



MARCH-APRIL 2019

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## ⊕ A Letter from Your Pastor

Dearest Congregation,

With Lent right around the corner, your pastors, staff, committees, and other volunteers have been busy preparing the building, programs, and services to provide space for us to reflect and discern, to pray and praise, and to once again consider the wonders and possibilities of God.

For Protestants, the season of Lent doesn't always feel especially structured. We don't typically participate in the practice of giving something up. Some still do, though, and other folks try to take something on instead. This could be structured, daily prayer, Scripture reading, daily walks, a gratitude journal, or letter writing campaign to loved ones. Whatever it is, giving something up or taking something on, the stated purpose is often to become more connected—to God, to our friends and family, and to ourselves.

I believe very strongly that learning to be more connected is one of the hardest and most important lessons in the modern world. The ways of the world are characterized by anxiety, fear, and violence, which may result in us sequestering ourselves, building walls, and becoming suspicious of outsiders. The ways of God invite us to see the world through eyes of hope and

possibility, to move through the world with wonder as our guide, and to seek always to be more compassionate, open, and curious.

In this season of Lent, as we seek to be more connected to God, our loved ones, and ourselves, God places before us an invitation out of a place of anxiety and fear and into one of hope, wonder, and possibility. To aid in our journey, our staff has created a weekly devotional. Look for those in your inbox each Monday during Lent and Holy Week. Each one will be quite different and particular to the writer's experience with the wonder and possibility of God.

My prayer is that during this season of Lent we will be moved by the mysteries of God, comforted by the grace of God, and transformed by the wonders of God. I leave you with a few stanzas from *House of Light* by Mary Oliver:

Still, what I want in my life  
is to be willing  
to be dazzled—  
to cast aside the weight of facts

and maybe even  
to float a little  
above this difficult world.

Peace to you all as we embark on our Lenten journey. May it bring us all closer to God and the people God created us to be.

With love,  
Sammie



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## A Letter from the San Jose Presbytery's New Moderator

by Rev. Irene Pak Lee

*(Reprinted from San Jose Presbytery's February 12, 2019, newsletter)*

I am writing to you as your newly installed Presbytery Moderator with a heart full of gratitude and joy for each one of you. I want to especially thank our former Moderator, the Rev. Anne McAnelly, for her grace and wisdom in 2018, and quite frankly, for stepping in quickly when I realized that I would not be able to serve as moderator in 2018 as I had initially anticipated because of the birth of my son. Thank you, Anne!

Our first presbytery meeting of 2019 was a special day for me in so many ways. I'm in the midst of my 10th year as a minister member of San Jose Presbytery, a huge contingent of folks from Stone Church of Willow Glen where I serve showed up to surround me in prayer and cheer me on (including some of my youth on a Saturday morning!), my parents who have been my biggest cheerleaders ever since I told them I wanted to be a minister at the ripe old age of 14 years old just happened to be in town at that time, seeing a wide range of folks all around the presbytery, many of whom I met through the committees we served on together or from the first church I served all the way to folks I met for the very first time that day, and then having my partner in life, Marion, and my son, Ezra present reminding me of the fullness of my calling...it was all overwhelming and wonderful. It was another moment in my life where I can say with some certainty that the grace and love of God was abundant and splashing all over. If I was nervous at all, which I was, much of it melted away with these things I noted and noticed.

It made me realize that even as there are a lot of things we as the Church try to do, maybe one of the most important things we do for one another is to keep showing up for one another. We won't always agree with one another, we may not have abundant grace and lovey feelings all the time, but being present and showing up again and again, it matters so much to the whole Body. It makes a difference to the Body.

So as we begin this year together, let's make a commitment to show up for each other, not just physically, but mentally and emotionally as well, trusting that our God is truly that tie that binds us together.

I look forward to being with you, united as a body of faithful people called to serve and lead, to make Christ's love, justice and mercy known to all we encounter.

With grace and peace,

Rev. Irene Pak Lee  
Moderator  
San Jose Presbytery

### Holy Week Services & Activities

- ★ **Sunday, April 14**, Palm Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship followed by egg hunt for toddlers through 5th grade
- ★ **Tuesday, April 16**, 6:45 p.m. Taizé in the Sanctuary
- ★ **Thursday, April 18**, 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship
- ★ **Friday, April 19**, Good Friday, Noon-4 p.m. Sanctuary open for prayer and reflection
- ★ **Sunday, April 21**, Easter Sunday 6:30 a.m. Early worship service 9:30 a.m. Traditional worship service

## LifeMoves

At 7:15 am on a rainy Saturday in March, twenty-eight committed Stone Volunteers arrived at Kohl's of Campbell, each in anticipation of meeting their shopping partner for this fun morning. Twenty-five youth from LifeMoves were invited to come shopping with us on this special morning. Youth from ages 12-18 arrived before the store opened, some eager and ready to go, and some who warmed up as the morning progressed. Thanks to the generous donors from our congregation, with some funds from StoneWorks, each child was able to spend \$130.00. Special clothes, shoes, lots of socks and underwear, and an occasional gift for a family member were carefully chosen. The LifeMoves staff watched as the youth's smiles filled their faces. They were so happy to see the connections the youth made with our ever patient, warm and generous volunteers. Everyone gathered for a breakfast snack in the staff room after shopping was complete. The Kohl's Cash deal-of-the-day resulted in 770 more dollars Stone was able to share with LifeMoves so that more teens could shop in the following weeks. On any given night, LifeMoves fills over 700 beds, 50% of them for children. On this morning, the youth were provided with the dignity of new clothes and of the time and attention of our dedicated volunteers! Please consider joining us next year for this 30 year Stone Church tradition.

~Alice McNelis

### Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat will take place from **April 26-28, 2019**, at the St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista. Our own Susan Martin (LMFT) will lead the retreat entitled "To Be Astonished - Opening the Eyes of the Heart." To register, or for questions, email [Emily Meacham](mailto:Emily.Meacham).



## Reflections from the 2019 Q Conference

The [Q Christian Conference](#) took place in Chicago, January 10-13, 2019. Stone Church and Deaf Rainbow of Faith members, Michael Raby-Brown, Christopher Smith, and Taniel Stamatovic-Wood, attended the event. On February 3, 2019, Taniel shared his reflections with Stone News. Special thanks to interpreter Amber Marince for her assistance with this article.

The Q Christian Conference is an

annual event which attracts roughly 1,300 people from across the U.S., and with growing

international attendance. The [Deaf Rainbow of Faith](#), which includes members from Stone Church, has been attending for several years. The audience for this conference is LGBTQ Christians, straight allies, and their



families, all of whom have a broad selection of plenaries, breakout sessions, networking and individual testimonials

to choose from. The Q Christian Conference grew many years ago from a desire within the LGBTQ Christian community to find a place where we could find support, fellowship and a common bond, when so many of us have experienced a lifetime of discrimination and, in many cases, abandonment by our families and friends.

The Q Christian Conference has now grown into a “must attend” event for people like ourselves, in the Deaf Rainbow of Faith. It’s become somewhat of a reunion – we look forward to seeing many of the same faces year after year, and meeting new LGBTQ Christians along the way.

One of the breakout sessions



I attended was about “The Power of Oneness”, exploring our shared experience and shared humanity. In this session, all participants were asked to sit in a circle, which meant we had to therefore look each other in the eye, and share something personal. Have you tried sitting like that for a long time? Just looking someone in the eye? It’s hard and rather uncomfortable! Many of the people in this session had been completely cast out by their families, some had lost faith in God, and had experienced long periods of darkness.



The facilitator talked about how we are all children of God; that God knew us and loved us before we were born. And, with this knowledge, we free ourselves from fear, knowing that God has always and will always love us.

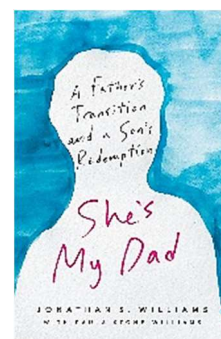
Another memorable aspect of the conference were these moms and dads who wore small badges saying, “Mom (or Dad) That Gives Free Hugs”.

These amazing people could be found throughout the conference and were available to give hugs on the spot. They also attend LGBTQ weddings throughout the year when the



marrying couple have no family there to celebrate them. The worship services were also simply amazing. Each one was more incredible than the next; for

example, one service featured a famous singer-songwriter, [Jennifer Knapp](#), whose story and music were breathtaking.



Perhaps one of the most powerful sessions I attended was led by a transgendered woman and her son, both of whom are pastors. Prior to his transition,

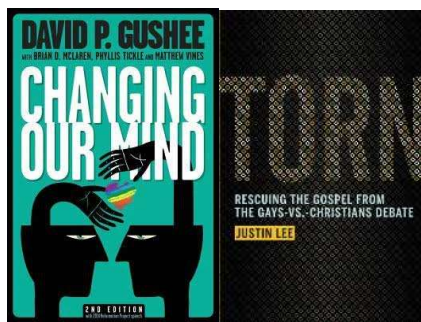
the father (Paula Stone Williams) was a well-known church organizer who led the conservative church planting organization for twenty years. When he came out, and transitioned, he lost all of his jobs and no one would hire him. His son (Jonathan Williams), who by then was an adult and also very involved in the church, was too terrified to even discuss it or be affiliated with his father. Now, however, they each lead their own churches in Colorado and New York, respectively, and also preach together, sharing their story and affirming us all. As a transgendered person myself, and with a grown child, I could relate completely to their experience. This was a deeply powerful and moving session for me.

I believe our society has come a very long way indeed, in terms of our

inclusiveness, understanding of, and support for the LGBTQ community. Stone Church, of course, is a wonderful example. I believe that, as we continue to move forward, and create an even more inclusive and supportive society, we can look for ways to change hearts and minds at an individual level, one conversation and one experience at a time. I am very hopeful!

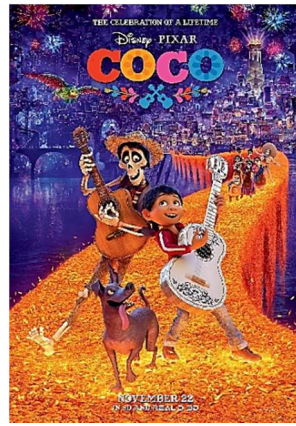
For further reading on the LGBTQ Christian journey, these resources may be helpful:

- Deaf Rainbow of Faith: [www.deafrainbowfaith.org](http://www.deafrainbowfaith.org)
- Q Christian Fellowship: [www.qchristian.org](http://www.qchristian.org)



### Meditation at Stone

The regular practice of meditation can be a great way to enhance your spiritual practice. It's a powerful experience to sit with others, focused on this method of prayer. No experience is needed and all are welcome. We meet on the first Thursday of the month, and our next meeting is April 4, 2019 (7- 8pm) in the Library. If you have questions, contact [Kathleen O'Brien](mailto:Kathleen.O'Brien@stonechurch.org).



### Charmed by "Coco" at Deaf Ministry Movie Night

Our Deaf Ministry group hosted dinner and a movie on Saturday, March 9 in the Social Hall. Those attending were greeted with the mouth-watering aroma of spicy meat cooking and then enjoyed tacos with all the toppings. About 25 folks settled in with their crunchy dinner and watched Disney's animated movie "Coco," a charming tale filled with music combined with a message about the importance of family.

Thanks to our Deaf Ministry group for putting together this entertaining evening!

~Lizanne Oliver

### Bread Making Class

On **Saturday, March 30, 2019, 12pm-4pm**, member Mary Johnson will be teaching



a class on making delicious French bread! If you think our communion bread is awesome, it's because Mary makes this bread for our congregation every month.

Sign-up with Carol Johnson Fritz after worship or just send her an [email](mailto:Carol.Fritz@stonechurch.org).



### Trailwalkers: Rancho Cañada del Oro



After impatiently waiting through two months of rain, Trailwalkers were finally able to don their hiking shoes and hit the trail at Rancho Cañada del Oro on Saturday, March 23. The skies were blue,

and hikers were surrounded by the lush green of new spring growth on trees and bushes. Even a few patches of wild flowers



were seen. Toward the end of the moderate 4.3 mile hike, Stone hikers showed their creek-fording skills by crossing a 15 foot-wide stream with 4 inches or so of merrily running water with only a few soggy feet to complain about as they drove back to town.

**Upcoming hikes are tentatively scheduled for April 20 and May 25.**

For more information or to suggest a hiking destination, contact [Steve Stark](mailto:Steve.Stark@stonechurch.org).

~ Kathy Stark



## A Fresh Perspective

by Marsha Wadley

My name is Marsha Wadley and I would like to introduce myself to you and also outline details of a small program that I'm volunteering for at Stone Church.

My work for 25+ years as a Clinical Psychologist includes meeting with individuals and families experiencing difficulties in life. I formerly specialized in working with teens, as I had been a high school counselor and subsequently the Director of Counseling and Guidance programs for all of San Jose Unified School District schools.

Earlier in my work life I taught elementary, middle and high school students, including those with learning and emotional difficulties. More recently I was an adjunct professor in the graduate counseling program at Santa Clara University. Throughout these career experiences I've learned many positive and practical approaches and strategies for easing problems both within oneself and with others.

However, a large part of my learning has come from the personal experience of being the parent of a step child, an adopted child, and a biological child. These family dynamics have taught me a lot! My grown children now have families and children of their own.

I currently find myself with a strong desire to share what I've learned in a new way - I am inviting Stone Church members who may want to have a fresh perspective on dealing with challenges to come and meet with me. There will be no cost, and meetings are confidential. My hope is that I could be helpful to you in a caring and effective way.

Examples of discussion topics are:

- Assertively communicating needs and wants
- Easing tension among family members
- Parenting those confusing teenagers
- Stopping (or slowing down) the inner critical voice
- In-law relationships - including mixed cultural/ethnic backgrounds
- Blended family issues
- Dynamics of special needs children
- Putting worry on a shelf
- Changing a perpetual thinking pattern
- Tough decision making

Sessions will be approximately one hour long and limited to two or three meetings. For scheduling and/or questions contact [marshawadley@hotmail.com](mailto:marshawadley@hotmail.com).

## Taize Services



The Lenten Season is upon us, bringing with it an invitation to go inside: take some time for quiet and introspection. **Our**

**Taize prayer service is offered every Tuesday evening during Lent** to provide a beautiful way to give ourselves this gift of stillness and inner listening. This is truly an opportunity to "Be still and know that I Am God."

We encourage you to make this contemplative service a part of your spiritual discipline during Lent. The Sanctuary is open at 6:30 each Tuesday evening, **April 2, 9, and 16**, with candlelight and beautiful prelude music; the service is from 6:45 – 7:30pm. We look forward to sharing this sacred time with each of you this Lenten season.

## A Chance Encounter at the Dollar Tree

An interesting thing happened to me at the Dollar Tree on a recent trip to purchase canned food and bagged beans for the Stone Church food drive. As I was hauling my cart up to the counter, the lady in front of me in line said, "Do you have a restaurant?" I sort of didn't know what to say, so I smiled and said, "No, this is a donation." She said, "Really? Well, can I come cook for you?" I thanked her and said, "Well, this is actually going over to Sacred Heart." She replied, "Oh my Lord, I don't know where I would be without Sacred Heart. Truly. They have saved me so many times." Then we talked about the incredible services they provide to so many in our community. After a moment, she looked into my cart, stopped and said, "Actually, I think I may have some of that food in my pantry right now. Thank you, thank you for doing this." I told her how much I enjoy helping in this way, and that "everyone has the right to eat." She said, "Amen, God Bless You." I said, "God Bless you, too."

~Joanne Vliet



**Upcoming donation Sundays at Stone Church are April 7, May 5, and June 2.** If you will be away on those dates, simply drop off your items on any Sunday at the bins in the narthex

## May 26: Islamic Networks Group Speaks at Stone

Stone Church will be presenting a speaker from the Islamic Networks Group (ING) on the subject of Muslim women stereotypes and the teachings of the Quran. The event will be held in the sanctuary at **Stone Church from 11:00am to 12:15pm on Sunday, May 26, 2019**, as part of our Adult Education offerings. The contact person is Bob Cole at [famcole@pacbell.net](mailto:famcole@pacbell.net). RSVPs from those who wish to attend would be helpful.

## Confirmation Class 2019



Our most recent class of confirmands began their study sessions in January 2019 and were confirmed on March 24, 2019. This class represents the largest confirmation class in the past 10 years! Participating youth will be learning about God, Church, faith, and engaging in questions together for 10 sessions. They have been paired with a mentor and will journey together with a decision they will make on their own about whether or not they would like to join the church. **A heartfelt thank you to Rev. Irene Pak Lee and Rosaleen Zisch, for leading our children, and to the following adult mentors: Lizanne Oliver, Carrie Giorgianni, Emily Meacham, Carol Johnson-Fritz, Mary Jo Blazek, Mary-Stone Bowers, Meredith Hurley, Bill Ribble, Bill Lakatos, Derk Johnson, and John Lococo.**

## Welcome Church Treasurer: Ruthanne Adams Martinez



Ruthanne Adams Martinez joined Stone Church staff in late 2018 as Treasurer. She holds a B.S. in Accounting and

B.A. in Music from Santa Clara University, as well as a Master's Degree in Music from San Jose State University. She continues as administrative assistant/bookkeeper for Joint Venture Churches in Almaden and the treasurer for The Episcopal Church in Almaden.

Over a period of 28 years, she has studied harp, piano, organ, and is an accomplished campanologist, directing two bell choirs, playing in various others, performing solo, and arranging music. She has played harp for 24 years, performing with many orchestras and choirs, as well as playing for countless church services, special luncheons, art shows, appreciation banquets, weddings, funerals, private business dinners, etc.

She also teaches piano and harp lessons, as well as tutoring in language arts, math, and spatial reasoning.

## Healing Prayer Circle Forming

**The Health Ministries committee has an invitation for you:** Would you like to be part of an ongoing Healing Prayer Circle at Stone Church where together we might dare to believe in the power of God to bring healing and wholeness in our lives and in our world? Would you like to sit with

others in deep prayer and meditation as we open to the Divine light that is within and around us, consciously focusing that gathered energy and sending it out for healing for ourselves, our loved ones, our world?

In times of physical, emotional, spiritual pain or distress, would you like to have a place you, or people you know, might come and be immersed in this circle of Light and Love where intentions for healing and wholeness would be held for each one?

Mary Alice Collins, retired MFT, is planning to facilitate such a group for our community. She says, "*Stone Church has not had an ongoing Healing Prayer Group since our pastor Dave Beamer led one nearly 40 years ago... and I think it is time to bring this back in our midst. I see this as a place for us to come together and move into deep prayer, holding space for persons who seek support; we would be there with no controlling from our own egos, but simply inviting and trusting the Power of God to fill us and flow through us.*"

If you feel a resonance with this call, or would just like to experience this further, then please join Mary Alice.

**We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, from 4:00-5:15 p.m. in the**

**sanctuary, beginning April 14th.**

You may choose to participate as

a regular member of the circle, holding that sacred space for all. Or you may come periodically as you feel the need for healing support in your life. All are welcome. Questions? Please call Mary Alice Collins.





## 2019 Snow Trip



We had another wonderful snow trip to Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center at Lake Tahoe

this past January. This year we had a group of 15 families, including a couple of newer families to Stone Church. The weather was great and the roads were clear and since it had



snowed the weekend before, there was plenty of snow for us to enjoy. We started the weekend with Saturday breakfast all together and then different groups went on to different adventures. Some went sledding, played in the snow and built some awesome snow men, others went to Camp Richardson for



snowshoeing and cross country skiing, another group went to Diamond Peak for downhill skiing and snowboarding and some remained at the gorgeous Tallac Center where we stayed.

Saturday late afternoon and evening was social time for big and small. There was dinner, board games, dice and card games, hide and seek and sardines games, puzzles, crafts, chatter, laughter,... it's a great time to



enjoy each other's company and get to know each other better. On Sunday

morning after breakfast, Mary Jo did a wonderful interactive service for us that was the perfect way to end our weekend together.

The 2020 Stone Church snow trip will be the weekend of January 24-26 and we hope you will join us!

~ Marta Espinal



## From the Reading Nook

by Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

Welcome Lent and springtime by enjoying some of our newer books.

**These are in the Children's Chapel Library:**

\* *A Fawn in the Grass* by Joanne Ryder (Read-Aloud Ryd)

\* *Little Lamb* by Gill Davies (1<sup>st</sup> Bks Dav)

\* *First He Made the Sun* by Harriet Ziefert (1<sup>st</sup> Bks 221.1 Zie)

\* *The Sheep Fairy: When Wishes Have Wings* by Ruth Symes (J Sym)

\* *Exodus* by Brian Wildsmith (J 221.4 Wil)

\* *The Passover Lamb* by Linda Marshall (J 296.3 Mar)

\* *Easter—A World of Holidays* by Catherine Chambers (J 394.2 Cha)

\* *Write Your Own Poetry* by Laura Salas (J 808.1 Sal)

**Additions in Lincoln House:**

\* *Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata (YA Kad), given by Charlotte Dickson

\* *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel Mark* by Marcus Borg (226.3 Bor)

\* *Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith* by Richard Foster (248 Fos)

\* *Stepping Out with the Sacred: Human Attempts to Engage the Divine* by Val Webb (239 Web)

\* *Living Faith While Holding Doubts* by Martin Copenhagen (234 Cop)

\* *The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou* (808.81 Ang), given by Joy Moriconi

\* *Faith Stories: Short Fiction on the Varieties & Vagaries of Faith* ed. by C. Michael Curtis (813 Cur)

\* *Choosing Civility: The 25 Rules of Considerate Conduct* by P. M. Forni (Soc Iss 302 For), given by Sheri Cunningham

\* *Choosing Peace: New Ways to Communicate to Reduce Stress, Create Connection, & Resolve Conflict* by Ike Lasater & John Kinyon (Soc Iss 302 Las)

\* *Disrupted: On Fighting Death & Keeping Faith* by Julie Love (Spec Needs 362 Lov)

\* *Biblical Archaeology Review*: a number of recent issues have been placed on the bottom shelf under adult non-fiction, given by the Zisch family

## Session Reports

by Julia Roberts

### Below is a summary of the Session Meeting in February 2019:

On the consent docket, Session approved the gift of the old Social Hall piano to Foothill Presbyterian Church; the serving of communion at the women's retreat; and the renewal of the Parish Associate agreement with David McCreath.

Voted to un-bundle the prospective capital campaign into its component parts, beginning with Lincoln House, with an initial goal of \$500,000. Funds remaining after Lincoln House repairs are completed would then be applied towards remaining items in the capital campaign list.

Approved the Budget Review Committee recommendation to allocate the 2018 budget surplus into various funds, targeted to help shore up committees that suffered reductions to their 2019 line items. Committee-related fund withdrawals over \$2500 must be formally approved by Session; withdrawals under \$2500 should be reported in regular meeting minutes.

Voted to modify Sharon LeClaire's contract to better suit Sharon's needs.

Approved Buildings and Grounds committee's request to invest in security cameras for the exterior of the church.

### Committee reports:

*Buildings and Grounds* – installed the new hearing loop system and new carpeting! Committee is still looking for sound system volunteers. Continue to add to repairs list for the March 2 work day. The Safety Committee continues work to make the church safer, including exploring evacuation

plans, needed repairs and crosswalk safety.

*Christian Education* – already making plans for Vacation Church School. Looking ahead to Triennium this summer. Is working with the biggest-ever confirmation class of 11 students.

*Personnel and Administration* – continues to develop a new and improved privacy policy for the church.

*Deacons* – working on updating Stone Cares volunteer list; planning spring event for March 9; continuing to send cards and prayers for people in need.

*Presbyterian Women* – voted to discontinue fair trade sales in church; Equal Exchange has changed wholesale pricing, making it now less expensive for people to order at home than to buy at church. Organizing next human trafficking awareness campaign.

*StoneWorks* – organizing Life Moves shopping trip, including successful fundraising during worship; reports an active tutoring program at Willow Glen HS through Willow Glen Cares, with Stone Church member volunteers.

### Below is a summary of the Session Meeting in March 2019:

*Note: Session also convened a special meeting on Sunday, March 17, 2019, to receive four new members into Stone Church after the Membership Inquiry Lunch. Additionally on that day, Session received seven of the eleven members of this year's confirmation class into membership at Stone Church, approving baptisms for two of them.*

On March 19, 2019, the regular meeting, four additional confirmands were received into membership, with one more baptism approved. All eleven confirmands will be presented

to the congregation during the worship service on March 24, 2019.

More Session business:

- Heard reports from the Men's Mission Ministry group, Presbyterian Women, and Deacons.
- Approved a congregational meeting on May 5, 2019, following worship to make the announcement kicking off the capital campaign. The Steering Committee is assembling sub-committees for the capital campaign in May.
- Returned a proposed privacy policy to the Personnel and Administration committee for further refinement. The policy would, among other things, clarify protocols around photographs and/or identifying information posted on the website.
- Approved StoneWorks' use of funds for local mission work, including a Sanctuary Support Accompaniment team and also Recovery Café.

### Committee Reports:

- *Membership & Communications* reports a successful Deaf Movie night, with tacos!
- *Budget and Finance* has retained a new service for payroll accounts
- *StoneWorks* reports a successful Youth Shopping Trip, and plans for an upcoming visit by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren.
- *Christian Education* is busily planning Vacation Church School
- *Health Ministries* is organizing an upcoming blood drive.



## Reflections on the BorderLinks Immersion Experience

by Nancy Paul



In February, I joined eighteen other members of San Jose Presbytery for BorderLinks, an immersion program on immigrant issues

in Tucson, Arizona. BorderLinks was a five-day intensive program which included interacting with social justice workers, border agents, and immigrants themselves. I could not possibly share all the things I learned, both harrowing and inspiring, in this article so here a few highlights:

On the first day, we crossed the border from Nogales, AZ to Nogales, Mexico. While we were quickly escorted into Mexico (no passport check), we sat in our van for two hours to cross back. We walked along the wall built in 1993, which in itself was a vigil to the people who have died trying to cross. Before the wall existed, people freely walked back and forth. The wall now splits families similarly to how the Berlin Wall did.

On Sunday, we attended Allison Harrington's church in Arizona. She spoke at Stone Church a couple of years ago. The lively, multi-cultural congregation met in an adobe building that more resembled a Catholic mission than a Presbyterian church. Allison met with us in the afternoon about what churches can do to support immigrants.

One day, a retired Marine who leaves water in the desert guided us through the maze of prickly plants that migrants would typically walk through. We were told that, as a result of the NAFTA trade agreement, over a

million Mexican farmers were unable to compete with the prices and thus started the great migration north. To date, more than 2000 people have died trying to cross the desert. Reflecting on this, we prayed around a cross that marked where a body was found.



A highlight for me was meeting John Fife, a former minister of Allison's church, who started the sanctuary movement in the 1980's. I remember my mom coming back from the Presbyterian Women's gathering and talking all about him when I was in high school. He talked about how the time is again ripe for us "to do church" and welcome the stranger.



## Sanctuary Support Accompaniment Team Formed at Stone

by Rhonda Lakatos

*"When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. ... you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."*

*Leviticus 19:33-34*

A number of Stone Church members are helping Stone live into Session's

vote to become a Sanctuary support church. When immigrants call the Countywide Rapid Response Network to say a loved one has been detained by ICE, community members reach out to the family as an Accompaniment Team. Sometimes the loved one is released, following community action. Other times the person is detained or deported, but at all times family members are left wondering how they can survive. Their needs may vary from rides to school & help for children, to transportation for the spouse to attend hearings or bring supplies to the detained person. If the main bread-winner is detained they may need money for food and rental assistance. Already our Accompaniment Team, sponsored by StoneWorks, has contributed to one family's moving fund and supplied rides to school for another. Accompaniment Teams based in other faith communities in San Jose help each other.

Now, a family for Stone Church to accompany has been identified. Our team has been trained by PACT, and people who can help with the family's needs have been identified. Spanish is not required, but members with Spanish skills can offer a special kind of support. Over time you may be contacted by the team to help, too. Or you can contact Rhonda Lakatos or Nicholas Hurley to learn about how you could help right now.



## Liturgical Arts Group Creates & Installs New Banner



Several weeks ago, the second in our series of "The Six Great Ends of the Church" banners was hung and presented to the congregation by Donald Foster, Chairman of the Worship Committee, and Janice Goertz, one of the members of the group, during the morning worship service.

They spoke of the fine work this group does to enhance the visual beauty of our worship experience, and explained the meaning of the symbols in this second piece.

According to our Presbyterian Book of Order, this hanging depicts "The shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God." For the background the stitchers repeated the design of the first one by using 2-inch squares of fabric radiating from

the cross, with shades of yellow and orange light emitting from the ancient oil lamp. We chose the "lamp of knowledge" to symbolize the aspect of "nurture" because of the long history of the Presbyterian church sending out missionaries to teach, establishing schools and colleges in the United States and in far away countries.

The "children of God" are shown in various shades, recognizing that the vast majority of the world's population are people of color. Their hands are joined in "spiritual fellowship".

And the wings of the dove on this banner are in a position of "sheltering" the children of God.



The two completed banners in this series will hang in the rear of the sanctuary during the Lenten season, while our two old-time Lambs (one depicted as reclining because He is the Wounded Lamb; the other standing upright, no longer wounded but carrying the Banner of Victory, denoting the nature of His sacrifice) will hang at the front of the sanctuary, along with the purple banners (for Christ's royal sovereignty) on the side walls.



~Jeanette Rapp

## Adult Education

On **Sunday, March 31**, please join Brian Wo, Co-Founder and Chief Program Officer for **Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition**, to learn about Human Trafficking and how we can respond. This session will provide a working definition of human trafficking, and describe what human trafficking looks like in the Bay Area, including both labor and sex trafficking. Attendees will also acquire an understanding of the local response to human trafficking at all levels, with an emphasis on how individuals can make a unique contribution to the anti-trafficking movement. The Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition provides a strategic view of the issue in the Bay Area and serves as a collaborative connector among individuals and organizations seeking to maximize a regional response to the injustice of human trafficking.

On **April 7**, join us after church for, **What's in Stone Church's DNA?** In 1943, when members of the Presbytery of San Jose began talking about a "work" to be established in Willow Glen, they could not have foreseen the church that exists today. By looking at our history, are we able to discern who we have been, who we are today, and whether there have been changes over these 70+ years? This class will take a crack at discerning the makeup of our inherited code, with Alice Thorn (long time historian of the church).

## Hudspeth Trust College Scholarship Opportunities

Each year Presbyterian Women's Hudspeth Trust offers a limited number of scholarships for undergraduate college students. If you have just received your college acceptance letter, consider applying for a Hudspeth Trust Scholarship. Forms are available in the church office in the PW box; **application deadline is July 15, 2019**, for both applications and a letter of recommendation. Questions? Please contact [Jan Keifer](#).





**The Wine Tasting & Auction (WT&A)** sponsored by the Men's Mission & Ministry (MMM) was a great success this

year. The event was a huge collaborative effort with lots of men and women members working to make it a success. Attendance, at 70, was a sell out and up from about 48 last year. The event raised about \$5,600 between the auction and entry and raffle donations.



The MMM is authorizing checks for the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund, Camp Fire Victims, and to Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley for the fall rebuilding event, October 26, 2019. Mark your calendars! We are also transferring funds to the Senior High Youth Group Mission Trip fund.

Probably the most unique auction item this year was "an hour with Ezra," graciously donated by Irene and Marion. Ezra alone raised \$200 for worthy causes. Many thanks to all of the other donors and bidders who helped to raise money for worthy causes.

**Pancake Breakfast**

The next MMM-sponsored breakfast for all church members and friends will be on **June 15, 2019**. Stay tuned for more information!



**Building Memories**

Building Memories, the MMM sponsored event for children, is **Saturday, May 18, 10am-2pm**. At this event, members of Stone Church



will be teaching kids, 5 years and older, how to hammer nails,

tighten bolts, drill holes, drive screws, and saw wood. Once they have completed the skills training, they are encouraged to help build a wheelchair accessible play house for the back yard. There will be an opportunity to sign up for this fun event so mark your calendars!

**Daybreak Camp**



The MMM semi-annual one day work trips to Camp Daybreak, a Christian camp, will be **April 27 and September 21, 2019**. The April trip is designated for men (since it is the weekend of the Women's Retreat) but the September date is for both men and women. We have it on good authority that Sammie will be joining us for that trip.

We will be meeting at Stone Church at 8am and leaving for the Santa Cruz Mountains shortly thereafter. We will have lunch at Camp Daybreak and return about 3pm. Typical work at the camp includes carpentry, painting, moving materials, repair, and other miscellaneous jobs. The MMM also makes a financial contribution to this worthy cause.

**Book Sale**

The next Book Sale and Exchange will be **May 5**. If you have lightly used and useful books, fiction or nonfiction, bring them to Stone Church a week or two before the May 5 and put them in the container marked **BOOK SALE/EXCHANGE**. If you have questions as to the relevance or usefulness or your books, please contact Bill Lakatos: [brlakatos@comcast.net](mailto:brlakatos@comcast.net).

**Thank You, Rebecca Hopson!**

It is always a joy to recognize a member of our congregation who has done a special service that demonstrates their faith and love of the church.



Rebecca Hopson was honored in worship in February 2019, for

such service. Why? At eleven years of age she began serving as an aide in our nursery school class. No one realized how young she was due to her height and maturity. So at age twelve, she became their lead teacher. Her commitment to those little children was remarkable and as their teacher she attended C.E. meetings, prepared materials for class and cleaned the classroom. Mary Jo remarked that she wished she had more teachers like her.

In 2015, Rebecca joined the church as the youngest person in her confirmation class. Rebecca credits God with teaching us through Jesus and that God has given us Stone Church. "It is the best gift and we must do our best to uphold the church." We thank her for "upholding" her class for 6 years and will miss her lovely smiling face every Sunday as she pursues her musical talent in theater work as a high school Junior.





Confirmation Class Mardi Gras



Sharon's Examination for Ordination



Sharon Ordination Service



Sharon Ordination Service



Sharon Ordination Service



Sharon Ordination Service



Sharon Ordination Service



Irene Installed as Moderator of Presbytery



Irene Installed as Moderator of Presbytery



"Celebrating Our Pastors" Sunday



"Celebrating Our Pastors" Sunday



"Celebrating Our Pastors" Sunday





"Celebrating Our Pastors" Sunday



Deacon Luau 2019



Deacon Luau 2019



Deacon Luau 2019



March 2019 Workday



March 2019 Workday



March 2019 Workday



Snow Trip 2019



Snow Trip 2019



Snow Trip 2019



Snow Trip 2019



Snow Trip 2019

## The Stone News

The Stone Church of Willow Glen  
 1937 Lincoln Avenue  
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 408-269-1593  
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 stone\_news@stonechurch.org  
 Sunday Services: 9:30am

*The Rev. Samantha Lynn Evans, Pastor*  
*The Rev. Irene Pak Lee – Associate Pastor*  
*The Rev. Sharon LeClaire – Stated Supply Pastor*  
*The Rev. Dr. David McCreath – Parish Associate*  
*The Rev. Marge Palmer – Pastor Emerita*  
*Nancy Kromm - Choir Director*  
*Mark Bruce – Organist*  
*Peggy Spool – Children’s Choir Director*  
*Jean Raby – Hand Bell Choir Director*  
*Mary Jo Blazek – Church School Administrator*  
*Jennifer Scott-Brand – Office & Facility Manager*  
*Ruthanne Martinez– Treasurer*  
*Liliana Borda - Nursery Supervisor*  
*Victor & Sonia Perez – Custodians*  
*Hilleguus Faber – Memorial Coordinator*  
*Lizanne Oliver – Wedding Coordinator*  
*Mary Johnson – Parish Nurse*  
*Presbyterian Women – Sheri Cunningham*  
*Men’s Mission & Ministry – Bill Ribble*  
*Joanne Vliet – StoneNews Editor*

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