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Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church



LOOYS



Cheltenham, PA

Summer 2016



Hours of Worship

- Morning Service: 10:00 AM
- Divine Liturgy: 10:30 AM
- Sunday Church School:
10:15 AM

*Come celebrate with
Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan*



Upcoming Events

Read what's been happening at our
church and be a part of what's
coming up!

Pray **U**ntil **S**omething **H**appens

www.holytrinity-pa.org

SALT AND LIGHT

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus is talking about salt and light: "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city built on the hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:13-16).



Several times I have heard from the people, that day by day our life is becoming harder, uninteresting and darker. I don't want to argue with these people, because everyone can have his or her personal opinion about life. But I usually tell them that life never is easy. Many years ago people were living in caves and definitely they had less comfort and safety than we have today; but still we complain that our life is not easy.

Our life can be uninteresting when we exclude God because God is the one who gives meaning to our life. Living a life without God means to live a meaningless, uninteresting and an empty life.

Every day when I read or watch the news, I see that 90 percent of the news is bad, negative and dark. This doesn't mean that the good is missing or disappeared from our world. Unfortunately, some people always like to see the thorn of the rose but not the beauty. But there are lots of good and positive things happening in our life and around us that we should acknowledge and talk about.

If we want to see a better world, then we should ask ourselves, "What can I do, and what is the role of my life in this world?" I believe that each one of us has his or her small mission in this world. We are called by our Lord to be the salt and the light of this world.

With our God-pleasing life and good works, we should be an example for others. When our meal is unsalted, we put salt on it; when our room is dark, we turn on the light. We never wait for other people to put salt on our meal or to turn on the light of our room.

God created us in His image. He gave us the ability to love others. If we share our God-given love with others, then we can be the salt and the light of this world.

The salt protects the waters of the ocean and sea from decay. The light helps us to see the reality around us.

Let us be the salt and the light of this world and help others who need us.

Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Luke 14:34-35

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

By John Hanamirian, Chair

The 50th anniversary of the consecration of our church in Cheltenham will have taken place by the time this article is published, and I am certain it will have been a resounding success. The year-to-date finances for the Church are moving along similarly to prior years, meaning we are on track to a break-even-or-better year. Remember, the net earnings from the Church operations are typically about \$25,000.00 per year. That means monies we spend beyond that amount each year come out of our savings and investment income. In light of that, our contributions and stewardship still could be so much better.

As most of you may have seen in the last article, I wrote about the 50th anniversary and what it meant to my Uncle John to have my sister, Debbie, photographed with him in front of the frame of what is now our Church. Debbie has recently passed away but during the course of her illness over the past few months, there was much reflection on how important it is to have this Church, this house of worship.

The Inglis House on City Avenue is where Debbie lived for about 11 years and they held a memorial service for her in late August. That memorial service was conducted by a Chaplain, she herself disabled. During the course of the service, as I looked around, I saw all these friends of my sister in various stages of disability, some no legs or arms and all afflicted neurologically. We were in a large, antiseptic-type hall with no adornments, no stained glass, no pews; just folding chairs and a makeshift altar.

As the service was proceeding, I turned to my daughters, Ella and Vani, and said, "Look at where we are; any place can be a house of worship and look at the people here and think about what it must take for any particular person to come to this house of worship and thank God." I continued, "When you are healthy and prosperous, it is easy to go to church and thank God for the good things you have, but what about when you are afflicted with a disability, what about when you are suffering some other way? How hard it is to find faith in those moments and thank God."

In the context of that observation, the Chaplain said to me that two very famed theologians told her: The definition of being physically and spiritually healthy is "having the courage to be." That prompted me to think of the people who serve in our own house of worship and how important they are to our being...to our very existence. We must continue to support our Church and its existence. So many people give their time and that is truly a gift. The nice part about giving is just that, it is a gift and how you give or the amount you give does not matter, be it cooking shish kebob, donating \$5.00 or donating \$5,000 - a gift is a gift is a gift.

We need that support for the future. There are a few families who have provided a significant base of funds for us to exist now and move forward. When we are talking about doing this project or buying that item with those monies, remember that the monies came from gifts from real people, not some abstract concept, and some of those gifts come from in-lieu-of-flowers.

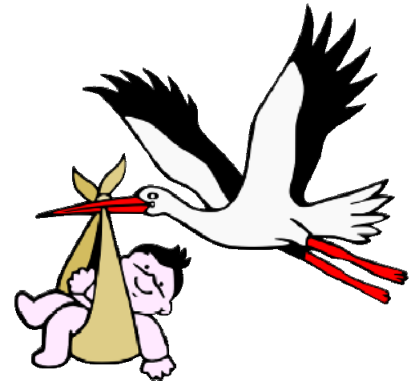
It is not our money we spend at the Church, but the money that comes from the congregation and from those whose memory we wish to preserve. We are all now children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of genocide survivors. We are incredibly strong and talented in anything we undertake, each of us in our own way. Give your time, your talent, your treasure so we assure this house of worship is here for our ever.

**1 DONATION
HELPS
EVERYTHING**



ABOUT OUR FAMILY

It was a season of sorrows and joys but as the Family of Holy Trinity, we shared in them all. We offer most sincere condolences to the **Chapjian** and **Hanamirian** and families on the unexpected passing of daughter and sister, **Deborah Hanamirian**. Though she was ill for many years, Debbie grew up at Holy Trinity and is remembered by many of her contemporariesWe also share the sorrow with the **Killian** and **Cakiryan** families on the untimely passing of **Pat Killian**, who was well known for his bigger-than-life personality and being a master craftsman. May the Holy Spirit bring comfort to all those who mourn ... Congratulations to **Patrice & Albert Keshgegian**, who welcomed their seventh grandchild, **Nolen Albert Keshgegian**, born to son, **Greg** & his wife **Melissa**.....We enjoyed celebrating a milestone birthday for **Merle Santerian** during a coffee hour in July. No age number can slow her down, as many can attest!.... Happy to share the news that **Doug** and **Sharon Radynsky** and family are now moved back into their newly rebuilt home that was completely destroyed in a horrific fire over a year ago (and for whom many contributed). May blessings continue as they put the trauma of that terrible event behind them..... A shout-out to **Toros** and **Anita Torcomian**, proud parents of twin girls – **Eva** and **Olivia**. They were welcomed by big brother, **Aren**; grandparents, **Fran** and **Tom**; AND **GG Veronica Torcomian** ...Congratulations to **Andrew Movsesian**, son of **Leslie** and **Paul**, for being inducted into the National Honor Society at Lower Moreland High School. We expect to hear more from this fine young man!We remember those who are ill as well as those who have had some level of recovery: **Annabelle Alexanian**, **Penny Hajatian**, **John Aslanian**, **Mickey Sherian**, **Joyce Killian** & **Virginia Shakarjian**.... Diplomat Books announced that “*where is Robin? USA*” - authored by our own **Robin Barone** - has earned the prestigious Mom’s Choice Award® for being among the best in family-friendly books. Bravo, Robin....And the baby lottery winners are **Nelly & Bill Brown** who welcomed their ninth – yes, you read right – ninth child, **little Anna**. Proud grandparents are **Alice** and **Karnig Torossian**.....As a family, we also shared in the sorrow of the **Torossian & Aivazian** families with the passing of our beloved **Diramayr Hripsime Aivazian**, who shared many years with us and taught us so much when living in our community before moving to California. (Her obituary appears elsewhere in this issue). Church activities are now back in full swing and we hope that those who read our newsletter will be encouraged to partake of some of them. We ARE one big happy family!



Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

1 John 4:20

We welcome the following new dues-paying members to our church family:

- Susan Karpinski | Arousiag Keshishian

Address Changes and/or Additions

Susan Karpinski
1 Cliff Court
Sewell, NJ 08080
856-468-5083
Cell: 856-237-4513

Nicklas and Amy Terkanian
1045 Beverly Lane
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Vaughn and Patty Alexanian
21 Carol Drive
Pine Hill NJ 08021

Angel Tookmanian
671 B Thornwood Road
Mt. Laurel NJ 08054



Antranig and Sabrina Garibian
1501 Rydal Road
Rydal, PA 19046

Steve and Nancy Hovnanian
(Temporary address)
PO Box #66
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Arousiag Keshishian
1945 Ambassador Street
Philadelphia, PA 19115

Aram Kumkumian
102 Genise Dr.
Phoenixville PA 19460

FUNERALS: 2016

DEBORAH HANAMIRIAN entered into her eternal rest on July 25, 2016. Funeral services were held on August 1, 2016 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

DIRAMAYR HRIPSIME AIVAZIAN entered into her eternal rest on August 12, 2016. Funeral services were held on August 22, 2016 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

DIRAMAYR HRIPSIME AIVAZIAN closed her eyes to this world on Friday, August 12, 2016, at the Ararat Armenian Home of Los Angeles where she was a resident since 2014. She passed away in the peace and quiet of sleep in her 96th year, without pain and without much suffering.

Hripsime was born in historic Cilicia, in the city of Adana, on May 16, 1920. She was the youngest of four siblings born to Garabed and Armenouhi (Bulbulian) Donigian. Her older sisters, Vergine and Louise, and brother, Hovhannes, predeceased her.

On January 26, 1941, Hripsime married Adanatsi compatriot, Haroutune Aivazian, and were blessed with three children: Alice, Hovhannes and Azad. Life was good. It was moving along normally until the breakout of World War II. No one escaped the evil impact of the war. Overcoming the hardships life returned to its normal path again. The children of the Aivazian household were raised with the love of education and the nurture of the Christian faith. Education and school attendance were of primary importance. Church, Sunday Divine Liturgy and Sunday School were essential cornerstones.

The Lebanese civil war of 1959 spread its destructive evil everywhere, particularly on the prosperous Armenian community of Lebanon. The community was split into fratricidal political factions causing the destruction of many families. The Aivazian family was not spared the destructive impact of the civil war. The family life was further complicated by the serious health issues of the family's father, Haroutune. Nevertheless, relying on God's mercy and filled with hope, life returned to normal.

In the mid-70s Diramayr and Haroutune came to Philadelphia to join their son, Hovhannes, who was now Fr. Arshen Aivazian, in Philadelphia. Coming with them was their daughter, Alice Torossian and her husband, Karnig, and their two young daughters. Diramayr lived her life in peace and much joy, surrounded with abundant goodness. She became the beloved "Mayrig" to all at Holy Trinity Armenian Church. She remained in this area for over two decades before moving to California in 2001 where, again, she became the much-loved Diramayr to so many.

Diramayr Hripsime Aivazian is survived by her daughter Alice (Karnig), her son Fr. Arshen (Yeretzgin Sirarpi), five grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Haroutune, and her son, Azad.

May the Lord receive her soul in peace and grant her eternal rest with all the saints.



Wedded Bliss Continues

Congratulations to Karine and Gagik Hovhanissian and Aida and Ashot Petrosyan who were married in our church in a double wedding conducted Der Hakob. Both couples had been married originally in a civil ceremony overseas and decided the time had come to renew their vows in the presence of God and their immediate families. A special feature was that each groom served as the Brother in the Cross for the other. Once our church family learned of this special happening for two lovely couples, a special coffee hour was hosted in their honor on Assumption Sunday.

Candle Stand Restored

We are excited to report that the damaged picture and candle stand at the rear of the church have now been restored and are in place, following the fire that occurred on Easter Sunday after Badarak. It was no easy task to do what needed to be done and for that we thank those who played an important role in getting it done: John Arslanian, Jr. for refurbishing the candle stand at no cost to the church; Tanya Paretchan for finding just the right gifted person who could return the painting to its original state and overseeing its completion; to George Terkanian for building a new sandbox to hold the candles and providing marble backs to prevent future damage to the paintings; and to Mickey Paretchan for helping George assemble all the necessary parts for a perfect fit! God bless you all.



*So very
THANKFUL*

To Der Hakob and Our Holy Trinity Family,

We wish to express our deepest appreciation for your prayers and guidance, Der Hakob, and our thanks to everyone who gave us their support and love during this difficult time. We could not have endured without our extended family."

Love,
Gay, Tina and Marie Hagopian

Did you know...

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church has IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) status which enables us to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. And you can DOUBLE your giving power if your employer offers a matching gift program! Many corporations match donations made by employees to a wide range of nonprofits, to support employee charitable giving and to extend corporate philanthropy. So be sure to check with your employer to determine if they participate in this program...and double your giving power!

Coffee Hour

We know that the time we spend at Fellowship is enjoyed by so many as evidenced by the length of time we stay. But to avoid having the same few people always doing the work of putting out the refreshments each week & cleaning up, we are seeking individuals who might like to help with this aspect of fellowship. Share the joy – share the energy! Call Merle (215-947-3777) for any questions or to volunteer your time.



Calendar of Events

October 2	Church School Pancake Breakfast
October 6	Bible Study begins for 6 weeks: 10:00 a.m.
October 9	Sunday of Talents
October 16	Honoring Deacons Albert Keshgegian & Garo Garibian
October 28-30	Harvest Bazaar
November 6	Church School Pancake Breakfast
November 12	Bus trip to St. Nersess Seminary
December 11	Church School Party with Santa

PAUL'S HAULS & UNIQUE FINDS
CLEAN OUT, BUY, SELL, RECYCLE

Paul Movsesian
Antiques, Vintage, Jewelry, Watches, Art, Toys, Military Items

PMOV3@YAHOO.COM **215-768-2883**
Clean Outs & Removal Services. Architectural Salvage

Ani Javardian's Babysitting Service

- 17-years-old
- Plenty of experience
- Responsible
- Babysitting certified
- Children of any age



ajavardian@gmail.com

**(267)
746-1903**



BAPTISMS

July 16, 2016: **MATTHEW PHILLIP WORRELL**
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Worrell
Godfather: Nicholas Turekian
Godmother: Nicole Kozak



July 23, 2016: **SOFIA TORKOMYAN**
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martiros Torkomyan
Godfather: Gaba Khositashvili
Godmother: Arnella Khachatryan



July 24, 2016: **AVA ANAHIT SAKOIAN**
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Igor Sakoian
Godfather: John O'Donnell
Godmother: Lana O'Donnell



July 24, 2016: **SOPHIA CHARLOTTE SAKOIAN**
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Igor Sakoian
Godfather: John O'Donnell
Godmother: Lana O'Donnell



September 3, 2016: **VICTORIA ANNA NERSESOVA**
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sergey Nersesov
Godfather: Gary Kocharian
Godmother: Sabina Khachatryan



A REFLECTION ON THE TRANSFIGURATION

by Dn. Albert Keshgegian

adapted from an inspirational message delivered July 3, 2016

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. (Mt. 17:1-8)



There's something about mountains that inspires us and draws us to them. From below, from the valley, looking up, we feel the awe and the grandeur. The song *America the Beautiful* speaks of "purple mountain majesties." And humans are compelled to climb mountains because, as a famous explorer once said, they are there. When we reach the summit, we feel a sense of accomplishment and look over the beautiful valleys and plains below. A few months ago Robin Barone spoke here of her climbing Mount Ararat. I marveled at all the hardship and harsh weather she had to go through to get to the summit. But her goal was to see Armenia from the top of the symbol of our mother country. And she went through all that she did to reach that goal.

Mountains have been important in religious history too. It was, of course, on Mount Ararat that Noah's ark came to rest. Moses climbed Mount Sinai to speak with God and receive the 10 commandments. Jesus gave some of his most important teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. And Jesus ascended to heaven, after his resurrection, from the Mount of Olives. It seems that when we climb a mountain we get that much closer to God.

And today we celebrate the Transfiguration, one of the most important events in Jesus' life, which also involves a mountain: Mount Tabor. The Armenian Church regards the Transfiguration as one of the five most important holy days of the church year, along with Christmas, Easter, Assumption, and Exaltation of the Cross. In fact, these five feasts are called *daghavar doner*, or tabernacle or tent feasts, because the entire church year calendar is structured under the tent, or canopy, of these feasts. We just finished the season of the year that was related to Easter, all the way from two Sundays before Lent started, up to a few Sundays after Pentecost. And now we are in the season of Transfiguration, which lasts until the Sunday before Assumption.

The Transfiguration story goes that Jesus had been successfully preaching and teaching in his ministry, but the disciples weren't yet quite sure exactly who he was and what his mission was – that it included dying and rising again. So he went with a few chosen disciples – Peter, James and John – up to Mount Tabor. And there a miracle happened. Jesus' appearance was changed, transfigured, into a brilliant, dazzling white. And Moses and Elijah the prophet, long since dead, appeared with him. And God the Father spoke, saying "this is my Son, the Beloved...; listen to him."

Moses represented the law, and Elijah, the prophets. Jesus said that he came to fulfill the law and the prophets, and that's why these two men appeared. Jesus was the final revelation, the supreme revelation from God, as God the Son, and we are commanded by God the Father to listen to him.

These three disciples had a direct, visible, personal encounter with God. To use the mountain analogy, they experienced the height of what is possible in human experience. It's interesting that Jesus chose the same three disciples – Peter, James, and John – to go with him to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray on the night he was betrayed. With Jesus, these three disciples also experienced the lows. But this experience on Mount Tabor, seeing who Jesus really was, gave them the hope to get through those lows.

In our lives too, there are heights of experience that give us awe and joy. And there are the low times that leave us sad, depressed, or despondent. At these times, we may want to run away, as the disciples did when Jesus was arrested. We may want to deny Jesus, as Peter did that night. But the Transfiguration, as well as all of Jesus' life, reminds us that God is with us, not only during the highs of life, but more importantly even during the lows. At times of crisis, we can remember all the moments God has touched us, given us the times of happiness and joy, shown us the path to success, and remember that he is ever there to love us, to support and comfort us, even in times of sorrow and pain.

There's another aspect of this story that I personally find so uplifting. Imagine how you would react if someone took you to a mountain top, and suddenly that person became dazzling white, dead people appeared with him, and a voice thundered from above. I think we would all be terrified, and so were the disciples. Do you remember what Jesus did? He came and touched them and told them not to be afraid. It's a natural human reaction to touch someone, to pat them on the back or hold them by their hand, even to hug them, to comfort or console them, when they are sad, or despondent, or frightened. Who hasn't been comforted by a gentle touch from a loved one? And so Jesus comforted the disciples. This man Jesus, who clearly is God, the ultimate power in the universe, is also human, one of us, who understands us and loves us and cares for us in a very intimate way. All we have to do, as God the Father said, is "listen to him" -- to accept him into our lives and become one of his own.

Attend the official opening of the new campus of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary and the Consecration of its chapel in Armonk, New York, by

HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II
Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2016

A charter bus will leave the Holy Trinity parking lot at 8:15a sharp and return at approximately 6:00p. We are pleased to inform our faithful that we will subsidize half of the transportation expense—your cost will be \$25/person for the roundtrip. A complimentary reception at the seminary will follow the ceremonies. To reserve a seat:

Contact Gloria Basmajian at gbasmaji@temple.edu or 215-722-3369 no later than OCTOBER 9. Please act quickly; we have space for only 30 people.

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cheltenham, PA
Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH

MEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

October

Todd & Seta Pica	10/2/2004
Albert & Valerie DerPilbosian	10/ 7/1973
Steven & Stephanie Balint	10/12/1997
Berj & Michele Yeretizian, Jr	10/ 14/1989
Gar0 & Tamar Hovnanian	10/14/2006
Gregory & Maria Javardian	10/15/1983
Ara & Virginia Shakarjian	10/ 16/1955
Donald & Judy Paretchan	10/18/2009
Jake & Gina Terkanian	10/20/2007
Larry & Jeanette Der Hagopian	10/24/1964
Steve & Mary Sona Brod	10/28/1990
Berj & Alice Kalustyan	10/29/1955

November

Albert & Pauline Chapjian	11/1/????
Gary & Eileen Altoonian	11/5/ ????
Ernest & Christine Peacock	11/6/1976
John & Susan Lillis	11/12/1988
Phil & Alyssa Worrell	11/13/2010
Steve & Doretta Aslanian	11/15/1987
John & Margaret Bandaian	11/25/2005
Ralph & Nane Arpajian	11/26/2010
Richard & Florence Maloumian	11/27/1968
David & Marta Brann	11/29/1980

December

Terri Sadjian-Mears	12/1/1984
Robert & Janice King	12/3/1983
Albert & Patrice Keshgegian	12/22/1974
Melani & Kyle Burrows	12/29/2007
Robert & Elizabeth Barone	12/30/1972



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

October

Marina Hovhannesian - 2
 Grace Meranshian - 4
 Spencer Murray - 4
 Steve Aslanian - 5
 Aram Attarian - 5
 Robert King - 5
 Jack Vishab - 5
 Philip Kazanjian - 6
 Matthew Santerian - 6
 Lauren Lillis - 7
 Janice Owens - 7
 Brianna Juskalian - 10
 Jeannine Juskalian - 10
 Tomas Torosian - 11
 Richard Carlucci - 14
 Marta Brann - 18
 Karinne Andonian - 19
 Florence Maloumian - 19
 Mary Parnagian - 19
 Peter Hovnanian - 20
 Jean Ohnigian - 21
 Henry LeCompte - 22
 Peter Oskanian, Jr. - 23
 Lilit Andonian - 23
 Christopher Torcomian - 26
 Ella Hovnanian - 27
 Laura Bilazarian - 29
 Adrienne Minassian - 29
 Tara Zane - 29
 Kyle Dunigan - 31
 Katie Hashas - 31
 Michelle Oskanian - 31
 Alice Sisian - 31

November

Rosaleen Oskanian - 1
 Scott Santerian - 1
 Harry Mirijanian - 2
 Annabel Hovnanian - 3
 John Oskanian - 3
 Dori Juskalian - 4
 Kimberly Dunigan - 6
 Bennett Oskanian - 8
 Thomas Torcomian - 8
 Lesly Attarian - 10
 Patty Alexanian - 12
 Angel Tookmanian - 12
 Gary Altoonian - 16
 Selma Alexanian - 17
 Elizabeth Barone - 17
 Shawn Carnevale Jr - 18
 Veronica Carnevale - 18
 Alice Kalustyan - 18
 Janet Hashas - 20
 Marie Kazanjian - 21
 Stefanie Vishab - 22
 Larry D. DerHagopian - 23
 Vartan Mazmanian - 24
 Madison Radell - 25
 Timothy Worrell - 26
 Vaughn Alexanian - 27



Levon Attarian - 27
 Gabrielle Meranshian - 28
 Valerie DerPilbosian - 29
 Joyce Killian - 29
 Florence Dandegian - 30

December

Alice Karabian - 1
 Kimberly Kalustyan - 2
 John Terzian - 3
 Nancy Basmajian - 4
 Alise Peckjian - 4
 Abigail Zane - 4
 Sonia Papazian - 5
 Robbie Barone - 7
 Berjoohy Murray - 7
 Robert Damerjian Jr - 9
 Mariana Majian - 9
 Leslie Movsesian - 9
 Linda Vishab - 9
 Richard Mukalian - 10
 Phillip Santerian - 10
 Danielle Sarkisian - 12
 Margaret Bandaian - 13
 Berj Kalustyan - 14
 Michele Yeretizian - 14
 Deskouhy Attarian - 15
 Natalie Boghosian - 17
 Denise Sisian - 18
 Helen Terzian Gallagher - 22
 Theresa Hovnanian - 22
 Grayson Oskanian - 22
 Natalie Movsesian - 24
 Baby Jesus - 25
 Maria Javardian - 25
 Christina Juskalian - 25
 Alexander Griffin - 25
 Isabella Balint - 27
 Alyce Jilajian - 27
 Elize Mazmanian - 27
 Jonothan Koengetter - 28
 Alexis Javardian - 29
 Adrienne Juskalian - 29
 Michael Alexanian - 31

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES



Ashot Balasanyan – son of Marina Vardanyan and Anton Balasanyan, graduated from Neshaminy High School. His plans include taking a year off before pursuing further education in college. He will continue to work at becoming stronger, both mentally and physically, through the sport of Crossfit, which is a passion of his.



Natalie Movsesian – daughter of Leslie and Paul Movsesian, and granddaughter of Merle Santerian and Adrienne Movsesian, graduated from Panuska College of Professional Studies at the University of Scranton, with a B.S. in Health Sciences. She will continue this fall in the Occupational Therapy - Masters Degree Program at the University of Scranton.



Ani Javardian – daughter of Maria and Gregory Javardian, graduated from Villa Joseph Marie High School where she was active in Student Council including being an officer; and was a leader in mini-dance-thons which helped raised thousands of dollars for pediatric cancer. She was the captain of her varsity basketball team and will continue to play as she begins her advanced education at Syracuse University, with an undecided major. Before college even began, Ani was the freshman representative for dance marathons to raise money for Upstate Children's Hospital.




Kelly Kapeghian - daughter of Mark and Lisa Kapeghian and granddaughter of Albert and the late Naomi Kapeghian, graduated from The University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida, with a Bachelor of Science degree. Kelly has begun classes in pursuit of her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree at The University of South Florida College of Pharmacy. She is one of 100 students accepted out an estimated 2000 applicants Natalie Movsesian – daughter of Leslie and Paul Movsesian, and granddaughter of Merle Santerian and Adrienne Movsesian, graduated from Panuska College of Professional Studies at the University of Scranton, with a B.S. in Health Sciences. She will continue this fall in the Occupational Therapy - Masters Degree Program at the University of Scranton.



Julie Kapeghian - daughter of Mark and Lisa Kapeghian and granddaughter of Albert and the late Naomi Kapeghian, graduated from Wiregrass Ranch High School in Wesley Chapel Florida. Julie is a certified scuba diver who has volunteered at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa for over two years. She is beginning her undergraduate education in Marine Science at Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers Florida.





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BIBLE STUDY BY ZIP CODE

By Nancy Basmajian

In an attempt to reach out to parishioners who have been unable to participate in our weekday morning Bible studies or book studies—due to work commitments and/or travel distance—our adult Christian education ministry decided to hit the road. Three couples graciously offered to host “Summer Faith Discussions” in their homes located in geographical regions more accessible to many Holy Trinity families.

On three consecutive Wednesday evenings in July, the faithful gathered at the homes of Jeanette and Larry Der Hagopian (Warminster, PA), Dn. Albert and Patrice Keshgegian (Newtown Square, PA) and Brian and Joyce Hoyle (Medford, NJ) to talk about their faith. Fr. Hakob led two of the discussions and Dn. Albert led the other—the themes were “Who Am I and What Am I Here For?” and “Understanding the Psalms.” Participants in all the programs reported lively and informative conversations.



Young parent Harry Vartanian who attended one of the evenings with his wife Stephanie commented, “I enjoyed the discussion. The event was great. It was a truly unique experience having a conversation about faith in someone's home. It was also great to discuss God on a weekday outside of Sunday.”

Silva Hovhannessian remarked that “having this type of program will help us grow and learn more about what the Bible tells us” and Dorie Aslanian “loved listening to all our private journeys through the love of God. Let's keep this tradition going. It was truly inspirational.”

Fr. Hakob expressed enthusiasm about spending time with parishioners in an informal setting which encouraged open “faith talk” and is already planning to repeat and expand these home initiatives.



A PASTORAL VISIT OF CONSOLATION IN ARMENIA

By Dn. Garo Garibian

We recently had the opportunity to visit Armenia in June 2016 on the historic occasion of the visitation of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to Armenia. This will be the subject of a future article to the Loosy.

During that week, while we were in Armenia, Der Hakob, Yeretzgin Anna, Cece Garibian and I visited several Armenian families who had lost their sons during the Four Day Azerbaijan- Armenian War on April 1-4, 2016.

Through Der Hayr's contacts we were able to identify four families in the Ashtarak and Artik regions of Armenia where Bishop Mگردitch Proshyan serves as Diocesan Primate, and two families in the Ararat region where our Der Hayr comes from. We visited these families to provide consolation, prayer and appreciation for the sacrifice made by their sons. Some of these homes were located in such deeply rural villages that our cars could barely navigate the roads leading to them.

As a background, the 2016 Armenian–Azerbaijani clashes, referred to as the Four-Day War, began along the Azerbaijan border on April 1, when the Azerbaijan armed forces launched a surprise attack on the Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army and Armenian Armed Forces seeking to regain control of territory controlled by the Armenia-backed Nagorno-Karabakh. The clashes have been defined as "the worst" since the 1994 ceasefire of that region. The US State Department estimated that a total of 350 people - military and civilian - died. Other official sources of the warring parties put those estimates much higher.



As we entered into each of these homes, one sensed an air of profound sadness and loss. In almost every instance there would be a makeshift memorial set up on a table or in a wall cabinet with a picture of the fallen soldier surrounded by memorabilia belonging to the soldier, such as awards, medallions, photos and personal items as a cell phone or wallet. It was sad and eerie.

We would sit down with the grieving families and Der Hayr would start by asking them to tell us the story of the life and death of their sons. Each story was different, but all were sad bringing tears to our eyes.

I will never forget the story of this one mother. She told us how she and her husband tried to conceive a child for 15 years and finally they were blessed with the birth of their only son, Misha.

Nineteen years later, he was on a battlefield, in a tank, during the Four Day War. During an intense battle, he single-handedly destroyed four enemy tanks advancing towards the homeland. As he attempted to destroy a 5th enemy tank, his coordinates were discovered and enemy bombs killed him. She and her husband will never be able to conceive again and when she found out I was a physician, with a voice of desperation, she asked me if I could find her a "medicine" from America to help her conceive another child.

Another story was provided by a grandmother, who raised her grandson from a young age after his parents abandoned him. On the 3rd day of the war, during a violent battle, while firing a shoulder-mounted grenade launcher, the launcher blew up in his face and he died instantly.





The two mothers in our group (Yn. Anna and Cece) noted how the eyes of the mothers looked so empty and lifeless (just look at the faces of the mothers in the photos.) They will never hear the voices of their sons, or touch their faces again. We all remarked that these families would never be able to laugh, sing, or dance again after losing their young sons. Traditionally, these mothers will dress in black for the rest of their lives.

After hearing the stories of the soldiers, with his soft and soothing voice, Der Hayr gave consolation to the families and expressed appreciation of the great sacrifice that their sons gave for the defense of the Armenian homeland. Then, we would stand and pray together. These families were chosen because they were poor and known to be struggling. We left them with money collected by our parish community precisely for this purpose. They were very grateful.

One cannot imagine the emotions that stirred within us when we left these homes. We sat in the car, staring out at the beautiful valleys and mountains of Armenia during long moments of speechless silence, as we drove over 60 miles from one village to another.

We should all pause to give thanks to the sacrifices of those who lost their life in defense of Armenia. These young boys did not ask for war, but they served when they were called.

We should also give thanks to God for the peace we enjoy in this country.



An Amazing Experience

By Brenda Yazujian

I am beyond thankful that I was able to represent the Holy Trinity parish and attend the Diocesan Young Adult Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Jerusalem, this summer. The trip was enlightening, and a once-in-a-life time experience. I was able to tour with thirty other young Armenian adults from parishes throughout our Diocese, and explore all of the holy sites that I had studied growing up in Sunday School at Holy Trinity.

At each holy site, our group conducted a Bible study, reading stories related to the location, which really strengthened my faith. It was amazing to witness how much power the Armenian Church has in the Holy City, and how strong our presence is at each holy site we visited. Throughout the pilgrimage, we were able to conduct Badarak at a few different sites. The most moving service was when Der Hovsep, the leader of our pilgrimage, conducted the Badarak at the Holy Sepulchre, on Christ's Tomb, at 4:00 a.m.

The Armenian Quarter in Old City Jerusalem, was an experience in itself. Prior to the trip, I had no idea how close of a community existed in the Armenian Quarter, and I found it so interesting to visit. On the trip, we had the opportunity to visit the Armenian Quarter a handful of times, but the most memorable time was when we had pizza and played sports with the Armenian children who lived there.

Another great aspect of the trip was the bond that formed among the pilgrims from the other parishes of the Diocese. Experiencing such a spiritual journey with other young Armenian adults created a very unique and deep relationship.

I would like to thank Der Hayr and the Holy Trinity Parish Council for giving me the opportunity to attend and participate in such a memorable and life-changing pilgrimage.



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STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

We are indebted to the following who provide their expertise and services for the benefit of our church:

- Kim Willard for providing his equipment to enable us to print large & larger signage for picnics, bazaars and more
- George Terkanian and Rick Mukalian who are always taking care of the needed repairs in the church – both large and small – all without fanfare or remuneration.
- Gagik Hovhannisian for repairing a standing freezer at church without any charge for labor and materials



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It is a special privilege to have been raised in the Philadelphia Armenian Community and to be able to continue the legacy of our parents and grandparents. Please contact Garibian Law Offices if our firm may be of service to you.

PRACTICE AREAS

Commercial and Corporate Litigation

Business Formation and Contract Analysis

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Insurance Litigation

General Civil Litigation

Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

THE LADIES OF HOLY TRINITY

By Liz Barone

It truly was a long, hot summer. As a positive there was no snow nor ice to prevent us from coming to church. We look forward to a beautiful, crisp fall as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our beloved Holy Trinity and prepare for the annual Fall Harvest Bazaar.

We met this past August when we ventured into the city to visit the newly erected Mormon Temple on the Parkway. The Temple is normally closed to the public. It was open to the public for six weeks before its consecration. We came away with our curiosity satisfied and a deeper appreciation for our church and traditions.

The 9/11 Memorial has been on our radar screen for awhile. We look forward to visiting the site and museum on Saturday, September 24.

Women's health issues in Armenia were discussed in the last article in the Loos. With the approval of our Parish Council, a container will be placed in the narthex for the month of October. We are asking only for pocket change. If we are successful, we will repeat this again in December. The second collection will benefit Vanadzor, the old age home in Armenia. We sincerely hope our parishioners will support these two charity events.

I also wrote about St. John's "Advent by Candlelight" program in the last issue. I was hoping six ladies would approach me with their questions and possibly form a committee. I am very optimistic and hopeful we will be able to introduce this activity the first Wednesday after the Thanksgiving holiday.

With all our positivity, there has been sad news as well. We extend our sincerest sympathies to Joyce Killian and her family on the loss of her husband, Pat, and to Alice Torossian and her family on the loss of her dear mother, Diramayr Hripsime Aivazian, who was an active member of the Women's Guild when she lived in the Philadelphia area. May God bless them with eternal peace.

We close with the hope that those of you who are not regulars will infuse yourselves more deeply into all aspects of our parish life: Sunday worship, faith-based programs and fellowship in all ways. If you do, it will enrich your life immensely.

GENERAL EPISTLES



MEN'S CLUB "200 CLUB"

– Tickets are now available – and almost sold out – for the 2016-2017 season of the 200 Club Raffle. A one-time donation of \$100 will entitle you to eight months of drawings, with five tickets drawn each month. The first drawing will take place in November and the last in June; the prizes in those two months will be \$1000 / \$400 / \$200 / \$200 / \$200. And your chances are better than the lottery! Contact Larry Der Hagopian (215-672-4188) or Mick Paretchan (215-947-4394) if you haven't already purchased your ticket! The Men's Club provides financial support for our church through this endeavor and has been sponsoring two orphaned children through CASP for many years.

200 Club Winners for June 2016:

\$1000 David Hoplamazian #178

\$400 Albert Chapjian #138

\$200 Albert Chapjian #175

\$200 Mark & Linda Potts #086

\$200 Berj & Mary Yeretian #112

ACYOA, Jrs. Update

By Peter Ohnigian

We are approaching the start of another year of ACYOA Juniors fun and fellowship. Back in May, we ended the year with a car wash in the parking lot during the church picnic. The turnout was excellent and we are sure that CASP is very grateful for the proceeds that we donated from the fundraiser.

This October on Columbus Day weekend, Philly ACYOA will be hosting Sports Weekend. More information will be released on it in the coming weeks.

We are always looking for new members to join Holy Trinity's ACYOA Juniors and the start of the year is a great time to join. Any youth ages 13-17 is eligible. Thank you and here's to a great year for the ACYOA Juniors.

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH 2016 FALL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

- October 6, 13, 20 & November 3, 10, 17
- Thursday mornings, 10:00-11:30

Join us for a six-week series on the general epistles of the New Testament (James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude). Written for the first century Church, what do these letters tell us about the lives of the first followers of Christ? What can we learn about them and ourselves? Let's read and explore together as 21st century Christians.

To register, contact nancybasmajian@verizon.net or 215-722-3369 by October 2.

CHURCH SCHOOL BACK IN ACTION

By Patty Alexanian



Get ready for a great Holy Trinity Church School year! Church school officially opened on September 11, 2016, and has a fresh approach to education for our church children. The Christian Education and Language Education programs are joining together again this year to provide both a strong Christian and Armenian Language curriculum.

This year also has new leadership of Christian Education under the direction of Patti Smith as Superintendent and Merle Santerian as Assistant Superintendent. Yn. Anna Gevorgyan is Superintendent of Armenian language and Mariana Majian is Assistant Superintendent. We have a dedicated group of teachers at each grade level and many others who will help in every possible way to make this school year special!

The overarching mission of the Church School, like the worldwide Church, is to preach the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ and to proclaim its message of salvation. We do that by teaching our students all aspects of the faith-tradition of the Armenian Church; this includes Scripture (most especially the life of Christ), worship, sacraments, history, etc. The language program seeks to teach the basics of Armenian and to instill a love of the mother tongue in our students.

A school calendar is available for dates of classes, church feasts or events and other school activities. September classes will focus on the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and Holy Cross of Varak. October classes will learn about the Discovery of the Holy Cross. November classes will mark the First Sunday of Advent. October and November events include a Parish Pancake Breakfast.

As the Holy Trinity Church School begins for the 2016-2017 year, we wish all educators and students an exciting school year of Christian and Armenian Language education.



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www.holytrinity-pa.org

Items for inclusion in the Sunday Messenger or requests for Requiem Services or Special Prayers should be sent to the church office by Wednesday for the upcoming Sunday. For all emergencies, please contact Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan at the church 215-663-1600 (cell 917-213-8658).

CHURCH INFORMATION

Office Telephone: 215-663-1600
Office Fax: 215-663-1757
Pastor: Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan
frhakob@holytrinity-pa.org
Church Secretary: Maggie Miller
office@holytrinity-pa.org

REGULAR SUNDAY HOURS OF WORSHIP

Morning Service: 10:00 AM
Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak): 10:30 AM
Church School: 10:15 AM

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John Hanamirian (Chair)	215-431-0589
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The mission of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church is to preach the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ and to proclaim its message of salvation. This mission is realized through worship, education, witness, service, and a common life in Christ as expressed in the distinctive faith-experience of the Armenian people. All the faithful of the Armenian Church — both clergy and laity — are called to participate fully in this mission.

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