

The ACC Bulletin

Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church



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September 2011

“This Ezra went up to from Babylon, and he was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given; and the king granted him all that he requested because the hand of the LORD his God was upon him.... For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.”

(Ezra 7:1-28)

As the summer months are going by, here at the ACC we have been working our way through the Old Testament book of Ezra. To me at least, it has been a very rewarding study. Ezra, the writer of this book does not appear on the scene until chapter 7 and close to 80 years after the first exiles returned to Jerusalem from Babylon. Ezra was a remarkable man of God, to say the least, but here are some things that made him stand out as a special leader: (1) Three times in this chapter and three in chapter 8 we are told that, “The hand of the Lord his God was upon him.” This means that Ezra was a marked man by God. God had raised him and bestowed His favor on him for a purpose – to teach the people the Law of God. God’s hand of blessing, protection, and leading was on him. (2) Ezra was a priest and a scribe. Priests were primarily responsible for the performing of the sacrifices while the scribes were learned in the Law of Moses. Ezra combined the two. This is significant because Israel fell into idolatry and sinned the most against God when they separated the two. Worship disconnected from God’s Word quickly degenerates into empty, meaningless ritual or “religion.” Religion is faith practiced mechanically, thoughtlessly, and as a system. (3) “Ezra had set his heart to study, practice and teach the law of the LORD.” Here is Ezra’s secret; he had his heart set on God’s Law. “His heart set” means he was passionate about God’s Law (God’s Word). And notice that his heart was set not only on the study, but the practice and teaching of the Law. Knowledge and understanding of God’s Word are essential, but not enough. Practicing the Word is as important. The study of God’s Word should transform our lives. As we grow in our knowledge and practice of the Word, we will become better equipped to teach it to others.

Friends, as we look forward to this coming year, may Ezra be an example to all of us. Let us set our hearts on the study, practice and teaching of the Word of God. May God’s Word not only fill our heads and hearts, but may it shape our lives in practical ways.

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CHURCH CALENDAR

Weekly

Choir Practice, Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Worship Service, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Children's Library, Every Sunday

Youth Group, Friday, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Monthly

Children's Message, (First Sunday of the month. Parents bring your children into the worship service).

Choir Practice, (First Thursday of the month, 7-8:30 p.m.).

Community Groups, (2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m.)

Adult Bible Study, (1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.)

ACC Women's Fellowship, (Second Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.).

Board of Trustees Meeting, (Third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.).

Board of Deacons Meeting, (Last Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.).

Prayer Meeting, (Third Sunday of the month following the worship service).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The ACC Chancel Choir

The ACC Choir will participate in the September 11 Service, New and returning members please meet at 10:00 a.m. for practice. The Choir's first rehearsal is on Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. All who would like to sing in our choir please attend. New members are very welcome, so please join us and sing to the Lord!

Rally Sunday

Come join us on Sunday, September 11, as we kickoff the 2011/2012 Sunday School year with classes beginning, the Sunday School Staff commissioning during the worship service, and lunch to follow.

Missions (AMAA) Sunday

This year ACC will be holding the Mission Sunday on September 11. Mr. David Aynejian from the AMAA will join us during our morning worship service. Later during our Mission Luncheon, he will give an up-to-date report with a video presentation on the work and ministry of the AMAA in Armenia and around the world.

ACC Women's Fellowship

Please join the Women's Fellowship on Rally Sunday, September 11. They will be hosting the Homecoming and the AMAA Luncheon following the morning worship service. The first meeting will be held on September 18, all ladies are welcome.

Community Groups

You are invited to join a Community Group Bible Study starting in October. Community Groups meet in homes every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. The locations and the Bible study curriculum will be determined soon.

Mid-Week Bible Study

The Mid-week Bible Study Group meets at the Church every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. We invite all men and women to join us on Wednesday, September 21.

ACC Youth Group News

We invite all youth ages 12-18 to attend the ACC Youth Group every Friday evening starting September 16. Each Friday holds a different activity rotating between Bible study, movie night, game night, and Worship night with Jenny Jacobs. Teens come and bring a friend!

Capital Fund

The church remodeling projects of the sanctuary and the bathrooms were completed at the end of July. The ACC extends its thanks to all the church members and friends for their building fund donations. Come to church and enjoy the completed work.

Harvest Party



Please reserve the following night, Friday, October 28, 2011, Starting at 5:30 p.m. dinner at 6:00 p.m. The ACC Children's Ministry is organizing a special evening of delicious food, fun and games for the whole family. All ages are welcome. Children ages 3 and under are free, children under 10: \$3, 10 years and up \$6.00.

Congratulations

The Armenian Congregational church family and friends extend heartfelt congratulations to Sema (Avakian) and Stephen Baylerian who were married August 20, 2011. Wishing you God's blessing as you begin your new life together. We also congratulate the Avakian and Baylerian families.

ACC Chancel Choir

The ACC Chancel Choir is hosting a dinner followed by rehearsal on Thursday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. to start the season and to prepare for 2011/2012. New and returning choir member please RSVP with Mrs. Gayaneh Kachadourian at 248-334-3677, or call the church office.



Youth Ministry Weekend

The Armenian Congregational Youth Fellowship Weekend will be held on Friday, November 11 through Sunday, November 13, 2011. Youth ages 12-17 are invited to the church. AEYF Eastern Region Youth Pastor Ara Jizmejian will be speaking and leading the weekend. Teens come and bring your friends!

ACC Council Meeting

All Deacons, Trustees and leaders of other ministries are required to attend the ACC Council planning meeting on Sunday, September 25 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please pray for this important planning meeting.

Special Thank You

The A.C.C. extends heartfelt thanks to Mr. Roupen Arslanian, Mrs. Susan Harrison, Mrs. Hourig Jacobs, Dr. Bob Kachadourian, and Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, for their contributions to our worship services through the summer months.

Tour Of Armenia

Organized by the Armenian Missionary Association of America on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of Armenia's Independence and AMAA's Mission Work in Armenia from September 15-27, 2011. Cost is \$3,000 (approximate) – includes airfare, hotel, and breakfast. For reservations or to obtain more information please call Elizabeth at AMAA Telephone number 201.265.2607 or e-mail: amaadevelopment@amma.org.



Important Dates

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| September 11 | Rally & Mission Sunday |
| September 16 | Youth Group gathering |
| September 21 | Bible Study |
| September 25 | ACC Council meeting |
| October 2 | World Communion |
| October (TBA) | Community Groups |
| October 28 | Harvest Party |
| November 13 | Youth Weekend |
| November 20 | Thanksgiving Banquet |
| December (TBA) | Youth Christmas Party |
| December (TBA) | Christmas Program |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Service |




The ACC Annual Thanksgiving Dinner



We invite all of you to come and join us on Sunday, November 20 as we begin our day with the celebratory Thanksgiving Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

Later that day at 5:00 p.m., join us for our annual Thanksgiving dinner.



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