



Graduates of 2017



ACC would like to honor our graduates by publishing their names and degrees in the monthly and weekly bulletins and at the church on Sunday, June 11. Please submit names of your loved ones graduating this year from Elementary School, Middle School, High School, College, Graduate or post Graduate School. Deadline for submission is May 14.

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Annual Father's Day Luncheon

Sunday June 18, 2017
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 5 Free

ACC BANQUET HALL

Moses Avakian
Banquet Manager

Wedding & All Other Occasions
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26210 West Twelve Mile Road
Southfield, Michigan 48034

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

Or Current Resident

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SOUTHFIELD, MI

The ACC Bulletin

Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church

Vol. 42, No. 4

May 2017

A Mother's Example and Worth

The Scriptures are filled with tremendous examples of faithfulness. Some of the most wonderful examples we have are those of mothers. From Naomi who looked out for her daughter-in-law Ruth, to Hannah who remained faithful to her promise to God and gave her only son Samuel to the service of the Lord. We even have the example of the Mother of our Lord Jesus, Mary who was faithful to God's call, and seeing all the amazing things going on around her newborn son Jesus she, "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19)

Isn't this always the way of Mothers? A quiet faithfulness but firm convictions, always serving others and sacrificing so much of themselves, and always full of love. Mothers are a real example of God's love for us. We choose one day in May to honor our Mothers, but one day a year is hardly sufficient to truly express how much they are worth to us and how much we appreciate them. In honor of my mother, and all mothers this Mother's Day I have written this poem to hopefully share just how much Mothers are worth.

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

My First Gift

By Rev. Shant Barsoumian

Gentle hands rock the cradle
Yet hold a strong and steady sway,
Child sleeps peaceful unknowing
Of the love around growing and growing
This gift from God a sign of His mercy
Of hope and compassion as deep as any sea
For the Father's perfect love now reflects on the face
Of a Mother towards her child, in loving embrace.
No better display of God's amazing grace.

For children are blessings this much can be true
But the real gift from God is a Mother's love for you
The greatest gift given on your real first birthday
No batteries required, and no off button to be found!
Because you're never too old, and never too young
For a mother to mother you, and tell you what you're doing wrong.

Through all the laughter, all the tears, and hardships shared
Your burdens will be carried by a Mother's heart to bare
No sacrifice too great for her to endure
A love unconditional, unending and pure
The gospel embodied on the first lips which kissed you.
Countless prayers uttered, sent up now to keep you.

God's plan all along, a Mother's love to guide
Toward that ultimate love, in Christ you'll reside
And I can't help but wonder, when I finally meet Him there
The embrace that we share will be reminiscent of her care;
A love unparalleled on this earth to find
The gift of a Mother, there is no other kind.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upper Elementary/Middle School Sunday School Adventures

The elementary/middle schoolers have continued the study of Parables that they began last year. We are finding that Jesus's stories provide lessons that are readily applied to our own lives, as we think about ourselves and how we relate to family, friends, teachers and others, in different situations. Whether we are looking at "good Samaritans," "prodigal sons," or the nature of "salt and light" in the world, our discussions often result in insights that help us look at our own values and conduct as Christians. The class is in the process of writing their own parable, an amusing activity involving characters named Sponge Bob, Squidward and associates. We can only hope that this rambling parable will end one day, and that these characters will eventually find their way to fulfilling what was chosen as our intended lesson: be kind and respectful to others.

The class is also continuing their community service activities. We have been collecting money for Artavazd Mangasarian, the Armenian child that the Sunday school is sponsoring this year. So far we have collected \$124. Added to this is \$65 in proceeds from our Christmas ornament sale. Once again the class created and decorated ornaments that were sold during the Christmas luncheon.

On January 29, our class and one high schooler traveled to Manoogian Manor for a visit with residents. The children brought along cookies that they had baked at church on the previous Sunday. This is always a meaningful outing for our class, as the Manoogian Manor residents are always happy to talk to our young people, and it is a chance for students to connect and share with others. They are able to take what they learn in Sunday school out into the world.

Submitted by Barbara Keteyian,
Upper Elementary/Middle School teacher

CHURCH CALENDAR

Weekly

Worship Service, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Church School, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Monthly

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, 12:30 p.m.)

Board of Deacons Meeting, (Last Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.)

Mid-Week Bible Study, (Every Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.)

Women's Bible Study, (Every Friday, 10:00 a.m.)

Sunday School

Leslie Banerian
co-superintendent

It's May!! Spring is in the air. We open our windows so our homes will be filled with fresh air. We do spring cleaning, plant spring bulbs, add new things to our wardrobe and plan some fun family vacations and get-togethers. Fresh beginnings and so much to look forward to.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of our church. One hundred years ago my great grandparents came here to Detroit to make a fresh start. A people coming to a new country to give their children the opportunity to experience freedom. Free to practice their religion, free to share memories of the towns and villages they called home and free to continue their rich heritage. A people who came to a country not speaking its language, being of modest means, greatly humbled due to man's inhumanity to man and yet so inspired to create the foundation and build the church that so many of us still call our church home today. A people still strong in their belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ despite all they and their families had been through. Wanting their families to be able to come to a place of worship so they too could learn this unwavering faith. A people who desired a fresh beginning.

From its earliest days, I am proud that The Armenian protestant church felt it so important to have a Sunday school for its children. A place for children to come and build their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This church offered something that could not be found in any other "established" church. This church had within its midst people whose faith made them survivors. Witnesses to the blessings of God. We, as children, saw each Sunday survivors happy to be amongst friends, happy to share stories of the "old country", happy to share their rich heritage through food and family traditions but most importantly able to share how their faith in Christ made them strong, made them survivors. Some of these survivors had the look on their face of freedom, that look you get when you take in your first breath of fresh spring air, a look of peace.

Much has changed over the years. These survivors are no longer with us. But, their stories and traditions still remain a part of us. Their lives and stories are found intertwined in the Sunday school lessons we teach today. We, as teachers, share our ancestors' stories of survival and their faith in Christ that brought them through horrific times to an unknown country; witnessing to each child the strength we saw in a people. As the disciples witnessed the miracles of Jesus Christ, we witnessed how the blessing of survival brought a people closer to God.

As with all churches, ours is not perfect. I wish at times that our church could offer all that some find missing. But, I feel a great sense of gratitude to those who came before us. I feel it is of great importance and an honor to pass on to this generation of children those inspirational moments of our history that will strengthen their faith. To those who once called this place home, I welcome you back and to become involved again in the life of this church. If you have young children with a thought of introducing them to Sunday school; If you are a leader with the desire to lead youth; If you have learned from other places of worship or been a survivor of life's unpredictable journey, this generation of children needs to know and learn from you. Be that face that this generation looks back on with inspiring gratitude. Your story or gifts may be just what this generation needs to witness. It's spring again and a time for new beginnings or maybe a return to freshen things up.



Armenian Congregational Church Annual Mother's Day Banquet

Sunday May 14, 2017
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
(Free 5 and under)

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Donations

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