

## 2017 Stewardship

As the end of the year is approaching, we kindly ask that if you have not submitted your 2017 pledge, please do so. It is with your help and donations that the church will be able to continue its ministry.

## Stewardship Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday, November 19, is also our Stewardship Sunday, an opportunity to make our financial pledges for the year 2018. 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.

## ACC Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Donations

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# The ACC Bulletin

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### A Harvest of the Heart

Fall happens to be my favorite season of the year. The weather starts to cool down, the leaves begin to change color; orange, yellow, red and brown dominate the color palette around us and most importantly there is Pumpkin Spice everything available at Starbucks! For some reason, Fall makes me a bit introspective as well. End of the year with the holidays are just ahead of us and summer with the majority of the past year behind us. I start to think about what has happened so far in the year and what is still to come. What would I like to do differently in this last third of the year that lays ahead?

With Fall comes the idea of Harvest and this image of reaping the fruits of a long labor is an image that is used again and again in the scriptures. Jesus views the work of spreading the Gospel in this way. As He ministered from village to village teaching, healing and spreading the good news of the kingdom of God, scripture tells us that He saw the crowds and had compassion on them. He told his disciples *“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Matthew 9:37-38)*. Jesus is the Lord of the Harvest and He desires to send us out to be His workers in the field of this world to reap the fruits for God’s Kingdom. The question that remains with us once we hear Jesus’ words here is this, “Are we ready to go out into the fields and work for God’s Kingdom? Are we ready to be the much needed workers in God’s field?”

What does it take for us to be ready workers for Christ? Why are the workers who go working in the field so few? Many of us might shy away from evangelizing in our everyday life. We think the

responsibility of evangelism should fall on the shoulders of ministers, missionaries and those who have the gift of evangelism and having very little to do with us. But Jesus’ words tell us that it is all of our responsibility to work in the harvest of God’s field. But the “field” doesn’t have to be a third world country that you have to go live, in order to spread the Gospel of Christ. Our mission field can be wherever we are, and wherever God places us. Often times we don’t have to go into the Mission field but God brings the mission field to us. We can work the harvest and spread the Gospel at our jobs, at school, among our family and friends. Whoever we come across in our daily lives provides an opportunity to share God’s truth with them.

But how can we accomplish this? Do we need to know the four Spiritual laws, or make sure to go through the Romans Road with them in scripture, or say the Sinner’s Prayer? All these methods are well and good but the real testimony and the true “work” of the Harvest comes simply by living our lives as a testimony to Christ and His Gospel. Before we can work in the harvest we must first cultivate ourselves and our own lives in light of Christ’s truth if we are to be ready and prepared to work the fields of Evangelism. The Apostle Paul reminds us with these words, *“A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life” (Galatians 6:7-8)*. May we cultivate our own spiritual lives and reap the things of the Spirit and may it prepare us to work in the Lord’s fields and reap the harvest for the lives of others and for the Gospel of Christ.

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

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## An Open Letter From Our Minister Emeritus

Dear member and friends of ACCGD:

By now all our members and friends have received an invitation from our ACCGD Centennial Anniversary Committee to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration banquet, to be held on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at Pine Lake Country Club, 3300 Pine Lake Road. Orchard Lake, Michigan.

With a bow to the small group of men and women who, in 1917, established the Armenian Congregational Church, we now turn our eyes onward and upward. Above all, grateful for God's grace in the past and expectant of His help and guidance in the future, we are determined to continue the strong forward march of our church.

Cognizant of the providential role of our church during the past 100 years, and richly blessed as we are today as a congregation, we believe that this Centennial Anniversary offers a special opportunity for each of us to make a cheerful and generous donation to our church as a response our gratitude for God's vital impact upon our personal as well as community life.

I hope and pray that the Centennial Anniversary Committee's appeal will find your hearts responsive to the opportunity for increased Christian service through the Armenian Congregational Church on its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Looking forward to your presence and participation at the Centennial Anniversary Celebration Banquet on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Prayerfully yours,  
Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian  
Minister Emeritus

## From The Yesteryears.....

The following is a testimony made by the late Mrs. Grace Bayleran, on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Congregational Church, in 1977.

### Why I Am Thankful For ACC

I am thankful for the Armenian Evangelical Church because it is the Church that my forefathers formed. In spite of many persecutions, firm on their faith in God and the teachings of our Saviour Jesus Christ, they established "the Armenian Evangelical Church."

I am thankful for the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit. Our parents came to this country after passing through the "massacre," broken hearted because they had lost their loved ones. Although they had lost their worldly possessions, they did not lose the faith of their forefathers, "the Armenian Christian Heritage."

Having prayed, worked, sacrificed and denied themselves many personal comforts and needs, they formed and built the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit so that we, their children, could worship and grow spiritually in the Armenian Church. In all their financial difficulties they did not forget the orphans and the missionaries abroad.

I am thankful for our Church organizations and the Church families. They all work for the Church and for the glory of God. Sunday mornings we greet one another, share our happiness, and we share our Saviour, too.

The Armenian Evangelical Church means to me a spiritual home and school. The religious instructions in Sunday school, the minister's inspiring sermons, and the spiritual hymns have been my inspiration since childhood.

I thank God for my parents. They set the foundation in our home and led me to the Armenian Evangelical Church.

## Our Debt to Our Holy Translators Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

In the month of October is Armenian Cultural Month. Armenians all over the world celebrate the *Feast of the Holy Translators*. The Holy Translators were a group of Armenian scholars, headed by two towering Armenian churchmen, St. Sahag and St. Mesrop, who laid down the foundations of Armenian literature in the fifth century A.D. That century was known as the *Golden Age of Armenian Literature*.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> century, the Sassanid Dynasty of Persia had partitioned Armenia into two sections, Western and Eastern Armenia. St. Sahag Bartevo (348-438) and St. Mesrop Mashdotz (361-439) saw the gravity of the political and religious state of the Armenian nation. They realized the importance of a literary Armenian language for the propagation of the Christian Faith among Armenians. They knew that without the Bible in the hands of the lay people, the Armenian Church not only would not grow, but also could not endure very long in the midst of the pagan world.

St. Sahag and St. Mesrop also realized that a common literary language would unite the Armenian people in the Byzantine and Persian sections of Armenia. King Vramshabouh (Eastern Armenia) could see their logic.

The only thing lacking was an Armenian alphabet; St. Mesrop was commissioned to do the task: inventing an Armenian alphabet as a tool for *evangelism* as well as an effective *unifying force*. Mesrop and his students traveled extensively and examined different alphabets. And finally, in 406 A.D., he invented the 36 letters of the Armenian alphabet.

The invention of the Armenian alphabet ushered in a new age of intellectual and spiritual enlightenment. The Armenian literary language and literature freed the Armenian people from the domination of the Persian, Syriac and Byzantine cultures.

With the establishment of schools and the proliferation of writing, wider horizons opened up to the people and their national consciousness was solidified. A host of disciples were trained under the approval of Saints Sahag and Mesrop, who

embarked upon the task of translating the bible, and other major Christian and philosophical texts, into Armenian.

We owe an eternal debt to St. Sahag and St. Mesrop, the chief architects of the Golden Age of Armenian Literature, and their venerable disciples, the Holy Translators, who became a source in inspiration, generation after generation, to numerous Armenians throughout our history.

Acknowledging our debt to our Holy Translators, however, places a great responsibility upon us: *to preserve and perpetuate our precious Armenian Heritage.*

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### Weekly

Worship Service, Sunday 11:00 a.m.  
Church School, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

### Monthly

ACC Women's Christian Fellowship, Second Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.  
Board of Trustees Meeting, Third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m.  
Board of Deacons Meeting, First Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.  
Mid-Week Bible Study, Every Wednesday at 7:00p.m.  
Women's Bible Study, Every Friday, 10:00 a.m.  
Men's Bible Study, Every Friday, 7:00p.m.

### Family Night



Please reserve the following night, *Friday, October 20 at 5:30p.m.* All ages are welcome. Come enjoy delicious food, fun and games. Please call the church office to RSVP 248-352-0680 or email Leslie at [Kbanerian@comcast.net](mailto:Kbanerian@comcast.net)