



# The Living Stones

December 2016

Greetings loved ones,

Merry Christmas! It has been a couple of months since the last newsletter and a lot has happened at St. Stephen's. Working backwards, we have starting decorating the church and hall for Advent and Christmas. It all looks as wonderful as you could imagine. Before Advent we had another great Craft Fair, raised a lot of money and had a good time too. The cookbooks arrived and are selling like hotcakes ☺. They make great gifts in addition to you having one for yourself. We have completed another discipleship study series, this last one based on "Power Evangelism" by John Wimber.

On a more serious note, we have an opening in our 2017 servers schedule for a LEM and an oblation bearer. If anyone is interested to fill one or both of these spots please let me know. There are also two openings in the schedule for prayer teams if you are interested in that ministry. The new 2017 schedule is at the end of this newsletter.

The Ladies Tea is right around the corner. There is information in the newsletter. Please come and participate in this really fun event.

Yours in faith,  
Richard Wallstrom

# Rector's Corner

## A Taste of Holiness

Here is an admission: Every year I wait for the holidays. Part is the change in the weather. Part is all the decorations coming out of storage and appearing on homes (mine too), and even businesses. This year, especially, maybe I am just feeling better about a lot of things... the annual dry season was especially stressful when we have just lived through a record breaking drought. And maybe drought is a good image when it comes to the coming of Advent. The season is like a spiritual rainfall on a thirsty world that has grown tired of running out of joy one day at a time.

Maybe this last reason is why it's no surprise to me that Advent is the most popular season in the year. It's often just "the holidays" for many out there. But it really is wonderful, and it revives the soul. A thousand bright lights cutting the crisp, cold night air earlier and earlier... as usual. But there is the music I actually like to hear in the stores as I shop...

We are shocked that it all seems to start earlier every year. But somewhere, deep down inside, perhaps even grudgingly, we also like it. I mean, heck, we don't really have to go along with the program, do we? We don't have to shop, do we? No.

We get ready for Christmas because we love to get ready for Christmas! It is one of the few times in the year in which an aching world feels permission to feel good and warm inside. People genuinely feel more love, and less alone, at this season than at any other. Can you blame us if we want it to last a while?

But the thing I like best is that, like no other season, we all feel, once again, a yearning to get close, to God. We all have a warm spot for the season, because God has hallowed it in a unique way that cannot be denied. No matter whether some call it the holidays or Christmas, it's all about Christ. The only way one can avoid this reality is to pull the drapes, turn out the lights, lock the door, and avoid celebrating anything for a couple of months. And this is a little like—no, a lot like-- “cutting off the nose to spite the face. “ Like it or not, only a Grinch would stop celebrating at a time like this3.

After all, Heaven came pretty close –actually right into--to this earth of ours when Christ was born. I think even the non-Christian world instinctively knows this. Even those who have no use for God at all seem to know, somehow, that God is near, and that this season is holy. The soul of all humankind reaches out to the source of that holiness. Whether they realize it or not, whether they understand it or not, the world is in awe of Advent. And Advent is ultimately, all about Christmas. Human beings cannot help but respond to the Incarnation of the Love of God.

Embrace the season! It's a great time to invite a neighbor to church. Let the stirring of their hearts come face to face with the source of all stirring. Show them what you already know: that God really does come near His creation—because He chooses to do so. The ultimate expression of that is His Son born to us in this season.

Ours is a world writhing in pain, and deeply in need of this birth. They need to know that the holiness of God shines through the darkest this world has to offer. No darkness can stop him or his coming. God is not overcome. What better time to share Him with those who feel him, but don't know who he is. Invite them into your world of faith, and into the presence of the God you worship all year! Advent. How wonderful. How human...and, really, how holy.



Fr. Terry

## PRAYER LIST

PERSON	NEED	ADDED BY	PERSON	NEED	ADDED BY
Laurie G		Lentz	Art & Linda	Parkinsons	Parish
Sarah V		Cantrell	Barbara	Heart	Stanley
Ron E		Loy	Wes		Markham
Pat W		Savage	Ján & Debra	Healing	Parish
Denise	Lung	Carmon	Jeanette		Parish
Jesse & Yana E		Cantrell	Laura	Hip Repl.	Head
Brian N	Cancer	Parish	Francine	Back	Parish
Kelly		Olcott	Anne	MS	Burley
Bryan D		Parish	Jake		Beach
Carol M	Stroke	Cantrell	Julie O		Olcott
Art & Dina	Cancer	Beach	Ed & Margaret	Memory	Parish
Lynda M	Cancer	Russell	Tom		Parish
Bernice		Head	Dave	Stroke	Hilton
Andy T		Head	Delores' Son	Prison	Parish
			Gabe P		Parish
			Granddaughter & Rocky		Moniz
			Ernie	Palsy	Loy
			Dan & Bonnie	Seizure	Olcott
			Dina		Beach
			Patti W		Olcott
			Norm D		Parish
			Sheila J		Olcott

### ARMED FORCES

Please remember the families who have lost relatives in the Mid East wars, and all those who have died or suffered wounds in the service of their country.

**The prayer list above has been edited to match the official list maintained by Virginia.**

If you have new prayer concerns, or updates, please call or e-mail Jane Olcott at 408-847-8294 or [olcott@aol.com](mailto:olcott@aol.com); or call the church office and give the information to Virginia or Fr. Terry at the church phone number 842-4415 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9-12. Virginia and I will attempt to keep the prayer list current and active.

# Advent Scriptural Readings For Personal Study And Devotions

## WEEK OF 1 ADVENT (Starts Sunday November 27)

Sunday	Ps146, 147	Isa. 1:1-9	2 Pet. 3:1-10	Matt. 25:1-18
Monday	Ps1, 2, 3	Isa. 1:10-20	1 Thess. 1:1-10	Luke 20:1-8
Tuesday	Ps 5, 6;	Isa. 1:21-31;	1 Thess. 2:1-12;	Luke 20:9-18
Wednesday	Ps119:1-24	Isa. 2:1-11	1 Thess. 2:13-20	Luke 20:19-26
Thursday	Ps18:1-20	Isa. 2:12-22	1 Thess. 3:1-13	Luke 20:27-40
Friday	Ps16, 17	Isa. 3:8-15	1 Thess. 4:1-12	Luke 20:41-21:4
Saturday	Ps20, 21:1-13	Isa. 4:2-6	1 Thess. 4:13-18	Luke 21:5-19

## WEEK OF 2 ADVENT (Starts Sunday December 4)

Sunday	Ps148,149,150	Isa. 5:1-7	2 Pet. 3:11-18	Luke 7:28-35
Monday	Ps25;	Isa. 5:8-23;	1 Thess. 5:1-11;	Luke 21:20-28
Tuesday	Ps26, 28;	Isa. 5:18-25;	1 Thess. 5:12-28;	Luke 21:29-38
Wednesday	Ps38	Isa. 6:1-13	2 Thess. 1:1-12	John 7:53-8:11
Thursday	Ps37:1-18;	Isa. 7:1-9;	2 Thess. 2:1-12;	Luke 22:1-13
Friday	Ps31;	Isa. 7:10-25;	2 Thess. 2:13-3:5;	Luke 22:14-30
Saturday	Ps30, 32	Isa. 8:1-15	2 Thess. 3:6-18	Luke 22:31-38

## WEEK OF 3 ADVENT (Starts Sunday December 11)

Sunday	Ps63:1-11,98	Isa. 13:6-13	Heb. 12:18-29	John 3:22-30
Monday	Ps41, 52	Isa. 8:16-9:1	2 Pet. 1:1-11	Luke 22:39-53
Tuesday	Ps45	Isa. 9:1-7	2 Pet. 1:12-21	Luke 22:54-69
Wednesday	Ps119:49-72;	Isa. 9:8-17;	2 Pet. 2:1-10;	Mark 1:1-8
Thursday	Ps50	Isa. 9:18-10:4	2 Pet. 2:10-16	Matt. 3:1-12
Friday	Ps 40, 54;	Isa. 10:5-19;	2 Pet. 2:17-22;	Matt. 11:2-15
Saturday	Ps55	Isa. 10:20-27	Jude 17-25	Luke 3:1-9

## WEEK OF 4 ADVENT (Starts Sunday December 18)

Sunday	Ps24, 29	Isa. 42:1-12	Eph. 6:10-20	John 3:16-21
Monday	Ps61, 62	Isa. 11:1-9	Rev. 20:1-10	John 5:30-47
Tuesday	Ps66, 67	Isa. 11:10-16	Rev. 20:11-21:8	Luke 1:5-25
Wednesday	Ps72	Isa. 28:9-22;	Rev. 21:9-21;	Luke 1:26-38
Thursday	Ps80	Isa. 29:13-24;	Rev. 21:22--22:5;	Luke 1:39-56
Friday	Ps93, 96	Isa. 33:17-22	Rev. 22:6-20	Luke 1:57-66
Dec. 24	Ps45, 46	Isa. 35:1-10	Rev. 22:12-21	Luke 1:67-80

Christmas Eve	Ps 89:1 29	Isa. 59:15b 21	Phil. 2:5 11	
Christmas Day	Ps2, 85;	Zech. 2:10 13;	1 John 4:7 16;	John 3:31 36

## Week of First Sunday after Christmas (Begins December 25)

Sun	Ps93, 96;	Isa. 62:6 7,10 12 ;	Heb. 2:10 18;	Matt. 1:18 25
Mon (Dec. 29)	Ps18:1 20;	Isa. 12:1 6;	Rev. 1:1 8;	John 7:37 52
Tues (Dec. 30)	Ps20,21:1 13;	Isa. 25:1 9;	Rev. 1:9 20;	John 7:53 8:11
Wed (Dec. 31)	Ps46, 48;	Isa. 26:1 9;	2 Cor. 5:16 6:2;	John 8:12 19
Thursday (Holy Name)	Ps103;	Gen. 17:1 16;	Col. 2:6 12;	John 16:23b 30
Jan. 2	Ps 34	1 Kings 19:1 8	Eph. 4:1 16	John 6:1 14
Jan. 3	Ps 68	1 Kings 19:9 18	Eph. 4:17 32	John 6:15 27



# JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<b>1</b> New Year's Day Church @ 8 & 10AM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Resource Ctr 9-11AM	<b>4</b> Bible Study 10:30AM Noon Healing Service	<b>5</b> Resource Ctr 9-11AM	<b>6</b> Epiphany	<b>7</b> 12th Night Celebration @5:30PM Roberta Bertero Bday Mens Fellowship 9:30AM DOK 9:30AM																																																																																				
<b>8</b> Church @ 8 & 10AM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Resource Ctr 9-11AM Rob Russell Bday	<b>11</b> Bible Study 10:30AM Noon Healing Service	<b>12</b> Resource Ctr 9-11AM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>																																																																																				
<b>15</b> Church @ 8 & 10AM	<b>16</b> ML King Day	<b>17</b> Resource Ctr 9-11AM	<b>18</b> Bible Study 10:30AM Noon Healing Service	<b>19</b> Resource Ctr 9-11AM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Richard Armenta Bday Virginia Gomer Bday Mens Fellowship 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study 9:30AM																																																																																				
<b>22</b> Church @ 8 & 10AM Annual Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Resource Ctr 9-11AM	<b>25</b> Bible Study 10:30AM Noon Healing Service	<b>26</b> Resource Ctr 9-11AM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Chinese New Year																																																																																				
<b>29</b> Church @ 8 & 10AM Allen Feliciano Bday Richard/Barbara Anniversary	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Resource Ctr 9-11AM																																																																																								
		<b>December 2016</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<b>February 2017</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28					<b>Notes:</b>          <p style="text-align: right;">© 2013 Vertex42 LLC  <a href="http://www.vertex42.com">Calendar Template by Vertex42.com</a></p>
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																				
				1	2	3																																																																																				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																				
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																				
			1	2	3	4																																																																																				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																				
26	27	28																																																																																								



**DECEMBER Birthdays**

- 2 Phil Brock
- 8 Elizabeth Brown
- 12 Kari Hilton
- 14 Anne Cantrell
- 15 Fr. Terry Burley
- 16 Holly Feliciano
- 20 Jody Young
- 21 Scott Walker
- 25 Carmen Hanson
- 28 CJ Redman
- 29 Melissa Cuculich
- 30 Sally Allenby
- 31 Andy Cuculich  
Julius Stipins

**DECEMBER Anniversaries**

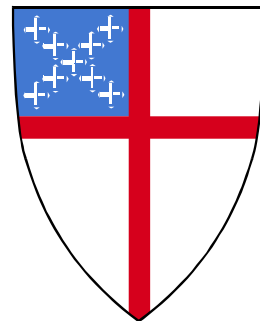
- 3 Albert & Betty Gagliardi
- 15 Norman & Jeanette Dickens
- 28 Jim & CJ Redman

**JANUARY Birthdays**

- 7 Roberta Bertero
- 10 Rob Russell
- 21 Richard Armenta  
Virginia Gomer
- 29 Allan Feliciano

**JANUARY Anniversaries**

- 29 Richard & Barbara Armenta



## PARISH/DIOCESAN NEWS

### RESOURCE CENTER

It is cold outside!! Our clients are in need of blankets, warm jackets, gloves, and sturdy shoes.

Also high on the priority lists are sleeping bags, tents, and any waterproof clothing.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Bobbie Wallstrom

### WASSAIL PARTY AND CHRISTMAS HYMNS

December 17 at 7PM we will meet in the parish hall to enjoy some old fashioned wassail and sing our merry hearts out. We hope to see you there – no prior experience singing is required ☺

### LADIES TEA

Please see the invitation on the following page. ALL ladies, their friends, neighbors, relatives, etc., are invited to this fun annual event. **It is not too late to RSVP immediately to Jane Olcott at (408) 847-8294.**

### ANGEL TREE

All of the angels have been taken. If you would still like to bring Christmas to a needy child, you may bring any toy or book for any age child and the Salvation Army will match your gift to a child.

All gifts are due in church by Sunday December 18. Please do not wrap your gift.

If you wish, you can place the gift in a bag with the angel attached to the gift or bag.

Thank you all for your kind generosity.





*YOU ARE  
CORDIALLY  
INVITED TO  
TEA*

*The ladies of St. Stephen's invite you to celebrate the Christmas Season with a tea. Put on your festive attire and join us for a fun time. Please call for reservations by Monday, December 5, 2016.*

***Telephone: Jane at (408) 847-8294 or email to [olcottT@aol.com](mailto:olcottT@aol.com)***

***Date: Saturday, December 10, 2016***

***Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM***

***Place: St. Stephen Parish Hall, 651 Broadway, Gilroy, CA***

*There will be a Silent Auction and a Christmas Shop with gently used Christmas decorations and gifts. All items for the Silent Auction and the Christmas Shop were donated and all proceeds will go to the Resource Center. As the tea is a fund raiser for the Resource Center donations will be gratefully accepted. Items needed, toothpaste, shampoo all sizes, Men's 3-in-one (shampoo, conditioner, body wash), men's socks, rain ponchos and men's beanies.*

# Shop and Support – St. Stephens Episcopal Church

There are a number of programs that allow you to support your church while shopping at your favorite stores. Below are three programs that St. Stephens participates in.

## **EScrip Program**

To Sign Up:

1. Register your existing grocery loyalty, Debit, ATM, and/or credit card online at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), or by mailing the eScrip registration form.
2. Use your registered card when paying for merchandise at participating merchants. (Visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) for participating merchant locations, and cards accepted by each merchant.)
3. The participating merchant contributes a percentage of the sale to your group.

## **Raley's Extra Credit Program**

To Sign Up:

1. Go to [www.raleys.com](http://www.raleys.com) and sign up for the "Something Extra" Rewards Program.
2. Setup your account.
3. After setting up your account, you'll see a points balance on the right hand side. Just under this balance is a "Manage Your Account" link. Click this.
4. You will then see on the right hand side a button that says "Edit Your Account" under this button there is a link for "Extra Credit". Click on Extra Credit.

This will take you to a page where you can select your organization(s). Search in the organizations for "St. Stephens Episcopal Church". You can also manage the percentage of the contributions given. You'll earn credits at a rate of 1.5% for every eligible dollar in a transaction. For example, if your purchase includes \$100 worth of eligible items, you would receive 1.5 Extra Credit points.

## **Amazon Smile**

To Sign Up:

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com/](http://smile.amazon.com/)
2. If you already have an Amazon account, sign in with your current account information, otherwise, sign up for an account.
3. On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection in your account, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

## Sunday Servers Schedule for 2017

<b>LEM/LEV 8:00 AM 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Loren Loren</b>	<b>Jesse Jesse</b>	<b>Paul Paul</b>	<b>Richard Richard</b>	<b>Jesse Richard</b>	<b>Kathleen TBA</b>	<b>Jesse Jane</b>	<b>Jesse Richard</b>
<b>Prayer Team 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Jane Francine</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Gabe Gail</b>	<b>Paul Pat</b>	<b>Jane Francine</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Gabe Gail</b>	<b>Paul Pat</b>
<b>Lector 8:00 AM</b>	<b>Michael</b>	<b>Al</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>Carmen</b>	<b>Jesse</b>	<b>Kathleen</b>	<b>Jesse</b>	<b>Jesse</b>
<b>Lectors 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Stan Marjorie</b>	<b>Paul S. Richard</b>	<b>Loren Anne</b>	<b>Gabe Gail</b>	<b>Debra</b>	<b>Rob Jennifer</b>	<b>Richard</b>	<b>Jane</b>
<b>Usher 10:00AM</b>	<b>Richard</b>	<b>Loren</b>	<b>Jane</b>	<b>Bobbie</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>Richard</b>	<b>Bobbie</b>	<b>Jesse</b>
<b>Oblation Bearers 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Stan Marjorie</b>	<b>Manel Bobbie</b>	<b>Bobbie Richard</b>	<b>Gail Gabe</b>	<b>Francine Jane</b>	<b>Bobbie Francine</b>	<b>Debra Jan</b>	<b>Jane TBA</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Debra Jan</b>	<b>Jane Randi</b>	<b>Manel Pat</b>	<b>Aundria Francine</b>	<b>Debra Jan</b>	<b>Jane Randi</b>	<b>Manel Pat</b>	<b>Aundria Francine</b>
<b>Date</b>							<b>1/1</b>	<b>1/8</b>
	<b>1/15</b>	<b>1/22</b>	<b>1/29</b>	<b>2/5</b>	<b>2/12</b>	<b>2/19</b>	<b>2/26</b>	<b>3/5</b>
	<b>3/12</b>	<b>3/19</b>	<b>3/26</b>	<b>4/2</b>	<b>4/9</b>	<b>4/16</b> Easter	<b>4/23</b>	<b>4/30</b>
	<b>5/7</b>	<b>5/14</b> Mother's Day	<b>5/21</b>	<b>5/28</b>	<b>6/4</b> Pentecost	<b>6/11</b> Trinity	<b>6/18</b> Father's Day	<b>6/25</b>
	<b>7/2</b>	<b>7/9</b>	<b>7/16</b>	<b>7/23</b>	<b>7/30</b>	<b>8/6</b>	<b>8/13</b>	<b>8/20</b>
	<b>8/27</b>	<b>9/3</b>	<b>9/10</b>	<b>9/17</b>	<b>9/24</b>	<b>10/1</b>	<b>10/8</b>	<b>10/15</b>
	<b>10/22</b>	<b>10/29</b>	<b>11/5</b>	<b>11/12</b>	<b>11/19</b>	<b>11/26</b>	<b>12/3</b> Advent	<b>12/10</b>
	<b>12/17</b>	<b>12/24</b>	<b>12/31</b>					
								<b>Rev 1</b>

If you are not able to carry out your assignment, please be responsible for getting someone to take your place.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
651 Broadway  
Gilroy, CA 95020

408-842-4415 (office)

408-842-1401 (resource center)

Website: [www.ststephensgilroy.org/](http://www.ststephensgilroy.org/) Email: [ststgilroy@ststephensgilroy.net](mailto:ststgilroy@ststephensgilroy.net)

Office Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri 9AM to Noon

Resource Center Hours: Tues & Thurs 9AM to 11AM

Pastor – Rev. Terry Burley

Vestry – Alison Beach - Senior Warden (2016); Rob Russell - Junior Warden (2017);  
Gabe Paul (2016); Nichole Martin (2017); Jane Olcott (2017); Sabra Dupree (2018); Nick  
Hilton (2018)

Jane Olcott – Clerk; Loren Cantrell – Sexton; Virginia Gomer – Secretary;

Gabe Paul – Treasurer



Send comments/corrections to:

[stoneseditor@yahoo.com](mailto:stoneseditor@yahoo.com)