

MIDWEEK MESSAGE
JULY 16, 2014

Words to Consider: *"A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral."*

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- ❖ **CHURCH COUNCIL, Thursday, July 17, 5:00 PM** in the Parlor.
- ❖ **SPIRE DEADLINE, Friday, July 18**, for August issue.
- ❖ **SUNDAY, July 20, Sixth Sunday of Pentecost, 10:00 AM, Worship and Sunday School:** *"No Other Rock,"* Pastor Rick preaching.
- ❖ **QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING, Sunday, July 20, 11:30 AM** in the Parlor.
- ❖ **BIBLE STUDY, Tuesday, July 22, 10:30 AM**, at the Terraces of Los Altos at Janet Maxwell's apartment. The address is 373 Pine Lane, #2106, Los Altos. Let Pastor Rick know if you need a ride.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS



SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JULY is our annual offering for **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**. This year's theme is "We Are One." "With our extensive network of international and domestic partners, American Baptists are able to make a difference wherever and whenever disaster strikes." This special offering is directed to those areas and people around the world that are in need from either natural

disasters or man-made disasters. Our gifts to One Great Hour Sharing make a difference in the world. To date we've received **\$190** toward our goal of **\$1,000**.

- ❖ **WOMEN'S BRUNCH** will be **Thursday, July 24 at 10 AM** at Corner Bakery Cafe, 3375 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. All women of our church community are invited to join in.

IN THE WORLD

MIDDLE EAST: JEWS, CHRISTIANS, AND MUSLIMS BREAK BREAD FOR PEACE

Posted on: July 10, 2014 3:14 PM

Kids4Peace Jerusalem protested against the violence. We left our families, we left our bomb shelters, our neighborhoods, our villages, to come together as a community. Yes, many of us were terrified. Some community members and even staff sent messages of love and support but were too afraid to join.

In Kids4Peace Jerusalem, many members of our community have been directly affected by the terror and violence. Whether it be close personal relationships with the teenage boys who were murdered, military lock-down, inability to enter Jerusalem, violence in our neighborhoods, cities, and even inside some homes. Everyone in Jerusalem has felt threatened, felt afraid, and had run to a bomb shelter at least once, and the war in Gaza and the violence around us is growing.

What was our action? We had dinner. We: Jews, Christians, and Muslims, Palestinians and Israelis. We broke bread together. We caught up with old friends. We lent each other our ears, our shoulders, and our hearts. We feel that now more than ever we have to take a stance against violence and this interfaith Iftar was just the beginning.

Kids4Peace Jerusalem co-director Mohammad Joulany opened the evening with a few explanatory words about the holy month of Ramadan, the spiritual opportunities it provides, and how an Iftar is a family dinner that breaks the daily fast. In the last few moments before sundown, members from each religion stood up and offered a prayer over the food. As the sun started to set over the 11th night of Ramadan, all who attended felt like family and broke the fast together.

Udi, K4P Jerusalem Steering Committee Chair compared the violence to the Kindergarten that he runs. He asked everyone to imagine what would happen if one of the kids came to him and said: so-and-so ruined my drawing, and his reply would be: well then go on and ruin everyone else's drawing too. This, he pointed out, is the extremism in our societies. They are trying to destroy everything, but here we are coming together despite it all, making a stance against violence.

Below are quotes by those who attended the event.

"I came to prove to others that it is possible to be around people from the other side."
-Eden, 9th grade, Muslim

"I came to show that other than all the fighting between Arabs and Jews, there is still a way here to show peace and love." -Carla, 9th grade, Christian

"I came because I wanted to come. The war is making us all divide up and be on separate sides. It just makes me want to come even more to settle things down." -Aviya, 7th grade, Jewish



(anglicannews.org, 7-14-2014)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- ✚ Birthday joy: Daniel Ramirez (July 16)
- ✚ Pastor Rick for Oleta's return to work and for continued recovery
- ✚ Mary Martin with thanks that she is walking better
- ✚ Ron Fredlund for a new great grandson (number 9)
- ✚ Lynn Hunwick for a brighter future in Nicaragua with the promise of a new canal
- ✚ Kitsy Bocook for a new granddaughter, Faith
- ✚ Kathy Gilliam for a surprise visit from Julia on Dick's birthday

Concerns – New:

- ✚ Jane Chin for the family and friends of their friend, Edward, who died last week
- ✚ Thelma Parodi for a difficult decision she has to make in the next few weeks
- ✚ Melanie Ramirez for both Salvador and herself who have been sick this week
- ✚ Kitsy Bocook for her the friend and family of her former husband, Bill, who died recently; for her sons, Brett and Dirk as they deal with health concerns
- ✚ For Elliott Davidson recovering from a concussion
- ✚ For Dan Cudworth and family as he has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will have surgery in July 18
- ✚ Melanie Ramirez for safe travel for Clara and Dona as they journey to Oregon
- ✚ For the work of our Associate Pastor Search Committee
- ✚ Carolyn Shepard for the family and friends of her mother-in-law, Marie, who died last week
- ✚ For Jan and Peter Gunderson as they travel in Scandinavia
- ✚ For Teresa Hagen as she makes some significant transitions in her life
- ✚ For the people of Palestine and Israel that they might find ways to live together in peace
- ✚ For all the children and families affected by the refugee crisis at the US border
- ✚ For June Lee who is at Channing House health unit, recovering from a mild stroke
- ✚ Nana Spiridon for Alex and family as Alex adjusts to his new living environment in a memory care facility; for peace in their family

Ongoing:

- ✚ For Corinne and E. Y. Fung in assisted living in Carmel Valley
- ✚ For Bob Towner at Manor Care in Sunnyvale and for Lucille
- ✚ Laura Garcia for Janice with health concerns
- ✚ For Ruth Clark, Earl and Virginia Knechtel, Ruth Owen, Carl Schilling
- ✚ For Ruriko Uda's congregation, Izumi Parktown Church, in Sendai, Japan
- ✚ For Ramesh Kumar and the ministry of Balasore Technical School in India

- ✚ For our sister church in Corinto, Nicaragua
- ✚ For refugees and all victims of war and disaster everywhere
- ✚ For the work of EHP and the Opportunity Center with the homeless and hungry
- ✚ For the well-being of our church; for wisdom and guidance for our leaders and future
- ✚ For the economies of which we are a part (global, national, state, local)
- ✚ For the peoples of the world striving for freedom and dignity
- ✚ For peace in a war-torn world, food for the hungry, homes for the homeless, justice for the abused and oppressed, and hope for the future
- ✚ For those affected by indiscriminate acts of violence and for the adoption of measures to heal our communities of all the many ways these make us less safe and less free

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2014

"No Other Rock"
Pastor Rick Preaching

Lectionary reading for the Week: Psalm 86:1-17; **ISAIAH 44:1-8**; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; Romans 8:12-25. (This week's focus scripture is in bold.)

Trauma theorists tell us that one of the essential steps for trauma victims reconstituting their shattered lives is to repair their narrative identity, i.e., constructing fragments of their former selves into a sense-making narrative.

Isaiah 44:6-8 as part of the larger context of Isaiah 44 seeks to reestablish a new identity for the broken exiles by reminding the exilic community that their own identity should be understood in relation to the character of God. Having received a new name in vv. 1-5, the exiles are reminded that they are witnesses of the Redeemer God. They are called to testify to God's liberative action in their lives which is a continuation of God's redemptive action in the past.

The promise of God's redemptive action to which the trauma survivors are called to witness is a source of great comfort. Speaking to people who have been deeply wounded, the people are consoled with the words: "Do not be afraid" (v. 8). The Redeemer God who has done marvelous things in the past, will once more act to save the exiles from their dire situation.

In addition, closely associated with the portrayal of the Redeemer God is the overarching affirmation in Isaiah 44 that God is the only God, repeated three times in this short pericope. God alone is the first and the last, or the alpha and the omega as the writer of Revelation many

centuries later would formulate this claim (Rev 21:6; 22:13). Referring back to the psalms' application of rock imagery to denote God as source of protection in times of danger (Pss 18:2; 31-32; 62:7; 94:22), v. 8 proclaims that God is the only Rock--there is no other. (Juliana Claassens, "Commentary on Isaiah 44:6-8, July 20, 2008, *workingpreacher.org*).

Prayer: Steadfast God, teach us your way and your truth. Root us in you alone, help us to grow in grace and love, that we may fulfill our role and our work in the reign of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK

Jan and Peter Gunderson seem to be having a wonderful trip to Scandinavia based on pictures they've posted on Facebook. We miss Jan's music but it was great to have Ruth Winter playing piano last Sunday and this. Ruth always adds a lot to our worship. Oleta is slowly making her way back into the office. It is good to see her smiling face and have her handle some of the administrative details of our congregational life. I am very pleased that Doug Davidson has agreed to stay with us until we find our new Associate Pastor. He did a great Time with Children and Youth last Sunday on the Parable of the Sower.

We'll continue with the Hebrew Prophets this week as we consider a beautiful poetic text from Isaiah. There is "no other rock" he says than Yahweh, the Rock of Ages. Of course there are more words and images for God than we can imagine. This notion of God as rock, as someone or something solid, dependable, protective is one people have turned to for centuries. There are undeniably times when each of us, no matter how smart, wise or strong needs shelter from the storm. Every Sunday before the sermon, I pray that my words and our meditations will be acceptable to God who is our "Rock and our Redeemer."

See you Sunday at 10 AM for Worship, Sunday School and for the patio hour to follow.

God grant us more light, more love, more life as we journey together.

Pastor Rick

MORE LIGHT...MORE LOVE...MORE LIFE





The Parable of the Sower



Patio Hour

