



Peace in the Middle East –The Search for Kids4Peace 2009

The news from Israel and Palestine carries a glimmer of hope these days. In spite of recent developments, the Israeli-Palestinian struggle is still mired in uncertainty. Some think peace is a lost cause, and that nothing can be done but wait for a miracle. Think again! Kids4Peace, now in its eighth year, is bringing hope for a better way. Since its founding in 2002, Kids4Peace groups from Jerusalem and the Galilee have traveled to Houston, Atlanta, Toronto, Vermont, and last summer here in North Carolina. Kids4Peace participants from Israel and Palestine are 11 and 12 year old boys and girls of three faiths and two nations, divided in a common land but united as voices for peace. They get to know each other before the journey through a series of activities sponsored and hosted by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. They explore each other's realities, traditions, languages and dreams. In the United States, they join twelve American youth in the safe and conducive atmosphere of kids4Peace, where they enjoy a distance from the tensions of the conflict and receive the gift of care and friendship from their new American Peace Pals. For the American Kids4Peace, the experience is one in which their world is broadened and they learn of the common heritage they share with other "Children of Abraham".

This year Kids4Peace 2009 is looking for twelve Western North Carolinian youth ages 11-12 for the adventure of a lifetime. The selection to become a Kids4Peace will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Asheville, May 16th 10-1PM. You can get an application from the Diocese or by emailing the North Carolina director, The Rev. Brian Sullivan, rector of Church of the Incarnation in Highlands (rector@incarnationwnc.org).

If you are selected to become a peace pal, you will be asked to commit to three meetings with your American Kids4Peace before your peace pals from Jerusalem arrive July 15th. We will be learning about each other's faith in the Asheville area before going to Camp Henry July 19th-25th for the regular 4-6 grade Session (with a Kids4Peace twist). The program will end at the Asheville airport on Sunday July 26th where we will bid our new friends a safe travels home.