

The Armenian Congregational Church
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Three Truths About Thanksgiving

For many, Thanksgiving is a day often aside for eating lots of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, watching football and parades on TV, and camping out for black Friday to get great deals and an early jump on Christmas shopping. Thanksgiving as a national holiday has a distinctly American feel, reminding us of Pilgrims coming to a new world and Native Americans coming alongside to help the new settlers and give thanks for God's blessings. And aside from Thanksgiving celebrated in Canada on the second Monday in October, Thanksgiving as a National Holiday is almost nonexistent for most of the rest of the world. But for Christians, throughout the world, Thanksgiving should be first and foremost as part of our lives. Thanksgiving is a pervasive and essential concept in Scripture, and although it is good to set aside one day a year to cultivate a heart of thanksgiving, God's word has more to say about giving thanks than one day a year could contain.

1) Thanksgiving is for the Gospel

The greatest thing in our lives as believers for us to be thankful for is the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ. The object of our thanks is God and the reason for our thanks is the life and sacrifice of Jesus. Every other blessing in our lives that we can be thankful for flows out of this one great blessing. That is why the Apostle Paul writes, *"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus"* (1 Corinthians 1:4) Paul never grew tired of giving thanks for the grace of God in Jesus' person and work, and neither should we! God has shown us His love for us even when we

were His enemies (Romans 5:8); he called us out of darkness and made us heirs of God (Romans 8:17); and Jesus bore the punishment we deserved, and we receive his perfect righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).

2) Thanksgiving replaces sin

When Paul commands believers to stop sinning in their lives, he also tells them to put thanksgiving in its place. He writes, *"Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving."* (Ephesians 5:4) Paul knows that we are always acting. We either act with sinful, thankless hearts, which leads to foolishness or we act with thankful hearts, which pleases God with our words and our actions. Pastor John Piper makes this clear, "If we do not believe we are deeply indebted to God for all we have or hope to have, then the very spring of gratitude has gone dry."

3) Thanksgiving in all circumstances

We are called to give thanks in all circumstances, not just at one big meal a year. Paul writes, *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) Giving thanks in all circumstances is especially difficult while we are undergoing suffering. How can we be thankful when there's something that hurts so much? But we can give thanks in the midst of our suffering because it is meant to grow our faith, not as a punishment, but because it is redemptive and not random.

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

Fall Back on November 2nd



On Sunday, November 2, at 2:00 a.m., you may regain the hour you lost last spring by turning your clocks back to 1:00 a.m. You can turn back your clocks before you go to bed on Saturday night, November 1, or get up at 2:00 a.m. in the morning to do it. Please don't forget the time change.

Women's Group Bible Study

We invite all the ladies of the Armenian Congregational Church to attend bible study held every Monday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon led by our own Salpi Tachian. They are studying Children of the Day by Beth Moore and workbooks are \$16.00 per person. Ladies come and bring a friend or two.

The New Armenian Evangelical Hymnal

The dedication of the New Evangelical Armenian Hymnals was dedicated during the Morning Worship Service of Sunday September 14, 2014. The following people donated Hymnals to the church:

Virginia Berberian
Aram Churukian
Maurice and Berjouhy Gulesserian
Jan and Carol Janigian
Alberta Magzanian
Rev. Jirair and Mrs. Lorraine Sogomian

Congregational Meeting

The fall congregational meeting will be held on Sunday November 16, 2014 following the church service. The two agenda items for the meeting are:

1. Electing new board members to serve for the term 2015– 2018.
2. Approve the 2015 Budget.

The current board members are:

Board of Trustees

- Mr. Rodney Keteyian – Chairman
- Mrs. Sima Baylerian– Vice Chairman
- Mr. Kenneth Basmadjian – Treasurer
- Mr. Christopher Banerian – Secretary
- Mr. Stephen Bolerjack
- Mr. Ralph Garabedian
- Ms. Monica Koehler
- Ms. Marjorie Nanian
- Mrs. Ann Zartarian

Board of Deacons

- Pastor Shant Barsoumian – Chairman
- Mrs. Frances Garabedian – Mission
- Mrs. Hourig Jacobs – Secretary
- Mrs. Pam Czartoryski
- Mr. Roupen Arslanian
- Mrs. Carole Basmadjian
- Mrs. Marian Flanagan
- Mr. Tony Janigian
- Mr. Aram Kakousian
- Mrs. Garineh Koundakjian

Missions

Operation Christmas Child

The Sunday School is participating again this year in Operation Christmas Child, a ministry started by Franklin Graham that reaches out to poor and under- privileged children around the world with the good news of the gospel through gifts packed in shoe boxes. If you would like to participate, pick-up a form from the church foyer and return completed boxes no later than Sunday, November 16.

Stewardship Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23, is also our Stewardship Sunday, an opportunity to make our financial pledges for the year 2015. Our church, like any other voluntary organization, depends on the support and involvement of its members. Thus, members and friends of our fellowship are urged to make their pledges to this purpose.

Rev. Tootikian Honored at Armenian Cultural Event



Rev. Dr. Vahan and Mrs. Rosette Tootikian



L to R. Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Rev. Shant Barsoumian, Fr. Diran Papazian, Fr. Hrant Kevorkian

In honor of his 55th year in pastoral ministry and the publication of his 36th book, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian was honored at a special event held at the Armenian Congregational Church on the evening of Friday, October 10, 2014. On the Eve of the Feast of the Holy Translators, particular focus was given to Rev. Tootikian's body of written work, with all 36 books laid out on display. Many individuals from throughout the greater Detroit Armenian community were given an opportunity to share their testimonials about how Rev. Tootikian's works have impacted them and encouraged them throughout the years. His wisdom, insight, and skillful words through the whole spectrum of his publishing career have inspired so many in their spiritual lives as well as their cultural heritage, particularly in Armenian Christian history.

The evening's program included a number of wonderful musical selections performed by Rev. Deacon Rubik Mailian, Ms. Emma Bagdasarian, Ms. Sevan Merian and Mrs. Susan Harrison as well as a beautiful recitation of the Armenian poem "The Sower" by Dr. Taline Hagopian. The keynote address was given enthusiastically by Mr. Edmond Azadian, who recalled the parallel journeys that his own life and Rev. Tootikian's life have traveled. From the American University of Beirut, to Cairo, Egypt, and in America with both their arrival in Boston, and eventually both ending up in Detroit. We were honored also with the presence of Rev. Garnik Tutikiyan, relative of Rev. Tootikian and President of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Armenia, who presented the Ministry of Diaspora Gold Medal from the Republic of Armenia to Rev. Tootikian for his many contributions to Armenian Cultural Heritage.

The program was concluded with a special "Kinetson" book blessing upon Rev. Tootikian's latest book *My Life Journey*, which was led by Archpriest Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian. A lavish reception followed the evening's program, with close to 200 guests in attendance who enjoyed the delicious food and desserts prepared for us by the ACC Women's Fellowship. We thank the Women's Fellowship for putting together a wonderful evening for us all and particular thanks go out to Mrs. Carole Basmadjian and Mrs. Hourig Jacobs who co-chaired the event.

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

Aram and Rose Pambookian – Heritage
Joan Kaladjian - Heritage
Virginia Keoleian - Heritage
Rodney and Barbara Keteyian – Heritage
Hilda Misirliyan – Heritage
Helen Movsesian - Heritage
Osep and Nadya Sarafian - Heritage
Sarkis and Sirvart Telbelian – Heritage
Emma Sogoian – Heritage

Congregational Church Annual Thanksgiving Banquet



Sunday, November 23, 2014

Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m.

Entertainment begins at 6:30 pm.

This I Believe reading by Harry Artin Berberian,
"Why I Close My Restaurant" as featured on
National Public Radio (NPR)

and

The Manoogian High School Dancers

Tickets: \$25.00 in advance by November 19th for adults and \$10.00 for children, \$30.00 after November 19th for adults and \$15.00 for children.
R.S.V.P: 248-348-6010 with Marjorie Nanian or 248-352-0680 with the Church Office.

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

Activities provided for the children during the program

Family Night



Saturday, November 1, 2014

5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Come join us for a special evening beginning with a southwestern themed dinner followed by a group game of Jeopardy and competitive musical chairs 😊 Teams are forming! Ann and Leslie welcome your Jeopardy questions. Games and prizes for all! Please RSVP by October 24. Church office 248-352-0680 or Leslie at kbanerian@comcast.net All ages are welcome. Children ages 3 and under are free, children ages 4 to 10 are \$5, Adults and children 11 and older are \$10.

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