

# The Living Stones March 2013

Friends,

With two Sundays in Lent already behind us Easter Sunday is rapidly approaching. March and April will be two good months with many opportunities for worship, service and fellowship.

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 9AM, we will have the vestry retreat at the Paul's home. March 16<sup>th</sup> we celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the Fellowship hall, always a fun party. Holy week follows with the Seder Meal on Thursday, Easter services and an egg hunt on Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup>.

In April we start the next small group ministry – "Just Walk Across the Room". This will be run on consecutive Monday evenings from 7 to 8:30PM. Inside this newsletter is more information to help you.

We held our "Faith Stories Retreat" the weekend before Lent started. I think it was a huge success and for me, very fulfilling. So much so I had to add my own summary in addition to Tom's. Read both and you will get a full picture of the inspirational weekend.

Also note the Parish Lenten program description near the end of the newsletter. Everyone is encouraged to participate as they are able.

Yours in faith, Richard Wallstrom



## **Rector's Corner**

## The Covenant in Jesus' Blood

It is not hard to see that Jesus ministry, though miraculous and powerful, was focused on Jerusalem and a Cross that awaited Him there. Several passages refer to His miracles as almost an incidental reality of who He is. Today's minds find it easy to see Jesus as a martyr, someone whose ministry fatally embarrassed the religious hierarchy of the day, and who therefore ended up as the unfortunate victim of a kangaroo court. But Jesus was no victim. His death was no accident and it is the Cross that guided His steps all the way. The Old Testament has two themes that explain His single minded purpose. The first is the Covenant with Abraham. These days we make all kinds of covenants, and being people we find them relatively easy to abrogate, modify, or abandon. That is what courts are for. But God's covenant was not merely a treaty or a business agreement with God. It is what is known as a "Blood Covenant". In such a covenant the two parties become one flesh, related by blood: family. Such a covenant cannot be broken without the death of one of the parties. God's terminology makes it clear that Abraham was not to become merely a worshiper of a powerful and frequently capricious God, but fully a child of God with all the rights of access and inheritance of a first born son.

The other theme that connects the Cross to Jesus has to do with a Hebrew legal provision for a "blood Redeemer" or "kinsman Redeemer." If an Israelite got into legal trouble for nearly any reason, certain individuals could stand in for and take on the obligation owed. The badly broken covenant, broken on our part and not God's, had a price. We being the guilty party (Israel) could go to our deaths in our sins. But there was another way. One who satisfied the criteria of a "kinsman redeemer" could pay the price on our behalf. That one would have to be a male of Israelite descent, related genealogically to us, a party to the original covenant, and one who was not himself in violation of that covenant.

Jesus was born to take this position. Not only was He an Israelite, but also the prime party to the original Covenant with Abraham. His ministry, though miraculous, was singularly focused on His role of Kinsman Redeemer, the One "Who comes in the Name of the Lord." The price He would pay was His own death, blameless and willingly given. One can only guess how heavy a burden this was for Him to bear. Even as He rejoiced with His followers, healed the sick and taught with incredible authority from the scriptures, He knew that His ultimate purpose was to pay for and close the Covenant, so that New Covenant could begin. A Covenant of new life and new relationship, rather than Law. After all, members of a family are not bound by law, but by love. This is the truly amazing Good News of the Gospel. It is freedom of a sort that a broken world finds it hard to understand. But we, as the family of God in a New Covenant, in His blood, ought to be able to experience it, and even more to share and bear witness to it. We are not merely inviting people to church, though that is a pretty good thing by itself, but we are inviting others into a family, bought and paid for, no strings attached.

Pretty good thought for Lent, with the Cross just around the corner.



## **Readings for Personal Study and Devotion**

| Sunday    | Ps93, 96     | Gen. 44:1-17    | Rom. 8:1-10    | John 5:25-29 |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Monday    | Ps80         | Gen. 44:18-34   | 1 Cor. 7:25-31 | Mark 5:21-43 |
| Tuesday   | Ps78:1-39    | Gen. 45:1-15    | 1 Cor. 7:32-40 | Mark 6:1-13  |
| Wednesday | Ps119:97-120 | Gen. 45:16-28   | 1 Cor. 8:1-13  | Mark 6:13-29 |
| Thursday  | Ps83, 42, 43 | Gen. 46:1-34    | 1 Cor. 9:1-15  | Mark 6:30-46 |
| Friday    | Ps 95 & 88   | Gen. 47:1-26    | 1 Cor. 9:16-27 | Mark 6:47-56 |
| Saturday  | Ps87, 90     | Gen. 47:27-48:7 | 1 Cor. 10:1-13 | Mark 7:1-23  |

## Week of 4 Lent Begins Sunday March 10

| Sunday    | Ps66, 67            | Gen. 48:8-22     | Rom. 8:11-25      | John 6:27-40 |
|-----------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Monday    | Ps89:1-18           | Gen. 49:1-28     | 1 Cor. 10:14-11:1 | Mark 7:24-37 |
| Tuesday   | Ps97, 99, [100]     | Gen. 49:29-50:14 | 1 Cor. 11:17-34   | Mark 8:1-10  |
| Wednesday | Ps101, 109:1-30     | Gen. 50:15-26    | 1 Cor. 12:1-11    | Mark 8:11-26 |
| Thursday  | Ps69:1-38           | Exod. 1:6-22     | 1 Cor. 12:12-26   | Mark 8:279:1 |
| Friday    | Ps 95& 102          | Exod. 2:1-22     | 1 Cor. 12:27-13:3 | Mark 9:2-13  |
| Saturday  | Ps107:33-43,108:1-1 | 3Exod. 2:23-3:15 | 1 Cor. 13:1-13    | Mark 9:14-29 |

## Week of 5 Lent Begins Sunday March 17

| Sunday    | Ps118                | Exod. 3:16-4:12  | Rom. 12:1-21    | John 8:46-59  |
|-----------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Monday    | Ps31                 | Exod. 4:10-31    | 1 Cor. 14:1-19  | Mark 9:30-41  |
| Tuesday   | Ps120, 121, 122, 123 | Exod. 5:1-6:1    | 1 Cor. 14:20-40 | Mark 9:42-50  |
| Wednesday | Ps119:145-176        | Exod. 7:8-24     | 2 Cor. 2:14-3:6 | Mark 10:1-16  |
| Thursday  | Ps131, 132           | Exod. 7:25-8:19  | 2 Cor. 3:7-18   | Mark 10:17-31 |
| Friday    | Ps95 & 22            | Exod. 9:13-35    | 2 Cor. 4:1-12   | Mark 10:32-45 |
| Saturday  | Ps137:1-9, 144       | Exod. 10:21-11:8 | 2 Cor. 4:13-18  | Mark 10:46-52 |

## Holy Week Begins Sunday March 24

| Palm Sunday Ps24   | k, 29 Zech. 9:9- | 12 1 Tim. 6:12-16 | Zech. 12:9-11; 13:1, | 7-9 Luke 19:41-48      |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Monday Ps51        | :1-18(19-20) La  | m. 1:1-2,6-12     | 2 Cor. 1:1-7         | Mark 11:12-25          |
| Tuesday Ps6,       | 12 La            | m. 1:17-22        | 2 Cor. 1:8-22        | Mark 11:27-33          |
| Wednesday Ps55     | La               | m.2:1-9           | 2 Cor. 1:23-2:11     | Mark 12:1-11           |
| Maundy Thursday    | Ps102 La         | m. 2:10-18        | 1 Cor. 10:14-11:32   | Mark 14:12-25          |
| Good Friday Ps95   | 5 & 22 La        | m. 3:1-33         | 1 Pet. 1:10-20       | John 13:36-38;19:38-42 |
| Holy Saturday Ps95 | 5 & 88 La        | m. 3:37-58        | Heb. 4:1-16          | Rom. 8:1-11            |
| Easter Day Ps14    | 8. 149. 150 Isa  | . 51:9-11         | Luke 24:13-35        | John 20:19-23          |



## MARCH 2013

| Sunday   | Monday                   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|--------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
|  |                          |   |  |  | 1   | 2<br>Vestry Retreat 9AM                                     |
| 3<br>Church @ 8 & 10am   | 4                        | <b>5</b><br>Resource Ctr 9-11am   | <b>6</b> DOK Quiet Day 9:30 to 2 Noon Healing Service  | <b>7</b><br>Resource Ctr 9-11am                                    | 8   | <b>9</b> Eagle Scout COH Jan Cristofaro Bday Phil Frey Bday |
| <b>10</b> Daylight Savings<br>Church @ 8 & 10am<br>Stan Moniz Bday                                       | 11                       | Resource Ctr 9-11am   | 13<br>Bible Study 10:30am<br>Noon Healing Service<br>Frances Sampson Bday  | 14<br>Resource Ctr 9-11am  | 15  | 16<br>Men's Fellowship 9am<br>St. Patricks Party 6PM        |
| 17 St. Patrick's Day<br>Church @ 8 & 10am<br>Vestry  | 18<br>Carol Bennett Bday | 19<br>Resource Ctr 9-11am   | 20 Vernal equinox Bible Study 10:30am Noon Healing Service Paul Savage Bday Ian Hilton Bday Brian/Sheila Anniversary | 21<br>Resource Ctr 9-11am  | <b>22</b> John Baker Bday                           | 23<br>Clean Up Day w/ Scouts<br>Fold Palm Crosses<br>9AM    |
| 24<br>Church @ 8 & 10am<br>Dick/Virginia Anniversary<br>Gabe/Gail Anniversary<br>Bill/Pamela Anniversary | 25                       | <b>26</b> Passover<br>Resource Ctr 9-11am                                       | 27 Bible Study 10:30am Noon Healing Service Tom Dettmer Bday   | 28 Maundy Thursday<br>Resource Ctr 9-11am<br>Seder Meal @ 6PM      | <b>29</b> Good Friday<br>David/Kathleen Anniversary | 30  |
| <b>31</b> Easter<br>Egg Hunt after 10AM Svc  |                          | February 20' S M T W Th  3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 28 | F Sa S M<br>1 2 1<br>8 9 7 8<br>15 16 14 15  | 2 3 4 5 6<br>9 10 11 12 13<br>5 16 17 18 19 20<br>2 23 24 25 26 27 | Notes:  | © 2009 Vertex42 LLC   |

## APRIL 2013

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday                    | Saturday                   |
|--|---|---|---|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|
|  | <b>1</b> April Fool's Day                               | Resource Ctr 9-11am<br>Betty Gagliardi Bday                                     | OOK Mtg 9:30AM<br>Noon Healing Service                                      | 4<br>Resource Ctr 9-11am<br>Al Gagliardi Bday<br>Kathleen Bagby Bday | 5                         | 6<br>Men's Fellowship 9am  |
| <b>7</b><br>Church @ 8 & 10am                    | <b>8</b> Walk Across the Room 7-8:30PM                  | <b>9</b><br>Resource Ctr 9-11am   | 10<br>Bible Study 10:30am<br>Noon Healing Service<br>Bud/Margie Anniversary | <b>11</b> Resource Ctr 9-11am  | 12                        | 13                         |
| 14<br>Church @ 8 & 10am                          | <b>15</b> Taxes Due<br>Walk Across the Room<br>7-8:30PM | 16<br>Resource Ctr 9-11am<br>Bill Bennett Bday                                  | 17 Bible Study 10:30am Noon Healing Service Jason Moore Bday                | 18<br>Resource Ctr 9-11am<br>Pamela Southern Bday                    | 19<br>Kathryn Santos Bday | 20<br>Men's Fellowship 9am |
| 21<br>Church @ 8 & 10am                          | <b>22</b> Earth Day<br>Walk Across the Room<br>7-8:30PM | 23<br>Resource Ctr 9-11am   | <b>24</b> Admin Assist Day<br>Bible Study 10:30am<br>Noon Healing Service   | 25<br>Resource Ctr 9-11am<br>Stan/Marjorie Anniversary               | 26                        | 27<br>Rummage Sale         |
| 28<br>Church @ 8 & 10am<br>William Southern Bday | 29<br>Walk Across the Room<br>7-8:30PM                  | 30<br>Resource Ctr 9-11am   |   |  |                           |                            |
|  |   | March 2013 S M T W Th 3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 28 31 | F Sa S M<br>1 2<br>8 9 5 6<br>15 16 12 13<br>22 23 19 20                    | 1 2 3 4  | Notes:                    | © 2009 Vertex42 LLC        |



#### **MARCH Birthdays**

- 9 Jan Cristofaro Phil Frey
- 10 Stan Moniz
- 13 Frances Samson
- 18 Carol Bennett
- 20 Paul Savage Ian Hilton
- 22 Rev. John Baker
- 27 Thomas Dettmer

#### **MARCH Anniversaries**

- 20 Brian & Sheila Nordwick
- 24 Dick & Virginia GomerGabe & Gail PaulWilliam & Pamela Southern
- 29 David & Kathleen Bagby



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Al Gagliardi checked in with the city works dept about the potholes in the alley, just asking that we get on the list for repair work. They assured him we were now on the list. He came by the church the next day and the work was already done. He is not sure what possessed him to make that contact but he is attributing it to the Lord.

#### +++

Al also came across 3 used bicycles that were unwanted. He did minimal restoration and sold all three for something near \$100. He gladly placed that money in the Sunday offering plate. Thanks be to God for generous givers like Al – and I know he is not alone.

#### **APRIL Birthdays**

- 2 Betty Gagliardi
- 4 Albert Gagliardi Kathleen Bagby
- 16 Bill Bennett
- 17 Jason Moore
- 18 Pamela Southern
- 19 Kathryn Santos
- 28 William Southern

#### **APRIL Anniversaries**

- 10 Bud & Marjorie Burchell
- 25 Stan & Marjorie Moniz





## **PARISH NEWS**

#### RESOURCE CENTER

This month we are especially in need of shampoo in any size. Thank you to all who donate lunch items and to those ladies who make 36 lunches every Monday.

To donate lunch items or help put them together, please contact Anne Cantrell.

#### LIGHT-HEARTED FAITH STORIES RETREAT

Inspiring, entertaining, informative and challenging. These are some of the words that I heard to describe our Faith Stories Retreat weekend. One parishioner said that he had not planned to go at all, but since I asked, he would attend one session. After that session he realized that he had to change his plans and he attended all three sessions. We were challenged without guilt because all of the stories were about Tom Riley's life and his choices, good and bad. Tom led us through three wonderful sessions where we were engaged by his many humorous Faith Stories and learned to identify our Faith Stories and to express them verbally. We all have a story each and every one of us. In Romans 10:9 it states "That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

During Tom Riley's homily he further challenged us to the core. Tom pointed out that Fr. Terry loves each and every one of us and that there could be no greater gift for us to give to Fr. Terry than to take his hand and share that "Jesus is Lord of my life."

The next time that you are on your knees at the altar rail pray about that. Tom Olcott

#### **ARTS & CRAFTS FAIRE**

Following the success of last year's Arts and Crafts Faire, another is planned for this year - October 26 and 27. As before, a bake sale will accompany the arts and crafts. New creative ideas are very much appreciated. For more information, please contact: Anne Cantrell, Pat Savage, Bobbie Wallstrom or Kathleen Bagby.

#### **BOOK SALE**

We have donated to the Salvation Army most of the books that cluttered the shelves on the stage in the Parish Hall. Many had been there for years. The remainder is back in place. Of course, now we request current literature to add to the shelves, but please note that old cookbooks and text books have only a small chance for sale.

#### JUST WALK ACROSS THE ROOM

'Just Walk Across the Room' offers a four week workshop to equip each person of faith for evangelism in today's world. Last year I heard Bill Hybels preach at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois. He opened my eyes to the fact that as Christians we evangelize every day by the life we live.

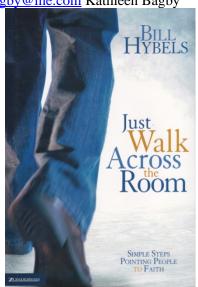
I obtained details of the curriculum and spoke with Father Terry and the Vestry about presenting the information to the St. Stephen's community. We agreed to offer the course over four consecutive Mondays (April 8, 15, 22 and 29) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Coffee, tea, lemonade and cookies will be available. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Parish Hall notice board.

Each participant will need to purchase two text books: 'Just Walk Across the Room' and its companion 'Participant's Guide'. I will carry these to church over the next few weeks for your examination, and have some copies available.

'Just Walk Across the Room': hardcover \$15; paperback \$10 'Participant's Guide': \$5

For further information, please feel free to contact me at:

408 848 4105 (home); 408 355 4613 (cell) kathleen.bagby@me.com Kathleen Bagby



### DAUGHTERS OF THE KING, QUIET DAY

On Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30AM to 2PM the Daughters of the King will attend a Lenten program at St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista. As always all women in the parish family are encouraged to attend. Contact Anne Cantrell or Margaret Markham if you need a ride. No reservations are required and lunch is included. Suggested donation is \$25.

#### More on the Faith Stories Retreat

We were delighted to have Tom Riley come and present the Faith Stories Retreat ministry February 8-10. Sessions on Friday and Saturday were all well attended. Tom was both entertaining and inspirational in his delivery. Two prayers were used for different purposes, one from the prayer book and the other written by Charles de Foucauld in 1897.

The first prayer, Prayer 61 found on page 832 in the BCP, is titled "A Prayer of Self Dedication". We used this prayer to open our sessions –

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, and always to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The second prayer, written by de Foucauld, was found by many to be especially inspirational. It is called "Prayer of Abandonment" –

Father,

I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you.
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul;
I offer it to you,
with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord,
and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands,
without reserve.

On Sunday, Tom Riley gave the homily at both services. The message, in full alignment with both prayers and the preceding stories, was to accept Jesus as your Lord. And if we're not there yet, if you are still Lord over your own life, then maybe this is something you, me, or we, need to pray and strive for. You may judge if Jesus is Lord over your life, if you are able to say YES when you are called by God. If you say instead, that you will "consider" His request, well I think you know what that means. For me one other message came thru – "Live a life pleasing to God".

I am grateful we held this retreat just before the start of Lent.

Richard Wallstrom

and with boundless confidence,

for you are my Father.

### **Vestry Retreat**

Today (3/2) we held the annual vestry retreat, this time at the Paul's residence. Fr. Terry put together a great program guiding us carefully through the fundamentals of the dreaded E word – Evangelism. With these basics in mind the vestry can work in coming months towards a more developed program. Jesse Farias has been doing his part going through neighborhoods leaving door hangers and inviting residents to St. Stephen's. He would love to share this ministry with anyone who cares to join him. Thank you Gabe and Gail for hosting us in your home.

## **Episcopal Relief and Development**

#### Gifts for Life

The Outreach committee has selected the Episcopal Relief and Development's Gifts for Life program as our Lenten Offering for this year. Please reference the information sheet found below or in your bulletin. Make checks payable to St. Stephen's and indicate in the memo "GIFTS for LIFE". Mark your selection and give your check and the marked brochure to Bobbie Wallstrom after Sunday service or leave it in the collection plate.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of this outreach activity.

#### Family Garden

Cultivate nutrition and income for an entire family.

The gift of a year-round garden improves the nutrition for an entire family. Focusing on diversified vegetables, these gardens use animal manure and planting methods that encourage improved growth of multiple vegetables instead of just one crop. Surplus produce can be sold in the marketplace, providing a sustainable source of income. This gift includes training for each family, seeds and basic tools for gardening.

\$175 for a family garden \$25 per share

#### Goat

Provide a stable source of food and earnings.

Goats are hardy, reproduce quickly and can be raised in a variety of climates to produce staple items such as milk, cheese and manure for farming.

\$80 for one goat

#### Flock of Chickens

Give a sustainable food supply and business.

A gift of a flock of chickens is far more than some hens, a rooster and a daily supply of fresh eggs. Your gift supports training families to raise poultry and sell surplus stock and eggs in the marketplace

\$135 per flock \$25 per share

## **SUNDAY SERVERS SCHEDULE FOR 2013**

| LEM/LEV<br>8:00 AM<br>10:00 AM | Loren<br>Loren | Tom<br>Tom     | Paul<br>Paul | Richard<br>Richard | Jesse<br>Ed | Kathleen<br>Allison | Jesse<br>Jane | Jesse<br>Sally |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Prayer<br>Team                 | Tom Jane       | Ed<br>Margaret | Gabe<br>Gail | Paul<br>Pat        | Tom<br>Jane | Ed<br>Margaret      | Gabe<br>Gail  | Paul<br>Pat    |
| 10:00 AM                       | Jane           | Margaret       | Gan          | 1 at               | Jane        | Maigaici            | Gan           | 1 at           |
| Lector<br>8:00 AM              | Michael        | Al             | Paul         | Virginia           | Jesse       | Kathleen            | Walt          | Jesse          |
| Lectors                        | Stan           | Paul S.        | Loren        | Gabe               | Frances     | Ed                  | Brad          | Tom            |
| 10:00 AM                       | Marjorie       | Richard        | Anne         | Gail               | Debra       | Margaret            | Geralyn       | Jane           |
| Usher<br>10:00AM               | Richard        | Loren          | Tom          | Sally              | Paul        | Jane                | Ed            | Jesse          |
| Oblation                       | Stan           | Manel          | Bobbie       | Gail               | Francine    | Bobbie              | Brad          | Tom            |
| Bearers<br>10:00 AM            | Marjorie       | Jane           | Melissa      | Gabe               | Jane        | Francine            | Geralyn       | Jane           |
| Altar                          | Jeannette      | Jane           | Manel        | Debra              | Jeannette   | Jane                | Manel         | Debra          |
| Guild                          | Francine       | Allison        | Pat          | Aundria            | Francine    | Allison             | Pat           | Aundria        |
| Date                           | 1/20           | 1/27           | 2/3          | 2/10               | 2/17        | 2/24                | 3/3           | 3/10           |
| Date                           | 3/17           | 3/24           | 3/31         | 4/7                | 4/14        | 4/21                | 4/28          | 5/5            |
| Date                           | 5/12           | 5/19           | 5/26         | 6/2                | 6/9         | 6/16                | 6/23          | 6/30           |
| Date                           | 7/7            | 7/14           | 7/21         | 7/28               | 8/4         | 8/11                | 8/18          | 8/25           |
| Date                           | 9/1            | 9/8            | 9/15         | 9/22               | 9/29        | 10/6                | 10/13         | 10/20          |
| Date                           | 10/27          | 11/3           | 11/10        | 11/17              | 11/24       | 12/1                | 12/8          | 12/15          |
| Date                           | 12/22          | 12/29          |              |                    |             |                     |               |                |

If you are not able to carry out your assigned duties <u>you</u> are responsible for getting someone to take your place.

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

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

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

Pastor – Rev. Terry Burley

Vestry – Paul Savage - Senior Warden (2013); Loren Cantrell - Junior Warden (2014); Gail Paul (2013); Tom Olcott (2014); Richard Wallstrom (2014); Geralyn Sullivan (2015); Jesse Farias (2015)

Jane Olcott – Clerk; Loren Cantrell – Sexton; Virginia Gomer – Secretary; Ed Markham – Treasurer



Send comments/corrections to: stoneseditor@yahoo.com