

Remembrance Service

The Church's Centennial year was definitely a memorable one. With the celebration of our Centennial Banquet in November we got to enjoy all of God's blessings together, giving thanks to God's faithfulness to our church for 100 years and beyond. One of the highlights of the evening was our diverse testimonials given by members of the church that represented the treasured past, vibrant present and hopeful future of our church. But our Centennial celebrations did not stop at our November Banquet, they continue throughout the year and we will capstone our celebrations with a special church service honoring all those individuals who played such a crucial and valuable part in the history of our church.

The Centennial Anniversary Remembrance Service will take place on Sunday January 7th during our Worship Service where we will not only share Communion with one another but also recognize those individuals that have passed who played such a crucial role in the building and sustaining of our church. Do you have a family member who has passed that was one of the founding members of the church? Or served as a Deacon or Trustee? Or was one of the vibrant and active members of our church throughout the years? Please submit their names to the Church Office so they will be included in this remembrance. Also if you still have pictures from past church events, services, or weddings please continue to submit them to also be included in our Remembrance Service.

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Weekly

Worship Service, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Church School, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Children's Library, Every Sunday

Bible Study, (Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.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 at 7:00p.m.)

Women's Bible Study. (Every Friday, 10:00 to 12:00 p.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

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Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

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Christmas 2017

Christmas is a culmination in many ways. With the holiday season in full bloom, amidst the Christmas trees, gingerbread cookies, egg nog, the holiday shopping and gift wrapping, everything boils to a fever pitch. All these activities reach their climax on Christmas day as we gather together with family, give one another gifts, relax and reflect on another year gone by. Christmas marks the end of another year, remembering God's blessings and looking forward to a new year to come, wondering what God will have in store for us. Even the Christmas story itself is a culmination. Angels appear to Mary and Joseph to proclaim the coming of the Christ Child. The young couple sets off on a journey to Bethlehem, not knowing where they will stay or what will happen to this child that is coming. Wise men in the East discover a special star, proclaiming the birth of a very important King, so important they set off on a long journey in search of this King of Kings. A host of angels proclaim to the Shepherds, *"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord!" (Luke 2:11)*

The birth of this child is special in many ways. Not only is this the advent of the long-awaited Christ, the Messiah, the specially Anointed One of God whom God's people have pined for and prophets spoke about so long ago. But this is "Christ the Lord" meaning God himself has come. Here finally after centuries of waiting, is the Immanuel, God with us. It is great news to be shared and proclaimed, but the good news doesn't end with Jesus' birth. It is news too spectacular to say all at once. Day after day will pour forth more and more about the life of this child. Act after act will reveal piece by piece that this child shares the divine identity of Yahweh. Page by page in

the Gospels, story after story, will show us more and more that this one who is so very much man is also truly God.

The Word who "became flesh" (John 1:14) is the one and the same Word who was in the beginning with God, and was God, and all things were made through him and for him (John 1:1-3). Indeed, the Christmas story doesn't start with the Shepherds, the Wise men or even Mary and Joseph. It began long ago, all the way back to the beginning of creation itself. In many ways the birth of Christ is a culmination of all of creation and this is the great spectacle for those shepherds and wise men to witness, and it is the wonder we ourselves, who have lived our blessed lives knowing this truth, should aspire to experience again and again each Christmas.

There is more to the story, as with everything with God, it doesn't end there but just begins. It is not just that God is with us in this Christ child; it gets better, he has come to rescue us. It is found encoded in the name of the child himself, Jesus, in Hebrew *Yeshua*, meaning "God saves." The same God that sent Moses as his instrument to save His people from Egypt. Who sent Joshua and the judges as His instrument to rescue his people in the past. He now comes himself, in Jesus, to save us from our past, present and future sins. Our celebration of Christmas, in essence is a celebration of our salvation, begun, completed and preserved by Jesus himself. Sin could not stand against this lowly child born for us in Bethlehem.

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



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**
- Rev. Shant Barsoumian**
- Carole Basmadjian**
- Roger and Nancy Berschbach**
- Glenn and Kathryn Charles**
- Kevin, Pam, Alec, Kyle Czartoryski**
- Edward and Phyllis Garabedian**
- Anahid Haroutunian**
- Dan and Sandra Haroutunian**
- Simon Javizian and Family**
- Aram and Alice Kakousian**
- Rodney, Barbara, Aaron, Rachel Keteyian**
- Edward H. and Yvonne Korkoian**
- Mike, Sue, Marianne, Rosemarie & Sam Mousigian**
- Souzanne Pope**
- Joan Kasabach Swain**
- Dennis, April, Nicole Tini**
- Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Vahan and Rosette Tootikian**



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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School Christmas Program

Please join the Sunday School on December 17 for this year's Christmas Program after the morning worship service in the Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall. Following the program we invite everyone to join us for a complementary luncheon sponsored by Dr. Richard Marburger in memory of his loving wife Mrs. Mary Marburger.

The Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday, 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.

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Donations

- Araksi Ashekian- Donation
- Keri and Ani Ashekian- Centennial Banquet
- Armenian Renaissance Association-Christmas Donation
- Haig and Dorothy Bayleran- Centennial Banquet
- Detroit Armenian Women's Club-Centennial Banquet
- Ara and Diane Ekizian, Centennial Banquet
- Arpine Garbooshian- Centennial Banquet
- Jack Garbooshian-Centennial Banquet
- Dr. Richard Marburger- Sunday School Christmas Program
- Charles and Alice Noorian- Centennial Banquet
- Joan Kasabach Swain- Centennial Banquet
- Haig and Anahis Tootikian- Centennial Banquet

The Centennial Anniversary Celebration A Great Success

-- Rosette Tootikian

As the plans for the Centennial Anniversary of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit unfolded, a wave of enthusiasm pervaded the Church family and friends. The enthusiasm was evidenced first, by the 16 members of the 100th Anniversary Committee, headed by Rodney Keteyian, who accepted their responsibilities cheerfully and discharged them most efficiently.



Back row: left to right: Dennis Marburger, Alice Kakousian, Carole Basmadjian, Leslie Banerian, Nancy Berschbach, Cathy Jacobs Brito, Ann Bayleran, Ralph Garabedian

Front row: left to right: Rodney Keteyian, Rev. Shant Barsoumian, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Rosette Tootikian, Aram Kakousian, Michael Banerian,

Missing from picture: Ovsanna Dervartanian, Ann Zartarian

The same eager interest was demonstrated by the members and friends of the Church in their prompt and generous response to the Centennial Anniversary Fund, established by the Church Council on this milestone.

The wave of enthusiasm was at its peak on Saturday, November 18, with an overflowing attendance of more than 260 people at the Pine Lake Country Club, in Orchard Lake, Michigan.

Following the American and the Armenian National Anthems, rendered by Deacon Rubik Mailian, with the accompaniment of our own Susan Harrison and the invocation of Rev. Shant Barsoumian, a sumptuous dinner was served to the attendees of the banquet. Preceding the meal, however, delicious appetizers were offered by the Pine Lake Country Club.

Christmas ornaments were placed on the tables for each attendee, donated by an anonymous member of the church as a memento from the Centennial Anniversary banquet.

The Master of Ceremonies, Rodney Keteyian introduced the Mayor of the City of Southfield, Honorable Kenson J. Siver and welcomed the guests. After which the ceremonial cutting of the Anniversary cake was done by the present Pastor Rev. Shant Barsoumian, the former Pastor Rev. Makarios Darawi and the Minister Emeritus Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian with the enthusiastic singing of "Happy Anniversary to the ACC"

Taking part in the program with three to five minutes of brief but meaningful testimonies were given by Mark Kadian, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Rev. Shant Barsoumian, Pastor, Michael Banerian, representing the Youth of ACC. Carole Basmadjian, President, Women's Christian Fellowship, Rodney Keteyian, Chairman, Centennial Anniversary Committee, Dr. Richard Marburger, former long-time Moderator, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus. An Armenian poem dedicated to the Armenian Church by poet Vahan Tekeyian, entitled "The Armenian Church," was recited by Dr. Taline Hagopian.

The entertainment part of the program included 6 bilingual musical selections, both of religious and patriotic nature. The performing artist was the talented Deacon Rubik Mailian, accompanied by Susan Harrison. The program began with an Armenian Sharagan, Dér Gétso along with Armenian popular songs from composers Yegmalian, Babajanian, Hovanissian, and Italian and English selection, and closed with a Christmas Carol. The atmosphere was very pleasant and warm, all those who were present seemed to be in a good mood of celebration.

One of the celebration's pleasant and heartwarming surprises was the generous donation of \$5,000.00 by Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Maral Arzoumanian, which enabled the Centennial Committee to reach its avowed goal of raising \$100,000 on the church's One Hundredth Anniversary.

The joyous and memorable evening came to an end with the singing of the "Hayr Mer" and the benediction of the clergy of the Greater Detroit Armenian churches.

A very pretty Commemorative Book consisting of 52 pages was given to the attendees. The pictorial booklet consisted of letters by church and civic dignitaries as well as institutional information about the church.

The Centennial Anniversary committee members should be commended for their superb performance. They provided ample evidence, that they are capable of achieving great accomplishments.