



JULY-AUGUST 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

⊕ A Letter from Your Pastor

We are well into the summer now and I pray all is well, whether it be with vacation, some time off, or bonus time with family and friends. Many of you know I spent the beginning weeks of my summer in Montreat, North Carolina, as the worship preacher for the Montreat Youth Conference, preaching to about 400 students the first week and 1,200 students the next. The theme this year was "Let Love Lead" and I had the wonderful opportunity to share that theme at the worship services held every night of the conference, Mon-Friday. I was also surrounded by a wonderful team of musicians, creatives, recreation folks, and keynoters who sought to work together to tie the daily themes in together from beginning to end.



Rev. Irene Pak Lee leading worship at the Montreat Youth Conference 2019

When I was first presented with this opportunity over a year ago, I was terrified and excited at the possibility of preaching to hundreds of high school youth. That terror and excitement did not go away as the time got closer, but only intensified, and continued throughout the two weeks and two conferences. Years ago, a mentor of mine told me that I SHOULD always be

nervous when I get ready to preach, because after all, "It is the Word of God!" It didn't make me feel better to hear that, but after doing something like this, I realize that she had it right. You see, I don't think it matters how old you are or what stage of life you're in. Proclaiming and sharing the good news of love, mercy, grace, justice and hope will always be our greatest privilege and our greatest challenge. It is exciting and terrifying because leading anything with love requires vulnerability, and this can be terrifying. Proclaiming hope and peace with justice can set us up for failure when we cannot predict exactly what that looks like or what the outcome will be. And yet, friends, we must continue to open ourselves to the faith that we have, the love we have received from our Creator, and dare to share that with others.

The biggest lesson and affirmation for me in doing something like this was how much we all need this good news over and over in our lives. We all need to hear that we are created in love, for love, to share love. My cup was overflowing by the end of each week hearing the stories of young people who shared their stories with me, dared to claim their own beloved identity and then feel empowered to share that with others.

(cont'd)



Artichoke bloom from the Children's Garden

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We made space to acknowledge the hard places, we didn't mince words or pretend that letting love lead us in our lives was easy. And I believe because we were honest in our proclamations from stage and from singing, all those receiving, including myself, left with a more sure sense of the connectional nature of the Church and the presence of God alive in our lives.

I feel like this way of being and living in faith is a good reminder for us as Stone Church of Willow Glen as well. May we claim our own beloved identity, feel empowered to share that with others, acknowledge those difficult places and share that with honesty so that we may feel more connected with one another as a family of faith.

I want to thank the Session of Stone Church for giving me the time away to do this exciting and terrifying thing. It was an affirming and wonderful experience and I look forward to sharing that with you this summer in my preaching. May we all remember and know that we are all empowered to share this exciting and terrifying good news, and as we do so, may we let love lead us in our sharing.

*With grace and love,
Irene*



Meet Our New Elders and Deacons!

Thank you to our newly elected class of Elders and Deacons who will begin a three-year term as officers of Stone Church, beginning this summer:

Elders



Dorothy Beamon -- I was born in Mobile, AL, the 9th of 12 children. We all attended church regularly. My

mother had to keep a close eye on us to keep us from spending our offering money at the candy store next door to the church. I moved to California in 1962, married, had my first daughter, and began working in the electronics field. Over the next 15 years, I worked for National Semiconductor, Hewlett Packard, and IBM. After getting pregnant with my second daughter, I left electronics, as I was worried about the effect the chemicals might have on my unborn child. I then opened up a daycare in my home, called it "Dot's for Tots", took classes in child development at De Anza College, and took care of up to twelve children along with my baby. Eventually I closed my child care business (those kids never wanted to go home!) and took a job with the Milpitas School District where I worked as a paraprofessional with preschoolers, kindergartners, and special needs children of all ages. I loved my job! Now in retirement, I keep busy with quilting, reading, fishing, & keeping track of my eleven grandchildren, & three great grandchildren. I was a member of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, and when it recently closed, I began church shopping. After a few visits to Stone, I felt I had found what I was looking for in a church home! I felt so welcome at Stone! I gladly

accepted an invitation to be an Elder at Stone Church as I have been trying to find a way to serve. I am hoping to help lead our church to our highest service to the Lord.



Tammy Coleman - I have lived in Willow Glen for the last 24 years with my husband, Bill and college age sons, Sean & Matthew. I

work as a management consultant focused on helping technology companies' marketing teams to develop their global customer strategies. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, gardening, snowboarding, yoga, cooking, wine, attending concerts, & watching hockey and basketball. Growing up my family were members of The Episcopal Church in California, Virginia, & Hawaii. Eight years ago, seeking a welcoming church community that our entire family would feel comfortable in and could encourage our faith journey, we found Stone Church, through friends from our sons' school, and immediately felt it was a fit for us. As a recent 'empty nester', when asked to accept a call to be an Elder I felt this was the right time for me to give back to the church community that has supported our family. I hope to lead the church in areas of greatest need in order to help the Stone Church community continue to thrive and grow.



Todd Davidson -- My lovely wife, Angie, and I have two daughters, Julia (20) & Sophie (18). Julia is studying in New York City, and Sophie will soon be on

her way to study in St. Andrews, Scotland. We've lived in Willow Glen since Sophie was a baby. I work for Adobe in our downtown SJ offices, doing business development work,

often with other large partner companies (e.g. Microsoft). My hobbies are music (I sing & play guitar & ukulele), and outdoor sports. And our whole family loves both the ocean, and the mountains. We are relative newcomers to Stone Church; we have been members for approximately three years (maybe a bit longer). I give the credit to Angie, for having heard and learned about Stone Church and wanting to become a part of the community. I'm sure she did a lot of her research from Alice McNelis, whose family are very good friends and have been since our kids were very young. There are many things I appreciate, but foremost is the inclusiveness and the encouragement for all of us to reflect on our purpose and our path as loving and caring members in a world that can use all of that we have. I'd like to learn and serve a bit more than I am, and this is an opportunity to get more involved and knowledgeable about the smaller communities within the broader Stone Church community. It's hard to be precise early on with accomplishments, so let's just start with the hope to contribute some energy and creativity to the causes and people I get to serve, and help set and guide plans to the betterment of our group(s) and those we serve.



Julie Ludwig - My family came to Stone Church, late 1960's, when my mother heard about this congregation while working with Mary Alice Collins. My parents had moved from Idaho, where my father was a minister, to California, where he eventually became a stockbroker. I grew up at Stone and joined when I was in 7th grade. As a teenager I worked Sunday mornings with Jennifer Scott (only one last name then), in the church nursery. I left for a while when I went to Davis for

college, and to Switzerland when I got married, but I always came back to Stone. My son Aubrey (15) was baptized here; he doesn't come to church much now, but he did attend for many years. I have been a 7th grade social studies teacher in Sunnyvale since 1996. I like to swim, and I feel motivated to do yoga weekly. I am in a fantastic Soul Feast/Book Group here at church. I have always wanted to be more involved with church but as a single parent working full time and active in my union, I didn't have the time to devote myself more to church. Also, for the past 20 years I was also involved with Zephyr Experience (Dean in 2018). I hope that I can take some of my leadership experience and contribute to our church community. I would love to see a place where children can play on Sunday mornings and maybe a second occasional guitar service like we had in the 60's.



Alice McNelis - I have been a member of Stone since 1997. It has been a wonderful place to grow spiritually and to raise my three children, Maddie (22), Aaron (20), & Charlotte (16). Some of my church life highlights include serving on StoneWorks, Education, & Nominating committees, enjoying snow & camping trips, Women's retreats, helping at our Men's & Women's shelters, welcoming refugee families, gathering with my Soul Feast sisters, shopping with youth who are experiencing homelessness, and being a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee. I work as a pediatric physical therapist at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford in the NICU, High Risk Infant & Down Syndrome clinics. I love to garden, cycle, hike, camp, travel, and spend time with my husband, Brian, and our children. Stone Church was

recommended to me by a prior pastor at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church where I attended as a teen. After visiting 4 or 5 other churches in the South Bay, I attended just one Stone service and knew I was in the right place. The service and music were inspiring, the members warm and the bulletin was packed full of activities that spoke to my heart. The balance of opportunities at Stone to take care of ourselves, each other, our community and the world have allowed me to experience God more fully. With much discernment, I was drawn to participate in the leadership of Stone Church. As I shift from many years of volunteering in my children's schools, I see the opportunity to give back to Stone Church in a new way. I look forward to working with Session to continue to make our church a warm, affirming church that is relevant and meaningful to current and future congregants.



Charlotte McNelis - I have been attending Stone Church since I was a baby, along with my older siblings, Maddie (22) & Aaron (20), and my parents, Alice & Brian. At 8 months old I was baptized here and confirmed in 2017. I loved going to vacation bible school, Parent's Day Out, and singing in the children's choir. As a sophomore at Lincoln High School, I am still participating in church activities such as youth group, family ski trips, & working in the church nursery on Sundays. I will be attending the Youth Triennium Conference this summer at Purdue University. In addition to being active at Stone, my time is filled with sports, such as track & volleyball, rigorous school work, & dance. I am biliterate & bilingual in Spanish & English. I also enjoy babysitting for the little members of our church. I came to Stone Church along with the

rest of my family, but as the years have passed I have grown to figure out why my parents chose this church in the first place. I have come to see that it is a place of great acceptance, filled with caring and loving people. It has created a constant community in my life in which I am very grateful to have grown up. I have found many friends and continue to make more. Church feels like a second home to me as I have spent so much of my childhood attending the events and fun activities. I believe serving as an Elder will give me the best opportunity to give back to Stone Church. As the youth elder, I will also be able to provide a different and youthful perspective to the leadership of our church.



Mike Raby-Brown
- My witty husband, William, and I joined Stone Church in 2011. We got married here in 2013, performed by

Rev Ken. I was born Deaf, due to unknown causes, and use American Sign Language. I was raised in a conservative Southern Baptist Christian family in Florida. I went to the Central Bible College in Missouri to obtain BA in Bible, and then, in 1982, went to New York University to obtain MA in Deafness Rehabilitation. I told my family members who I was as a gay man, before I met William at the Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf Conference in July, 1989, I moved to California, and we have lived together since 1990. After 22 years, I retired from the State of California, Department of Rehabilitation, as a Rehabilitation Counselor. My precious in-laws, Ida & Bruce Raby, twisted my arm to join Stone Church and I have been a member since 2013. I enjoy being active: as an usher; teaching some songs in ASL; cleaning the church; greeting anyone so they feel welcome; and have been a member of

the Membership and Communication since 2015. I wanted to do more for Stone Church to grow and be open and accepting.

Deacons



Sue Evans - I have been a member of Stone Church for approximately 48 years. My husband, Jay, and I have two daughters and we have four grandchildren. Jody

and her family live here in San Jose, and Karen and her family live in New York City. I hail from Alexandria, Virginia and worked there for Georgetown University Medical School, then for a cardiologist. After taking a trip across the States, I took a job with a sociologist in San Francisco. When our girls were growing up I took a job break until they were in middle and high school when I started working for the school district as a librarian's assistant, which I very much enjoyed. I enjoy sewing, quilting, gardening, reading, playing bridge and mahjongg. I volunteer in the church library putting the books into the computer system. I also volunteered in the coffee sales before it recently closed down and have been helping the Liturgical group with the beautiful hangings in the church. I like keeping busy. When Jay and I moved to San Jose, we visited several Presbyterian churches and settled upon Stone Church. We felt that Stone had the background and the people we could enjoy. We were very impressed with Pastor Beamer at that time. I joined a Circle Bible Study and eventually the PW. I am always amazed at how Stone keeps abreast of all the Activities it encounters daily. Years ago, I became a deacon even though I didn't know that many people, and enjoyed the opportunity to serve by visiting the shut-ins and



Steven Graham - I was born and raised in Los Gatos. I was baptized and raised in the Presbyterian Church on Shannon Road. While my mom taught

Sunday school and served as a deacon, I slid down the halls in stocking feet and helped create the tiled mosaic murals that hang on the classroom buildings (I worked on Jonah and the Whale). I earned a Construction Management degree from Chico State and spent 23 years housing the growing Silicon Valley tech industry. My wife, Jocelyn, and I moved to Willow Glen in 2003 and found our new church home at Stone shortly after our son Jet was born. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that the little stone church on the corner where friends had often played the bagpipes was Presbyterian. My days are now spent as Jet's primary caregiver, advocate, and father. Best job I've ever had. While Jet is in school I enjoy cycling and swimming. I have served as elder here at Stone in the past and look forward embracing the role of deacon. I have never been much of a spectator, preferring instead to be more directly involved in my chosen activities whether at church, PTA at Jet's schools, my cycling club or civic groups. This allows me to advocate for Jet, ensuring a good experience for him. This also requires engaging with more people which broadens and enhances my experiences. I look forward to serving the Stone Church community in a new way, and creating and strengthening friendships and relationships.



Jim Hagan - Since retirement in 2004, I travel overseas about once a year in addition to visiting both of my kids, in opposite corners of the US, and three grandchildren. I participate in the Men's Mission, Hiking, and Bridge groups. I have been on session two times and Deacons four times as well as singing in the choir for over 30 years. I am also currently a Westminster Woods Board member. I married and moved to Willow Glen in 1975. I have been a lifelong Presbyterian, so it was just a good fit to join Stone in 1976 before our daughter was born. I have decided my gifts lie with helping people whether as an active Deacon or not. Being a Deacon provides a structured way for me to be involved.



Jan Keifer - I was raised in the Northern Baptist denomination in Maine and joined the Presbyterian Church when Jerry and I married 60 years ago. We have two daughters, a son-in-law, and four grandchildren. For a number of years I was employed as an executive assistant in the semiconductor industry but am now retired and enjoy walking, visiting, gardening and FaceTime conversations with grandchildren who are away from Silicon Valley. I chose Stone Church because it is inclusive, is involved with many outreach programs and has an excellent choir. During my twenty-three years of membership, I have participated in the Stephen Ministry program, Deacons, Soul Feast and PW as a Circle Leader and the Hudspeth Trust Mission Secretary. I am a retired Stephen Minister but continue to feel the program has had some real consequence in my own life and the

lives of those it touches. I will endeavor to be a faithful Deacon.



Jodi (and Kelsey) Lax - I am married and have 2 children. Dave was born and raised in California and we

met after I moved here from Wisconsin. Alison is 15 years old and goes to school at WGHS. Kelsey is 13 years old and will go to WGHS next year. They both participate in multiple activities and have an active social life that keeps us busy. I began teaching in Milwaukee, Wisconsin right after college and moved to California in 1997 when I began working for San José Unified. My family and work are my "hobbies". Making sure that my family has what they need comes first. Second is doing everything I can to improve outcomes for students. I grew up going to church; some of my first memories are of church. My mother has always been very involved, she worked at the churches that we belonged to and served on committees. The congregation was my second family when my parents divorced, and I taught Sunday school throughout middle & high school. Fittingly, that is where my mother met my step-father.

When Dave and I had our first child, I intended to join a church, but kept putting it off. My kids read junior bibles and we talked about God and religion, but we didn't go beyond that. Thirteen years later, Kelsey expressed the desire to go to church. I had heard from friends that Stone Church was a welcoming, positive community so we decided to attend. Within a month, we wanted to join.

I would like to become more involved in the positive work that Stone Church leads. I believe becoming a Deacon will help me to build stronger

relationships with members that will enable me to support members and the larger community.

Kelsey Lax - I have a sister and two cats. My grandparents and cousins are mostly in Wisconsin, but I have some family in Northern California. My hobbies include volleyball, field hockey and basketball. Next fall I will be a 9th grader at Willow Glen High School. I have been going to Stone Church for more than a year. I was baptized last April and joined the church through Confirmation. I was the one who encouraged my mom to take me to church. I have loved coming to Stone Church since the first day we walked in and enjoy helping in Sunday school. I wanted to learn more about the Lord and religion could help and affect my life. When I asked my mom to take me to church, she chose Stone Church. My mom grew up as a Presbyterian so that is part of why she chose it. Being a youth deacon would be great because I would like to see how Stone Church functions so I could find new ways to help.



Scott Nelson - My name is Scott Nelson. I have been married to Sabine for 15 years, and our son Cheyne is a 7th grader at Willow Glen Middle School (I

also attended this school when it went by the name of Markham Junior High). I also have an adult son from a previous marriage, Travis, who is a Carpenter in Hawaii, where he was raised – my home of over 20 years. I met Sabine when I was a single father in Hawaii, while she was on vacation visiting from Alsace, France. We met at my Church, Calvary by the Sea Lutheran Church, where I was serving as Youth Minister after attending the Wartburg Theological Seminary for Youth Ministry in Dubuque, IA. Cheyne was born in Hawaii, and when

he was in his Kindergarten, we moved to Sabine's home village in Alsace, Schillers Dorf. After living in France for several years I returned to my old Willow Glen stomping grounds to help my parents. My Father, a retired Teacher of 43 years has Alzheimer's, and my Mother needed support. Initially I was going back and forth between Alsace and California, which made Substitute Teaching a perfect job. Now that Sabine and Cheyne have joined me, and we are settled in to our home, a couple of blocks from my parents', I am seeking a "real job", either in Education, utilizing my PPS Credential and Master of Education degree in the study of Counseling Psychology. I am also looking in the field of Corporate Security/Risk Management, applying my professional experience in investigations and paralegal work. These days we have very little spare time. Cheyne plays Soccer on a travelling Soccer Team – currently ranked 12th in the nation. This is quite a commitment for the entire family. When we have spare time, we enjoy hiking, going to the beach/surfing, or going on day trips taking advantage of much of that which California has to offer. I came to Stone Church while "Church shopping" when I returned to California. I had visited here as a child, and one Sunday I remembered a positive impression from these childhood days. When Sabine arrived, we attended together and found the congregation to be the "Church family" we were looking for. My decision to serve comes as a result of our commitment to our Faith. My hope is to contribute to maintaining the environment that makes Stone the inclusive, welcoming Church home to all. I am aware that as with any institution, Stone is confronted with challenges, and I hope to offer a fresh perspective to enhance the established traditions to meet the needs of these challenges.



Nancy Paul - I am a second grade teacher in the Oak Grove School District. In my free time I like to read, hike, travel and participate in local politics. Originally from Michigan, as well as time in Washington DC and in the Marshall Islands as a Peace Corps Volunteer, I have lived in San Jose for 20 years. I was raised Presbyterian. I found Stone Church by googling progressive Christianity. I like Stone Church because of the traditional service but also because they show that action in the community is just as important as worshipping. I look forward to serving as a deacon and being part of Stone Church's mission.

Lincoln House Renovation Team

If you have expertise or experience in dealing with construction, Stone Church could use your help as member of a committee that will work with the project manager, which Session will retain. The project manager will represent the interests of our congregation during the construction process and work with the team. If you'd like to be on the team, email your contact info to office_manager@stonechurch.org, and a member of Session will be in touch with you.



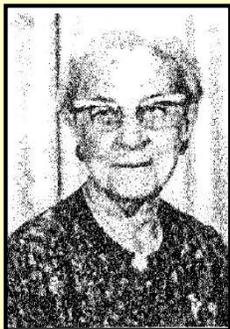
Capital Campaign for Lincoln House Underway



Stone Church is currently conducting a capital campaign in support of Lincoln House. Interested in learning more about this effort? The campaign aims to repair Lincoln House (aka, the church office) and fund a major mission project. The 90+ year old Lincoln House is showing signs of significant stress, especially in its foundation, the result of its age, poor drainage, and damage from the row of trees that were planted along the north wall long ago, then removed a few years ago. In a building located in an earthquake zone, it has visible gaps in foundation footings, a sagging building corner, cracked stucco, and cracked, unstable walls. In addition to these structural problems, the large, single-pane windows are poor insulators, contributing to its high heating and cooling costs, and cosmetic repairs are needed to walls and floors. Such repairs are beyond the scope of our annual budget, hence the need for the Campaign. 10% of the funds raised will also be set aside for mission work.

We are still accepting pledges! Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to help our church with this undertaking. More at www.stonechurch.org/capital-campaign. You can also find a list of frequently asked questions on the page.

Scholarship Announcement



Presbyterian Women (PW), as trustees of the Hudspeth Trust, are once again offering a limited number of college scholarships to those continuing college or entering college in undergraduate programs in the fall. If you are thinking about your college funding, you might consider applying for a PW scholarship. The forms are in the PW box in the church office. The scholarship application needs to be completed and we request a one-page essay about your plans and goals plus a letter of recommendation from someone other than a relative who is connected to Stone Church.

If you have any questions, please contact [Jan Keifer](#). **Deadline is Monday, July 15.** We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Seniors in Transition

Seniors in Transition (S.I.T.) will meet on **Thurs, July 25th** (11am - noon) in the church library. As a framework for our time together, come ready to share a book or two that you've read that had a lasting impact on you and why. Let's share our recommendations with one another. Everyone is welcome! Questions, contact the Rev. Irene Pak Lee (Irene_pak@stonechurch.org).

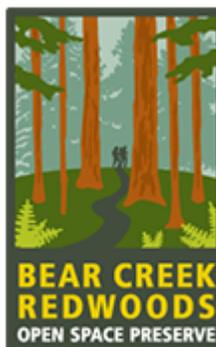
Trailwalkers

After several canceled hikes due to weather, Trailwalkers have been thrilled to hit the trails without rain or



too-hot temperatures. On May 18, we hit just the right window between two rain showers for a 4-mile hike at Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve. Never mind that Julia Roberts, far right, decided to run rather than walk, and was awarded extra credit points for lapping the rest of us twice. Then on June 22, we chose a shady out-and-back route for 4.2 miles along the Skyline Trail from Saratoga Gap and stayed cool despite rising temps in San Jose.

In July, we plan to hike at the recently opened Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve which boasts a grove of old growth redwood trees. Watch for details in a Sunday bulletin!



Calling All Veterans!

As a special feature to our November/December 2019 Stone Church News, we would like to feature the service and sacrifice of the veterans of Stone Church. If you, or your loved ones, would like to share reflections in the Stone News, please email Stone_News@stonechurch.org, with your name, and dates/branch of service, and a member of the Membership & Communications Committee will follow up with you to collect your reflections.



Stone Church to Host 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). 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.

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, U.S. House of Representatives, CA-19

**Town Hall Meeting
Sunday, July 21, 2019, 11am
Stone Church**



Zoe Lofgren has been a member of the United States House of Representatives since 1995. She represents the 19th District of California, based in the "Capital of Silicon Valley," San Jose.

After graduating from Stanford, she attended Santa Clara University School of Law, graduating cum laude in 1975. While practicing and teaching immigration law, she was first elected to the San Jose Evergreen Community College Board in 1979. In 1980, she was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors where she served for 14 years. Following Congressman Don Edwards' retirement in 1994 after 32 years in Congress, Zoe was elected to the House of Representatives. She currently serves on the House Judiciary Committee, the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, and the Committee on House Administration.

As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, and a former immigration attorney and immigration law professor, Lofgren is recognized as an established champion of top-to-bottom immigration reform and a national leader in immigration policy. Lofgren is also known for her work on patent reform, copyright issues, digital rights, and net neutrality. Lofgren also serves as Chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation.

Stone Church is fortunate to host Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren for a **Town Hall meeting on Sunday July 21, at 11 AM.** Stone Church itself lies right within Lofgren's district.

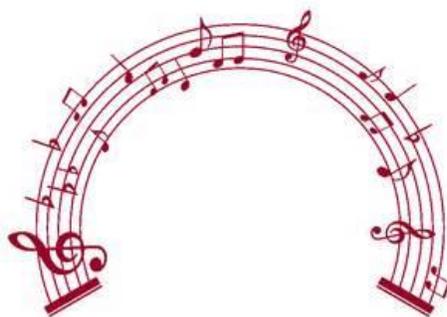
Mark your calendars; then, on meeting day, bring your questions and concerns. The possibilities are exciting!

American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation will be provided at this event.

~ Rod Thorn, for Stone Works

Thank you, Mark Bruce!

While our much-loved organist, Mark Bruce, will be leaving in July, planning is underway through the Personnel and Administration Committee to undertake a search for another special and gifted individual to fill this critical liturgical role. Stay tuned to the Weekly Update, the Stone News, and Church Bulletins, for more information in the weeks ahead. **Please join us on July 21, 2019, for a celebration of Mark's time at Stone Church.**



Sacred Heart Food Donation

We've collected 1,276 lbs so far in 2019 and are on track to meet our end-of-year donation total of 2,500 lbs!

*Every month on Communion Sunday we collect and donate food for Sacred Heart Community Services. 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.*

(Thank you for avoiding glass jars to avoid breakage in transport.)



Upcoming donation Sundays are:
August 4
September 1
October 6

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 has a full schedule of activities taking place this fall. Join us at one or all of these upcoming programs!

Camp Daybreak 2019: We have scheduled a one day work trip to Daybreak on **September 21**. The camp is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains in Felton, CA. This Christian camp serves diverse groups of campers from around the Bay Area. Projects we undertake range from building decks, repairs to various buildings, and maintenance requirements. As of this writing, the work project is still undecided. This trip is open to all adults and we are hoping to have a robust signup by women who have expressed an interest in work trips.



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.



Kim Welsh, San Jose Deputy City Manager; member, Stone Church

Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley (DATE CHANGE!)

October 19, 2019, is the new date for the RTSV Rebuilding Day. Stone Church is sponsoring a project again this year and we will be putting together a team of 15-20 people to help a low income or disabled person.

Projects focus on safety and sustainability for the homeowner and typically involve light construction, cleanup, painting, and other maintenance functions. This is important work which helps maintain low income housing, manufactured homes (mobile) in particular. Mobile home parks, a last bastion of low income housing, have strict rules which homeowners need to follow and RTSV helps those homeowners who are unable to maintain their homes. Watch for more information.



From the Reading Nook

by Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

Summer's a great time to enjoy some new books. Our committee recommends these:

New in the Children's Chapel Library:

- * *Mr. Bear's Picnic* by Debi Gliori (1st Bks Gli)
- * *Look and Learn Farm* (1st Bks Loo)
- * *The Mountain That Loved a Bird* by Alice McLerran (J McL)
- * *The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children's Stories* (J 220 Beg)
- * *Noah's Swim-a-Thon* by Ann Koffsky (J 296.3 Kof)
- * *Hummingbirds: A Beginner's Guide* by Laurel Aziz (J 598.7 Azi)
- * *Vegetables in the Garden* by Pascale deBourgoing (J 635 deB)
- * *Who Comes to the Watering Hole?* by Colleen Bare (J 599 Bar), given by Sheri Cunningham

Additions in Lincoln House:

- * *Spider's Nest: Watch It Grow* by Kate Scarborough (YA 595 Sca)
- * *12,000 Religious Quotations* ed. by Frank Mead (o80 Mea)
- * *Creating a Life: Finding Your Individual Path* by James Hollis (155.2 Hol)
- * *Genesis: A New Translation of the Classic Texts* by Stephen Mitchell (222 Mit)
- * *The Language of God* by Francis Collins (291.1 Col)
- * *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders & How They Changed America 1789-1989* by Michael Beschloss (973 Bes), given by Chuck Rawlings
- * *Cancer: Now What? Taking Action, Finding Hope, & Navigating the Journey*

Ahead by Kenneth Haugk (Spec. Needs 616.9 Hau), given by Stephen Ministry of Stone Church

* *Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism & Wrecked the Middle Class* by Ian Haney Lopez (Soc. Iss. 323 Lop), given by Chuck Rawlings

* *The Second Amendment: A Biography* by Michael Waldman (Soc. Iss. 344 Wal), given by Charlotte Dickson

* *The Coming* by David Osborne (a best-selling non-fiction writer who grew up in Stone Church) (Fic Osb), given by Claudia Hamm

* *Uncle Tungsten: Memories of a Chemical Boyhood* by Oliver Sacks (Biog SACKS)

Create Your Own Flower Arrangement - July 27, 2019

If you've admired the lovely flower arrangements that Diane VanDenBosch often does at church, or wondered how to make your own creations look as professional, then this M&C-sponsored event is for you! Diane will hold a lesson on **Sat, July 27th (10am-12pm)** in the Social Hall. Flowers and greenery will be provided; a \$5 donation is requested to cover some costs. You will leave with your own beautiful creation! Sign-up today or contact [Lizanne Oliver](#).



Session Reports

by Julia Roberts

Below is a summary of the Session Meeting in May 2019:

- Approved a recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee to change insurance carriers.
- Approved a motion brought by Personnel and Administration to fund health insurance for the Office Manager position.
- Received the list of Elder and Deacon nominees for next year, in advance of Sunday's congregational meeting.



Committee reports

- **Membership & Communications** is contemplating a small group option targeted towards newer members/visitors, and is planning several fun summer social activities. The Committee is also undertaking a project to interview veterans at Stone Church, to coincide with Veterans Day.
- **Christian Education** reported plenty of positive feedback from the youth-led worship service.
- **StoneWorks** is excitedly planning Service Sunday, on June 9.
- **Personnel and Administration** is working on improving the facility use request process, and is creating an onboarding manual for new employees.
- **Deacons** had a busy holiday season and continue to do lots of helping

work through Stone Cares and the prayer chain.

- **Building & Grounds** - cheerfully reports no current major maintenance needs, and has plans to re-grout the patio and install a new railing on the east side of the church.
- **Stephen Ministry** will be welcoming two new Stephen Ministers who are about to complete their training.
- **Presbyterian Women** raised almost \$1000 from the sales of Mother's Day cards, most of which will go to Lifted Spirits; has donated \$2000 to help support our youth attending Triennium this summer; and is planning the next human trafficking picket and an upcoming spring picnic.



Summer Cookout: a Feast for the Ages!



A busy week of Vacation Church School ended on June 28 with a tasty cookout after church! Over 100 hungry folks enjoyed burgers and hot dogs grilled in the back yard by members of the Men's Ministry. The social hall and patio were buzzing with conversation while everyone enjoyed the grilled items, as well as many delicious salads and desserts provided by members.

Thanks to the volunteer grill masters, the many hands who helped in the kitchen, and everyone who brought a dish or just attended for the social connection, the cookout was a great way to kick off the summer!

~Lizanne Oliver

Mark your calendars and bring your favorite creation for Summer Salad Sunday, on July 28, 2019!

Painting, Lunching & Fellowship

Longtime members, June and Tab Tablak, and Christy Wait, have recently been enjoying some "painting and lunching fellowship" at the Tablak home. Just one of the many reasons Stone Church is a special place, so full of lovely – and talented! – people.



Our Three Sisters' Garden



In church school, this spring, the children continued their work on the garden. Mary Jo led them in learning about how to plant a Three Sisters Garden. Never heard of a Three Sisters Garden? Read on!

A Three Sisters Garden is an ancient method of gardening using an intercropping system which grows corn, beans, and squash crops simultaneously in the same growing area that is typically a rounded mound of soil, often called a hill.

Corn is the oldest sister. She stands tall in the center.

Squash is the next sister. She grows over the mound, protecting her sisters from weeds and shades the soil from the sun with her leaves, keeping it cool and moist.

Beans are the third sister. She climbs through squash and then up corn to bind all together as she reaches for the sun. Beans help keep the soil fertile by converting the sun's energy into nitrogen filled nodules that grow on its roots. As beans grow they use the stored nitrogen as food.





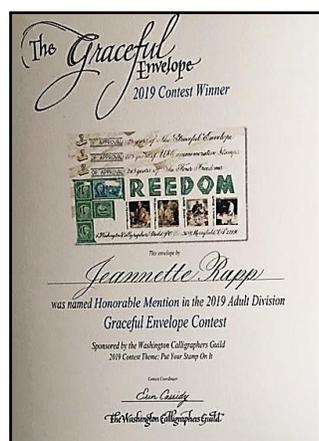
Saying goodbye to one of our beloved deaf interpreters, Amber Marince, who is moving



Thanking Amber



Shenshen delights us with the pipa



Jeanette honored for her submission for the Graceful Envelope Contest, run by the [Washington Calligraphers' Guild](#)



Kids in the tree gathering plums



June and Tab



Montreat 2019



Montreat Worship Team 2019



Ida interprets on VCS Sunday



Mary Jo Leads VCS 2019



VCS Sunday 2019



VCS Sunday 2019



VCS Sunday 2019



Summer Barbecue June 2019



Summer Barbecue June 2019



Rev. LeClaire in worship



Elaborate narthex decorations in celebration of VCS Sunday



Trinity Sunday 2019

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

Stone News Contributors:

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Rev. David McCreath	Jennifer Scott-Brand
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Carol Johnson Fritz	Sue Williams
Rod Thorn	Julia Roberts
Mary Jo Blazek	Christy Wait
Jeanette Rapp	Phil Curtis
The Deacons	The Elders

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Kathy Stark	The Hon. Zoe Lofgren
Mary Jo Blazek	The Hudspeth Family
Christy Wait	Diane VanDenBosch
The Deacons	The Elders