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Holy Trinity Armenian Church



LOOYS



Cheltenham, PA

October to December 2010

... and unto us a Child is born



Please join us this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior!

Hours of Worship

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

Come celebrate with Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

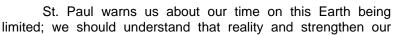
Upcoming Events

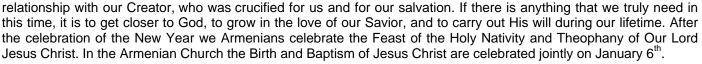
- Wednesday, January 5, 2011 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service
- Thursday, January 6, 2011 10:30 am Christmas Day Badarak
- Sunday, January 9, 2011 10:30 am Blessing of Water Service following Badarak
- Saturday, January 29, 2011 ACYOA Jrs. Day Ski Trip
- Parish Assembly February 6, 2011 (Snow dates February 13 or 20)
- Sunday, April 17, 2011 ACYOA Palm Sunday Banquet
- Bible Study 3rd Tues of every month 10 am

New Year's Eve and The Feast of the Holy Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

New Year's Eve is one of the few days in the year when almost every one of us is thinking about our achievements and adversities. There's something dramatic about watching the old year slip away by counting down the hours, minutes and the seconds when the old year is passing into history, to never come again.

Most of all it is also a good time of reflection, for asking ourselves a question about how we lived our lives last year. Time is one of the most precious gifts from God that we should treasure. This passage from the Gospel will help us to understand the importance of time: "Be very careful, then, how you live not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." Ephesians 5:15 17.



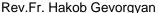


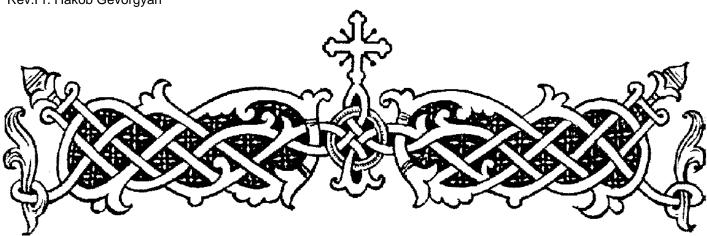
The Feast starts on the evening of January 5th. That night Candlelight Divine Liturgy is celebrated. In the morning of January 6th again Divine Liturgy is celebrated. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, a Blessing of the Water Service is conducted, which symbolizes the Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan. By means of His Baptism Jesus blessed the water. According to tradition people take some blessed water with them to use it as a medicinal remedy for the sick.

The Birth of Jesus Christ is the most beautiful miracle in our life which changed the whole history of mankind. God was incarnated and appeared to the people. The Lord of the universe became a Child and came into the world, in order to bring freedom and peace to our souls.

Today we all need peace. We should always remember that the Birth of Jesus Christ is a result of Gods' love. The only way for us to find happiness and peace is to love our Lord and to love each other.

Dear parishioners Happy New Year and Merry Christmas. I wish you many more successful and fruitful years. My prayers for all of us are that our Lord continues to bless and protect us with His Omnipotent Right Hand. And may Baby Jesus be born anew in our hearts. Amen.







PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

The holiday season is now upon us. Thanksgiving, which starts it all off, has come and gone and for many of us, it was a time to help the less fortunate, gather together with family and friends, sharing a special meal together and giving thanks to our Lord for everything. Now, we are about to enter and prepare for the season of Christmas, a time to celebrate the glorious birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Last but not least, we celebrate the coming of a new year: a time to reflect on the old one and to prepare and make resolutions for the New Year.

We at Holy Trinity have much for which to be thankful. As I reflect on this past year and the work of the Parish Council and parishioners, I can say without hesitation that everyone involved has done their utmost to make the year a success. We have been blessed with our new pastor, Der Hakob, with whom we have a wonderful working relationship and whom the whole parish has embraced as our spiritual leader. We have been blessed with our dear Yeretzgin Anna, who started an Armenian Language School this October in our parish after a long time of being without one. In a short time she has engaged six teachers and twenty students who attend class after Church services and Sunday school, learning language, music and dance, besides taking care of a two-and-a-halfyear-old toddler, adorable Narek. And we are blessed that for the first time in Cheltenham, we as a parish will welcome a new baby as Der Hayr and Yeretzgin await the birth of their second child in February.

We have grown in our parish by some twelve families from Hayastan, all of whom are now attending church because they heard about Der Hayr and have developed a bond with him. Many of them have become Stewards of our church, giving of

their time, talent and money. They helped to make our Picnic and Bazaar, along with the committee's support, a great

success. Welcome! And Thank You! Our Santerian Hall rentals are holding their own despite the economy and a special "Thank You" to John Kash and

Maggie Coyne, our Church Secretary, who do a wonderful job in coordinating and overseeing all the many details that

comprise these rentals.

Success

You can use most any measure When you're speaking of success. You can measure it in fancy home, Expensive car or dress.

But the measure of your real success *Is the one you cannot spend.* It's the way your kids describe you When they're talking to a friend.

(reprinted from "Keepers" by Dear Abby)

Much to our surprise, we were blessed to receive two sizable monetary gifts recently: one from the Estate of George and Mary Ananian and the other from PAND (Philadelphia Armenian Nor Daree) which allowed us to fully pay off our debt of "Dues in Arrears" to our Diocese. Now we can take care of much- needed repairs and maintenance to our church which is ongoing, and give greater assistance to our Sunday School, and youth groups (ACYOA Srs. and Jrs.) and create more new programs for our parish as we forge ahead in our growth in the Lord and for our Parish.

The Parish Council and I want to wish each and every parishioner and friend of Holy Trinity a blessed, happy and healthy Christmas and may God continue "to shine His face upon us" in the years ahead.

Merle Santerian Parish Council Chairman

www.holytrinity-pa.org

ORGANIZATIONS

ACYOA JUNIORS FALL SPORTS WEEKEND A HUGE SUCCESS!!!

The Fall 2010 ACYOA Juniors Sports Weekend held here in Philadelphia this past Columbus Day weekend was a huge success! Together the ACYOA Juniors of St. Sahag & St. Mesrob and the ACYOA Juniors of Holy Trinity hosted the weekend. The theme of the weekend was "City of Hye Love". We had participants from sixteen parishes, which included churches in Massachusetts. Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., and as far away as Chicago and Minnesota. There were a total of 172 ACYOA Juniors participating in the weekend.

We started the weekend off on Friday night at St. Sahag & St. Mesrob with a very hectic night of welcoming our



guests and getting everyone checked in. Some of the parishes hit very bad traffic and did not arrive until after midnight. A brief evening church service was held, and then everyone headed home with their host families for the night.

Bright and early the next morning the sports games began at Competitive Edge Gym, a beautiful sports facility in King Of Prussia, Pennsylvania. We had rented the entire sports facility which allowed us to have a number of events happening at the same time. Throughout the day we had events such as dodge ball, girls' basketball game, boys' basketball, volleyball, tavloo matches, ping pong, chess matches and a fifty yard dash going on. Late that afternoon, everyone proceeded back to their host families where they ate dinner with their families. To end the night, we had an amazing dance at Holy Trinity with a Philadelphia theme. Our hall was decorated with wonderful Philly decorations, and we had cheese steaks, Philly soft pretzels, Tastykakes and Water Ice as refreshments. The Holy Trinity ACYOA Seniors helped set up, chaperone and clean up after the dance.

On Sunday morning, all the participants attended Badarak at St. Sahag and St. Mesrob. After church, we all proceeded back to Competitive Edge Sports Gym for the final championship games of the weekend.

That night we had our awards banquet at St. Sahag and St. Mesrob. We first enjoyed a delicious dinner with an ice



we first enjoyed a delicious dinner with an ice cream sundae bar. Then the trophies were handed out and we watched a great slideshow of the sporting events. The Philadelphia teams did very well, and we won the first place Dodge Ball trophy, the first place Girls' Basketball trophy, the first place Boys' Basketball trophy and the Overall Chapter Champions trophy. After the awards, the dance floor was full as everyone enjoyed both the Armenian and American music.

The weekend ended Monday morning with a breakfast at Holy Trinity. We said goodbye to our old and new friends as they traveled back to their parishes.

On behalf of the Holy Trinity ACYOA Juniors

and the St. Sahag & St. Mesrob ACYOA Juniors we would like to thank everyone who donated their time and effort to help make our Sports Weekend such a success. We would especially like to thank all of our parents and parishioners who hosted our guests, who helped transport our guests to the events during the weekend, who worked in the kitchen and who gave donations to our ad booklet. We are very proud of our how well everyone worked together to make our Sports Weekend such a memorable experience for all of us.

ATTENTION ATTENTION - "HYE SECURITY"

The members of our Holy Trinity's HYE SECURITY did a great job helping out with the ACYOA Jr. Sports Weekend! They were top notch on the spot with coaching, organizing individual sports, serving at the refreshment bar, scooping water ice, helping in the kitchen and keeping the Jrs. well entertained with their enthusiasm and positive energy at the dances. We are all so thankful to have had such a great crew! THANK YOU HOLY TRINITY ACYOA SENIORS



HYE SECURITY MEMBERS:

Greg Andonian, Karine Andonian, Robbie Barone, Erika Hajatian, Marie Hagopian, Tina Hagopian, Krikor Javardjian, Ricky Mukalian, Harout Nalbandian, Mark Santerian, Ana Torcomian, Chris Torcomian

Many thanks to the best "HYE SECURITY" for all your donated time and efforts,

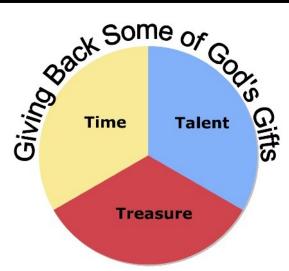
The ACYOA Jr. Sports Weekend Committee and members



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

On Friday, November 19th, we had a wonderful turnout for our first Family Night of the year. The attendees enjoyed a delicious pizza dinner that included salad, dessert and movie style popcorn, which filled the hall with wonderful aromas all night. The kids were entertained while searching for the answers throughout the church to our fun scavenger hunt. Congratulations to Seta and Braxton Pica for getting all 14 questions correct and finishing in the fastest time! The families then gathered in the hall, with their sleeping bags and popcorn, to watch our feature presentation, 'How To Train Your Dragon.' Many thanks to Ara Shakarjian for setting up the AV equipment, Dan Dunigan for manning the very popular popcorn machine, and to Tanya Paretchan, Mariana Majian Montanez and Yn. Anna for their help in making this a fun filled night for all!

Kim Santerian



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ARMENIAN SCHOOL NEWS

Armenian School at Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cheltenham started to operate in the beginning of October 2010. Initiated and directed by Yn. Anna Gevorgyan, who designed the program and organized the whole study process, the school now has six young dedicated volunteer teachers: Yn. Anna Gevorgyan herself, Anna Kartashyan, Marina Vardanyan, Anita Torcomian, Tori Torcomian (dance teacher) Karinne Andonian (music teacher) and two substitute teachers – Anton Balasanyan and Mariana Majian Montanez

The first class took place on Saturday, October 9, but later classes were moved to Sundays to meet the convenience of children's parents. As a result more families could participate and now the school has twenty-one students. The Armenian School has a kindergarten for



3-6 years old, first grade for 7-8 years old, fourth grade 9-12 years old and fifth grade 13-16 years old.

Every Sunday, while the parishioners are enjoying Holy Trinity church's services or having a conversation around a cup of coffee afterwards, their children are taking various classes. During the two hours students enjoy Armenian Church lessons, Armenian language classes, Armenian Music and Armenian dance classes.

During the Armenian language classes children learn both to speak and to read in Armenian. Most of the children started to learn the language from the very beginning. Language classes have a yearly study program, but as the interests and the characteristics of students are different, each of the teachers does her best to work out such a method of teaching that would meet individual preferences of each student and the class as a whole. All of the Armenian language teachers are of Eastern Armenian background but they are always ready to provide the students with information about the compliance and the differences between Western and Eastern Armenian.

During the dance classes children learn to dance Armenian dances by a young and professional instructor. And of course,



they enjoy learning and singing beautiful Armenian songs.

Classes are conducted in a relaxed friendly atmosphere and the students are attending them with pleasure and dedication. They are having breaks after each section, when they can enjoy food or their parents' company. Many of the children have know each other for years because of visiting the same church and being family friends. But the Armenian School atmosphere where they are getting in touch with their mother tongue, culture and rich heritage in a cozy environment brings them closer by sharing the same ideas and values.

Anna Kartashyan

Take time to laugh for it is the music of the soul.

WOMEN'S GUILD UPDATE

Fall flew by so quickly; we wonder where the beautiful days disappeared. Before we hibernate for the winter, we want to bring everyone up to date.

We were saddened by the sudden death of our beloved Barbara Kumkumian and we pray God will bless our sister with eternal peace and rest. Barbara generously contributed her talents to our church and dedicated her energies for all of us at Holy Trinity and the Philadelphia community at large. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her husband Butch, son Nicholas, and sister Carol and their families.

On the first weekend in November, five of our members (Jeanette Der Hagopian, Leslie Movsesian, Tanya Paretchan, Merle Santerian and Angel Tookmanian) traveled to

Washington DC for the annual Women's Guild Symposium. Approximately 100 women attended, representing parishes from nine states of the Eastern Diocese, some from as far as Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin. One day was spent sightseeing some of the magnificent attractions in DC – namely, the National Cathedral, the Capitol, Armenian Embassy, Union Station and ending with a nighttime guided bus tour of the well-known monuments. The second day took place at St. Mary's Armenian Church, the host parish, where inspiring women addressed us on our role as Armenian Christian women and how there were no limits to how we can serve and support our faith, our church and each other. It was a great opportunity to connect with our sisters in Christ throughout our Diocese, and all five attendees agreed that it was





We met on Tuesday, November 9 for our last formal meeting for the year. Sadly, only a third of our membership attended but they reaped the rewards of a night out of the house. We enjoyed fabulous desserts as we chatted about our trips to the Sculpture Garden in New Jersey and to the Symposium in Washington. It was suggested we visit The Barnes this spring before the artwork is transferred to its new home in Philadelphia.

Elections for the new board were conducted. The following ladies were elected to serve next year: Liz Barone, Melani Kodikian Burrows, Lorraine Damerjian, Mariana Majian Montanez, and Melissa Paretchan. Nancy Hovnanian and Yr. Anna Gevorgyan will assist us as our trusted advisors.

The highlight of the evening was Doris Kodikian's talk on Armenian lace. We were fascinated with the history and the intricacy of the art and we marveled at the pieces Doris presented. Many of our members brought their own beautiful pieces to share with us. Doris also supplied us with needle and tread and instructed us to create our own works of art. It was more challenging than we could have ever imagined. Our ancestors were truly amazing artists!

The last event for the year was our annual Christmas Party hosted by Nancy Hovnanian. Our covered dish dinners are usually gourmet events and this one met our highest expectations as usual. We enjoyed our evening together as we celebrated with the spirit of the season. In lieu of presents for each other, we brought gifts for a needy group of children and teenagers in New Jersey.

We hope everyone enjoyed a joyous Christmas holiday and we wish a Happy and Healthy New Year to our Holy Trinity Family.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HARVEST BAZAAR

The 2010 Harvest Bazaar took place on Friday and Saturday, October 22nd and 23rd in Santerian Hall. The festival is our biggest fundraising event of the year. Once again the community came out to support our church while at the same time enjoying fellowship and wonderful food.



On Friday night, an early long food line formed prior to the scheduled start time of 6 p.m. The extra tables that had been set up in the lobby for

overflow were filled early. Committee members were very pleased with the large crowd on Friday night. We held a Halloween parade for the children. We were treated by visits from super heroes, princesses and other adorably scary "trick or treaters."

Saturday brought the challenge of competing with the Philadelphia Phillies playoff game. Despite the conflict, we still had very good attendance. The crowd was pleased when it was announced that the game would be shown on our church big-screen projection TV system. Much to the Committee's delight, we sold out of almost all of the food.

In addition to our traditional Armenian harvest meal, our Country Store, Bake Shoppe, Holy Trinity "Pub," Attic Treasures, and Chinese Auction were open for business. This year we also included booths offering jewelry, art work and candy (provided by the ACYOA). In the lobby we had an impressive display of Benjamin Franklin artifacts.

At the end of each night, our Chinese Auction drawing was held, with over 20 generous gifts per night. As always, the drawings were the highlight of each evening with visitors waiting in anticipation as some of our Sunday School students picked the winning tickets. A special "thank-you" goes to all the gift donors for their generosity including those who donated toward the tremendous basket of cheer raffle.

The Committee would also like to thank all of those that gave of their time before, during and after the festival. There are too many to name personally but the Committee wants you to know that it was a pleasure working with all of you and that you made their jobs much easier.

-- The Harvest Festival Committee

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FALLEN ASLEEP IN CHRIST

...May God rest their souls in peace. We pray their families receive the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

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Larry and Jeanette Der Hagopian John, Alice and Albert DerPilbosian

Melissa DerPilbosian

Rose and Philip DerPilbosian Samuel Devediian John and Joanne Eidaharian George and Ana Endrigian Helen (Terzian) Gallagher Garo Garibian Alvce Hovsepian Gordan Sooren and Ada Goushian Roupen and Marge Gureghian Victoria O. Gureghian Martin Gutchigian Peggy Gutchigian Haig, Gay, Tina & Marie Hagopian Michael and Lynn Hajatian Mike and Penny Hajatian Mr. and Mrs. Ohannes Hashas Nancy and Steve Hovnanian Peter and Theresa Hovnanian Anna Hovsepian Mary and Pearl Jamgochian Gregory and Maria Javardian Fred and Janet Jordan John and Adrienne Juskalian Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kalafian George and Mary Kangian Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kapeghian Elizabeth Kapeghian Alice Karabian John Kash Richard Kazigian Nazareth Keshshian Raffi and Diane Khatchikian Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Killian Virginia Kouyoumijan Aram and Barbara Kumkumian Barbara Levv John and Susan Lillis Al and Rose Lousinian Krikor Mahserejian Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mardigian George and Lora (Tourigian) Maul Lucille and Grant Mazmanian Kathleen Metzger Roger and Anne Mgrdichian Gary and Carol Jerrahian Miller Rose Minassian Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mirijanian Helen Mirijanian and Family Albert and Esther Momiian Veronica Monokian Linda Montemayor Barbara Moran Richard and Gay Mukalian Rick and Naomi Mukalian & Family Mr. and Mrs. Ronald D. Mukalian Berjoohy Murray Mr. and Mrs. David Murray & Mr. and Mrs. Michael Murray Mr. Richard Nalbandian Sarkis and Sonia Nalbandian Mr. and Mrs. George Nazarethian Barbara Papazian Don and Judy Paretchan Mary Paretchan Mary Parnagian Harry and Harriet Philibosian

Anna Polizzi

Roxie and Roman Radynsky

Kevin and Susan Ryan Mr. and Mrs. Albert Santerian Alex and Melanie Santerian & Family Merle Santerian Valerie and Harry Santerian Donna Sarkisian Harry Sarkisian Mary and Robert Sarkisian Jean and Alice Sarkissian Mr. and Mrs. Ara Shakarjian Victoria Shakarjian Mickey Sherian Sam and Margo Silk Richard and Sara Stepanian Russ and Maggie Tandourjian Catherine Tashsian Carol and Robert Temoyan George and Jean Terhanian Nicklas and Amy Terkanian Jake and Gina Terkanian Michael Terkanian Susan Terkhanian Edward Terzian and Ethel Terzian Mr. and Mrs. John Terzian Michael and Angel Tookmanian Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Torcomian Mr. and Mrs. Karnig Torossian Tina Trantas Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Verlin Jack and Helen Vishab Richard and Linda Vishab Gregory and Cookie Vosbikian Carol and John Wagner (Mardigian) Richard and Evelyn Weinsheimer Kim and Gena Willard Greg, Diane, Michael & Brenda Yazujian Berj and Mary Yeretzian Berj and Michele Yeretzian Alice Zarzatian

BARBARA KUMKUMIAN

Gale Zorian and Esther Zorzopian

TOTAL: \$4,782.50

Rosemary Zarzatian

Faculty & Staff of the Armenian Sisters Academy Joan and Victor Adgalane Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ajemian Mr. and Mrs. Alex Alexanian Ms. Almas Altoonian Eileen Carr and Gary Altoonian Anonymous Mr. and Mrs. Harry Andonian Mr. and Mrs. George Arslanian Mr. John Arslanian Bill. Armine and Julie Arthin Mr. and Mrs. Armen Arutunian Mr and Mrs. Martin Attarian Melena Ayjian Michael and Celeste Ayjian Marie and Migirdich Azadin The Baboujian Family John Bahian Jim and Helena Barikian Robert, Elizabeth, Robin, and Rob Barone Armena Bartow

Nancy and Gloria Basmajian Steven Barsamian Susan Alemain Bentley Pete, Robin, Laura and Greg Bilazarian Diana and Garen Boghosian Paul Bogosian Nick and Amber Bokas Steve N. Bokas Sandra Bollinger Nina Bonderow Ara and Suzanne Bouloutian Florence Boyajian David and Marta Brann Mr. and Mrs. J. Brennan Edward and Marian Buchakjian Stephanie Cacciavillano Susan and Russell Cannon Ayshe Chakmaklian John Chalikian Mr. and Mrs. Albert Chapjian Alice Charles Sophia Chitjian Eric R. Cohen Florence Cantino Mary Ayjian Cole Terry Craboyes William and Mary Ann Curtis Robert and Lorraine Damerijan Robert and Melody Damerijan Jr. Mrs. Pauline M. Davis Mr. and Mrs. Gary Der Hagopian and Family Jake and Cissy Der Hagopian Larry Der Hagopian Larry and Jeanette Der Hagopian DerPilbosian Family Melissa DerPilbosian Alice DeRose Helen Dervishian Ken Gureghian and Madeline Dirasian Harry A. and Alice Dorian Richard and Diane Doudoukijan Randi Dunn Jacqueline and Faouzi Elchemmas Sirvart Alice Endrigian George and Ana Endrigian Rose Garabedian Antranig and Sabrina Garibian Garo Garibian and Cece DeRentz Rose Garibian and Edward Munoz Diane Glendon Ronald and Ani Gooshian Martin Gutchigian Mr. and Mrs. George Gutchigian Robert S. Guveyian Jr. Helen Guveyian Haig, Gay, Tina & Marie Hagopian Sonia Hagopian Michael and Lynn Hajatian & Family Mike and Penny Hajatian Jeffrey and Shirley Hajatian Shirley Hajinian Cindy Hamrick Anna Hanamirian Bonnie Hermann Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hoplamazian Nancy and Steve Hovnanian

Peter and Theresa Hovnanian

Lynn Gaylord-Hudson Mary and Pearl Jamgochian Kim Jehanian Mr. and Mrs. Raffi Jehanian Ralph and Rose Jehanian Richard and Christine Jeryan Marsha and Harry Johnson Fred and Janet Jordan Mardie Juskalian Adrienne Kachadourian Setrak Kaloian Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kapeghian Elizabeth Kapeghian Bruce Kaplan Alice Karabian John Kash Maryann Karagelian Asdghig Kazanjian Michael B. Kazanjian Richard and Helen Kazigian Roger P. Kent James and Margaret Kesdekian Grace Keshgegian Marge Keshgegian Margaret Sakalian, Rose Ketchoyan & David Ketchoyan Mr. and Mrs. Russell Kilidjian Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Killian Dennis and Kayane Knudson Mary Lou Kolowitz Virginia Kouyoumjian Henry Kowaleski Nancy and Ernest Krepelka Aram Kumkumian and Family John and Kathleen Kumkumian Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kurkjian Joe Kutys John and Susan Lillis Al and Rose Lousinian Krikor Mahserejian Christine Vraim and Ellen Matsios Berdj and Elizabeth Mazmanian Dave and Terri Mears Papken and Anahid Megerian Virginia Melkonian Siranush Melkonyan Diane Mesropian John and Virginia Meterissian Diana and William McGarvey Jerry and Lu Mikaelian Gary and Carol Jerrahian Miller Rose Minassian Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mirijanian Jan Mirijanian Helen Mirijanian and Family Dorothy Mooradian & Harry Mooradian Veronica Monokian Paul and Leslie Movsesian Richard and Gay Mukalian Rick and Naomi Mukalian & Family Mr. and Mrs. Karnig Mukalian Berjoohy Murray and Family Mr. Richard Nalbandian Mr. and Mrs. George Nazarethian Marsha L. Neary Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Nigon

Michael J. O'Brien

Alice Ohanessian

Grace Ohnigian Grace Pakhtigan Ann Papazian and Glenn Papazian Gary and Sonia Papazian & Family Don and Judy Paretchan Mr. and Mrs. Robert Paretchan & Julie Paretchan Mary Parnagian George and Linda Paroonagian Ernest and Chris Sadjian Peacock The Peckjian Family Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Pogharian Anna Polizzi Linda Preske Ani Proodian Roxie and Roman Radynsky Deborah B. Rosan Gloria Sabater Albert and Linda Santerian Mr. and Mrs. Mark Santerian Alex and Melanie Santerian & Family Alyssa Santerian Donna Sarkisian Harry Sarkisian Mary and Robert Sarkisian Jon and Lori Sarkisian Andrea and Robert Schneiderman John and Rose Semerjian Parsegh & Adrienne Seropian & Family Kim and Arman Shahikian Lou and Colleen Shahinin Mr. and Mrs. Ara Shakarjian Diran and Zevart Shakarjian Rich and Alice Shakarjian Mickey Sherian Sam and Margo Silk Barbara Singleton Roxie Sudjian Harry and Grace Surabian Lucille and Jack Tashiian Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tefankijan Carol and Robert Temovan George and Anne Terkanian Nicklas and Amy Terkanian Jake and Gina Terkanian Michael Terkanian Edward Terzian and Ethel Terzian Mr. and Mrs. John Terzian John and Jill Thomas Michael and Angel Tookmanian Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Torcomian Ms. Veronica Torcomian Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vartanian Jack and Helen Vishab Richard and Linda Vishab Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Vosbikian Gregory and Cookie Vosbikian Mr. and Mrs. Mike Vosbikian Sam and Diana Vosbikian Michael and Linda Vosbikian Steve, Linda, Nina, Steve & Nyieri Vosbikian Peter and Linda Vosbikian Tammy Vosbikian Diane Arteerounian Walker Jim and Donna Walter

The Ohnigians

Richard and Evelyn Weinsheimer Kim and Gena Willard John and Lauren Yacina Alex and Laura Yavru-Sakuk Gregory and Diane Yazujian Greta Yegyan Berj and Mary Yeretzian Berj and Michele Yeretzian Rosemary Zarzatian The Zerounian Family TOTAL: \$10,171.00

OTHER DONATIONS

In Memory of Edward Kurkian
Edward Terzian and Ethel Terzian

In Memory of Vahan Boyajian Alice Ohanessian

In Memory of Jacqueline Andonian
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Berberian
Florence Dandegian
Alice Karabian

In Memory of Arthur Aznavuryan Lolita Babikian

In Memory of Frances McIntyre
Robert and Carol Temoyan

<u>Sunday School in Memory of Berjoohy</u> <u>Haigazian</u>

Dr. and Mrs. Albert Keshgegian

Deacon's Fund in Memory of Berjoohy
Haigazian

Garo Garibian

Deacon's Fund in Memory of Barbara Kumkumian Garo Garibian

Mass Cards

Harry Baltaeff by Mary and Pearl Jamgochian Dorothy McCallion by Mary and

Pearl Jamgochian

Charlene Marcarian by Mary and Pearl Jamgochian

Florence Bistritz by Mary and Pearl Jamgochian

Albert Soltanian by Mary and Pearl Jamgochian

<u>In Memory of Joseph Dedeian</u> Edward Terzian and Ethel Terzian

In Memory of Gary Lulejian Fr. Arten and Mary Ashjian

In Honor of Ohannes Hashas 85th Birthday

Albert and Esther Momjian

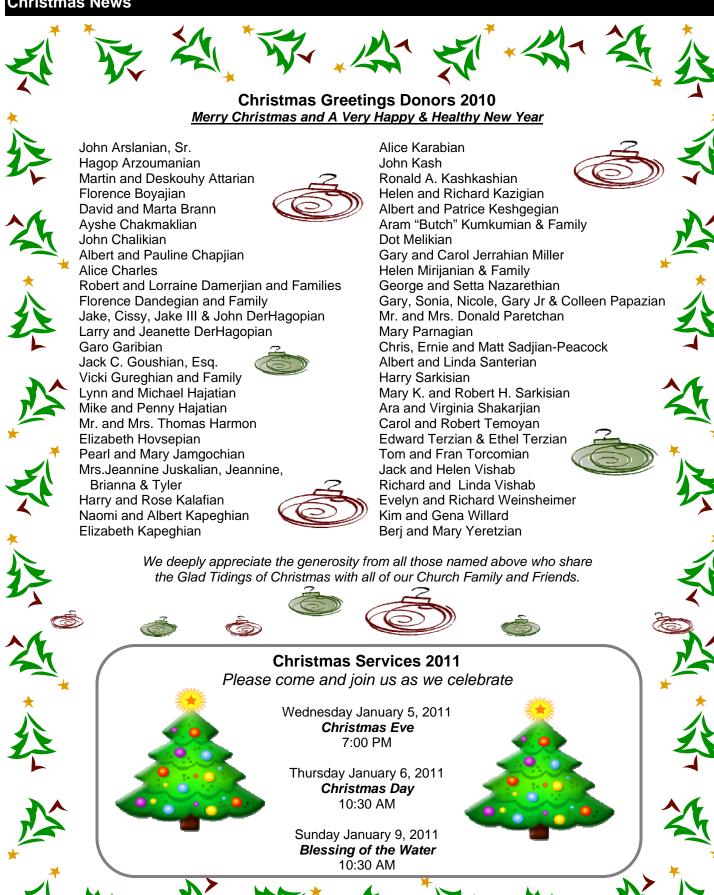
Aid for Friends

Bob and Carol Temoyan

LOOYS Donation Edward Terzian

Choir Donation
Edward Terzian

Sunday School Donation Edward Terzian



NEWS and NOTES

In Memorium: BARBARA JERRAHIAN KUMKUMIAN

Barbara Kumkumian died quietly in her sleep on Tuesday morning, October 5, 2010. She was born on December 9, 1949 in West Philadelphia to Nazeli and Robert Armen Jerrahian and was doted on by grandparents Dickran and Parantzem (Beloyan) Jazvejian and Samuel and Clara (Levonian) Jerrahian.

She was a tour de force from day one - screaming through most of her first year! It was apparent from an early age that she was an extremely intelligent child who loved learning and she maintained that love throughout her life. She was a dedicated and determined student who graduated from Upper Darby High School with honors and earned three scholarships enabling her to attend Elmira College in New York. She spent her junior year abroad at the University of Madrid. Barbara had the time of her life in Spain; meeting new people, visiting museums, seeing the Alhambra, traveling the country and becoming immersed in Spanish culture. Our dear Uncle John Jervan met her in Madrid and took her to Greece, Beirut, Istanbul and Cairo to meet family and friends. These experiences reinforced her love of adventure and travel and were dreams come true!

Barbara and I were extremely close - more than just sisters. I looked up to her, learned from her, enjoyed her and most importantly, laughed with her! She was an exceedingly generous sister who always encouraged me. I am who I am today because Barbara was my sister and because we had such wonderful parents who taught us to love and support

one another. The joy of her life was her son Nicholas who was born on July 6, 1979. She adored him from day one! He gave her a few gray hairs with broken collar bones, escapades at Camp Vartan

Barbara was very proud when he became a United States Marine Corps Honor Graduate. She cherished each and every

and Sports Weekends, but she loved that he was one of Hayr Soorp's boys!

minute she spent with her Nicky and loved exposing him to the arts when he was young. When Nick met and married his beautiful Amber she couldn't have been happier. Amber is a wonderful addition to our family and Barbara loved her dearly. When Baby Boy Bokas is born

she'll be smiling down on him from above.

The love of Barbara's life was her Anoush Aram. They met on a blind date in July of 1986 and married on February 10, 1991. Bob and Naz weren't around for their wedding, but they did know and love Butch and approved her choice. Two beautiful daughters came with her marriage to Butch and Nicky was happy to have April and Tara as older sisters to spoil him.

She and Butch traveled extensively; attending parts of the country and enjoying many trips retirement, she fulfilled her lifelong dream which Butch savored their time together in Brigantine; she

dear friends on the island, there was always lots of laughter and fun.

weddings throughout the world. Upon was to spend a month in Spain. Barb and with her books and he on his boat. And with so many

Barbara's dear Butchig was always there for her. She'd drag him to the ballet, concerts, theatre, flower shows, museums, and volunteer him for countless events. He did it all with love and never complained because he loved his Barbie. "Barbie loves Butchig and Butchig loves Barbie" were their constant terms of endearment for each other.

A serious side of Sissy was her career. She started with the Department of Public Welfare in 1972 as a caseworker utilizing her Spanish to help those in need. Thirty-three years later she retired as the District Administrator for Chester County: the second largest welfare office in the state of Pennsylvania.

Barbara's retirement lasted exactly three months in the summer of 2005. She realized she had a lot more to contribute and she offered her time and talents to many organizations. Barbara was a court appointed legal guardian for elderly people who needed an advocate. She protected their interests and befriended these poor souls. She loved helping out at Armenian Delight, volunteering at the Philadelphia Flower Show, working at the Havertown Free Library, and teaching Spanish at the Armenian Sisters Academy. Her favorite pastimes included gardening, knitting, reading, playing cards, attending films and she enjoyed each of these activities with great enthusiasm. She did everything with passion. This is who she was.

Another serious side to Barbara was her deeply personal faith. She was raised in Armenian Martyrs Congregation Church, but joined Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church when she met Butch. She was embraced by the Holy Trinity family and became very active in parish life serving as Sunday School Teacher, Diocesan Delegate, Women's Guild Officer, theater trip organizer, and kitchen worker. Barb helped to establish, organize and man the Attic Treasures table at the church's annual Harvest Bazaar and had great fun doing so year after year. She was a catalyst for the creation of the Diocesan Camp at the Ararat Center and was "Aunt Barbara" to a generation of Holy Trinity children.

Barbara loved accessories – among them her fabulous high heels, pocketbooks, belts, scarves, earrings, pins and bracelets and always looked stunningly beautiful! Her exquisite home reflected her unique and dramatic style.

We can all picture Barbara enjoying a rum and coke at a party, talking and laughing her wonderful laugh and dancing the night away! She never lost her sense of adventure and the sheer joy of living and had no regrets. She loved her family and friends and was forever loyal, positive, feisty and spirited.

Words cannot convey how much we will miss our beautiful Barbara. She was truly blessed to have been loved so much by her devoted husband Butch, loving son Nicholas, forever caring sister, dear daughter April, precious daughter-in-law Amber and her legion of friends.

May God rest her soul and grant peace and comfort to her family and friends.

Carol Jerrahian Miller

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Dear Der Hayr and Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and support during my Aunt Berjoohy's illness. I especially want to thank Der Hayr, Merle, Albert and Naomi for all their help and support during this difficult time. It is through times like these that we realize how much we need our faith, love of God, family and friends. I am truly thankful I had all of the above. Again, thank you all for being there for me.

Love Berjoohy

Dear Parishioners.

On Friday October 8, 2010, Virginia and I were at the funeral of Barbara Kumkumian. Just as the service was ending I became ill. With the grace of God and all of the parishioners that were there, I was whisked out of the Church and that action woke me up. Bless Dr. Garo Garibian and his insistence that I go to the hospital to determine the cause of this event. As I was lying down on the Church Narthex floor waiting for the ambulance, I was filled with a loving strength seeing all of the members of my family and friends there for me at that moment. My brother Diran and Zevart, my sister-in-law, bless them, were with me at the hospital and stayed until they knew that I was stable and recovering. I also want to thank Rev Fr. Hakob and Dr. Garo who reassured everyone that I was all right.



Virginia and I want to express our gratitude to all of you who called to find out how I was. Der Hayr, thank you for visiting me at home and giving me your personal blessing. I could go on and on, but I will just say that it's nice to know that so many of you were concerned. I will never forget the strength that all of you gave me at a time that I needed it. Virginia and I thank you.

Blessings to all of you, Ara Shakarjian



Dear Der Hakob and Holy Trinity Family,

Thank you for your many kindnesses to Barbara during her illness. She especially appreciated receiving communion while in the hospital. Your cards, calls, gifts, meals and visits meant the world to her; as well as to us.

Barbara loved the liturgy, the beautiful sharagans, and her parish family and she served the church with heartfelt joy. Your love, support and prayers helped sustain us and we are all very grateful.

With sincere thanks and love,

The Kumkumian, Bokas and Jerrahian Miller Families

About our Family.....

Another profound loss struck our community with the passing of Barbara Kumkumian in early October. Barbara was active in many areas of our church and her lively and outgoing personality was infectious. Her loss is immeasurable to us personally as well as to our church family and she will be remembered always. Our deepest sympathies are extended to her dearest husband Aram (Butch), son Nicholas, sister Carol Miller and their families.....On Halloween Ankine Kapeghian became the wife of Richard Carlin followed by a Halloween-themed party in the evening. Ankine is daughter of Elizabeth Kapeghian and the late George Kapeghian. We congratulate the newlyweds and their families.....And another



wedding – same family – Alyssa Kozak became the bride of Philip Worrell on a perfect November day. Congrats to the happy couple and also Barbara & Tom Harmon and Albert and Naomi Kapeghian (parents and grandparents of the bride)....Our church family will be enlarged by at least one in February of 2011. Our dear Der Hakob and Yn. Anna are expecting their second child and Narek will become a big brother!....Get well wishes to Chris Peacock (whose beautiful voice we have missed in the choir) as she recuperates from knee replacement surgery.....Also on the mend is Pat Killian who is recovering from shoulder surgery. Antzadz ullah!...And finally, we send love and best wishes to Garo Garibian and Cecelia (Cece) DeRantz on their Thanksgiving engagement. A wedding is planned in Armenia next August. Our church family continues to expand!.....The merriest of Christmases to all of you and continued blessings in the New Year.

BAPTISMS

October 17, 2010: ASHOT AVAKYAN (Adult)

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Boris Avakyan

Godfather: Boris Avakyan Godmother: Ella Avakyan

October 17, 2010: NARINA PETROSYAN (Adult)

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hovik Petrosyan

Godfather: Boris Avakyan Godmother: Karina Petrosyan

October 17,2010: ARMEN SARKISYAN

Son of Larisa Sarkisyan Godfather: Ashot Avakyan Godmother: Narina Petrosyan

October 24, 2010: LUCAS ARAM TERKANIAN

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicklas Terkanian

Godfather: Jakob Terkanian Godmother: Jennifer Paretchan

November 14, 2010: ZACHARY CHRISTOPHER HAJINIAN

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hajinian Godfather: Nazareth Gregory Hajinian

November 21, 2010: NICHOLAS EDWARD SAKOIAN

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Igor Sakoian Godfather: Joseph Michael Mardino Godmother: Svetlana O'Donnell



ROSE KARAKASHIAN entered into her eternal rest on July 28, 2010. Funeral services were held on August 2, 2010 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

BERJOOHY HAIGAZIAN entered into her eternal rest on August 26, 2010. Funeral services were held on August 31, 2010 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

<u>SARAH TERKHANIAN</u> entered into her eternal rest on August 26, 2010. Funeral services were held on September 1, 2010 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

BARBARA KUMKUMIAN entered into her eternal rest on October 5, 2010. Funeral services were held on October 8, 2010 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

<u>LILYA SHAHINYAN</u> entered into her eternal rest on November 10, 2010. Funeral services were held on November 12, 2010 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

EMMA NAZAROVA entered into her eternal rest on December 11, 2010. Funeral services were held on December 14, 2010 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.



Thank You: To Robert Damerjian, Senior and Junior, for providing the funds for the ceramic floor tile behind the bar and some of the sink fixtures.

Change of Address

George and Margaret Nazarethian 4307 Sagemore Drive, Marlton, NJ 08053 856-596-1599



Congratulations Susan!

Dr. Susan Antaramian, daughter of Grant and Kathryn Antaramian of Glen Allen, Virginia and granddaughter of the late Charles and Naomi Antaramian graduated in August from the University of South Carolina with a Doctor of Psychology degree in school psychology. Susan also won the Graduate School's award for her dissertation in the Social Science category. In addition, her dissertation in manuscript form has already been accepted for publication in an upcoming special edition of the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry. Susan has accepted a position at the Christopher Newport University of Newport News, VA in teaching. She currently resides in Virginia Beach.

Operation Christmas Child of Samaritan's Purse

We asked and you responded. We received a total of 85 shoeboxes which means that so many of you care to help underprivileged children the world over. I think we are also impacted by knowing that our homeland Armenia is also a recipient of many of these boxes. In 2009 over 100,000 boxes were delivered there for distribution. Since the inception of this outreach in 1993, over 70 million shoeboxes have been delivered to more than 130 countries.

Just to give you some history about this outreach since we began, I thought you would enjoy seeing our progress (and decline) to date. In our first year - 2005, we collected 80 shoeboxes; 87 in 2006; 65 in 2007; 54 in 2008; 50 in 2009 and back up to 85 this year.

Thank you for responding to our call. I'm still hoping to break the 100 mark and next year, if everyone can influence just one new person to fill a shoebox, then we will most definitely reach our goal.

Jeanette Der Hagopian

Renovation of Church in the Village of Chochkan, Armenia

In July 2007, during my first visit to Armenia, I visited the village of Chochkan in the Lori Province of Armenia. General Count Michael Tarielovich Loris-Melikoff (1825-1888) Russian-Armenian General and liberal statesman is the subject of my 1970 NYU Master's Thesis and his mother Catherine had constructed the Chapel of the Holy Mother of God (Soorp Asdvadsadzin) in this village in 1886. I asked our guide to take us to the village because of this fact and I found there a fine stone structure which had been used as a barn during recent times. I determined to raise the necessary funds to restore the Chapel for Christian worship. When I returned home, I met Der Hakob Gevorgyan who was interning at our Church and with his valuable assistance we contacted the Bishop of Gugark Sepuh Chuljyan in whose jurisdiction the Chapel lay. His office submitted detailed estimates of the costs of the necessary restoration which amounted to \$30,000. I prepared a brochure which described in text and photographs the Chapel and its history, as well as the estimates submitted by the Bishop's engineer. I solicited funds from many sources. A \$10,000 donation was made by Robert W. Truland of Maryland, an old friend of mine with whom I had not been in contact with for more than 25 years; \$2.00 came from my barber; \$11,000 from Anna Kazanchyan and her husband Vrej Markarian; \$100 was given by the Episcopal





Church in Southbury, Connecticut; and \$300 from a Greek friend and her family. Donations came from additional friends and other members of our Parish. I offered for sale from my extensive personal library, books on Armenian history and art in order to gather additional funds .Work began at the Chapel in June and on September 21, 2010 (Armenian Independence Day). Der Hakob and his family and I attended the Cross-Raising ceremony at the Chapel. On November 7th I was proud to be present at the re-consecration rites led by Bishop Chuljyan with the participation of Der Asbet, Abbot of Haghpat, Ter Vigen of Akhtala and the choir of children from the Haghpat Monastery; and Divine Liturgy was celebrated and Holy Communion offered at the Chapel for the first time in 90 years. May God bless those who made this possible!!!!

George Omartian

Bible Study

In the New Year, we will be continuing in the Book of Mark every third Tuesday of the month. The next session will be on January 18, 2011 beginning at 10 am. Each class will last approximately one hour. For any questions, please call the church office.

The St. Nersess Experience

Each summer, St. Nersess Armenian Seminary opens its doors to students from around the country and world for summer conferences. It has always been an enlightening, fun, social and spiritual experience for us. The conferences run for approximately eight to ten days. It begins with about thirty students, many who do not know each other. As the week progresses and we spend time with each other during activities and free time, bonds of friendship begin to form. We shared a common bond of heritage and were able to relate our life experiences and feelings about our faith with a variety of Armenian clergymen. We attended church as a large group at St. Stepanos in Elberon, N.J. and St. Gregory in White Plains N.Y. After students sang on the altar, in the choir, and the

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pews. The groups were treated to the wonderful hospitality that only an Armenian Church can provide to their youth! The two Armenian assisted-living facilities in New Jersey and New York were visited as part of our outreach to the elderly community. On the last day of the conferences, the students attending were now one very big happy family! All were touched by the closeness of the experiences and all that we shared together.

We greatly appreciated the generous sponsorship from the Parish Council, for attending the St. Nersess conferences. We have made many new friends and enjoyed the company of those we had not seen in a year! Thanks very much!!!

Sincerely, Ani and Alise Peckjian

Supreme Spiritual Council Meets at Holy Etchmiadzin, St. James Brotherhood Convenes in Jerusalem

The Supreme Spiritual Council met at Holy Etchmiadzin from November 13 to 14, under the presidency of His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, co-chaired the meeting with Archbishop Norvan Zakarian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of France.

Participants received updates from the worldwide dioceses of the Armenian Church, discussed inter-church relations, and heard a report on the joint Canonical Committee of the Catholicate of All Armenians and the Catholicate of the Great House of Cilicia.

At the conclusion of the Supreme Spiritual Council meeting, Archbishop Barsamian traveled to the Holy Land for the 19th session of the General Assembly of the Brotherhood of St. James.

The meeting was convened at the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, from November 15 to 18, with His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Patriarch, presiding.

Archbishop Barsamian was elected as co-chairman of the General Assembly. 28 members of the Brotherhood participated, and discussed issues concerning education, real estate, finances, the dominical sites, and other matters.

During the meeting, the Patriarch presented a memorandum to the officers expressing his wish that, in consideration of his health and the monastery's future, the General Assembly of the Brotherhood consider electing a co-adjutor Patriarch. To that end Patriarch Torkom asked that articles fulfilling the stipulations of the Bylaws be prepared, and advised that Archbishop Barsamian chair the Bylaws Committee.



It is the wish of His Beatitude that these articles can be brought for approval in the spring of 2011.

l Do's . . .



Phillip and Alyssa Worrell Married November 13, 2010



Gregory and Karinne' Andonian Married August 28, 2010

Der Hakob officiated at the marriage of each of these couples. We wish them a long and joyful life and look forward to their actively joining our church family.



Ralph Arpajian and Nane' Hovsepian Arpajian Married November 26, 2010



Toros Torcomian and Anita Jayawant Married June 12, 2010

Member Wedding Anniversaries

Richard & Rose Carlucci 1/10/1954 Michael & Tanya Paretchan 1/15/1972 Tom & Barbara Harmon 1/21/2006 Richard & Helen Kazigian 1/25/1953 Gary & Susan DerHagopian 1/31/1981

Alex & Annabelle Alexanian 2/4/ Philip & Marie Kazanjian 2/6/1955 Berdi & Adrienne Movsesian 2/10/1963 Armen & Doris Alahverde 2/15/1958 Harry & Alice Andonian 2/24/1951 Robert & Tara Zane 2/26/2000

March

Gary & Carol Jerrahian Miller 3/23/2004

Member Birthdays

January

May Arzoumanian - 1 Drew Doudoukjian - 4 Serge Minassian - 4

Andrea Minassian - 5 Mark Santerian - 5

Alec Edward Yeretzian - 5 Laura Temoyan - 6

Nicole Santerian - 7

Alexander Arzoumanian - 8

Naomi Mukalian - 8 Helen Vishab - 8

Berj Yeretzian, Sr - 7 Diane Williames - 8 Lori Sarkisian - 9

Rose Carlucci - 13 Fred Jordan - 13

Sona Nalbandian - 13 Robert Temovan - 14

Arax Gargan - 16 Victoria Gureghian - 16

Larry Grocott - 17 Amy Terkanian - 17 Lillian Ambarian - 18

Dylan Santerian - 18 Halle Santerian – 18

Luceen Attarian - 21

Albert Chapjian - 21 Ella Hanamirian - 22

Nareg Kaprielian - 22 Albert Keshgegian - 22 Evelyn Weinsheimer - 22

John Williames - 22

Daniel Aslanian - 23 Arpine Lulejian - 23 Betty Hovsepian - 24

Hagop Arzoumanian - 25 Sarkis Nalbandian - 25

Sophia Carnevale - 26 Gay Hagopian - 29

John Hanamirian - 30

Pauline Dedeian - 31

February

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A Meditation on the Church

by Dn. Albert Keshgegian

For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God. 2 Cor. 6:16b-7:1

Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5

What is the Church? We usually think of the church as the building. We call it God's home. And when you walk into a church building, if you take a look around, there is no doubt about it, it feels different from other buildings. You can feel the holiness there. It might resemble an auditorium or a theater. It has a stage, an elevated area in the front, it has a curtain, and it has seating for a lot of people. But yet it's different. The altar is there, very prominent, in the front. There are crosses all around. There are beautiful stained-glass windows that have religious themes. You can tell that it's different, that it's set apart from other buildings, that it's the house of God.

But in thinking about the Church, we have to realize that there is something even more important than the building. And that is the people. Most of us are familiar with the Armenian word for church, *yegeghetsi*. This word comes from the Greek word *ecclesia*, which literally means "calling forth". And the word *ecclesia* refers to the congregation, the people. We get English words like ecclesiastical from that Greek word.

When we think about what Jesus left behind, we realize that he didn't leave behind a single building. But he did leave behind people to carry on his work. So the people are the Church, not the building, even though that's what we usually think of and celebrate the consecration of. The Holy Trinity parish, meaning the group of people, existed well before our current church building and even when we had <u>no</u> church building after the fire at Susquehanna and Marshall.

So if the Church is the people, we may ask if we the people are set apart also, just the way the church building is. In the second letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul writes that our bodies are the temple of the living God. God lives with us and walks among us. This means that, like the church building, we also are where God lives and we need to separate ourselves from all that is sinful. Everybody has their own way that they sin. You can think for a moment about the ways in which you sin the most often. St. Paul encourages us to turn away from the impurities in ourselves, and to purify ourselves as we turn toward God. And God invites us to purify ourselves and to become his people. When we do this God welcomes us, he becomes a father to us, and he promises that we will be his children forever.

There is another way that we are like the church building. If you look at the building closely, you can see that it is built out of stone or brick and pieces of wood. But all these bricks and pieces of wood are not all the same. Some of the parts of the building make up the walls that give height and stability to the structure. Other pieces outline the spaces for windows, so that light can come in. Still other parts form an opening for the doors, so that we can enter the church and pray. Every stone or brick or piece of wood has a purpose, and if any one of them were to be taken away, the building would become much less stable and could even collapse.

St. Peter, in his first epistle, talks about Christ as the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him. St. Peter says that we also, are like living stones, being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Christ. What this means is that we, as the living stones of the church, are each also of great value, just like every brick or stone in the physical church building. Each of us contributes in our own way to the stability and the vitality of the body of Christ that we call the Church. We can look at the example of parish life. Some people have physical abilities. They can construct or repair or maintain the church building. Other people have organizational talents; they can bring church members together to get a job done. Some people inspire others to come to church, maybe for the first time, and to join the community of God. Other people use their artistic abilities to decorate the church with beautiful paintings or to give the congregation goose bumps when they sing a solo during the Badarak. Everyone has their own special talent, their own way of fitting in among the other living stones that makes the Church stronger, fuller, and more complete.

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Now When I Think of Armenia

...I think about the next pages of our history.

Noushig Hovhannesian

I had been looking forward to the day when I would have the opportunity to visit Armenia for the first time. For so long, I wanted to understand the connection I have had to my homeland. Before, when I would think about Armenia, I would think about the land where the stories of our history were created and only understood it through my interpretations of images and texts.

This summer, I had the incredible privilege of living, working, and experiencing life in Armenia. Through the Birthright Armenia program, not only was I able to see Armenia and experience the beauty of our landscape and our culture, but I was able to live life as a local rather than visit as a tourist

Birthright placed me with a homestay family in Gyumri with whom I have developed a close relationship and what I know will be a lifelong connection. Now when I think of Armenia, I think about my extended family that lives in Gyumri. I have a mother who has been through a devastating earthquake, who has seen the worst but only knows how to offer the most to others. I have three sisters, three nephews, and one niece who I think about often. I have mothers, brothers, and sisters-in-law. I have neighbors and their children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

I had the privilege of working at Fritsiov Nansen Orphanage, an internship in which I was placed by the Armenian Volunteer Corps. I worked with a group of teens, ages fourteen through nineteen, all of whom have left a significant impact on my life. Now when I think of Armenia, I think of the beautiful faces of these Armenian children; although they are disadvantaged and deprived, they are able to speak of the future.

Armenian Volunteer Corps

As a Birthright Armenia participant, my fellow diasporan-Armenian volunteers and I had the opportunity to participate in weekly forums and havaks where we were able to meet with political figures, war heroes and veterans, and local youth, historians and artists. Now when I think of Armenia, I think of one of the most uplifting and emotional moments I experienced when one of our war heroes stood during our forum and with marked emotion told us in Armenian, "This is your Armenia just as well as it is my Armenia. This is your home. We are left with only a small portion of our great land, but remember that it is ours. It is Armenian land. We must always fight to make sure we hold on to what we have left so that there will always be an Armenia."

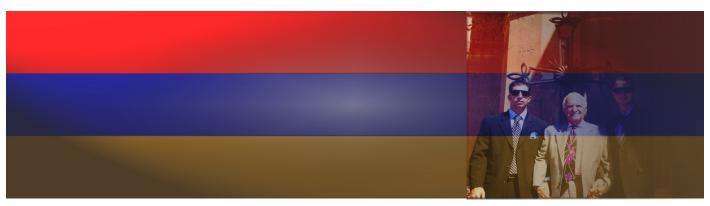
That first night I arrived home from Armenia and sat in my living room, I felt a rush through me as if I had left a part of me behind. My connection is now not only emotional but has become physical, fixed to the grounds on which I had the privilege of walking.



Hardships and setbacks were evident. However, progress and hope is strong. Armenia is moving forward. Although few job opportunities are available, education is a priority. My host mother, who was widowed and who could barely afford her monthly expenses, put her daughter through college, knowing that the chance of her daughter being employed after graduation was slim to none. This says a lot about a country and a people.

The next pages of our history have already begun. We are a free, independent nation and a newer, stronger, and greater Armenia is being created with the same determination as those of our legendary heroes, through those who believe in prolonging our history and in lifting it to a new level of glory.

This is an excerpt from Noushig Hovhannesian's blog. For more information on Birthright Armenia, please visit their website at www.BirthrightArmenia.org.



The Church of The Holy Cross (Akhtamar)

The Church of The Holy Cross is located on a small island in the middle of Lake Van in Eastern Turkey. Lake Van is the largest lake in Turkey and the second largest in the middle east. A Monastery supported this 10th Century church until it was abandoned in the 19th Century. Built by Architect Bishop Manuel in 915-921 and dedicated to the "Holy Cross," the Church of The Holy Cross was erected during the reign of King Gagik I of Vaspurakan. This unique church is considered a benchmark for scholars in the study of the development of Armenian architecture, by all of its wonderful designs carved into the church.

Mr. Hashas, (Member of Holy Trinity Armenian Church-Cheltenham, PA) had a dream to have a cross placed on top of the church once again. Mr. Hashas went to Van, Turkey a couple of years ago to start the necessary process to have this cross back on the church. He met with many Turkish political leaders, including the governor of Van, and also the Police Commissioner of Istanbul, Turkey. Mr. Hashas was granted special permission to go to the island of Akhtamar and visit the Church of The Holy Cross. For the past two years, Mr. Hashas had been trying to prove that the cross is necessary for the church. Not only is it a significant symbol to the Armenian people and church, but it will also provide a sense of peace between the Armenians and the Turks. After two years of debates, Mr. Hashas was given the okay to have the cross be placed on top of both domes at the Church of The Holy Cross. He was so thrilled, so he donated one of the crosses to the church. Finally, the Cross was installed on the top (main) dome on October 1, 2010.

On September 18, 2010, Mr. Hashas arrived at the airport in Van, Turkey along with his two grandchildren, Johnny & Michael Alexanian, and Dr. Garo Garibian. Mr. Hashas and his family had a personal driver during their stay, in honor of the Police Commitioner and Mayor of Turkey. They had stayed at the luxurious Merit Hotel in Van.

On September 19, 2010, Mr. Ohannes Hashas was able to experience and participate in the Badarak on the island of Akhtamar in Van, Turkey with his two grandchildren Johnny and Michael. The last time Badarak was preformed there was before the Armenian Genocide in the early 1900's. Experiencing the badarak in person brought tears to my eyes, not just because I was witnessing a historic event, but also because it was an event that had taken place on my birthday.

Emotional sensations ran through my Christian mind as I stepped through the island of Lake Van. Hopefully, many other generations will be as fortunate to experience our journey to "The Church of The Holy Cross."

Written by: Johnny Alexanian (Member of Holy Trinity Armenian Church-Cheltenham, PA) HYE DESIGNS



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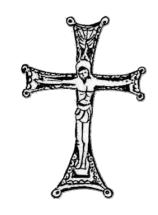
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Items for inclusion in the Sunday Messenger or requests for Requiem Services or Special Prayers should be sent to the church office by Wednesday for the upcoming

> Sunday. For all emergencies, please contact Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan at the church or Parish Council Chair, Merle Santerian (215-947-3777 or 215-205-1507).



CHURCH INFORMATION

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Pastor: Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan frhakob@holytrinity-pa.org

Church Secretary Email: Maggie Coyne

office@holytrinity-pa.org

REGULAR SUNDAY HOURS OF WORSHIP

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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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