



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

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



The Middle East Paradox Uncertainty and Progress

Greetings!

There's always uncertainty in the Middle East -- it's almost the definition of the place. But the combination of "Arab Spring," the connection to Hamas and a possible UN vote on Palestinian statehood has increased the tension and the stakes. One sad result is a financial crisis in the West Bank. Arab nations which give financial support have pulled back, the US has followed suit, [read more>>](#)

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Jobs are ready for Ramallah Hotel School graduates

The two year program for high school juniors and seniors has many more applicants than they could accept. So Giovanni Anbar, the energetic and visionary Headmaster, and Nizar Kassees, the Hotel School Director, developed to completely renovate the teaching kitchen, repurpose some of the classroom space to make room for a bigger student body. Construction is going on over the summer to be ready for a new expanded class in September.



There are a number of new hotels in Ramallah, all eager for well trained staff. This school was the first to see the need. But some students will not be able to attend without scholarship help. Your gift will not only help educate a child, but also insure a secure financial future through stable employment. Click the Donate Now button and make a difference in the land of the Apostles!

We've all heard of the high unemployment in the Israel/Palestine. But in Ramallah, there's one school that has employers waiting in line to hire its graduates. In fact, the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center's Hotel School is so successful that it's planning to double its class size this September. Here, students learn all aspects of the hospitality industry from culinary arts and nutrition to customer service and accounting.

Needs



St. Saviour's School in Zarka Jordan needs chairs for their kindergarten class. They cost \$35 each and they need 50. The ones in use now are pictured here. They're dangerous.

The economic situation in the West Bank means that several schools will need additional scholarship help.

Arab Evangelical School in Ramallah and St. George's School in East Jerusalem are two that will be hard hit. Every gift will be appreciated.

The Penman Clinic in Zebabdeh needs help with patients who need care but are unable to pay. The average bill

is \$20, far beyond what most can afford.

Ideas, Trips, Events

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Congratulations to **St. Thomas Cathedral in Eugene, Oregon** for their program "Saints Alive" when they gathered children to celebrate the lives of those doing God's work in the world today. Betty Majaj, Director of the Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children in East Jerusalem was one of the celebrated "saints."

Congratulations also to The Chancel Choir of **First Presbyterian Church in Marietta GA** on their very

successful performance tour through Jordan and Israel/Palestine. They visited and sang at several institutions of the Diocese of Jerusalem and were warmly received.

September 14-23, 2011 Sabeel's Fall Witness trip to the Holy Land will include experiences in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilee area. Deadline for registration is August 15 and you can get more information [here](#).

November 4 -6, 2011 Sabeel, National Conference will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The topic is "Living the Gospel of Love" and you can get more information [here](#).

December 6, 2011 or any day you choose!

Celebrate St. Nicholas Day and connect the spirit of the patron saint of children with needy children in the Holy Land today. Looking for a fun, intergenerational, de-commercialized way to capture the Christmas spirit? Bring St. Nicholas Day to your Church School, Youth Group, Outreach Committee. All the tools are available at AFEDJ's St. Nicholas Day resource website [here](#).



The Chancel Choir performs at
St. George's Cathedral



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.