

The Armenian Congregational Church
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Rev. Shant Barsoumian, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

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A Mother's Example and Worth

The Scriptures are filled with tremendous examples of faithfulness. Some of the most wonderful examples we have are those of mothers. From Naomi who looked out for her daughter-in-law Ruth, to Hannah who remained faithful to her promise to God and gave her only son Samuel to the service of the Lord. We even have the example of the Mother of our Lord Jesus, Mary, who was faithful to God's call, and seeing all the amazing things going on around her newborn Son Jesus. She **"treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."** (Luke 2:19)

Isn't this always the way of Mothers? A quiet faithfulness but firm convictions, always serving others and sacrificing so much of themselves, and always full of love. Mothers are a real example of God's love for us. We choose one day in May to honor our Mothers, but one day a year is hardly sufficient to truly express how much they are worth to us and how much we appreciate them. In honor of my mother, and all mothers this Mother's Day, I have written this poem to hopefully share just how much Mothers are worth.

Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone),

Rev. Shant Barsoumian

My First Gift

By Shant Barsoumian

Gentle hands rock the cradle
Yet hold a strong and steady sway,
Child sleeps peaceful unknowing
Of the love around growing and growing
This gift from God a sign of His mercy
Of hope and compassion as deep as any sea
For the Father's perfect love now reflects on the face
Of a Mother towards her child, in loving embrace.
No better display of God's amazing grace.

For children are blessings this much can be true
But the real gift from God is a Mother's love for you
The greatest gift given on your real first birthday
No batteries required, and no off button to be found!
Because you're never too old, and never too young
For a mother to mother you, and tell you
what you're doing wrong.

Through all the laughter, all the tears, and hardships shared
Your burdens will be carried by a Mother's heart to bare
No sacrifice too great for her to endure
A love unconditional, unending and pure
The gospel embodied on the first lips which kissed you.
Countless prayers uttered, sent up now to keep you.

God's plan all along, a Mother's love to guide
Toward that ultimate love, in Christ you'll reside
And I can't help but wonder, when I finally meet Him there
The embrace that we share will be reminiscent of her care;
A love unparalleled on this earth to find
The gift of a Mother, there is no other kind.

“Thank You” Luncheon in Honor of Reverend and Mrs. Tootikian



On Sunday, April 21, following the morning worship service, the ACC Church Council hosted a complimentary luncheon to show our appreciation to Reverend Vahan and Mrs. Rosette Tootikian. The purpose of the luncheon was to thank the Tootikian's for their service to the ACC during the interim period when we did not have a permanent minister. Deaconess Carole Basmadjian did a wonderful job planning and organizing the event.

A short program preceded the lunch. This consisted of welcoming remarks by ACC Moderator, Rodney Keteyian, reflections by Dr. Richard Marburger, “Thank You” poem presented by Carole Basmadjian and several ACC Sunday school children, presentation of gifts, and a prayer by Reverend Shant Barsoumian.

Badveli Tootikian was presented with an original painting by our own Cathy Brito. The painting is a depiction of Badveli on the altar with several ACC choir members. Mrs. Tootikian was presented with a beautiful floral arrangement created by Barbara Keteyian.

From July 2012 through January 2013, Badveli Tootikian served as Interim Minister of the ACC. He did so with a high degree of energy, enthusiasm, and passion. A highlight during his brief tenure was the ACC's very successful 95th Anniversary celebration which he spearheaded.

Grateful Thanks From The Tootikians

Rosette and I wish to express our sincere appreciation and grateful thanks for the lovely “Thank You Luncheon,” sponsored by the Church Council in our honor, on Sunday, April 21, 2013.

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks for the delicious meal, for the lovely floral decorations, for those who participated in the brief and meaningful program, and for the gifts we received.

In the past few months our Christian ministry in the Armenian Congregational Church was simply a labor of love, and we thank God for enabling us to render it. We also thank God for your love and cooperation. And now we are praying for God's abundant blessing upon the congregation and our new minister, Rev. Shant Barsoumian.

Prayerfully yours,

Rev. Vahan A. Tootikian

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations Received

Dr./Mrs. Vahagn Agbabian – In honor of Rev. Tootikian
Emma Bagdassarian – Mother's Day Donation
George and Carole Basmadjian – Missions
Haig and Dorothy Bayleran – Missions
Marguerite Benian – Missions
Massis Chahbazian – Heritage
Dr./Mrs. Chahe Chahbazian – Heritage
Harout and Sona Eurdekian - Missions
Ralph and Frances Garabedian – Missions
Archie and Susan Gopigian - Missions
Robert and Hourig Jacobs – Missions
Siroon Karapetoff - In honor of Rev. Tootikian
Karnik & Manya Kazazian – In honor of Rev. Tootikian
Rodney and Barbara Keteyian – Missions
Rodney/Barbara Keteyian – In honor of Rev. Tootikian
Richard Marburger - Missions
Alice Missirlian – Missions
Alice Missirlian – Missions-Syrian Relief
Alice Mouradian – In honor of Rev. Tootikian
John and Esther Peterson – Missions
Brian and Sharon Theil - In honor of Rev. Tootikian
Brian and Sharon Theil – Mother's Day Donation

Pastoral Support Committee

Last year during the search process for a new minister, the ACC Council made the decision that – after we called a new minister – we would form a three-person Pastoral Support Committee. The purpose of the committee is twofold. First, it will provide a controlled, consistent mechanism for members of the congregation to provide feedback to the new minister. Secondly, it will provide the new minister with a small, confidential group that can serve as a sounding board for him as he develops in his new position.

This committee has been formed. Its members are Deacon Aram Kakousian, who was also on the Pulpit Search Committee; Co-Superintendent of the ACC Sunday School, Ann Bayleran; and ACC Moderator, Rodney Keteyian. Mrs. Bayleran is also a member of the ACC Choir and the ACC Women's Fellowship.

At a minimum, this committee will meet monthly with our new minister, Reverend Shant Barsoumian. We encourage members of the congregation who have any concerns or suggestions for Reverend Shant to communicate their ideas to one of the committee members who will give that feedback to Reverend Shant and to other members of the committee.

It is our intent to use this committee to support Reverend Barsoumian in his growth as the minister of our church.

Rodney Keteyian, ACC Moderator

“Anahid Played Soorp: The Finding of Aran Pirian” By Mark Kadian

Mark is happy to share the publication of his book, “Anahid Played Soorp: The Finding of Aran Pirian,” a historical novel set in the final years of the Ottoman Empire amid the throes of the Armenian Genocide, told through the experiences of a young boy.

His book is available on Amazon.com in paperback and kindle, Barnes and Noble.com, and other bookstores.

Church Family News

Mr. and Mrs. George and Carole Basmadjian are proud to share with our church family and friends, the good news of their sons, Kevin and Chris. Professor Kevin Basmadjian was named dean of the School of Education at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut, effective April 1, 2013. Chris was appointed Human Resources Manager, Global Labor Strategy at Ford Motor Company, effective April 1, 2013.

On behalf of the Church family, we wish them continued success in their new positions.

Bible Study

Our Wednesday Night Bible studies will resume starting Wednesday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m. with a lesson on “*How to study the Bible for all its worth.*” We invite all to attend.

Spring Clean-up Day

On Saturday, June 8, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., we would like to invite you to join us in sprucing up the ACC grounds, having lunch, and enjoying some great fellowship. Helpers of all ages are welcome. We need help in the following areas:

- Pruning Trees, Shrubs and Planting Flowers.
- Cleaning Church grounds, Balcony, Classrooms, and the Parking Lot.

Graduates of 2013

ACC would like to honor our graduates by publishing their names and degrees in the monthly and weekly bulletins and at the church on Sunday, June 9. Please submit names of your loved ones graduating this year from Elementary School, Middle School, High School, College, Graduate or post Graduate School. Deadline for submission is May 26.

Reminders!

Is your anniversary, birthday or graduation approaching? Why not share your celebration with the church family by sponsoring the Fellowship Hour? Please sign-up on the bulletin board or call the church office.

**Armenian Congregational Church Annual
Mother's Day Banquet**



Sunday May 12, 2013
at 5:00 p.m.

The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian
Fellowship Hall
26210 W. Twelve Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48034
248-352-0680

Tickets: Adults \$25
Children ages 6-15 \$10
(no charge – under 6)



Annual Father's Day Luncheon

Sunday June 16, 2013
at 12:00 p.m.

The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian
Fellowship Hall
26210 W. Twelve Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48034
248-352-0680

Tickets: Adults \$15
Children ages 6-15 \$10
Under 6 Free

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