

The Armenian Congregational Church
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Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Minister Emeritus

The ACC Bulletin

Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church



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From the Minister's Desk

Dear, Members and Friends:

We are entering the New Year of 2013. Tradition dictates the New Year begins with resolutions. I am not going to make resolutions, but wish to use this opportunity to share a few thoughts for the forthcoming days of the New Year.

I believe God is calling us to explore the study and use of spiritual gifts for building up the Body of Christ. As a church family we must deepen our understanding of Christian discipleship as a venture of entering into a personal relationship with Christ, and therefore seek to be:

1. A **community of faithful**, growing in our knowledge of God through an understanding of Christ's teaching, living and working together in the Holy Spirit.
2. A **community of committed**, sharing God's grace by bringing more people to Christ by our faithful stewardship, helping others both inside and outside the church family, being God's instrument of change in people's lives, and supporting each other in our faith practice.
3. A **spiritual family**, preparing and equipping ourselves and others to joyfully perform the

work of Christian service by helping all to have a personal relationship with Christ.

The ways and means by which we can accomplish our mission are:

1. We will **prepare** ourselves faithfully learning and understanding God's Word.
2. We will **equip** ourselves by identifying and practicing our spiritual gifts and our specific talents.
3. We will **perform** our work by applying our spiritual gifts and talents to the serving of others.

Every member of the church has gifts to share and it is the church's task to identify and authorize the use of those gifts in ministry. We are all ministers of Christ and we must use the gifts that He gave us for the advancement of His Kingdom.

Have a healthy, happy and productive New Year.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

ACC Pulpit Search Committee's Successful Mission!

Announcement

We are pleased to report that the ACC Pulpit Search Committee has been successful in its mission of finding a new minister for our church. He is Pastor Shant Barsoumian of Los Angeles.

At a meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2012, the ACC Church Council unanimously approved the Pulpit Search Committee's recommendation to call Pastor Shant Barsoumian to be our Pastor.

Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 13, 2013

The call of the new minister is contingent upon the approval of the congregation. As such, in accordance with our church bylaws. The ACC Council has set a Special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 13, 2013, immediately following the morning worship service. There will be one agenda item: voting on the ACC Council's recommendation. In order for the proposal to pass, two-thirds majority of members present at the meeting are needed to approve the recommendation.

Meet Pastor Barsoumian

The weekend of January 12-13, Pastor Shant Barsoumian will visit Detroit. There will be at least two opportunities to meet with him on collective level:

1. The ACC Council will host an informal reception on Saturday, January 12, 2013, in the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall (time to be determined). This will be a good opportunity to meet Pastor Shant and find out more about him.
2. Also, Pastor Shant Barsoumian will participate in the morning service in our church on Sunday, January 13. He will deliver both the Armenian and English sermons. Following the Special Congregation Meeting, we can visit with him in the Church Hall.

A Brief Biography of Pastor Shant Barsoumian

Shant Barsoumian grew up in an Armenian home in the Los Angeles area where he attended the United Armenian Congregational Church (UACC). His early education is from the Merdinian School in Sherman Oaks, CA. Pastor Shant's spiritual education was greatly enhanced at Camp Arev which he attended for several successive summers. It was at Camp Arev that he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Later, he became a Camp Counselor and, as a young man, he served there as a Program Assistant.

Pastor Shant holds a Bachelor's Degree in History (California State University Northridge) and a Master of Divinity (Talbot Theological Seminary in LaMirada, California). He gained valuable experience by serving in several churches within the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA). His most recent position was Christian Education Director, Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ. Prior to that, Pastor Shant was interim minister at the Armenian Evangelical Church in Chicago, IL. As part of his ministry training, he completed his Pastoral Internship at the First Armenian Presbyterian Church in Fresno, California. Additionally, in the summer of 2010, Pastor Shant was one of the leaders who accompanied a group of young people to Armenia as part of an Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) mission trip.

In his resume, Pastor Shant states that "...through my ministry I desire to broaden the minds of those under my care and to increase their biblical knowledge in hopes of applying it and growing in their personal faith in Jesus Christ so that they may live vibrant spiritual lives."

Please Note: Mailing Address Change

For many years, our church's mailing address has been P.O. Box 531, Southfield, MI.

As of the New Year, January 1, 2013 it will be the same as our location address: **Armenian Congregational Church, 26210 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48034.**

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian's 35th Book is Released

The 35th book of the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian is just released from the press. This bilingual book, entitled **Keeping The Balance—Nertashnagoutune** (Harmony). Is published by the Armenian Heritage Committee of our church.

The 31 articles of the English section are put together under three headings 1. Holidays and Observances, 2. Views on Issues, 3. Armenian Issues. In the topics discussed in this section, the author endeavors to implicitly demonstrate the importance of keeping the balance in all matters, whether they deal with one's personal or corporate life, or in matters dealing with ecclesiastical, ethnic or national issues.

The Armenian section consists of 10 articles dealing with religious, and patriotic subjects. The central theme running through these essays deals with harmony in religious and national matters.

New Year and Armenian Christmas January 6, 2013

On Sunday, January 6, 2013, we shall mark the special day of Armenian Christmas, the New Year and Communion Sunday. We invite all our members and friends on this first Sunday of 2013 to come to church and prepare ourselves to worship Christ the Lord. And then as we approach the Holy Table to take Communion, we may begin the New Year with a clean slate.

ACC Annual Meeting Sunday, January 20, 2013

This announcement constitutes an official call to the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 20, 2013, immediately following the Morning Worship Service.

All boards, committees, and organizations of the church are requested to submit their written reports on the day.

Missions Giving

Recently the Church, through its Missions Committee distributed the following:

\$3,000.00 to Syrian Armenian Relief

\$1,500.00 to Dilijan Armenian Evangelical Church
\$450.00 to Habitat for Humanity (Armenia)

These missions' donations do not include the Christmas donations which still are being collected, and will be reported in our next issue of ACC Bulletin.

Book of Life

Baptized. Daryn Higgins, son of Mark and Rachel Higgins, grandson of Dennis and Carol Leslie, and great grandson of Siroon Karapetoff, born on November 15, 2006, was baptized at our church, on Sunday, December 2, 2012.

Entering His Rest. Ara Zerounian, Stepfather of Ani and Ida Kavafian, grandfather of Matthew Mindich, brother of Haig Zerouni, entered his rest on October 28, in Connecticut, and his funeral services were held in our church on November 6, 2012.

Ara was a well-known violinist who taught for decades in the Detroit Public Schools. He privately taught some chambers musicians.

2013 Board Members

Board of Deacons

1. Rouben Arslanian
2. Carole Basmadjian
3. Marian Flanagan
4. Frances Garabedian
5. Hourig Jacobs
6. Alice Kadian
7. Aram Kakousian
8. Garineh Koundakjian
9. Tony Janigian

Board of Trustees

1. Christopher Banerian
2. Edward Bayleran
3. Sema Baylerian
4. Ken Basmadjian
5. Harold Gant
6. Ralph Garabedian
7. Rodney Keteyian

Two more members will be elected on January 20th 2013.

Christmas Donations

Dr. & Mrs. Vahagn Agbabian
Haig and Susan Arabian
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George and Carole Basmadjian
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P.H. (Bob) Tootikian (Canada)
Rev. Dr. Vahan and Rosette Tootikian
Edward and Arstrig Tutelian
Diane Sarkesian
Quennie Sarkisian
Diran and Joyce Yazejian
Leo and Judith Yesayian
Mark and Ann Zartarian

Other Donations Received

Dennis and Carol Leslie – On the baptism of their grandson Daryn Higgins.
Robert V. Yazejian – In memory of his wife Lucy Yazejian.
Bob Tootikian – On the 95th Anniversary of ACC
Vaughn and Cybil Derderian – On the baptism of their grandson, Eaton Putt.
Shahan Kavafian – In memory of Ara Zerounian
Rose Lahiff – In appreciation of ACC's ministry

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