



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018

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## ⊕ A Letter from Your Pastor

Beloved Congregation,

I must confess that I am tied to the liturgical calendar, and not just because, as a pastor, I am supposed to be. I am tied to it because it provides structure, consistency, and direction to an otherwise chaotic and unpredictable world. The progression of the seasons provides a framework for personal growth, the cyclical nature offers predictability, and the Scriptural narrative reminds us that we are never alone. I am tied to the liturgical calendar because it helps me make sense of the world and my place in it.

My love for the liturgical calendar is strongest this time of the year, as we prepare to enter into the Advent Season. The reason for that is simple: the Advent season is characterized by a longing, a despair, and an almost reckless hope, which I believe resonates most fully with our modern-day existence. This season is not simply one of fond remembrance, but also of future hope. While we move toward Christmas Eve, when we shall boldly proclaim that the light of Christ has entered the world, we remember this history-shifting moment while we also long for the Light to return to

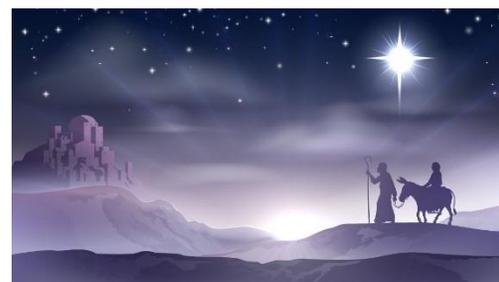
make all things new, bringing justice and peace to all of Creation.

This season is marked by an intense longing and a commission to prepare the way for the Lord, and I believe that what sustains us in our longing and enlivens us in our work is the hope which marks the end of our waiting. Thus, as we prepare to enter into this season, I invite you to pause to consider the hope toward which we work. What is the hope you have for yourself? The hope you have for your family? For Stone Church? For San Jose? America? The world? What is the hope that sustains you and keeps you focused?

The hope that sustains me is something many of you have heard me pray before: We have been named children of God. We have been given work to do on this earth. We have been called into community so that we may know that we never walk alone. I am thankful for all of you, your witness, your work, and your hopes. I pray that as we move through Advent and Christmas together, we might trust in the faithfulness of God and rest in our love for one another.

Grace and Peace,

Sammie



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## The Season of Advent at Stone Church

- **December 2nd**-First Sunday of Advent & Communion
- **December 9th**-Second Sunday of Advent
- **December 16th**-Third Sunday of Advent
- **Blue Christmas Service** following worship on 12/16 in the Fireside Room. This service is a time to acknowledge the grief and sorrows surrounding the holiday season.
- **December 23rd**-Fourth Sunday of Advent-includes choral selections from Ralph Vaughan Williams, "The First Nowell"

### Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th:

5:30pm

#### Child-Friendly Service

(includes a live nativity scene & candlelight)

11:00pm

#### Traditional Candlelight Service

*Advent Taize services will also be taking place each Tuesday night at 6:45PM (Dec. 4, 11, 18)*



Preparing for Advent

## Turkey Day at Stone!

by Lizanne Oliver, Chair, Membership & Communications Committee

On Nov. 22, 2018, about 20 guests (and one dog!) enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner at Stone hosted by the Membership & Communications Committee, complete with turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, plus wonderful dishes and desserts provided by those attending. Tables cheerfully decorated with colorful fall corn and pumpkins greeted everyone as they arrived, and holiday music played in the background. There was lively conversation and laughter as the break in the rain let the sunshine pour into the social hall. After filling up on the dinner, guests were invited to make their own turkey-shaped treat out of cookies and candy before cutting into the pies and other desserts. And there were even leftovers to take home for an evening turkey sandwich!



testimony of the ability for all peoples to join together in their love of their God.

The call to Thanksgiving was given by Rev. Sammie Evans. Our own Jeanette Rapp read from the Hebrew bible, otherwise known as the Old Testament. Verses were also read from the Koran and the Book of Mormon.

Five different religious leaders, including Rev. Evans, presented their own reflections of gratitude. All the reflections were interesting and did not avoid the problems we see every day, even while knowing that we have much to be grateful for.

Four songs were sung by four choirs, including a children's choir which included Stone Church children singing 'This Land is Your Land'. The Taize Chant was played by Pam Hood of Stone Church and, one of my favorites, a Leonard Cohen violin rendition of 'Hallelujah'.

The Teen Interfaith Council of Santa Clara County talked about their much needed blanket drive in this cold time of the year and how well the blankets were received.

Service concluded with pie in the community room and visiting with many new friends.

This year's event was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and included the following faith groups:

- Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
- San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
- Teen Interfaith Council of Santa Clara
- St. Francis Episcopal Church of Willow Glen
- St. Martin of Tours Parish
- Stone Church of Willow Glen
- Temple Emanu-El
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- The Holy Family Episcopal Church of San Jose
- The Islamic Networks Group
- The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Jose

## Fourth Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

by Michele Smith

The theme of the 4th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was 'Gratitude in Action'. Even if you can't come up with your personal example of gratitude, having many different faiths joined together to worship is an amazing

## Music at Stone Church: The Organs

by Alice Thorn

Stone's first building (today's education wing) was completed by March 1947. By November 1947, the Session accepted an offer from Sherman Clay & Co. to put an Estey electronic organ on trial to be used at the evening service before Thanksgiving. (Estey was an organ manufacturer based in Brattleboro, Vermont which closed in 1960.) The pastor was to ask the congregation whether they wanted to purchase the organ. However, though the congregation agreed to the purchase, the organist evidently preferred a Hammond electronic organ, which was ordered in January of 1948. (The Hammond organ company, based in Chicago, was in business from 1935 to 1985, and produced an estimated two million instruments in its lifetime.) That organ was paid for partly with a loan of \$1800 from Mrs. Arthur Akers, who later turned the amount into a gift. In 1970, the Hammond was replaced by a rebuilt and modified Baldwin electronic organ.

The first organist was Mrs. Lyle Ferrell, whose daughter Jeanne was the first bride married here (Jeanne and Don Stephens now live in



Taken in 1951, this shows worship held in the social hall, before the sanctuary was built. This is the Hammond organ, and organist is Mrs. Lyle Ferrell.

Saratoga). Mrs. Ferrell was organist until January 1952. She was followed by Mrs. Margaret Peterson, then by Mrs. Margaret Seaver. Charles Hauser was organist in the mid 1960's, followed by Emily Elliot until 1968, Mary Sherman until September 1970, and Joyce Rhodes who held the position for 40 years. Stephen Boniface came next, followed by current organist Mark Bruce. Don Foster has been substitute organist.

In October 1982, with the Baldwin showing signs of age, the Session established a committee to find a new organ for the church. That committee was chaired by Emily Elliott (now Kuszak). Members included Bill Melver, Joyce Rhodes, Don Foster, Miriam Rowan, and Alice Thorn. The committee considered both electronic and pipe organs, meeting with representatives of organ companies, and traveling around the Bay Area to hear instruments installed in churches as well as at the University of California at Berkeley, and at Stanford Memorial Church. After almost a year of research and listening, the committee chose a pipe organ to be built by Schoenstein & Co. of San Francisco, a builder in existence for five generations.

Schoenstein craftsmen designed the organ for the acoustical space of the sanctuary. The design was complicated by the small space available. The final

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!  
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the  
lyre and the sound of melody!  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn make  
a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!*

*Psalm 98:4-6*

## Organ Dedication Concert



STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN  
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

April 12, 1970  
3:00 P.M.

### Program for dedication of rebuilt and modified Baldwin Model 11, in 1970

design included 14 registers and 16 ranks, and its cost was about \$100,000. Construction, guided by Stone's Dan Jones, began in mid-year 1985. Two dedication concerts were held on January 19, 1986, featuring organist Wilbur F. Russell, Professor of Church Music, San Francisco Theological Seminary.

In choosing a pipe organ, the committee continued the Stone Church tradition of classical church music. As Emily Elliott wrote to the Session, "... wherever the gospel becomes a real power in people's lives, there will be music. ... At the center of all this for the past centuries has been the organ ... distinctively the instrument of the church. ..."

## StoneWorks



### Village House Shelter - Recap

by Don Skipwith, Jeff Mattan, and Phil Curtis

Stone Church hosted the Village House Homeless Women's Shelter (13-15 women) from September 5-October 3, 2018. The rotating shelter – going from church to church on a monthly basis – is coordinated by [Village House, an Interfaith Shelter of Hope](#). Ladies arrived nightly at 6:30 PM and departed each morning at 7:00 AM. Running concurrently with Stone's overnight shelter was a day shelter with shared hosting by United Methodist of Willow Glen and Saint Francis Episcopal.

Stone's shelter leadership team (19 individuals) coordinated all volunteers via co-leaders in the following areas – shelter director, reception, meals, laundry, overnight supervision, rides, move in & move out, medical, communications and security. Over 100 individuals from the congregation volunteered, many serving several times. Twenty-five additional volunteers came from the Village House network.

Our guests enjoyed the comfort of Stone Church and the incredible hospitality provided by all volunteers. Meals were great (breakfast, lunch and dinner were provided)! Cots & lockers (provided by Village House) fit comfortably in Stone's original chapel – the Fireside Room – providing a safe, warm and homey environment for relaxation & sleep. A shower trailer in the back provided a convenient place to clean up.

Based on overall feedback, StoneWorks will recommend to session that Stone Church once again host the women's shelter September 2019. "The greatest among you will be your servant," Matthew 23:11. Looking forward to recruiting a new leadership team and volunteers to serve those in our community during the month of September 2019.



The mission of **Immanuel House Refugee Project** is to provide transitional housing to

newly arrived refugees seeking freedom from persecution and the opportunity to thrive.



**Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley** has renovated

nearly 3000 homes and community facilities. Our work preserves affordable housing by transforming homes and lives through critical repairs and accessibility modifications for low-income homeowners and community centers, at no cost to the service recipient.



**We currently have 28 students on our "high need" list of Willow Glen Cares students.** They

range through students who are homeless but may be staying with a friend, shelter or transitional housing or living with their family renting a room or an apartment at such a high price that they cannot afford much beyond the rent.

Willow Glen High School provides students with outstanding academic and extracurricular programs, college and career advising, and personal guidance. Our comprehensive instructional program helps every student meet state academic standards and prepares students to enter a four-year university.

Have questions or want to learn more? Please contact [Jeff Mattan](#), StoneWorks Chair.

### Taize Services in Advent: December 4, 11, and 18

As the holiday season approaches and we begin to feel the almost frantic energy in the world around us, wouldn't it be refreshing to actually stop – sit quietly – have nothing you must do except breathe in the beauty of candlelight in our sanctuary and allow your whole being to rest in the stillness? There is a special opportunity for that at our lovely Taize services held every Tuesday during Advent: December 4, 11, and 18. The sanctuary is open at 6:30pm for prelude music and the service is from 6:45-7:30. This prayer service, inspired by those in the French community of Taize, uses music, simple chanting, scripture, and silent meditation and prayer to create an oasis of peace and stillness in the midst of our very busy lives. We invite you give yourself the gift of this time to simply Be: to "Be still and know that I AM GOD."

~ Mary Alice Collins



## A Different Perspective

by Rev. David McCreath

Here in Silicon Valley, we think often about energy...its generation (fossil fuel, wind, sun, waves), its storage (fuel cells, batteries), and its transmission (feeding and strengthening the grid). From one perspective, the church's mission and ministry is a parallel energy process. Think about it... when we work, we commit energy to our efforts. That energy is "stored" in the wages we receive. When we contribute our offerings to the church, those who are engaged in mission and ministry are freed-up to put their energy into their work. In human terms, the energy system is very similar to how machinery is used: energy is developed, stored, and then used to produce a new result.

I quite likely will never be a mission co-worker in the forests of African Congo, or the forests of the Amazon. The Presbyterian Church, USA, has placed persons (paid by the church) in those forests to carry the message of the Gospel to people who live there. My contribution on Sunday morning is one way I can participate in the missions to Africa, the Amazon, and other places around the world. So... the energy I put into having the money to contribute is energy generation; the Presbyterian Church USA uses the money to support the mission co-workers as the energy transmission and the mission co-worker has the resources that enable him or her to spend energy in ministry. Our local mission is handled the same way. Our contribution of funds to Sweaty Sheep allows the Rev. Ryan Althaus to minister to homeless persons in Santa Cruz.

So, when the offering is announced on Sunday morning, imagine that your contribution to Stone Church is a part of a large system of energy transfer,

and you are participating in mission in all sorts of places around the world.

It's a different perspective.

## Parents' Day Out Saturday, December 8, 2018

Parents of young children, save the date! On Saturday, December 8, from 10am-2pm, the Deacons will supervise, feed and entertain your children while you take care of yourselves. Signups start in November in the Social Hall after worship. Take advantage of free childcare during the busy holidays! Amber Biscardi and Ginny Barret are coordinating this event for you.



## Little Dresses for Africa

by Claudia Hamm

On Saturday, November 3, the fourth Sew-in Day for Little Dresses for Africa was underway in the church social hall. Sewing machines hummed and sew-ers chatted as they created colorful cotton dresses for little girls in Africa...dresses that will plant seeds of hope in their little-girl hearts.

Some came to sew, some sewed at home, but by the end of the morning 22 dresses had been completed and by the time of mailing the total became 36. This year's sew-in was bittersweet because Evelyn Tower, who had encouraged us to participate in the project, is no longer with us. She was remembered as we worked and we are thankful for her skills and gifts that she shared so willingly.

Little Dresses for Africa is a registered non-profit 501c3 Christian organization begun in 2008 by Rachel O'Neill. Its home base is in Rockwood, Michigan, where the dresses are sent. From there they are sent with mission groups; mailed directly; shipped in containers; taken personally to Africa and other locations around the world. Little Dresses for Africa, as an organization, also promotes clean water, sanitation, good health, and family skills.

These sew-ers created this year's dresses: Maureen Chandler, Barbara Clark, Michelle Walters, Jeanette Rapp, Sue Evans, Wendy Lord, Kiana Lord, Hilleguus Faber, and Jean Raby. A big THANK YOU to all of them from the bottom of my heart!



Maureen, Barbara, Claudia, Michelle, and Jeanette



We're not just sending dresses,  
we're Sending **HOPE**

## Session Reports

by Julia Roberts

Below is a summary of the Session Meetings in September, October & November 2018:

### Actions of Session:

- 1) Discussed creating a simple procedure to be used in response to tragedy – for example, drafting a letter, providing a conduit for the children’s program to send notes or cards of caring, and/or responding with prayer shawls. Session will draft a particular letter of support to families of those who lost their lives in Pittsburgh in the Tree of Life shooting.
- 2) Approved the following Capital Campaign Executive Team: Jody Meacham, Emily Meacham, Fred Oliver, Julia Roberts. This team will conduct logistics, including coming up with a fundraising timeline and assigning subcommittees for the anticipated capital campaign.
- 3) The congregation will approve pastors' terms of call, and the Session will present its adopted 2019 budget to the congregation for information.
- 4) Approved the hosting of the Village House Rotating Shelter for the month of September 2019, sponsored by StoneWorks.
- 5) Approved the collection of a special offering on Sunday 12/2 during worship. The offering would be in support of recent wildfire victims, through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance’s fund for that purpose.
- 6) Session will try to have at least one Session member on the initial meeting of the Revitalization Initiative which will have small groups to help get them set up.
- 7) Approved contract of Nursery Supervisor, at 3 hours per Sunday, beginning as soon as possible (brought by Christian Education committee).
- 8) Approved hiring of Church Treasurer, a salaried position of \$515/month, with the anticipation of working an average of 4 hours/week over the course of a year (brought by Budget and Finance committee).
- 9) Approved hiring of Sharon LeClaire as a Temporary Part-Time Stated Supply Pastor, at a 1/10 position for calendar year 2019, to assist Stone’s current pastors with visitation, preaching, and home Communion, pending approval by the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry (brought by Personnel and Administration committee)
- 10) Session voted to host the rotating Village House women’s shelter again, for one month in 2019. The actual month of hosting the shelter will be worked out in conjunction with Village House.
- 11) Session voted to approve Personnel and Administration’s hiring of David Burgess as the legal counsel for Stone Church.
- 12) Began discussion around approving a capital campaign to begin January 2019, to raise money for needed repairs and upgrades to facilities. 1. Lincoln House foundation repair, 2. Lincoln House upgrades, 3. Ramp from backyard into Social Hall, 4. Backyard landscaping. Session acknowledged the need for upgrades to lighting and sound in

the sanctuary, and hopes that the capital campaign can exceed targets and be expanded to include these upgrades. Sanctuary upgrades remain a priority, and alternate funding sources may be examined beyond the capital campaign. The top priority is repairing the Lincoln House foundation, but plans are included for upgrades to the Sanctuary, Social Hall and backyard.

### Committee Reports:

- **Worship** is preparing for Advent: setting up the Chrismon tree and decorating the Sanctuary.
- **Personnel & Admin** is preparing for upcoming Budget Review Committee (BRC) meetings; also, organizing reviews of paid staff by supervising committees; P&A reports hiring a new Treasurer for Stone Church (Ruthanne Adams Martinez) and a new Nursery Supervisor (Liliana Borda).
- **Stewardship Committee** is debriefing Consecration Sunday and preparing for Budget Review Committee.
- **Membership & Communications** celebrates the upcoming commissioning of Michele Smith as a Stephen Minister; also, gearing up to host the Thanksgiving celebration in the Social Hall. A recent Saturday hike was canceled due to poor air quality.
- **StoneWorks** is researching a potential partnership with PACT (People Acting in Community Together), and recruiting volunteers to help with the current Village House Rotating Shelter location at St. Mark’s. Approved an Angel Grant to work with Unite with Music, pending more details; discussed forming a partnership with PACT

(People Acting in Community Together), a local group with an interest in affordable housing and income inequality; monitored progress of partners including Willow Glen Cares, Sunday Friends, and our Village House shelter.

- **Nominating Committee** compiled a list of candidates to work on the capital campaign, and will soon convene to begin the process of nominating new deacons and elders.
- **Buildings & Grounds** is working on developing a better way to schedule the staffing of the sound system on Sundays.
- **Deacons** are hosting Safe Church Training on child abuse reporting procedures for church staff and volunteers, which is required for all Elders and Deacons. They are preparing for Parents' Day Out, and also coordinating Christmas flowers.
- **Presbyterian Women** reported a successful Mission Fair, and a bountiful Little Dresses for Africa event, as well as a good turnout for the voting program. They will be supporting Next Door Ministries this holiday season with practical gift cards. They are also planning their next human trafficking awareness event.
- **Budget & Finance** is gearing up to run the upcoming BRC meetings to plan the church budget for next year. The goal is to bring the budget before Session for approval on January 15.
- **Stephen Ministry** hosted a successful Adult Education class about transitions, and continues to be active in serving the congregation.

- **Health Ministry** purchased more hand sanitizer bottles for the sanctuary pews in preparation for the upcoming flu season! They will also host the December 29 blood drive.

**Presbytery update:** the Peace and Justice Task Force is sponsoring a group of 20 people to serve as observers at the national border in response to the arriving "caravan" of migrant refugees. Presbytery also approved a new sexual harassment policy and an accompanying handbook. Presbytery also heard reports on an innovative interfaith shower ministry for the homeless in Aptos, and updates on the mission work of Rev. Ryan (of "sweaty sheep" fame) in Santa Cruz.



Stephen Ministry is alive and active at Stone Church! We are one of 13,000 congregations worldwide which has a caring program. In fact, we have five active care givers at the present time, including two who were trained and commissioned this year. Two others are active participants at our supervision meetings. There are four of us active on the leadership team with another leader on sabbatical.

We look forward to having two or more Stone Church members attend a new training class beginning at the end of January, 2019, through a consortium of Stephen Ministry groups in the South Bay.

If you'd like to become a trained Stephen Minister or if you'd like to have the services of a care giver, please contact [Pauline Moore](#) or [Carol Lathrop](#).

## Donate to Fire Recovery



The needs are many as a result of the recent devastating wildfires in Northern California. **StoneWorks will be collecting financial donations for the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund during worship on December 2, 2018.**

Below are three other sponsored ways to contribute:

- 1) **The North Valley Community Foundation's Camp Fire fund:**  
<https://www.nvcf.org/fund/camp-fire-evacuation-relief-fund/>
- 2) **The US Wildfire fund at the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA):**  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/dro00165/>

3) The Presbytery of Sacramento has established a Camp Fire Relief Fund to assist **Bidwell Presbyterian Church** in responding to families affected by this disaster. Individuals and churches interested in donating can send checks (made payable to Presbytery of Sacramento) to:

Presbytery of Sacramento  
CAMP FIRE RELIEF FUND  
9983 Folsom Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95827

Funds collected will be sent to Bidwell Presbyterian Church in Chico, CA to provide resources for fire victims.

## The Gift of Life, Journeys and Giving Back

by Rod Thorn, for the Stewardship Committee

We who gather at Stone Church come from a remarkable array of hometowns, backgrounds and experiences. Underlying that is the deeper miracle that happened as each of us was born. Paraphrasing an online blogger's description:

"Imagine there was one life preserver thrown in the ocean and there is just one turtle in all of Earth's oceans, swimming underwater somewhere. The probability that you came about and exist today is about the same as that turtle sticking its head out of the water, in the middle of that life preserver, on one try."

Our parents, and each generation before them, had to meet and marry each other instead of anyone else, then decide to have a family. Our own births – that gift of life – depended upon all those stars aligning just right.

For example: My Dad was born in Seattle, my Mom in Green Forest, Arkansas, 2000 miles away. Not looking good, unless somebody moves.

When Mom was seven her family traveled to visit relatives. While away they received word that a tornado had destroyed their home. Mom's grandmother then invited them all to be with her in Lindale, Texas, where they might be safer.

But barely two years later, on a rainy, April afternoon as my Grandpa finished work he noticed a storm headed his way. He ran home to warn family: another tornado's coming; get out of the house! They barely escaped, and just a minute or two later, again, their house was flattened.

Now everyone was done with tornado country. Other family members years earlier had migrated to the Pacific Northwest, and urged Mom's family to join them there. They went by train and after several days arrived in Seattle.

Eventually Mom and Dad grew to college age and, surprise! – wound up attending the same small local Christian college. They met, courted, married and had children.

Recently I've been researching family history. Among my great grandparents are those who crossed the Atlantic to come to America, and those who came west in a covered wagon via the then newly opened Oregon Trail.

All that heightens my sense of amazement at just being alive, to love and enjoy friends and family, see sunsets, climb mountains (years ago), and much more.

Forty years ago Alice and I left Seattle as I took a new job here. We looked for a church home and found a perfect match in Stone Church. We are grateful for these decades of rich experiences.

It's late fall, and Stone's annual pledge campaign is well under way. In gratitude to God and this community we've again pledged our support. It was most encouraging to see all those pledging last month, on Consecration Sunday. For those who intend to but haven't yet, please let us know by year-end. It helps in our planning. Thanks, in advance ...

## New Member Class

by Lizanne Oliver, Chair, Membership & Communications

On Sunday, Nov. 11, Pastors Sammie and Irene conducted a class for those interested in joining, or just learning a bit more about Stone Church. In addition to several visitors, some elders were also present, and everyone was asked to introduce themselves and explain what brought them to Stone Church. We learned some interesting things about each other!



After the class, the group enjoyed a tasty lunch prepared by Mary Johnson and Kathy Stark. During this time, Marta Espinal, on behalf of the Deacons, and Joyce Summers, on behalf of Presbyterian Women, explained the role of these groups and the opportunities available through them. Jody Meacham spoke about the work of the Stewardship Committee and the pledging process. By the time of this publication, there will be five new members who have joined Stone Church! **Look for Sabine and Scott Nelson, Elizabeth Sarmiento and Eric Olson, and Nanci Eksterowicz and welcome them into our community!**

## From the Reading Nook

by Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

For your holiday enjoyment here are some recent additions to the Children's Chapel Library:

- \* *Who Is Coming to Our House?* by Joseph Slate (Read-Aloud Sla)
- \* *Nighty Night, Baby Jesus: A Noisy Nativity* by Molly Idle (1<sup>st</sup> Bks Idl)
- \* *A Gathering of Days* by Joan Blos (J Blo)
- \* *Jamaica Is Thankful* by Juanita Havill (J Hav)
- \* *Jesus* by Demi (J 226 Dem)
- \* *The Christmas Story: A Lift the Flap Advent Calendar* by Shiela Moxley (J 232 Mox)
- \* *The Story of the Three Wise Kings* by Tomie DePaola (J 232.9 DeP)
- \* *The Night before Christmas: Classic Stories & Poems* illust. by Anne Gilbert (J 808.8 Gil)

### Additions in Lincoln House:

- \* *Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer (YA Bau)
- \* *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings & Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (230 Kin)
- \* *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent & Christmas* by Orbis Books (242 Wat)
- \* *Holidays & Holy Nights: Celebrating 12 Seasonal Festivals of the Christian Year* by Christopher Hill (263.9 Hil)
- \* *Keepers of the Story: Oral Traditions in Religion* by Megan McKenna & Tony Cowan (291.1 MCK)
- \* *Being Peace* by Thich Nhat Hanh (294.3 Nha)
- \* *A Literary Christmas: Great Contemporary Christmas Stories* ed. by Lilly Golden (394 Gol)
- \* *The Way of the Small: Why Less Is Truly More* by Michael Gellert (Soc. Iss. 204 Gel)
- \* *Writing Through the Darkness: Easing Your Depression with Paper & Pen* by Elizabeth Schaefer (Spec. Needs 616.89 Sch)

\* *Northsided Bloom* by Evelyn Ritchie (Stone 808.81 Rit)

*Remember to bring your extra calendars to the library where others might find what they need, with remaining ones going to Sacred Heart Community Service.*



## Liturgical Arts

by Jeanette Rapp

The women who gathered for the November meeting of our Liturgical Arts group busied themselves with several projects: some finished up the 54 green, reversible Choir Stoles we've been working on for several months; others literally got onto the table top to get at some detailed sewing on our second Great Ends of the Church banner, soon to be finished; and still others prepared fabric stars for hanging in the sanctuary for the Advent season.



Soon after getting started, Barbara Clark and Claudia Hamm came into Room 1 with a delicious, candle-lit homemade, apple-spice cake to celebrate my goth birthday! What a great treat that provided for the next couple of hours of work and conversation! Others attending this month were Cheryl Bender, Deborah Crim, Sue Evans, Janice Goertz Mary-

Ann Hudson, Hilleguus Faber, and Betty Spicher.

If you like to sew, either by machine or by hand, consider coming out on the second Friday afternoon (1:30 - 4 PM) of each month and help with the enhancement of our liturgy through visual arts.



There are usually other non-stitching tasks to perform, such as gluing, stringing or painting, pinning and cutting of fabric for others to sew -- so come and join the fun any month, and stay as little or long as you wish.

There is a portable doorbell at the patio door entrance, so just come and ring it for one of us to come up from the lower level to open the door. If transportation is a problem, please let us know so that we can work something out.



*Liturgical Arts Preparing for Advent*

## Adult Study Classes

**On Sunday, December 2,** join Taize pianist Pam Hood for a unique Adult Education session. Pam has organized Taize services in parishes (large and small) as well as in private homes. In the early 90s she trained with Sr. Suzanne Toolan of Mercy Center (Burlingame) who was pivotal in introducing Taize to churches throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

Pam taught Ancient Greek Philosophy, as well as the Philosophy of Religion, for nearly 20 years at San Francisco State University, but her early love was and still remains music. As a longtime accompanist, pianist, and organist for soloists of all stripes, school and community choirs, and for churches of different denominations.

Pam assumes the role of a servant-leader when she plays the piano for worship service, where the instrument is another congregant that breathes and sings along with the community in a way that also gently guides and supports them. Please plan to join us at 11am after worship!

### Adult Study Classes Coming Up

**Dec. 9 Blue Christmas**  
**Dec. 16 Trauma and Grace**

Classes meet after worship (11 am - Noon) most Sundays and explore diverse topics in Christianity, spiritual practice, and the church in the world. Fall's upcoming sessions include History of Christian Art, Centering Prayer, and Coping Strategies for Dealing with Life Transitions. Look for announcements in the *Weekly Update* and Church Bulletin (now also included in the *Weekly Update*).



We invite all women of Stone Church to consider joining *Presbyterian Women*. Below is short sampling of some of our activities:

- We have monthly Amethyst, Emerald, and Sapphire Bible Study and fellowship groups.
- There are book groups, sewing, knitting, and social groups.
- Once each month we participate in anti-trafficking demonstrations, holding up signs on Lincoln Ave.
- We have a Justice and Peace group discussing local community affairs.
- We sell Fair Trade coffee, tea, cocoa, & chocolate bars the 2nd Sunday of each month as a way of supporting small farmer co-operatives.
- We are soon to have new brochures about *Presbyterian Women* here at Stone, so I hope you will pick one up when they arrive!
- Our Women's Retreat is in the spring at St. Francis in San Juan Bautista. Save the dates of April 26-28, 2019.
- We give offerings in support of non-profits in our communities and their missions, supporting the needs of women and children.
- We support college scholarships for our church youth.
- *Presbyterian Women* is a global organization.

Questions? Please contact [Joyce Summers](#)

## Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women (PW) is starting a new Bible Study, *God's Promise - I Am With You* in our monthly circle meetings. Check the [church calendar](#). PW Board meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at 11:00am in the church library. All are welcome! For more information, contact [Sheri Cunningham](#).

## 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 December 6, 2018, (7- 8pm) in the Library**. If you have questions, contact [Kathleen O'Brien](#).



## Calling All Musicians!

Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of your school band, orchestra, or rock band? Are you an adult interested in performing again? If so, our organist Mark Bruce wants to hear from you! Preludes, hymns, anthems, offertories, postludes - all could be made magical by your involvement. Besides ordinary Sundays, Advent and Christmas are coming; it would be wonderful to have more instrumentalists. Please consider sharing your time and talents to create a beautiful tapestry of sacred music at this most joyous & festive time of year. Contact [Mark Bruce](#) for more information.

## Stone Church Supports Sacred Heart



Hunger affects 44% of the children and 12% of the seniors in Santa Clara County. On the first Sunday of each month, Stone Church collects non-perishable food items for families that visit Sacred Heart Community Services.

In 2018, our goal is to donate one ton – 2,000 pounds – of food to Sacred Heart. Next Sunday, December 2nd is our final Sacred Heart food donation for 2018! We are oh-so-close to our goal. Last month we took in an astounding 306.6 pounds, bringing our 2018 grand total to 1,835 lbs.!

So, write a post-it note, tie a string on your finger, and mark your calendars for **December 2nd**, when we will collect our **final food donations for the year**.

Some of the most requested items are canned veggies (corn, peas, beans, beets, carrots, etc), canned soups or chili, bags of beans or rice, bags of pasta, and other non-perishables. Stores such as the Dollar Tree, Big Lots, and Food Max have a wide variety of these items. The sustenance you are providing is truly a lifeline to the clients of Sacred Heart Community Services!

*If you will be away on those dates, simply drop off your items on any Sunday at the bins in the narthex.*

## Stone Church Youth

### November Bash at Westminster Woods

by Kathleen Oliver

Two of our youth, Kelsey Lax and Lily Gross, went to the Westminster Woods November Bash Weekend November 2-4, 2018. Great fun was had by all! The girls wrote the following:

*"Well, November Bash was great, there was Bible study, singing, talking and great food. I would love to go there again." ~Lily*

*"November Bash was a fun religious experience. I would love to go again next November or better yet this summer. Westminster Woods kept me entertained all weekend." ~ Kelsey*



The kids participated in a Taize-like service called Inspire, a challenge course to work as a team to solve problems and learn a little about teamwork and their own skills as they contributed to the team. On a nature hike, we learned about Westminster Woods' environment and plants and critters that live there. The kids also learned how to make paint from river rocks and tried their hand at face painting! Free time was spent climbing a very high challenge course. Sunday morning worship was created by the kids and communion was served by the Pastor who provided the general message of the weekend: God wants to have a relationship with us and will be with us and love us through all the joys and sorrows or difficult times.



Youth Group Outing to the Corn Maze  
October 2018

### Youth Group: Mark Your Calendars!

**Dec. 7-9:** High School Decemberfest at Westminster Woods

**Dec. 9:** Service Project Night

**Dec. 21:** Annual Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange

**Jan. 13, 2019:** Mystery Night...it's a surprise!

**Jan. 25-27, 2019:** Annual Stone Church Snow Trip to Zephyr Point in Tahoe!

For more info, contact [Rev. Irene Pak-Lee](#).





## Rebuilding Together

by Bill Ribble

Rebuilding Day was a great success again this year. The

Men's Mission & Ministry sponsored the rebuilding site this year and there were roughly 15 volunteers from Stone

Church. We performed exterior painting, interior painting, electrical, plumbing, and cabinet

repair, garage door sealing, replacement of crawl space vents, patching and replacing siding, and other odds and ends. The home is owned by a 78-year old widow who has been living alone for the past 25 years. She was very grateful for the work of Stone Church.



We were blessed to have Wynn Barnes do a lot of painting prep and painting during the week before. Each of the major projects had a leader this year:



garage door sealing, Julia Roberts; exterior painting, Wynn Barnes

and Craig Bowers, interior painting, Jim Bender; siding replacement, John Lococo & Gabriel Faber; siding repair, David McCreath & Lee Wong; and plumbing, electrical and miscellaneous, Bill Ribble.

Our House Captain was Neale Barret and our Volunteer Coordinator was

Maureen Chandler. We had a number of workers who have been to many rebuilding days. Barbara Clark has been to all of them. New to rebuilding this year was Ginny Barret.

It has been said before but it is worth repeating, the opportunity to work with great people performing a very worthwhile project is a wonderful experience.



[Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley](#) is the Silicon Valley arm of the national non-profit which rehabilitates the homes of low-income and disabled home owners. RTSV supports keeping seniors, disabled, and low income people in their current housing by assuring that it meets community standards and is safe and habitable. 60% of rebuilding sites are manufactured (mobile) homes which represent the last affordable housing in the valley. Mobile home park managers are very strict and can evict home owners if they do not comply with the strict standards.

For information on our next Rebuilding Day, contact [Bill Ribble](#).



## Wine Tasting & Auction February 2, 2019

If you attended the Wine Tasting & Auction last February, you know how much fun everyone had. In addition to the wine, there was plenty of food. The real entertainment, however, is in the auction which is managed by Jody Meacham and Craig Bowers. This will be a sign-up only event this year so watch for the Evite and for information in the Bulletins, Weekly Update, and the Stone News.

## Call for Speakers!

Men's Mission & Ministry is always open to speaker suggestions for our breakfast series. Do you have an interesting hobby, experience from the past, or recommendations of individuals in our community who would be engaging presenters? If so, please contact [Chad Biscardi](#). We are working on our 2019 calendar now, and would love to hear from you!

## Blood Drive Update



Stone Church Nurse Mary Johnson reported that the last two blood drives went very well! **The April and September drives together brought in a total of 54 units of blood – enough to help more than 200 people!** Thank you, Stone Church, for your generosity.

Mark your calendars for our next blood drive **on Saturday, December 29, 2018.**



*Sewing Little Dresses for Africa*



*Celebrating Bob James' 98th birthday!  
Bob and his wife, Hazel, have been members of Stone Church since 1950.*



*Thanksgiving buffet in the Social Hall*



*Jeanette hard at work on her Little Dresses project*



*Jeanette enjoys a celebratory 90<sup>th</sup> birthday cake with her friends in Liturgical Arts*



*Charlotte and Joyce on Iona, in Scotland, with the Heritage Tour*



*Charlotte at Edinburgh Castle, Scotland Heritage Tour*



*Joyce at St. Giles Cathedral with statue of John Knox*



*Baking cookies for Women's Shelter*



*Youth preparing dinner at Women's Shelter*



*Food prep for dinner at women's shelter*



*Dinner prep for Women's Shelter*



*Preparing for Advent*



*Preparing for Advent*



*Enjoying a well-deserved meal after preparing for Advent*



*Cleaning Day 2018*



*Cleaning Day 2018*



*Cleaning Day 2018*



*Cleaning Day 2018*



*Donuts for Cleaning Day 2018*



*Lunch after lots of cleaning!*

## The Stone News

The Stone Church of Willow Glen  
 1937 Lincoln Avenue  
 San Jose, CA 95125-3499  
 408-269-1593  
 www.stonechurch.org  
 stone\_news@stonechurch.org  
 Sunday Services: 9:30am

*The Rev. Samantha Lynn Evans, Pastor*  
*The Rev. Irene Pak Lee – Associate Pastor*  
*The Rev. Dr. David McCreath – Parish Associate*  
*The Rev. Marge Palmer – Pastor Emerita*  
*The Rev. Dr. David Beamer – Pastor Emeritus*  
*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 Adams Martinez– Treasurer*  
*Liliana Borda - Nursery Supervisor*  
*Victor & Sonia Perez – Custodians*  
*Joanne Vliet – StoneNews Editor*  
*Hilleguus Faber – Memorial Coordinator*  
*Lizanne Oliver – Wedding Coordinator*  
*Mary Johnson – Parish Nurse*  
*Carol Lathrop & Pauline Moore -*  
*Stephen Ministry Coordinators*

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| Lizanne Oliver      | Bill Hughes          |
| Rev. David McCreath | Jennifer Scott-Brand |
| Bill Ribble         | Alice Thorn          |
| Rhonda Lakatos      | Della Smith          |
| Wendy Lord          | Fred Oliver          |
| Don Skipwith        | Sue Williams         |
| Phil Curtis         | Jeff Mattan          |
| Mary Alice Collins  | Ginny Barret         |
| Kathleen O'Brien    | Julia Roberts        |
| Pauline Moore       | Carol Lathrop        |
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