

The ACC Bulletin

Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church



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FROM THE MINISTERS DESK

October 2012

Dear Members and Friends:

This year we are celebrating the 95th Anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit. In the spirit of celebration and fellowship a gala banquet will be held, in the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall, on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Our church has come a long way since its beginning 95 years ago. It has survived the trials and tribulations of both spiritual and economic stress. If it were not for the dedication and commitment of the men and women of our congregation today, and especially those that have gone before us, we would not be celebrating its 95th anniversary.

We thank God for the ministers and laypersons, past and present, who have served with vision and commitment, the Greater Detroit Community and beyond.

“Honoring the Past, Claiming the Future” is the theme of our anniversary celebration. We honor the past generations for their dedication and sacrifice. Sacrifice is a word we use too much and too easily at the present time.

The past generations knew what sacrifice was when they maintained this church by trusting God and sustaining their faith in the future.

And now, almost a century later, their successors, enjoy an affluence that goes far beyond anything they could have imagined. While we are not without problems, our church is still vibrant.

One wonders, however, if our faith and courage can match that of the preceding generations. Let us, then, acknowledge our debt to the past. But also accept our responsibility to the future and dedicate ourselves with a faith and courage akin to those who founded this church and to their successors who made it truly a bastion of Christian ideals and a citadel of our Armenian heritage.

May God bless the Armenian Congregational Church and grant us wisdom and grace to rededicate ourselves to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church.

Faithfully yours,
Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian
Minister Emeritus/Interim Minister

The Armenian Congregational Church
26210 West Twelve Mile Road
P.O. Box 531
Southfield, Michigan 48037

Phone: 248-352-0680
Fax: 248-352-5568
Email: accgd@comcast.net

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Minister Emeritus

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Important Notice Regarding 95th Anniversary

During the 95th anniversary banquet, we will be honoring one of the most distinguished members of our church, Dr. Richard E. Marburger who, for more than six decades has rendered most valuable service to our church and the larger community. Dr. Marburger has served our church in many capacities, especially as Moderator for many years. He has also served the educational institutions of the larger community as President of Lawrence Technological University, and presently as Chairman of the Board of the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School, along with many other educational, philanthropic and humanitarian institutions and organizations.

On the 95th anniversary the church will establish two Endowment Funds: one, in **honor of Dr. Richard E. Marburger**, and the other, **the 95th Centennial Endowment Fund**.

Also, on this auspicious occasion a commemorative book is being prepared featuring both a written and photographic history of the church. Space is available for those who wish to remember or honor a loved one or a special event. We need to fill in the Benefactor, Diamond, Gold and Silver, and Sponsor pages in this book. We also will acknowledge donations received from firms and businesses provided they do not contain commercial ads.

Shortly, all our members and friends will receive the anniversary banquet envelopes with enclosed reservation and donation cards. Watch your mail!

This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in a milestone event and, at the same time, perpetuate a longstanding institution. The Armenian Congregational Church is grateful for your support and thanks for your contribution.

95th Anniversary Committee

Have You Considered Joining The Church?

Sunday, October 7, is **World Communion Sunday**, a very inviting occasion for joining the church. Our church extends its hand to everyone to come and join its fellowship. Our church presents Jesus Christ as Savior. One who comes to our church is constantly challenged and

pleaded with this Savior. Your joining the church means that you need that love, wish to be touched by it, and to learn to express it in your life.

We offer you fellowship with Jesus Christ, and with men and women who love Him. If interested, please contact the minister.

A Call To Support The Armenian Community In Syria

During the past weeks, the 17-month conflict in Syria has escalated to dangerous proportions. Caught in the crossfire of this growing conflict are the innocent citizens of Syria, among them the large Armenian community.

The presence of Armenians in Syria dates back many centuries, and throughout that time, the community has had an important role in the Armenian Diaspora reality. Especially after the Armenian Genocide, the growing Armenian community, through its hard work and determination has created beneficial situation for nurturing families and establishing national institutions such as churches and schools, and preserving our heritage and traditions. Today, due to the current conflict, the Armenian community is facing a crisis. The situation is getting worse as a result of the fighting, rockets and shells, kidnapping, deaths, displaced families, unemployment, lack of income, and high costs for basic living necessities.

Many families have left the country to find refuge in Lebanon, Armenia, Cyprus, Greece, Jordan and even back in Iraq.

The AMAA Board has decided to raise \$500,000 for relief. There is already a Committee formed in Syria to oversee the distribution of help to needy families. These funds will be allocated for: 1. Food assistance to needy families. 2. Medical assistance to needy families. 3. Educational relief, to keep our schools open. 4. Housing and transportation for displaced families.

We hereby appeal to you to be generous to support this humanitarian relief campaign. Please, make your checks payable to: **Armenian Congregational Church**. The church will send all the donations received to the AMAA. The funds received will go to the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) in Beirut, Lebanon and later transferred to Syria.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

ACC Bulletin

The ACC Bulletin is published every month except the month of August. We would like to remind our readers that the deadline for articles to be published is the 10th of each month, but your minister is always willing to take any news you have earlier than the 10th.

Rally and Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 9, 2012 was Rally and Homecoming Sunday, marking the beginning of the 2012-2013 Church School year. During the Morning Worship Service the Moderator, Mr. Rodney Keteyian, once again thanked our Minister Emeritus and Interim Minister, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, for assuming the pastorate from July 1, 2012 to January 20, 2013.

The minister installed the following members of the church school staff:

Co-Superintendents: *Leslie Banerian and Ann Bayleran*. Teachers: *Hourig Jacobs, Janet Janigian, Barbara Keteyian, and Rodney Keteyian*. Music: *Margaret Benian and April Arabian Tini*.

Immediately following the Worship Service there was a complimentary luncheon for the entire congregation, it was a potluck meal, sponsored jointly by the ACC Women's Fellowship and the Church School Staff.

Book of Life

To Be Baptized. On October 21, 2012 **Ethan Thomas Putt**, son of Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey and Kira Putt, grandson of Vaughn and Cybil Derderian, born on October 19, 2011 at Penn State Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, PA will be baptized.

To Be Married. Hourig Avakian, daughter of Moses and Maggie Avakian, will marry David Rogers on Saturday, October 6, 2012, in our sanctuary.

Rest in Peace. **Paul Margosian** entered his rest on Saturday, September 1, 2012. His private and military burial was held on Tuesday, September 11, in the Military Cemetery in Holly, Michigan, with Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian officiating.

The Giving of Gifts An Honored and Blessed Tradition

Throughout the history of our church we have shared the beautiful tradition of giving gifts to the church to mark, celebrate or commemorate both happy or sad occasions. The birth or baptism, the celebration of a birthday or anniversary or the passing of a beloved older family member have created the opportunity for relatives and friends to make donations as a living memorial of the event. There can be no gesture as thoughtful and magnanimous as this – the support of the church which seeks to minister at all stages of each member's life! Other organizations may have worthwhile goals, but the church is the foundation stone. The word and the work of Jesus Christ will endure beyond our generation. We must do all we can to make sure that our children and grandchildren will continue to enjoy the blessings of church life which we have known.

We encourage you to think of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit as you plan for these types of milestones in your life and that of your loved ones.

October 19th Musical Event Canceled

The musical event featuring the music of "Garland and Gershwin," which was to be held on Friday, October 19th at 7:30 p.m. is cancelled.

Armenian Cultural Evening Friday, October 5

October is Armenian Cultural Month. The Armenian Heritage Committee is organizing a special evening to pay tribute to our culture. There will be a special program. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Hosep Torossian, Principal of AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School. The speaker will speak in English. The topic of his message will be "**Cultural Leadership During Golden Age of Armenians.**"

There will be an informal reception following the program. All are cordially invited.

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges

- A gift from Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Lucy Yezejian on their 90th birthday.
- A gift from Mrs. Dikranhouhi Keshishian.
- A gift from Mr. and Mrs. Artur and Gladys Sweet in memory of Paul Margossian.
- A gift from Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Vahan and Rosette Tootikian for Syrian relief.

Armenian Congregational Church 95th Anniversary Banquet



Bring family and friends to join us as we celebrate the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Congregational Church on Sunday, November 18, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall located at, 26210 W. Twelve Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48037

Please reserve this date, and look for more details to follow in the mail in the coming days.

The AMAA Annual Meeting October 13, 2012

The 94th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association (AMAA) will be held on, October 13-14, 2012 at the AMAA headquarters, in Paramus, New Jersey. Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian will represent our church at the meeting.

Reminders!

Is your anniversary, birthday or graduation approaching? Why not share your celebration with the church family by sponsoring the *Fellowship Hour*.

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