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Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT NO. 159
 SOUTHFIELD, MI

The ACC Bulletin

Monthly Publication of the Armenian Congregational Church

Vol. 43, No. 7

From the Ministers Desk

Dear Members and Friends:

What is the future of the Church? Not just the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, but any other church. Nobody knows what the future will hold. But we know who holds the future. God the Almighty and the Omniscient is in charge of everything that takes place. I also believe that the answer partly lies in how each and every individual Christian bears witness to the transforming love of Christ. This means that we all are called to demonstrate and testify to the work that Christ is doing in our lives.

There are several implications which must be drawn from this assessment if we are to appreciate how radically it alters most of our views of the church.

The first implication is that Christian faith is based upon a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. We are capable of testifying only to those things we know firsthand. In every court of law eyewitness testimony is the most worthy of believing. Such has likewise been the case of Christian faith.

The second implication is that every Christian is an ambassador for Christ. This means that we are personally responsible for our relationship to God. We cannot base our faith on belonging to the church. We cannot base our faith on another person, be they spouse, parent or pastor. Christian faith is between God and us.

The third implication is that our faith is always made visibly by our action. There must be consistency between what we say and what we do. The world listens to our faith by how we live.

All of the foregoing things do not imply that we must be perfect in word and deed. God does not expect us to be perfect before representing Him. He requires that we desire Him with all our hearts and pursue with all strength the objective of growing more Christ-like day by day.

Still, another implication of the base thesis is that we are required to share our testimony. We must be alert for opportunities to speak of Christ in us. We must be sensitive to the opportunities as they arise each day. They will most frequently arise in the form of the midst of our acquaintances. We must respond to them completely.

To respond completely, we must address the need and speak of God's grace. We must tell how Christ is our peace and how this offer is extended to them. We must have a passion for compassion. We must be willing to identify them, walk with them.

The future of our church rests upon how we answer these questions: Do we really believe Jesus as our Savior and Lord? Are we willing to tell others of his love?

Faithfully yours,
 Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

World Communion Sunday
 October 7, 2018

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Bulletin Board

Are you celebrating your anniversary, birthday or any milestone in your life? 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.

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We invite our members and friends to come to the Lord's Supper on Sunday, October 7, as we celebrate World Communion Sunday. We invite them to the Sacred Table, not because they must, but because they may. We invite them to come and to testify not that they are righteous, but that they sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ and desire to be His disciples.

Move Your Clocks Backward on November 4th and Gain an Hour

On Sunday, November 4, at 2:00 a.m., you may regain the hour you lost last spring by turning clocks back to 1:00 a.m.

You can gain the hour by turning back clocks before you go to bed Saturday night, November 3, or getting up at 2:00 a.m. in the morning and doing the same, or waiting until Sunday morning.

A New Church School Year 2018-2019

Sunday, September 9, was Rally Sunday, marking the beginning of the 2018-2019 church school year. Rev. Tootikian installed the following members of the church school staff, on behalf of the congregation: Co-superintendents Leslie Banerian and Ann Bayleran, and teacher Barbara Keteyian.

Following the Morning Worship Service a complementary luncheon was served.

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Donations

Araxie Ashekian – donation to the church
Mary Derian and family – in memory of Leo Yesayan
Tom and Michelle Margosian - Two arm chairs and a table for the foyer of the church
Hagop and Diana Alexanian- a wheelchair

ACC Bulletin

The ACC Bulletin is written every month except the month of August. We would like to remind our readers that the deadline for articles to be published is the 10th of each month, but the church office is

always willing to take any news you have earlier than the 10th.

Board of Trustees Report

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the following is a brief report on the activities of the Board over the summer months.

The Board has continued to focus on its stated objectives for 2018, including: (1) balancing the budget; (2) evaluating church contracts and operations; (3) preserving and growing the intangible property including cash and investment accounts; (4) completing ongoing repairs, accrued maintenance and planning of the ACC building and facilities; and (5) supporting our church's general interests including assisting and supporting the Pulpit Committee's activities.

In furtherance of these objectives, the ACC remains on budget for 2018 as operational costs have been brought closer in line with revenues. Consequently, less demand has been placed on investment accounts to meet operating needs. These investments have shown steady growth in value, accordingly. Repair and maintenance activities continue. Most recently, all locks on the church building were changed to ensure security and access. In the coming month, roof repairs and fascia board replacement on the western end of the church is expected to be undertaken and completed. Substantial plumbing repairs and replacement of audio equipment in the sanctuary and social hall are also being planned. With regard to the general interests of the ACC, the board has and continues to plan for and support the Pulpit Committee's search for a senior pastor, and the interim filling of the pulpit, including arranging honorarium.

The foregoing is, of course, only an overview of the Board's recent activities. Please always feel free to contact me or any trustee to further discuss.

Respectfully Submitted,
ACC Board of Trustees
By: Mark Kadian

The Holy Translators

The month of October is known as "The Cultural Month", and rightly so, for it is within this month that the Armenian Church celebrates the memory of

our holy translators. The Golden Age of Armenian literature, the fifth century, and the subsequent glorious periods of literary flourishments were productive because of the work of our translators. St. Sahag and St. Mesrob should be remembered together as the cofounders of Armenian literature and education as leaders of the group of Holy Translators.

At the beginning of the fifth century and before then, there was no Armenian Bible, and this was a real handicap in his missionary activities. Church services were conducted at that time in foreign languages, Greek and Syriac (languages of the Assyrians). It is obvious that in these circumstances the people could understand little of anything. It soon became apparent to St. Mesrob that oral teaching was not enough and that in order to Christianize the people it was necessary to place in their hands the writings of the Church Fathers, and especially, the Holy Bible. His primary motive was a religious one and thus from this, the alphabet was established, religious literature and all Armenian literature flourished.

The Mesrobian characters was 36 in number. (The Armenian alphabet consists today of 38 characters; two letters being added in the Middle Ages.) After the invention of the alphabet, a host of disciples were trained under the unfailing guidance of St. Sahag and St. Mesrob.

This group of Scholars came to be known as "the Holy Translators" or "Soorp Tarkmanitchk" as they are called in Armenian. These Holy Translators have been a source of inspiration across the centuries to others, who in turn, as "Minor Translators" have enriched the Armenian culture.

Grateful Thanks to Guest Speakers

Rev. Tootikian and the Board of Deacons take this opportunity to thank the following members for their participation in leading Worship Services.

Lifetime Deacon David Terzibashian for conducting the service and giving the English and Armenian sermons July 22 to August 26, 2018.

Dr. Richard E. Marburger gave the English message on Sunday, July 8, 2018.

Dennis Marburger gave the English message on Sunday, July 26, 2018.

Rev. Makarios Daraw, our former minister is our guest preacher from September 2 to October 28, with the exception of September 9.

Rev. Tootikian's Visit to Armenian

September 17 to October 3, 2018, Rev. Tootikian will be in Armenia. He will be preaching at our Sister Church, Armenian Evangelical Church in Dilijan, Armenia, on Sunday, September 23. He will be visiting some of the Armenian Evangelical churches and AMAA centers as well as participate in the Centennial Celebrations of the AMAA.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Weekly

Worship Service, Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Church School, Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Children's Library, Every Sunday
Women's Bible Study. (Every Friday, 10:00 to 12:00 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, (First Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.)