



Ancient & Living Stones

PHOTO ESSAY BY BETHANY LEGGETT

A group of 44 pilgrims — many from Christ Church Frederica, St. Simons Presbyterian Church, and Temple Beth Tefilloh — journeyed to the Holy Land at the end of May on an interfaith trip, led by Mejdai Tours. They toured the ancient stones of the Old City in Jerusalem, walked the streets of Nazareth, traced their hands across the Western Wall, and strolled by the seaside in the Roman ruins at Caesarea.

Witnessing the living stones — the people they met during their travels — proved equally impactful. The group shared a Shabbat dinner with an Orthodox rabbi on a Friday night and received communion during a Lutheran service on Sunday. They walked through the street celebrations at the end of Ramadan. And they listened to many speakers — Jews, Christians, and Muslims — explain how making peace, despite the complications from centuries of conflict, is the great hope for the future of both Israel and a Palestinian nation. On the following pages, the words of the living stones are captured alongside photos of the ancient ones.

Photo: Mosaic in a crypt at St. Joseph's Church at Nazareth.