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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 159
SOUTHFIELD, MI

The ACC Bulletin

Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church



Vol. 39, No 2

November 2013

FROM THE MINISTERS DESK

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

- Psalm 100:1-5

Dear Friends,

A thankful heart is a happy heart. A grateful heart, prepares the way of the Lord! In some sense, you could say a thankful heart is the greatest virtue, because when our hearts are truly thankful, we will obey God and seek to please Him in all we say and do. Giving thanks is no small thing for a Christian. But we so often take it lightly and don't get very excited about giving thanks. In this season of Thanksgiving, we gather with family, enjoy a nice meal and time together and are supposed to think of and remember all the things we are thankful for. Thanksgiving is prominently marked on our calendars and has become an expected part of our culture and comes around every year making it feel rote and even forced on us. But to a sinner forever saved by grace, thanksgiving should be significant, even central to our day to day life. Healthy Christians are thankful Christians.

Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans that those who don't believe in God and are rebellious against Him display this disobedience in two ways. *“Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” (Romans 1:21)*

Paul notes that not only did they not recognize God by not honoring Him as God but they failed to give thanks to Him because even those who don't believe in God have the blessings of life that come from God, yet they don't credit Him for his goodness. Their double failure leads to two results, their thinking becomes futile and their hearts are darkened. This is the result of those who don't have the proper attitude of gratitude towards God. It effects their thinking and makes it useless, because they don't include God, and their hearts are darkened and no joy or light may be found there. What a miserable existence without thankfulness towards God!

But how should we be thankful and what is this gratitude that we should have? Pastor John Piper writes in his book *Future Grace* that thanksgiving “exults in grace” and gratitude was “created by God to echo grace” so they are both tied to the grace of God which we experience in our lives. He continues to define gratitude as “a spontaneous response of joy to receiving something.” We can't be forced to be thankful, it must flow out naturally from our receiving something, and that something is the grace and forgiveness we receive from God through Jesus Christ. So this Thanksgiving when we are remembering all the blessings God has given us for us to be thankful for, let our response be one of gratitude since God was and continues to be so gracious toward us.

**Soli Deo Gloria (Glory To God Alone),
Rev. Shant Barsoumian**

Family Night



Mid-West Youth Weekend at ACC



The ACC Children's Ministry held their annual Harvest Party on Friday, October 11, 2013; there was 50-60 family and friends that attending the evening and enjoyed delicious food, fun and games.

ACC extends its very special thank you to Ann Bayleran and Leslie Banerian for their diligent work putting together a very eventful evening.

Our Mid-West Youth weekend took place October 25-27 with youth from Chicago joining us and Rev. Ara Jizmejian visiting for the weekend. We had a wonderful time together spending time in fellowship and in God's word. We had a fun outing to Joe Dumar's fieldhouse on Saturday afternoon and worshiped together Sunday morning. Praise God for a blessed weekend and looking forward to more opportunities to come!

Congregational Meeting

The fall congregational meeting will be held on Sunday November 10, 2013 following the church service. The two agenda items for the meeting are:

1. Electing new board members to serve for the term 2013 – 2016.
2. Approve the 2014 Budget.

The current board members are:

Board of Trustees

- Mr. Rodney Keteyian – Chairman
- Dr. Edward Bayleran – Vice Chairman
- Mr. Kenneth Basmadjian – Treasurer
- Mr. Christopher Banerian – Secretary
- Mrs. Sima Baylerian
- Mr. Harold Gant
- Mr. Ralph Garabedian
- Mr. Monica Koehler
- Ms. Marjorie Nanian

Board of Deacons

- Pastor Shant Barsoumian – Chairman
- Mrs. Frances Garabedian – Mission
- Mrs. Hourig Jacobs – Secretary
- Mr. Roupen Arslanian
- Mrs. Carole Basmadjian
- Mrs. Marian Flanagan
- Mr. Tony Janigian
- Mrs. Alice Kadian
- Mr. Aram Kakousian
- Mrs. Garineh Koundakjian

Armenian Congregational Church Annual Thanksgiving Banquet

We invite all of you to come and join us on **Sunday, November 24** 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 at the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall, for more information please call the church office.

2013 Stewardship

As the end of the year is approaching, we kindly ask that if you have not submitted your 2013 pledge, please do so. It is with your help and donations that the church will be able to continue its ministry.

Missions

Operation Christmas Child

The Sunday School is participating again this year in Operation Christmas Child, a ministry started by Franklin Graham that reaches out to poor and under-privileged children around the world with the good news of the gospel through gifts packed in shoe boxes. If you would like to participate, pick-up a form from the church foyer and return completed boxes no later than Sunday, November 17.

December Bulletin

The December issue of the A.C.C. monthly bulletin will be a Christmas issue. Once again, as in the past, we offer you the opportunity to send your Christmas greetings to all the church members and friends by making a contribution to our mission fund. Please submit your names by December 8 to Suzan at the office or Pastor Shant.

Advent Season

The first Sunday of Advent will be December 1st. As we start preparing for the Christmas season, join us for special music, Christmas carols, and advent readings.

Christmas Program

Please join the Sunday School on December 22nd for this year's Christmas Program. The program begins after the church service, with a luncheon to follow. All are welcome.

ACC Choir

The ACC Sanctuary Choir and director Mrs. Susan Harrison are preparing a special Christmas program, which they will present during the Christmas Eve Service. Plan on joining us this year.

Important Dates

November 10	ACC Congregational Meeting
November 24	Thanksgiving Banquet
December 22	Christmas Sunday Sunday School Program
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
January 5	New Years, Armenian Christmas & Communion Sunday



Armenian Congregational Church Annual Thanksgiving Banquet



The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall

26210 W. Twelve Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48034

Bring family and friends to join us as we celebrate
the Annual Thanksgiving dinner
Sunday, November 24, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.



I/We will attend the
"Thanksgiving Banquet"
Sunday, November 24, 2013
5:00 p.m.

Names(s) _____ (\$25.00
per adult -- \$10.00 per child 6-15 years. (No charge
to children under 6 years old)

In addition I would like to make a donation of
\$ _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

**Sponsor \$2,000.00; Benefactor \$500.00; Patron
\$250.00; Contributor \$100.00 Supporter \$10-\$99**

Please make your checks payable to: Armenian
Congregational Church
Memo: Thanksgiving banquet.

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