

The Armenian Congregational Church
26210 West Twelve Mile Road
Southfield, Michigan 48037

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

Rev. Shant Barsoumian, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

Or Current Resident

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

The ACC Bulletin

Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church

Vol. 39, No. 8

May 2014

May as a month reminds us of Spring time and flowers, warmer weather moving in to thaw the cold of winter, birds chirping as they return from their winter absence. Bright colors and new life spring forth all around us, so it is only fitting that May also gives us Mother's Day to celebrate. We celebrate and honor our mother's in a variety of ways with bouquets of flowers, balloons, chocolates and gifts. We look for many ways to show our Mother's just how much they mean to us and how we are all blessed because of them. Pastor Sam Crabtree has a different perspective on Mother's Day. He says:

"Mother's Day is not primarily about being a mother and receiving honor, but thanking God for the mother he gave you, and giving honor. The people giving honor should also include all moms. Persons receiving honor as moms should also be giving honor for their own God-given mothers."

As we strive to honor our Mother's on this day, we must also honor God who gave us this wonderful gift of a mother. And if you are a mother, along with receiving honor on your day, you should also consider how you can give honor to others as well. For many of us our hearts soar in thanksgiving to God when we think of our mothers, grandmothers, and any woman who has been loving and motherly towards us. Their tender love and care are an example towards us that is unparalleled. The Gospel itself is encapsulated for us in the love of a Mother towards her children. This giving and self-sacrificing love is the same love Christ has for us, and the closest example we all have of this love comes from our Mothers. This is why Proverbs reminds us that for a godly mother *"Her children will rise up and call her blessed."* (Proverbs 31:28)

The great English Baptist preacher Charles Spurgeon, writing in his *Early Religious Impressions*, not only says "Fathers and mothers are the most natural agents for God to use in the salvation of their children" but in particular he celebrates his mother:

"I am sure that, in my early youth, no teaching ever made such an impression upon my mind as the instruction of my mother, neither can I conceive that, to any child, there can be one who will have such influence over the heart as the mother who has so tenderly cared for her offspring."

Although Motherhood is a wonderful gift and an honor, there are many women who have not been mothers, or might not have had a healthy relationship with their mother and Mother's day might not be such a celebrated time. If a mother has faced the grief of losing a child this might be a difficult and sad time as well. I hope that in addition to giving honor to our Mothers we also recognize and encourage everyone who has been motherly and loving towards us, despite the fact that they are not mothers biologically. Their example of love and care and self-sacrifice should be enough for us to honor them and thank God for them and their influence on our lives.

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

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

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Annual Father's Day Luncheon

**Sunday June 15, 2014
12:00 p.m.**

The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian
Fellowship Hall
26210 W. Twelve Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48034
248-352-0680

Tickets: Adults \$15
Children ages 6-15 \$10
Under 6 Free

Menu: Kebob, Rice Pilaf, Humus, Salad,
Watermelon and Soda.

Graduates of 2014



ACC would like to honor our graduates by publishing their names and degrees in the monthly and weekly bulletins and at the church on Sunday, June 8. Please submit names of your loved ones graduating this year from Elementary School, Middle School, High School, College, Graduate or post Graduate School. Deadline for submission is May 18.

Spring Clean-up Day

On Saturday, **June 7**, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., we would like to invite you to join us in sprucing up the ACC grounds, having lunch, and enjoying some great fellowship. Helpers of all ages are welcome.

We need help in the following areas:

- Pruning Trees, Shrubs and Planting Flowers.
- Cleaning Church grounds, Balcony, Classrooms, and the Parking Lot.

Lenten Luncheon



L to R: Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian and Rev. Shant Barsoumian.

On Friday, April 11 the Armenian Congregational Church Women's Fellowship held their annual Lenten Luncheon. We welcomed our guests and treated them to a delicious fish and vospov kofta lunch. We were moved and encouraged by an uplifting spiritual message by Mrs. Hourig Jacobs and we had two wonderful musical selections for us with a special duet by Mrs. Gayaneh Kachadourian and Mrs. Ann Bayleran accompanied on piano by our own Susan Harrison, as well as a number of beautiful piano selections by Emma Bagdasarian. Special thanks to Carole Basmadjian and the entire ACC Women's Fellowship.

Easter Morning Youth Breakfast

Once again we joined together on Easter Morning to have Breakfast and fellowship together before the Worship service. Our wonderful Youth took our meal orders and served the breakfast. We enjoyed either a stack of mouth watering pancakes (regular or chocolate chip!), eggs and sizzling plump sausages with our orange juice and coffee for a wonderful breakfast.



Thanks again to you the ACC Youth and all the volunteers that helped make and serve us a delicious breakfast and thank you to all of you who were able to join us!

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

Monthly

Children's Message, (First Sunday of the month. Parents bring your children into the worship service.)
Adult Bible Study, (Every Wednesday 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 Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m.).
Board of Deacons Meeting, (Last Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.).

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Save The Date

**22nd AEUNA General Assembly
19th AEYF Convention
June 26-29, 2014
University Square Hotel
Fresno, CA
"Forging Ahead For Christ"**

Hosted by Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church. 3673 North First Street, Fresno, CA 93726 (559) 229-2915

Camp Arevelk

Are you looking for a summer camp program for youth ages 10 to 16. This program provides the campers with many opportunities to experience the beautiful outdoors, while learning more about God's Word. The camp is located on the beautiful grounds of the Ararat Center in the Catskill Mountains, and it will be held August 10, thru Saturday August 16, 2014. To obtain more information, you can contact CampArevelk@gmail.com.

Special Request

The ACC continues to generate an email list of its members to better communicate upcoming events, updates, sermon topics, etc. If you would like to be on our email list please submit your email address to the church office.

Reminders!

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

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