



# The Stone News

JANUARY – MARCH 2020

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## ✠ Finding Belonging in the Wilderness

Dear Church Family,

As you know by now, our Session leadership made the difficult and thoughtful decision to be proactive and provide direction to protect the health and safety of our congregation and staff and have decided to move our worship services solely online through and including Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, in light of COVID-19/Coronavirus.

I am sure that each one of us is experiencing a range of emotions in light of this information and this ever changing pandemic that has affected our nation and city and now our church. We are definitely navigating new territory and in this Lenten season, walking through a wilderness that we have not journeyed through before.

There is a part of me that sees the poetic aspect of this situation. No longer is our Lenten journey in the wilderness hypothetical, but it is very real. And in these days where we are being encouraged to be physically apart, we need to find new and creative ways of belonging and connection.

I hope each of us will utilize and participate in the **Facebook livestreaming** that will happen on **Sunday mornings at 9:30AM** <https://www.facebook.com/stonechurchwg> or by going to the Stone Church website at <https://www.stonechurch.org>.

If you miss that time frame, the service will be available anytime afterward as well through the church website.

Perhaps this is also an opportunity for us to write a letter of gratitude for someone in the congregation and let them know what it is you appreciate about them and the ways in which they've given you life. There are a lot of ways to connect digitally, but personal letters are always meaningful. I would encourage your creativity in ways to connect as meaningfully as we can in these days and would welcome your ideas to share as well. Please continue to reach out to one another and your neighbors through phone calls, texts, e-mails and video chats. We will get through this wilderness time together!

Trusting that our lives are in God's hands, we will continue to worship God, put feet to our prayers, love our  
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neighbors, and live with faith that our journey in the wilderness will lead us to the Promised Land. Resurrection will still come!

In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, or if you would like to talk to a pastor, feel free to reach out to myself or to Revs. Sammie, David, and Sharon.

Now be at peace, and wash your hands. With grace and hope for the journey ahead,

~Pastor Irene

## Lenten Season & Easter at Stone Church

**All services every Sunday held via Facebook livestream!**

**\*No Facebook Account Needed\***

<https://www.facebook.com/stonechurchwg>

**or, go to the Stone Church website at:**

<https://www.stonechurch.org>

**Palm Sunday, April 5,**  
9:30-10:30am (livestream)

**Maundy Thursday, April 9,**  
7:30pm worship (livestream)

**Easter Sunday, April 12**  
Sunrise Service: 6:30-7:30am (livestream)  
Traditional Worship: 9:30-10:30am (livestream)

## Anointing with Prayer

The pastors of Stone Church have renewed the practice of anointing with prayer following Sunday morning services; **at present it is offered once a month, on the second Sunday following communion Sunday. (Will be offered once services resume.)**

Anointing is an ancient Biblical tradition. Kings, prophets, and priests were anointed, usually by pouring fragrant oil over the head. We don't use oil; instead, we used a fragrant balm, drawing the sign of the cross on a person's forehead.

Anointing, as we use it, is an indication of God's constant grace, and God's blessings. Through anointing, persons who are distressed, or confused, or uncertain about situations in life are reminded that God's Spirit is constantly at hand to offer confidence and hope. The concerns are lifted to God in a short prayer, asking for God's Spirit to clarify the way ahead, and to bring comfort in the days ahead.

Anointing is offered to any person worshipping at Stone Church. It is an opportunity to ask God for a moment of peace, and to be reassured that God's Spirit is present with us.

~ The Rev. Dr. David McCreath

## Deaf Ministry Movie Night



Our Deaf Ministry group hosted dinner and a movie on Saturday, March 7, in the Social Hall. Those attending enjoyed a fun, family gathering featuring the Disney classic, *Frozen*. Thanks to our Deaf Ministry group for putting together this entertaining evening!

~Lizanne Oliver



## Community Mission Table

by Claudia Hamm

We hope you have noticed (and visited) the Community

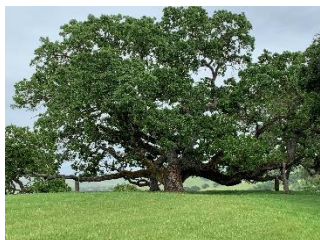
Mission Table (sponsored by Presbyterian Women) that began in November 2019 and takes place on the second Sunday of each month, following worship, in the Social Hall. We feel having one



organization each month gives members time to find out more about each organization rather than having a one-time Mission Fair as we have had in past years. To date, we have hosted Recovery Cafe, Rose Academies, and Front Door Communities. Coming up will be Immanuel House, SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), and Sunday Friends. The Community Mission Table will continue through June 2020 and then begin again in the fall. Volunteers from the organizations have been pleased with the responses they have gotten: offers to volunteer and sign-ups for e-mail lists. Thank you for meeting the volunteers and welcoming them to our community!



## Annual Women's Retreat April 24-26th, 2020 St. Francis Retreat Center San Juan Bautista, CA



*The Great Oak Tree at St. Francis Retreat Center*

Rev. Beverly Brewster, of Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo, CA, will lead us on Jesus' life and teachings from

the four gospels: grounded in His sacred connection to, and respect for, Creation. Email the church office at [office\\_manager@stonechurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonechurch.org), or pick up a form in the office. It's always a great way to meet new people, reconnect, and spend a weekend.

## Healing Prayer Circle

All are welcome on the 2nd and 4th Sundays (3-4:15pm in the Sanctuary) where we'll meditate together and consciously focus on sending this gathered energy and love to those in need. *(Will be offered once services resume.)*

## Lenten Book Group with Pastor Irene

Join the Rev. Irene Pak Lee in a 5-week Lenten book group discussion. We'll read "How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi. **Meeting dates are Mar 11th, 18th, 25th; and April 1st & 8th.** *Contact Pastor Irene for information on virtual gatherings: [Irene\\_Pak@stonechurch.org](mailto:Irene_Pak@stonechurch.org).*

## Hudspeth Trust Scholarships



Each year Presbyterian Women's Hudspeth Trust offers scholarships for undergraduate college students. If you are beginning to

think about your college funding because you recently received your acceptance letter from the college of your choice or are returning to college for another year, then you might want to consider applying for one of the scholarships. The forms are in the PW box in the church office and the **deadline this year is Wednesday, July 15, 2020**, for receipt of your application plus a letter of recommendation from a church friend. Questions? Contact Jan Keifer at [keiferjj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keiferjj@sbcglobal.net).

## People Like Us



On the first Friday of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the church library, Rev. Sharon LeClaire will lead a meet-up titled

"People Like Us." The class is a support and discussion group and is for those who are struggling with mental health issues. It's open to people with a diagnosis (Copers) as well as their friends and loved ones (Supporters). We'll talk about readings from Sharon's book and learn how to share and support each other. The get together will come complete with snacks! *Contact Pastor LeClaire for information on virtual gatherings: [sharon\\_leclaire@stonechurch.org](mailto:sharon_leclaire@stonechurch.org).*

## Membership Inquiry Luncheon Sunday, May 17, 2020

Learn about Stone Church, meet great people, and find out how Presbyterianism differs from other faiths on Sunday, May 17, 11am-1pm, lunch provided. This is a "no pressure" gathering to help attendees explore the process of becoming members as well as answer questions related to what Presbyterians believe. Contact the office at 408-269-1593 or email [office\\_manager@stonechurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonechurch.org). Childcare will be provided, if requested. All are welcome!



## Epiphany Tea

Presbyterian Women hosted an Epiphany Tea at Stone Church on January 5, 2020. The annual event was attended by 35 who enjoyed a lovely afternoon of fellowship.







## Wine Tasting & Auction: February 8, 2020



The Wine Tasting & Auction which took place February 8, sold out again this year. There was brisk bidding, while

auctioneers Craig and Jody provided their usual banter with bidders and with each other. It was a fun-filled evening with many raffle items in addition to the auction items.

The wines were from the Coterie Winery, Testarosa Winery, J Lohr Winery and the Ribble Family Winery. There was Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot



Noir, Syrah, Viognier, Chardonnay, and a red blend. Auction items included a weekend getaway at Pinecrest, a number of ethnic dinners for 4-6 people, Giants tickets, and other

experiences. Raffle items included interesting bottles of wine, special crafts made by Stone Church members, Emily's famous cake, more Giants tickets, etc.

The event raised \$7,000 for the mission partners of the MMM and Stone Church.



Representatives of Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley, Camp Daybreak, and Cameron House told the attendees stories about their work in the community.

Gratitude goes out to the leadership of the event which consists of the following people (and their teams):

- **Intake:** Lizanne Oliver
- **Babysitting:** Kiki & Morgan Lord
- **Decorations:** Diane Van Den Bosch
- **Setup:** Leland Wong
- **Auction Items:** John Lococo
- **Live Auction:** Craig Bowers & Jody Meacham
- **Finances:** Ruth McCreath
- **Food:** Mary Johnson
- **Cleanup:** Stephen Lord
- **CoChairs:** Gary Fritz & Bill Ribble

## Westminster Woods Men's Retreat: Life on the Second Mountain

Westminster Woods held its second annual Men's Retreat on February 21-23 at the conference center near Sebastapol. The leader was the Rev. Henry Hansen, pastor of the Bidwell Presbyterian Church in Chico, CA. The topic was taken from a book by David Brooks, The Second Mountain. Brooks writes that the first mountain is the one for success and self-fulfillment. He writes that the second mountain is a commitment to key areas of life that give us deep roots for character and strength.

## Men's Book Group

The Men's Book Group has selected books for reading and discussion, as well as hosts, through 2020. The Book Group meets on the third Monday of the month, beginning at 7:00pm. All men of Stone Church are welcome to join for the discussions. ([Contact David McCreath](#) in advance of each meeting to confirm meeting status.)

**March 16:** Sea Stories, by William McRaven. Art Holtz, host

**April 20:** To End a Presidency, by Laurence Tribe and Joshua Matz. Rod Thorn, host

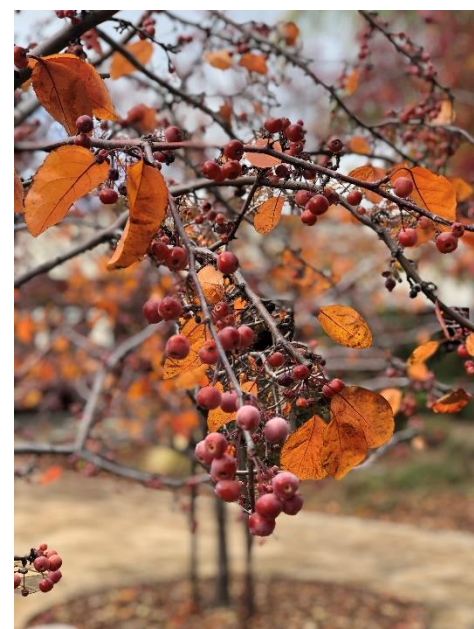
**May 18:** Running Against The Devil, by Rick Wilson. Bill Lakatos, host

**August 17:** The Chinese in America, by Iris Chang. Host TBD

**September 21:** The Library Book, by Susan Orlean. David McCreath, host

**October 19:** Slaughterhouse Five, by Kurt Vonnegut. Bill Ribble, host

**November 16:** Unbelievable, by John Shelby Spong. Bruce Raby, host





## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: *Connected in Love*

by Charlotte Dickson

Our congregation has been so very blessed by our participation in the now-annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. This most recent one was no exception. Held at the nearby United Methodist Church of Willow Glen, the number of different faith groups represented was truly astounding. It included people from Temple Emanu-El, Islamic Networks Group (ING), the Mormons, and a number of other Eastern and Middle Eastern religious groups, and other Christian churches in the area. Following the theme of "Connected in Love," the calls to worship/prayer, scripture readings, and music were offered in the language of each group. And the congregation as a whole connected in singing, "Ubi Caritas" (Where God is there is love). Meaningful thoughts about the theme were offered by leaders of the groups, including our own Pastor Sammie and our recent speaker at worship, Rabbi Dana. The ING Youth Speaker was particularly powerful in his remarks about our need to connect with each other in these days. Following the service, we all gathered in the large social hall of the church to sit at tables and share the pies that had been brought by the people. This year we were encouraged to use this social time to reach out to someone of another faith and engage in conversation with them, using this extraordinary opportunity to deepen our

relationships, connecting in love. Many commented on how valuable and delightful that was. Second Harvest Food Bank received a significant donation of cans of food from those who attended. Another connection in love. What a wonderful way to add a special addition to the meaning of Thanksgiving. We are all looking forward to the next one.

Participating Organizations Included:

- Willow Glen United Methodist Church
- Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
- San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
- Teen Interfaith Council of Santa Clara
- St. Francis Episcopal Church, Willow Glen
- St. Martin of Tours Parish
- Stone Church of Willow Glen
- Temple Emanu-El
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Evergreen Mosque
- Islamic Network Group
- Holy Family Episcopal Church, San Jose
- The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Jose
- Sathya Sai International Organization
- Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
- And other local faith organizations

## The Virtual Offering Plate: *Pledging Outside of Services*

During this time when we are unable to gather in person, please consider continuing your pledge in the following ways:

- ★ Use our PayPal account via the "donate" button at <https://www.stonechurch.org/>; note that PayPal takes 2.9% + 30¢ per transaction of the amount as a fee, so you may want to adjust accordingly.
- ★ Use your PayPal account to "send money" to [office\\_manager@stonechurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonechurch.org), using "friends and family" and your checking account, for which there are no fees. In "memo" specify the reason for the donation.
- ★ Sign-up for an automatic withdrawal from your checking account through Hubbard and Stone Church. Contact the Church office [office\\_manager@stonchurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonchurch.org) for info.
- ★ Use your bank's online bill pay to send a check to Stone Church.
- ★ Mail your check to 1937 Lincoln Ave, San Jose, CA 95125
- ★ Drop off your check at the office, or in the mail box outside the office door.



**Welcome to our new members, who joined in December 2019: Malia & Andrew Clark, Stephanie & Jeremy Easton, Nana oye Botchway, Susan Erickson-Viitanen & Paul Viitanen, and Ronni Pahl**



## Sacred Heart Food Donation



**In 2019 we donated 2521 pounds of food, surpassing our goal of 2,500 pounds.**

*For 2020, we are again aiming for 2,500 pounds and so far are right on track, with a current collection total of 462 pounds!*

*Way to go Stone Church!*

**Our usual Sunday donation day is temporarily on hold.**

**But the need is still acute.**

**During this period, we ask that you drop off your donations in the church office, Monday-Friday, between 9am-1pm.**

## Take a Stand Against Human Trafficking!

Join us on **March 30, 2020, from 8:15 - 9:15am**, and stand with us as we hold our signs along Lincoln Ave. 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](#).



## From the Reading Nook

by Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

As 2020 gets underway, we hope you'll enjoy some of our newer books!

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

- \* *Snuggle Puppy! A Little Love Song* by Sandra Boynton (1<sup>st</sup> Bks Boy)
- \* *Two Good Friends* by Margo Mason (1<sup>st</sup> Bks Mas)
- \* *Penguin Pete's New Friends* by Marcus Pfister (1<sup>st</sup> Bks Pfi)
- \* *Zen Shorts* by Jon Muth (J Mut)
- \* *Rosie Saves the World* by Debbie Herman (J 296.3 Her)
- \* *Red, Blue & Yellow Yarn: A Tale of Forgiveness* by Miriam Kosman (J 296.3 Kos)
- \* *Love, Ruby Lavender* by Deborah Wiles (J Spec. Needs Wil)
- \* *Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Giff (YA Ch Lib Gif), given by Sheri Cunningham

### Additions in Lincoln House:

- \* *Jacob's Journey: Wisdom to Find the Way, Strength to Carry On* by Noah ben Shea (229 She), given by Charlotte Dickson
- \* *Guide My Feet: Prayers & Meditations on Loving & Working for Children* by Marian Wright Edelman (242 Ede)
- \* *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin (973 Goo), given by Chuck Rawlings
- \* *Windsinger: A Love Song to the Great American Wilderness* by Gary Smith (Ecol 231 Smi)
- \* *A Religion of One's Own: A Guide to Creating a Personal Spirituality in a Secular World* by Thomas Moore (Soc. Iss. 204 Moo), given by Allen Bartu
- \* *Somebodies & Nobodies: Overcoming the Abuse of Rank* by Robert Fuller (Soc. Iss. 303.3 Ful), given by Chuck Rawlings



- \* *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors & the Drug Company that Addicted America* by Beth Macy (Soc. Iss. 363 Mac), given by Joy Moriconi
- \* *To Love Delilah: Claiming the Women of the Bible* by Mary Cartledge-Hayes (Women 220.9 Car)
- \* *Goodbye, Vitamin* by Rachel Khong (F Kho), given by Claudia Hamm

## Ishaq Pathan Speaks at Stone



Ishaq Pathan was featured in the Adult Education series in January 2020. Ishaq joined us from the Islamic Networks Group, an organization in San Jose that provides information and

education regarding the lives and commitments of Muslims in the Silicon Valley. His presentation began by defining and examining both

historic and contemporary sources which contribute to Islamophobia. He then looked at ways that Islamophobia is disseminated,

including through the media, Hollywood, politicians, the internet, and social media, among others. He also discussed the tendency to see "Islam" as a monolith, when in fact there are many different ways to be Muslim, just like there are many different ways to be Christian. And, he spoke with pride about the successful integration of countless Muslims into American society, highlighting Congresswomen Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. He concluded with strategies for countering Islamophobia through education and interfaith engagement.

~ Amity Bateman & Julia Roberts

# STONE CHURCH YOUTH

## Epiphany Party 2020



On January 5, 2020, we celebrated the coming of the Kings with an Epiphany Party for the entire congregation after Worship. There were star cookie decorating, star and angel crafts, Magi banners, crowns and even a station to smell Frankincense. This was a wonderful way to welcome in the New Year with fellowship and fun.

## Tower of Quarters for Freedom Paws



The kids were introduced to a mission project this winter: **Operation Freedom Paws**, in San Martin. Operation Freedom Paws

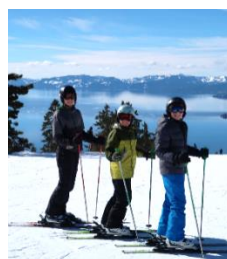
empowers veterans and individuals with disabilities to restore their freedom to live life by teaching them to train their own dogs, and certifying them as service dog teams. Throughout 2020, we will try to collect 2020 quarters = \$505. Along with that, we will have special projects to support the organization. We plan on having a service dog visit one Sunday as well. Please help support this project by having your children do special chores or activities to raise the quarters. We will have a quarter tower to visually watch our progress.

## Stone Church Snow Trip



This past January we had another fabulous weekend at Zephyr

Point Conference Center in Lake Tahoe. For our 2020 Stone Church Snow Trip we had about **70 people** attend with about half of that number being children. There were plenty of veteran attendees who have been joining the fun year after year, and we also were pleased to have a big number of new attendees joining us for the first time.



This year we didn't have a lot of snow but everyone managed to find a good activity for Saturday, from sledding and snow playing on Mount Rose, to hiking around Camp Richardson and Spooner Lake, to skiing or snowboarding at Diamond Peak and Heavenly, to picnicking at the beach, to simply making a discovery around the lake. And there was plenty of snow for the little ones at the conference



center, right outside the doors of the wonderful Inspiration Point meeting room which we use every year for our gatherings.

Inspiration Point meeting room is the place to be, with wonderful views of the lake, nature awaiting right outside the door, and all kinds of activity inside, especially on Saturday evening when everyone is back from their daily activities. There were arts and crafts, little ones playing and tumbling around, board/card/dice

games, puzzles, chatter and laughter, music playing and singing, snacking, knitting, it's a wonderful time to relax and take your time to enjoy each other's company. This year we also enjoyed a fun talent show (thank you Mary Jo!) and of course, Inspiration Point was also where we celebrated our wonderful Sunday morning service (thank you Irene!).



**Our 2021 Snow Trip is planned for the weekend of January 29-31.** We hope to see you there!

~ Marta Coleman

## Spring Comes to our Garden



Spring is on the way and the children are planning for the spring garden. Our Children's Lenten theme will be "Restoring our Roots". We started

on March 1 with establishing our planting schedule, and we put the first shovel in the ground on March 8. Interested in helping? Contact [MaryJo](#). We need at least two inspired helpers each week. This is a great active way to be a part of your children's experience here at Stone.





## Session Reports

by Julia Roberts

### Below is a summary of the Session meeting held on December 17, 2019:

Session opened with prayer and a reflection on the closing year: a year in which we mourned an unusually large number of deaths among dear members and friends of Stone Church, and also celebrated the joining of many new members.

Session also:

- Approved a modified job description for the Treasurer position
- Approved the hiring of Pam Hood as Interim Organist for the next eight months. The initial set of candidates interviewed for the permanent position failed to produce a finalist. Pam remains a candidate for the position and is working hard to improve her skills on the organ (she began with no organ experience, only piano).

Committee reports:

- **Deacons** reported that the Taize committee distributed invitations to Advent Taize services to houses in the Stone Church neighborhood. At least one neighbor attended Taize and expressed appreciation for the invitation. Parents' Day Out was a great success.
- **Presbyterian Women** reported on financial gifts to many local causes.
- **Personnel & Administration** is finalizing personnel reviews.
- **Men's Mission and Ministry** is busy preparing for the wine tasting and auction in February.
- **Membership & Communication** reports that the new policy of committees providing treats for coffee hour has resulted in coffee-

hour expenses coming in under budget.

- **Stewardship** reports an anticipated \$492,000 in pledges, a slight increase over last year.
- **Christian Education** reports that Bob Cole will be stepping down as the Adult Ed recruiter/wrangler this coming summer. They are looking for someone(s) to take on that role.

### Below is a summary of the Session meeting held on January 21, 2020:

During the meeting, Session:

- Approved the consent docket, including a new "Gift and Recognition Policy" brought forward by Budget & Finance, and also including Rev. Evans representing Stone Church at the Poor People's Campaign march this coming June. One Elder noted proudly that our church, once severely conflicted over Rev. Perdue's joining a march for civil rights, is now approving a similar event on the consent docket!
- Reviewed the 2019 budget: Stone received a large surplus on loose offering, and spent less than anticipated, and therefore ended with a surplus of about \$45,000. The surplus will go for staff bonuses, fund replenishment, and the continuation of Rev. LeClaire's position as Stated Supply Pastor. Notably in 2019, our total mission giving (including giving by groups like StoneWorks, Men's, PW, and special collections) was over \$100,000.
- Approved the 2020 budget: Expenses are expected to rise in many areas; anticipated pledge income is slightly up, but not enough. Therefore several line items have been reduced, all in areas where corresponding funds have large balances that can be used to cover expenses. Pastor salaries are not budgeted to

increase this year, with faith that in coming years, increased pledges will allow for raises.

- Heard about next steps in the backyard/Lincoln House project; more information is needed for better cost estimates. This will be revisited in February.
- Approved a recommendation from StoneWorks to work with Amigos de Guadalupe, an established local support group for marginalized communities (including families referred by the Rapid Response Network). This should streamline and better focus our Accompaniment Team actions.
- Approved the updated contract for Interim Organist.

Committee Notes:

- **Budget & Finance** is finishing up "the books" for 2019.
- **Membership & Communications** is prepping for another Deaf Movie Night in March, and is considering ways to facilitate our senior members gathering and socializing over lunch.
- **Presbyterian Women** reported a successful Epiphany Tea, with about 30 attendees. They continue to organize the Community Mission Table on Sundays.
- **Christian Education** is already planning ahead for Vacation Church School. They are continuing to refine the job description for the Church School director.
- **StoneWorks** continues to spend money for good causes. This month, Front Door Communities was awarded an Angel Grant. They have also coordinated outside grants to assist local mission projects.
- **Personnel & Administration** refined the contract for Interim Organist Pam Hood.



**Below is a summary of the Session meeting held on February 18, 2020:**

During the meeting:

- Session approved an application for a Presbytery grant to help bring civil rights activist Eric Ward to speak at an event for 100-150 clergy and lay leaders from several local groups. The Presbytery grant would cover a significant portion of the fees for this event, the remainder to be covered by partner groups.
- StoneWorks recruitment of volunteers to assist with an upcoming one-month Safe Park program at Cornerstone Church on Meridian. The Safe Park program provides a safe place for people who live in their cars to park overnight.
- A formal Gift Acceptance and Recognition Policy to standardize the receipt of monetary and property gifts to the church.
- Using moneys from the Royce Hubin Memorial Fund (with the approval of the family), to bring the Perdue Lecture Fund back out of negative funds to zero. Eventually the Hubin Memorial Fund will be closed out; Budget and Finance is examining ways to use the funds in alignment with their original intent to allow the sharing of music. Plans for the Perdue Lecture Fund are pending.
- Allowing the youth group to sponsor a fundraising event towards attending a youth conference at Montreat in July 2020.
- Splitting the backyard design discussions into three phases: 1) Lincoln House ramp into backyard (required by code); 2) Social Hall ramp into backyard; 3) actual backyard/garden design.
- A design for the Lincoln House ramp that lowers cost without significantly reducing aesthetics,

and allows for a planned deck off the back of Lincoln House to be constructed by volunteers without need for permitting.

- A design for a Social Hall ramp of more utilitarian design than originally hoped, but which eases concerns about building too near the historical property line and does not impinge upon the existing concrete path.
- Postponing the backyard design discussion to the next meeting of Session.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Christian Education** is examining the future of the Perdue Lecture series, as well as the future of Adult Education in general; it has become difficult to arrange weekly classes.
- **StoneWorks** is working towards making a tradition of using the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of any month as a designated Service Sunday.
- **Men's Mission** reports around \$7000 net funds raised through the annual auction. They are discussing worthy mission causes to receive donations.
- **Deacons** are busily planning their spring luncheon, open to all friends of the church.
- **Membership and Communications** is planning another Deaf Movie Night for the first weekend in March.
- **Presbyterian Women** will be awarding an Honorary Life Membership in March, and continues to sponsor the Community Mission Table monthly during social hour.



## Trailwalkers

Our most recent hikes were at the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve where we took in a gentle 4-mile Arrowhead Loop Trail, with beautiful views of the East foothills, farms, and some deer. We followed that in March with a hike at Calero County Park, taking in the Lisa Kilough and Vista Del Oro trails. How about joining us for our next outing on **April 18**? For more info [email](#) Kathy Stark.



*Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve*



*Rancho San Vicente in Calero County Park*

## IN MEMORIAM



### Bill Gum

Bill and Connie Gum joined Stone Church November 1965, and Bill served as both an Elder and a Deacon.

The Gums moved to Fairfield a few years ago, but still remained members of our congregation, keeping up with all the goings-on, and participating in events when they could make the trip. Bill loved dancing and took one of his first lessons (an Arthur Murray dance lesson) in the 1940's. He and Connie continued dancing into their 90's, staying physically active and enjoying it all.

Bill served as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1946. Below is an excerpt from the recent *Veterans of Stone Church* publication:

William Brooks Gum entered Duke University in September, 1941 as a freshman. There he joined the Navy ROTC and studied Mechanical Engineering. In February 1944 he was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy and ordered to report to the light cruiser, USS Philadelphia, in Palermo, Sicily, for duty in the engineering and gunnery departments. To get to Sicily, he crossed the Atlantic Ocean on a Liberty ship in a convoy that had to avoid German submarines all the way to Oran, Algeria, from where he was flown to his ship in Palermo.

In 1945, the Philadelphia participated in the successful Allied invasion of southern France. Germans who were left behind wanted to surrender to the Americans so the USS Philadelphia's

captain took the ship's Marine detachment ashore to take custody of the Germans and put them on a ship bound for the U.S.

On September 2nd, 1945, after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, the USS Missouri was the site for the signing of the Japanese surrender. The USS Amsterdam was among the ships entering Tokyo Bay.

Later, the USS Amsterdam was decommissioned in San Francisco and Bill was subsequently released from active duty. In October 1950, Bill's career as a mechanical engineer was interrupted by the Korean War and that interruption had some positive consequences. He was recalled to active duty and flown to the cruiser, USS Des Moines, in the Mediterranean. In December 1950 the Des Moines sailed to Boston for a 4-month overhaul which meant that Bill was only a 40-minute drive from Connie. Much of the 4-months was spent dancing at a lovely supper club called The Meadows in Framingham, MA. As cupid would have it, Bill and Connie were engaged prior to the USS Des Moines departing Boston. Their wedding was in Wellesley, MA, on February 23, 1952.



### Claudia Hoagland

Claudia Hoagland worked at Stone Church Office Manager for a few years, leaving in

2009. Claudia passed away on November 9, 2019, after a short battle with cancer. Claudia was born in Millbrae, CA, where she graduated from Mills High School, afterward attending Skyline Junior College earning a degree in journalism. She touched many lives with her personality and advice; wherever she

went she was the life of the party. Throughout her career she was well liked by all. In her spare time, she enjoyed baking, trivia, taking care of her pets, and rooting for her San Francisco 49ers. Claudia's most proud accomplishment was raising her two children Clay and Hannah Hoagland from her marriage with Don Hoagland of San Jose. She is also survived by her partner Ken Ferris of Campbell and her sister Colleen Kane of Vallejo. Claudia can now be at rest joining her parents John and Claire Kane of Millbrae, and her siblings Kevin and Kathy Kane. Friends and family are encouraged to visit her Facebook page and share a picture and/or story of Claudia for us all to remember her by.



### Sally Magee

Sally Magee passed away on February 25, 2020. She and her husband Pat joined Stone

Church in December 1968. Sally served as a Deacon, was heavily involved in Presbyterian Women, and was the church financial secretary for many years.

Below is Sally's faith story:

I was born in Pasadena, CA, in the same hospital in which my mother was born. I was blessed with a brother, many aunts and uncles, four grandparents, and lots of close cousins close by. I don't remember when I first went to church so I must've started at a very young age. Many of my close relatives were also members of the same church.

I remember we had Junior Church for elementary schoolers. If you had been baptized you were excused to go to Communion; if you weren't, you stayed upstairs. We also had a Junior



Choir and my mom played the piano for it. There were many fun things to do at church: choir, musical shows, haunted houses, or Halloween play nights, many potluck dinners, and sometimes seeing if we could find new places in the church with its three floors, basement and attic.

When I was about 12 or 13 years old, the pastor had a class for young people to learn about our Christian faith which led to church membership. There was an altar call almost every Sunday and I felt strong emotional pressure to go forward. Finally, I did go forward and was baptized full immersion style. About that same time our young pastor was asked to leave. The church divided between more liberal and more conservative members. My parents were very upset and almost left. Our interim pastor was named "Daddy Wright" an 80-year-old man who helped heal everyone's wounds. In the midst of this, I had my doubts. What did I believe? Did I want to be part of this church? When my favorite Uncle Ralph died of melanoma cancer and left his sons ages seven and nine, I was devastated. How could God do this and why?

About this time, Dad and his friend started the new business and Mom was busy doing the bookkeeping. They started not going to church but still dropped my brother and me off at church. I finally asked them, "Why aren't you going to church if you want us to go to church?" They started going again and singing in the choir.

I went to Stanford for college and met Pat McGee on a blind date during the first few weeks of my freshman year. I remember sitting outside the dorm talking to Pat about God and what he believed. We were fellow travelers.

Pat and I married in September 1959 just in time to return to graduate school at Stanford -- Pat in Engineering and me in Education.

Three years later, expecting our first baby, we moved to Granada Hills, CA. Christine's birth was followed by Kathy's birth three years later. I felt good going to church regularly and taking my children with me. Adult education help me start to look harder at my doubts and sort out what I believed.

In 1968 we moved to Cupertino and began looking for a church. Finally, at the suggestion of a youth pastor at Granada Hills, we came to Stone Church. We were finally home. I took David Beamer's class where we studied John Sandford's book *Free in Obedience* which talked about our shadow side. This led me to do much soul-searching. During this difficult time, I had the sense that God was always there and that God never gives up on me.

Stone Church is my community, my spiritual home. My doubts are OK. There is love, acceptance, and forgiveness here. When I had colon cancer surgery I wasn't overwhelmed. I didn't worry much. I think God and Stone Church helped me in many ways.



**Donated Halloween Candy  
Ready to Ship to Troops**



**Wind Ensemble December 2019**



**Youth Group Progressive Dinner –  
December 2019**



**Daniel Bannoura Speaks at Adult Ed on  
Palestinian-Israeli Conflict**



**Articulated Brass Quintet – Dec 2019**



**Narthex Dec 2019**



**Sorting out the tree – Dec 2019**



**Decorating the sanctuary for  
Christmas 2019**



**Mission Table info station**





*Rev. Annanda Barclay*



*Rabbi Dana Magat, of Temple Emanuel Visits Stone*



*Children's ministry*



*Pam with her gift of piano*



*Our newly renamed Social Hall*



*Diane and Tab with the January floral*



*Tab and June's camellias for the retable*



*Pastor Irene on Christmas Eve*



*Notre Dame High School Dec 2019*



*Stepping Stones Dec 2019*



*Nancy and Ginny Dec 2019*

## 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>Charlotte Dickson</i>	<i>Sue Williams</i>
<i>Amity Bateman</i>	<i>Julia Roberts</i>
<i>Mary Jo Blazek</i>	<i>The Gum Family</i>
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