



# 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. L. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor

Ms. Mary Loiselle, Music Director

Mrs. Amy Larchuk, Church Secretary

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Dr. Paul P. Doghramji Mr. John Hamill

The Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian

## Roses (from *Songs for You*, by Alice Odabashian)

In our garden we have roses,  
Red, pink, yellow ones.  
They are lovely, they are charming,  
All with inborn grace.

When I stop by, mornings, evenings,  
Watch them side by side,  
I can't really make up my mind  
Which one to pick up!

Each one has its own ways and means  
To divulge, reveal,

Our deep feelings, our emotions,  
In joy or in grief.

But color, charm, is not enough.  
There is something more,  
That keeps them all on equal terms,  
And admired by all.

Their scent, their most exquisite smell,  
So pleasing, so sweet,  
Dispels the gloom, inspires in hope —  
Makes them flowers' queen!

# SEPTEMBER 2007

- September      2   -   Worship-10 a.m., Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost; first Sunday for Rev. Bakalian
- 9   -   Worship-10 a.m., Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost; last Sunday in Social Hall
- 11   -   First Deacons/Trustees Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 13   -   First Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- 14-16   -   Armenian Evangelical Women's Retreat (East Coast) — "Jars of Clay," Suffern, NY
- 16   -   Sunday School begins, 10 a.m. Worship-11 a.m. in the Sanctuary (note time change for the fall!), Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost; Rally Sunday
- 19   -   Senior Fellowship resumes, 10:30 a.m.
- 20   -   Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- 23   -   Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship-11 a.m., Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost
- 27   -   Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- 30   -   Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship-11 a.m., Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost
- October            2   -   Deacons Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 4   -   Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- 7   -   Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship-11 a.m., Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost; World Communion Sunday
- 9   -   Trustees Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 11   -   Annual Fall Retreat, 9:30 a.m.— 2 p.m.

**Annual Fall Retreat, Thursday, October 11, 9:30 A.M.— 2 P.M.**

**led by: Badveli Nishan Bakalian**

RSVP to the church office, 610-446-3330  
Continental Breakfast! Bring Your Friends!!

**If you have any copies of the old newsletter "The Messenger" or any old directories, please loan or donate them to the 100th Anniversary Committee.**

**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.

# Full Circle

## ***Is it full circle, or is it something more?***

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This is a homecoming of sorts for me. This is the church in which I grew up and had so many friends, and where I was spiritually instructed, guided and mentored; the spiritual home where Maria and I were married, where I received the call to the Christian ministry, given opportunities to learn, and ordained to the ministry; the place where I and my extended family expressed our faith and service, cared for others, and were cared for, especially during the last seven years we spent overseas... this remarkable place called the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Greater Philadelphia has once again become "our church."

This is a special homecoming, full of love and hope, on our part as well as the church's. Our hopes and prayers are joining into one: one heart and one vision as we worship the Lord Jesus, serve him together, and look ahead to what He has in store for us. As we challenge each other to know God's Word and live by it, together we will be learning how He wants us to express the joy and privilege of being His Body. These are exciting and fulfilling times for all of us!

Observing all of this, one could say that in many ways, Maria and I have come full circle in our lives, returning to the place we began. But is it "full circle," is it something else, or perhaps something more?

Recently, I have been reading the story of Jacob in Genesis, also a tale of coming full circle, ending with a homecoming to his brother Esau. But, by God's grace, Jacob was not the same man as when he left. Though he returned to the same location, he was a different person, more willing to listen to God, and more willing to trust his brother (though he had a long way to go on both counts). He had stolen his brother's birthright, and ran away, afraid for his life and fearful of what he would encounter when he returned. Yet God was not only changing Jacob, but also Esau, and so their reunion was not just a matter of picking up where they left off, but a fresh start, full of promise.

With that same spirit of hope and trust in the same God who changes lives, I look forward to what lies ahead. God has been at work in us, and if we pay attention He will reveal Himself through many persons and situations, and through the Scriptures, in unexpected ways. The work that the Lord has begun in you and me will continue, so that people whose paths join ours will be able to declare confidently: "God is in this place."

So I want to alter the image of "full circle" slightly and describe it as a spiral, where our lives not only go through a cycle, but at the same time move forward. We remember God's blessings and sustenance in the past, but we also look with faith to the future. We enjoy the familiarity of the old, but also make room for the new, and encourage all those around us to grow in "Christlikeness." And as we come back to Havertown, we are excited to be moving forward together with you!

*In Christ's love,  
Badveli Nishan*

The Service of Installation for our pastor Rev. Bakalian will be held  
in our church sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, October 21.  
**SAVE THE DATE! DETAILS WILL FOLLOW!**

## CAMP AREVELK IMPRESSIONS, 2007 An Interview with Lara Kaiserian

*-What is the first thing you want to say when you think of your experience at Camp Arevelk?*

It was really fun. We learned a lot. It was really fun to hang out with everyone, but it was still set in a good learning environment.

*-Was this your first year?*

Yes it was. There were 68 campers there, ranging in age from 10-17 years old.

*-What was your schedule like?*

We would eat breakfast and then have a time of quiet meditation. There was a session during which the speaker made a presentation. We then broke into groups by age both guys and girls together and we rotated between sports, crafts, and Bible studies. Then we had team sports, and we kept a running score for the week. My team won! After a few hours of free time we would eat dinner before which people would volunteer to pray and bless the food.

Following dinner we had cabin time where people would bring up topics of discussion related to our walk of faith. There were night games, and one night we played a really fun game where we had to get from one side of the camp to the other and avoid the counselors so we could appreciate how Christians have to deal with persecution in other countries around the world. Then we would sing songs of worship before bed.

*-What was the theme for this year's camp? Who was the speaker?*

This year's topic was "Community." So we learned about what a community is and what you're supposed to do to strengthen your community and what things tear a community apart. We worked to become a good Christian community throughout the week.

This year's speaker was Mgo Megerdichian. He's a really good speaker. Because he is young the campers were able to relate to him very well. He did what he could to keep us involved, and you could tell his sessions were well-planned.

*-Are there any observations or suggestions you have to improve our community of faith?*

Everyone there wants to be there and get closer to God. The most important thing is to desire a good relationship with God. They found ways to make learning about God and our relationship with him fun and enjoyable.

*-What are some of the ways that you saw God at work while at camp?*

At the beginning of the week there were a few kids who were nervous about being there, but at the end of the week at the bonfire when they spoke, they were excited about being accepted into a faith community and were anxious to come back next year.

*-Do you feel that you have grown in your faith as a result of attending camp? How so?*

We had quiet time each day to meditate on a certain passage. It helped me to understand the Bible and relate the scripture to my life. I feel like I will continue to read the Bible and pray more often when I am at home. I used the *Teen Study Bible*, which is in the NIV version, and I found it very easy to understand.

*-Do you think that it helped you to better understand the Word of God?*

Yes, it takes out passages and applies them to your everyday life. I would recommend it to people who are just beginning their own walk of faith, that they would be able to know God more easily.

*-What are your overall impressions of Camp Arevelk? Do you plan to go back next summer?*

I liked it a lot; it was a great experience to grow in my faith with a bunch of people my own age. It gave me a lot of new perspectives and I think my walk of faith has benefited as a result. I feel closer to God, like I have established a better relationship with him. I would like to go back to camp next summer, but my schedule will be the deciding factor, I think.

*(interview conducted by Dan Kaiserian)*

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP RESUMES!

Senior Fellowship meetings resume on Wednesday, September 19, 10:30 a.m. The menu will be Make Your Own Salad, with all the fixings. We may have a surprise guest or two!

At the October 17 meeting, Mr. Garry Madaline of Senior Resource Services will speak to us on the topic of "Making the Most of Your Retirement." The meeting begins at 10:30, with Mr. Madaline's presentation at 1 p.m.

If you have any ideas for a program you would enjoy, please contact Lucille Tashjian or Cindy Hamill with the details.

— Lucille Tashjian

## WELCOME, PASTOR!

September 1 marks the beginning of a new chapter in our church life. After years of effort by the Pastoral Search Committee and months of anticipation by the members of the congregation, Badveli Nishan and Maria Bakalian have arrived to begin their pastorate at Armenian Martyrs'.

In April, they packed and sent their belongings, and their container arrived here in mid-June. Badveli's sons Armen and Sevag, along with a crew from church, transferred everything from the container into a storage locker to await their move to the U.S.

Since their arrival from Beirut in early August, Badveli and Maria have recovered from jet lag, reunited with their sons, purchased a new house, and with the entire family, have been busy establishing their home in Havertown. Their new information is:

151 Juniper Road  
Havertown, PA 19083  
610-449-2963

We extend a warm welcome to our new Pastor and his family!

## AMCC e-NEWS

This summer, a weekly e-newsletter, the "AMCC Update," was launched. Each week, this email includes upcoming events, scripture readings for the coming Sunday, community announcements, contact information for staff and volunteer leaders, and more. It is a great way to keep current with what's happening at Armenian Martyrs'!

If you or someone you know would like to be included in the AMCC Update email blast, send the email address to [ekaiserian@comcast.net](mailto:ekaiserian@comcast.net).

— Ed Kaiserian

## FALL'S IN THE AIR

There's a tinge of fall in the air today,  
A tinge of fall in the air.

Mid-mellowing fruit and coloring  
leaves,

A something that says: Prepare for the days to  
come

When summer is gone,

Gather your fruit and your grain

Now while you can,

For these golden hours may never return again.

— James Makoulian



## GRADUATE, BRANDON PRESKE

Brandon Martin Preske, son of Linda Preske and the late Dr. Marvin Preske, graduated from James Madison University on May 5. He received a degree in International Business, with a minor in the Chinese Mandarin language. Upon conclusion of his senior year, Brandon served a three-month internship at the University of Beijing to complete his degree and receive intensive language courses. While a student at James Madison, Brandon played intramural basketball and was involved in various activities through the business school. He recently returned from Beijing and plans to pursue a profession that takes best advantage of both his business degree and proficiency in Chinese culture and language.

## WEST COAST REUNION



Front Row L to R: Diana Krikorian, Diane (Ohnigian) Schnickels, Marge Krikorian, Fran (Sarafian) Hepp. Back Row: Ray Schnickels, Serge Krikorian, Ed Hepp

Early this summer, this precious group convened at our place for an Armenian potluck dinner. As you can imagine, the conversation was non-stop, as it was the first time in many years for most of us to see each other. We had a wonderful and warm visit, with many mentions of our Armenian Martyrs' church friends! God bless!

— Diane Schnickels

## FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS

Most food banks are in short supply after the rush of giving during the year-end holiday season, but "hunger knows no calendar."

The Missions Committee would like non-perishable food and monetary donations only, please. "Sharing the Spirit" can come in a variety of forms, including food donations.

— Diane DeMirjian

## THE BEST OF PHILLY! OUR JULY 4 PICNIC!

Over the years, the top social event of our church calendar has been our annual July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic. It simply keeps getting better! Great food, great fellowship, no meetings, no agenda. Just kick back and enjoy with family, friends and, as always, some folks you haven't seen in months or even in years. Yes, indeed—the wonderful reputation for this celebrated event is firmly fixed throughout our Armenian-American community as a Best of Philly!

Not only firmly fixed, but primarily because of the thorough planning and heads-up management of John Devedjian and his multi-talented better half, Florence. How long has this been going on? Well, somebody recently found a photo from the 1969 picnic showing a bunch of our guys gathered around the shish-kebab machine. Who's at the center? Our man Johnny D.

Our July 4 picnic brings everyone together for social enjoyment, but it doesn't stop there. Thanks to a large number of donors, our church realizes significant and needed income. This year was no exception. As a pleasant addendum to this fact, Diane DeMirjian and Lucille Tashjian reported that the Stewardship & Missions Committee earned \$500 through the sale of scrumptious desserts, home-made by our gracious women.

Obviously, the total picnic required a platoon of volunteers to do all the prep, cooking, serving and clean-up. We owe them all a debt of gratitude, but we'll just identify those in charge. The Honorary Chairs were Rose Garabedian and Jim Makoulian, both of whom worked hard as chefs. Ed Buchakjian and his crew cooked the delicious shish kebab; Florence prepared the outstanding pilaf; Marian Buchakjian presided over the serving line; and Dan Babaian headed clean-up.

I must mention that Steve Stepler and Sue Scarritt, now back from London, surprised us by popping in and working hard just like old times. The downside is that Steve's job is now relocating them to San Francisco. We wish them Godspeed. Our hearts and our doors are open for their return.

Thanks to all – the few named and the many unnamed – for making this year's July 4 event such a joy and success. Our deep thanks to John Devedjian. Our eternal thanks to God for our American freedom and the means to celebrate it.

— Charles DeMirjian

Note: Please let John Devedjian know at (610) 399-9373 if there are any corrections to the donor list.

## WE THANK OUR PICNIC DONORS:

Alex & Annabelle Alexanian	Edward M. & Mary Jo Kavjian
Robert and Maryanne Antraskan	Grace Kavjian
Samuel Arthin	Vicken & Jeannette Keshishian
Ron & Millie Asadoorian	William Kozel & Karen Kludjian
Art & K.C. Baldadian	Aram & Barbara Kumkumian
June Balukjian	Edward & Joan Kurkian
Nadin Bazirgianian	Hilton & Florence Levonian
Doris Bobb	James & Sona Makoulian
Marjorie Bogosian	David Melian
Karen Bogosian	John & Ruth Melian
Paul Bogosian	Ashod & Dorothy Melikian
Ara & Suzanne Bouloutian	Gary & Carol Jerrahian Miller
Stephen & Debra Boyajian	Albert & Esther Momjian
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Charles & Diane DeMirjian	Mae Paulson
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John Gulezian	Stephen Philibosian Foundation
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Edward Hagopian	Jack & Lucille Tashjian
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Harry & Mary Injaian	Vraim Funeral Home, Inc.
Van & Sue Injaian	Arthur & Greta Yegyan
Jerry Jemelyan	
Mardie Juskalian	
Berdj & Alice Kalustyan	
David & Maureen Kavjian	

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Rally Day will be on September 16, 2007 with Sunday School resuming at 10 a.m. The teachers this year will be John Paulson, Daniel Babaian, Debra Paulson and Joyce Stephenson. Toni Grostas will be available in the nursery for children 4 and under. We will continue with the *Seasons of the Spirit Curriculum* which is a lectionary-based curriculum. Beginning in September, the lessons will explore what it means to live as disciples of Christ. Readings from the Epistles are prominent in this season. The early Christian churches were beginning to realize that Jesus Christ was not going to return soon. They needed, therefore, to find ways to live together in community, supporting and encouraging each other. We will also remember our ancestors in the faith who have been our teachers and mentors, guides on our journey. Near the end of the season and church year, we will prepare for the coming of the Messiah, the birth of Jesus.

Mary Loiselle will continue to engage the children in music with practice during the last ten minutes of Sunday School for those students who are interested.

John Devedjian was gracious in offering to host the coffee hour after church on Rally Day.

Today's world is challenged with many serious issues. If we can help to instill Christian values in our children, we can help in taking the steps to maintain peace and harmony in our communities. Join us for a valuable learning experience. I welcome comments and suggestions. You may contact me in person or at [debrapaulson@comcast.net](mailto:debrapaulson@comcast.net).

— Debra Paulson

## WARM CLOTHING DRIVE

The Missions Committee is conducting a drive for warm clothing. Articles needed are: coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. Please bring your donations quickly so we can pass them on to those who need them once the weather has turned cold.

— Diane DeMirjian, Committee Chair

### AEUNA HAS MOVED!

AEUNA  
616 N. Glendale Avenue  
Suite 23  
Glendale, CA 91206-2407  
The phone numbers remain the same.

## 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:

For Habitat for Humanity in Armenia

Carol Mason

In Honor of Marge Bogosian's 75th Birthday

Rose Garabedian

In Honor of Rev. Hovh. Karjian's 80th Birthday

Marge Bogosian

John & Cindy Hamill

In Honor of Rev. Hovh. Karjian's 80th Birthday, for Stewardship and Missions

Charles & Diane DeMirjian

In Honor of Paul Paulson's 90th Birthday

Rose Garabedian

In Loving Memory of Edward Androyan

Raymond Knasiak

In Loving Memory of John Bogosian

Ana Bayleran, Ed Sarkis and Isabel Kurkechian

The Philibosian Foundation

Karl & Margo Wilhelm

In Loving Memory of Aram Kabakjian

David & Barbara Benglian

Marjorie Chaney

Ed & Carol Kaiserian and family

Paul & Shoushanik Oflazian

In Loving Memory of Dr. Edward Kavjian

Delores Anderson

Edward & Ann Bayleran

H.N. & Nancy Berberian

Armen & Roxie Gevjian

David Melian

Betty Oolovgian

Peter & Joyce Stephenson

In Loving Memory of Dr. Edward Kavjian for the DeMirjian Music Fund

The Philibosian Foundation

In Loving Memory of Ara Nuyujukian

Rose Garabedian

Haig Makoulian

James & Sona Makoulian

In Loving Memory of Alice Odabashian

Rose Garabedian

James & Sona Makoulian

John & Ruth Melian

In Loving Memory of Millard Bekmezian, John Bogosian, Aram Kabakjian, and Dr. Edward Kavjian, and in honor of our mother, Anna Mason

Carol Mason, Barbara Benglian, and Suzanne Mason

## 100 Years and Counting!!

Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church

100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

BANQUET

SUN., DECEMBER 2, 2007

at Drexelbrook, Drexel Hill, PA

Call the church office

610-446-3330

for more information



## **ANNOUNCING ARMENIAN COOKING CLASSES!**

Monday, September 10, 10 a.m.  
Choereg. Rose Garabedian, Instructor

Tuesday, September 11, 10 a.m.  
Yalanchee. Rebecca Karjian, Instructor

Saturday, September 15, 10 a.m.  
Montee. Rose Garabedian, Instructor

Please call the church office with any questions, 610-446-3330

**Deadline for submissions for the October issue of the News Bulletin — Sunday, Sept. 16**

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

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### **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.