



# The Stone News

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

## ✠ A Letter from Your Pastor

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about belonging. Beyond the most immediate needs of food, water, clothing, and shelter, I think my next deepest need is belonging. I acknowledge that this word has the potential to become one of those

buzzwords that are thrown around so often that they cease to have any real meaning, so here is what I mean when I say belonging:

belonging  
/bə' lŏNGiNG/  
noun

*a feeling of acceptance and welcome; of being fully known and fully loved; of being home.*

My earliest memories of true belonging are in the church, and I know that has a lot to do with my current call to serve the church. There are few places in the world where people are fully known and loved just for who they are, wholly affirmed and welcomed home. The Church is called to be unapologetically one of those

places. This is perhaps why it is so devastating when the Church falls short of this call by excluding or abusing one of God's children because of who they are, who they love, or how they move in the world.

The last weekend of August, several churches and synagogues from across Santa Clara County came together to



create a space of belonging in the middle of the Silicon Valley Pride Festival in downtown San Jose. We pooled our resources to reserve four booth spaces, which we turned into a "home." We had a dining room with a beautiful table that

could seat 10 people. We had a living room, complete with oversized chairs, couches, funky lamps, and even an area rug. In the middle of the "home," we had an art display, where visitors could write their prayers, hopes, and needs for themselves, their communities, and their city.

And finally, we had a wall with several large maps of different areas throughout Santa Clara County and 54 communities of faith that were fully open and affirming, places of true belonging for LGBTQ+ folks in our community.

(cont'd)



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The most meaningful moment for me was when one person stood before this wall, moved to tears of joy because she had no idea that there were so many local communities of faith that welcomed her just as she is.

The ways y'all do that at Stone Church move me to tears. From marching in Pride to serving in the Village House Shelter; from being a volunteer for church school or youth group to serving Extended Communion to shut-ins; and from cooking a meal for someone needing food to offering a prayer for someone in need of healing; y'all dedicate so much time, money, and energy to create spaces of belonging for all of God's children.

I am so thankful for this community of faith, and no matter who you are, I hope and pray that Stone Church is a space of belonging for you.

Grace and peace,  
Sammie

## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Hurricane Dorian (Cat 5) hit the Bahamas on September 1, causing massive casualties and property damage. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance began by working with partners in the Bahamas to assess the most urgent needs and where to best invest in the recovery. To help with this needed work, make a check to Stone Church with "PDA" or "Dorian" on the memo line (or use a pew envelope for cash) and simply include during the offering.

## Hudspeth Trust Scholarships



In August 2019, the Presbyterian Women (PW), Trustees of the Hudspeth Trust Fund, awarded \$8,200 in scholarships to five college-age members of our church. It is gratifying to know that PW was able to assist these very bright and capable young people in preparing for their futures.

In the last fiscal year, the Hudspeth Trust has given \$2,000 to the youth of Stone Church, \$1,200 in assistance to three PW women participating in The Gathering in Kentucky, and \$2,000 to various charities in the Silicon Valley area. PW members at Stone Church are grateful to Ruby M. Hudspeth for her very generous gift which has been enhanced by several other women who were once members and participants.

Presbyterian Women promotes various activities for women at Stone Church including: Bible study groups, demonstrations against human trafficking, Lunch Bunch meetings, providing gifts for Next Door Solutions, supporting Santa Clara County Public Health Nurses, and more.

Learn more about Presbyterian Women by collecting one of the brochures from your pew at church, or contact me directly. Come join us!

~ Jan Keifer  
Mission Secretary  
Ruby M. Hudspeth Trust

## Membership & Communications Hosts Cool Events

When asked if she would consider teaching a workshop on flower arranging, Diane Van Den Bosch



said "Of course!" And on July 27, twenty-one aspiring florists listened to some of her stories of preparing wedding arrangements and took tips from her experiences. Diane had a fragrant and colorful assortment of flowers and greenery for everyone to choose from, and all the attendees had a marvelous time creating their own floral designs! Everyone was able to take home leftovers, and one person made small vases and shared with her neighbors - very cool idea!



The following day M&C hosted Summer Salad Sunday and used several of the beautiful floral arrangements as centerpieces on

the lunch tables. Members provided delicious salads of all kinds, some showcasing their garden bounty of summer tomatoes, and everyone enjoyed friendly conversation and a cool lunch on a hot day.

On Aug. 25, ice cream was on the menu after worship! M&C provided several yummy flavors, complete with sprinkles, for members to enjoy on a very steamy day. Five gallons later, everyone was satisfied and hopefully a little bit cooler!

~ Lizzanne Oliver  
Chair, Membership & Communications Committee



## “Here’s My Heart”: Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2019

by The Rev. Irene Pak Lee

On July 16-20, 2019, the San Jose Presbytery took 26 youth and adults to Purdue University in Indiana for the triennial Presbyterian Youth Triennium. That delegation included two global delegates from Taiwan who also traveled with our group. Ten students from Stone Church attended along with the Rev. Irene Pak Lee and Kathleen Oliver. Those youth included: Akash Amalarasan, Ainsley Bateman, Julia Kiplinger, Kelsey Lax, Kiana Lord, Morgan Lord, Logan Lord, Charlotte McNelis, Elle Nilson, and Jordan Ryan.



This year’s theme was “Here’s My Heart” taken from part of the lyrics of the hymn, “Come Thou Fount.” There were over 4,500 people represented from all over the United States and the world.

I asked our youth participants what the best part of Triennium was for them and what it felt like and what they learned. Here’s some of what they said:

*“I learned that what we do has an impact. We can make change in the world and every little bit helps.” –Akash*

*“It empowered me to become more faithful and more comfortable with my faith. It was cool being around 4,500 people because it felt like one big family.” –Jordan*

*“It was powerful knowing that so many other youth from all over had the same insights I do and my favorite part was getting to know all the different cultures and seeing the different stereotypes we had about each other (i.e. what people thought of people from California). –Morgan*

*“After Triennium, I learned that nobody can say no to positivity when it’s directed to them. A smile and a ‘Hello’ to anyone I pass by typically resulted in the person smiling back, and returning the greeting. It makes the day so much better to know that I don’t have to avoid eye contact with strangers anymore. I also learned that the Presbyterian faith has so much to offer in terms of acceptance and representation. The frozen chosen is a lovely bunch!” –Elle*

All of them agreed that the best part of Triennium was being able to meet new people from all over the country and world, and developing real friendships with some of them. And of course, the trading pins where they were able to exchange pins from each state and presbytery with one another.

Charlotte McNelis wrote this overarching reflection about her experience:

*“My favorite part of Triennium was the overall atmosphere and feeling of love and acceptance. Being in worship with around 4,500 other Presbyterian youth was empowering and overwhelming in the best way possible. It was such a great experience to have worship directed solely to adolescents and the messages that came along with it were so inspiring and relatable that they often brought me to tears. Triennium was probably one of the best weeks I’ve*

*ever had. I was able to overcome a lot of my social anxiety and become more comfortable with myself and all my little quirks. I was pushed out of my comfort zone in the best place possible because I was surrounded by such an accepting community. It really showed me that despite what it can feel like in high school, there are people out there that will always love you for you are (even if they’ve just met you). I will always remember having great amounts of fun with people I had just met seconds before, the friendships that were made stronger, and the new friendships that are still going strong. Despite the insane heat and humidity, I don’t think I’d ever felt more at home. I really, really enjoyed Triennium and I hope to bring the lessons back into my daily life.”*



All of our students were positive and had a great attitude though it was extremely hot and we didn’t have air conditioning in our dorms. Kathleen Oliver and I feel very privileged to travel with these youth who kept an upbeat laughing spirit throughout it all. Feel free to ask them about their experience as I’m sure they’d be happy to continue to share it with you! I am grateful for all of your support, prayers and financial, to help our youth to have this memorable experience.

## Seniors in Transition

Seniors in Transition (S.I.T.) will meet on **Thurs., October 17** (11am - noon) in the church library. Everyone is welcome! Questions, contact the [Rev. Irene Pak Lee](#).



Stone Church is hosting Village House Woman's Shelter, Sept. 4 – Oct. 2, 2019. Last September, Stone Church members filled 92% of the volunteer positions; let's match that this year! Sign-up online today ([www.VillageHouseSCCA.com](http://www.VillageHouseSCCA.com)). Please sign-up early and often, Stone Church volunteers are rock stars! If you have more questions please contact Kate Wheatley or Carol Johnson Fritz.

## News of the Bells

Another fall season of worship music is upon us. Do you enjoy listening to the hand bell choir? We enjoy being part of the liturgy! Why not join us? Jean Raby leads the hand bells and warmly welcomes new members. Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:30pm to 9:00pm.



## Trailwalkers

Trailwalkers have decided to choose our hikes for late summer and fall from a list created by *Pix in Parks 2019*, a County program that reprises its 2017 Magnificent Seven series by recommending hikes for the current year. It's been a warm summer and



we are moving our Saturday morning meeting times up to 7:45, the better to compete for parking places with other early birds wanting to avoid the heat.



Our first choice of hike from the *Pix in Parks* list was a 2.5 mile loop in Joseph D. Grant County

Park. Six hikers met on the church patio on August 17 and drove up steep and curvy Quimby Road to reach the trailhead. We walked along the shore of Grant Lake at the beginning of the hike and reached the smaller McCreery Lake near our turnaround point. Most of the hike was through grassy vegetation on generally flat and well-maintained trails with only a few steeper and rugged patches. Although we missed some turn signs and didn't hike the exact route planned, we still covered approximately the same distance. The exception was our runner Julia Roberts who lapped the rest of us a few times and covered almost 5 miles, for which she was awarded extra credit points!

On our September 14 outing, four hikers and one runner turned out for our second *Pix in Parks* hike, this time at Harvey Bear Ranch County Park. After greeting a newcomer, Presbyterian Pastor and occasional Stone visitor Martha Thorson (below, left), we carpoled south to the location between San Martin and Gilroy and enjoyed the easy 2-mile loop through terrain and vegetation similar to what we experienced at Grant Ranch. It is definitely the season for dry grass and golden hills!



## Sacred Heart Food Donation

***We've collected 1,778 lbs so far in 2019 and are still on track to meet our end-of-year donation total of 2,500 lbs!***

This past month we collected 199 pounds which is close to our monthly goal of 208 pounds and our best monthly total for slower summer months. We're slightly below the goal line for the year but 27% ahead of where we were this time last year.

**Upcoming donation Sundays are:**

**October 6  
November 3  
December 1**

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





Men's Mission and Ministry (MMM) has a full schedule of activities taking place this fall. Join us at one or all of these upcoming programs!

### **Men's Mission & Ministry**

**Breakfast:** The next MMM breakfast is on **October 5, 2019**. The speakers are from Cameron House, a mission house in San Francisco which was started in the late 19th century. Its purpose was to rescue Chinese girls from sexual and domestic slavery. Today, Cameron House serves the immigrant Asian Community. The speakers will cover the history and their work in Chinatown today. You can read more about its history in the book, *The White Devil's Daughters*, the next selection of the MMM Book Group. This event is open to all Stone Church members and friends. There will be signups starting several weeks prior.

### **Book Sale! October 13, 2019:**

Don't miss the Men's Mission & Ministry Book Sale & Faire on October 13, 2019. If you have "lightly used" books that are of current interest, bring them to Stone Church prior to October 7 in a bag marked for the book sale. At this event, you will likely find some treasures for your own reading pleasure or inexpensive gifts for friends. There is usually a good selection of children's books for those of you with kids and grandkids.

### **Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley, Oct. 19, 2019:**

This year, a Stone Church crew will be working at the home of Rose Marie, a 91-year old widow who has also lost her two children. We will be painting and working on some small projects around her home. If you can use a paint brush, we need you. Rose Marie and her husband built the home in 1951. He worked for the City of San Jose and she worked in the canneries for 30 years. They raised their two children at the home, and sadly their children passed away in 2009 and 2012. She is fortunate to have two adult grandchildren who live in Hollister and the Central Valley.

We will have a professional painter to guide us. Wynn Barnes will be doing some prep work and spray painting some parts of the home in preparation to our Rebuilding Day, on October 19. You can sign up for the Stone Church crew by following this [link](#).

Our team will be led by Michele Smith, Volunteer Coordinator and Leland Wong and Bill Ribble, Co-House Captains.

### **Wine Tasting & Auction:**

**February 8, 2020:** Mark your calendars for February 8, 2020, for the Men's Mission & Ministry annual Wine Tasting & Auction. There will again be limited seating for 70 and prepaid signups will start in early January. There will be great local wines to taste, purchase, and drink. There will be a fresh new lineup of auction items and experiences for you to purchase.

Proceeds go to worthy causes selected by the MMM Core Group and announced prior to January. Last year, the MMM contributed to fire victims in the North Bay, Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley, and the Stone Church Youth Mission Trips.

A sample of auctioned items and experiences include: Dinner at Chez Mary, 3 days/2 nights at the Stark cabin at Pinecrest, an Indian Dinner for four, Giants Baseball Tickets, and much more.

Don't miss this annual "Must Attend" event!

### **Safety at Home and Church**

The Stone Church Safety Committee will lead an Adult Education class on **October 6, 2019**, on "**Safety at Home and Church**." The class will be led by Lawrence Summers and members of the Safety Committee. Topics will include use of fire extinguishers, first aid and trauma kits, evacuation procedures, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Examples of equipment will be available to see and use. Join us!

### **Take a Stand Against Human Trafficking!**

Join our group on **Monday, September 30, 2019 (8:15 - 9:15am)** and stand with us as we hold our signs along Lincoln Ave; we will meet in the library. This is a continuing project to help our community become more aware of the enormity of human trafficking (modern-day slavery). We would love to have YOU stand with us! Questions? Contact [Claudia Hamm](#).



## Capital Campaign Update

The current results of the recent capital campaign contain mostly good news. We are more than 93% of the way to our goal of \$500,000, having secured pledges totaling \$464,600 to date. We are delighted and grateful to the 94 people who have given pledges, and we give special thanks to the 44 pledging units that were able to match or exceed their annual pledge.



The purpose of this campaign is to make repairs to Lincoln House, our church office building, and to fund a mission project with major impact. Through pledges paid over the next three years, we plan to:

- Repair the house's foundation
- Replace windows that are poor insulators to lower heating and cooling costs
- Make cosmetic repairs to walls and floors
- Tithe (contribute 10% of all funds raised) to a mission project beyond the scope of our annual budget

If you haven't yet submitted a pledge, or if you feel called and able at this time to pledge a little bit more to help us close the gap, we would love to hear from you! Pledge forms and more information are available: [www.stonechurch.org/capital-campaign](http://www.stonechurch.org/capital-campaign).

## From the Reading Nook

by Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

Fall brings to mind hearth and home, folks who journeyed years ago and those who do today. May these new books add to our understanding..

### New in the Children's Chapel Library:

- \* Who Lives Here? by Mary Packard (1st Bks Pac)
- \* The Icky Bug Alphabet Board Book by Jerry Pallotta & Ralph Masiello (1st Bks Pal)
- \* The Long Way to a New Land by Joan Sandin (1st Bks San)
- \* Peter Rabbit's Halloween by Frederick Warne (1st Bks War)
- \* Across the Wide Dark Sea: The Mayflower Journey by Jean Van Leeuwen (J Van)
- \* Anna & Solomon by Elaine Snyder (J 296.3 Sny):

\* Hector Lives in the United States Now by Joan Hewett (J 973 Hew), given by Sheri Cunningham

### Additions in Lincoln House:

- \* Commodore Perry in the Land of the Shogun by Rhoda Blumberg (YA 952 Blu)
- \* Heroine of the Titanic: The Real Unsinkable Molly Brown by Elaine Landau (YA Biog BROWN)
- \* Thanks! How Practicing Gratitude Can Make You Happier by Robert Emmons (179.9 Emm), given by Allen Bartu
- \* The Experience of God edited by Jonathan Robinson (248.4 Rob)
- \* Womanguides: Readings Toward a Feminist Theology by Rosemary Radford Ruether (261.8 Rue)

\* Signs from the Heart: California Chicano Murals ed. by Eve Cockcroft & Holly Barnet-Sanchez (751 Coc)

\* Faithful Resistance: Gospel Visions for the Church in a Time of Empire by Rick Ufford-Chase (Soc. Iss. 241 Uff), given by Chuck Rawlings

\* Chasing the Harvest: Migrant Workers in California Agriculture ed. by Gabriel Thompson (Soc. Iss. 331 Tho)

\* The Divide: American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap by Matt Taibbi (Soc. Iss. 336 Tai), given by Chuck Rawlings

\* Conscious Living, Conscious Aging by Ron Pevny (Spec. Needs- Aging 306.3 Pev), given by Charlotte Dickson

## San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory Invites Stone Members to Bird Banding Demo

As a thank you to Stone Church for dedicating time, space, and talent to sew bird bags for their Coyote Creek Field Station, the [San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory](http://www.sfbirdobservatory.org) is offering a small group of members the chance to come out to the station and observe a [bird banding demo](http://www.sfbirdobservatory.org/bird-banding-demo) at **Coyote Creek Field Station in Milpitas, October 12, 2019 at 8:00 am**. Bird banding is a way to catch (mostly) passerine species that live or are migrating through the area and take specific data. The data is collected and sent to the Bird Banding Laboratory (of USGS), which collectively stores all banding data from facilities in North America. Space is limited (**your participation in the bird bag sew in on October 19th, is also a consideration, see article on pg. 10**). Please contact [Michelle Walters](mailto:MichelleWalters@sfbirdobservatory.org) for info.

## Church School Volunteers (Angels) Needed

At Stone Church, during a child's baptism, the congregation vows to be part of the child's faith journey. That journey takes a lifetime, but starts here, on Sunday mornings. Mary Jo needs volunteers to lead Sunday school classes; this is your chance to be an important part of that baptism promise! Teaching on Sundays is simple, fun, and you don't need to know anything about the bible to do it; the lesson plans and activities are all ready to go! The Church School "season" runs from Sept 8, 2019, through mid-June 2020, so there are 38 (+/-) opportunities to help out, get involved!

### *The Importance of Church School (Children's Ministry)*

- Helps children respect and appreciate their faith community.
- Gives kids a chance to ask questions. In this crazy world children need a safe and loving place to share their happy and sad feelings.
- Plants spiritual seeds; we plant them, and God does the rest.

### *What Will Volunteering for Church Ministry Do For You?*

Your efforts will multiply. There are few opportunities that allow you to impact the future in such a direct way. When you love and teach kids, you influence future generations. These children will one day become parents and church leaders. If you want to change the world long term, serve in Children's Ministry.

Serving children will make you a more patient person. Children's Ministry is unpredictable; even the best plans can be torpedoed by a butterfly flying into view. A child's openness to the present moment can teach patience as well as opening you up to the wonder and

amazement of everyday experiences. Children's Ministry will open your heart and mind!

- Open to All - No Experience Necessary
- Qualifications ~ the desire to be present and to love.
- Gathering and prepping materials is done for you.
- No need be a bible scholar or an expert in child development.
- You won't be alone; there will always be 2 people present when working with the kids. Sign-up with a friend, or work with someone you don't know and make a new friend.
- It's not a long-term commitment; 1 or 2 Sunday(s) a month, 1 or 2 Sunday(s) a quarter, whatever works for your schedule works for us! Volunteer as much as you'd like.

Search your heart and your calendar then contact [MaryJo Blazek](#) to sign up!

## Session Reports

by Julia Roberts

### **Below is a summary of the Session meeting held on July 16, 2019:**

After hearing updates on the final steps as the Revitalization Initiative winds down, and next steps as the Worship Committee continues to wrestle with the appropriate format for announcements during worship, the Session:

- Approved a motion for Session to send a letter of support in response to any attack on a house of worship, as we did for the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. There have been other attacks since then to which we did not have a mechanism to respond. This policy will enable Session to move more quickly in response to such events.

- Agreed to co-sign an application for a Presbytery grant to assist members of Stone and other local congregations in attending the ColInspire conference at Montreat in October.
- Approved a letter to be sent to the congregation with an update on the Capital Campaign.
- Approved five members to the Lincoln House task force, which will lead research on loan options, project managers and contractors for the upcoming Lincoln House repairs. Volunteers to this task force are still welcome.
- Approved funding for an organist search.
- Approved participation of Rev. Evans in the "Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations" program offered by Presbytery. This program focuses on the financial well-being of both pastors and congregations. Session also allocated funding for the program.
- Reviewed initial drafts of job descriptions for the Head of Staff and Associate Pastor positions, provided by the Personnel & Administration committee.
- Approved two new at-large members to Personnel & Administration, a two-year position.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Membership & Communications** is offering a class in flower arrangement, sponsoring the summer salad potluck, and coordinating coffee helpers for the upcoming year.
- **Worship** is organizing the congregation's farewell to Mark Bruce.
- **Presbyterian Women** reports that Jean Raby will be the moderator next year. Meetings will move back to the second Thursday of each month.
- **Deacons** send out cards to members in need, and are considering ways to



provide them to the congregation to sign. Visitations and prayer chain continue to be active. Deacons are also exploring offering Parents' Nights Out on possibly a monthly basis.

• **StoneWorks' Accompaniment**

**Team** is actively working with a local family; the father was detained. StoneWorks is also sponsoring a town hall meeting with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren.

- **Buildings & Grounds** is desperately seeking volunteers to help with the sound system, and also to help with regular gardening around the grounds of the church.

**Below is a summary of the Session Retreat held on August 24, 2019:**

The Deacons and Elders met for most of the day in the Social Hall of Stone Church. The morning began with Pastor Irene Pak Lee leading an icebreaker activity based on the "Friendly Style Profile," an analytical tool for determining individual strengths in a team environment. Then, Jennifer Scott-Brand shared information about office procedures like reserving facility space, making bulletin announcements, and putting events on the calendar, and Neale Barrett gave an overview of the church budget and protocols for how committees fill out and remit vouchers.

After a break, Mel Goetz described the duties of the Clerk of Session and suggested norms for behavior during meetings, and procedures for distribution of agendas and minutes. He also gave an overview of Safe Church policies, which protect children, youth and vulnerable adults within and beyond the church environment. Completion of a Safe Church training program is mandatory for all Elders and Deacons, who are mandated reporters for suspected abuse. Pastor Sammie Evans then

gave a summary of the Revitalization Initiative, in which Stone Church has participated for a year, and some upcoming steps we will be taking within that initiative.

Following lunch, Elders and Deacons split into two different groups. Elders reviewed norms for Session meetings, including a close look at the most commonly used rules in Robert's Rules of Order. Deacons discussed their roles in special roles like visitation and prayer, and also reviewed Robert's Rules of Order. Both groups discussed how to sign up for and serve Extended Communion to church members who need to receive Communion in their own homes. After these discussions, both groups had time to meet within committees to discuss their roles within the committee and their goals for themselves, for the Deacons/Elders, and for the church during the upcoming year.

The retreat concluded with both groups joining in the sanctuary of the church for a prayer service.

**Below is a summary of the Session meeting held on September 17, 2019:**

On the consent docket, Session affirmed an e-vote approving financial grants to Presbytery and the Synod via StoneWorks; several Men's Mission & Ministry events; Parents' Day Out; Thanksgiving Dinner; and several youth events.

The church Session also:

- Approved job descriptions for pastors provided by Personnel & Administration
- Appointed a pool of Elders available to serve as Commissioners at Presbytery meetings
- Voted to take Nicholas Hurley under the care of Stone Church as he explores his call to ministry. This

step enables the Presbytery to support and work with Nicholas through the development of his call. Fran Cole will be the Session Liaison to Nicholas.

- Received a progress report from the Lincoln House task force, which has generated an ordered list of tasks, and differentiation of necessary, as well as wish-list items. An upcoming step is to retain architects and engineers to design the foundation and ramps. Session authorized funds for this and attempted to clarify what business items the task force must, and need not, bring to Session.
- Approved guidelines regarding announcements, Moments for Mission, Special Announcements, etc. during worship services to help keep services within one hour and focused on worship.
- Approved a StoneWorks motion to allocate money from the Matching Fund to the Accompaniment Team Fund.
- Approved a StoneWorks request for a special offering to benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in their aid to survivors of Hurricane Dorian.

A highlight of the meeting was Brian Gustafson's impressive use of Robert's Rules of Order in successfully calling the question, two items in a row.

**Committee Reports:**

**Budget & Finance** reports that even with the (usual) summer drop in pledge income, Stone Church is in a good position financially for the year. They also are seeing progress in switching to a new insurance vendor this fall.

**Buildings & Grounds** is busy planning for the October 26, 2019, work day. They are also discussing the possibility of installing security cameras on the church campus.



## Membership & Communications

reported back on recent trail hikes, a successful ice cream social, and plans for upcoming Weekly Updates and Stone News. The committee is also leading a special supplement to the November/December StoneNews which will feature 16 church members who are veterans. Other plans in the works are for an upcoming family game night. Also, M&C reported the commissioning of two new Stephen Ministers, hooray!

**StoneWorks** addressed the unexpected deportation of Alfredo, who, with his family, was being supported by the Accompaniment team. StoneWorks also continues their work on the current women's shelter.

**Stewardship** is busily planning for the upcoming Stewardship campaign in October.

**Worship** is beginning interviews for the open organist position; there are currently four candidates.

**Personnel & Administration** is beginning work on employee annual reviews.

**Deacons** continue to support the congregation with cards, visits, prayers and other kindnesses. They are discussing ways to ensure confidentiality of prayer chain requests, and are discerning how to increase or improve support to socially isolated shut-ins. They are also busy planning Parents' Day Out for December 7.

**Presbyterian Women** awarded five scholarships this year. They are replacing our annual mission fair with a monthly mission focus during social hour. They are working on the next human trafficking awareness event and also a sew-in for Little Dresses for Africa.

**Men's Mission and Ministry** reported several helpful home projects for members and for the September Women's Shelter at Stone. They are busily planning work days, breakfasts, and book group meetings in the next few months, as well as Rebuilding Together's work day on October 19. They are starting plans for the wine tasting/auction fundraiser for February 8, 2020.

## Assisted Listening at Stone Church



many hearing aids.

The Sanctuary is now equipped with a "loop" which creates a magnetic field that stimulates the "telecoil" or t-coil which resides in

Most "behind the ear" (BTE) hearing aids purchased in the past 4-5 years will have a t-coil. Some "in the ear" (ITE) -- but none of the "completely in the canal" (CIC) -- hearing aids will have a t-coil. Please consult your audiologist and/or hearing aid documentation to determine if your hearing aids have a t-coil.

If they do have a t-coil, ask your audiologist to provide a t-coil "program" to access this function which can be selected by pressing a button or by touching an icon in your smart phone (if your hearing aids can be controlled by smart phone). Once you have a t-coil program, just select it any time you are in the Sanctuary and the sound system is being used.

If you don't have a t-coil, the Assisted Listening headsets at the rear of the Sanctuary also use the loop, and provide, good quality sound.

Those of you without a t-coil should think seriously about asking for one the next time you upgrade your hearing aids. Here's why:

The loop in the Sanctuary communicates directly with the t-coil which cuts out any ambient noise around you and also fixes the problem of speakers being out of phase and echoing due to the room acoustics. It is as if the microphones are broadcasting directly to your hearing aids. The sound quality is excellent (thank you, Steve Nelson).

For more background, the loop creates a magnetic field which is changing due to the amplified sound system. The changes in the magnetic field are picked up by the t-coil which is an iron core with a coil wrapped around it. A current is induced in the coil which is sensed and amplified by the hearing aid.

The t-coil was originally created to pick up the magnetic field created by the speaker in an old style Bell telephone handset. Today, many civic venues have installed loops just like Stone Church which is a good reason to get hearing aids with a t-coil as soon as practical.

If you have questions about hearing aids, t-coil activation, functioning of the system, feel free to contact Bill Ribble, a hearing aid wearer and former CEO of a sound and vibration technology company.

## Homeless Student Housing

Last year at Willow Glen High School, there were six homeless students in the school population. The reasons vary. Bill Ribble is gathering information on community support through potential host families. While there are still many important details to be worked out, if you might be willing to volunteer or host, please contact [Bill Ribble](#).

## A July Visit from our Member of Congress



After worship on July 21, 2019, we were honored to host Zoe Lofgren, CA-19, for a Town Hall meeting in our sanctuary. We had a good turnout, with 168 members, neighbors and friends attending. After being introduced by Pastor Sammie Evans and leading off with a brief statement, Rep. Lofgren took questions over a wide range of topics.

In all, she fielded about twenty questions, answering each as thoughtfully as the first. Among the topics: the Israel-Palestine situation; how one can become active locally; protecting women's rights; whether there's a role for the federal government in providing affordable housing; dealing with climate change; and immigration, including her recently introduced bill, the Northern Triangle and Border Stabilization Act, which aims to address the root causes of the refugee crisis before it reaches our border.

There's [a recording](#) of the entire Town Hall meeting on the Stone Church website.

~ Rod Thorn, for Stone Works

## The Rev. Chuck Rawlings Bench Inspires Both Reflection and Action

by Liliana Castañeda  
Rossmann, Ph.D., Smart  
Yards Education Board Chair

Few people who ever came within a few feet and a few turns of phrase from the late Rev. Chuck Rawlings remained immune to being inspired. His life's work has served as an example to countless individuals, for he lived his principles throughout a life dedicated to social justice.

His membership in and chairing of the board of directors of Smart Yards Education (SYE) serves as one of his later efforts in that regard. The SYE's mission is to transform conventional practices in urban gardens by offering practical and equitable educational programs on sustainable landscaping and worker cooperative business models. As chair of the SYE Board, the Rev. Rawlings reached out to funding agencies in Santa Clara County in order to offer hands-on training on a variety of sustainable landscaping techniques. "Chuck inspired me to go further, aim higher, be stronger," said Elizabeth Sarmiento, founder of Smart Yards Landscaping Cooperative and an ex-officio member of the SYE Board. "When invited to his memorial service, we wanted to pay tribute to him in a way that he would appreciate," she continues. SYE is the non-profit arm of the Smart Yards Cooperative, whose members designed and created this bench from reclaimed materials to be placed in the interior courtyard at Stone Church of Willow Glen, where Chuck was a long-time, well-known, and very respected member. "At his memorial service, we dedicated the bench to him, in recognition of his leadership and commitment to sustainability and

social justice." The effort to lift many families out of poverty into jobs as sustainable landscapers animated the

Reverend's later years. The words, by Elizabeth, "Let the justice he worked for be what we do" are etched on the bench plaque as a reminder that reflection must be followed by focused action in order to effect social

change. By following his example, visitors to the Stone Church courtyard are invited to sit, reflect, and then step up to serve, while remembering Chuck.



*Ruth and Elizabeth enjoy the Rawlings Bench*

## Sewing Bird Bags for San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

The [San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory](#) (SFBBO) gathers pertinent scientific data on various types of birds in and around our area. One of their methods is a Field Station where [bird banding](#) is conducted. **On October 19, 2019, Stone members are invited to help sew bird bags at Stone Church from 10:30am-2pm.** Non-sewers, beginning sewers, and those without sewing machines are welcome; we can use your help! We also could use your old, cleaned, gently used sheets if you are cleaning out your linens. Please contact [Michelle Walters](#) for more info. **(You can even see a bird banding demo on October 12! See pg. 6 for details!)**



## Being God's Hands

When the Stone Church Accompaniment Team learned of a local mother and daughter who needed help because the husband, Alfredo, had been detained by immigration authorities, we voted to walk with them on this journey. Since April 2019, church members have donated \$2000-\$2500/per month so the family could meet their basic needs. Members have provided tutoring for their daughter, Spanish language conversation and emotional support for the mother, Alma, and prayers. All have been gratefully received by the family and Alma asks God to bless us. The Executive Presbyterian of San Diego Presbytery also visited Alfredo. A detainee who is literate in English helped Alfredo to submit his paperwork for a court appeal after his first was unsuccessful. A guard at the detention center even gave Alfredo the contact information of an attorney in San Diego who has been successful in gaining bond for detainees. The journey has been hard.

Unfortunately, the journey has gotten even more difficult. Early on the morning of September 11, 2019, Alfredo was deported to Honduras, a country from which he fled 19 years ago. Alma and her daughter are devastated after feeling immensely hopeful. We will continue to support them. Alma is cleaning houses, but she is not currently earning enough to cover all her expenses. Donations from church members made to Stone Church with "Accompaniment Fund" in the memo line will help keep Alma and her daughter housed and fed while they attempt to cope. Please continue to hold Alfredo, Alma, and their daughter in your prayers for comfort, strength, and safety.

~ Rhonda Lakatos and Nicholas Hurley  
Accompaniment Team Leads

## Vacation Church School: Stone Church County Fair

by Mary Jo Blazek

We had 40 campers and 25 teen and adult helpers for this year's Vacation Church School, June 17-21, 2019.



During the week, the children explored the reality of God's love and gained a new understanding of caring, surrounded by God's word. Each day was filled with fun activities, such as incredible Bible learning experiences, team building games, cool songs, projects in our Blue Ribbon Room and of course yummy snacks. The experience helped kids to discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life - something we call *God Sighting*.



Mable and BBQ Bob came to visit with a problem that needed solving, but realized God had their backs with the fruits of the spirit; Growing Love, Planting Peace, Sprouting Joy, Producing Patience and Picking Kindness.

We even had a **bee keeper** come to share how important bees are to the environment. We learned a lot about bees. Do you know the female bees do all the work?!



Our mission project was to support **Heifer International**. This is an organization that assists families in need by providing them with farm animals that help sustain their living. Then in turn they share their offspring animals with their neighbors. Our goal was to raise enough money (\$500) to buy a Heifer cow. We were able to meet that goal and also provide an alpaca and a group of rabbits.



We celebrated the next Sunday at worship. The kids sang their camp songs, and we shared what we learned during that week. After worship we enjoyed a church BBQ and carnival games.

Thank you to all of the helpers and group leaders. It was an amazing week which brought God's love to life.



## Healthy Seminarians - Healthy Church



We are invited to join the co-founders of Healthy Seminarians – Healthy Church, Karen (who grew up in and was

ordained at Stone, and is the daughter of Jim Hagan) and Travis Webster, as they run their first 50k trail ultramarathon. Miles for Ministry is a fundraiser for HSHC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit and validated ministry of Trinity Presbytery (SC), so that they can continue improving the health and wellbeing of seminarians, clergy, and congregations through education, research, and advocacy.

*"Karen Hagan Webster has always been a woman with a unique spirit that God has put on a journey blessed with a variety of paths. I got to watch her grow up at Stone Church before she she took on the world. It is my privilege to endorse her and Travis as they take part in the ultra marathon on Oct. 5, 2019!" - Rosaleen Zisch*

*"Who wouldn't value such programs for seminarians that provides them with healthy choices and sends them out to minister to congregations healthy in body, mind, and spirit? Karen and Travis Webster have provided this opportunity through HSHC and deserve our support." - Claudia Hamm*



If you or somebody you know would consider a gift of any amount in honor of the 31 miles Karen and Travis will be running on October 5, please visit: <https://www.healthyseminarians-healthychurch.org/hshc50k/>, speak with Jim Hagan, or contact them [via e-mail](#).

## Liturgical Arts Celebrates Third Anniversary

by Jeanette Rapp



Liturgical Arts recently celebrated its third anniversary and the completion of our third Great Ends of the Church banner. I

had tentative designs to show for the next three banners and after eating we talked about those designs, what kind of fabric to look for, etc. There were 14 of us, plus guests, including the Rev. Irene Pak and the Rev. Marge Palmer, who recognized our artistic and meaningful work through interpretation of Christian symbolism in fabric arts.



**Left to right: Barbara Clark, Cheryl Bender, Diane Van Den Bosch, Carol Fritz Johnson, Sue Evans, Janice Goertz, Jeanette Rapp, Mary Johnson, Deborah Crim, Karen Scott, Kathleen Oliver, and Claudia Hamm**



All who like to sew, either by hand or machine, are invited to join this

group **every second Friday of the month, Room 1, downstairs at 1:30 PM**. Ringing a portable doorbell at the patio door entrance will bring someone up to let you in. No need to bring anything with you as everything needed is supplied, including sewing machines. Join us!

## Colnspire: Liberating Imagination, Eviscerating Racism, October 7-10, 2019

*A Montreat conference addressing systemic racism in the church*

In 2016, six people from Stone Church (Rev. Irene Pak Lee, Donald Foster, Nicholas Hurley, Judi Kaiser, Rhonda Lakatos, and Jennifer Scott-Brand) traveled across the country to the Montreat Conference Center (Montreat, NC) to attend the DisGRACE conference. We were challenged to think about racism in the U.S., and more specifically, racism in the church, and how we as Christians are called to respond.

In October of 2019, the Montreat Conference Center will host Colnspire, the second in this series of conferences addressing systemic racism in the church. In response to the racism and violence in our world, this event seeks to bring together people of faith in order to disarm prejudices that divide us and equip each other for practicing resurrection as new creations in Christ.

Colnspire will examine ways that we, as members of Christ's body, might co-inspire one another to liberate imagination for new ways of being, and examine ways we can conspire to eviscerate the racism within our church, our country, and our world.

The Revs. Irene Pak Lee & Sammie Evans have joined with several pastors and congregations from our Presbytery to embark on this journey together. If you would like to go or are interested in learning more, please contact the [Rev. Evans](#) or visit <https://montreat.org/colnspire>





**Thanking Mark for his service to Stone**



**Vacation Church School**



**Vacation Church School**



**Vacation Church School**



**Celebrating Irene**



**Rev. Bender Preaches in June**



**Bruce & Ida Celebrate 65 Years!**



**Jay and Sue Evans celebrate their 50th Anniversary in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico at Parque Fundadores. Jay proudly dons his Stone Church apparel for the occasion!**



**Triennium Sunday**



**Triennium Sunday**





*Triennium Sunday*



*Hurray for hand bells!*



*Shenshen delights with the pipa*



*June and Tab enjoy Salads of Summer*



*Flower arranging class*



*Mary Jo (aka Mable) leads VCS*



*Jody gets the close up*





## *The Stone News*

The Stone Church of Willow Glen  
 1937 Lincoln Avenue  
 San Jose, CA 95125-3499  
 408-269-1593  
[www.stonechurch.org](http://www.stonechurch.org)  
[stone\\_news@stonechurch.org](mailto: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*  
*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*  
*Sheri Cunningham - Presbyterian Women*  
*Bill Ribble - Men's Mission & Ministry*  
*Joanne Vliet – StoneNews Editor*

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<i>Kathy Stark</i>	<i>Fred Oliver</i>
<i>Claudia Hamm</i>	<i>Sue Williams</i>
<i>Rod Thorn</i>	<i>Julia Roberts</i>
<i>Mary Jo Blazek</i>	<i>Michelle Walters</i>
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