



# NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Summer 2010

## Summer of 2010 - Youth, Unity, and Hope

### Diocesan Summer Camps 2010

Summer 2010 – Every year, summer in the Diocese of Jerusalem focuses on children and youth. Summer camps which bring children together from different parishes and parts of the Diocese are held at St. Margaret’s Guest House and Christ School campus in the Galilee, Israel and at Schneller School and Guest House in Amman, Jordan to help with the long hot days of summer. Supplemental programs at some of our institutions and within parishes add to the fun. This summer was no exception. Joy and hope, unity and spirit abound in summer youth programs.

#### Camps for different ages ...



Fun and worship



Trust games and discussions



Creative thinking and crafts





Sports with priests and leaders

Refreshing water time for children who may never otherwise enjoy it ...

Time with friends, old and new.



Important time for Christian children to share their faith with others.

Scholarships and support for these camps, to help parish children in the long hot summer months and to bring children together from diocesan churches, is vital to help our youth thrive amid the dominant Muslim and Jewish cultures in which they live. We thank all who have helped make camp possible for our children.

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### Emmanuel Church in Ramle welcomes youth from USA

July 2010 – Emmanuel Church in Ramle and the Rev. Samuel Fanous warmly welcomed the senior youth of St. Paul’s Church in Richmond, Virginia. On a pilgrimage to the ‘Holy Land’, the youth of Virginia visited the Living Stones in addition to the holy sites. Enjoying a pizza dinner in the small hall adjacent to the church, the youth relaxed in the kindness of the welcoming parish.



While the holy sites are important in understanding the geography of biblical references, the Arab Christians who have been in the land since the first Pentecost are the ‘Living Stones’, the people who

keep the Christian presence alive in the land of Jesus, the birthplace of Christianity. The Emmanuel Church in Ramle introduced the youth to the unique challenges of living as minority citizens in the State of Israel. Referenced as 'Arab Israelis', these Palestinian families enjoy the benefits of citizenship denied to their fellow Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. They suffer the unique challenges often experienced by unwanted minority groups in many countries. These Christians are set apart from others with the same cultural and biblical heritage because of their citizenship and are set apart from fellow citizens by virtue of being Christians in a Jewish State.

As one Christian family, it is important that we nourish and support one another. Arab Christians of the Diocese of Jerusalem, Palestinians, Israeli, Jordanians, Syrians, and Lebanese, welcome you to share in their hospitality and spirituality while inviting you to support them in maintaining the Christian presence in this region.

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### St. Matthew's Church in Zebabdeh welcomes Kanuga Youth

Summer 2010 – Youth from the Kanuga Camp and Conference Center in North Carolina embarked on a pilgrimage with their leaders and retired Archbishop Carey. As part of their exploration of the Holy Land, they traveled deep into the rural West Bank to visit with youth at St. Matthew's Church in Zebabdeh, one of the few remaining Christian villages.



With the ongoing exodus of Christians from the West Bank due to restrictions and limited professional job opportunities, the village of Zebabdeh is an oasis of Christianity in the northern West Bank. Surrounded by conservative Muslim villages, the people of Zebabdeh work ecumenically to provide education and business opportunities for young families in hopes of maintaining their Christian presence in the region.

Living their faith, the parishioners of St. Matthew's host the Penman Clinic, a diocesan medical institution, designed to ease the hardships of life in the rural West Bank. The clinic currently operates in the basement of the church building providing services to all in need regardless of faith or ability to pay. The Youth of the Kanuga pilgrimage were privileged to experience the faith of this vibrant Christian village.

## St. George's College Summer Youth Course

Tuesday, July 13 – St. George's College, Jerusalem, a diocesan institution which offers educational pilgrimages for faithful Christians wishing to increase their understanding and personal connection with the Land of the Holy One, once again offered a summer Youth Course. This year, a varied and dynamic group of students and young adults with leaders from the US and Canada, were greeted by Bishop Suheil Dawani as they explored the biblical landscape with four local diocesan youth from the Galilee region of Raineh and Nazareth.



Bishop Rickel, Bishop Dawani, Bishop Garrison

The 2010 Youth Course welcomed fifteen youth and chaperones from the Diocese of Olympia, under the spiritual leadership of Bishop Greg Rickel, eight youth from the Diocese of Western New York, accompanied by Bishop Michael Garrison and Father Earl King, thirteen youth and chaperones from Minnesota, led by Mr. Gary Dietz, and four youth from Newfoundland accompanied by Father Mark Nichols. Living in the College on the Cathedral Close in Jerusalem and joined by the local delegation from the Galilee, these pilgrims learned about each other as

people, as representatives of their dioceses and countries, and as followers of Jesus, visiting the sites where Jesus was born, lived, taught, ministered, died, and rose again. Bishop Suheil Dawani invites you to explore a similar pilgrimage with St. George's College.

*For more, please visit: [www.j-diocese.org](http://www.j-diocese.org)*



The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, a diocese of the worldwide Anglican Communion, extends over five countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Israel, within the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. There are 27 parishes that minister to the needs of their communities, centered on the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr in Jerusalem. The church supports 33 institutions, which include hospitals, clinics, kindergartens and schools, vocational training programs, as well as institutions for the deaf, the disabled and the elderly, reaching out to interfaith neighbors in mutual respect and cooperation.

Editor-in-Chief: The Rt. Rev. Suheil S. Dawani

Contributors to this edition: Deborah Edmunds, The Revd Nael Abu Rahmoun, The Revd Samuel Fanous, The Revd Robert Edmunds.