

## Thanksgiving Banquet



**COMPOSER AND GUITARIST DR. JAMES LENTINI, LYRIC SOPRANO MRS. DANA LENTINI**

Our annual Thanksgiving Banquet was a resounding success again this year with over 200 people in attendance, headed by our chair Monica Koehler and emceed by the chair of the Board of Trustees, Rodney Keteyian. A very special thank you to our sponsors for the evening Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Tamar Kadian. We had a delicious dinner and were treated by our musical guests, the Lentinis who performed wonderful renditions of a variety of songs. We all also enjoyed a special Thanksgiving Day message from our Minister Emeritus Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian who shared

## Sunday, November 22, 2015



**REV. DR. VAHAN H. TOOTIKIAN**

some thoughts on Thanksgiving as a unique American holiday with deeper spiritual implications. Rev. Tootikian reminded us that it isn't only about Thanksgiving but about Thanks-living, by living a life of gratitude and thanks to God. A special thanks to all who gave of their time and volunteered, and for the beautiful centerpieces donated by Ann Bayleran to make our ACC Thanksgiving Banquet such a wonderful event.

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# The ACC Bulletin

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### Glory to God in the highest and lowest

*“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)*

The angels made their historic declaration, the birth of the savior. The promised Messiah, the Anointed One of God, who had been promised for centuries had finally arrived. The Prophets foretold his coming, and who he would be, Son of David, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. All of God's people anxiously waited for his Advent, for his first coming. But this announcement comes in an unusual way.

First of all, this grand announcement is happening as a private presentation for unsuspecting shepherds. These are not the kings and rulers, the scribes and the Pharisees, the learned and influential, the esteemed of the day. It is precisely the opposite. These men live near the lowest rung of society. They herd sheep.

Here from the very beginning, as God moves to give a savior for all people, he does it not on the world's terms, according to popular expectation, but in his own surprising, mysterious and marvelous way. *“God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong” (1 Corinthians 1:27)*. But not only does this extravagant announcement come to lowly shepherds, but the Christ himself comes as a child, even as a weak and fragile infant of a manifestly humble birth: *“you will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12)*. No castle, no palace, no hospital, not even a house or a crib; he is born in a stable, wrapped in the cheapest garments, helpless and laid in an animal feeding trough.

What is the meaning of this unusual path? Why shepherds? Why swaddling clothes and a manger? Now cue the multitude of the heavenly host as they sing: *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests!” (Luke 2:14)*

This glorious presentation is not about the worth and merit of the shepherds who hear it. The glory is not theirs. And it's not about mankind's deservedness and value. This gospel is for all people, and this peace is for all the earth, and all those with whom God is pleased with by faith (Hebrews 11:6), but this declaration of glory is not to them.

Rather, as the angels say, this stunning news, and this strange and wonderful way of doing it, is so God gets all the glory. He is the initiator and actor. He is the one who has promised this Savior for centuries and now sends him in humility to shepherds and all who acknowledge their lowliness. It is His goodness on display in this good news, and the great joy He brings echoes this praise: *“Glory to God in the highest.”* And yes, for the lowest too.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us remember just how our Lord Jesus came into this world and to whom he came to. God chose to make his “baby announcement” in a private way, to lowly and unimportant people. To them this Good News was revealed and trusted to them to spread the news. And it is with us that this Good News is entrusted, for us to glorify God and share His love and grace.

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

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# 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

Rev. Shant Barsoumian  
Roger and Nancy Berschbach  
Susan Gasparian and Stephen Bolerjack  
Ralph and Francis Garabedian  
Anahid Haroutunian  
Daniel and Sandra Haroutunian  
Tony, Nico and Brian Janigian  
Simon Javizian  
Aram and Alice Kakousian  
Siroon Karapetoff  
Rodney, Barbara, Aaron, and Rachel Keteyian  
Michael, Susan, Marianne, Rosemarie and Sam Mousigian  
Souzanne Pope  
Dennis, April, and Nicole Tini  
Rev. Dr. Vahan and Mrs. Rosette Tootikian  
Edward and Asdghig Tutelian

## Christmas Sunday

Please join us on Sunday, December 20 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 Thursday, 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.

## Book of Life

In Christian Sympathy. Entered her rest Mrs. Dorothy Davis on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. May the peace, grace and comfort of our Lord be with the Davis, Zeronian, and Basmadjian families, and their relatives.

Birth. Dominic Tarpinian on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. Proud parents are Sean and Natalie Tarpinian, and proud grandmother Souzanne Pope.

## Christmas Calendar



**Christmas Sunday**  
Sunday, December 20 – 11:00 a.m.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
Thursday, December 24 – 7:30 p.m.  
**New Year's Service – Communion**  
Sunday, January 3 – 11:00 a.m.



**We here at the 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 2016.**

*Kristos Dznav Yev Hydnetzav:  
Tzezi Mezi Medz Avedis*

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

## Mailing List

We are updating our current mailing list. If you know someone that would enjoy receiving the ACC Monthly Bulletin, please submit their name and mailing address to the church office. If you would like to be added to our church email list, please email us at [accgd@comcast.net](mailto:accgd@comcast.net). or inform our office by calling 248-352-0680.

## Fellowship Hour and Altar Flowers

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

## A.C.C. Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

Mary Jo Agbabian-Thanksgiving  
Haig and Suzanne Arabian-Memorial  
Robert Arabian-Memorial  
Robert Arabian- Thanksgiving Banquet  
Armenian Renaissance Association Inc.-Donation  
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Kenneth Basmadjian-Memorial  
Edward and Ann Bayleran-Thanksgiving Banquet  
Haig and Dorothy Bayleran- Thanksgiving Banquet  
Virginia Berberian-Missions  
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Stephen and Susan (Gasparian) Bolerjack- Thanksgiving Banquet  
Glenn and Kathryn Charles-Memorial  
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Siroon Karapetoff- Thanksgiving Banaquet  
Dickranouhie Keshishian-Memorial  
Rodney and Barbara Keteyian – Thanksgiving Banquet  
Frances Kumjian-Thanksgiving Banquet  
Dr. Richard Marburger- Christmas Luncheon  
Gladys Margosian-Memorial  
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William and Carol Patrick- Memorial  
Armen and Meline Santikian- Thanksgiving Banquet  
Martin and Diana Shousanian-Memorial  
Martin and Diana Shousanian-Thanksgiving Banquet  
Emma Sogoian-Thanksgiving Banquet  
Dennis and April Tini-Building Fund  
Rev. and Mrs. Vahan and Rosette Tootikain- Thanksgiving  
Diran and Joyce Yazejian-Thanksgiving Banquet