



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

December 2010

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



A safe place  
for girls

Evangelical Home for  
Children - Ramallah

Greetings!

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*In the silence of a midwinter dusk, there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell, it may be only the sound of silence itself. You hold your breath to listen.....The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.*

These words by Frederick Buechner capture, for me, both the expectation of the Christmas season and the space between hope and reality that is the constant state of living in the Holy Land. Lives there are on hold while the becoming desperately tries to unfold. As we listen for the Savior during this season, keep today's Holy Land

If you're in the Washington DC area Saturday, December 18, don't miss the fourth annual Christmas simulcast service between Bethlehem's Christmas Lutheran Church and Washington National Cathedral. It's at 10 am at the Cathedral and includes choirs,



Christians in your prayers. Their voices are crying out to be heard in a cacophony of turmoil, politics and fear. This land brought hope to us all 2000 years ago. We can each bring a bit of hope to a family struggling to maintain Christ's presence in a volatile land. **Please help us help them.** Please donate now.

--- Anne Lynn, Executive Director, AFEDJ

Bishops and clergy from both denominations alternating from both churches.

## Evangelical Home offering love for 56 years

Life is challenging in Ramallah. Especially if your mother has cancer, your father has died -- and you're 8 year old. But for some children facing these obstacles, there's a place of safety, love and hope. The Evangelical Home for Children has sheltered and nurtured orphaned and neglected girls since its founding by an American and two British women in 1954. The original home is pictured at the top of the page.

The Home began in that small house, with 10 young girls and three courageous and determined women who believed homeless girls in the Holy Land deserved a chance. Sr. Mary Jeanne Grupp along with several other sisters fed, clothed and protected their young charges during good times and violent conflict. But they also empowered and motivated them to reach their potential and the same is true today.

Soon the sisters added a school which grew to become the Arab Evangelical Episcopal School, now educating over 900 students.

The Home for girls remains on the School campus. Sr. Najah Rantisi is the current jack of all trades Director, a graduate of both the Home and the School. A recently added daycare facility allows the staff to care for pre-school children as well. They're pictured at above right.

Without families capable of supporting them, the children have urgent needs. **Housing and food cost the Home \$3500 per child per year. \$1500 is needed for school fees in addition to \$50 for books and \$80 for uniforms.** Summer camp, not a luxury in this situation, is a modest \$100. Daycare fees just cover the cost of food at \$720 a year. Local parents can afford no more. With your help, the Home can continue to be a refuge for young girls in need.

As we focus on home and family this holiday season, please send some joy to a child



playground at the Daycare center

who desperately needs support. Your gift will turn a tear into a smile.

## Needs



**St. Saviour's School in Zarka Jordan** has asked for help with tuition for a needy child. Fees are \$1500 per year, but a gift of any size will help keep this child in school.

**St. George's School in East Jerusalem** needs to expand its collection of library books in English. They're very expensive in Israel. If you're going on a pilgrimage or know of a group that is, ask each participant to take an early reader book in their luggage. Contact [aklynn@afedj.org](mailto:aklynn@afedj.org) for a list if you need help choosing. The books can be left at St. George's Cathedral office in East Jerusalem or taken directly to the school across the street. Then you have the added benefit of seeing the school and the children you're helping!

**Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children** is establishing a new department for autistic children. It will be the first in the Diocese and badly needed. They would be grateful for help with staff salaries and training.

## News, Trips and Activities

As you prepare for Christmas celebrations, don't forget to access [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) through [www.lynda.us](http://www.lynda.us). A percentage of each Amazon purchase will go to help Ahli Hospital in Gaza.

And [www.importpeace.org](http://www.importpeace.org) is waiting for your order for olive oil, soap and herbs for your gift giving. A percentage of each order from this all volunteer Presbyterian organization supports the work of the Diocese of Jerusalem. We're grateful for their donations to AFEDJ and encourage your patronage.

**January 8 to 21, 2011**, travel with the Rev. Bill Sachs, Center for Interfaith Reconciliation in Richmond VA on a Journey of Understanding. See Islamic-Christian relations through the eyes of religious and political leaders in Oman, Egypt and Jordan, in that order. Trip includes pyramids and Petra as well as high level contacts and hospitality. Cost is \$5500 all inclusive. Contact [bsachs@saintstephensrichmond.net](mailto:bsachs@saintstephensrichmond.net) for more information.

The World Council of Churches celebrates its Week of Prayer for Christian Unity **January 18 to 25**. Focus this year is Jerusalem, over 120 countries participate and resources are available at [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org).

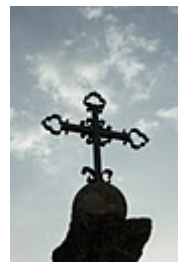
**January 27 to February 6**, the Rev. James Shannon will lead a Holy Land pilgrimage leaving from Philadelphia through the Philadelphia Theological Institute. The all inclusive price is \$3,329. For more information email [james@philadelphiatheologicalinstitute.org](mailto:james@philadelphiatheologicalinstitute.org).

**February 4 to 18**, travel with the Rev. Katherine Cunningham and the First Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo CA on an olive planting trip which includes visits to West Bank and the Holy sites. Cost is \$1500 plus airfare. More information at [kcunningham65@gmail.com](mailto:kcunningham65@gmail.com).

If you're in the Stamford CT area, make sure you don't miss the prize-winning documentary *Budrus* about olive farmers in the West Bank. The Connecticut opening is in Wednesday, **February 16** at the Avon Theater at 7:30. Meet the director after the film.

**February 23 to February 28** is the Sabeel International Conference, "Challenging Empire: God, Faithfulness and Resistance" in Jerusalem. Cost is \$1,050 which includes registration, lodging and meals in Jerusalem. For more information, contact [conf2011@sabeel.org](mailto:conf2011@sabeel.org).

**April 6 to 16** travel with the Rev. John Peterson and pilgrims from National Cathedral in



Washington to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and more for a Lenten journey in preparation for Easter. For more information, contact [kspaar@cathedral.org](mailto:kspaar@cathedral.org) or the National Cathedral website at [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org).

**June 4 to 18** Friends of Sabeel in Colorado are leading a fact-finding trip to Israel/Palestine. For more information, go to [www.fosna.org/content/fos-colorado-fact-finding-trip-june-4-18-2011](http://www.fosna.org/content/fos-colorado-fact-finding-trip-june-4-18-2011).

Dr. Pauline Coffman will lead a traveling seminar in Lebanon and Syria October 5 to 18, 2011. Visits include Beirut, Tyre, Byblos, Aleppo and Damascus. The trip leaves from either Chicago or Washington DC. Cost is \$3,659 including airfare. Contact [p.coffman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:p.coffman@sbcglobal.net).

Travel with the Rev. Sharline Fulton for a "Palestine of Jesus" course at St. George's College in Jerusalem **November 16 to 29**, 2011, Thanksgiving included. Tuition is \$2905, local travel and lodging included. Please contact [sharline213@gmail.com](mailto:sharline213@gmail.com) or [www.sgcjerusalem.org](http://www.sgcjerusalem.org) for further information.



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](http://www.afedj.org) to learn about or contribute to any of the important work done in the region.