

The Armenian Congregational Church  
26210 West Twelve Mile Road  
Southfield, Michigan 48037

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 159  
SOUTHFIELD, MI

Phone: 248-352-0680  
Fax: 248-352-5568  
Email: accgd@comcast.net

**Rev. Shant Barsoumian, Pastor**  
**Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus**

Or Current Resident

# The ACC Bulletin

*Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church*



Vol. 39, No. 7

April 2014

This year marks the 99<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. For 99 years we have sought justice and gone to the institutions of this world, who for 99 years have failed us. They will give an account because their power and authority ultimately comes from God. God who is the source of justice, and is wholly just with a holy justice. In this 99<sup>th</sup> year we are at the threshold of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A threshold is an interesting thing, it's a moment in time that when you pass through you can come out the other side transformed. So as we stand here looking at the threshold of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, what do you see on the other side? What lies beyond that passage? If your answer is the recognition of the Armenian Genocide that isn't enough! What if tomorrow, all the major nations of the world recognize the Genocide, and put pressure on Turkey to acknowledge it? Wonderful! Great! Is that justice? A few years ago I was at a conference in Philadelphia of Evangelical ministers and one of the ministers who spoke, Harry Reeder was sharing with us about how much he was annoyed at the statement "**Perception is reality.**" He would get mad and said "**No, reality is reality!**" So if we get an acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide what do we gain? The truth! Perception lines up with reality. That is all!

In our quest for justice I am reminded of Jesus' parable of the persistent widow, who went knowingly to a corrupt Judge who did not fear any man and did not fear God yet she was still persistent and sought justice, she was persistent and got justice. Jesus' conclusion is this, "**will not God give justice to his own, who cry out to him day and night?**" The answer is "Yes! He will give justice to them!" but look at how Jesus ends the

parable "**However, when the Son of Man comes the will he find faith on the earth?**" He will give us justice, but will He find faith in us when he comes to the earth? What kind of faith are we called to have here?

For some through faith they were able to do some amazing things, conquer armies, shut the mouth of lions, walk through fire, escape the sword. These amazing things came out of faith but also out of faith come trials, persecution. Because of their faith others were mocked, beaten, imprisoned, stoned, put to the sword, made destitute and afflicted. The writer of Hebrews says that the world was not worthy of them. Even through the suffering their faith shines and they stand as a witness to that faith. So how does faith in one instance produce victory in battle, triumph over enemies and in another instance that same faith produces suffering, pain and even death?

***"And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect." Hebrews 11:39-40***

The writer of Hebrews makes it clear, the Martyrs are commended for their faith and are vindicated in the hereafter and receive their reward in heaven, but that isn't the end of the story. These verses make it clear that they did not receive the reward in their lifetime because their reward is tied up with us, and our faith. Their reward is perfected in us because of their sacrifice we can have our own faith and our own reward. Let us perfect their faith and honor their sacrifice by living that vibrant faith filled life.

*Soli Deo Gloia* (Glory to God Alone),  
Rev. Shant Barsoumian

## Maundy Thursday

The A.C.C. Choir will present a Holy Week Service of Sacred Music on Thursday, April 17, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. in the A.C.C. Sanctuary. The concert will conclude with the Lord's Table. A complimentary Maundy Thursday supper will precede the concert in the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m.

## Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is April 20. Come join us early in the morning as the ACYF serve us a delicious breakfast from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Then stay as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord at 11:00 a.m. Please invite your friends and family.

## Easter Greetings

Pastor Shant extends his wishes to the Armenian Congregational Church family, their relatives and friends a very happy and blessed Easter.



*"Kristos Haryav Ee Mérélots  
Orhnyal Eh Harootyunn Kristosee!"*

## The 99th Anniversary of The Armenian Genocide

The April 24th Commemoration, by the four Greater Detroit Armenian Churches, will take place at St Sarkis Church, 19300 Ford Road, Dearborn, MI 48128.

The Divine Liturgy will begin at 7:00p.m., followed by "Madaghorhnek" (distribution of the madagh). The public is cordially invited.

## Armenian Congregational Church Annual Mother's Day Banquet



Sunday May 11, 2014  
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)

## ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

Rev. James C James – Heritage  
Edward & Asdghig Tutelian – Heritage  
Chahin & Barbara Chahbazian - Heritage



## Important Dates

**April 11** Lenten Luncheon  
**April 13** Palm Sunday  
**April 17** Maundy Thursday  
**April 18** Good Friday – Office Closed  
**April 20** Easter Sunday  
**April 20** ACYF Easter Breakfast at 9:00a.m.  
**April 24** Armenian Genocide Commemoration  
**May 11** Mother's Day Banquet  
**June 15** Father's Day Luncheon

## Letter to President Barak Obama

Dear Mr. President:

I, the undersigned, Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian, am a long-time naturalized American citizen, a veteran pastor for over 55 years, and presently the Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council. This letter is an urgent plea to seek your leadership to halt the violent cross-border attacks in the northwestern Syrian town of Kessab, by the Al-Qaeda armed forces and its affiliates.

This vicious invasion of Al-Qaeda and the extremist foreign fighters, fully supported by the Turkish government, which began in the early hours of March 21, on the entire length of the Syrian-Turkish border, forced almost the entire civilian population to abandon their homes and flee to avoid slaughter. The fate of the elderly and the handicapped, who could not escape, is unknown.

The reports released by the news media are very bleak and heart-rending: churches are being desecrated, homes are being looted, and property is being deliberately destroyed. Meanwhile, thousands of refugees are driven miles away from their homes, and are in dire need.

Kessab is my ancestral home where I was born and grew up as a teenager. My paternal home is there and most of my relatives still live there. My compatriots have been law-abiding and peace-loving citizens of the country and are being victimized by extremist armed militants supported by Turkey. One wonders if history is repeating itself. It appears that Turkey's role in this assault is a bitter reminder of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923.

Mr. President, we don't understand why Turkey, as an ally to the United States, openly supports a terrorist group such as Al-Qaeda. We request that your administration use its influence upon the Turkish government to stop its support to this terrorist group and its affiliates which are victimizing innocent people of Kessab.

Furthermore we request that your administration look into the possibilities of extending humanitarian aid to the victims of Kessab.

Thank you for your understanding. Looking forward to your prompt attention to this critical situation.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian  
Executive Director, Armenian  
Evangelical World Council

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### Weekly

**Choir Practice**, Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
**Worship Service**, Sunday 11:00 a.m.  
**Sunday School**, Sunday 11:00 a.m.  
**Children's Library**, Every Sunday

### Monthly

**Children's Message**, (First Sunday of the month. Parents bring your children into the worship service.)  
**Adult Bible Study**, (Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.)  
**ACC Women's Fellowship**, (Second Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.).  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**, (Third Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m.).  
**Board of Deacons Meeting**, (Last Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.).

### **Annual Father's Day Luncheon**

**Sunday June 15, 2014**  
**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

## Save The Date

**22<sup>nd</sup> AEUNA General Assembly**

**19th AEYF Convention**

**June 26-29, 2014**

**University Square Hotel**

**Fresno, CA**

**“Forging Ahead For Christ”**

Hosted by Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church. 3673 North First Street, Fresno, CA 93726 (559) 229-2915

## Camp Arevelk

Are you looking for a summer camp program for youth ages 10 to 16. This program provides the campers with many opportunities to experience the beautiful outdoors, while learning more about God's Word. The camp is located on the beautiful grounds of the Ararat Center in the Catskill Mountains, and it will be held August 10, thru Saturday August 16, 2014. To obtain more information, you can contact [CampArevelk@gmail.com](mailto:CampArevelk@gmail.com).

## Special Request

The ACC continues to generate an email list of its members to better communicate upcoming events, updates, sermon topics, etc. If you would like to be on our email list please submit your email address to the church office.

## Reminders!

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

## MANOOGIAN MANOR

Assisted Living • State Licensed

Short Term Stays Available

15775 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, Michigan 48154

Telephone: 734-522-5780

[rosemarie@manoogianmanor.com](mailto:rosemarie@manoogianmanor.com)

[www.manoogianmanor.com](http://www.manoogianmanor.com)

## ACC BANQUET HALL

**Moses Avakian**

*Banquet Manager*

Wedding & All Other Occasions

26210 W. Twelve Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48034

Telephone: 248-352-7399

Cell: 248-722-9100

## Edward Korkoian Funeral Home

836 N. Main Street • Royal Oak, MI 48067

(248) 541-8325 • (248) 541-4800

The Edward Korkoian Funeral Home has served the Armenian community for 60 years with three generations of professional, compassionate and dedicated service.

Edward H. Korkoian, Christopher Korkoian and Edward B. Korkoian (1916-1999)

**Our funeral home offers:**

- Traditional funerals
- Cremation and other optional funeral services
- Advance Funeral Planning Program
- Our own funeral home facility as well as other funeral homes in the greater Detroit area to meet your needs

## SIMON JAVIZIAN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*1952 Continuing Over Half A Century of Service 2013*

(248) 626-7815



*Our New Facilities*

*Simon Javizian Funeral Directors  
Wessels and Wilk Funeral Home  
23690 Woodward Avenue  
Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069  
At I-696 Expressway  
Also Other Convenient Locations*

