



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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**In loving memory of ALBERT FRANK CHANEY,
Loving husband and father
From The Chaney Family**

My Master Was So Very Poor (by Harry Lee)

My Master was so very poor,
A manger was His cradling place;
So very rich my Master was,
Kings came from far to gain His grace.

My Master was so very poor,
And with the poor He broke the bread;
So very rich my Master was,
That multitudes by Him were fed.

My Master was so very poor,
They nailed Him naked to a cross;
So very rich my Master was,
He gave His all and knew no loss.

JULY/AUGUST 2007

- July
- 1 - Worship-11 a.m. Sunday School-10 a.m., Sixth Sunday of Pentecost; 161st anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Movement.
No coffee hour—Picnic set-up
 - 4 - July 4th Picnic, noon to 6:30 p.m.
 - 8 - Worship-10 a.m. (note time change for the summer!), Seventh Sunday of Pentecost
 - 15 - Worship-10 a.m., Eighth Sunday of Pentecost
 - 22 - Worship-10 a.m., Ninth Sunday of Pentecost
 - 29 - Worship-10 a.m., Tenth Sunday of Pentecost
- August
- 5 - Worship-10 a.m., Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost
 - 12 - Worship-10 a.m., Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost
 - 19 - Worship-10 a.m., Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost
 - 26 - Worship-10 a.m., Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost
- September
- 2 - Worship-10 a.m., Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost
 - 9 - Worship-10 a.m., Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost
 - 14-16 - Armenian Evangelical Women’s Retreat “Jars of Clay,” hosted by the women of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ
 - 16 - Worship-11 a.m. (note time change for the fall!), Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost; Rally Sunday

**The Annual Fall Retreat is coming! October date to be announced.
Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian, Leader**

*Yoga Instruction Happens Here!
Wednesday nights. Call Instructor Diane for details. 610-259-6182*

**Have the smells of Armenian food ever come from YOUR kitchen?
Our amazing chef, Rose Garabedian, is ready to coordinate classes
for this FALL to help you make that happen.
Call the church office (610-446-3330) to learn details
and sign up for classes making
choerag, cheese boerag, sou boerag, lentil kufteh, monte, lahmajun,
and even peanut butter choerag.**

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 . . .

August 26 is now quickly approaching. It will surely be a bittersweet Sunday for me. I know I will experience significant grief as I leave you. And I will look forward to what may come next for me. I have no plans beyond August 26, so I will simply be silent and waiting and open to what God may have in store for me.

I don't know if you heard the news in April or May that clergy report the highest levels of job satisfaction. This is not at all surprising to me. Being a pastor is an enriching, challenging, and exciting experience. I can truthfully say that being your pastor has been one of the most enriching, challenging, and exciting experiences of my ministry. Let me tell you why...

This is the only congregation that expected me to pray and sing in a foreign language. This is the one church that offered food that was totally foreign to me. Good, but different! I actually came to enjoy yogurt and cucumbers! Sorry about the green beans in tomato sauce. This congregation helped me to be patient and trusting. "Don't worry, Gary. By 11:20, we will all be here. And don't expect us to leave before 1:30."

This congregation has a deep ability to embrace people and welcome them. Your hospitality should make you proud! I have visited other churches on vacation, and nary a person said "boo" to me. Your warmth and love for me has been continual.

Think of the joy a pastor knows when he sees the little ones he has baptized grow and start to become real people. This congregation ought to be very proud of its youth and young adults!! Love them well!

You don't know this, but AMCC has provided my new record for longest church meeting. Old record: 3 hours, 5 minutes. New record: 3 hours, 15 minutes.

I have been challenged by my need to understand a new culture and to grow in appreciation and respect for the impact of the Armenian Genocide. This has truly caused me to expand my thinking and response.

I have appreciated your willingness and ability to try new things in worship, to welcome different music, a different style of preaching, Laverne and Shirley, and congregational participation. Thank you!

I need to say that at Armenian Martyrs', I have experienced the best working relationship with a choir director ever! Thank you, Mary!

Most of all, my time with you has provided an opportunity to get to know and be a part of the lives of simply wonderful people. I will carry forward the many fond memories I have of being in your midst for almost six years. God bless you all, and good luck!

Pastor Gary

LETTER FROM BEIRUT

Life goes on. We are leaving our friends, our work, and the life we've known for the past seven years, and life will continue here in Beirut without us. It is a humbling thought, yet also a source of comfort to know that God's presence is with his people. We are to carry a burden of love to pray for those we leave.

And what a variety of prayer topics! Peace and security are high on the agenda. An explosion awakening us our first night back in May signaled the beginnings of an ongoing war between the national army and a Palestinian militia. This tension was already palpable when yet another Lebanese politician was assassinated, driving many more people to quiet despair for their lives, their children and their future, whether Lebanese or Palestinian. We pray for this wounded society.

In the midst of this seemingly endless turmoil, an academic year once again draws to a close. (Badveli Doghramji was even here to deliver the Commencement address at the Near East School of Theology!). Children are excited about summer vacation, university students are anxious about final exams, and graduates are worried about job prospects. Some of our young friends are preparing for their weddings, wondering if war will preempt their plans, as it did to last summer's couples. In all cases, they joke about it, make plans, think about contingencies, and get on with life. We pray that they never lose the ability to cope.

Despite the still-paralyzed government due to the seven-month (and counting) protest, construction work is going at full steam. What a contrast to see a large commercial or multi-story residential site being built right next to protesters' tents! One project close to our hearts is our Union's Kchag Conference Center (see "Letter from Beirut", May 2006 AMCC News Bulletin). Early in June, a team of experts, all committed Christians, spent ten days of their vacation time here in Lebanon to prepare plans for the refurbishing and rejuvenation of Kchag. They paid their own way, donated their expertise, and, working with our Union's committees, and Maria, and brought a vision of hope for the Lord's work in this region.

We pray for all this and more as we move on to what the Lord has in store for us in Havertown. The Spirit is at work and will continue to inspire his children throughout the world. Praise God that he has entrusted a portion of that work to us!

—Rev. Nishan and Maria Bakalian [18 June 2007]

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP SUMMER FAREWELL

Senior Fellowship's final meeting of the season was held on Wednesday, June 20. Luck was with us. The hard rain stopped just in time for our twenty-four members and friends to arrive for our meeting. Fellowship and snacking ensued.

Rebecca Karjian, aided by Mary Doghramji, shared a thoughtful devotion (in English and Armenian) on salvation and hope, with corresponding scripture verses. Afterward, she gave the blessing for the meal.

The annual farewell luncheon is traditionally a barbecue. This year's barbecue was abundant, with many delicious side dishes, and an ice cream cake for dessert.

Special thanks to James Makoulian and Ed Buchakjian, master grillers. Much appreciation goes to Cindy Hamill and Lucille Tashjian for keeping Senior Fellowship organized and thriving. And culinary thanks to Jim Mukhalian for the delicious breads he always brings, to Rocky Caruso for the sodas, and to resident cooks Rose Garabedian, Rebecca Karjian, Ovsanna Keshishian, Marian Buchakjian, and Florence Devdjian. These folks are always willing helpers.

Have a wonderful summer! Senior Fellowship meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 19, 10:30 a.m. If you have any ideas for a program you would enjoy, please contact Lucille Tashjian or Cindy Hamill with the details.

— Lucille Tashjian

ARDITH "KAY" REESE

We sadly announce the death of Ardith "Kay" Reese, mother of Orla and Sandra (Bardizian) Reese, and grandmother of Araxi.

Mrs. Reese was born on May 2, 1938, in Phoenix, Arizona, but lived in Oklahoma and Kansas most of her life. She married Charles Reese in 1957, and they had three children, Orla, Diana and Carolyn. Kay and Chuck also enjoyed their eight grandchildren. They attended church when they came east. On April 26, 2007, Kay died after a serious illness.

Our condolences to Orla, Sandra and Araxi, and their extended family here, in Kansas and in Oklahoma. Donations may be sent to the organization of the donor's choice.

EDWARD M. KAVJIAN, MD

Edward Mihran Kavjian was born on Nov. 14, 1914, in Kaiseri, Turkey. His father Mihran Kavjian, a merchant, and mother Annig (née Mostichian), a schoolteacher, had three children, Puzant, Eunice and Edward. With the help of a Greek uncle, Christo Jeannides, they escaped the Armenian Genocide and came to America through Ellis Island, ultimately settling in west Philadelphia.

Ed graduated from West Philadelphia High School and went to Temple for pre-med studies. During these years, he also wrestled and boxed. In 1939, Ed graduated from Hahnemann Medical College as president of his class and his fraternity.

During WWII, Ed tried enlisting in the Army, but because of his hearing loss, he was assigned to the Reserves. After the war, he opened a general practice in Upper Darby. By 1956, he had completed the courses necessary to specialize in urology. He was on the staff of Women's Medical College Hospital and Haverford State Hospital. Recognizing a need for local medical facilities, he and fourteen colleagues established and built Haverford Community Hospital in 1957. He retired from active practice in 1986.

In 1951, Ed met wife Grace Kabakjian, and they were blessed with five children, Edward, Jr.; Carol; Joyce; David; and Judy.

Besides his professional and family duties, Ed served in many capacities in our church, most notably as Deacon, Trustee and Endowment Committee member. He served his community and was a lifetime member of the Havertown Rotary Club. He served as president of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and as Commander of the Knights of Vartan. He also served Haigazian University (Beirut) as an American member of its Board of Trustees.

Ed lived every day with a warm smile and a positive attitude, and he was always ready to share a joke. In recent years, Ed and Grace were thrilled to be able to enjoy major family vacations with all of their children and their families. Ed passed away peacefully on May 6, surrounded by his family. His memorial service was held on May 20. Ed is survived by Grace, his wife of fifty-five years, their five children and spouses, and fifteen grandchildren. He will be sorely missed, but not forgotten by the many people whose lives he touched.

Memorial gifts were designated for our church and for the AMAA.

ARA NUYUJUKIAN

On May 5, Ara Nuyujukian was killed in a one-car accident in California as he was returning to Fullerton, Orange County, on Calif. Route 33 from a business trip to San Jose. Ara, 47, the son of the Rev. Dr. Soghomon and the late Mrs. Hilda (Cholakian) Nuyujukian, was born in Alexandria, Egypt, on April 6, 1960. Our congregation came to know Ara and sister Christine when the Nuyujukian family moved to Havertown and Badveli became our pastor. His love and knowledge of music and music electronics were well-known. After college, Ara moved to California and worked for a time with his uncle, Vartkes Cholakian. He was then hired by Kodak, which trained him in Rochester, NY, for eight months before sending him to Houston, Texas, for four years, then to New York City for five years, and finally to Los Angeles for five years. When Kodak downsized, Ara had the opportunity to leave the company but continue his education. He earned his Master of Science degree in Business from UC-Irvine.

Just five years ago, Ara established his own business, "Sign Master," making signs for shops and organizations. In a short time, his business grew so much that he maintained three workshops in order to be able to fulfill orders. At the time of his death, he was preparing to move to a larger place in order to consolidate the three into one.

In 1987, Ara married Ani (née Kilaghbian) and was the proud father of Hilda (16) and Areni (12). Our condolences to his beloved wife and daughters, to Rev. Nuyujukian, to his siblings Christine, Jesse, and Hratch, and to his extended family and friends. A memorial service was held on June 23, 2007, at the United Armenian Congregational Church, Hollywood, CA. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the organization of the donor's choice.

Many of our kind and generous members and friends have asked about the education fund set up for former church secretary Amy Shumoski's baby. Please send donations to:

**The Aidan Peterson Education Fund
c/o Robert J. Casey, Jr., Esq.
1500 Market Street 2500 W
Philadelphia, PA 19102**

ALICE ODABASHIAN

Mrs. Alice Odabashian, went to her heavenly rest on February 13 in Hollywood, California. Alice was born on October 27, 1912, and raised in Rasgrad, Bulgaria by parents Melkon and Armenouhie Glavian, together with her brother Haroutiun and sister Shake. In 1940, Alice married Barkev Odabashian a marketer of textile goods. In 1952, she became a widow. Ahead of her time and despite the constrictions of Communism, Alice continued her husband's business, making the textile goods and marketing the products around the entire country. A dynamic woman with a strong faith in God, she was able to provide a decent life for her young son and daughter and even build a house for the family!

In 1966, she moved to Philadelphia together with her son Rafi, and they lived for a time with her aunt, Mrs. Sona Benlian. By 1983, her daughter Mary, who also had come to Philadelphia from Beirut with her children, decided to move to California, and Alice joined her there.

Alice developed her literary skills while in Bulgaria. There, she translated Armenian poetry into the Bulgarian language. While in Philadelphia, Alice continued to write poetry in Armenian and also in English. She published an anthology of original English poems called "Songs for You."

Our condolences to her son Rafi and Anna Marie, daughter Mary and Sarkis Setrakian, grandchildren Andrew and Amber, Vicken and Carol. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the organization of the donors' choice.

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

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. Sponsorship may be in memory of 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 on the desk in the church office, clearly marked for the News Bulletin, or emailed to amcchavpa@yahoo.com. The submission deadline is the 15th of the previous month. We look forward to hearing from you!

— *The Monthly News Bulletin Editorial Board*

BICYCLE COLLECTION

Bicycles you no longer need or trashed bikes you find will be repaired and painted by the New Covenant Ministries in Camden, then distributed to children on Christmas Eve. They appreciate our help each year. If you do not have any, please ask your friends and neighbors. Bring the bikes to the church or contact John Paulson.

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.

AMBER BENLIAN CONTINUES RUGBY

Amber Benlian has had a busy year teaching health and physical education in Virginia, and keeping up her rugby skills! Amber was selected to participate on the Mid-Atlantic regional rugby team for players under 23 years-of-age, one of four regional top teams in the country. The Mid-Atlantic team consists of all-star players from 180 teams in the NJ, PA, DE, VA, MD, DC region. She was also selected as the captain of the team! This year, the regional teams gathered for a one-week tournament in Blane, MN, from June 10-17, 2007, for the National All-Star Championship and also to select the members of the under-23-years-of-age national team. On the final day, Amber's team won the tournament, and Amber was named MVP of her team!

The next day, Amber was informed that she was one of the players selected to represent the United States in New Zealand, home of the current women's rugby world champions.

Google "Amber Benlian Rugby" to keep up with Amber's successes!

Deadline for submissions for the September issue of the News Bulletin — Wednesday, August 15

**Serge and Marge Krikorian
Announce the birth of their new
Grandson**

**John Joseph McLaughlin V
"J.J."**

**Weight: 7 lb. 12 oz. • Height: 21 inches long
Parents John and Kathy
are doing well
and so is new son J.J.**

MATTHEW MOMJIAN

DELVAL SCIENCE FAIR WINNER

Ninth grader Matthew Momjian, after winning second place in the Delaware County science fair, qualified to compete in the Delaware Valley Science Fair. His science experiment on the antibacterial properties of freshly mashed garlic won him third place in a crowd of over 800 participants. Matthew attributed his success to help from mother Catherine and from his teacher. But he's still not sure if science is his ultimate calling.

In his spare time, Matthew likes to act at the Hedgerow Theater, swim, play video games and read.

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