

THE NEWS BULLETIN

the monthly publication
of the

ARMENIAN MARTYRS' CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

(ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL UNION
OF NORTH AMERICA *and*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)

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The Rev. Gary Schongalla-Bowman, Pastor

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Save the Date!!

**2007 is the 100th Anniversary of AMCC! Tony Campolo will speak at 100th Anniversary Banquet.
Join us on Sunday, Dec. 2, at Drexelbrook. Call Charles DeMirjian or John Devedjian for details.**

Be With Me

Be with me, God, when I'm happy
And all of my skies are blue;
Don't let me take life for granted
But forever be thankful to You.

Be with me, God, when I'm sad
And my heart is filled with pain;
Help me to always remember
I'll walk in the sunshine again.

Be with me, God, when I wander
Away from the path I should tread;
Gently guide me home once more,
Only You know what lies ahead.

Be with me, God, for all of the years
Safe in your loving care;
I'll not let my faith ever waver
For I know You will always be
there.

MARCH 2007

- March
- 1 - Choir, 7:30 p.m.
 - 2 - World Day of Prayer
 - 4 - Worship-11 a.m. Sunday School-10 a.m., Second Sunday in Lent;
"Sharing the Spirit" Forum (8:30 a.m. breakfast; 9 a.m. program)
 - 6 - Deacons Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
 - 8 - Choir, 7:30 p.m.
 - 11 - Worship-11 a.m. Sunday School-10 a.m., Third Sunday in Lent,
Daylight Savings begins
 - 13 - Trustees Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
 - 14 - Discipleship Group, 7:30 p.m.
 - 15 - Choir, 7:30 p.m.
 - 18 - Worship-11 a.m. Sunday School-10 a.m., Fourth Sunday in Lent
 - 21 - Senior Fellowship Returns!!, 10:30 a.m.
 - 22 - Choir, 7:30 p.m.
 - 25 - Worship-11 a.m. Sunday School-10 a.m., Fifth Sunday in Lent
 - 28 - Discipleship Group, 7:30 p.m.
 - 29 - Choir, 7:30 p.m.
- April
- 1 - Worship-11 a.m. Sunday School-10 a.m., Palm Sunday;
"Sharing the Spirit" Forum (8:30 a.m. breakfast; 9 a.m. program)
 - 3 - Deacons Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
 - 5 - Maundy Thursday, dinner 6:30 p.m., Choir rehearsal after dinner
 - 6 - Good Friday
 - 8 - Worship-11 a.m., Easter Sunday
 - 10 - Trustees Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
 - 11 - Discipleship Group, 7:30 p.m.
 - 12 - Choir, 7:30 p.m.

Phila. Inter-Communal Committee's April 24 Commemoration will be on Tues., April 24, 7 p.m.
St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church
Speaker: Dr. Anie Kalayjian, Fordham University, NY
Topic: The Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma: Ottoman Turkish Genocide of the Armenians

Important Reminders!

- The Flower Chart has dates available (minimum of \$35.00). The Coffee Hour sign-up sheet has dates available (minimum of \$50.00). Please donate flowers or food and let others enjoy your gift! You can also donate to the Sanctuary Décor Committee, which sponsors the "unsponsored" weeks. Any amount is gratefully received!
- There are plenty of dates available for signing up to be a Nursery School volunteer. Help out Toni!
- We are still collecting Acme sales receipts. The church gets 1% of the total.

FROM PASTOR GARY'S PEN . . .

I want to share a story. It is not my story; it is one told by Tony Campolo, but its message and meaning have mentored me through many years of ministry and life. He describes getting off a plane in Philadelphia at 8:30 in the morning and being met by his secretary. He was told that he had a speaking engagement at 10 a.m. that day. He was to speak to a women's group and deliver a sermon about missions.

Before he began to preach, the woman leading the meeting announced that a missionary doctor in Venezuela had asked them to raise \$5,000 for an addition to a medical clinic. The leader turned to Dr. Campolo and asked him to lead them in prayer so that God would provide \$5,000 for the clinic. He said no!

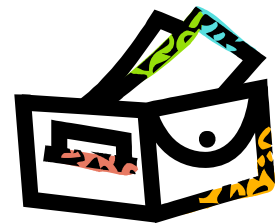
He suggested that instead of praying, each person there should empty their wallets, come forward and place the cash on the altar. This was not a time for checks — cash accepted only. He went first and laid his \$2.25 on the altar. He looked at the woman leading and said: "OK, it's your turn." She hesitated, but dug in her wallet and came out with \$110 and laid it on the altar on top of Tony's \$2.25. He pointed at every woman there until she came up and placed money on the altar. The result: They gave more than \$8,000. He reports that he didn't get cash from everyone. Some women held back and gave him scornful looks.

Because there was not time left to preach, he simply looked at the women and said: "The audacity of asking God for \$5,000 when God already provided \$8,000! We should not be asking God to supply our needs. God already has!"

I have a simple prayer. God help me to live and give, knowing you have provided everything I could ever need. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Pastor Gary

This story is one of many found in *Let Me Tell You a Story*, by Tony Campolo.



VARTANANTZ COMMEMORATION

The Armenian Inter-Communal Committee sponsored the commemoration of the Battle of Avarayr on Thursday, February 15. Despite the cold weather, seventy-five people, young and old, gathered at St. Mark's Armenian Catholic Church. The program opened with an ecumenical service that included the participation of the clergy of the five Philadelphia Armenian churches. Pastor Gary read the Gospel passage from Matthew. Others read excerpts from St. Vartan's and St. Ghevont's speeches in both Armenian and English. A group of four adult students of the Armenian language offered a recitation of *Khorhoort Vartanantz* (On Pondering Vartanantz). Also present were Rev. Patee Metjian and retired Archbishop of London Yeghishe Kizirian.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. Hovhannes Khosdeghian, former educator at St. Nerses Seminary, the Zohrab Center, and former assistant pastor at St. Mark's, among other prestigious positions. He discussed the elements that historical figures such as Vartan inspire us with in our age. He focused on Vartan's total devotion, invincible courage and steadfast faithfulness to God in the midst of the discussion by other leaders about cutting a deal to misrepresent their Christian faith to the King of Persia. Vartan was quoted as saying: "It is better to die than live apostate."

Mr. Khosdeghian was also putting challenges before us. He believes that it is important to know the facts of the past in order to be mirrors of history and bring it to life again with today's actions. He is concerned that our youth are born free from tyranny, but also free from their ancestral heroes, lands and language ("free like a corpse").

Do our souls overflow with the flame of 5000 years of Armenian culture, faith, honor, accomplishment and life? Do we add the treasure of our heritage and pass on the blaze? Or are our moral figures being relegated step-by-step to the backdrop of our horizon like an ice field covering everything with a blanket of spineless relativism? This, Khosdeghian states, is our war today.

We thank the Inter-Communal Committee for bringing the five Armenian churches together for this commemoration. Thanks also to Father Armenag and the women of St. Mark's for the welcoming reception which followed the program.

— P. John Paulson

LETTER FROM BEIRUT

After yesterday's bus bombing, which indiscriminately targeted commuters in the Christian heartland of the country, the level of despair and fear in Lebanon increased even more. Frustration is the common thread that runs through everyone's lives. Those on either side of the political divide are continuing their standoff, frustrating the hopes of many – dare I say the majority – of the population. "Why can't we just live?" cried a woman who was sitting at a nearby coffee shop at the time of the latest explosion.

Today marked the second anniversary of the former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri's assassination. The commemoration, though proceeding without incident, merely accentuated the deepening gulf between those controlling the halls of power and those controlling the tents outside the government offices. No outstretched hands of cooperation, no bridges of understanding, there were only raised fists and voices, and bridges being burnt. We pray earnestly for God to soften the hearts of all the leaders.

Yesterday was the new students' Orientation Day for the spring semester at Haigazian University, a sad moment for me, as this is the last group I will be welcoming before we leave. I challenged them to appreciate Lebanon's diversity as a unique contribution to the world. Most of these students have not had friends outside their religious and ethnic groupings, and so this will, hopefully, be a transforming experience for them.

Last Sunday, we filled our apartment with nearly 40 students and alumni, all of whom were active in the Campus Ministry programs during their studies. Twenty pizzas quickly disappeared, and as they watched slides of past retreats, the laughter and warmth provided us all with a much-needed boost. This was especially reflected in our time of singing praise songs, one after the other, with no end in sight! A current student turned to me and demanded, "Why don't they sing like this in chapel?!"

Please pray for these young believers, that their love for the Lord Jesus would energize them to love one another, to reach out with understanding to all, and to give their best in their studies and for this university.

—Rev. & Mrs. Nishan Bakalian
[14 February 2007]

“Sharing the Spirit”

Excerpted from the *Sharing the Spirit Annual Report for 2006*

The Sharing the Spirit (STS) plan, hatched in 2005 by the Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF), came to life in 2006 as Pastor Gary and the congregation, lay leaders and lay people rallied to bring form and function to its ideology: teaching and encouraging our congregation to be more evangelical in our Christian endeavors. Tools and opportunities were provided to help us fulfill our Christian obligation to “share the spirit,” with the hopeful by-product of bolstering our church membership.

One of the fundamental components of the STS plan was to create a new AMCC logo that reflects this approach while refreshing our church’s identity and making it more universal in its appeal. This new identity will be incorporated into a revamped Web site, new church signage and a series of brochures, all of which will “tell our story” as well as promote AMCC by connecting with all people from all walks.

With the encouragement of Pastor Gary, support of the congregation and the inspiration of Christ, we embarked upon a fundraising campaign targeting members as well as friends of AMCC. Over \$11,000 was raised. All of those who contributed were recognized and thanked via a personalized letter from the church as well as an additional letter from the SPTF.

The progress slowed as we tried to navigate the undeniable circumstances of our church: too few people and too many unsettled matters. Nonetheless, we carried on with determination and passion by focusing on achievable tasks, to which the church responded overwhelmingly.

In addition to weekly SPTF meetings, the

monthly forum served as a breeding ground for congregational participation in Sharing the Spirit ideas, discussion, teaching and planning. From this platform were born many fruitful actions and outcomes in 2006:

- A worship service “Sharing the Spirit” Moment (in which 15 people have participated)
- “Bring a Friend Sunday” (120 worshippers on May 21)
- Summer workshops on “becoming a contagious congregation”
- Demographic studies of families in our surrounding communities
- Thanksgiving dinner preparation and distribution to 8 families in need through the CAADC (Community Action Association of Delaware County)
- Inviting CAADC families in need to our annual Christmas dinner (one family of five accepted)
- Christmas dinner preparation and gift distribution to 9 CAADC families in need
- Purchase and distribution of 3 car seats to a family in need.

Although many times throughout the year the SPTF felt challenged by the demands of our mission, in the end, through the grace of God, inspiration of Christ, and the support of the congregation, we made great strides. While much work lies ahead, we know that through faith and perseverance, we can make a difference.

On behalf of the SPTF, Karen Bogosian, Mary Loiselle, Harry Stephey and me, I want to thank Pastor Gary and each participating member and friend for their ongoing service to, and support of, our beloved AMCC.

Sharing the Spirit, Tim DeMirjian

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John Melian

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Harry Stephey
Diane Uber

ON THE MOVE FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN ARMENIA

On Sunday, January 14, following worship service, the Stewardship and Missions Committee sponsored a presentation by Karl and Laurel Doghramji on their work in Armenia with Habitat for Humanity. Karl, professor and doctor of medicine at Jefferson Univ., and Laurie, clinical research nurse at the Univ. of Pennsylvania, have worked in Armenia with Habitat for the past three years. They are now planning a work trip during the last two weeks in June. Volunteers are welcome.

With sixty people attending, Karl and Laurie gave a comprehensive report starting with a video of the worldwide mission of Habitat for Humanity. Most meaningful to us, however, were the graphic photos of their personal experiences in Armenia, recording the dire need for adequate housing. With meager incomes, many of our Armenians are confined to tiny, makeshift houses, some crudely constructed of sheet metal, some without rooftops, most with no plumbing or electricity, the basics we take for granted.

On the heartwarming, productive side, Karl and Laurie described the joy of working with the cheerful local residents to build their homes and improve their lives.

Join Karl and Laurie Doghramji on their upcoming trip to Armenia in June. If you can't join the group, please consider some financial support. Call Diane DeMirjian, 610-565-1834, with questions or to volunteer.

— Diane DeMirjian,
Stewardship & Missions Committee Chair

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

To the East Coast AEUNA Churches:
We are planning our Second Biennial East Coast Women's Conference on Sept. 14-16, 2007, in Paramus, NJ. We want all church women to have these dates well in advance so they can schedule this conference into their fall activities and also let their friends know about this newly-formed group, which has the full support of the AEUNA.

For the 105 women who attended in 2005, it was a memorable event. We assure you that the upcoming 2007 conference will be as good, and may even surpass our expectations. For more information contact Silva Khoshafian, 781-373-3075, or email khoshafian@yahoo.com

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

The Senior Fellowship will resume meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. All members and friends of the church 55 and older are welcome. John Ryan of the Delco District Attorney's Criminal Division will be the guest speaker. The program, Crimes Against the Elderly, will enlighten us on how to protect ourselves from being victimized.

Join us for a delicious lunch, followed by this informative program.

— Lucille Tashjian

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S WERFEL EXHIBIT

Beginning January 16 until April 13, there is a mini-exhibit of Franz Werfel's "Forty Days of Musa Dagh" at the University of Pennsylvania's Van Pelt-Dietrich Library, Rosenwald Gallery.

The Art of Reinvention: Travel — Exile — Recuperation is described in *The Armenian Reporter* as "a small and fascinating, but inclusive, exhibition of the life of Franz Werfel, including the story of "The Forty Days of Musa Dagh," published in America in 1934. The exhibit, put together by Dr. Violet Lutz, contains the title page and six photographs, from a collection of thirty, presented to Werfel by his "admirer and friend," the Rev. A.A. Bedikian. ... Werfel was given the eye-witness accounts of Rev. Dikran Andreassian, a native of Yoghonoluk, from which many of those who took refuge on Musa Dagh came..."

The free exhibit is open Monday through Friday, 9-5, and Saturday from noon to 4 by appointment. The gallery is on the sixth floor of the library at 34th and Walnut, with the gallery entrance via Locust Walk. Please show photo ID at the entrance. Questions? 1-800-390-1829, or friends@pobox.upenn.edu.

DONALD PETERSON, JANUARY 25

Donald Peterson, loving companion of former church secretary Amy Shumoski, died suddenly on January 25 at the age of 28. Don was the devoted father of their one-year-old son Aidan. At the time of his death, Don worked as a night security guard at Eastern Univ. in St. David's, PA, and was studying to become a commercial airline pilot.

To help fund baby Aidan's future education, memorial contributions may be sent to: The Aidan Peterson Education Fund, c/o Robert J. Casey, Jr., Esq., 1500 Market St. 2500 W, Phila., PA 19102.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Annual reports were reviewed, and discussion followed. Appreciation for the extensive work of Mardie Juskalian and the Endowment Committee was expressed. Don Uber reported that the short-fall in 2006 income was not as great as originally expected, due to increased giving by the congregation at the end of the year.

A motion was carried allowing capital improvements and major repairs to be covered by the other 50% of the Endowment Funds annual gains which is not given to Missions (capital improvements defined as expenditures not done on an annual basis). Funds will be made available to the Board of Trustees to be used as needed for 2007. Charles DeMirjian expressed an acclamation of appreciation for the leadership of the church. Moderator Eileen Stephey expressed thanks to the entire congregation

—Joyce Stephenson

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

John Benglian's phone number was incorrectly listed in the November 2006 Directory. Please note the change: 610-259-4165.

The Stepler-Scarritt family of London will be moving back to the U.S. this month. Do not use their London address any longer.

Grace Ohnigian's phone number was listed in correctly: 610-519-9302.

VISION STATEMENT

Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church will be a church community that is Christ-centered, spiritually alive, growing in worship attendance, Armenian- and community-based, and welcoming all people.

AGBU 100th Anniversary Celebration

HERE! At AMCC!!

Saturday, March 10, 7 p.m.

Adults \$25 △ Students \$15

For tickets, call 610-647-8823

or 856-866-2091

**Please plan to attend the next "Sharing the Spirit" Open Forums
Sunday, March 4 • Sunday, April 1 (Palm Sunday)
8:30—Continental Breakfast • 9:00—Presentation and Discussion**

THE CHALLENGE OF AMAA SUNDAY

On Sunday morning, February 11, Dikran Youmshakian, Field Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, reawakened us to the critical needs of our sisters and brothers overseas by giving us an overview of AMAA's mission in places like Lebanon, Bulgaria and Armenia. In the Armenian sermon, Mr. Youmshakian offered a biblical precedent (I Corinthians 16) for his fundraising efforts.

The missions theme continued in the church hall after a lovely lunch, capably administered and prepared by one of our resident chefs, Jim Makoulian, and a dedicated core of co-workers. Stewardship & Missions Committee chair Diane DeMirjian reintroduced Mr. Youmshakian, who shared a heart-wrenching video about the children of Armenia. Many live in deplorable conditions in a land plagued by an unbelievable rate of unemployment and lack of basic services.

It was a great relief to see the AMAA at work, offering food and medical care and providing intellectual, spiritual and cultural education for children. A video highlight was the glorious Christian camp experience enjoyed by hundreds of youngsters each summer. The happy faces of these

beautiful children warmed our hearts.

At AMCC, we've been blessed by reports from members who have returned home radiant after participating in AMAA building projects in Armenia. When asked about a future project, Mr. Youmshakian expressed hope that one could be organized for this summer. He also welcomed volunteers for the summer camp program.

The devalued U.S. dollar poses a new challenge. For instance, to sponsor a child's yearly education in Armenia now takes \$250 instead of \$200.

As we sat in the comfort of a heated church with access to so much, I recalled the phrase: "our brothers and sisters in Christ." What if one of the poor children in that video was a blood relative of mine? Would I admit to it before doing everything I could to improve that child's life? Can I say my heart goes out to those children and not strive to make their futures more hopeful? Could I go broke in the attempt? Maybe. But, as I recall, Pastor Gary that same morning in a moving sermon cited Christ's words, "Happy are the poor" (i.e., those who rely totally on God). Perhaps the image of a needy child will set us on the path to real joy.

—Lucille Balukjian

EULOGY FOR MILLARD BEKMEZIAN DELIVERED MON., JAN. 15, 2007

I've stood here in this pulpit at least five hundred times during my pastoral ministry in this church. Average attendance at worship was about 150. Some were guests or visitors. Others scheduled their attendance around festivals, weddings, funerals and special events. I was happy to see them and renew my acquaintance with them. Still others were those who classified themselves as very busy people, so busy as to drop their children for Sunday School and pick them up just before the service started. I got accustomed to the idea that some members of my flock could not participate in worship regularly every Sunday. But there was, and I suspect there still is, a core group of people whose attendance is so regular that an absence would ring alarm bells in my head. Millard Bekmezian was one of them. I knew where he sat with his sister Mary. I also knew how he stood up with the entire congregation but never sang a single note. Without Millard, our service of worship would not be complete. His presence was taken for granted, but his absence would be noticed. I compare Millard to the Sunday edition of *The New York Times*. It is bulky and no one is expected to read its entirety. But it is good to know it is there.

Millard also served the church in many functions. He was a deacon, a member of the Endowment Committee, Chair of the Nominating Committee, and a convener of the Discussion Group, which met in homes to discuss books and relevant social and political topics of the day. Millard served as president of the Men's Fellowship and as Chairman of the 50th Anniversary Rededication Banquet. He co-authored the history of the church with Mrs. Queenie Fereshetian. Millard did not talk much, nor did he join the choir. Yet his presence was felt in the entire fabric of the tapestry of the church.

I remember his visit to us in Princeton, together with Mr. Charles DeMirjian, as delegated by the Ministerial Search Committee to discuss my candidacy following the resignation of the Rev. Giragos Chopourian. That was almost forty years ago. Millard welcomed me officially on behalf of the church at the Rededication Banquet the following year. He accompanied me as a delegate to the UCC Phila. Assn. meetings. We had occasion to discuss the important issues of the day facing the church. Millard was disenchanted by the social changes in the post-Viet Nam era when young people began to

rebel against moral and spiritual traditions. He was a teacher by profession, and a good one at that. Yet he retired with regret due to the unruly and poor behavior of the students.

Like many in this community of faith, Millard never married. I take that back. If the essence of marriage is the faithful bonding between two persons who deeply love each other, I can attest to the fact that Millard was married for life to his life-long companion and friend Renée Polsky. He was a social and religious conservative, observing the traditions and mores of his ethnic heritage. Yet he maintained faithfully that unique relationship with Renée, who was received with love by Millard's friends. Millard was fortunate to have such devotion from Renée because she cared for him with love and kindness during the late afternoon of his life when he needed them most.

As I stand in this pulpit and take a survey of the worshippers at this memorial service, I notice that Millard Bekmezian is not where he is supposed to be. Something is wrong. The church will not be the same again. Yet as a preacher who has proclaimed the good news of Christ more than five hundred times from this pulpit, I also know that something is right. Millard may be absent from this sanctuary, but the good news is that he is present in the eternal sanctuary of God, where the sun never sets, where God comforts and wipes away every tear from crying eyes, where unruly students are forgiven and discussion groups come to a happy conclusion, where there are no more committee or board meetings, and where Millard may have the opportunity to learn and sing a new song. The good news, friends, is that Millard may no longer be with us, but he is with God, his creator and heavenly father. In God's presence, we are all together, whether we are in this world or the next.

I had made a habit of asking Millard in Turkish how he was. "*Nasil sin?*" I used to ask him. His reply was always: "*Ishteh bildigin gibi,*" as you know. Now I ask for the last time, "Millard, how are you?" I hear him give the same reply: "I am as you knew me always, Millard Bekmezian, with a permanent seat in the eternal sanctuary of God."

Thanks be to God for the life of our brother, Millard Bekmezian.

— *The Rev. Dr. Peter B. Doghramji*

Editor's Note: Millard was born on January 24, 1919, and grew up in west Philadelphia. He graduated from Ursinus College and had a distinguished teaching career. He kept busy in retirement until his death on January 10. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to our church.

WITH THANKS

To strengthen the ministry of our church and to help nurture faith, stewardship and a deeper sense of mission, we welcome the following gifts with thanks:

In Loving Memory of Barour Avedisian, Father of Nora Babaian

Ed & Marian Buchakjian	Charles & Diane DeMirjian
Rose Garabedian	John & Cindy Hamill
Ed & Carol Kaiserian	Ed & Grace Kavjian
Vicken & Jeannette Keshishian	Jim Makoulian

In Loving Memory of Millard Bekmezian

June Balukjian	Ovsanna Keshishian
Lucille Balukjian	Vicken & Jeannette Keshishian
Susan Bentley	Gerald & Eun Sook Liebling
John & Marge Bogosian	Hugh McCaffrey
Karen Bogosian	Sue McCoun
Ed & Marian Buchakjian	Albert & Esther Momjian
Rocky Caruso	Set & Joan Momjian
Marge Chaney	Jim Mukhalian
Charles & Diane DeMirjian	Grace Ohnigian
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In Loving Memory of Edward Zanazanian

Anonymous	Ed & Grace Kavjian
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Charles & Diane DeMirjian	Jack & Lucille Tashjian
Rose Garabedian	Haig Torigian
Araxie Hagopian	Paul & Dora Vacek
John & Cindy Hamill	The Zanazanian & Helewick
Joseph & Mary Anne Hutter	Families
Elizabeth Kapeghian	

ALEXANDRIA SONA BORKOWSKI

Alexandria Sona, daughter of David and Sylvia (Makoulian) Borkowski, came into the world on Tues., Jan. 30. Waiting at home were delighted brother Luke and sister Samantha. Grandparents are Jim & Sona Makoulian and Gary & Eileen Borkowski. Congratulations and God bless!

THOMAS E. BAILEY

Thomas E. Bailey, age 59, of Wilmington, DE, passed away on Sunday, January 21, 2007, surrounded by his loving family.

Tom was born in Norfolk, VA, grew up in Silver Spring, MD, and moved to the Philadelphia area in his teens. He was a financial planner for 35 years and worked for Massachusetts Mutual, New York Life, and most recently, as an independent broker. For 12 years he was a dedicated baseball coach for Wilmington Optimist Little League.

Tom was a devoted husband and father. He is survived by Vera (Chopourian), his wife of 37 years; his children, Adam, Sarah and Katherine; siblings, Charlotte Pappas, John Bailey, and Rita Downey; and 20 nieces and nephews.

A memorial service in celebration of his life was held on Saturday, January 27. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to either Archmere Academy, 3600 Philadelphia Pike, PO Box 130, Claymont, DE 19703; Wilmington Optimist Little League, 1229 Evergreen Road, Wilmington, DE 19803; or Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.

BAROUR AVEDISIAN

Barour Avedisian, father of our Nora Babaian, went to his heavenly rest on Sunday, January 7, at the age of 68. Throughout his life, Barour was remarkable. As a young boy, he took charge of his three brothers and five sisters when his father died, and as the eldest, was their father figure until the day of his death. In 1968, he married Vartiter Sarkisian, and together they raised four daughters and enjoyed the blessing of their nine grandchildren.

Barour was born in Baghdad and lived most of his life there. In Iraq, he worked at the railroad as a technician and also maintained a television repair shop. In 2003, Barour and Vartiter emigrated to the United States to live with Nora and Daniel Babaian and their children. Here, he put his skills to use as a technician for Oreck vacuum cleaners.

Barour will long be remembered by his family and friends as a person who was able to see when individuals needed help and was personally willing to meet their need. Our condolences to his extended family, especially his wife Vartiter, children Nora and Daniel, and grandchildren Nareen, David, and Sella.

100th ANNIVERSARY VIDEO

A 100th Anniversary video of our church is being produced for the 100th Anniversary Banquet in December. Please contact Karen Bogosian or Linda Preske if you have photos for the video. We are looking for photos of our church, members, families and events depicting the history of our church. Please mark your photos with your name so they can be returned to you, unharmed in their original condition. Please indicate the full names of the individuals in the photos, the date and year and the name of the church event on a post-it note attached to the back of your photo. Movies or slides that have been transferred to video are also acceptable. Deadline for photos and/or videos is May 1. Any questions call Karen-610-355-9051 or Linda- 610-359-9866.

The "Sharing the Spirit" initiative is halfway to meeting its financial goals. Won't you please consider a contribution toward AMCC's future?

Deadline for submissions for the April issue of the News Bulletin — Thurs., March 15

Some of the Opportunities for Donation Currently Available at Armenian Martyrs'

- Chopourian Christian Ed. Fund
- DeMirjian Music Fund
- Sunday School
- Stewardship and Missions
- Sanctuary Décor Committee
- Coffee Hour
- Flowers
- Youth
- School Supplies (for Armenian Children)
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- "Sharing the Spirit"
- News Bulletin

SPONSOR AN ISSUE OF THE MONTHLY BULLETIN

The Editorial Committee would like to remind you of several things about the monthly Bulletin. To sponsor an issue of the News Bulletin, you can contact the church office, 610-446-3330, or Lucille Tashjian, 610-793-2548. Sponsorship may be in memory or in honor of a loved one(s), in celebration of a special occasion, or in thankfulness for blessings. The contribution of \$100 is used to offset the cost of the issue.

— Lucille Tashjian

Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church
100 N. Edmonds Avenue
Havertown, PA 19083

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**Please plan to attend the next
Open Forum
Sun., March 4
8:30—
Continental
Breakfast
9:00—
Presentation &
Discussion**