

The Armenian Congregational Church
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Or Current Resident

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Christmas 2014

What Gift to Bring?

Christmas time is upon us and there are Christmas decorations all around, people rushing to the mall to buy some gifts while Christmas songs play over the radio. All this to get us into the “Christmas mood” and the “Spirit of the Season.” What gets you into the spirit of Christmas? Is it the smell of fresh cut pine as you go to pick out this year’s Christmas tree? Or maybe it’s a particular holiday movie that comes on TV and Christmas has officially begun. For me it’s Christmas music that really gets me in the mood for the season. It seems they start playing Christmas songs on the radio earlier and earlier, but once they start, my radio dial rarely moves until the end of the year.

One of my favorite Christmas songs of all time is “The Little Drummer Boy.” This drummer is, of course, not in the biblical story of Jesus’ birth, but this popular fictitious character has become legendary in our modern Christian imagination. And before you group him with “Frosty the Snowman” and “Rudolph the red nosed Reindeer” I think we can learn a lot from this little drummer boy about the true reason for the season and about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The story is a familiar one, the Magi are preparing to go see Jesus, the newborn King, and they recruit the little drummer boy to come along. The lyrics, broken up with pa-rum-pa-pum-pums, tells the story, “*Come, they told me...a newborn King to see...our finest gifts to bring...to lay before the*

King.” Once they arrive and the Magi lay their exquisite gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, the little Drummer boy is ashamed that he has no gift to bring that’s fit for this king. But what he does have he gives, and asks, “*Shall I play for you...on my drum?*” and gives his best, “*I played my drum for Him...I played my best for Him.*” And the little drummer boy does end up giving baby Jesus a gift, the gift of himself and his talents, which is all he truly has.

The story reminds me of a section in Acts where Paul is teaching the philosophers of Athens about the one true God. Paul declares that, “*The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.*” (Acts 17:24-25) And it reminds me that I’m just like the little drummer boy, what gift could I possibly give to God? He lacks nothing and needs nothing from my human hands, and I am truly bankrupt and cannot offer him anything worthy of Him. We come with nothing to the cross of Christ, but He accepts us and forgives us. We could not possibly add to His Kingdom, but He blesses us and uses us to grow it. All I have is myself and my talents, and that’s exactly what He wants, “*Me and my drum.*”

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
Rev. Shant Barsoumian

Merry Christmas

The celebration of the birth of our Savior has always been a season of immense joy. This joy flows from the greatness of God's gift of grace in Christ. As our families gather to share this time of rejoicing, we want to extend to each of our relatives and friends the blessings of our Lord, and wish them a Very Merry Christmas.

Haig and Sue Arabian

Robert Arabian

Armenian Renaissance Association

Rev. Shant Barsoumian

George and Carole Basmadjian

Roger and Nancy Berschbach

Susan Gasparian and Stephen Bolerjack

Ovsanna DerVartanian

Ralph and Frances Garabedian

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Taline Hagopian

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Kachadourian

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Siroon Karapetoff

Rodney, Barbara, Aaron, and Rachel Keteyian

Mike, Sue, Marianne, Rosemarie, Samuel Mousigian

Suzanne Pope

Dennis and April Tini, and Nicole Tini

Rev. Dr. Vahan and Mrs. Rosette Tootikian

Ed and Astrig Tutelian

Florence Varbedian

Christmas Sunday

Please join us on Sunday, December 21st for our Christmas morning worship service; following the worship there will be a presentation by the children and a complimentary luncheon sponsored by Dr. Richard Marburger in memory of Mrs. Mary Marburger. Thank you Leslie Banerian and Ann Bayleran for your hard work preparing the luncheon. All are welcome.

The Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Wednesday, December 24th at 7:30 p.m. following the service, there will be a fellowship hour with refreshments and desserts sponsored by the Board of Deacons. We invite you all to join us and bring family and friends for this very special service.

The ACC Sanctuary Choir and director Mrs. Susan Harrison are preparing a special Christmas program, which they will present during the Christmas Eve Service.

Christmas Joy Package

Bring Christmas joy to children of Armenia and Karabagh through the AMAA Armenia Summer Camp Christmas Committee. You can make checks payable to the ACC. Or you may mail the check directly to the AMAA. The forms are available in the hallway.

Food Bank

On your next trip to the store, or your pantry, collect some un-expired non-perishable food items to share with the needy people of Oakland County. Please bring your contributions to the Food Bank box in the foyer.

2015 Stewardship

We kindly ask that if you have not submitted your 2015 pledge, please do so. It is with your help and donations that the church will be able to continue its ministry.

Book of Life

Entered her rest: Marion Artinian passed away at age 86 on Tuesday, November 11; the funeral service was held at our sanctuary on Saturday, November 15th. Marion was an active member of our church.

Family Night

On Saturday November 1st, we had our annual Fall Family Night at ACC. With lots of food, fun and games the evening was bound to be filled with memorable moments and a good time for all. It was a fun filled evening for both the children and the adults. The kids, dressed in costumes, got to enjoy fun carnival style games in hopes of winning exciting prizes and of course candy. The highlight of the evening for the adults was a special round of Bible themed Jeopardy with such categories as “Miracles”, “Angels and Demons” and “Armenian History”. Both the children and adults participated in competitive rounds of musical chairs to see who would be crowned this year’s champions. Fun was had by all who attended and we give a special thanks to Ann Bayleran and Leslie Banerian for putting the event together.

ACC Thanksgiving Banquet

Our annual ACC Thanksgiving Banquet was held on the evening of Sunday, November 23rd. It was a night filled with celebration and thanks together with great food and a stellar program. A splendid time of fellowship was enjoyed by over 200 people who were in attendance.

This year’s theme was “Thankful for being Armenian in America” and the program reflected just that. Our MCs were our wonderful Co-Chairs Mrs. Ann Zartarian and Ms. Marjorie Nanian who presented a diverse program for the evening. We had an inspirational reading introduced by Mr. Ari Zartarian and read by Mr. Harry Berberian. The reading as featured on the NPR broadcast “This I believe”, was about George Mardikian, from San Francisco, who closed down his restaurant every year in order to serve Thanksgiving Dinner for his staff. Our keynote speaker was Mrs. Salpi Tachian who gave us our message of thanks for the evening. She conveyed the overwhelming sense of thankfulness she witnessed on her recent trip to Armenia where she spend time with those Syrian-Armenians who had fled the country due to the war and conflict. Although they had faced great adversity at the risk of their lives and found themselves in difficult situations as

refugees, varying from financial to physical struggles, they were always thankful to God and considered themselves blessed even in these circumstances. The message was clear, when God is with you, there is always something to be thankful for. It was a humbling and encouraging message for all to reflect on just how much we are blessed and how much we have to be thankful for.

The evening was concluded by a wonderful Armenian dance performance by the Manoogian School Dancers under the leadership of Miss Lara Zanazanian and the evening was closed with the singing of the Hayr Mer led by all the clergy present. A special thank you to Dr. & Mrs. Khalil and Anne Dirani and Gena Dirani who sponsored this wonderful event in memory of Rose and Vincent Kaye and Nour and George Dirani. Also thank you to all our other donors and volunteers who made this evening so special.



We here at A.C.C. wish you and your family a Merry Christmas as you celebrate the birth of Jesus this year, and a Happy and Blessed 2015.

**Kristos Dznav Yev Hydnetzav:
Tzezi Mezi Medz Avedis**

*Christ is Born and is Revealed, Good
Tidings to You and to Us*

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

Mary Agbabian – Heritage
 Mary Agbabian- Christmas Missions
 Moses and Maggie Avakian-Thanksgiving
 Stephen and Susan Bolerjack-Thanksgiving
 George and Carol Chrukian – Heritage
 Archie and Sue Gopigian- Christmas Missions
 Edward and Suzanne Dervavian – Heritage
 Dr. & Mrs. Khalil and Anne Dirani-Thanksgiving
 Ralph and Frances Garabedian-Thanksgiving
 Robert and Gayaneh Kachadourian-Thanksgiving
 Robert and Gayaneh Kachadourian- Missions
 Aram and Alice Kakousian-Thanksgiving
 Rodney and Barbara Keteyian- Christmas Missions
 Victoria Kett- Christmas Missions
 Arpiar Khanbabaian- Christmas Missions
 Paul and Esther Kulhanjian – New Hymnal
 Marjorie Nanian-Thanksgiving
 Dr. Richard Marburger-Sunday School Christmas Luncheon.
 Helen Movsesian- Christmas Missions
 Taniel and Makroohi Nishanian-Thanksgiving
 David and Patricia Tavidian –Thanksgiving
 Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Vahan and Rosette Tootikian-Thanksgiving
 Ari Zartarian-Thanksgiving

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Christmas Calendar



Christmas Sunday

Sunday, December 21 – 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24 – 7:30 p.m.

New Year's Service – Communion

Sunday, January 4 – 11:00 a.m.

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

ACC BANQUET HALL

Moses Avakian
 Banquet Manager

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