



American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem
Building Presence – Building Peace

June 2011

25 Old King's Highway North, Suite 13, Darien, CT 06820



Building Community in Shefa Amr

Greetings!

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Some of us know him -- all of us should. Fr. Fuad Dagher leads a parish in Shefa Amr, a mid-sized city on an ancient trade route between Haifa and Nazareth. It's now home to Muslims, Christians and Druze in verdant northern Israel farmland. It's also home to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a small but growing congregation working hard to stabilize the dwindling Christian community.



Fr. Fuad preaches, plays the organ and guitar and exudes energy which draws parishioners, visitors and townspeople to his ministry of inclusion. Fr. Fuad saw a need to provide a gathering place for the entire community, from all faith traditions, for concerts, summer camp, festivals and family celebrations. And this place could be right at St. Paul's. After meeting with other faith leaders in the Shefa Amr, contributions of labor, materials and funds came forward. An abandoned adjacent property was purchased, volunteers

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and paid workers joined to rebuild the old structure and construct a large plaza in front for outdoor performances, activities and celebrations. See the results at the top of the page.

Funding came from friends near and far. Donors from the US who had visited the parish were particularly generous, notably the Diocese of Los Angeles, Sue and Sandy Smock and a parish in Lexington, Kentucky honoring its outgoing rector. It literally took a worldwide village to create this center of creativity, positive energy and hope.

While some work remains to be done, the dedication is to be held later this month. Celebrate with Fr. Fuad, the parishioners of St. Paul's and the entire town of Shefa Amr with a prayer, a financial gift or a visit to this place of faith. Help make this parish a magnet for Christian community and support as they do God's work in a volatile place. Pilgrims welcome!



The Galilee, spring 2011

Congratulations to our graduates!



Arab Evangelical School graduation in Ramallah last week

The 14 schools owned and operated by the Diocese of Jerusalem include 9 high schools. These academically superior institutions together graduated almost 500 students last week. Your gifts of scholarship funds, supplies and teacher support made this possible.

Thank you!

These young men and women are headed to universities, jobs, a future of possibility because of the foundation provided by St. Saviour's School in Zarka, Jordan the Theodor Schneller School in Marka, Jordan, The Bishop School and The Ahliyyah School in Amman, St. George's School and Princess Basma School in Jerusalem, Christ School in Nazareth and Arab Evangelical Episcopal School and the Technical and Vocational Training Center in Ramallah.

This is in addition to the 5 other schools which serve children and families in kindergarten through 8th grade.

Respect for differences, tolerance and civic responsibility are embedded into the curriculum of each Diocesan institution, preparing our students for future roles as positive leaders, working toward reconciliation and peace. This is the real gift you've given to the region and to those of all religious, ethnic and economic backgrounds. Thank you again.



Pre-school graduation at St. Saviour's
Zarka Jordan

Needs

Summer camp is a place of safety, a place to learn about new people, new skills and new opportunities. In this volatile region, camp is daycare, connections, fun! Summer camps at [Princess Basma Centre in East Jerusalem](#), [Vocational Technical School in Ramallah](#) and [St. Matthews in Zebabdeh](#) have asked for help with scholarships. \$100 will buy two weeks of camp for these children who have little joy in their lives. Click [here](#) to make a child's summer.

Virtually every school needs computers. [Arab Evangelical School](#) in particular has made this request. Small gifts combine to make this vital tool available to Diocesan students. Please consider even a \$25 contribution. And if you're planning a trip that includes AEES in Ramallah, consider bringing and donating a laptop you're no longer using. Please make sure it's less than three years old and in usable condition. They lack parts and IT departments!

Trips

October 17-29, 2011 A pilgrimage with Phoebe Griswold, President of the AFEDJ Board and Ann Korky, AFEDJ Board member from St. Paul's K Street in Washington has just 4 spots left. Join them for an inspirations visit that combines Holy Sites with a contemporary look at God's work in the Diocese. Contact akkorky@gmail.com for more information.

September 14-23, 2011 is the Fall Witness trip sponsored by Sabeel.

It's an opportunity to travel to Jerusalem and the West Bank to talk with peace and justice advocates and Palestinian Christians. Contact mmtobin38@gmail.com or sabeel@sabeel.org for further information. Trip costs \$1500 plus airfare.

July 19, 2011 is the start of the pilgrimage organized by The Diocese of New York. Iyad Qumri will lead a trip that includes Nazareth, Jerusalem, Sea of Galilee, and Jericho. For more information, contact Deborahdresser@gmail.com



Garden of
Gethsemene door



The AFEDJ is an independent, non-political 501c3 which helps sustain the humanitarian institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem -- schools, hospitals and institutes for the disabled. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Diocesan institutions foster mutual respect and tolerance in a land torn by turmoil and poverty. Learn more about the work of the AFEDJ or the Diocese of Jerusalem. Visit www.afedj.org to learn about or contribute to any of the important work done in the region.