



Church Calendar

Weekly

Worship Service: Sundays 11:00 a.m.

Church School: Sundays 11:00 a.m.

Children's Library: Every Sunday

Women's Bible Study: Fridays 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Monthly

Board of Deacons Meeting: First Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.

Women's Christian Fellowship Meeting: Second Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting: Third Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m.

AMAA Internship

The AMAA is offering 2019 Internships to Armenia from Thursday, July 4th – Friday, July 19th. The annual program gathers young men and women from local church communities to embark on a journey that will impact them for years to come. The aim of this internship is to expose individuals of the Armenian Evangelical diaspora to the important Christian ministry the AMAA is doing in our homeland. It extends the opportunity for participants to serve God through the AMAA and embrace the rich cultural heritage of their people. For inquiries, feel free to contact Rev. Serop Megerditchian at 626-405-9195 or email rev.seropmegerditchian@yahoo.com.

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Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

Or Current Resident

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“All things work together for good to those who love the Lord.”

Return to this verse each time that some negative experience occurs this month. When something unpleasant occurs, focus on the Lord – recall His love and kindness, His forgiveness and blessings. Know that these same qualities are available to you today and every day – they are only a prayer away. Remember, a minus sign needs only God's cross to turn it into a plus.

David Terzibashian
Honorary Deacon
Board of Deacons

Installation of Board Members for 2019

On Sunday, January 13th, the following members were installed to serve on the Church Boards for 2019:

Board of Trustees:

Edward Bayleran, Nancy Berschbach, Stephen Bolerjack, Ralph Garabedian, Robert Jacobs, Mark Kadian, Dennis Marburger and Ann Zartarian.

Board of Deacons:

Rouben Arslanian, Leslie Banerian, Catherine Brito, Pam Czartoryski, Ovsanna Dervartanian, Alice Kakousian, Doris Krikorian, Chuck Sarkissian and Salpi Tachian.

Honorary Lifetime Deacons: Carole Basmadjian, Robert Jacobs, Aram Kakousian and David Terzibashian.



New Senior Pastor at A.C.C

During the A.C.C. Congregational Meeting held on January 20, 2019, our Congregation approved the call of Pastor Hagop Shebat Haroutunian of Pasadena, California as the new Senior Pastor of the A.C.C. Pastor Hagop received his Masters of Divinity from the Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, and brings with him a breadth of experience pastoring, mentoring and counseling.

He will begin his ministry at the A.C.C. in March 2019. We enthusiastically welcome Pastor Hagop to the A.C.C. as he continues his service to the Lord.

Respectfully,
Mark Kadian
Chairman, A.C.C. Pulpit Committee

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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Church Attendance

Dear Members & Friends,

Greetings in Christ!

Fellowship is an integral part of church life. We all need it, whether we like to admit it or not, especially as Christians!

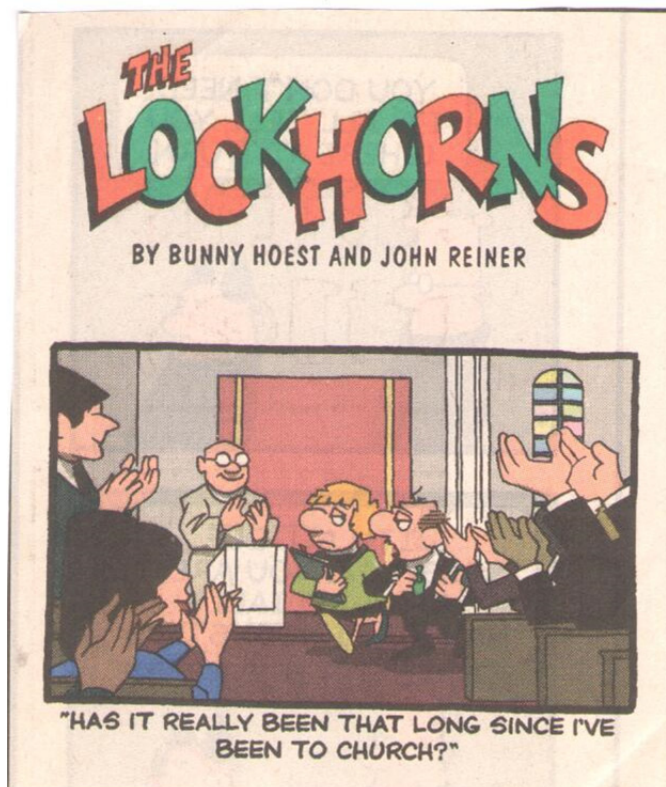
Acts 2:42 – “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

There is something powerful about having fellowship and camaraderie with one another that helps us get through the bumps and bruises of life.

While there are several avenues to receive the Word of God in our lives such as television, internet, there is nothing like coming together on Sunday mornings to hear the word of God, surrounded by the love and fellowship of our Church members and friends. We would like you to attend Church regularly. Please also help us by letting us know if you know of someone who needs a visit!

Thank you,
Board of Deacons

Sunday Humor



Women’s Christian Fellowship Family Valentine’s Night

Join us on Friday, February 15th, at 6:00 p.m. for fun and fellowship! A delicious French Dinner with all the trimmings will be served. Following dinner, we will play Bingo with lots of prizes for adults and children alike!! For reservations, please sign your name on the Sign-Up Sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the Church Office – 248-352-0680. Free-will donations will be accepted.



The Oldest Valentine by Marvin Jordon

On the edge of a little country town
stands a large and ageless oak.
Defying storms and Father Time,
it’s a living shrine to folk.

Supporting many broken limbs,
the trunk in spots is bare.
But the hand-carved heart and arrow,
with hand-carved initials, is there.

A day for valentines each year
brings opportunity.
The paper hearts won’t last as long
as the one on that ageless tree.

Book of Life

Anahid Vart, a long-time former member of the Church, passed away on Thursday, February 7, 2019, after a short illness. She was 93 years old and is survived by her daughters and many grandchildren, nephews and nieces, including member Susan Gasparian.

ACC Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Donations

Armenian Renaissance Association Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Harold and Sandy Kaloogian
Knights of Vartan

The Legacy of Vartanank

--Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

In the middle of the fifth century, the Persian Empire had ambitions for world domination. It wanted to occupy Mesopotamia, reach Asia Minor and eventually defeat the Byzantine Empire, and rule over the entire civilized world of that day. To reach that goal, it planned to convert all neighboring peoples to the Zoroastrian religion and gradually assimilate them into the Persian Empire. The Armenians, who were subjects of the Persian Empire, were not spared from this policy. Because they shared the same religion as the Christian Byzantium, it became evident that this was an obstacle to the expansionist plans of the Persian Empire.

As the Persian pressure on the Armenian nation to abandon Christianity in favor of Zoroastrianism increased, the Armenian opposition to it intensified, so much so that the Persian King Hazgerd (Yazdegerd) II, issued an imperial edict demanding that the Armenians in his dominion renounce their Christian faith and adopt Zoroastrianism. This created a great crisis in the Armenian nation. The Armenian religious and temporal leadership summoned a national council in the Armenian town of Ardashad to deal with the issue. The decision was formulated in a resolution, whose two lines summarized the position of the Armenian leadership: “From this faith no one can move us, neither angels nor men, neither fire nor sword... nor any horrid tortures.”

When the Armenian resistance against Persia began to take shape, Vartan Mamigonian was asked to be the commander-in-chief of the Armenian army. In spite of the fact that he was retired from military service, Vartan accepted the challenge. As a military man, he knew very well that the sixty thousand semi-trained and poorly equipped army was no match to the mighty Persian army. But because of his dedication to Christian faith and because of his love for the Armenian nation, he assumed the role of leadership.

The inevitable finally came to pass! On May 26, 451 A.D., the Persian and Armenian armies collided on the plains of Avarayr at the banks of Dghmoud River. The battle lasted only a day. The historian Yéghishéh tells us that 1,036 Armenian soldiers, together with their Commander Vartan, died in defense of their Christian faith.

Why do we commemorate the Feast of Vartanantz, an ancient historical event that took place more than 1500 years ago? Why do we pay tribute to Vartan Mamigonian and his companions known as Vartanank, who suffered a military defeat in 451?

We commemorate Vartanantz Day in grateful remembrance of Vartan Mamigonian and his valiant soldiers who defied the enemy and defended their Christian faith, their homeland, their ideals and values during one of the most crucial periods of Armenian history. We also celebrate the resistance on the part of the Armenian people who continued their struggle for 33 years and forced the Persian government to sign the Treaty of Nvarsak in 484. That treaty came about when the leader of the Armenians at the time, Vahan Mamigonian, a nephew of St. Vartan submitted his condition for peace between Persia and Armenia. That treaty was a unique international document acknowledging the liberties of conscience and religion.

Vartanantz resistance became a turning point in our history. It was a great victory for Armenian Christendom. It was a baptism of fire that taught the future generations of Armenians to live triumphantly in troubled times and face the terrible blows of life with such creative courage as to turn adversity into advantage.

Today, as we celebrate the spirit of St. Vartan and his valiant comrades we are called to rededicate our efforts to the wonderful legacy which they preserved and handed down to us.