

The Armenian Congregational Church
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Christmas 2013

Come and See, Go and Tell

The Christmas season is upon us, and with it comes many traditions that seem to preoccupy us this time of year. Whether it is shopping for Christmas presents, putting up colorful lights around the house or decorating the Christmas tree with the family, we find ourselves busily preparing for Christmas. As the famous song reminds us, it truly is “the most wonderful time of the year.” On our church calendar, this season is known as Advent, a time where we eagerly await and prepare for the coming of our King. But how can we truly prepare ourselves for Jesus’ coming? What can we do that will set us apart from the rest of our culture who only see gifts, Santa and eggnog as the reason to celebrate Christmas?

Our example comes from the Shepherds, who witnessed that first Christmas as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. The angel appeared to them and declared the Good News of the birth of Christ the Lord. *“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’ (Luke 2:15)* That also, should be our first response, to **Come and See** the work that God is accomplishing in our midst. God’s work is not always a spectacular “parting of the Red Sea” kind of miracle but is often more like a birth of a baby kind of moment. Quiet, subtle, seemingly uneventful and easily overlooked. But as the Shepherds gazed on baby Jesus in the manger they were truly amazed at God’s work, for they saw in that little baby boy, the hope and promise of salvation. God’s

greatest work and miracle for mankind, born on that day in Bethlehem.

Once the Shepherds saw Jesus they could not keep it to themselves. *“When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.” (Luke 2:17-18)* They shared the Good News of Jesus to everyone they came across. Their hope and excitement were contagious because they saw God working in their midst and they had to **Go and Tell** what they had seen. We too have witnessed God working in our midst and we should not keep it to ourselves. When we share so much during this holiday season let us also share the greatest gift of all, the gift of Jesus Christ.

Our hope and prayer this Christmas season is that you will **Come and See** what God is doing in our midst. We invite you to come and worship our Lord with us every Sunday as we look into His Word and see God’s work amongst us. And we pray that you will **Go and Tell** and share the truth of God’s love with those around you this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
Rev. Shant Barsoumian

Merry Christmas

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

Maggie and Moses Avakian

George and Carole Basmadjian

Rev. Shant Barsoumian

Dr. & Mrs. Edward and Ann Bayleran & Family

Kevin, Pam, Alec and Kyle Czartoryski

Edward and Phyllis Garabedian

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Daniel and Sandra Haroutunian

Simon Javizian

Ara, Anahid and Arevik Kachadourian

Bob and Gayaneh Kachadourian

Aram and Alice Kakousian

Siroon Karapetoff

Rodney and Barbara Keteyian

Ken Khezarian

Michael and Susan Mousigian & Family

Souzanne Pope

Rev. Dr. Vahan and Mrs. Rosette Tootikian

Edward and Asdghid Tutelian

John Wilk

Leo and Judith Yesayian



Church School Christmas Program

Please join the Sunday School on December 22 for this year's Christmas Program at 12:00 Noon in the Social Hall. Following the program we invite everyone to join us for a complementary luncheon.

The Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Tuesday, December 24th 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.

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

Dr. & Mrs. Vahagn and Mary Agbabian – Thanksgiving Donation

Haig & Sue Arabian – Thanksgiving Donation

Robert Arabian – Thanksgiving Donation

Movses & Araxi Ashekian- Donation

Haig & Dirouhi Bayleran – Thanksgiving Donation

Stephen & Susan (Gasparian) Bolerjack – Thanksgiving Donation

Ovsanna Dervartanian – Thanksgiving Donation

Tony Janigian – Thanksgiving Donation

Dr. & Mrs. Khalil, Anne and Gena Dirani – Thanksgiving Donation

Rev. & Mrs. Vigen and Marie Galustian-Heritage

Robert & Gayaneh Kachadourian-Thanksgiving Donation

Aram & Alice Kakousian- Thanksgiving Donation

Siroon Karapetoff – Thanksgiving Donation

Rodney & Barbara Keteyian – Thanksgiving Donation

Rodney & Barbara Keteyian-Christmas Donation

Frances Kumjian – Thanksgiving Donation

Richard Marburger- Thanksgiving Donation

Richard Marburger-Christmas Luncheon

Gladys Margosian – Thanksgiving Donation

Martin and Diana Shoushanian-Missions

Mrs. Emma Sogolian – Thanksgiving Donation

Mrs. Emma Sogolian-Syrian Missions Fund

David & Patricia Tavidian- Thanksgiving Donation

Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Vahan and Rosette Tootikian – Thanksgiving Donation

Dr. Thomas Varbedian – Thanksgiving Donation

Dr. & Mrs. Michael and Jackie Voskian- Missions

Diran & Joyce Yazejian- Thanksgiving Donation

Robert Yazejian - Donation

Mark & Ann Zartarian – Missions

Fall Congregational Meeting Approves Budget and Elects New Board Members

On Sunday November 10, 2013 the Fall Congregational meeting of our church was held immediately following the morning worship service. The members acted upon the following:

1. Approved the 2014 budget presented by the Board of Trustees.
2. The election of the Board members serving 2014-2016.

The newly elected members of the board are:

Board of Trustees

Ken Basmadjian (2nd three-year term)
Stephen Bolerjack (1st three-year term)
Rodney Keteyian (2nd three-year term)
Ann Zartarian (1st three-year term)

Board of Deacons

Reuben Arslanian (2nd three-year term)
Pam Czartoryski (1st three-year term)
Tony Janigian (2nd three-year term)

Food Bank

On your next trip to the store, or your pantry, collect some non-perishable food items to share with the needy people of Oakland County. Please bring your contributions to the Food Bank box in the foyer.

Christmas Joy Package

Bring Christmas joy to children of Armenia and Karabagh through AMAA Armenia Summer Camp Christmas Committee. You can make checks payable to ACC. Or you may mail the check directly to AMAA. The forms are available in the hallway.

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.

Thanksgiving Banquet

The Annual ACC Thanksgiving Banquet was held the evening of Sunday, November 24th. An evening of celebration and thanksgiving together with great food, a wonderful program and a splendid time in fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended. Our church family came together along with many friends of the church and we had many things to be thankful for and praised God for His abundant blessings. This year we had 180 people joining us our Thanksgiving celebrations.

Our MC for the evening Dr. Ed Bayleran, who was also a Co-chair for the event, welcomed our guests and with a blessing of the tables by Rev. Shant Barsoumian, dinner was under way. As everyone enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, we had a special Thanksgiving message from Michael Banerian, our youth representative, who reminded us that it is because of the blessing of family that he can truly be thankful for everything in his life. We were treated to two special songs sung by Bailey Kadian and accompanied by Susan Harrison. Cousins Natalie Arslanian and Karine Eurdekian recited a wonderful poem in Armenian for us, and we concluded our program with the ever talented Emma Bagdasarian who graciously played a number of musical selections on the piano for us, including some of her own compositions. We concluded our evening by singing the Hayr Mer together and the benediction was given to us by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian.

A special thanks to the Banquet committee for putting this wonderful evening together, including Ed and Ann Bayleran for Chairing the event, to Souzanne Pope, Alice Kakousian and Rosette Tootikian for organizing the invitations and seating arraignments for the evening and to Mr. & Mrs. Moses and Maggie Avakian for catering the event with all the delicious food. Thanks to everyone who was able to join us for another wonderful Thanksgiving banquet.

Christmas Calendar

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 24 – 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Sunday
Sunday, December 22 – 11:00 a.m.

New Year's Service – Communion
Sunday, January 5 – 11:00 a.m.



We here at A.C.C. wish you and your family a Merry Christmas as you celebrate the birth of Jesus this year, and a Happy and Blessed 2014.

**Kristos Dznav Yev Hydnetzav:
Tzezi Mezi Medz Avedis**

*Christ is Born and is Revealed, Good Tidings
to You and to Us*

Annual Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, January 26, 2013, immediately following the Morning Worship Service, we will remain in the sanctuary for our annual meeting. At that time, we will review the events of the past year and look ahead to the upcoming year and the future of our church. All chairpersons of boards please submit your written reports.

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