

# The ACC Bulletin

*Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church*



Vol. 37, No 10

**Dear Members and Friends of ACCGD:**

**September 2012**

As you may know by now, responding to the call of the ACC Council, I have accepted to serve our church as Interim Minister until January 15, 2013, or until the next minister assumes the pastorate. The Lord has guided me to render this service freely at this juncture of our church's history. After seven years of retirement, with a sense of gratification and gratitude, I look forward to resuming my pastoral ministry to the church I served for thirty years (1975-2005).

Both Pastor and Parish we are joined together at this time of transition to meet the needs and challenges of our church. Everyone counts, everyone's attitude and support are important. You may be only one, but you are the only one who can do what you do and can be what you are.

The great potential of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit lies in you and me! We are engaged in a common ministry; together we have to organize ourselves to fulfill our mission. At this time, we begin with some small services you can render as a member. You can be of assistance to your church if you would notify the minister or the church office of the following:

1. Any changes of address, telephone, E-mail for yourself or any church member.
2. Any death or illness in your home or of other church members.
3. Any birth, marriage, or important happening in your family or of other members.
4. Any new person or family who would like to be part of our church. Then you can go out of your way to contact that person and make him or her feel at home in our church.

Above all, you can pray for our church, its officers and its members. Let us heed the advice of the Apostle James, "Pray for one another".

A church can only be as effective as its congregation wants it to be. An informed church office is one important aspect of being an effective church. A concerned congregation is an indispensable attribute to a growing, outreaching and serving church.

Thank you for your cooperation, assistance and prayers on behalf of the church. May God bless you and your families abundantly.

Yours in Christian Service,  
Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian  
Interim Minister

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## Upcoming Events and Announcements

### Your Choir Needs You

Singing in the Chancel Choir is one of the most important services rendered to the church. There are many benefits to be reaped from belonging to the choir. One is, of course, sharing with others the enjoyment of music by joining with them in rehearsing musical numbers, in improving the quality of our voice and musical performance, in producing something that will give pleasure to both the singers and the listeners. Above all, it is **praising God** with our voices.

We have a good choir, whose members have been singing throughout the year. This is an invitation to you to join and take part in this important service to the church— if you are not a monotone and love music and service. If you are interested to be a choir member, please contact our Organist/Choir-Director Susan Harrison. The ACC Chancel Choir's *first rehearsal* will be on Thursday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m. Looking forward to seeing you at the rehearsal.

### Church School News

Armenian Congregational Church will embark upon a new Church School year (2012-2013) on Rally Sunday, September 9, with excitement and promise. With strong support from teachers, a loving and serving congregation, plus an opportunity to grow and learn what God has in store for us, the possibilities are endless.

There are few things of higher priority than the nurturing of children in the Christian faith. And the Church School is one of the major ways of doing just that.

The Church School meets each Sunday morning from 11:00 to 12:00 noon. The classes are held simultaneously with the morning Worship hour in order that families may take advantage of the teaching, which leads into creative and inspired Worship in the House of God.

Our Church School staff looks forward to working with our children, helping them to gain an understanding of Christ and become a community of young Christians with a life to share.

We hereby list the names of our Church School Staff for your grateful reflection:

#### Co-superintendents

Leslie Banerian and Ann Bayleran

#### Classes/Teachers

Preschool/Kindergarten: Leslie Banerian

First/Second grades: Hourig Jacobs

Fourth/Fifth/Six grades: Janet Janigian

Seventh/Eighth grades: Barbara Keteyian

High School: Rodney Keteyian & K. Banerian

#### Music

Margaret Benian, April Tini, & Jenny Mullen

On Rally Sunday, during the Morning Worship Service the Installation of the Church School Staff will take place. Following the Worship Service the annual Homecoming Luncheon for congregation will be held.

### ACCGD to Celebrate 95th Anniversary

This year (2012) marks the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit. A 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been formed to celebrate this milestone with a gala banquet to be held on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall.

The theme of our celebration is "Honoring Our Past-Claiming Our Future." This anniversary provides us with an opportunity to thank God for all those church leaders, ministers and laypeople who, labored without counting the cost to keep the torch of the faith of our fathers burning. We are the heirs of their hard work and their unwavering loyalty to Christ and His church. It behooves us to dedicate our lives and efforts to uphold their hopes and dreams that we may lead our people to uphold that torch of faith.

During the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet, God willing, we will be honoring one of the most distinguished members of our church, Dr. Richard E. Marburger who, for more than six decades has rendered most valuable service to our church and the larger community. Dr. Marburger has served our church in many capacities, especially as Moderator for many years. He has also served the educational institutions of the larger community as President of Lawrence Technological University, and presently as Chairman of the Board of the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School, along with many other educational, philanthropic and humanitarian institutions and organizations.

On the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary the church will establish two Endowment Funds: one, in honor of Dr. Richard E. Marburger, and the other, the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Endowment Fund, which will be a

prelude to the future Centennial Endowment Fund. The following are the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee who, in turn, will form their subcommittees to carry on their respective tasks. Carole Basmadjian, Ed and Ann Bayleran, Ralph and Frances Garabedian, Robert and Gayaneh Kachadourian, Aram and Alice Kakousian, Rodney Keteyian, Araxie Terian, Rosette Tootikian, and Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian.

In the course of the following weeks, details of the Committee Activities will be communicated to our members and friends through the ACC Bulletin and Sunday Worship bulletins.

## **A few words from the ACC Moderator**

### **Welcome to Reverend Tootikian**

I am very pleased to welcome back Reverend Vahan H. Tootikian who has agreed to serve as Interim Minister of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit. On behalf of the ACC Council, I wish express our deep gratitude to Badveli Tootikian for offering to give significantly of his time and talents to the ACC. Since he started on July 1, Reverend Tootikian has wasted no time by making contributions in many ways including his excellent sermons, counseling and spiritual guidance, and overall leadership. Thank you, Badveli!

### **This Time of Transition**

While Badveli's generosity and energy may provide us with hope and encouragement, we should not become complacent or relax in our attitude about serving our church. During this time of transition, the ACC continues to have many needs and priorities that all of us can assist with.

It is my prayer that all ACC members will pull together at this critical time and re-double our collective efforts to support our church with our time, talent, and treasure. There is much work to be done. Each and every one of us ought to be asking and praying about how we can support the church. The following are some things we can and should do:

1. The Pulpit Search Committee should continue to work diligently to find our next minister.

We were able to make some good contacts in July at the Biennial Convention of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. However,

these contacts will take time to develop, and may not bear immediate fruit in our search for a new minister.

2. Every ACC member should contact someone they have not seen at church in some time and encourage them to return. Everyone appreciates a friendly phone call. And, sometimes people need a little encouragement; or, they may simply need a ride to church. There are many reasons for peoples' absences. So, let's each of us make a phone call---or send an email---to an old friend or acquaintance.

3. Every ACC member should verify that they are up-to-date in making their stewardship contributions (often these lag behind in the summer months).

4. Ask a member of the Board of Deacons or Board of Trustees if there is a task that you can assist with. There are many small and large tasks that need to be done. We would be happy to help you find a way to contribute your talents.

We are at a critical transition phase in our church's development. We must lift each other up and support each other. I am confident that we will come through this together as a stronger church. I look forward to serving our Lord and his church with all of you over the coming months.

Respectfully yours,  
Rodney Keteyian, ACC Moderator

## **Book of Life**

**Baptized:** *Mark Shant Collar*, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Catherine (Beylerian) Collar, was baptized on Sunday, July 15, 2012. He was born on July 28, 2011, at William Beaumont Hospital, in Troy, Michigan.

## **ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations**

- Mark & Catherine (Beylerian) Collar on the happy occasion of Mark Shant's Baptism.
- Rose and Charles Bedirian in memory of their husband and father Antranik Bedirian.

### **Promoted**

*Kevin Basmadjian, PhD*, associate professor and director of the Master of Arts in Teaching Program, has been named Interim Dean of the school of Education for the 2012-23 academic year, effective August 1, 2012.

## Save The Date



*ACC Women's Fellowship is sponsoring a  
Musical Evening*

### **Featuring the music of "Garland & Gershwin"**

*Friday, October 19, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.*

*Afterglow:  
Hors d'oeuvres & Sweet Table  
Donation: \$25.00*

*For information, please call  
Gayaneh Kachadourian – 248-334-3677*

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### **ACC BANQUET HALL**

**Moses Avakian**  
Banquet Manager

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