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# The ACC Bulletin

Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church



Vol. 40, No. 7

March 2015

Jesus was a master storyteller and often spoke to the crowds in parables. Many of the parables he told were from the perspective of his culture using similar themes and stories as others of his day in order to connect with the audience. Jesus used storytelling as a highly effective teaching method, well beyond its entertainment value. He was able to draw the listener into the story and prepare them for the intended lesson without the listener being on guard or defensive. Stories have a way to open us up to one another and make connections.

These kinds of connections are crucial to forming a community and Jesus understood that and it's part of why he taught in parables. He tells us in the Gospel of Matthew as he responds to the Disciples: "*The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see, though hearing, they do not hear or understand." In them is fulfilled the prophecy of*

*Isaiah: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving." (Matthew 13:10-14)*

The stories Jesus told particularly affected the disciples and the community of believers around them because they had ears to hear and eyes to see the truth Jesus was sharing through those stories. Without the faith that they had, the stories Jesus told would be nice but they would not get anything deeper out of it.

The stories that we tell help form our identity; at times they allow us to reflect on our deepest experiences whether with God, our families or our communities. They can reflect the terrors and triumphs of life and aim to make us think about important and urgent matters. If we're lucky they reward us with insight and perspective we would have otherwise missed, as we are usually engrossed with our everyday lives. When these kinds of stories are shared and reflected on together they help us join others and shape our identity as a community.

Jesus the great storyteller wants to speak into your life and tell the story of your life, in light of His great love for you. Do you have the ears to hear him and the eyes to see him?

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

## Holy Week

The week that begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Sunday is called Holy Week. We are planning to have the following worship services.

**Palm Sunday, March 29**, the Sunday School students will participate in the morning worship service.

**Maundy Thursday Service, April 2**, Choir Concert, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper at 6:30 p.m.

**Resurrection Sunday, April 5**, The Easter morning worship service is a family service. The Sunday school students will begin worship with their parents in the Sanctuary, and be dismissed for a special Easter lesson.

**Easter Breakfast, Sunday, April 5**. The annual Easter Breakfast sponsored by the ACC Youth Group (ACYF), will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door: \$6.00 for young and old alike.

### ACC Women's Fellowship Annual Lenten Luncheon

The A.C.C. Women's Fellowship is sponsoring their annual Lenten Luncheon on Friday, March 27 at 12:00 noon. Admission is \$15 per person. Come enjoy a beautiful program. Both men and women are welcome. To RSVP please contact Souzanne at the church office 248-352-0680.

### Maundy Thursday

On Thursday, **April 2**, we will remember our Lord's last hours on earth through a special worship service that will include special music by the ACC Choir, and celebration of the Lord's Table. The evening will start at **6:30 p.m.**

## ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Moses Avakian – Building Fund  
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### Important Dates

March 27 - ACC Women's Lenten Luncheon  
March 29 - Palm Sunday  
April 2 - Maundy Thursday  
April 3 - Good Friday  
April 5 - Easter Sunday  
April 24 - Armenian Genocide Commemoration  
May 10 - Mother's Day Banquet  
June 14 - Graduation Sunday  
Last day of Sunday School Year  
June 21 - Father's Day

### 100th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

The four Greater Detroit Armenian Churches will jointly commemorate the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 at St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Basilica in Livonia on April 24 at 7:30 p.m. and an Armenian Community Choral in Celebration of our Culture and Music on June 19, 2015, at the Max Fisher Orchestra Hall in Detroit.

## Book Review by Dr. Robert Kachadourian



The Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council, a veteran minister, lecturer of universities and a prolific writer, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian recently published his 37th book entitled “The Armenian Evangelical World Council.” It consists of 33 chapters and 397 pages, with each chapter documented by references.

Published at the beginning of this centennial year of the Armenian Genocide, this bilingual volume is appropriately dedicated to the blessed memory of the one and a half million Armenians who became victims of the first Genocide of the 20th century, perpetrated by Ottoman Turkey.

The text describes the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) and relates its history and accomplishments since its inception in 1978. The author gives the background for the establishment of organizations that preceded the AEWC. It relates the story of the survivors of the Genocide who organized new communities in Syria and Lebanon. The text describes the AEWC and its beginnings. This is a book that had to be written to leave a legacy.

These two countries became the homes of the remnants of the Armenian Genocide. They also became the most important base for the Armenian Evangelicals who survived those dark days. After the decimation and the destruction that occurred in the Armenian Genocide, the Armenian Evangelicals had to regroup. Though it took some time the forerunner of the AEWC came to be in the early 1950's. The InterUnion Council of the Armenian Evangelical Churches was formed. It was initiated by the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE).

The initial conference was in Beirut, Lebanon (1952), followed by one in Marseille, France (1955) and the last one in Paris, France (1965). These three meetings were where the concept of the AEWC was to some degree formulated.

An examination of the three conferences of the InterUnion of the Armenian Evangelical Churches is vital here. For it exemplifies the desire to have unity of like-minded bodies even over half-a-century.

Going through the text provides one the opportunity to follow through with the history of the AEWC. Highlights include the creation of the republics of Armenia and Artzakh, the 150th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church, 1700th Anniversary of Christianity in Armenia, it also deals with important issues and concerns such as problems in the aftermath of the Armenian earthquake in 1988, the Armenian massacres of the late 1980s in Sumgite, Azerbaijan, the accords between Armenia and Turkey, the mass immigration of Armenians from their homeland to different diasporan countries and many other issues.

Dr. Tootikian has produced a bilingual work that allows all Armenian Evangelicals to realize that they indeed are a ‘world’ people. In every nation they find themselves with their churches, missions and other related organizations.

In this book, Dr. Tootikian ties it all together. Where Armenian Evangelicals have been, where they are and where they are heading. These issues are discussed cogently. However, the “where they are going” is the next chapter yet unwritten. We must take the challenge Dr. Tootikian presents to us by authoring the ‘Armenian Evangelical World Council’.

Dr. Tootikian has rendered a service to Armenian Evangelicals. The answer to the next portion of the AEWC is yet to be written. Nevertheless, in order to contribute to the next “chapter” of the Armenian Evangelical Movement, one must add this to the library of us all. It's highly recommended.

If we don't know where we are from and where we are, we certainly have no concept of where we are going. ‘The Armenian Evangelical World Council’ is a roadmap that can begin a much needed dialog among us.

A roadmap, yes. Yet, it's more than that. Dr. Tootikian has provided a focus. The next step is for the reader and the Armenian Evangelical Church worldwide.

## Easter Flowers



Those wishing to arrange for an Easter flower to place in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please call the church office. The deadline for placing an order is Friday, March 27. The lilies are \$18.00 each, and the tulips are \$15.00 each.

## Florence Varbedian

On behalf of the Armenian Congregational Church and family of Florence Varbedian, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the following for their donation to A.C.C in memory of Florence.

Haig and Susan Arabian, Moses and Maggie Avakian, Edward and Ann Bayleran, Haig and Dirouhi Bayleran, Nora Baylerian, George and Carole Basmadjian, Leo and Catherine Brito, Glenn and Kathryn Charles, Kevin and Pam Czartoryski, Ovsanna Dervatanian, Daniel and Marian Flanagan, Hachig and Susan Gopigian, Jan and Carol Janigian, Janet Janigian, Robert and Gayaneh Kachadourian, Alice Kadian, Aram and Alice Kakousian, Dickranouhie Keshishian, Rodney and Barbara Keteyian, Hovsep and Karine Koundakjian, Gladys Margosian, Elizabeth Morrow, William and Carol Patrick, Jeffrey and Diane Paulsen, Ms. Winnie Perrin, Edward and Astrig Tutelian, Jane Warden, Robert Yazejian and Debra Zygmunt.



## Reminders!

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

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