

The ACC Bulletin

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“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him... And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh...”

(Matthew 2:1-12)

We are a month into 2012, and as we look forward to this new year not knowing what it holds for us, the “Wise Men” can teach us a few lessons. They are in every Christmas pageant, and in every Nativity scene. But what do we really know about the wise men? Not much when we examine the Scriptures. Where did they come from? We are simply told they came from the east. How many of them were there? Second century church father, Tertullian concluded that there were three of them based on the number of gifts presented to Jesus. We don’t even know that they were wise. The word “Magos” is of Persian origin that can be translated into the Latin “magi” from which we get the word “magician.” So we don’t know much about the wise men or the star that they followed, yet from what little we are told about them by Matthew, judging by their actions, we can tell that they were wise men indeed.

First, these pagan wise men traveled a long way, approximately 800 miles on camel or horse, and went through a lot of trouble to find Jesus and **worship Him**. “Worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open up the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God” (William Temple). Now contrast that with the chief priests and the scribes that Herod gathered to inquire of them where the Christ was to be born (v.4-6). They correctly told him that according to the Old Testament, the Christ would be born in Bethlehem of Judea, which is about 6 miles away from Jerusalem, but they never bothered to go themselves. Second, when they found Jesus, they worshiped him and **presented him with gifts**. “Yet, these important men not only prostrated themselves before him but presented him with gifts that were not only lavish but also definitely appropriate; gold, for he was and is indeed a king – yes, “King of kings and Lord of lords” – frankincense, for he is indeed God – the fullness of the godhead dwells in him – and myrrh, for he is also a man, destined for death, and this by his own choice” (Hendriksen).

Friends, whatever this year may hold for us, if we want to see true change in our lives let us be wise like the “Wise Men,” let us earnestly seek Him (Isa. 55:6), find Him and worship Him. Let us also bring King Jesus our best gifts. Dedicate yourself as a gift to Him.

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ACC Armenian Heritage Committee Publishes

Rev. Tootikians's 34th Book

The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian's latest bilingual book, entitled *The Love Relationships/Srdapoukh Khosker*, was recently released from the press. The 102-page English section of this 158 page book consists of 34 articles, which are placed under three major titles: "Views on Biblical and Other Issues," "Armenian Issues," and "Observances." These essays, in a general way, deal with Jesus' Great Commandments: "Love God with all your heart, soul and mind and love your neighbor as yourself." These twin commandments consist of three relationships—love for God, love for others, and love for self.

It is the author's contention that no one can be what a person ought to be without the right relationship with God, with others, and with his or her own self.

The Armenian section consists of 12 articles dealing with religious, cultural and social subjects ranging from Christian festivals to the preservation and perpetuation of Armenian cultural institutions to fighting against hedonism and the prevailing questionable mores of the society.

The readers of these articles, dealing with a broad spectrum of topics, will benefit from them and will acquire new depth and vigor in their spiritual and cultural life.

The price of the book is \$25.00, with an additional \$2.50 for shipping and handling. It may be ordered from the Armenian Heritage Committee through the Armenian Congregational Church office. You may also check the church's website: www.accgd.org.

Christmas Donations

The Pastor and the A.C.C. Missions committee would like to thank all those who donated to our Christmas Fund. Your donations make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate in our community and in our homeland of Armenia. We thank God for your generosity and kindness.

Annual Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, January 22 the Annual Congregational Meeting of our church was held immediately following the Morning Worship Service. Reports were given to the church members by Pastor Makarios Darawi, Board of Trustees report by Mr. Mark Kadian, Financial report by Mr. Rodney Keteyian, Missions report by Mrs. Frances Garabedian, Women's Fellowship report by Ms. Sima Avakian, Youth Group report by Michael Banerian, and Sunday School report by Mrs. Leslie Banerian.

Daily Bible Reading E100 Challenge

The Essential 100 Challenge is an exciting church-wide Bible reading program. The Challenge is based on 100 carefully selected short Bible passages, 50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament that help you get the big picture of the Bible. Pastor Mak is looking for ACC members who will join him in taking the challenge.



Important Dates

February 3	Community Groups
February 5	ACYF Super Bowl Party
February 16	Vartanants
February 19	The Lord's Supper
February 24	ACC Family Night
March 11	Daylight Savings Time
March –	ACC Women's Lenten Luncheon
April 1	Palm Sunday
April 6	Good Friday
April 13	Easter Sunday
April 24	Armenian Genocide
May 8	Mother's Day Banquet
June 17	Father's Day Luncheon

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.)
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

ACYF Super Bowl Party



The ACC Youth Group is holding a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 5, 2012 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at the church in the Christian Education Room. All youth are invited!

2011 Income Tax Receipts

You will soon be receiving your Income Tax receipts for your 2011 church donations in the mail. Please review your receipts, and if any corrections need to be made, please call the church office immediately.

FAMILY NIGHT



Presented by
The ACC Women's Fellowship
Friday, February 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Come enjoy delicious food, entertainment, fun and games. All ages are welcome. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults; \$6.00 for children 7-15 years old; no charge for children under 6 years. For RSVP please call the church office or please write your names on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Community Groups

The next Community Groups will be held on Friday, February 3 at the Arslanian home at 7:30 pm. Please join us for fellowship, Bible study and prayer.

Vartanants

The Greater Detroit Armenian Churches are sponsoring a united Vartanants observance, on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church, 29125 Six Mile Road, in Livonia. The host church is St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church. We invite all of you to join us for this special gathering.

Messiah

The Oakland Choral Society held an outstanding performance of the "Messiah" on Saturday, January 14, at the Armenian Congregational Church that was attended by over 200 guests. The ACC would like to thank Mrs. Gayaneh Kachadourian and Mrs. Ann Bayleran for their hard work putting this beautiful event together.

Reminders!

Is your anniversary, birthday or graduation approaching? Why not share your celebration with the church family by sponsoring the Fellowship Hour. Please sign-up on the bulletin board or call the church office.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Children's Program



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