

The Armenian Congregational Church
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FROM THE MINISTERS DESK

Dear Members and Friends:

A Harvest of the Heart

Fall happens to be my favorite season of the year. The weather starts to cool down, the leaves begin to change color; orange, yellow, red and brown dominate the color palette around us and most importantly there is Pumpkin Spice everything available at Starbucks! For some reason, Fall makes me a bit introspective as well. The end of the year with the holidays are just ahead of us and summer with the majority of the past year behind us. I start to think about what has happened so far in the year and what is still to come. What would I like to do differently in this last third of the year that lies ahead?

With the Fall comes the idea of Harvest and this image of reaping the fruits of a long labor is an image that is used again and again in the scriptures. Jesus views the work of spreading the Gospel in this way. As he ministered from village to village teaching, healing and spreading the good news of the kingdom of God, scripture tells us that he saw the crowds and had compassion on them. He told his disciples "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38) Jesus is the Lord of the Harvest and he desires to send us out to be his workers in the field of this world to reap the fruits for God's Kingdom. The question that remains with us once we hear Jesus' words here is this, "Are we ready to go out into the fields and work for God's Kingdom? Are we ready to be the much needed workers in God's field?"

What does it take for us to be ready workers for Christ? Why are the workers who go working in the field so few? Many of us might shy away from evangelizing in our everyday life. We see the responsibility of evangelism

fall on the shoulders of ministers, missionaries and those who have the gift of evangelism and having very little to do with us. But Jesus' words tell us that it is all of our responsibility to work in the harvest of God's field. But the "field" doesn't have to be a 3rd world country that you have to go live, in order to spread the Gospel of Christ. Our mission field can be wherever we are, and wherever God places us. Often times we don't have to go into the Mission field but God brings the mission field to us. We can work the harvest and spread the Gospel at our jobs, at school, among our family and friends. Whoever we come across in our daily lives provides an opportunity to share God's truth with them.

But how can we accomplish this? Do we need to know the 4 Spiritual laws, or make sure to go through the Romans Road with them in scripture, or say the Sinner's Prayer? All these methods are well and good but the real testimony and the true "work" of the Harvest comes simply by living our lives as a testimony to Christ and His Gospel. Before we can work in the harvest we must first cultivate ourselves, and our own lives in light of Christ's truth if we are to be ready and prepared to work the fields of Evangelism. The Apostle Paul reminds us with these words, "A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life." (Galatians 6:7-8) May we cultivate our own spiritual lives and reap the things of the Spirit and may it prepare us to work in the Lord's fields and reap the harvest for the lives of others and for the Gospel of Christ.

**Soli Deo Gloria (Glory To God Alone),
Rev. Shant Barsoumian**

Armenian Congregational Church Choir Visits Manoogian Manor



On Thursday, September 19, the Armenian Congregational Church Choir met with Pastor Shant at the Manoogian Manor to minister to approximately forty residents. Our pastor spoke of Jesus, prophesied in the Old Testament Psalm 23, and how he told the people that he is the Good Shepherd. Pastor prayed with them, and our choir sang through a book of anthems; words were handed out to hymns and to some popular old songs for fun too. After Pastor Shant led us all in the Hayr Mer, choir members visited with those present. Even though the singing is always an exciting event planned a few times during the year, for those living in the manor the socializing and personal friendship gives them the kindness and blessing they most appreciate. It's a lovely home with loving workers, and it is being renovated, with beautiful construction work underway. The people living there are especially wonderful and appreciative of visitors, and choir director Susan visits them every week.

ACC Youth Group

We invite all youth ages 12-18 to attend the ACC Youth Group every Friday evening at 7pm. Each Friday holds a different activity, time together in God's word, worship and fun outings together with Pastor Shant Barsoumian, Michael Banerian and Garo Koundakjian. Your leaders are there to help you learn and grow in God's word and have fellowship with one another so we might better be able to live out our faith and continue to trust and gain confidence in God.

Don't miss out on all the fun! We discuss relevant topics every week and see what the Bible has to say about Friendship, Forgiveness, Love, Honesty and Faith. Join us for our special Movie nights where we enjoy a fun uplifting movie together and then discuss the spiritual themes and lessons found in the story. Or come along and bring a friend to our outings. Whether it is mini-golf, laser tag or bowling it is sure to be a fun night together in fellowship. If you want to stay up to date on all our plans and activities please join our e-mail list and contact us at youthgroupacc@gmail.com

Bible Study

We Invite Men and Women of all ages to join us every Wednesday evening at 7:00pm as we continue to study God's Word together. Why not join us for the first time? Come and enjoy a time together in a rich study of God's word as we learn and discuss His truth. Enjoy a mid-week boost of fellowship and time of prayer together as we encourage one another and lift each other up in prayer to God. Grow in your personal understanding and confidence in God's word and about God's truth. Got some burning questions you'd like answered about the Bible, Faith or life in general? Come to Bible Study where we can search the Scriptures together and see what God has to say.

We are currently studying Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. What is the purpose of the Church? What is God's ultimate plan for His people? The Apostle Paul reveals the "mystery" of the Church and God's plan and purpose for it and us. How does God's plan for church effect your Marriage? How you raise your children? How you treat others in your workplace? And how you lead a victorious Spiritual life in everything you do. Come find out the answer to all these questions and more at our weekly Bible Study.

AEYF

Mid-West Conference October 25-27: We will be hosting Youth from Toronto and Chicago for an AEYF conference with Rev. Ara Jizmejian visiting as our speaker. We have a fun weekend planned with Bible studies, time of fellowship and outings for the Youth. Please encourage the youth of our church to join us.

Book of Life

Baptized. On Sunday, September 29, 2013 **Sophia Maggie Rogers**, born on April 25, 2013. Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. David and Houri Avakian Rogers, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Moses and Maggie Avakian.

Rally and Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 8, 2013 was Rally and Homecoming Sunday, marking the beginning of the 2013-2014 Church School year. The minister installed the following members of the church school staff:

Co-Superintendents: Leslie Banerian and Ann Bayleran. Teachers: Hourig Jacobs, Barbara Keteyian, and Leslie Banerian. Music: Jenny Jacobs Mullen and April Arabian Tini, Worship: Carole Basmadjian.

Immediately following the Worship Service there was a complimentary luncheon for the entire congregation, sponsored by the Sunday School, we wish to thank all those who prepared and donated the delicious food and deserts.

Family Night

Are you ready for some wholesome fun? Don't miss out on our annual Harvest Party! Please reserve the following night, Friday, October 11, 2013, starting at 6:00 p.m. The ACC Children's Ministry is organizing a special evening of delicious food, fun and games for the whole family. All ages are welcome. Children ages 6 and under are \$5, Adults and children 7 and older are \$10.

2013 Stewardship

As the end of the year is approaching, we kindly ask that if you have not submitted your 2013 pledge, please do so. It is with your help and donations that the church will be able to continue its ministry.

Armenian Congregational Church Annual Thanksgiving Banquet

We invite all of you to come and join us on Sunday, November 17 as we begin our day with the celebratory Thanksgiving Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

Later that day at 5:00 p.m., join us for our annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall, for more information please call the church office.

The ACC Chancel Choir

Each voice is needed to add to the beautiful sound, glorifying the Lord and encouraging His people. New members are very welcome, so please join us and sing to the Lord! All who would like to sing in our choir please see the Choir Director Susan Harrison.

Have You Considered Joining The Church?

Sunday, October 6, is **World Communion Sunday**, a very inviting occasion for joining the church. Our church extends its hand to everyone to come and join its fellowship. Our church presents Jesus Christ as Savior. One who come to our church is constantly challenged and pleaded with this Savior. Your joining the church means that you need that love, wish to be touched by it, and to learn to express it in your life.

We offer you fellowship with Jesus Christ, and with men and women who love Him. If interested, please contact the minister.

Reminders!

Is your anniversary, birthday or graduation approaching? Why not share your celebration with the church family by sponsoring the *Coffee Hour* or *Altar Flowers*.



The Armenian Congregational Church

Presents

Family Night

Friday October 11, 2013

At 6:00 p.m.

Bring your family and friends for an evening of fun
Western themed dinner
Games and prizes for children and adults

Adults and children 7 and older: \$10.00

Children under 6: \$5.00

RSVP by Friday October 4

Leslie Banerian (248) 203-1705 or
kbanerian@comcast.net

Church Office: (248) 352-0680



Armenian Congregational Church Annual Thanksgiving Banquet



The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall
26210 W. Twelve Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48034

Bring family and friends to join us as we celebrate
the Annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday,
November 17, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Please reserve this date, and look for more details to
follow in the mail in the coming days.

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Banquet Manager

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