

The Armenian Congregational Church  
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# The ACC Bulletin

*Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church*



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January 2015

## January Blues

A New Year is upon us and Winter is in full swing, at least here in Michigan. The cold and dreary January days make you long for a bright and sunny Spring to come early this year. With temperatures slowly making their way into the single digits (negative degrees with windchill!) it makes me be a little more critical of the Sun. If this were a job evaluation, the Sun would have a terrible performance review for this month. Oh sure, he still shows up to work every morning, if you can see him through the clouds, he's there. But what is he accomplishing really? There's barely any light and no warmth to speak of. The Sun seems to be phoning it in and asleep at the wheel, as far as his job is concerned for this month.

Thankfully the Sun isn't the only source of light we have in the month of January. We also have a particular light that comes to us every January 6th on our calendar. As Armenians, you will most likely catch us wishing one another "Happy New Year and Merry Christmas" instead of the other way around. We haven't got our calendars mixed up but we are celebrating Armenian Christmas. And truly, for us Armenians, Christmas does come more than once a year! As we celebrate this special day that recognizes our Savior's birth and Epiphany, which is the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles, we are reminded that the Gospel message is for all peoples. God made himself known perfectly in the incarnation of Jesus Christ and knowing Christ is the Gospel message of salvation. Jesus' birth gives us hope, that God's plan is underway and nothing can change its course. This Epiphany is a light to us, in the darkest

times, that God's plan is still working and unraveling in our lives.

With this new year ahead of us, as we reflect again on the birth of our Savior, I am humbled at God's glorious plan which He slowly reveals to us, in and through our lives. God's plan for your life and mine doesn't appear to us complete and full, but is more like a scroll being unraveled before us as we walk in faith day by day. The wisdom found in Proverbs reminds us to, "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)" Our walk with God is a walk of faith. We don't have all the details and information about the future and our lives, but we have a trustworthy Lord.

We might not have that knowledge but God knows the complete contents of that scroll, He knows what will come into our lives in this year ahead. The challenges we will have to overcome, the joys we will experience and difficulties we will face. In all this we can trust Him because He saved us and gave us His Son when we didn't deserve it. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 5:6-8 "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God's timing is perfect and His love is immense for you and for me.

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

## Children's Christmas Program



We had a wonderful Christmas Program and lunch provided for us by the Sunday School on Sunday, December 21st. We were treated to a delicious lunch and had a time of fellowship together. The Sunday School children sang Christmas songs in English and Armenian and recited scripture. We also had a number of special musical performances by the young girls from the church. They sang beautiful renditions of holiday songs as a group and including special duets and were accompanied by April Tini on piano.

Special thanks to Ann Bayleran and Leslie Banerian for putting together such a wonderful Church School Christmas Program.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who helped with the complimentary luncheon. We especially thank Dr. Richard Marburger for his monetary gift to the Church School in loving memory of his wife, Mary Marburger.



## Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service was a special time of celebration and worship as we gathered in the evening of December 24th for our annual Candlelight service. We had special scripture readings in English and Armenian led by our Deacons and a wonderful music program prepared for us by Susan Harrison and our choir. We had a special violin solo by Lucy Bolerjack as part of the worship service as well.



We concluded the evening with a special candlelight rendition of "Silent Night/Loor Keesher" as we dismissed to celebrate Christmas in the social hall with refreshments provided for us by the deacons and many church members. All were blessed by the wonderful worship service and time together in fellowship.



## ACC Annual Meeting Sunday, February 15, 2015

This announcement constitutes an official call to the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 15, 2015, immediately following the Morning Worship Service.

All boards, committees, and organizations of the church are requested to submit their written reports on the day.

### Knitting Clothes For The Children of Armenia

Ladies please join us every second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to knit clothes for the children of Armenia and abroad through AMAA. Materials and instructions will be provided; you can also bring your own materials if you choose to. The first meeting will be at the A.C.C. on Wednesday, January 14 at 10 a.m.



### Book of Life

**Entered her rest:** Ms. Florence Varbedian on Monday, December 15. The funeral service was held on Friday, December 19 at the Woodlawn Cemetery. The service was officiated by Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian and Pastor Makarios Darawi.

Florence was an honorary life deaconess, she was also a veteran Sunday School teacher and Superintendent. Besides, she was very involved in the Women’s Christian Fellowship. Florence will be remembered by many members and friends of A.C.C. as a devout Christian, a good friend and a loyal member.

On Sunday, January 11, The A.C.C. Board of Deacons held a special memorial service to honor her memory, followed by a light reception. She will be greatly missed.

May the peace, grace and comfort of our Lord be with the Varbedian families, their relatives and friends.

### ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

- Mary Jo Agbabian - Christmas Missions
- Haig and Suzanne Arabian- Memorial Donation
- Maggie and Moses Avakian-Memorial Donation
- Emma Bagdassarian - Christmas Missions
- George and Carole Basmadjian-Memorial Donation
- Ed and Ann Bayleran-Memorial Donation
- Haig and Dirouhi Bayleran-Memorial Donation
- Nora Baylerian- Memorial Donation
- Stephen and Susan Bolerjack- Building Fund
- Stephen and Susan Bolerjack - Christmas Missions
- Catherine Brito-Memorial Donation
- Samuel J. Churikian - Donation
- Samuel J. Churikian – Kessab Relief
- Kevin and Pam Czartoryski-Memorial Donation
- Vaughn and Sybyl Derderian - Christmas Missions

- Ovsanna DerVartanian-Memorial Donation
- Daniel and Marian Flanagan-Memorial Donation
- Edward and Phyllis Garabedian – Building Fund
- Armen and Elizabeth Garbooshian – Building Fund
- Hachig and Susan Gopigian- Christmas Missions
- Hachig and Susan Gopigian- Memorial Donation
- Susan Gopigian – Building Fund
- Anahid Haroutinian - Christmas Missions
- Daniel and Sandra Haroutunian - Christmas Missions
- Edward and Susan Haroutunian- Christmas Missions
- Robert and Gayaneh Kachadourian-Christmas Missions
- Robert and Gayaneh Kachadourian-Memorial Donation
- Alice Kadian-Memorial Donation
- Aram and Alice Kakousian-Memorial Donation
- Dickranouhi Keshishian – Christmas Missions
- Dickranouhi Keshishian – Memorial Donation
- Rodney and Barbara Keteyian- Christmas Missions
- Rodney and Barbara Keteyian-Memorial Donation
- Victoria Kett - Christmas Missions
- Arpiar Khanbabaian- Christmas Missions
- Gohar Khanbabaian-Memorial Donation
- Hovsep and Karine Koundakjian-Memorial Donation
- Stephen and Doris Krikorian - Christmas Missions
- Rose Lahiff – Building Fund
- Dr. Sandra Laturno – Building Fund
- Karen S. Lipski - Donation
- Karen S. Lipski – Kessab Relief
- Gladys Margosian- Memorial Donation
- Elizabeth Morrow-Memorial Donation
- Helen Movsesian - Christmas Missions
- Jeffrey and Diane Paulsen- Memorial Donation
- Armen and Meline Santikian - Christmas Missions
- Kegham Tazian - Christmas Missions
- Ed and Asdghig Tutelian-Memorial Donation
- Varsnie Walsh - Christmas Missions
- Hannah M. Wider - Donation
- Hannah M. Wider – Kessab Relief
- Diran and Joyce Yazejian - Christmas Missions
- Robert Yazejian – Donation
- Robert Yazejian – Memorial Donation
- Leo and Judith Yesayian - Christmas Missions
- Debra Zygmunt- Memorial Donation

**Reminders!**

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

## Family Night



The ACC Women's Fellowship Family Valentine's Night will be held on Friday, February 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Come enjoy a delicious dinner and an evening of fun and fellowship with the church family. Many thanks to all those who are helping in making this evening a success.

## Vartanantz

The Greater Detroit Armenian Churches are sponsoring a united Vartanantz observance, on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. The host church is St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church.

We invite all of you to join us for this special gathering at St. Thomas Syriac Catholic Church, 25600 Drake Road, Farmington Hills MI 48335 (11 Mile and Drake Roads.)

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