

Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit
26210 W. 12 Mile Road ~ Southfield, MI 48034
Telephone: (248) 352-0680; Fax (248) 352-5568
Mr. Matthew deRaad, Organist ~ Choir Director
The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian ~ Minister

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

11:00 a. m

January 16, 2005

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE

CHIMES

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN - #89 "The Church's One Foundation"**

***INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)**

Almighty God, who is forever with us, we praise you for all those who have preserved the foundations of the Christian Church, and especially this congregation. As we celebrate this great heritage, we pray that you will give us the courage to continue as a serving congregation. Guide us as we share our faith and witness before others in this community and in the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who taught us to pray:

" Our Father, Who art in heaven..."

***GLORIA PATRI**

THE LITANY OF APPRECIATION:

PASTOR: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, who knows the strong and tender ties which bind us, and who understands the precious memories, strong hopes and holy commitments which make us one; look upon us in compassion as with united hearts and undivided purpose we consecrate our grateful devotion into this litany of praise.

PEOPLE: **For the heritage of this congregation, which has served in this community for this past year, 2004; we thank you, Lord.**

PASTOR: For the educational opportunities to learn about the past, to know the present, and to discuss plans and goals for the future,

PEOPLE: **We thank you, O Lord.**

PASTOR: In remembrance of all those who served here and worshiped as a part of this congregation, but are now gone to join the Church Triumphant, and for all those people whom this Church has served and who have been influenced by the worship and fellowship here;

PEOPLE: **We thank you, O Lord.**

PASTOR: For friends who share our triumphs and disappointments, and with whom we join to dedicate ourselves to the service of humankind;

PEOPLE: **We thank you, O Lord.**

PASTOR: In grateful thanks for the useful service of this Church, we, the people of this congregation, do consecrate ourselves anew to the worship of God in this place.

PEOPLE: **We further dedicate ourselves to the continued service of God and humankind, as we seek to advance your kingdom.**

PASTOR: Be with us, O Lord, as we reflect upon the past.

PEOPLE: **O Lord, be with us, as we deal with the problems of the present.**

PASTOR: Lord God, be with us, as we go forth into the future, accepting the challenges of a new day.

UNISON: **In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

ANTHEM

NOTICES AND CONCERNS

OFFERTORY CHOIR RESPONSE

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING & SOLO – April Arabian Tini

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURE READING:

Armenian: II Thessalonians 2:13-17 (pp. 1843-44)

English: Philippians 3:12-16 (p.1829)

SOLO - April Arabian Tini

ARMENIAN SERMON: *Needed: Pillars*

***HYMN - # 52 "Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us" (vs. 1,2)**

ENGLISH SERMON: *Honor The Past, Claim The Future !*

***HAYR MER - # 133**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE: "Park Kéz Dér, Asdvadz Mér"**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: All communicant and supporting members are requested to remain in the Sanctuary.

****Congregation is requested to stand.***

****** Latecomers may be seated.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME TO OUR CHANCEL this morning our own soloist, April Arabian Tini.

SPECIAL ENVELOPES IN THE BULLETIN is for your convenience to donate to South East Asia Tsunami Relief. This Tsunami is one of the worst natural disasters in recent history. The death toll surpasses 150,000. There are numerous homeless people. Let's extend a caring hand and participate in this humanitarian effort.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held today, immediately following the Morning Worship Service. All communicant and supporting members are requested to remain in the Sanctuary.

THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Christian Education room.

THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE DEACON'S MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 30th, following the Coffee Hour.

SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON: Paul was thankful for every member of the church. But in every church there is a special group of people who care a little more, do a little more, give a little more. They are the pillars of the church. No church can survive without these pillars. Pillars help share the burden, people whom the church counts on, depends on, leans on. St. Paul is writing to the pillars of the church in Thessalonica. He writes, "So then, brethren, stand firm and hold on to the traditions". This is the basic message to them, "Stand firm." What are some of the characteristics of pillars of the church?

1. ***First, Pillars stand firm, in spite of personal hardship and heartaches.*** They are strong at the broken place. Instead of clinging their fists in protest they fold their hands in prayer. In turn, this makes them more compassionate towards others.
2. ***Second, Pillars of the church also manage to stand firm even when the weaknesses of the organized church are all too apparent.*** They stand firm in spite of the obvious frailties of the church as an institution.
3. ***Third, Pillars while stand firm, they grow. They are like those trees planted beside stream of living water.*** They are grateful people who in spite of their personal difficulties and in spite of the flaws of their pastor, and boards and people, still stand fast and grow.