

Have You Made Your Pledge For 2019?

Sunday, November 18th, was Stewardship Sunday, our members and friends made their pledges for the year 2019. The Board of Trustees is confident that those who did not pledge on Stewardship Sunday will do so today. Pledge cards were mailed to all concerned; however if you need one, please ask for it from the Minister or the Church office.



Family Harvest Night

The Sunday School, with the help of the Women's Christian Fellowship, put on a very successful Family Harvest Night on Friday, November 2nd. The following "Thank You" note from Church School Superintendent Ann Bayleran was extended to all those who shared their time and talents putting on the event and to those of our Congregation and the Community at large for their attendance and generous donations:

Thank you to all the ladies who participated in the Family Night last evening! I think everyone had a good time and we were well prepared. Thanks to all who helped with set up for dinner and the games. Taline prepared trivia games for the adults and donated many nice prizes. Araxie and Bill hauled in the pumpkins as did Carole and Mark Z. Souzanne contributed her special touch to our festive decorations, and Leslie and Ann Z. helped as well. We appreciate Carole at the microphone all evening and for preparing the guessing games, along with Nancy and Seta. Ever faithful Nora brought the pop and did the setup. Mark Z. did a great job receiving the donations and Aram helped out as needed. Thanks to the Jacob's family for help with the kid games and the decorations tear down.

The highlight of the night was the food. Many thanks to Rose for the delicious lasagna and to Taline for the eggplant parmesan and tiramisu that is always a treat. Ann Z. prepared such attractive fruit plates and made the salad. Thanks to Carole for doing the shopping and to all the ladies for preparing and or transporting all this food to the church. Thanks to Doris for the paper plates and to Alice, Pam and Siroon for the candy. Siroon brought the cheoreg and homemade oatmeal cookies from her daughter. Thanks to Araxi and all the others who helped clean the kitchen and those not specifically named. Such a labor of love from everyone.

Thanks to all for your devotion to the ministry of this church and for your Christian fellowship. In Christ, Ann B."

Carole Basmadjian, President
Women's Christian Fellowship

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From the Ministers Desk

Dear Members and Friends:

This is not the traditional greeting one gives or receives during the Advent and Christmas season, but it is my wish for each of you as you approach this holy time. If you take my greeting in the spirit in which it is meant, then you will reflect upon God's creative genius which makes our existence possible, especially when you reflect upon the life of Jesus of Nazareth who has become our Christ.

As we prepare for this season of Christmas, one issue looms large. It is the issue of preparation. Cards, gifts, wreaths, trees, parties, and all the lists which appear so necessary are important. But they will become truly important when we prepare our spirits as well. Our spirits need the primary attention. They provide the crucial context which gives our other preparations their true meaning.

For whom should we prepare our spirits? For the Lord, and for the ultimate purpose of our existence on earth. This is a season of preparing to receive God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ. Since He is the Way, Advent is the time for walking His way, preparing the way of the Lord in our own life, in the lives of those we love and those we need to love, for their sake and for our own.

To this end, I would like you to attend regular worship on Sundays – a series of sermons on experiencing the birth of Jesus through the lives of the shepherds, the Wise Men, Mary and Joseph, the angelic chorus, and Jesus Himself.

Many are the ways of preparing your spirit to receive God's Christmas gift to you. There is holy purpose at work in the world, and only those whose lives are open to it will experience it.

Have a merry, joyous, and creative Christmas!

Faithfully yours,
Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian
Minister Emeritus

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service



The annual traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Monday, December 24th, at 7:30 p.m. Following the service there will be a social refreshment hour for all, sponsored by the Board of Deacons. Please bring the whole family for this very special service!

Church School Christmas Program

Please join the Sunday School on Sunday, December 23rd, for this year's Christmas Program after the morning worship service in the Rev. Dr. 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.

Bulletin Board

Are you celebrating your anniversary, birthday or any milestone in your life? 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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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
Mary Jo Agbabian and Family
Basmadjian Family
Carole, Ken, Chris & Shannon
Natta, Areena, Alex, Jake & Kylie
Ed and Ann Bayleran
Kevin, Pam, Alec, & Kyle Czartoryski
Anahid Haroutunian
Dan and Sandra Haroutunian
Simon Javizian
Siroon Karapetoff
Aram and Alice Kakousian
Rodney and Barbara Keteyian
Edward and Yvonne Korkoian
Mike, Sue, Marianne, Rosemarie, Samuel Mousigian
Souzanne Pope
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Vahan and Rosette Tootikian
Mark & Ann Zartarian

Fall Congregational Meeting Approves Budget and Elects New Board Members

On Sunday, November 11th, the Fall Congregational Meeting of the Church was held following the Morning Worship Service. The membership acted upon the following:

1. The 2019 budget was approved.
2. The following were elected to serve 2019-2021.

Deacons

Pam Czartoryski (2nd 3-year term)
 Ovsanna Dervartanian (2nd 3-year term)

Trustees

Dennis Marburger (1st 3-year term)

Christmas Concert

The Detroit Armenian Choral, led by Music Director, Deacon Rubik Mailian of St. John's Armenian Church, is performing a Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 2nd, at 4 p.m. The Concert will take place in the Sanctuary of St. John Armenian Church.

The members of the Choral come from all over the Detroit metro area including singers from the choirs of the four Armenian churches. The ACC is well-represented by six of our choir members. So, mark your calendars and plan to join us for a very festive and enjoyable holiday experience!

Poinsettias for Christmas

If you would like to donate one or more Christmas poinsettias to adorn the Church Altar, please contact our Church office. The traditional red poinsettias are \$20.00 each. Deadline is Sunday, December 16th.

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

Thanksgiving Banquet

Mary Jo Agbabian
 Ginny Berberian
 Nancy and Roger Berschbach
 Stephen and Susan (Gasparian) Bolerjack
 Marvin Chaker
 Kevin and Pam Czartoryski
 Mihran and Gayle Hoplamazian
 Tony Janigian
 Dr. and Mrs. Harold and Sandy Kaloogian
 Rodney and Barbara Keteyian
 Martin and Diana Shoushanian
 Joan Swain
 Rev. Dr. Vahan and Mrs. Rosette Tootikian
 Mark and Ann Zartarian

Church Buiding Fund

Rodney and Barbara Keteyian

Armenian Heritage Fund

Rev. J. Charles Janes

Book of Life

We acknowledge the passing of Silva Sahakian, loving mother of Michele (Tom) Margosian and family. Silva passed away peacefully on October 26, 2018 at the age of 89 years old.

A Book Review by Rev Dr. Peter B. Doghramji

The Genesis and Early Development of the Armenian Missionary Association of America

By Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

This volume is a timely celebration of the Centennial of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), authored by a uniquely qualified church historian, minister and theologian.

The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian is a teacher of the Armenian Evangelical community worldwide. He has worked diligently to have a complete survey of the birth and maturation of the AMAA. As he puts it in his concluding paragraphs, this is not only a "retrospective" look at the history of the AMAA, but also an "introspective" study of the lessons we learn from that history, as well as the "prospective" direction of the AMAA within the larger context of the hopes and aspirations of the entire Armenian community in America and abroad.

This study also covers, in part, a historical survey of the Armenian Evangelical Church. Dr. Tootikian rightly highlights the dictum, that the church cannot be devoid of mission and, conversely, mission without the church cannot survive. Both are intertwined for the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and service in His name. The AMAA was born in the arms of the AEU which nursed it, organized it, and structured its *raison d'etre*.

A century ago, Armenians were being decimated by the Genocide. Providentially the pain and suffering they experienced became the birth pangs of the Church to bring forth the AMAA, not because of the Genocide but in spite of it. The AMAA was the response of the Armenian Christianity to the atrocities of an evil empire.

This book is rather small in size and few in pages, but it is encyclopedic in portraying the lives and services of dedicated lay persons as well as pastors. Through the AMAA they were able to reach out to a bereaved community and share the good news of Christ by word and deed.

Armenians worldwide owe a word of gratitude to Dr. Tootikian for introducing the calling of the AMAA to the celebrants of the next bicentennial.

Copies of the book may be purchased from the AMAA office: 31 West Century Road, Paramus, New Jersey, 07652.

AEWC 2018 Biennial Meeting in Los Angeles

The biennial meeting of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) was held in Los Angeles, CA on October 18-19, 2018. Representatives of the five Church Unions and two missionary organizations of the AEWC, as well as some out of country guests, were in attendance.

Before the business meeting, a brief period of remembrance was set aside in memory of the seven Armenian Evangelical Ministers, who made their transition from this world to their eternal home during the year 2017-2018.

During the meeting, written and oral reports were given by the President, Executive Director and Treasurer followed by brief oral reports presented by the seven member organizations.

Among other items, the following were duly discussed and acted upon.

An evaluation of the AMAA Centennial Anniversary Celebrations was made. The Council registered its appreciation for the impact they made worldwide.

Another thorough evaluation was made of the All Armenian Evangelical Youth Conference held from August 2-16, 2018 in Armenia. The Conference was sponsored by the AMAA. Encouraging reports were received from churches and organizations regarding its beneficent effects. The Youth Executives of the conference made 30 proposals to their respective Church Unions and they proposed a global conference to discuss them. The Council resolved that after each Union deliberates on these proposals, an All Armenian Evangelical Conference of clergy, lay and youth leaders be held in Armenia in the first week of August 2020.

The Council also held its elections for the year 2019-2020. The following officers were elected: Rev. Joel Mikaelian, President; Rev. Albert Paytyan, Vice President; Rev. Harout Selimian, Secretary; Dr. Nurhan Helvacian, Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian will continue to serve as Executive Director.

Following acknowledgment of thanks to the past officers and the host church, the meeting came to an end with a prayer and benediction by the Executive Director.

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian
 Executive Director, AEWC