



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

January 2012

Peace to you in the name of the Lord

Greetings from Bishop Suheil Dawani

Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of our Christmas and Epiphany Season, I greet you with joy and thanksgiving.

January has been a busy month. We have had the pleasure of extending our Christmas season through acknowledging the various dates of celebration of our Orthodox brothers and sisters. We have worshipped together during the Week of Christian Unity. We have greeted many visitors, who have come to the Land of the Holy One, not only on personal pilgrimage but also to support the Christians who live here.

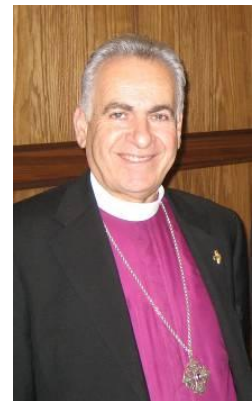
We have visited our institutions and prayed together for peace. We have seen dear friends again and shared our stories of happiness and sadness. We are the Body of Christ, and so we share in the lives of each other. Our strength comes from God, our courage from Jesus, and our friendships grow among us as we live in full communion with Christ.

The highlights of this month included the celebration of the Feast of St. Paul's, celebrated in the various churches of his name; and the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, a dear friend and humble leader of the Anglican Communion.

As we make our way through the Church year, we now look toward Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. It is a good time to think deeply about what we hope to reflect upon and how we hope to grow throughout the coming penitential season.

Peace, Salaam

+ Suheil Dawani



Epiphany Celebrations



Bishop Suheil celebrated Epiphany at the Cathedral of St. George the Martyr with his diocesan clergy and parish family, on January 6th. This was also the 6th year anniversary of the Bishop Suheil's consecration as Bishop Coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. He was installed as Diocesan and the 14th Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem on April 15, 2007. After the service, the Bishop and his clergy shared a celebratory lunch in St. George's Guest House.

Epiphany Greetings at the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

On Monday, January 9, the heads of churches and their clergy in Jerusalem gathered at the Orthodox patriarchate to wish is Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III a happy and blessed Christmas. Words or speeches were given by patriarch Twal and patriarch Theophilos and Bishop Suheil Dawani on behalf of the different churches.

Bishops come to Visit



Bishop James Longstaff
with Bishop Suheil

On Sunday January 15th, Bishop Suheil welcomed Bishop James Longstaff of Rochester, U.K. who preached at the 9:30 am service. The Revd Canon Paul Miller read the Gospel. The pilgrims with Bishop James sang during communion. At the 11:00am service, the Bishop of Ludlow, Alistair Magowan, also from England, visited with 15 pilgrims.



Bishop Alistair Magowan
with Bishop Suheil



Bishop Suheil also had the pleasure of meeting with the Revd David Starr and The Revd Shelley Denney with their pilgrims from the Diocese of Los Angeles, USA, at coffee hour.

Gaza-Bishop's visit to Al-Ahli Hospital



Bishop Suheil with Haleem Bashlawi, Diocesan Chief Accountant, and Dr. Hisham Nassar, Diocesan Medical Coordinator, visited The Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza over a two day period on January 17-18th. They met with Mrs. Suhaila Tarazy, Director, and Dr. Maher Iyad, Medical Director of the AlAhli Arab Hospital.

The Bishop spent important time with the staff of the hospital, giving encouragement to those who work there. Tuesday morning was spent in the AlAhli Hospital Board Meeting. Discussion focused on the future development of the Diagnostic Center, which will be built adjacent to the hospital; and the upgrading of equipment and services. In the afternoon, Bishop Suheil met with the Christian dignitaries of Gaza. Dr. Hisham Nassar, Diocesan Medical Coordinator, visited local hospitals and cardiology doctors to discuss the improvement of services in the area.

On Wednesday morning, twenty people attended the service at St. Philip's Anglican Church to celebrate the Feast of Epiphany, which the Eastern Churches are celebrating at this time. Bishop Suheil preached on the importance of epiphany—how our Almighty God is made manifest in the good work that is done in our institutions.

Armenian Christmas Greetings to the Armenian Patriarchate



On January 21, Bishop Suheil, with other Heads of Churches, brought Armenian Christmas Greetings to the Armenian Patriarchate. They gathered to wish the Armenian Family in Jerusalem and worldwide a happy Christmas and Theophany. The Heads of Churches asked Archbishop Aris to take a message of good health and peace to Patriarch Torkum Manoogian, who is in hospital at this time.

A Visit from Bishop Michael



Bishop Michael Lewis
with Bishop Suheil

Bishop Michael Lewis, from our sister Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, visited St. George's Cathedral on Sunday January 22nd. Bishop Michael preached at the 9:30am Arabic/English Service. Serving with Bishop Suheil and Bishop Michael were Canon Hosam Naoum, The Revd Charles Headley, The Revd Dr Lawrence Hilditch, and The Revd Dr Yazeed Said.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



During this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, there are ecumenical celebrations throughout Jerusalem. On Sunday January 22, the 5pm Evening Service was held at the Anglican Cathedral of St. George the Martyr. Bishop Suheil welcomed the large Christian congregation and spoke of our role as peace-makers and advocates of reconciliation. The evening was concluded with a reception of ecumenical fellowship.



A Prayer for Christians as we work to the Glory of God:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is discord, harmony;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen

Regular Clergy Meeting in Ramleh



On January 23rd, The Revd Canon Samuel Fanous, of Emmanuel Church in Ramleh hosted the regular Clergy Meeting. Bishop Suheil met the clergy from the various churches in Israel and Palestine, as they came together to discuss the ongoing issues of the church. The clergy also discussed the vision and exciting new strategies that they wish to implement in the future. Bishop Suheil spoke about the church's place in the ongoing struggle for peace, justice and reconciliation. The meeting began with



Holy Eucharist, Meditation and finished with a BBQ lunch and fellowship.

Celebrations of the Feast of St. Paul's

St. Paul's, Jerusalem



The Feast of St. Paul was celebrated at the Anglican Church of St. Paul's in West Jerusalem on January 25th with a Holy Communion Service. Bishop Suheil celebrated and gave a homily on the life of Paul. He spoke on how Paul was an extremist who was blind to the truth and yet through the Love of Jesus, his eyes were opened and he eventually became a great preacher throughout the whole Middle East. Paul's life is a testament to the power of God and that through him all things can be made new. Indeed St. Paul's Church, itself, once desecrated from fire and vandalism, is now newly

renovated and was reopened in March 2, 2011. St. Paul's is known to be the first Arab-Anglican church in the region. The church was built in 1873 with the support of the Church Missionary Society of England (CMS) during the episcopacy of the Rt. Revd Samuel Gobat. The church was consecrated on November 29, 1874. It is a beautiful stone building set in lovely grounds with a view of the Old City. The service was attended by a number of faithful from the Diocese and the congregation of St. George's Cathedral.



St. Paul's Shefa'mer



Bishop Suheil, with Canon Hosam Naoum, went to St. Paul's, Shefa'mer to celebrate The Feast of St. Paul's with Fr. Fuad Dagher and his congregation. Bishop Suheil celebrated Holy Communion and preached about Paul's conversion. Paul, a man once blind to the love of Jesus, had his eyes opened and became a visionary who travelled the Middle East and the Mediterranean area

preaching the Love of Christ. It was a blessing to have members of the community - the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and the Greek Catholic clergy from Shefa'mer, and also the Sisters of Nazareth - come and celebrate with St. Paul's Anglican Church. After the service, everyone went into the Church Hall for hymns and fellowship.



St. Paul's Ashrafireh, Amman, Jordan

St. Paul's Anglican Church in Ashrafireh, celebrated the Feast of St. Paul's with a bible study on the life of St. Paul. The Revd Canon Faeq Haddad spoke about how important Paul's conversion to Christianity was to the world and the impact of his message to the church through his writings. They spoke about the role of the diocesan churches, especially those named for St. Paul. The spiritual importance of the reopening of St. Paul's Church in Jerusalem was also discussed. A small reception, prepared by the pastorate committee, was held after the bible study.

The Archbishop of Canterbury arrives on Pilgrimage and Visit



Archbishop of Canterbury
with Bishop Suheil

The Archbishop of Canterbury arrived on pilgrimage on January 27th. Here with a small group of clergy and laity, the Archbishop began his pilgrimage in the Galilee. He also met with the local and regional clergy, heads of churches and a number of important civil leaders at St. Margaret's Guest House in Nazareth.



Sunday Service at St. Matthew's,
Zababdeh



Reception at St. Margaret's, Nazareth

On Sunday, January 22, the Archbishop, with Bishop Suheil, had Sunday morning service, followed by lunch, at St. Matthew's in Zababdeh. Everyone enjoyed the children's choir as they sang hymns for the Archbishop. He was also



Archbishop at St. Matthew's, Zababdeh

greeted by Fr. Na'el Abu Rahmoun, the congregation, local clergy and the Mayor of Zababdeh, Victor Khader Eseid and other city officials.

The Archbishop is continuing his visit, as he heads to Jericho, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. His visit will include visits with the Religious Heads of Churches, the Council of Churches and the Chief Rabbinate.

On Thursday, February 2, Bishop Suheil will lead an Evensong at the Cathedral of St. George the Martyr, with a small reception held after the service. This will conclude the Archbishop's time in the land of the Holy One.

More stories and information are available at: www.j-diocese.org Email enquiries to: info@j-diocese.org
Donations may be sent to: The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, PO Box 19122, Jerusalem, 91191



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.