

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

DECEMBER 2012



Christmas at Stone

Dec. 2 at 2 pm:
"Dreams of Christmas"
with Nancy Wait-Kromm,
Liliane Cromer & Stephen
Boniface (see page 2)

Dec. 4, 11, 18 at 6:45 pm:
Advent Taizé Services
(see page 2)

Dec. 8 at 11:30 am:
Deacons Annual Winter
Luncheon (see page 8)

Dec. 16 at 9:30 am:
"King Island Christmas"
during Morning Worship
(see below)

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve
Two Candlelight Services:

5:30 pm Festive Family
Worship Service with
Bells Ringing!

11 pm Meditative Worship
Service featuring Stone's
Chancel Choir

PASS THE LIGHT AROUND! "KING ISLAND CHRISTMAS" COMES TO STONE CHURCH ON DEC. 16

by Ken Henry

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. - Isaiah 9:2

Have you ever been to King Island? If you haven't, I'm not surprised. It's an isolated place far out in the Bering Strait off the coast of Alaska.

In 1969, the people of King Island abandoned their village and island home to take up residence in Nome, and thus, what remains today on the island is a mere shadow of the natives who once resided there. There's a ghost town, propped up on stilts and nestled into a sheer cliff, but little

more than that. Still, while the people of the island are long gone, what remains are many legends and stories.

One of those stories occurred in the winter of 1951. With the Arctic cold bearing down on the people and stormy waters churning off shore, the tiny village was in danger of not receiving needed supplies in order to survive the icy grip of the Bering Sea. Yes, they could see *The North Star*, their supply ship, far away in distance, bobbing up and down among the white caps, but it looked like the people would be spending their Christmas in darkness.

(continued on page 8)

WALKING WHERE JESUS WALKED: MY FIRST TIME IN THE HOLY LAND

by Irene Pak

As Jesus came near and saw the city [Jerusalem], he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. - Luke 19:41-42

Many of you know by now that I had the opportunity to go to Israel and Palestine for the first time. I am pretty sure it is every pastor's dream to go to the Holy Land and walk where Jesus walked, so this was a big deal for me.

I am also in what I call my "Jesus years" – the age range that Jesus began and engaged in ministry – so although I am definitely not the Son of God, it felt unique to be going to this land also as someone who is newer in ministry and engaged in it.

(continued on page 8)

Dreams of Christmas Stone Church

Sunday December 2,
2012 at 2:00 p. m
1937 Lincoln Avenue,
San Jose, CA 95125

Works by J.S. Bach, G.F. Handel, H. Wolf,
R. Quilter, M. Head and audience carol sing.
Join us to celebrate the Joy of the Season!
Admission Free

Nancy Wait-Kromm, soprano
Liliane Cromer, mezzo-soprano
Stephen Boniface, piano and organ

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC, AND REMEMBER YOUR OWN “DREAMS OF CHRISTMAS”

The Season of Christmas brings with it a richness steeped in centuries of stories, sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and traditions. Each of us carries vivid memories and stories from our own life experiences of the Christmas season, our own *Dreams of Christmas*.

In honor of all our remembrances of Christmas, we have chosen beautiful songs that retell the familiar story: Mary's words in Bach's *Magnificat*, images of the peaceful kingdom from Handel's *Messiah*, and the joys of peace from Handel's *Judas Maccabeus*; the excitement of the shepherds; the scenes at the cradle in Bethlehem; the familiar strains of *Adeste Fideles* woven into *Gesu Bambino*; and the evocative melodies of *O Holy Night*. And during the program we will sing together some of the most famous of the old carols of Christmas.

We hope that our program will bring a warm and familiar beginning to the season - the stories, the sounds, the traditions, and the *Dreams of Christmas*.

- Nancy Wait-Kromm

OPEN YOUR HEART IN THE STILLNESS TAIZÉ ADVENT SERVICES, DEC. 4, 11, 18

It is in the busiest of times that we long for a quiet place within ourselves.

In December, the season of *hustle and bustle*, it's rare to find that much-needed place.

However, remembering that Advent is also a time of spiritual preparation, Stone Church offers Taizé Services that include silent prayer, beautiful music, and soft candlelight - all contributing to finding sacred stillness.

Allowing ourselves to enter the quiet, we may find our hearts opening and the whisper of God's voice within.

Taizé Services are offered internationally and are patterned after the meditative and contemplative services originating in the small village of Taizé, France.

Join us for these meaningful services in the Sanctuary of Stone Church on Dec. 4, 11, and 18.

The doors open at 6:30 pm for music and silent prayer. The service begins at 6:45 and concludes by 7:30.

In the spirit of the Taizé community, people of all faiths and traditions are welcome!

- Marsha Wadley



ADULT STUDY: BRUEGGEMANN, FILM ON GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, QUESTIONS OF FAITH

Adult Study classes meet on Sunday after Worship, in the Fireside Room, from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. Childcare is available in the Nursery.

Dec. 2, 9, 16: Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today

Walter Brueggemann shows how our "production-consumption society" today takes us out of covenant and returns us to slavery. These classes are an expansion of Dr. Brueggemann's lectures, *Practicing Neighborhood amid Empire*.

- ✳ Dec. 2: *Countering Caesar*
- ✳ Dec. 9: *An Act of Imagination*
- ✳ Dec. 16: *On Not Doing God Any Favors*

Dec. 23: The Birth of Jesus: "The Gospel According to St. Matthew"

Though an avowed atheist, Pier Paolo Pasolini, in 1964, wrote and directed *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*.

Shot in the arid foothills of southern Italy, it is a solemn, sincere illustration of the Gospel that many film critics regard as the greatest Biblical adaptation ever created.

Coming in January – Questions of Faith (That Few Dare to Ask) with Dale and Barbara Bracey

This class will be a time for speaking our hearts and minds about awkward questions and differences of experience and a time to probe beyond

the way we assume we are expected to think.

Here are some of the questions we can consider:

- ✳ *I Believe in God, But Do I Have to Believe in Jesus?*
- ✳ *Religion and Politics Don't Mix, Do They?*
- ✳ *What Good is Prayer?*
- ✳ *Who Needs Organized Religion Anyway? It's often very divisive!*
- ✳ *Is There a Heaven and a Hell?*

Please contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Subcommittee, for questions on any of these classes.

Also, please note that there is no Adult Study on Dec. 30.

CHURCH LIBRARY HELPS YOU WELCOME THE HOLIDAYS WITH CHRISTMAS BOOKS

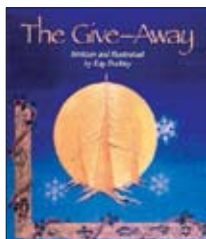
Our Library Committee offers these new books, hoping they'll add to your Christmas season.

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

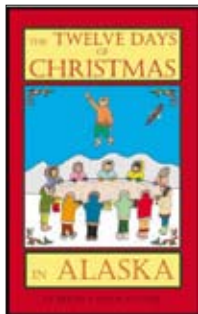
New for our younger members:



Granny Gomez & Jigsaw by Deborah Underwood (1st Bks J Und)



The Give-Away by Ray Buckley (J Buc)



The Twelve Days of Christmas in Alaska by Bernd & Susan Richter (J Ric)

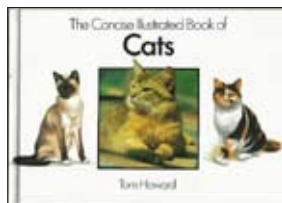
Walter Wangerin (J Wan), given by Claudia Hamm



Probtly Jones and the Fear Not Angel by



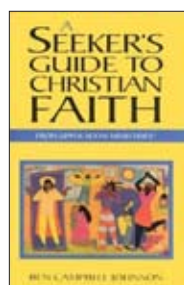
The Twelve Prayers of Christmas by Candy Chand (J 242 Cha), also from Claudia Hamm



The Concise Illustrated Book of Cats by Tom Howard (YA 599 How)



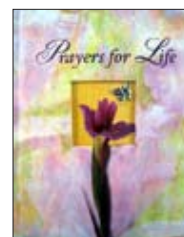
'Tis the Season: A Classic Illustrated Christmas Treasury ed. by Cooper Edens (YA 783.6 Ede)



On the adult side:

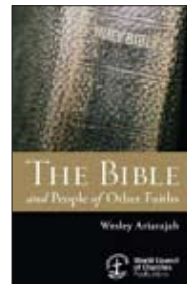
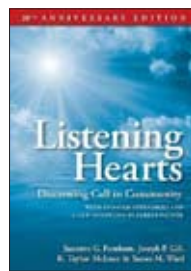
A Seeker's Guide to Christian Faith by Ben Campbell Johnson (230 Joh)

The Kingdom Within: A Study of the Inner Meaning of Jesus' Sayings by John A. Sanford (232 San), given by Dulcie Janzen

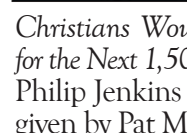


Prayers for Life by Nancy Brummett & June Eaton (243 Bru)

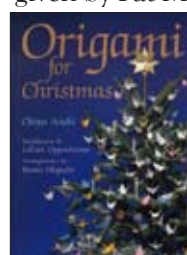
Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community by Suzanne Farnham et al. (248.4 Far), given by Bill Ribble



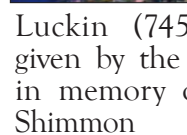
The Bible and People of Other Faiths by S. Wesley Ariarajah (261.2 Ari), given by Brad Bauer



Jesus Wars: How 4 Patriarchs, 3 Queens & 2 Emperors Decided What Christians Would Believe for the Next 1,500 Years by Philip Jenkins (270 Jen), given by Pat Magee



Origami for Christmas by Chiyo Araki (736 Ara)



Making Teddy Bears by Joyce Luckin (745.5 Luc), given by the Williams in memory of Vivian Shimon



Making Teddy Bears by Joyce Luckin (745.5 Luc), given by the Williams in memory of Vivian Shimon



In our adult special sections:

Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith & Art by Madeleine L'Engle (Biog L'ENGLE), given by Ivan Kolte

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See (Fic See), from the Bowers family

YOUTH GROUP ASKS FOR YOUR HELP WITH “GIFT OF THE HEART” KITS FOR SANDY VICTIMS

The long-term recovery from Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath will be especially hard during this Advent and Christmas season. And reports are that the need for even simple everyday items will continue for months afterward.



The Youth Group at their recent Lock-In

To help with some of these simple needs, the Stone Church Youth Group will be assembling “Gift of the Heart” kits on Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013. This project was established by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pda/making-gift-heart-kits/

We invite the congregation to help us create these kits by bringing one or more of the items (at right) to the church on Epiphany. We’ll have a collection area during Coffee Fellowship. Thank you for supporting our service project and for caring for the hurricane victims.

Each Baby Kit is to include:

note: All items should be new and under 12 months in size.

- ♥ 2 T-shirts or undershirts
- no onesies
- ♥ 2 gowns or sleepers
- ♥ 1 sweater or sweatshirt
- ♥ 2 washcloths
- ♥ 2 receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)
- ♥ 6 cloth diapers
- ♥ 2 diaper pins

note: While cloth diapers are not as commonly used in the US, they are a necessary part of the layette. 12-packs of cloth diapers can be purchased at Target and at some Sears.

Each Hygiene Kit is to include:

- ♥ 1 hand towel – about 16” x 28”
- no fingertip or bath towels
- ♥ 1 washcloth
- ♥ 1 wide-tooth comb
- ♥ 1 nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- ♥ 1 bath-sized bar of soap in wrapper
- ♥ 1 toothbrush in original packaging
- ♥ 6 Band-Aids or other adhesive bandage strips

For more information, please contact Rosaleen Zisch.

STONY POINT PROVIDES SHELTER FOR THOSE LEFT HOMELESS BY SANDY

Stony Point Conference Center, one of the three PCUSA General Assembly conference centers, has been home to more than 100 people displaced by Hurricane Sandy. The Center, located on the Hudson River an hour north of New York City, is on higher ground and did not receive significant flooding. However, neighbors just a mile away lost everything, with an 11-foot storm surge in the river.

Stony Point has been working with the Department of Social Services, the Office of Emergency Services, seven Red Cross teams, FEMA, and United Way to lend transitional support for the more than 60 adults and 40 children who were displaced.

The normal tasks of running a conference center have been put on the back burner. One staff person said, “We’re footing the bill for food, the overtime costs of providing three meals a day, seven days a week, plus extra heating costs.”

The Center has a full schedule of conferences in December and hopes to have found more permanent housing for their Sandy-affected guests by that time. *- David McCreath*

FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN THIS SEASON OF GRATITUDE AND GIVING

StoneWorks brings you great news of the work of two of our nearby *sister* Presbyterian churches in the fight to alleviate hunger in our own community. We are excited about our recent financial donations to the programs at First Presbyterian Church of San José and at Trinity Presbyterian, and ask that you consider supporting these worthy ministries this holiday season and throughout the year.

First Presbyterian’s *Front Door Ministries* offers bag lunches comprised of nourishing food such as tuna, chicken, and ham. As many as 100 are served daily, and in the first nine months of 2012, they provided 8,836 lunches. This ministry is in need of money and volunteers.

Trinity Presbyterian’s *Food Pantry* operates every Tuesday afternoon giving out fresh and packaged food to as many as 60 local families. Fresh bread and pastries, meats, fruits and vegetables are greatly appreciated by the recipients. Currently, they are unable to purchase diapers, which are a great need of the community they serve. They are also in need of gleaners to collect food from local markets.

If you would like to donate to, or volunteer for, either of these ministries, please contact:

☼ **Front Door Ministry at First Presbyterian** (Greg Plant)

☼ **Food Pantry at Trinity Presbyterian** (Susie Smare)

You can also contact Maureen Chandler, Chair, StoneWorks for either ministry.

Thank You for Your Generosity

We offer many thanks to everyone who participated in the Bill Wilson Adopt-a-Family program. We are so grateful to be able to serve twenty children this year with gifts and clothing!

With immense gratitude for the generosity of everyone who has supported Stone Church’s mission works this year, and in the name of Christ, we wish you a joyous Christmas Season.

- Maureen Chandler, Chair, StoneWorks

"Downtown" ... Does anyone else remember this tune from the early 60s? Somehow it popped up in early December

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

to promote seasonal shopping.

(Does anyone remember shopping downtown as opposed to at the mall?) We can replace it with our favorite carols – you choose, as we all have fond memories.

Next Door Solutions Needs Gifts

The Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence facility provides a safe environment for women and children in abusive situations.



At Christmas, they have a *Holiday Boutique*, where mothers can select gifts for their children, and children can select gifts for their mothers.

They need new, unwrapped items to stock the boutique. They also need wrapping paper, tissue paper, gift bags, scissors, tape, and tags.

If you are interested in donating, please bring your contributions to the church by Dec. 9. Volunteers are also needed for various jobs at the boutique. (For information and scheduling, please contact Next Door Solutions.)

Christmas is Giving Time

Now that interest rates are not what we would like, our mission giving cannot be either.

However, your Coordinating Team had a wonderful time allocating \$1,000 to some worthy organizations, which included San Francisco Theological Seminary for the children's party, Emmaus House, Planned Parenthood, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Sacred Heart Community Service.

Fair Trade Sales on Dec. 9

If you missed the Fair Trade gift baskets, you will probably need extra coffee, tea, cocoa, etc., for your holiday entertaining. Stock up on Dec. 9!

Coupons and S.H.A.R.E.S. Cards

We are still in *baking mode*, so this month's emphasis is on Eggland's Best, Land O' Lakes butter, and Pillsbury flour.

Epiphany Tea on Jan. 6, 2013

It is a little early for this news, but please save Jan. 6, 2013, from 2 to 4 pm, for the PWP Epiphany Tea, which has become a tradition at Stone Church.

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery host the tea, which includes a Taizé service.

PW Schedule for December

Please note that some groups are meeting at different times, dates, and places due to the holidays.

Amethyst Circle, noon, Dec. 5, Jan Keifer's home

Emerald Circle, 11:30 am, Dec. 6, Alice Thorn's home

Fair Trade Sales, 10:30 am, Dec. 9, Social Hall

Sapphire Circle, 6 pm, Dec. 10, Jeanette Rapp's home

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, Dec. 11, Taiwan Restaurant, Lincoln Ave.

PWCT, 9:30 am, Dec. 13, Social Hall

Book Group II, 2:30 pm, Dec. 17, Rhonda Lakatos' home, discussing *Fierce Compassion* by Kristin and Kathryn Wong

S.I.T. with Rev. Ken Henry, 2 pm, Fireside Room, Dec. 19

Bible Study with Rev. Marge Palmer, 9:30 am, Dec. 20, Church Library, Lesson 5, *Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles*

Prayer Shawl Group – Please call Janice Goertz for information.

There are no meetings this month for the Focus Group or Book Group I.

Date to Remember

PWP Epiphany Tea, 2 - 4 pm, Jan. 6, 2013

- Catherine Amos

The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission

MEN'S MINISTRY

work team, a book group, a wine-making group, and a flying group.



For more information about any of these activities, please contact Parish Associate David McCreath.

Men's Book Group, Dec. 17

The next meeting of the Men's Book Group will be on Dec. 17, beginning at 7:30 pm.

The group will select books to be read during the winter and early spring; come with suggestions. Bill Ribble is host.

STONE CHURCH PHOTO GROUP MEETING JAN. 21

A small and dedicated group has begun a Stone Church Photo Group (Stone Pictures? Pictures of Stone?). The next meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 21, 2013, beginning at 7 pm.

Bring your new camera, smartphone, and your older equipment, as well as examples of photos you have taken. We will share ideas and make plans for late winter and the spring.

For more information, please contact David McCreath or Dan Raby.

THROUGH HENRIETTA PERDUE LECTURES, STONE DONATES TO CTNS CHAIR

On Sept. 14, the Center for Theology and Natural Science (CTNS) at Berkeley announced the completion of a \$400,000 Challenge Grant from the John Templeton Foundation for an endowed chair in the name of Ian G. Barbour, pioneer of interaction between modern science and theology. Dr. Robert Russell, Director of CTNS, is the first holder of the chair.

Stone Church was a major contributor to the campaign in the amount of \$1,900. This contribution was possible because Dr. Russell, the Henrietta Perdue Memorial Lecturer in February 2010, did not take an honorarium. Thus, all profits from the lectures could be given to the Challenge Grant.

- Pat Magee

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REMINDS US TO COMPLETE OUR 2012 PLEDGES

Stone Church Income/Expense Summary through October 2012

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actuals YTD	Actuals vs. Budget YTD
Income	509,850	426,311	406,575	-19,736
Expense	509,850	418,605	396,916	21,689
Cash Flow	0	7,706	9,659	1,953

It is that time of year when we begin planning for our next fiscal year, 2013. As you can see from the table above, we are almost \$20K behind in our budgeted income, but fortunately we are also behind in our budgeted expenses, so we still have a positive cash flow.

With little time left in 2012, this is a good time to remind you to complete your 2012 pledge. Also, make sure you have turned in your 2013 pledge form (see the article at right).

For more information, please contact Mel Goertz, Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee.

A REWARDING JOURNEY: BE A MENTOR FOR A CONFIRMAND



Confirmation Class 2011

The 2013 Youth Confirmation Journey begins in January.

Would you like to be a mentor or volunteer to support this program?

If you are interested, please get in touch with Elder Rosaleen Zisch.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ASKS US TO ESTIMATE OUR GIVING FOR 2013

Stone Church celebrated our *All Good Gifts* stewardship campaign in the Social Hall after Worship on Consecration Sunday. Thank you to all who turned in a pledge form as part of that service.

However, if you were unable to attend on Consecration Sunday or were not ready to estimate your giving at that time, we ask you to do so as soon as possible. Our Budget Review Committee meets soon to set spending plans for 2013, and it is critical to know where we are in total financial support.

Here are links to the 2013 pledge form:

www.stonechurch.org/Stewardship/PledgeForm.pdf

... and the automated withdrawal form:

www.stonechurch.org/Stewardship/PreArranged.pdf

Thank you for mailing your pledge form or dropping it by the Church Office, as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact Roland Neufeld, Chair of the Stewardship Committee.

SESSION: PRAYERS FOR IRENE'S SAFE RETURN; REVIEW OF SCREEN AND PLEDGING

At its regular meeting, two days before Thanksgiving, Session remembered the Rev. Irene Pak in Israel, getting ready to fly home, and gave prayers for her safe travel. Members also heard a report that the Presbytery of San José has approved a continuing contract between Irene and Stone Church for the year 2013.

Donald Foster, on behalf of the Communications Subcommittee of the Fellowship & Renewal Committee, gave a demonstration of the technical wonders of the new flat panel display screen in the Social Hall. There are numerous possibilities for its use; Donald is the person to go to for information.

Session moved jurisdiction of the church's sound equipment from Communications to the Worship Committee, since sound is more often a concern in Worship services. The Buildings & Grounds Committee still has jurisdiction when there is need for equipment repair.

The Worship Committee noted that this year's Christmas Eve services will take place at 5:30 pm (a festive family service) and 11 pm (a more meditative service, with the Chancel Choir).

Also reported from Worship was that Stone's organist, Stephen Boniface, is presenting an organ recital in Salinas late in December.

The Stewardship Committee reported that to date there have been 106 pledges for a total amount of \$386,893. Last year there were a total of about 150 pledges over the course of the entire pledge drive. This year's goal is \$450,000.

Approximately 600 people voted at Stone, which has been a polling place for a number of years. Thanks to Josh Stevens who did the organizing to make everything go smoothly. (A great many of the voters walked to the polling place, so our lack of parking wasn't a great problem.) Even with absentee and early voting, there is still a need for a polling place.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STONE NEWS STAFF!

HERE IS A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF BETHLEHEM TAKEN BY OUR OWN IRENE PAK,
ON HER RECENT TRIP TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINE.



*The people that walked in darkness have
seen a great light, and they that dwell
in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them hath the light shined.*

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son
is given: and the government shall be upon
His shoulder: and His name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the
everlasting Father: the Prince of Peace.*

**Deacons Annual
Winter Luncheon**



**Please join us Saturday, Dec. 8,
from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm,
for the always glorious
Deacons Annual
Winter Luncheon.**

**It will be a time for us older
members and friends of Stone
Church to enjoy each other, to
savor a great soup and salad
lunch, to hear a special vocal
presentation, and to have some
fun with Christmas songs.**

**Sign up during Coffee Fellow-
ship on Dec. 2, or by phone
through Dec. 5 by calling Steve
Stark or Charlotte Dickson.**

**And we'll provide
transportation if needed.**

FIRST TIME IN THE HOLY LAND

by Irene Pak

(continued from page 1)

After nearly 24 hours of travel time, I arrived in Tel Aviv with my head in a fog, boarded a bus with my fellow PCUSA Peacemaking Program participants, and traveled another hour to Palestine, to the city of the birthplace of Jesus – Bethlehem. It was night when we arrived, and after a brief walk through the empty city streets, I hit my bed exhausted and fell fast asleep.

I woke up to the Muslim call to prayer and the streets of Bethlehem coming to life. As we began our meeting – as planning team for the 2014 Peacemaking Conference – we turned on our computers and got connected to the internet. All of us were suddenly hit with the news that the conflict between Israel and Palestine was beginning to escalate with missiles.

It is a bit jarring to read news like that when you are in such close proximity. Here we are talking about peacemaking and thinking of ways to engage people in the situation in Israel and Palestine, and violence begins to break out around us. And yet, we looked out the windows to beautiful sunshine, people walking along, the markets opened and alive, and droves of tourists flooding the streets of Bethlehem. It was surreal.

There is almost too much to say about my time there overall. I am carrying different pieces of the trip, and each holds something very different for me. I hope to be able

to continue to process my time, but I will share some pieces with you.

Some of those I hold with open hands are: Engaging in conversations with Palestinian Christians in Bethlehem; reading scripture for the Sunday worship at Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem; a conversation with a young Palestinian taxi driver about his experience living within walls; walking through a check point to Jerusalem and then immediately having the check point close behind us (which meant we were not sure if we would be able to go back to our hotel that day); standing on the Mount of Olives



overlooking the old city of Jerusalem (above); praying in the Garden of Gethsemane; praying at the Western Wall; having an air raid siren go off briefly while we were in Old Jerusalem; and going through close scrutiny at four different security points at Tel Aviv airport trying to return home.

I hope to share more in depth with you, but my prayer today is that we, as the people of God everywhere, will recognize and be able to see the things that do make for peace, even in what seems like a hopeless situation. There are people on both sides of the walls, in Israel and Palestine, who hope and work for peace. May that compel us to continue to do the same.

“KING ISLAND CHRISTMAS” AT STONE CHURCH

by Ken Henry

(continued from page 1)

The Prophet Isaiah spoke of people walking in darkness: the feeling of being abandoned by God and left without hope. This must have been how the people of King Island felt that night. Their village life was being threatened with the darkness of not having enough food or warm clothing.

On Dec. 25, 1951, as the natives watched their supply ship struggling to stay afloat, they felt their hope slipping away. And to make matters worse, their village priest, Father Carroll, was on that boat, which meant they would be without their spiritual leader. The light was slowly fading to darkness. And yet, that's not how this story (or ours) ends.

For whether we live in a village on a remote island in the Bering Sea or in San José, California, “... the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it ...” (John 1:5).

On Dec. 16, at 9:30 am, in the Stone Church Sanctuary, we will experience a musical based on the people's journey toward light. It's called *King Island Christmas*, but it is more than that. It is the timeless story of people overcoming adversity. It is the story of God's light driving out the darkness. It is the story of hope. I leave you with the words of Father Carroll, the village priest on King Island:



*We light a candle on Christmas night.
We light a candle to celebrate the miracle of light!*

*The Stone Church of Willow Glen
Presbyterian Church (USA)
1937 Lincoln Avenue
San José, CA 95125-3499
phone: 408-269-1593
www.stonechurch.org
Rev. Dr. Ken Henry, Pastor
Rev. Irene Pak, Associate Pastor
Jennifer Scott-Brand, Office Manager*

The Stone News Staff:
*June Tablak, Editor Emeritus
and “Church Mouse”
Sylvia Snyder, Photographer Emeritus
Emily Moak Meacham, Editor*

Assistant Editors:
*Rhonda Lakatos, Pat Magee,
Sally Magee, Jody Meacham,
Fred Oliver, Lizanne Oliver*

Additional Photographs:
*Dan Raby, Irene Pak,
Ken Henry, Marsha Wadley,
Pat Patterson, Carol Martin*