

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 Lord's Baseball Game

Bob and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team. The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied 0:0, and it was the bottom of the 9th with two outs.

They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate whose name was Love. Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single, because Love never fails.

The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love.

The third batter was named Godly Wisdom. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass. Ball one. Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked, because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws. The bases were loaded.

The Lord then turned to Bob and told him He was now going to bring in His star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace.

Bob said, "He sure doesn't look like much!"

Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen. But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by. He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; then it continued over the fence for a Grand Slam!

The Lord's team won.

The Lord then asked Bob if he knew why Love, Faith and Godly Wisdom could get on base, but could not win the game. Bob answered that he did not know why.

The Lord explained, "If your love, faith and wisdom had won the game, you would think you had done it yourself. Love, Faith and Wisdom will get you on base, but only My Grace can get you home."

JULY/AUGUST 2006

- July
- 2 - Worship-11 a.m. One-room Sunday School—11 a.m. AEUNA Biennial Convention concludes; AEYF-WR arrive to tour Philadelphia
 - 4 - ANNUAL PICNIC AT AMCC! (See inside back page)
 - 9 - Worship-10 a.m. One-room Sunday School/Nursery—10 a.m. Begin summer services in the social hall.
 - 16 - Worship-10 a.m. One-room Sunday School/Nursery—10 a.m.
 - 23 - Worship-10 a.m. One-room Sunday School/Nursery—10 a.m.
 - 30 - Worship-10 a.m. One-room Sunday School/Nursery—10 a.m.
- August
- 6 - Worship-10 a.m. One-room Sunday School/Nursery—10 a.m.
 - 13 - Worship-10 a.m. One-room Sunday School/Nursery—10 a.m.
 - 20 - Worship-10 a.m. One-room Sunday School/Nursery—10 a.m.
 - 27 - Worship-10 a.m. One-room Sunday School/Nursery—10 a.m.

Sharing the Spirit Summer Workshops (during and after Worship)
July 23 — Becoming a Contagious Congregation
August 27 — “Sharing the Spirit” Materials and How to Use Them

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 postage stamps and greeting cards used by The Wyncote Church Home.
- We are still collecting Acme sales receipts. The church gets 1% of the total. Not all Acme stores are participating, so make sure that your receipts are BLUE.
- The Sunday School is collecting books for the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County, new or used, for children of all ages. Please search your bookshelves or make a donation of a new book.

HOT LINKS! Websites you might enjoy...

www.ucc.org/ucnews/jan06/reconcile.htm } (The UCC, in their monthly publication available online, has an ongoing
www.ucc.org/ucnews/mar06/soapbox.htm } discussion about the Armenian Genocide.)
www.twentyvoices.com/home.html (20 stories remembered from the Armenian Genocide. Very high quality, interactive site. High-speed internet recommended.)

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

- Chopourian Christian Education Fund
- Youth
- DeMirjian Music Fund
- School Supplies (for Armenian Children)
- Sunday School
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- Stewardship and Missions
- “Sharing the Spirit”
- Sanctuary Décor/Coffee Hour
- Monthly News Bulletin



FROM PASTOR GARY'S PEN . . .

The summer is for resting and renewing, and I certainly will do my share of that. But boy, do we have work to do over the summer. You see, we have mounted this effort we are calling “Sharing the Spirit.” The goal of this effort is to enliven and deepen the spirit and strength of our congregational life. Our hope is that as we do this work, our congregation will grow in spiritual maturity and numbers. This will take all of us and each of us to lend our efforts, our gifts and graces, our resources. I know that it is counterintuitive to ask you to step forward and to step up just when everything is “winding down” to take a breather. But we have much work ahead of us. Here is your summer “to-do” list.

DO... be clear about our motivation! We want to share the Spirit of Christ with a world that is hurting and in need. We want the Holy Spirit to be felt and be known in our midst. We want people to be transformed! But know — a church that is Spiritually alive will grow.

DO... be clear about your relationship with Christ! If we are going to share with others the love of Christ, we must be able to share how that love has transformed us. Know your story, rehearse it, share it with a trusted friend!

DO... be in prayer for our Church and Sharing the Spirit! Take a moment each day to pray. Pray for the Spirit’s guidance. Pray that God will send people and opportunities that will guide and challenge us.

DO... serve. Take some time to reflect on how you can use your gifts and graces, your concerns and passions on behalf of God’s kingdom work. Volunteer time and effort.

DO... get to know the needs of the community around our church. This is very challenging, but must be done in order for us to be able to offer our community anything they might need and be interested in. Read local newspapers, observe as you drive around, talk to friends and neighbors, interview police (police are in our parking lot on a very regular basis), visit social service agencies, etc.

DO... pray (some more).

This is such an exciting opportunity. Get on board! Do your part! Give, serve, and did I mention, do pray.

Pastor Gary

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Amber Benlian, daughter of Rafi and Anna Marie Benlian, graduated from Penn State U. May 10 with a B.S. in Kinesiology. She chose the teacher preparation option of this major, and upon graduation, she will be qualified to teach health and physical education in grades K-12. She was so well liked by her preceptor-teachers during student teaching that they suggested she apply for an emergency certificate to teach before her graduation as a substitute teacher in State College for the remainder of this school year.

During her college years, Amber played rugby for the U.S. U-19 Nat'l Team until she aged out. She represented the U.S. in several international tournaments. She is now in the U-23 pool.

Also, during her four years at PSU, Amber was a member of the Penn State Women's Rugby Team. She served as secretary and back selector of the team and, in her senior year, was captain of the team. Through this sport, she had the opportunity to see some of the world. She has played in Trinidad/Tobago, Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, France, Italy, Switzerland and all across the U.S. In 2004, her sophomore year, PSU won the National Championship, and this year on May 6, they competed for the National Championship at Stanford U., CA (losing by a nose!).

In addition to sports, Amber worked part-time as a short-order cook on campus. On many mornings, she had the honor of cooking for PSU's swim team and Daniel Kaiserian! During the summer, she worked as a counselor at a camp for children with special needs.

Academically, Amber has been on the dean's list for her last two years of college. She was also a member, by invitation only, of the Women's Leadership Initiative. This is a two-year program that helps women develop their own personal leadership style and philosophy.

Matthew Gulezian, son of James and Elaine (Ejdaharian) Gulezian and grandson of John and Florence Gulezian and the late Madeline and Krikor Ejdaharian, graduated from the University of Maryland on May 22 with a B.A. in Government and Politics. While in college, Matt was instrumental in reviving the Intelligence Community Club, which brought in members of the intelligence community to talk to students about careers in the CIA, FBI, etc. He also participated in CIVICUS, a community service living and learning pro-

gram, and in Habitat for Humanity. Matt hopes to be employed by the federal government.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Alexander Baboian, son of John and Lisa (Sarian) Baboian and grandson of Betty Sarian and Hratch Sarian, and Dr. Jake and Ruby Baboian, graduated from Belmont HS in Belmont, MA, on June 4. Alex participated in the jazz band and jazz combo as featured guitarist, as well as in the pit orchestra for school musicals. He has been on the honor roll and has received awards for community service and for his contributions to his school's wellness curriculum. Two of his short stories were published in the school's literary magazine. In the fall, Alex will attend Berklee College in Boston, majoring in guitar and film scoring.

Michael Kaiserian, son of Edward and Carol (Kavjian) Kaiserian and grandson of Dr. Edward and Mrs. Grace Kavjian and Mrs. Sara Kaiserian and the late Edward A. Kaiserian, graduated from Radnor HS on June 9, 2006. Michael placed on the Academic Honor Roll every marking period and graduated with distinguished honors, was awarded a National Merit Scholarship honorable mention, the Cresson Scholarship and was finalist in the American Math Contest and Physics Olympics competitions. During the summer of 2004, Mike participated in the PA Free Enterprise Week where he served as the CEO of his company.

At Radnor High, Mike was a four-year varsity letter winner in swimming. As a senior, he served as a team co-captain; the team finished second in the PIAA PA State Championship. During his freshman year, the team also placed second in the State Championship. Michael is a three-time All-American for his contribution to two state championship relay teams and his individual performance in the 50-yard freestyle.

Mike also brought his own touch of humor in his leading role in Radnor's Senior Musical *eMate*, an original production created by seniors.

In the fall, Mike will be attending Penn State U-Main Campus and plans to major in engineering, for which he was awarded an academic scholarship. While at Penn State, he will continue his swimming career with the Penn State Men's Swim Team, joining his brother Dan and competing in the Big10 Conference.

(Continued on next page)

Gwen Paulson, daughter of Michael and Liane Paulson and granddaughter of Mae Paulson and the late Michael Paulson, graduated on June 15, 2006, from Geo. C. Marshall HS in Fairfax, VA. Because she has taken International Baccalaureate courses, Gwen has earned an advanced high school diploma. During her high school years, she received honors for academic achievement and was a member of the school's French honor society and Amnesty International. In the fall, Gwen plans on attending the U. of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA, where she intends to major in women's studies and psychology.

OUR ARMENIAN SISTERS' ACADEMY GRADUATE

Anna Selverian, daughter of Kegham and Marine Selverian, graduated from the Armenian Sisters' Academy on June 16, 2006. While there, Anna earned an excellence award in Armenian studies, has appeared on the honor roll and has participated in track. She also won two essay competitions on Armenian themes, sponsored by the ARF. Outside of school, Anna has taken piano lessons and dance, and she was part of our confirmation class this year and was confirmed on June 4. Anna will be a freshman at the Country Day School of the Sacred Heart in September.

AMAA EARTHQUAKE DONATIONS

The AMAA seeks help for the victims of a Java Island earthquake, which occurred on May 27, in the early morning. The quake collapsed most of the buildings in a rice farming community, killing more than 5,000 people. More than 6,500 were seriously wounded, and over 100,000 were left homeless.

As an expression of Christian concern, AMAA appeals to its members and friends and requests that we offer up prayers and donations. Please send your checks marked "Java Quake Relief" to AMAA, 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. Your generosity at this time is critical.

NOTE: Since then, Indonesia has had another major earthquake.

Please Remember the People of Indonesia!

LETTER FROM BEIRUT

Summer time is the season for visitors, and Beirut being one of the top tourist destinations of the region, many people from Kuwait and the Arabian Peninsula fill the hotels or purchase summer homes in the mountains. For us this is a time of seeing familiar faces, acquaintances from the U.S. and Canada, and one special summer guest: our son, Sevag.

Although he left Beirut last August, Sevag has said that in some ways he feels as if he had never left. He has quickly reconnected with his high school and church friends. During his stay, he plans to assist in the various ministry programs in our churches and Social Service Center, including Vacation Bible School. Meanwhile, we are adjusting to our "re-filled" nest.

The season of year-end programs is also here. Each day in June and early July there is at least one school commencement exercise to attend. It is a pleasure to watch the children perform their songs, dances and recitations in Armenian.

Summer is also the season of frequent power cuts. The interruptions in electricity have started early, revealing the country's infrastructure problems. Since nowadays people air-condition their homes rather than renting an apartment in the villages and enjoying fresh, cool mountain air, the demand for electricity increases with each passing year.

This year's summer has also brought an infrequent visitor, but one which disrupts everyone's routine – namely, the World Cup. Though these soccer games come only once every four years, they are sufficient reason for schoolchildren and university students alike to abandon their lessons, and that, at final exam time! Even church meetings and worship services are difficult to schedule because of the World Cup.

Tensions continue to run high in the political sphere, but the government averted a fairly major crisis by arranging for the unlicensed cable-TV providers to pay a fee enabling them to broadcast the World Cup matches. So now, politics has been pushed aside, and the flags of Brazil, France, England and Germany dominate balconies and cars. We hope this festive spirit of amity will somehow continue after the games conclude.

— Rev. Nishan and Maria Bakalian [13 June 06]

“Sharing the Spirit”

What a great year it's been! In preparing for our monthly Sharing the Spirit (STS) Forum on June 4, the Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF) took some time to reflect on the first year of STS. Since our first meeting in May 2005, STS has gradually become part of who we are as a church, permeating our ongoing activities and generating new ones.

Highlights of our first year include development of the concept and plans for STS; meetings with the Deacons, Trustees and the entire congregation to fine tune and launch the plan; focus groups convened to obtain perspectives about AMCC from a varied group of people inside and outside our church; formation of four project teams to work on brochures, our web site and new signage; a series of forums and workshops for the congregation relating to STS initiatives; the opportunity for members to share their personal faith journey in STS Moments during worship; a successful Bring A Friend Sunday; and over \$11,000 raised in generous donations to support STS activities. Plans are now in the works for growing STS during the summer and moving into our next phase in the fall.

During the **June 4 Forum**, while enjoying the delicious continental breakfast provided by Tim DeMirjian, members discussed their experiences in inviting friends and family to our May 21 Bring A Friend Sunday. All agreed that it was an exciting day, and something we want to continue in the future.

Although our monthly Forums will be suspended for the summer, other activities are planned for the congregation to continue engaging in Sharing the Spirit:

- Our **July 4** picnic is a wonderful opportunity to invite more friends to come and experience the lively social family of AMCC, and to have a taste of Armenian cuisine.
- On **July 23**, Pastor Gary will lead us in “Becoming a Contagious Congregation” – a workshop that will begin with the morning’s worship service and continue afterwards with small group work.
- On **August 27**, the SPTF will lead a workshop to introduce our new brochures and web site, as well as ways that we can use them in telling others about our church.

- Throughout July and August, the Joys & Concerns portion of the worship service will be expanded to include informal sharing about our faith in response to specific questions that will be presented each week.

The SPTF will continue to meet throughout the summer to prepare our brochures, web site and signage for implementation in the fall and to develop plans for the coming year – including another Bring a Friend Sunday in early October.

Thanks to everyone for your commitment and participation in Sharing the Spirit during the first year. Each of you plays an important role in the future of our church and in making a difference in the world through sharing God’s love. May the spirit of God fill us and lead us as we move forward!

—Karen Bogosian, Mary Loiselle, Harry Stephey and Tim DeMirjian (Strategic Planning Task Force)

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 Honor of Brielle DeMirjian’s Confirmation

Florence DeMirjian Brown

In Honor of John & Florence Gulezian’s 61st Wedding Anniversary on July 14, 2006

James & Elaine Gulezian

In Memory of Millicent “Penny” Schongalla

Mardie Juskalian

In Memory of Alice Baylerian

Robert Djergaian, Jr.

In Memory of Howard B. Garabedian

Aram & Barbara Kumkumkian

In Memory of Zabel Kaldjian

Mardie Juskalian

Set & Joan Momjian

Arthur & Greta Yegyan

For “Sharing the Spirit” We are over halfway to our goal!

Lisa Melian

Betty Sarian

Jack & Lucille Tashjian

Don & Diane Uber

MISSIONS COMMITTEE:

WARM CLOTHING COLLECTION

Once again, we will be collecting WARM sweaters, vests, jackets, coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. As you do your spring cleaning, please keep these items in mind and put them aside to bring to church in the fall, but **SAVE THEM NOW!!** There will be bins available in the fall for drop off.

—Diane DeMirjian, Stewardship and Missions Chair

THANK YOU, CHOIRS!

As our choirs take a much-welcomed break for the summer, I want to express my profound gratitude for each member, and their devotion to our music ministry.

Our core adult choir of 14-15 members spends an average of 2-1/2 hours a week in rehearsal, plus their participation in our weekly worship service. In addition, many practice at home and help with other aspects of preparing and presenting music for worship. But what makes them really special is the spirit in which they do what they do. The result is a choir that is a family that loves and respects each other, and has learned the skills of functioning as an ensemble – musically and personally. We work hard, and we have fun together. AMCC is truly blessed to have this dedicated and talented group!

During its first year, our small but mighty children's choir has brought joyful music-making to several worship services. While our numbers vary from week to week, each child brings his or her unique talents to the group, and our practices are always a joy! Thank you to the Sunday School teachers and parents who have been so supportive of our efforts.

— Mary Loiselle, Music Director

Do they not err that plan evil? Those who plan good find loyalty and faithfulness. Proverbs 14:22

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.

To submit an article or report, please note that each piece is limited to one column or a half-page, and is subject to editing and available space in that issue. You are welcome to submit an inspirational piece, as well, but submission conditions are the same. Articles can be placed in the church office in the box marked "News Bulletin Articles" or emailed to amcchavpa@yahoo.com. Please comply with the deadline of the 15th of each month.

— Lucille Tashjian

If I Were an Armenian Picnic, Where Would I Be?

Right Here!

Tuesday, July 4

12-6 p.m.

Rain or Shine!

(in our air-conditioned social hall)

Help AMCC Celebrate our Nation and our Heritage!

Support our only fundraiser of the year!

Eat, Drink and Socialize!

Will you be here?

SERVICES AND ONE-ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES, TIMES, AND TEACHERS

July 2

Services at 11 a.m. Teacher: Denise Van Roy

July 9

Services at 10 a.m. Teacher: Diane Uber

July 16

Services at 10 a.m. Teacher: Pauline Karjian

July 23

Services at 10 a.m. Teacher: Dr. Paul Doghramji

July 30

Services at 10 a.m. Teacher: Tim DeMirjian

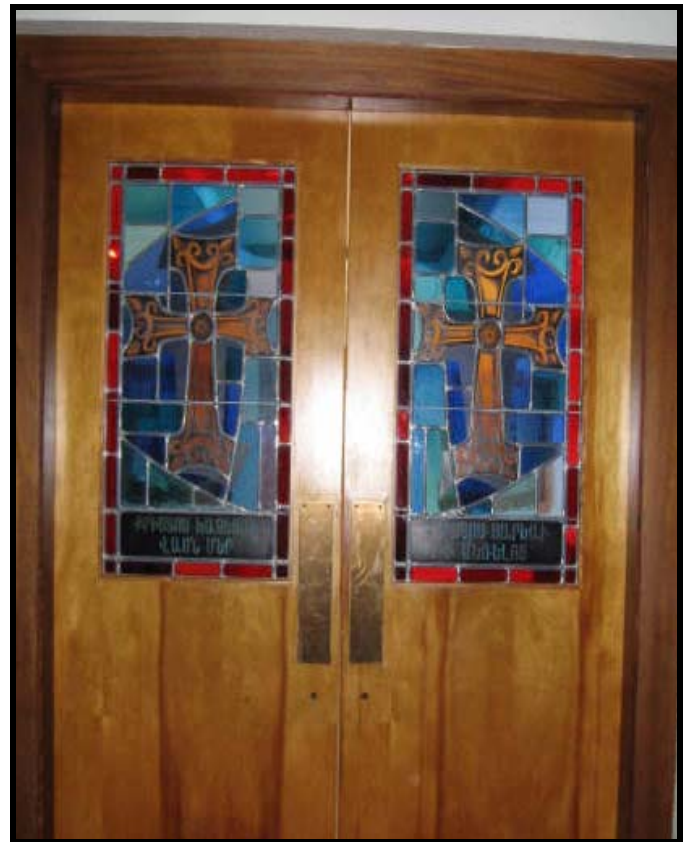
August 6

Services at 10 a.m. Teacher: Debra Paulson

August 13

Services at 10 a.m. Teacher: John Paulson

Future dates to be determined. Let's thank all the volunteers who will be teaching our children ages 5-10 years on these dates.



In our sanctuary doors are the following sentences in Armenian.

(L) "Christ has been crucified for us"

(R) "Christ is risen from the dead."

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

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Upper Darby, PA
PERMIT #4