

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 7:00 p.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 p.m.)
Board of Deacons Meeting, (Last Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.)
Mid-Week Bible Study, (Every Wednesday at 7:00p.m.)
Women's Bible Study. (Every Friday, 10:00 to 12:00 p.m.)



Christmas Calendar



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Saturday, December 24 – 7:30 p.m.
Christmas Sunday
Sunday, December 25 –11:00 a.m.
New Year's Service –Communion
Sunday, January 1 – 11:00 a.m.

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ACC BANQUET HALL

Moses Avakian

Banquet Manager

Wedding & All Other Occasions
26210 W. Twelve Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48034
Telephone: 248-352-7399 Cell: 248-722-9100

Edward Korkoian Funeral Home

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The Armenian Congregational Church
26210 West Twelve Mile Road
Southfield, Michigan 48034

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

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Christmas 2016

Christmas is a culmination in many ways. With the holiday season in full bloom, amidst the Christmas trees, gingerbread cookies, eggnog, the holiday shopping and gift-wrapping, everything boils to a fever pitch. All these activities reach their climax on Christmas day as we gather together with family, give one another gifts, relax and reflect on another year gone by. Christmas marks the end of another year, remembering God's blessings and looking forward to a new year to come, wondering what God will have in store for us. Even the Christmas story itself is a culmination. Angels appear to Mary and Joseph to proclaim the coming of the Christ Child. The young couple sets off on a journey to Bethlehem, not knowing where they will stay or what will happen to this child that is coming. Wise men in the East discover a special star, proclaiming the birth of a very important King, so important they set off on a long journey in search of this King of Kings. A host of angels proclaim to the Shepherds, *"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord!" (Luke 2:11)*

The birth of this child is special in many ways. Not only is this the advent of the long-awaited Christ, the Messiah, the specially Anointed One of God whom God's people have pined for and prophets spoke about so long ago. But this is "Christ the Lord" meaning God himself has come. Here finally after centuries of waiting, is the Immanuel, God with us. It is great news to be shared and proclaimed, but the good news doesn't end with Jesus' birth. It is news too spectacular to say all at once. Day after day will pour forth more and more about the life of this child. Act after act will reveal piece by piece that this

child shares the divine identity of Yahweh. Page by page in the Gospels, story after story, will show us more and more that this one who is so very much man is also truly God.

The Word who "became flesh" (John 1:14) is the one and the same Word who was in the beginning with God, and was God, and all things were made through him (John 1:1-3). Indeed, the Christmas story doesn't start with the Shepherds, the Wise men or even Mary and Joseph. It began long ago, all the way back to the beginning of creation itself. In many ways the birth of Christ is a culmination of all of creation and this is the great spectacle for those shepherds and wise men to witness, and it is the wonder we ourselves, who have lived our blessed lives knowing this truth, should aspire to experience again and again each Christmas.

There is more to the story, as with everything with God, it doesn't end there but just begins. It is not just that God is with us in this Christ child; it gets better, he has come to rescue us. It is found encoded in the name of the child himself, Jesus, in Hebrew Yeshua, means "God saves" The same God that sent Moses as his instrument to save His people from Egypt. Who sent Joshua and the judges as His instrument to rescue his people in the past. He now comes himself, in Jesus, to save us from our past, present and future sins. Our celebration of Christmas, in essence is a celebration of our salvation, begun, completed and preserved by Jesus himself. Sin could not stand against this lowly child born for us in Bethlehem.

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
Rev. Shant Barsoumian
Roger and Nancy Berschbach
Glenn and Kathryn Charles
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Sue Gopigian
Simon Javizian
Aram and Alice Kakousian
Siroon Karapetoff
Edward H. and Yvonne Korkoian
Dr. Richard Marburger
Mike, Sue, Marianne, Rosemarie and Samuel Mousigian
Souzanne Pope
Armen and Meline Santikian
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Vahan and Rosette Tootikian
Edward and Asdghig Tutelian



We here at the 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 2016.

***Kristos Dznay Yev Hydnetzav:
Tzezi Mezi Medz Avedis***
**Christ is Born and is Revealed,
Good Tidings to You and to Us**

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School Christmas Program

Please join the Sunday School on December 18 for this year's Christmas Program after the morning worship service in the Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall. Following the program we invite everyone to join us for a complementary luncheon sponsored by Dr. Richard Marburger in memory of his loving wife Mrs. Mary Marburger.

The Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Saturday, 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.

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

Thanksgiving Banquet

We celebrated our annual Thanksgiving Banquet this year on the evening of Sunday, November 20th at the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall with church family and friends gathered from all over the Armenian community of Greater Detroit. We were treated to a delicious Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Moses and Maggie Avakian. Our Banquet Co-chairs Mrs. Nancy Berschbach and Mrs. Ann Zartarian presented a wonderful program for the evening full of music, songs and poems to lift our spirits. We were treated to special songs performed for us by Mrs. April Tini and special musical guests of the Laker Express. We also enjoyed a special Armenian poem recited for us by Dr. Taline Hagopian. After this spectacular program, we were treated to a special Sweets Table sponsored by the Kadian and Banerian Families. Everyone enjoyed an overindulgence of sweets and deserts. Special thanks to Mrs. Rosette Tootikian for publicity and our Banquet sponsors Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Tamar Kadian and Mr. & Mrs. Mark and Ann Zartarian for their generous support of our Thanksgiving Banquet.

Going Overboard or Reaching Out?

-- Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

One of the bothersome phenomena about the Christmas and New Year holidays, is that it is too easy for many people to eat, drink and party too much. How many people have woken up after a holiday with pounding headache after drinking too much, having that second or third helping and staying up until dawn and then asking, "Why was I such an idiot?"

In the same holiday spirit, some people buy gifts that are too expensive and have a slight feeling of self-loathing when the credit bills show up in mid-January that cannot be paid with one check.

Have we ever noticed it is almost painless to pay for an overly expensive gift with a charge card when compared to handing over hard-earned cash to a merchant?

Wouldn't it be wiser not to kill ourselves trying to have fun? Wouldn't it be more reasonable not to drink to the point of being buzzed or eat until we are sick? As for gifts, we should give them cheerfully and generously. But I often wonder what are the best gifts that we can give. They are not necessarily the material ones. Instead of buying someone something shiny and glittery, wouldn't it be better to show our love by spending time with them? Aren't the best gifts those what come when one gives from the heart and not the wallet?

Why don't we listen to a friend, perhaps one who is going through a crisis in his or her life? Why don't we give someone a hug so that person will know he or she is not alone in this big world? Why don't we offer some hope by just being there for them?

The truth is that, in time, the toys and clothes given or received wear out, but a memory of sharing ourselves with another person can last forever. And creating that golden memory does not cost a penny.

Holidays remind us that as Christians it is our responsibility to give hope to those who have none. And give love and care who need them. Yes, holidays can be a wonderful time of reaching out and touching human lives; not a time to go overboard.

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Donations

Haig and Suzanne Arabian- *Thanksgiving Banquet Donation*
Moses and Maggie Avakian- *Thanksgiving Banquet Donation*
Christopher Banerian- *Building Fund*
Dr. and Mrs. Kirk and Leslie Banerian - *Thanksgiving Banquet Sweet Table*
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