

Rose Clippings

A Caring, Committed, Christian Community

Volume 44, No. 12

December, 2008

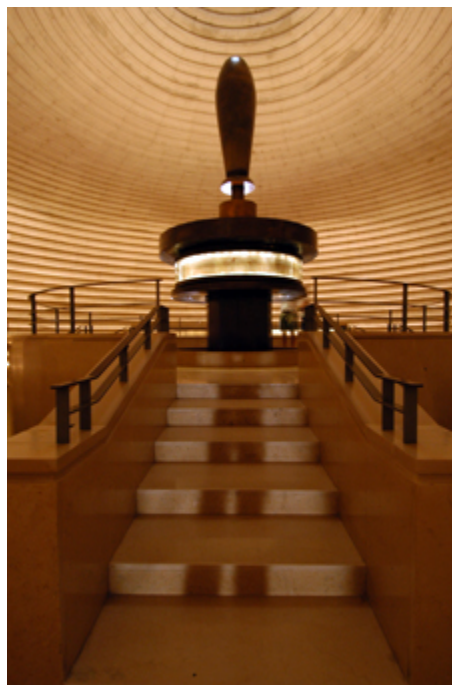
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PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES
 FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
 BY NOON
 ON DECEMBER 19.
 EMAIL TO:
 KDOR@SONIC.NET
 OR LEAVE ARTICLE IN
 BOX IN CHURCH OFFICE.



PASTOR'S CORNER



Wings of Eagles

The Book of Isaiah

Over 200 fragments from the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed at the Shrine of the Book Museum in Jerusalem. The only fully intact scroll displayed at the Shrine of the Book is the "Great Isaiah Scroll" which contains the entire book of Isaiah -- all 66 chapters!

The Great Isaiah Scroll was discovered in Cave 1 in 1947. It was identified as the Biblical Book of Isaiah in 1948, and purchased by the Syrian Orthodox Church at that time. Israel reacquired the Great Isaiah Scroll in 1954 to study it and preserve it as a national treasure. It has been displayed as the centerpiece exhibit at the Shrine of the Book museum since 1965. A second partial Isaiah scroll was also discovered

in Cave 1 in 1947. Since that time, approximately 17 other fragments of Isaiah scripture have been discovered in other caves at Qumran. As far as dating, it appears that pieces of the Great Isaiah Scroll have been carbon-14 dated at least four times, including a study at the University of Arizona in 1995. The four studies produced calibrated date ranges between 335-324 BC and 202-107 BC.

Advent Lessons from Isaiah

The Dead Sea Scrolls have provided phenomenal evidence for the credibility of biblical scripture. Specifically, the nearly intact Great Isaiah Scroll is almost identical to the most recent manuscript version of the Masoretic text from the 900's AD. (Scholars have discovered a handful of spelling and tense-oriented scribal errors, but nothing of significance.) In these scrolls are two of our Advent scriptures that prophesy the birth of the savior.

PASTOR'S CORNER

Continued from Page 1

Isaiah 40

1. Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
2. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.
3. A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD ; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.
4. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.
5. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

The nativity of Christ was the hope of God, with the face of child. Isaiah's strong words of comfort begin the prophesy. "Speak tenderly" he says, your sins are paid for and forgiven. A straight path in the desert will be the highway of the Lord. Roads connect travelers, and straight paths convey honesty, justice and lack of deception.

Wings of Eagles

"But they that wait upon the LORD
shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as EAGLES
they shall run, and not be weary;
and they shall walk, and not faint" ~ Isaiah 40:31



An eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks. The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, the bird sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages, below the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm, it simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

Isaiah has picked a good analogy for our day. Let the winds of the storms lift us toward our better selves, and our nobler deeds. When the storms of life come upon us ... and all of us will experience them ... we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God.

The storms do not have to overcome us, we can allow God's power to lift us above them. God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure, and disappointment into our lives. God's faithful can soar above the storm on the wings of Eagles.

What a discovery! The original text of Isaiah, confirming the scriptures of the bibles we have on our own shelves. More than that, the comfort of God's comfort, and the lifting power of the wings of the Holy Spirit to dwell among us in this season.

~John Cushman

FRIENDS & FAMILY

What wonderful friends we have at the Church of the Roses! Your cards, prayers, food and loving thoughts have helped us during this difficult time. Our sincere thanks,

Ted and Kay McCarthy



A Postcard from

George and Lois Menchen in Palm Springs!

We are enjoying ourselves playing shuffleboard and pool and Lois is taking a computer class. Our trailer is small but comfortable. I miss the Sexton meetings and church each Sunday. See you all in April!



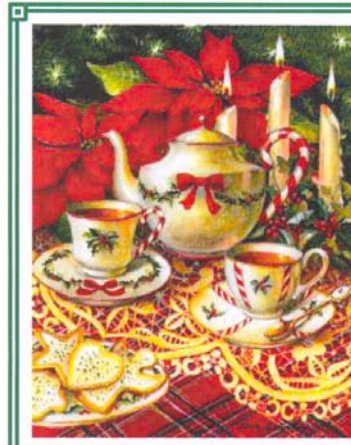
FELLOWSHIP

Presbyterian Women



Voyagers

Active Adults



Presbyterian Women
invites you to a
Christmas Tea Luncheon
Tuesday, December 16 at Noon

*Montgomery High School Singers
will provide a musical program.*

No Bible Study this month.

Circle Four Meets Monday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.



Sewing Group:
Tuesday December 9 from 10:00 am -2:00 pm

*The Voyagers Christmas Tea will
be held on
Sunday, December 7 from 2:00
to 4:00 p.m.*



*at the home of Diane Brown
Coffee, tea, cookies and
sandwiches to be served.*

*You will receive a call asking if
you plan to attend. For more in-
formation, please call Diane at
529-0128*



~ Calling all Voyagers! ~

Mark your 2009 calendar. The Voyager's **organizational meeting** is be Sunday, January 11, 2009 in the Rose Room. after church. Voyagers will the contribute to the Redwood Food Bank, but we are unable to fund any other requests. Also, bring ideas for monthly and community service activities, fund raisers, etc. Please come--we need you and your ideas.

WHAT'S NEW?



Christmas Carol Sing A-Long

Sunday December 14 at 4:30 pm

Come join Pastor Cushman and *Bo Django* guitarist, Paul Gruen, for a special hymns and carols sing a-long in the Sanctuary.

Bring your friends, family, a small plate of cookies to share and your best singing voice!

Roses Signature Concert Series

Presbyterian Church of the Roses is pleased to offer this series of Sunday afternoon concerts. All start at 2 pm in the Sanctuary. Refreshments are served after each concert.



****UP NEXT****

December 21

**"Journey of Promises"
Christmas Cantata**

Church of the Roses Chancel Choir

January 18

The Redwood Chordsmen

February 22

Favorite Songs of Our Faith
Church of the Roses Chancel Choir

March 22

Thomas Pandolfi
Concert Pianist

April 26

Santa Rosa Chamber Ensemble
(formerly Baroque Symphonia)

May 17

Sinfonia 4
Quartet from The American Symphony

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

TIME TO DECK THE HALLS FOR CHRISTMAS! The congregation is invited to help decorate the church on Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 - 12:00. We need you and your family to help us climb ladders, hang wreaths, put together and decorate Christmas trees, put up holiday lights, hang garlands, etc. The more hands that help, the easier and more fun we'll have. Plenty of coffee and treats, of course! Worship and the Arts looks forward to seeing you.



The Alternative Christmas, December 7 at 9:00 am to noon

Give Church World Service blankets or tools. Feed hungry children through **Doctors Without Borders**. Buy **Heifer Project** chickens or geese or a share in a pig. Provide nails or tools to **Habitat for Humanity**. Provide support for the family of a returning **Veteran** or help the **Redwood Food Bank's** Holiday Fund Drive. Do it all to honor someone YOU care about while you help support people in need. Shopping lists will be available to record your choices with attractive cards to send to your family and friends.



Your donations at work: Last month Margie Donaldson and Kate Clayton attended Drug Abuse Alternative Center's "Turning Lives Around" breakfast and were able see first hand how our church's donation of \$1,000 helped three at-risk families in our community. Thank you!



MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL

Laurie Fong, Principal
Chris White, Vice Principal
Jan Smith Billing, Assistant Principal
Mitchell Carter, Assistant Principal

1250 HAHMAN DRIVE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405 (707) 528-5191 FAX (707) 528-5056

November 21, 2008

Dear Church of the Roses,

On behalf of Montgomery High School, we would like to express our deepest appreciation for all that you do for our students. As you are well aware, it's hard to concentrate on academics if you don't start the day with a good meal. The Church of the Roses has been providing our students with a wonderful breakfast for a long time now, and we value your contribution to the school community. Your assistance plays a meaningful role in the lives of Montgomery students and their ability to succeed at school.

Sincerely,

Laurie Fong, Principal
Mitchell Carter, Assistant Principal

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



At the November Session meeting, we reviewed the progress of the **Fall Stewardship Campaign** expecting that the down turning economy would force us to cut back, to shrink, and to shudder. Many of our church families have experienced great financial changes and one member managed a joke that his 401 (k) had shrunk to a 201 (k)

Against that background, stands the sacrificial giving of our members that is a testament of faith and hope. The session asked me to present a summary for our members to see, together with their thanks for the many who have worked so hard to help us reach this point.

- ◆ 20 people have had to decrease their pledges for a net loss of \$15,000.
- ◆ 47 people have increased their pledge for an increase of \$20,500.
- ◆ 66 people have been able to maintain their level of giving.
- ◆ 12 new pledges have been added for a total of \$11,500
- ◆ 4 pledges have been withdrawn.

About \$50,000 in pledges from 2008, have not yet been received in the office, but there is reason to think that most of these pledges will be renewed. Even if 75% of them are received, our budget goal is well within reach.

The church also receives “non-budget” gifts to programs of particular interest. Gifts of cleaning aid in the preschool, office equipment, food, and much more are among them. The building had a very good year, and the remaining balance of our \$2 million construction loan, has been reduced to \$340,000 through special gifts to mortgage pay down.

We reaffirm our commitment to being innovative and to look for new ways to involve people in the program and ministries of our church. This is only possible because our members and friends believe in the ministries and people who make our church vital.

One day, as we were standing at an overlook above the Temple in Jerusalem, my friend and senior colleague Dr. Bill Harter reflected upon some of the special gifts that enabled us to bring along guests who would never have made it to the Holy Land without help. I remember asking Bill, if it was hard for him to raise the money. He said, “Always remember this, John. It is ok to invite people to contribute to a good thing. And this is a good thing.”

It is without embarrassment that we reflect upon the many good things Church of the Roses does in our community. Because some of us are a bit restless, we continue to ask, “What else?” We invite people to join us to worship, to share a meal, to study a developing issue, and we realize that God’s blessings are extended through our outreaching hands. Thank you to those who make our church possible. We are most richly blessed who are able to give in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



December 2008 Children & Youth Calendar

Friends are always welcome!

SUNDAY MORNINGS in Advent: Sunday School continues through December as usual in the Red Room for children who are not participating in the musical. At the same time, rehearsals for THE CHRISTMAS COUNTY SPELLING BEE are held in the Blue Room with Barbara McElroy.

Saturday, December 6 9:00 am ~ DECORATE THE CHURCH (See page 5)

Sunday, December 14 4:30 pm ~ CHRISTMAS CAROL SING A-LONG
(See page 4)



Saturday, December 20 4:00 pm. ~ CHRISTMAS CAROLING to homebound members.

Meet at church to go Christmas Caroling to homes of congregation members who cannot get out. Please call Kate at 291-5897 if you want to come, so we can arrange rides!

Friday, December 19 6:00 p.m. ~ Extra rehearsal for "CHRISTMAS COUNTY SPELLING BEE"

Tuesday, December 23 10:00 a.m. ~ Dress rehearsal for "CHRISTMAS COUNTY SPELLING BEE"



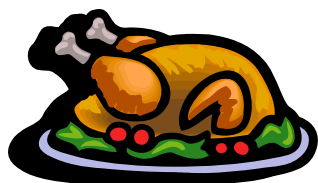
Wednesday, December 24 5:00 pm ~ "CHRISTMAS COUNTY SPELLING BEE" OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY MUSICAL!

LOOKING AHEAD: Broomball coming up on Saturday, January 5th at 10:00 p.m!

Looking Ahead ~

January 3 at 10:00 p.m. - Broomball at Snoopy's Home Ice!

(1667 W. Steele Lane) Friends are welcome - everyone needs to sign a waiver from the ice rink (ask Kate); those under 18 MUST have parents sign a permission form and fill out a medical form...these are available on our website, www.churchoftheroses.org. Play is from 10:15-11:45 p.m. (To those who will already be gone...what can I say? We'll try again in June!)



SPECIAL THANKS to the LOGOS staff for all they do, and most especially to the kitchen crew for the FINE Thanksgiving dinner!

AROUND AND ABOUT

The Giving Tree

Each year the Deacons organize the *Christmas Food Basket and Giving Tree Program* to help needy families in our community. Again, this year, 60 families will each receive a large basket of food along with gifts for their children. We purchase food with funds from the Deacon's treasury, funds to which you have so generously donated. During the month of December, the Deacons arrange to pick up food, pack the food baskets, and deliver the food and gifts.

But the Deacons need your help. Here are some of the ways you can participate in this important program:

- Volunteer to **purchase gifts for children** by taking ornaments from the *Giving Tree* in Bowen Hall **Sunday, November 30, Sunday December 7, and Sunday December 14.** Names, sex, and ages of children are on each ornament, so that appropriate gifts can be purchased. (Each ornament tag has no more than three children listed.) Bring wrapped and labeled gifts to the church office as soon as possible for storage until delivery.
- **Contribute cash rather than shop.** This is most appreciated. Come to the *Giving Tree* and the Deacons will assist you.
- **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS!**
 - ⇒ Thursday, **DECEMBER 18** - help organize gifts.
 - ⇒ Friday, **DECEMBER 19** - divide the food into baskets.
 - ⇒ Saturday, **DECEMBER 20** - deliver food and gifts to our families.

This wonderful event shows our caring Christian commitment!

Help us make this a success again this year!

If you wish to help, please talk to one of the Deacons at the *Giving Tree* table after services, or call Karen or Paul Bowles at 542-6165. There will be sign-up sheets available at the *Giving Tree*, along with instructions on the purchase and delivery of gifts.



Thanks to all of you for your continued support of the cause.

The Deacons of Presbyterian Church of the Roses

H O L I D A Y

Schedule

December 6	Decorate the Church
December 7	Alternative Christmas
December 14	Christmas Sing-a-long with Paul Gruen & John Cushman
December 21	Choir Cantata "Journey of Promises"
December 24	<i>Christmas Eve Services</i>
2:00 p.m.	Blessing of the Animals
5:00 p.m.	Children's Musical Program
	<i>Christmas County Spelling Bee</i>
10:00 p.m.	Candlelight Service with Lessons & Carols

Helping your community is as easy
as **Ringin' a Bell!**

The Salvation Army needs bell ringers
for their Red Kettles at local stores.

This year they are relying entirely on
volunteers and need your help! To ring
a bell for a couple of hours, or a day or
more, please contact

**Sidne Goodwin at the Salvation
Army at (707) 535-4262.** This can be a
fun activity for a family, a couple or a
group of friends.

You can also bring your dog, wear a
Santa hat or play the kazoo!

CHURCH NEWS



Worship Attendance 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.			
10/19	142	11/2	164
10/26	174	11/9	191



As of October 31, 2008

Finance Report

Fund	Annual Budget	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	YTD Over/Deficit
Operating Fund	\$451,788.00	\$353,395.57	\$361,367.42	(\$7,971.85)
Church & World	\$30,435.00	\$24,123.96	\$25,368.60	(\$1,244.64)
Subtotal	\$482,223.00	\$377,519.53	\$386,736.020	(\$9, 216.49)
Preschool	\$120,613.00	\$104,294.28	\$98,323.02	\$5,970.26
Total	\$602,836.00	\$481,812.81	\$485,059.04	(\$3,246.23)



OUR PRAYER LIST

"Pray for one another and thus fulfill the law of Christ"

Prayers for the homebound:

Joyce Blinn	Helen Hollingshead	Lyman Pinney	Wata Williams
Margaret Brittle	Lenore Jordan	Darling Rich	
Julia Cadwell	Hilda Keehn	Helen Thornton	
Jack Gaffney	Neil Peterson	Otto Walker	

Prayers for others:

Norm Balzer	Winnie Glaesman	Jean McKay	Laurie Thomsen
Barbara Blinn	Jan Hansen	Everett Morgan	Ilanthe Brautigan Swensen
Diane Brown	Kevin Imbimbo	Dr. Les & Cynthia Morgan	
Tyler, Randall & Bill Cadwell	Monte Keleher	Denise Neely	
Mary Jane Deems	Eleanor Kish	William Papsco	
Jim Fenner	Freddy Lang	Jane Powell	
Lenore "Scotty" Foster	Dennis Langer	Wendy Ramage	
Tommy Gallagher	Susan Maier	Bobby Rude	
Del Glaesman	Marie and Ray Matheny	Marilyn Sinclair	

Prayers for service people stationed in the war area from our Church Families:

- Timothy Cadwell (Julia Cadwell's grandson)
- Anthony Cooper (Tom Peugh's grandson)
- Jason Imbimbo (Sam & Chris Imbimbo's grandson)
- Trevor Robben (Genevieve Grand's nephew)
- PFC Dustin Drewry (Tom & Margaret Allen's grandson)




DEATHS

We mourn the loss of these dear ones:

Thomas McCarthy, son of Ted and Cay McCarthy, passed away on October 28. Memorial services were on November 7. Our hearts and prayers are with the McCarthy family.

Robert Steele passed away on October 29, 2008. Memorial services will be at 1 pm on Saturday, December 27, at Church of the Roses. Our hearts and prayers are with the Steele Family.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:15 MHS Breakfast 10:15 Prayer Group 7:30 Boy Scouts	2 7:15 MHS Breakfast 8:30 B&G Crew 9:00 Sexton Mtg. 10:00 B & G Comm 10:00 PW Coor 1:30 Membership 3:30 Church + World 6:00 Gift & Bequests 6:30 C + Y Committee 7:00 Worship & Arts/ Pre-school Board	3 7:15 MHS Breakfast 9:15 Staff Meeting 10:30 Pastor's Class <i>Ghandhi Film</i> 2:00 Companions 7:00 Brass Quartet	4 7:15 MHS Breakfast 12:00 Dominos Group 6:00 Bellissimo 6:30 Parent to Parent 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 AA Group	5 7:15 MHS Breakfast 10:30 Art Ministry 11:00 Coffee with Cushman 1:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Spanish Language & Hispanic Culture	6 9:30 Handi- Capables 9:00—12:00 Decorate the Church
7 <i>Communion/2¢ A Meal & PB Sunday</i> 8:30 Inf. Worship 8:30 Bible Study— Psalms 10:00 Worship/Sunday School Alternative Christmas 11:15 New Member Class 11:30 Youth Advisor Meeting 2:00 Voyagers Tea (offsite) 6:30 Crescendo Choir	8 7:15 MHS Breakfast 10:15 Prayer Group 12:00 Men's Spirituality Lunch 7:30 Boy Scouts	9 7:15 MHS Breakfast 8:30 B&G Crew 10:00 PW Sewing 12:00 Advisory 6:00 Finance 6:00 Habitat for Humanity 6:30 Nominating Comm (offsite) 7:00 Deacons 7:00 Adult Ed	10 7:15 MHS Breakfast 9:15 Staff Meeting 10:30 Pastor's Class <i>Ghandhi Film</i> 7:00 Brass Quartet	11 7:15 MHS Breakfast 12:00 Dominos Group 5:00 Bungalow O Pasta Feed 6:00 Bellissimo 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 AA Group	12 7:15 MHS Breakfast 10:30 Art Ministry 11:00 Coffee with Cushman 1:30 Spanish Language & Hispanic Culture 4:00 Girl Scouts	13
14 8:30 Informal Worship 8:30 Bible Study— Psalms 10:00 Worship/ Sunday School 4:30 Christmas Carol Sing-a-long 6:30 Crescendo Choir	15 7:15 MHS Breakfast 10:15 Prayer Group 7:00 PW Eve. Circle 7:30 Boy Scouts	16 7:15 MHS Breakfast 8:30 B&G Crew 12:00 PW Luncheon 6:00 New Elders at Cushman's Home 6:30 Session meeting at <i>Cushman's Home</i>	17 7:15 MHS Breakfast 9:15 Staff Meeting 10:00 Gift Wrapping 10:30 Pastor's Class <i>Wisdom of History</i> 2:00 Companions 7:00 Brass Quartet	18 The Giving Tree Food Basket Prep. 7:15 MHS Breakfast 12:00 Dominos Group 6:00 Bellissimo 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	19 The Giving Tree Food Basket Prep. No MHS Breakfast 11:00 Coffee with Cushman Rose Clippings Articles Due 4:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Children's Program	20 The Giving Tree Food Basket Delivery 4:00 Youth Group Caroling
21 8:30 Informal Worship 8:30 Bible Study—Psalms 10:00 Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 Stephen Ministry 2:00 Christmas Cantata	22 No MHS Breakfast thru January 2 10:15 Prayer Group 7:30 Boy Scouts	23 8:00 Staff Breakfast (offsite) 8:30 B&G Crew 10:00 Children's Rehearsal 12:00 Advisory 7:30 Boy Scout Committee	24 Christmas Eve Worship Schedule 2:00 Blessing of the Animals 5:00 Children's Program 10:00 Candlelight Svc	25 <i>Office Closed</i> Merry Christmas 	26 <i>Office Closed</i> No Coffee with Cushman	27 1:00 Robert Steele Memorial Service
28 8:30 Inf Worship 10:00 Worship/ Sunday School 6:30 Crescendo Choir	29 10:15 Prayer Group 12:00 Men's Spirituality Lunch	30 8:30 B&G Crew 9:00 Rose Clippings Crew	31 9:15 Staff Meeting 10:30 Pastor's Class			

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Rev. Kate Clayton, Associate Pastor
Dr. Peter Maier, Pastor for Calling and Care
Cheryl Cushman, Rosebud Preschool Director
Barbara McElroy, Director of Music
Althea Wright, Accompanist
Karen D'Or, Office Manager
Debra Eynon, Finance Manager



8:30 a.m. Informal Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal and Coffee Time
10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Coffee Time and Conversation

Rose Clippings is published monthly by the Presbyterian Church of the Roses and is distributed to all members and friends.



**Rose Clippings, a monthly publication of the
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Phone 707-542-4272

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE