ideas on how to make this sacrament more meaningful for all of us.

On this day, Church School will meet at 9:20 in the Fireside Room for children's choir, so while the kids are rehearsing special Christmas music, we'll have a chance to talk.

And at the conclusion of this gathering? Together, we will join everyone in Worship to celebrate Communion. *See you then, Ken*





**“BE STILL AND KNOW  
THAT I AM GOD”  
TAIZÉ ADVENT SERVICES  
DECEMBER 6, 13 & 20**

Are you longing for some quiet time to deepen your spiritual experience of Christmas? Time to break away from shopping, wrapping, baking, card writing, decorating and partying? Just for an hour ...

Time to listen for God’s word? Time to get in touch with the true meaning of Christmas? Time to prepare yourself to receive the blessed gift of the baby Jesus?

Each Tuesday night in Advent, the Stone Church Sanctuary is lit with a multitude of candles, creating a most peaceful, beautiful, and sacred space.

Our services are patterned after those first practiced in the small village of Taizé, France, and include Latin and English chants that help to quiet the mind and bring peace, calm, and a sense of God’s loving and healing presence.

The Sanctuary opens at 6:30 pm for music and meditation. The service begins at 6:45 pm and concludes about 7:30 pm.

All are welcome. Do come!

- Fran Cole

*People, Look East!  
The Time is Near  
Of the Crowning of the Year ...  
The Senior Christmas Party is Here!*

Come join the Deacons on Saturday, Dec. 10, for the annual Senior Christmas Party.

There will be wonderful entertainment, festive décor, lively conversation, a holiday dessert, and a very special guest!

*Where:* Stone Church Social Hall

*When:* Saturday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 4 pm

*RSVP:* Carrie Giorgianni

Let us know the number in your party and if you will need transportation.

**A GIFT FROM THE DEACONS:  
“PARENTS’ DAY OUT” ON DEC. 3**

Attention all Stone Church families: the Deacons’ *Parents’ Day Out* is coming, Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 am to 2 pm.

Let the Deacons watch your children (12 years and younger), so you can shop, exercise, run errands or just relax.

Lunch, activities and crafts are provided. It is *free*, but you *must* sign up in advance.

Please contact Chris Nilson or Nancy Weiss to sign up or to volunteer to help that day.

*Parents and their young children are invited to the “Stepping Stones” Playgroup starting up at Stone Church of Willow Glen.*

*Come enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation with other parents, while your children have fun with toys, crafts and music.*

**WHAT:** “Stepping Stones” Playgroup

**WHERE:** Stone Church Social Hall

**WHO:** Parents and Caretakers and their children, birth to 5 years old

**WHEN:** Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, from 10 am - noon

**RSVP:** Mary Jo Blazek,  
at the Church Office

*A donation of \$2 will be accepted to cover cost of supplies.*



# ADULT STUDY LOOKS AT SAN JOSÉ, CHRISTMAS STORIES, CHRISMONS, JOHN

Stone Church offers fascinating and varied Adult Study classes on Sunday mornings at 11:15 in the Fireside Room (note: classes will be held in the Sanctuary starting January 2012).

Childcare is provided. All are welcome!

## Dec. 4: "Envision San Jose 2040" with Kim Walesh

Kim Walesh is the Chief Strategist for the City of San José. She will outline the *Draft 2040 Plan*, which will guide the city's continued growth through the year 2040.

## Dec. 11: "The Power of Story: How Our Stories of Christmas Enhance, Distract or Draw Us Closer to the Story of Jesus' Birth" with Ken Henry

Ken will invite class members to share their personal stories and experiences

of Christmas and explore the theological significance of storytelling.

## Dec. 18: "The Symbols of Christmas - An Expanded View" with Sue Williams

The wonderful symbols on our Chrismon tree (manger, star, staff, cornerstone, etc.) carry meanings that go far beyond our traditional awareness.

The stories of Jesus' birth are also rich in symbols that include characters, names, actions, words, objects and literary forms. Because of the work of scholars, symbols are well understood today.

## Jan. 8, 15, 29; Feb. 5, 12: "John's Intimate Gospel" with Dale and Barbara Bracey

The good news of Jesus Christ, according to John, differs enormously from the other three gospels.

Christians have asked why is this so, and who has the more accurate understanding of Jesus?

John was written after the first three gospels and after 70 AD. The gospel is responding to the changed times and culture, and it reacts to the philosophy of the later times. It looks more on who Jesus is and the prospect of being united with him and finding life in new dimensions.

This is an intimate journal of a man who knew Jesus personally - who can tell us not only what Jesus did, but what he thought and felt!

There is no class Dec. 25 or Jan. 1 or Jan. 22 (Congregational Meeting). For more information on any class, please contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Sub-Committee.

# LET BOOKS FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF CHRISTMAS

How do we experience Christmas? Through wonderful stories, and art, music, poetry, liturgy, sights, smells, tastes, tenderness, kindness, peacefulness, giving, gratitude, love ...

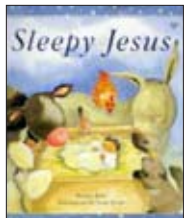
The books listed here might add to our experience.

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

## New for our younger members:



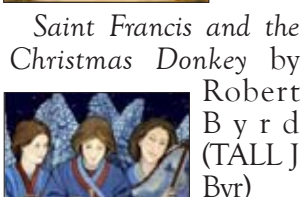
*Nighty Night, Baby Jesus* by Molly Schaar Idle (1st Bks J Idl)



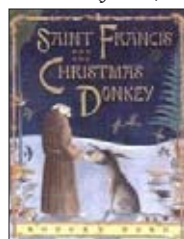
*Sleepy Jesus* by Pennie Kidd (1st Bks J Kid)



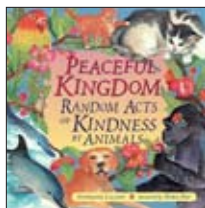
*Cobweb Christmas: The Tradition of Tinsel* by Shirley Climo (J Cli)



*Saint Francis and the Christmas Donkey* by Robert Byrd (TALL J Byr)



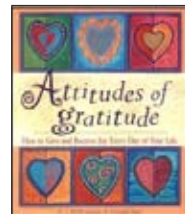
*Silent Night* illustrated by Susan Jeffers (TALL J 783 Jef)



*Peaceful Kingdom: Random Acts of Kindness by Animals* by Stephanie Laland (YA 636 Lal), given by Charlotte Dickson

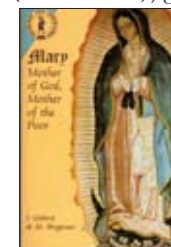
*The Art of the Renaissance* by Lucia Corrain (TALL YA 709 Cor)

## On the adult side:



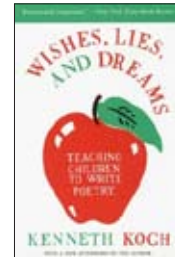
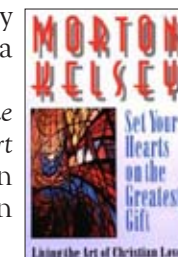
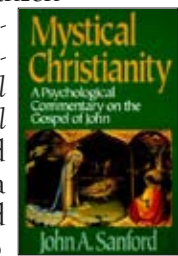
*Attitudes of Gratitude* by M.J. Ryan (170 Rya), given by Dulcie Janzen

*Mystical Christianity: A Psychological Commentary on the Gospel of John* by John A. Sanford (226.5 San), given by Bea and Fred Gropuso



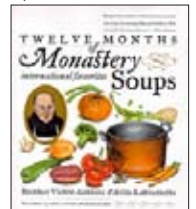
*Mary Mother of God, Mother of the Poor* by I. Gebara (232.91 Geb), given by Rebecca Kuiken

*Set Your Hearts on the Greatest Gift: Living the Art of Christian Love* by Morton Kelsey (248.4 Kel), given by Brad Bauer



*Wishes, Lies and Dreams: Teaching Children to Write Poetry* by Kenneth Koch (372.6 Koc)

*Twelve Months of Monastery Soups* by V. D'Avila-Latourrette (641 D'Av)



*Blood, Bones & Butter: The Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef* by Gabrielle Hamilton (641.5 Ham)

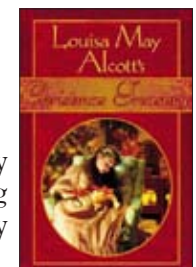
*Bach and Liturgical Life in Leipzig* by Gunther Stiller (783 Sti)



*Ragman and Other Cries of Faith* by Walter Wangerin (813.54 Wan)

## In our adult special sections:

*Christmas Treasury* by Louisa May Alcott (Lg Print F Alc), given by Dulcie Janzen



## STONERWORKS EXPRESSES GRATITUDE, ASKS FOR SUPPORT TO REPEAL CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

This holiday season, the Stone-Works committee would like to express gratitude and thanks for all that the Stone Church community has done for local and global mission.

In recent months, your generosity of money, material goods and time has benefitted the following causes:

- ♥ Somalia Famine Relief
- ♥ United Campus Christian Ministry
- ♥ Santa Clara County Homeless (with your rain ponchos, coats, sweaters and umbrellas)
- ♥ Bill Wilson Center Adopt-A-Family Holiday Giving Program
- ♥ Sacred Heart Community Service
- ♥ Peacemaking Offering

This next month or two, our committee will be discussing where we will spend our time and money in 2012, and we would love to have some input from you.

Please feel free to call or email me, or others on the committee, with questions or suggestions.

- Maureen Chandler,  
Committee Chair

### Stone to Join with Others to Repeal Capital Punishment in California

Since 1959, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has publicly stated its opposition to capital punishment (the death penalty), and this month Stone Church is joining with others in the state to gather signatures for a ballot measure that would repeal capital punishment in California.

In coming weeks, after Worship, you'll have the opportunity to sign petitions to get this important initiative on the California ballot for November 2012.

The initiative comes from *Taxpayers for Justice*, a group of law enforcement professionals, crime victim advocates and individuals exonerated from wrongful conviction. Together they launched the *SAFE (Savings, Accountability, Full Enforcement) California Campaign* to put before the voters an initiative that will replace the death penalty with life in prison without the possibility of parole. For more information, see:

[www.deathpenalty.org/article.php?id=637](http://www.deathpenalty.org/article.php?id=637)

In 1977, the General Assembly (GA) of the PCUSA called on its members to:

1. Work to prevent the execution of persons now under sentence of death and further use of the death penalty;
2. Work against attempts to reinstate the death penalty in state and federal law, and where such laws exist, to work for their repeal;
3. Work for the improvement of the justice system to make less radical means available for dealing with persons who are a serious threat to themselves and to the safety and welfare of society.

Then, the next year, 1978, the GA went on record as saying,

*Capital punishment is an expression of vengeance which contradicts the justice of God on the cross.*

These positions were reaffirmed in 1985, 2000 and 2010. For more information, see:

[gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/101/capital-punishment/](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/101/capital-punishment/)

- Aimee Moiso, Parish Associate

## MAKE AN IRA CHARITABLE GIFT THIS MONTH

An opportunity exists through congressional legislation to make a direct gift to Stone Church through Dec. 31, 2011.

This law allows Individual Retirement Account (IRA) owners over the age of 70½ to make a gift of up to \$100,000 from an IRA to the charity of their choice. To qualify:

- \* The donor must have reached the age of at least 70½ on the date of distribution.
- \* The gift must transfer directly from the IRA to a qualified public charity, such as Stone Church.
- \* The gift must be outright or for a specific purpose.

Simply follow these steps:

- \* Notify your bank or investment advisor where your

IRA is managed to help you fill out the proper forms.

- \* Advise the IRA manager about which assets to use for your gift.
- \* Ask the IRA manager to send your gift directly to Stone Church.
- \* Send a letter to Stone Church advising that your gift is being sent and for which purpose you want that gift to be used.
- \* Determine the purpose from among the following options: to pay your pledge in the annual stewardship fund, to pay an amount to the capital campaign, or to pay into a special fund with a stated purpose.

Please contact Ruth McCreath if you have any questions.

## MOVING FORWARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS A SUCCESS!

Our *Moving Forward* capital campaign of September has been successful with \$160,000 pledged *so far* toward our goal of \$200,000. We have received 63 pledges in varying amounts, illustrating our ongoing commitment to Stone Church through our giving.

Currently, the Budget Review Committee is working to incorporate this money pledged into our budget for 2012, reflecting the important needs expressed in the campaign. As we *move forward*, and our loan debts are reduced, it may be possible to address additional needs.

While the campaign centered on the month of September, and pledge payments can be made over a two-year period, it is never too late to add your contribution to this effort. Should you find yourself able to pledge now or in the future, please contact the Church Office for information.

Blessings to all,  
Mel Goertz & Pat Magee, Campaign Co-Chairs



“O Holy Night.” “Away in a Manger,” “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night,” “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” “Joy to the World” ... What is your favorite Christmas carol? No matter what it is, you will be sure to find inspiration at the Christmas Eve service.

At this time of year, we remember those who most need aid: thanks to the Hudspeth Trust we are able to assist in providing a bit of cheer. The co-ordinating team chose nine local charitable organizations to which donations were sent.

Claudia Hamm will be delivering our in-kind donations to Next Door



Solutions on Dec. 11, so remember to bring new items (for children, teens, and adults) and/or wrapping paper for their gift boutique to your circle meetings. If you are not in a circle, she will accept items at the church on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Because PW is an equal opportunity organization, all - men and women - are invited to the Epiphany Tea on Jan. 8 in the Social Hall. The highlight will be a special Taizé service.

One of the joys of the season is baking all those goodies. While shopping for supplies, check for box tops, as well as using your S.H.A.R.E.S. cards. We add a new item: Eggland's Best Eggs now have coupons.

**PW Schedule for December**

**Emerald Circle**, 10 am, Dec. 1, Gail Chaid's home

**Amethyst Circle**, noon, Dec. 7, Jan Keifer's home

**Coordinating Team**, 9:30am, Dec. 8, Social Hall

**Fair Trade Sales**, 10:45 am, Dec. 11, Social Hall

**Sapphire Circle**, 6 pm, Dec. 12, Jeanette Rapp's home

**Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, Dec. 13, Taiwan Restaurant (call Ida Raby)

**Book Group II**, 2:30 pm, Dec. 19, Alice Thorn's home, discussing *Through the Heart of the South* by Jody Meacham

**Focus Group**, 9:30 am, Dec. 21, June Tablak's home

**Bible Study**, 9:30 am, Dec. 22, *Confessing the Beatitudes, Lesson 5*, with the Rev. Marge Palmer, Church Library

*The Prayer Shawl Group and Book Group I are not meeting in December.*

**For your 2012 calendar**

**PWP Epiphany Tea**, 2 pm, Sunday, Jan. 8, Social Hall - Catherine Amos

The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work team, a book group, and a flying group. For more information about any of these activities, please contact Parish Associate David McCreath.

**Men's Book Group Not Meeting in December; Picks Up Again in January**

The Men's Book Group will not meet in December.

The first meeting of the new year will begin at 7:30 pm on Jan. 16, 2012, with Bob James as host. The book for that meeting is by Valerie Plame Wilson: *Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House*.

All men of the church are welcome.



*Two of the stalwart members of the Men's Mission Team ... Leland Wong and Art Holtz ... seen here at the recent Consecration Sunday Luncheon. They've even got on their Mission Team shirts!*

**Men's Mission Team Announces Annual Crab Feed is Coming in 2012!**

The Men's Mission Team is planning their annual Crab Feed for February 2012.

This is always a fabulous meal and a wonderful time to get together with church friends for delicious food and warm fellowship.

More details will be provided as soon as possible!

Please contact Leland Wong for more information.

**CLAUDIA HAMM HONORED FOR WORK WITH EMMAUS HOUSE**



Claudia Hamm was honored at the San Benito County Banquet in Hollister, on National Philanthropy Day, Nov. 15.

Claudia was nominated by Emmaus House, the only shelter for abused women and children in the county. She has worked on their behalf for many years, spreading their mission throughout Santa Clara County with her contacts through the Presbytery and her leadership with Presbyterian Women (PW).

She has personally made hundreds of holiday pillowcases for the children and made bi-monthly trips to deliver all types of donations.

She has been an angel to their important work.

Congratulations, Claudia! We are so happy and proud that you are a member of Stone Church!

- Rosaleen Zisch

## STONE'S SESSION APPROVES ASSOCIATE PASTOR POSITION FOR 2012

The Stone Church Session had a fairly heavy agenda for its regular meeting on Nov. 15.

The Session has for several months been discussing the need for increased pastoral leadership, because of growth in attendance, membership and activities at Stone. To that end, the Presbytery of San José, through its Committee on Ministry, has granted permission to reopen the Associate Pastor position.

Thus, Session voted unanimously to approve hiring an Associate Pastor half time, no sooner than August 2012.

The cost will be about \$70,000 a year for salary and benefits, with a pro-rated amount in 2012 of about

\$29,000. The *Moving Forward Campaign* resulted in pledges of over \$160,000 which, as hoped, will allow the church to pay down the mortgage, freeing funds in the operating budget for this position.

The Associate will be asked to be a "utility player," having a broad range of skills rather than being a narrowly focused specialist.

Another continuing topic has been how to get the best use of our building, again due to our continued growth. To that end, Session discussed and approved a motion from the Christian Education Committee to use the Simpson Education Wing, including the Fireside Room, solely for children's programs on Sunday morning.

The change will be effective Jan. 1, 2012, to allow the choir to implement rehearsal plans for Christmas music.

This decision effectively limits other uses of that wing, as CE wants to leave furniture and equipment set up permanently. Scheduling will have to be monitored even more carefully. Adult education will move to the Sanctuary, as some participants cannot negotiate the stairs to the basement. Session will hold its monthly meetings in the Social Hall.

The Stewardship Committee reported that, as of Nov. 10, there were 138 pledges in the amount of \$341,000. Forecasts of other possible pledges were generally optimistic.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

## STONE'S 2011 FINANCES IN GOOD SHAPE

Through October, Stone's finances are about \$4,500 ahead of budgeted income and about \$16,500 below budgeted expense.

During the first ten months of the year, we did not have any large anticipated expenses, pledge payments are on budget, and loose offerings

are \$4,400 ahead of budget. If the \$70,000 still remaining in unpaid 2011 pledges is paid in November and December, we will be in good shape to meet our 2011 budget.

The financial statement through October 2011 is summarized below.

- David Jaffer, Budget & Finance

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Income & Expense YTD	YTD Actual v. Budget
Income	507,100	427,421	431,997	4,476
Expense	507,100	420,632	404,191	16,441
Cash Flow	--	6,789	27,806	21,017

## 2011 MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED

BY 12/31/11;

PLEDGE ENVELOPES 12/18

In accordance with IRS regulations, 2011 contributions must be made during 2011 to be deductible on your 2011 tax return. Please ensure that contributions toward your 2011 pledges are either received in the Church Office by Friday, Dec. 30, or postmarked no later than Saturday, Dec. 31, so your 2011 statement shows your exact contributions and conforms to tax law. Donations postmarked after Dec. 31 will be recorded in 2012.

Pledge envelopes for 2012 will be available in the Social Hall after Dec. 18. If you pledge on a weekly basis, you will get a 54-envelope box. If you pledge on a monthly basis, you will receive a smaller 14-envelope box. Pledge envelopes are not provided if you make a one-time contribution or have direct withdrawal of funds from a bank account.

For questions or to receive envelope boxes, contact Mary Breuleux, Treasurer, or Jennifer Scott-Brand, Office Manger.

## REQUEST RECEIPT FOR "IN-KIND" DONATIONS NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 9, 2011

How often do you buy something for a church program - and don't ask to be reimbursed?

Many of us generously supplement church programs, such as CE, Men's Mission, Youth Mission, PW, etc., and simply keep our receipts for tax deductions. IRS rules will not accept such receipts as legitimate deductions - you must have a receipt from Stone.

Such in-kind contributions can be properly receipted and included in your annual church giving statement, if you follow these directions:

1. Keep all contribution receipts for which you are not reimbursed.

2. Sort receipts by contribution category; CE, Men's Mission, etc., labeling each one.

3. Place the sorted receipts in an envelope with your name on it and see that Jennifer receives it in the Church Office by Friday, Dec. 9, 2011.

For questions, please contact Jennifer Scott-Brand, Office Manager, during regular Church Office hours.

- Mel Goertz, Budget & Finance



IMAGES FROM THE CHOIR'S BENEFIT CONCERT, "SONGS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT" ON OCT. 29, 2011





# THE QUESTION OF HISTORY, JESUS AND THE CHRIST

*This article was written for use by a small (alright, very small) group that meets in the Lincoln House on the first and third Monday nights of the month to discuss our Christian faith and related topics. The article is somewhat typical of the material we use as starters for our discussions. If you would be interested in joining such a group, please contact Jerry Keifer.*

In his book, *The So-Called Historical Jesus and the Historic, Biblical Christ* (unfortunately, out of print), Martin Kähler tackles two related questions: How can the Bible be a trustworthy and normative document of revelation when historical criticism has shattered our confidence in its historical credibility? And how can Jesus Christ be the authentic basis and content of Christian faith when historical science can never attain to indisputable knowledge of the historical Jesus?

Kähler rejected some earlier solutions to the problems brought on by the enlightenment. For instance, the early Schliermacher based Christian faith on "feeling," a pious "God-consciousness" and a feeling of absolute dependence. Such "faith" in Kähler's view is self-generating and requires no revelation.

"Objectivist" protestant conservative orthodoxy he also rejected. The notion that one must assent to intellectual propositions (such as inerrancy) as a prerequisite to saving faith is a departure from justification by grace through faith.

Beginning with Reimarus in the early 18th century, a determined effort was made to produce a "life of Jesus." As each succeeding trial was found to be unsatisfactory, more research followed. The ultimate result was to make clear that the documents we have in the Bible (and there is none elsewhere) were not conducive to such an effort.

None of the gospel writers had attempted to produce a biography. Even Mark, apparently the first written Gospel, turns out to be a theology. Kähler characterizes the Gospels as "passion narratives with extended introductions."

Furthermore, Paul is notorious for having little or no interest whatever in the life of Jesus. He is determined to know "nothing among you but Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2).

For Kähler, the "historical" Jesus is the Jesus who is the object of historical research. The historian has no choice but to see Jesus as a human being and to work out his inner life and purposes

as analogous to that of humans. The Bible, however, preaches Jesus as the risen Lord, a being so different from all others that the historian has no point of contact with him. This Jesus is the Christ, the object of faith, the content of preaching, the Redeemer of the confessing community. He is historic, not historical.

Historical research, therefore, is beside the point. The whole New Testament including the Gospels, Kähler maintains, is a collection of writings that primarily report the preaching of the apostles. In this preaching, all the stress is laid on the cross and resurrection of Jesus. Accordingly, we have not a history of Jesus, but a portrait of Him as Christ and Redeemer. The Gospel's "purpose is to awaken faith in Jesus through a clear proclamation of his saving activity." One need not, in Kähler's view, regard the Gospels as without error, nor need one endorse or even know about the dogmatics of the Church.

In the present age, when both the concept and meaning of salvation, as well as the nature of the atonement, are vexed questions, I seem to find that the Bible does the job Kähler has described. But I cannot explain how it does so.  
- Jerry Keifer

## MIDDLE SCHOOL TO "BAKE" AND "SKATE" THROUGH THE ADVENT SEASON!

The Middle Schoolers are baking and skating through Advent!

On Sunday, Dec. 4, we will be making Gingerbread Houses, not only for ourselves, but for our shut-ins. We will also deliver them in order to wish our shut-ins a personal Merry Christmas.

On Sunday, Dec. 18, we'll try Ice Skating at *Christmas in the Park*, in downtown San José. Anyone may join in the fun!

Please contact Rosaleen Zisch to RSVP for either or both of these events.



## WHEN YOU NEED HELP, STONE CARES!

The Deacons' *Stone Cares* program is standing by to help!

If you need a ride to the doctor, a few meals to help out when you are ill, or if you want to alert *Stone Cares* to someone else in need, please contact the following people, in this order:

- ♥ Steve Stark (Deacon Leader)
- ♥ Bill Ribble (Deacon)
- ♥ Glenda Bowman (Volunteer)

*The Stone Church of Willow Glen  
Presbyterian Church (USA)*

*1937 Lincoln Avenue  
(corner of Clark Way & Lincoln)*

*San José, CA 95125-3499*

*phone: 408-269-1593*

*www.stonechurch.org*

*Rev. Dr. Ken Henry, Pastor  
Jennifer Scott-Brand, Office Manager*

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*Church Mouse*

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*Jody Meacham, Fred Oliver,*

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