

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 159  
SOUTHFIELD, MI

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Minister Emeritus

# The ACC Bulletin

*Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church*



Vol. 38, No. 4

**Christmas 2012**

Dear Members and Friends:

Before the first Christmas, the star had yet to shine in all the glory of the announcement of Jesus' birth. The shepherds were in the fields watching over their flocks. The kings had many miles to travel before they arrived at Bethlehem and the Child in a manger they were coming to worship.

Now, two thousand years after the first Christmas, where are you? Are you, like the shepherds out in the fields, "watching over the flocks," absorbed in the many details of day-by-day living and unaware of the great Event that is soon to come? Or like the kings are you traveling in search of an unknown goal?

The tree, the gifts, the turkey have all come to be part of a dearly loved Christmas tradition, but they are not Christmas. True Christmas comes from within. It involves the preparation of the heart for the Christ Child's coming and acceptance as the greatest gift the world has ever known. "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus," we sing. That is the spirit in which we must prepare for Christmas.

I greet you all in the Armenian traditional Christmas greeting:

**"Kristos Dzunav yev haydnetzav; tzezi mezi meds avedis,"** which translates. "Christ is born and revealed; good tidings to you and us."

Prayerfully yours,  
Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian

The celebration of the birth of our Savior has always been a season of immense joy. This joy flows from the greatness of God's gift of grace in Christ. As our families gather to share this time of rejoicing, we want to extend to each of our relatives and friends the blessings of our Lord, and wish them a Very Merry Christmas.

**Haig and Sue Arabian**

**Robert Arabian**

**Moses and Maggie Avakian**

**George and Carole Basmadjian**

**Ralph, Frances, Alison and Tyler Garabedian**

**Archie and Susan Gopigian**

**Daniel and Sandra Haroutunian**

**Brian, Nico, Lori and Tony Janigian**

**Janet Janigian**

**Simon Javizian**

**Ara and Anahid Kachadourian**

**Bob and Gayaneh Kachadourian**

**Aram and Alice Kakousian**

**Siroon Karapetoff**

**Rodney and Barbara Keteyian**

**Edward, Yvone, Laura and Christopher**

**Korkoian**

**Michael, Susan, Marianne, Rosemarie, and**

**Samuel Mousigian**

**Souzanne Pope**

**Rev. Dr. Vahan and Yn. Rosette Tootikian**

**Edward and Astrid Tutelian**

**Florence Varbedian**

## **Fall Congregational Meeting Approves Budget and Elects New Board Members**

On Sunday November 11, 2012 our Fall Congregational meeting was held. The members acted upon the following:

1. Approved the 2013 budget presented by the Board of Trustees.
2. Elected Board members for the term 2013-2015.

The newly elected members of the boards are:

### **Board of Trustees**

Sema Baylerian (2<sup>nd</sup> three-year term)  
Ralph Garabedian (2<sup>nd</sup> three-year term)  
(Two more Trustees will be voted on January 21, 2013)

### **Board of Deacons**

Carole Basmadjian (2<sup>nd</sup> three-year term)  
Marian Flanagan (2<sup>nd</sup> three-year term)  
Garineh Koundakjian (1<sup>st</sup> three-year term)

## **Book of Life**

**To Be Baptized:** **Daryn Higgins**, son of Mark and Rachel Higgins, great-grandson of Siroon Karapetoff, born on November 15, 2006.

**Entered Their Rest:** **Lucy Yazejian** wife of Robert V. Yazejian, entered her rest on October 17, 2012. Funeral services were held on October 20<sup>th</sup> **Aznive (Ozzie) Sarjanian** on November 5. The funeral services were held in Las Vegas, NV., on November 12, 2012, with Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian officiating.

### **Sunday School Christmas Program**

Please join the Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, December 16, 2012. It begins immediately following the church service. A complementary luncheon will follow sponsored by the ACC women's Fellowship.

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Following the service, there will be a fellowship hour with refreshments and desserts sponsored by the Board of Deacons. We invite you all to join us and bring family and friends for this very special service.

## **ACCGD's 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - A Great Success**

*--Rosette Tootikian*

As the plans for the ninety-fifth Anniversary of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit unfolded, a wave of enthusiasm pervaded the Church family and friends. The enthusiasm was evidenced, first, by the eleven members of the 95th Anniversary Committee, headed by Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, who accepted their responsibilities cheerfully and discharged them most efficiently.

The same eager interest was demonstrated by the members and friends of the Church in their prompt and generous response to the two Endowment Funds (Centennial Endowment Fund and Dr. Richard E. Marburger Endowment Fund), established by the Church Council on this milestone.

The wave of enthusiasm was at its peak on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18, with an overflowing attendance of approximately 300 people in the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall, where honored guests added a special glitter to the occasion. Following the American and Armenian National Anthems, rendered by Rubik Mailian, with the accompaniment of our own Susan Harrison and the Invocation by Rev. Tootikian, a sumptuous thanksgiving dinner, prepared by Moses and Maggie Avakian and their crew was served to the attendees of the banquet. Preceding the meal, however, delicious hor d'oeuvres were offered by the talented ladies of the Church.

The Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, interjected some humorous tidbits while conducting the program. He first introduced the Mayor of the City of Southfield, Mrs. Brenda Lawrence, who in her brief speech congratulated and commended the Church, and read her proclamation making November 18, 2012 the "Armenian Congregational Church Day." After Mayor Lawrence's presentation, the ceremonial cutting of the anniversary Cake (a beautiful and delicious cake specially prepared by our talented Taline Hagopian) was done jointly by the oldest member of the Church, the 104-years old Vincent Kaye and the Honoree of the day, Dr. Richard E. Marburger, following the enthusiastic singing of "Happy Anniversary to the ACC" by the audience.

Then, the MC invited to the podium the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Rodney Keteyian, who made appropriate remarks, following, which, 3-minute

brief but meaningful testimonies were given by Haig Arabian, Carole Basmadjian and Michael Banerian, dealing with various aspects of the Church life. Also, an Armenian poem dedicated to the Armenian Church by Vahan Tekeyian, was recited by Taline Hagopian.

After a short intermission, Rev. Tootikian spoke briefly on the theme of the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - "Honoring the past, Claiming the Future." Among other remarks, he said, "We honor the past, the pioneers, the founders, the second and the third generations who, passed the torch of faith to us. We honor the past because from the past comes to us a body of experience through which we gain knowledge, a sense of belonging. We must learn from and build upon the past, but should not live in the past. We should look forward, because if we sentimentalize the past it will destroy our effectiveness in the present and will kill our aspirations for the future."

He added, "We must rededicate ourselves to be the Church of Jesus Christ with common commitment to Him and a common destination to grow in Him, and a common purpose to be His ambassadors here in this world."

Following his message, the minister recognized Dr. Richard Marburger as the honoree of the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He stated that no matter where he has served, Dr. Marburger has attained in stature, and has won the admiration and affection of all. On behalf of the Church, Rev. Tootikian presented a beautiful plaque to him in recognition of his manifold services to the Church. Responding to the honor accorded to him by the Church, Dr. Marburger, in his typical humorous style, reminisced about his involvement in the Church life for more than sixty years, laying special emphasis on the Stewardship dimension of the Church. He then introduced his family members, one by one and spoke about their achievements. He ended his message with a challenging appeal to the church members to look forward and march onward.

The last part of the program was a musical one. The main performing artist was Deacon Rubik Mailian, who sang 4 songs in Armenian from the Armenian composers Komitas, Yegmalian and Babajanian, and a Christmas carol by Pietra Ayon entitled "Gesù Bambino," and ended it with the Battle Hymn of the Republic accompanied by ACC pianist Susan Harrison, and Sevahn Merian on the violin. Sevahn also performed a violin solo, entitled "Haperpan" by Komitas.

The memorable evening came to an end with the unison singing of the "Hayr Mer" and the benediction by Rev. Tootikian and Fr. Kochakian.

A very pretty commemorative booklet, consisting of 52 pages was given to the attendees. The pictorial booklet consisted of letters by church and civic dignitaries, as well as institutional information about the church.

The 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee members should be commended for their superb performance, each in his/her own capacity. They, as well as our congregation, provided ample evidence, once again, that they are capable of achieving great accomplishments.

### **ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations Received after the deadline of the Publication of our Commemorative Book**

**Sponsor** – Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation  
**Gold** – Steve and Doris Krikorian- in memory of their parents, Armina and Steve Boujoulian and Elizabeth and Hovnaton Krikorian.

**Donors** – Keri and Ani Ashekian, Charles Ayanian, Stephanie Dalakian, Nenette Merametjian, Lynda Peringian.

#### **Missions: Christmas Joy Packages**

Bring Christmas joy to children of Armenia and Karabagh through the AMAA Armenia Christmas Committee. A donation of \$10.00 would cover the cost of one child's Christmas celebration and a Christmas joy package.

### **Showers of Grace**

*By Arousiag Tovmassian Missirlian*

#### **Showers of Grace: A Memoir of God's Abundant Blessing Throughout a Lifetime of Christian Service,**

by Arous (Tovmassian) Missirlian is a book that chronicles her life and the lives of her two husbands Rev. Edward Tovmassian (d. 1986) and Rev. Harry Missirlian (d. 2007). This 131 page book describes the lives of these three people across more than 80 years, numerous countries and three continents. It includes sermons, tributes and photos of family, friends and events throughout the years. *Showers of Grace* is available for \$30 (plus \$5 shipping/handling). Please make all checks out to Arous Tovmassian Missirlian. And mail it to: 25643 Bellerive Drive, Valencia, CA 91355. For more information, or questions, you may send e-mail to [badveliron@ca.rr.com](mailto:badveliron@ca.rr.com).

### ARA Scholarship Recipients

Each year the **Armenian Renaissance Association** of Greater Detroit hosts their annual dinner dance and presents talented Michigan Armenian college students \$2,000.00 scholarship to aid in furthering their education. The event, which was held on September 22, honored five of our best and brightest. The winners were:

The Barkey and Satenie merit Scholarship was awarded to Linda Kalfayan; The Jack and Zarouhi Shoushanian Merrit Scholarship was awarded to Sona Movsisyan; the Armenian Renaissance Sofia Chapter Scholarship were awarded to Adam Gumushian and Ara Markarian; The Andrew Kalagian Graduate Scholarship was awarded to Samvel Arakelyan.

These are outstanding examples of the talent that we are fortunate to have in our Armenian community.



*The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Vahan and Rosette Tootikian  
Join in sending to all ACC members, relatives and  
friends, their warmest good wishes for a blessed  
Christmas.*

### Important Dates to Remember

**December 16 – Church School Christmas program**

**December 23 – Christmas Sunday Worship**

**December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**January 6, 2013 – Armenian Christmas & Epiphany**

### **MANOOGIAN MANOR** Assisted Living • State Licensed

**Short Term Stays Available**

**15775 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, Michigan 48154**

Telephone: 734-522-5780

[rosemarie@manoogianmanor.com](mailto:rosemarie@manoogianmanor.com)

[www.manoogianmanor.com](http://www.manoogianmanor.com)

### ACC BANQUET HALL

**Moses Avakian**  
Banquet Manager

Wedding & All Other Occasions  
26210 W. Twelve Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48034  
Telephone: 248-352-7399 Cell: 248-722-9100

### **Edward Korkoian Funeral Home**

**836 N. Main Street • Royal Oak, MI 48067**

**(248) 541-8325 • (248) 541-4800**

The Edward Korkoian Funeral Home has served the Armenian community for 60 years with three generations of professional, compassionate and dedicated service.

Edward H. Korkoian, Christopher Korkoian and  
Edward B. Korkoian (1916-1999)

#### **Our funeral home offers:**

- Traditional funerals
- Cremation and other optional funeral services
- Advance Funeral Planning Program
- Our own funeral home facility as well as other funeral homes in the greater Detroit area to meet your needs

### **SIMON JAVIZIAN**

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*Continuing Over Half A Century of Service*



**(248) 626-7815**

**(313) 869-4100**

*Arrangements In Many Convenient Area  
Locations*

*Wessels and Wilk Funeral Home*  
23690 Woodward Avenue Pleasant Ridge, MI  
48069

(248) 543-0100

*Directors*

*Simon Javizian John E. Wilk*  
[Sjavizian@att.net](mailto:Sjavizian@att.net)