



2016 Stewardship

As the end of the year is approaching, we kindly ask that if you have not submitted your 2016 pledge, please do so. It is with your help and donations that the church will be able to continue its ministry.

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

Moses and Maggi Avakian- Building Fund
 Araksi Ashekian- Donation
 Marryann Mougarian-Building Fund

Important Dates

September 11 – Rally/Homecoming Sunday
 September 18 – Women’s Fellowship Sunday
 October 2 - World Communion Sunday
 October 22 - Family Night
 November 20 - Thanksgiving Banquet
 December 24 - Candlelight Service
 December 25 - Christmas Sunday

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Rev. Shant Barsoumian, Pastor
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Or Current Resident

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The Bible doesn’t mention baseball, basketball, or football, but God has something explicit to say about the Olympics.

The ancient Games were common knowledge in the first century, just as the modern Olympics are today. For more than a millennium, the Games happened every four years in Greece. Everyone knew about the Olympics. “Everyone who competes in the games,” writes the apostle Paul, “exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable” (1 Cor. 9:25).

God wants Christians to see through the Games to ultimate reality. Paul wants his readers to see that the Olympics and competitive sports are a reality on one level that can teach us a deeper reality at a spiritual level. There is determination, training, discipline, hard work and perseverance. All of which is essential to a strong and healthy body as well as a strong and healthy spiritual life.

God means for us to discover truths about him, his world, and his salvation as we watch the Olympics. C.S. Lewis calls it “transposition” — taking God’s created realities, and the culture we humans make under God, and seeing through them to the ultimate reality. God has filled our world with these kinds of transpositions.

See the Grandeur of God

For one, the Olympiad captivates us with its bigness. It can appear larger than life, with a kind of transcendence that taps into a profound longing in the human soul.

On display are the world’s best athletes, and

most impressive humans, from most of the globe’s geopolitical nations. The world’s eye rarely fixes on a single object like this, apart from war and terrible disasters. From our limited vantage, few things seem to bring out humanity’s oneness, and feel as globally significant in such a positive way, as the Olympics.

But as great as the Games are, Christians know we have something infinitely greater — Someone infinitely greater. The grandeur of the Games points us to an even greater grandeur. The taste of transcendence helps us recognize a personal Bigness and Magnitude that doesn’t come and go for a couple weeks every couple years, but remains for our everlasting enjoyment — together with people from every tribe and tongue and nation.

Fight the Good Fight of Faith

The Games also have something to teach us about the Christian life. Paul says to Timothy, “Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called” (1 Timothy 6:12), and testifies at the end of his race, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7). The Olympics remind us that “while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come” (1 Timothy 4:8).

Saving faith, sustained and empowered by the Spirit, perseveres through as many obstacles as any Olympian, and more.

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

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CHURCH CALENDAR

Weekly

Worship Service, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Church School, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Children's Library, Every Sunday

Bible Study, (Every Wednesday at 7:00p.m.)

Monthly

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, 12:30).

Board of Deacons Meeting, (Last Sunday of the month, 12:30).

Mid-Week Bible Study, (Every Wednesday at 7:00p.m.).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rally Sunday – September 11, 2016

Come join us we kick off the 2016/2017 Sunday School year. There will be a complementary luncheon for the entire congregation, following the morning worship service. During the first part of worship, there will be an Installation Service for the church school staff. Also, children will worship with their parents during the first part of the worship hour, and then they will go to their respective rooms.

A.C.C. Choir

September 11th will be Rally Sunday. Sunday school will begin for all age children during our 11:00am worship. Choir will have special patriotic music during the worship service, and a couple songs to start off our special luncheon after church in the fellowship hall. The choir anthem is an Armenian lullaby, Land Of Our Dreams -- it tells of Armenians coming to America!

Family
FUN night

Please reserve the following night, *Saturday, October 22 at 5:30p.m.* All ages are welcome. Come enjoy delicious food, fun and games.

A.C.C, Annual Thanksgiving Banquet



Please reserve Sunday, November 20 for The A.C.C. Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Look for more details to follow in the mail in the coming months.

Women's Christian Fellowship

"Rally Day" for ACC Women's Christian Fellowship will be Sunday, September 18th, following the Morning Worship Service. All ladies of the Church are welcome and encouraged to attend our first meeting of the new calendar year. Please join us as we come together and make plans for future projects and activities to support our Church and each other.

Mid-Week Bible Study

We invite all men and women to join us on Wednesday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m. as we continue to study God's Word together. Why not join us for the first time?

We Salute Fatherland Armenia

-- *Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian*

On September 21, 2016, the Republic of Armenia will mark the 25th anniversary of its independence. It was on September 21, 1991 when the Armenian Nation was able to reestablish its place among the autonomous nations of the world by declaring its independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The road to independence was not easy. In 1915, the Ottoman Turks attempted to annihilate the Armenian people in a brutal genocide. To this day, the Turkish government refuses to acknowledge the atrocities for what they were, a systematic genocide. Not only were the Armenian people able to survive the genocide, but they kept our small nation alive. It was a great victory when the first Republic of Armenia was formed in 1918 following the Armenian Genocide. It was truly a historic event that exemplified strength and perseverance of the Armenian people in pursuit of freedom. But again, the Republic of Armenia lost its independence when it was taken over by the Soviet Union in 1920, and later became a Soviet Republic in the USSR.

Suffering through seven decades of totalitarian dictatorship did not discourage the Armenian people. It never wavered in its pursuit to secure freedom and to be a democratic nation of its own. Thus, following the collapse of the USSR, Armenia was among the first of the former

Soviet republics to embrace the path of democratic change in pursuit of freedom and self-determination. This was a rebirth of the independent state of Armenia and a historic moment for an oppressed country. It was a cause of celebration for Armenians around the world.

As one of the first countries in the post Soviet Union to embrace the ideals of freedom and democracy, Armenia has taken great strides down the path of democratic change and development and, to a large extent, has proven its commitment to democratic values.

At the present time, however, one of the greatest challenges that the Armenian Republic faces is the hostility of its neighbors, particularly Turkey and Azerbaijan. Since the independence of Nagorno Karabagh known as Artzakh, these two nations have imposed a crippling and illegal economic blockade against Armenia.

In spite of the fact that both Armenia and Artzakh have demonstrated their commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict, Azerbaijan has taken reckless steps that have contributed to the instability to the region.

On the Silver Anniversary of Armenia's independence, not only do we salute our Fatherland, but remain committed to support it in every way possible.

God bless Armenia and long live the Armenian nation!