



**ARMENIAN MARTYRS'  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



## 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)

100 North Edmonds Avenue

Havertown, PA 19083

Tel: (610) 446-3330

Email: [amcchavpa@yahoo.com](mailto:amcchavpa@yahoo.com)

Web: [www.amucc.com](http://www.amucc.com)

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

### God, Made Human

The Incarnation brings the world [God's] presence. It is a presence so complete that it overshadows every presence before it.

God is made human in Christ. God makes himself present to us with such a special presence, such an obvious presence, as to overthrow all the complicated calculations made about him in the past.

“The invisible, intangible God has made himself visible and tangible in Christ.”

If Jesus is truly God, everything is clear; if I cannot believe this, everything darkens again.

—*The God Who Comes*, by Carlo Carretto

# DECEMBER 2007

“ Let us go to  
Bethlehem  
and see  
this thing  
that has  
happened,  
which the  
Lord has  
told us  
about.”

Luke 2:15

Daniel & Nora Babaian  
Dorothy Baldadian  
The Rev. and Mrs. L. Nishan Bakalian, Armen  
and Sevag  
Mihran Bakalian and Nao Chuma  
Marge Bogosian and family  
Edward and Marian Buchakjian  
Jim Buchakjian, Sr.  
Marjorie Chaney  
Rocky Caruso  
Yeprouhie Chopourian  
Nevart Dagdigian  
Charles and Diane DeMirjian, Susan and  
Michael  
Tim and Jackie DeMirjian, Jenika, Derek,  
Caprice, Brielle  
John and Florence Devedjian  
Samuel Devedjian  
The Rev. Dr. Peter and Mary Doghramji  
Rose Garabedian  
The Rev. Dr. Eugene and Dorothy Grau  
John Gulezian  
Araxie Hagopian  
John and Cindy Hamill

Jerry Jemelyan  
Gary and Carol Jerrahian Miller  
Mardie Juskalian  
Ed and Carol Kaiserian, Daniel, Michael and  
Lara  
Sara Kaiserian  
Rose Kahenza  
The Rev. and Mrs. Hovhannes Karjian  
Pauline Karjian  
Mrs. Edward Kavjian  
Ovsanna Keshishian  
Vicken and Jeannette Keshishian  
Aram and Barbara Kumkumian  
Edward and Joan Kurkian  
Mary Loiselle  
James and Sona Makoulian  
The John Melian Family  
Ashod and Dorothy Melikian  
Set and Joan Momjian  
F. James Mukhalian  
The Rev. Dr. Soghomon Nuyujukian  
Betty Oolovgian  
Mary Parnagian  
John and Debra Paulson, Janice and Julia  
Mae K. Paulson  
Michael and Liane Paulson, Gwen and Carol  
Paul Paulson  
Linda, Marin and Brandon Preske  
Paul and Tina (Makoulian) Santangelo and  
children  
Betty Sarian  
Gegham and Marine Selverian and Anna  
Peter and Joyce Stephenson, Christina and  
Michelle  
Harry and Eileen Stephey  
Jack and Lucille Tashjian  
Martin Tourigian and Virginia Tourigian  
Don and Diane Uber, Danielle and Nicole  
Paul and Dora Vacek  
Denise Van Roy  
Arthur and Greta Yegyan  
Robert Zanazanian  
Zabel Nedurian Zartarian

*We deeply appreciate the generous gifts to our Deacon's Fund from all those named above who share the glad tidings of Christmas with all our readers and with God's needy children.*

#### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Come with family and friends to our special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m. With voices, instruments, and joyful hearts, let us all join in this special hour of music and scripture. All are welcome!

## **The In-Between Season**

### ***Now that we are 100, what is there to look forward to?***

---

In previous years, during Advent, all we had to think about was the coming Christmas season. But this year, our perspective and our perception is radically shifted thanks to our church's centennial. It is such a strange thing to be thinking about the past when we should be gathering steam for celebration during the Christmas and New Year's holidays! But maybe this will help us to see those holidays in a purer, more authentic light.

Rather than just looking ahead to a joyful holiday season, we will be remembering the banquet event, the words spoken and images seen there. We will recall the people who came, many of whom we have not seen in many years. We will leaf through the remembrance booklet, which will move us to think yet more about the past, and about those who years ago cared for us and guided us in the faith. But we will also be tempted to think of the Armenian Martyrs' Church of the past as better than the church of today.

Those who lived two millennia ago in anxious anticipation for a deliverer, a Messiah, had a looming sense that their brightest days had long since passed. The heroes and tales they were taught shone in their minds much brighter than the dismal, daily reality of occupation and subjection. In fact, their past shone so brightly that many idealized their forebears, rather than seeing them, and the world of old, as very similar to the present.

But there were others who examined the past, and realized that God had not closed the book on his work in this world. Studying the Law and the Prophets, they understood the lessons taught by past events, lessons on human sin and pride, lessons on obedience and trust. All of these were pointing to something, to Someone greater, who would do a new thing, transforming hearts, cleansing them and refreshing them for eternity. They remembered. They waited. They hoped. And some of them lived to see the fulfillment of their hope, Jesus.

Now, in our pre-Christmas, post-Centennial season, as we catch our breath from all the preparations and activity of our anniversary celebration, let us take advantage of this "in-between" time. So that we have the energy to prepare for the Christmas holiday, let us remember that our hope is still in the same, living, active Lord Jesus, in whose hands the church is. In his hands our hearts and our lives will be transformed, to bring to a needy world his message of hope.

*In Christ's love,  
Badveli Nishan*

## YOUR PLEDGE: MY HAND IN GOD'S HAND

The church is our training ground in the faith, and learning to responsibly and faithfully care for what God gives us is what we call "stewardship." One of the ways we learn to trust God for his provisions is by way of our pledge cards.



When we sign our pledge cards, we are giving the church's financial leadership an idea of what lies ahead and how they can responsibly plan what the church will be able to do in the coming year. But something much greater is also happening: we are expressing a fervent faith-wish that God help us to contribute to his work in this world. Fill

out your pledge cards, and think of putting your hand in God's hand throughout the coming year.

But don't stop there. Remember that your hand in God's hand means that he is going to lead you, just as a parent leads his child. Led by God, we want to be good stewards of everything that the Lord has entrusted to us. So examine how you are going to serve him in 2008. Think of the ways you can strengthen your church by your active and loving involvement in church ministries, because the church will be the strong Body of Christ only through her committed members.

And yet there is yet a further level of trust we should have. In addition to all we do for the church's work, as individuals in this world, we must be contributing to the welfare of God's creation. Giving to other charities, volunteering to help in our communities, praying for peace and justice, and living justly, modestly, and lovingly are just some of the ways we can express our trust in the One who holds our hand.

Remember to bring your pledge cards to worship on December 9, when we will dedicate ourselves and the commitment we are making to God. Your decision will be kept confidential. If you cannot attend, please mail your pledge card to the office.

If you have not yet received a pledge card, please call the church office right away.

— *Rev. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor*

## OCTOBER VISIT FROM REV. RENE LEONIAN



Rev. René Léonian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Union of Eurasia and the AMAA Representative in Armenia, joined us on World Communion Sunday, October 7. He offered special greetings from our sister churches in Armenia and offered insights into the Armenian Missionary Association's work in Armenia. He also joined Badveli Nishan in administering Holy Communion.

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Senior Fellowship met for the Armenian-themed final meeting of 2007 in the Social Hall on Wed., Nov. 14. Twenty-six members and friends enjoyed a wonderful mezza/beverage period while a taped program of music and scenes of Armenia played. Badveli Nishan led us in prayer. Lunch was a delicious Armenian buffet featuring sou-beureg, sineekufteh, tourshi, jahdjuk, and a variety of salads, followed by paklava and kurabia for dessert. Many thanks to Rose Garabedian, Lucille Tashjian, Diane DeMirjian, Florence Devedjian, Sona Makouljian, and Maria Bakalian for preparing the luncheon.

After lunch, we viewed a film. *Ararat Beckons*, narrated by Mike Connors, is a documentary on the first expedition by Armenians to the summit of the world's most historic mountain, Mt. Ararat, the supposed landing place of Noah's ark and the cradle of Armenian civilization.

Senior Fellowship would like to thank Visual Sound for providing the audio-visual equipment, setting it up, and taking it down again. Whenever we need them, they always make themselves available to us. Thank you to the Bogosian family for their cooperation.

We wish you a most enjoyable holiday season and hope to see you in 2008. — *Grace Kavjian*

## MY FATHER'S LEGACY—JOHN GULEZIAN

[Ed Note: This tribute appeared in the AMCC eNews and is reprinted here in abbreviated form.]

That my father was a hero was never a question in my life. I was born on his day, Veterans' Day, and he had me believe that, just by the action of my birth, I had honored *him*.

Fast forward past the G.I. Bill and my father's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Drexel Institute...and see a picture of me, an eight-year-old witness to his night school efforts, adorned in his graduation cap.

Fast forward past his memories of the war and a dark picture of our own community, wondering why he came back and their sons did not.

Fast forward past a purple-heart-decorated prisoner of war, to a man so dedicated to his family that he, by his sheer will alone, moved his marriage to its sixty-first year, a marriage filled with love so

humble and pure, so self-effacing, so redolent in joy that the people who thrived on it did not recognize the effort it took to achieve. My father first fought the Nazis, and then demons far worse, to teach us the one pure and certain truth of our lives—that the inner voice is noble, and when it comes to the surface, listen, and, when your life is on the line, follow its instruction. Be singular, even when the tone of the day says otherwise.

My father is a hero in the total definition. Through his patience and listening, I learned. Through his suffering, I knew when to be proud. Through his continued sacrifice to God, his country, and his family, I learned to stand tall. We can be prisoners of war or prisoners of our own choosing; neither is preferable but the latter belongs to us, and it is far worse than anything any enemy can deploy.

My father, my hero—our lives intertwined—offers all these images as his precious legacy to me.

—Lynne D. Gulezian

## PHILA. ARMENIAN-AMERICAN VETERANS CELEBRATION

The 9th annual Veterans Celebration was held on Nov. 11 at Holy Trinity, with 95 veterans from the tri-state area and 155 of their guests. Thank you Sandra Selverian for coordinating every detail of the day's events, and to Paul Ohnigian who, for the past four years, has taken the pictures which appear in the supplemental veterans' booklets.

In her remarks, Sandra reminded those gathered that we are the only community that *jointly* honors Armenian veterans. She also thanked Ruth Melian for recommending today's speaker. Next year, she hopes that the children would interview their grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins who served in the military, in the hope that they will understand what it means to be an American.

The guest speaker, Chaplain (Major) Lucy Der-Garabedian is currently stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, as the Resource Manager supporting 130 chaplains as they minister to their troops. She spoke about her grandfather who served in World War II and how he would often say that Christian education started at home with family values and with Jesus Christ. She played a musical selection recognizing veterans who focus on God and country.

The entertainment was provided by "Titanium," a barbershop quartet. Among other songs, they sang "When I'm 64" (Beatles); "Coney Island Baby" and "Let Me Call You Sweetheart."

The program concluded with the benediction, offered by our own Badveli Nishan Bakalian, and with the retirement of colors, as everyone sang "God Bless America."

Special thanks to Holy Trinity Church for the use of Santerian Hall, to those who volunteered their efforts to make this day a success, and to the many contributors who made this day possible. Mark your calendar now to attend the Tenth Annual Veterans Celebration on Sun., November 9, 2008. All veterans or widows who have not attended our celebrations can add their names to the mailing list by calling Howard S. Garabedian, (856) 778-5926.

**A SPECIAL PLEA:** Please contact Howard if you know any Armenian who served in the military, especially in Iraq. This is especially important if they are of Armenian descent but have a non-Armenian last name.

—Howard S. Garabedian



Chaplain Lucy Der-Garabedian, with AMCC family: Houry Puzantian, Rebecca Karjian, Revs. Nuyujukian, Karjian, and Bakalian.

## “CHAPLAIN D”

### AND THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!

Chaplain (Major) Lucy Der-Garabedian graced us, and our over ninety guests from all four of our sister churches, on Saturday, November 10th with a compelling message based on Galatians 5:22-23.

Ruth Melian, representing the Christian Education Committee (and the catalyst behind Chaplain D's presence), welcomed all, thanked those who made the day possible, and introduced Maria Bakalian, our new Badveli's wife. Those who had previously not yet met Maria immediately felt her warmth, graciousness and unassuming nature.

Ruth presented a brief biography of Chaplain D, who was born in Beirut, Lebanon, holds three masters degrees and is currently working on her doctorate. She has been a teacher, mission interpreter and hospital chaplain. She had a tour in South Korea and is currently the Resource Manager at Ft. Hood, Texas, supporting 130 chaplains.

Chaplain D began with a prayer and a reading from Galatians about the fruit of the spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. She explained her background and the journey that has led to her current position. She knows that “everything happens according to God's plan for those who believe in Him!”

She challenged us to express God's love to those around us who are in darkness—“they need light—our light!” She inspired us “to be a spark, for little sparks will bring light.”

We were sobered by her story of an abusive father and his angry son on the brink of patricide. While extremely painful to hear, she listened and listened to this lost soul. She patiently allowed him to speak and, ultimately, he found God! He knew he was loved and became a minister. The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

She touched us by talking about those times when we might feel abandoned by God and shared some of her personal experiences. She reminded us how times of darkness can become moments of grace if we are faithful and talk to God. “God expects faithfulness.”

Chaplain D taught us through an exercise incorporating Army MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat). Instructions were ambiguous and each team was struggling to get it right. We understood how quickly we become frustrated when we don't have clear instructions. We, however, “do have clear in-

structions; we know what we are supposed to do! We have been given a package of instructions. But in our fast food mentality—we want to do things our way.” We have to focus on the fruit of the spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

A rainbow piñata hung from the ceiling throughout the afternoon, symbolic of our spirit, which often needs to be broken in order to share the gifts and sweetness hidden inside. It was great fun watching everyone trying to break the piñata, especially those with canes who were invited first.

Chaplain D encouraged us “to be a positive impact on the environment” and to “focus on the presence of God, remembering that we are agents of God's love; then go and make a difference in our family, in our community and in the world.”

We were moved by her performance of “The Scar” – her original composition for piano. She explained that a scar is a wound that has healed, remembering that “we are healed—God has allowed the scar to strengthen us.” Chaplain D is extremely accomplished and the melody was quite powerful and moving, haunting at times, heavy, burdensome and then joyful, light-filled with hope and freedom.

What a dynamic speaker, inspirational chaplain and giving person. Her fruit of the spirit is contagious—surely a gift from God. We were blessed to hear her during this gathering as well as the next day, during our Sunday worship service.

Thanks also to the many ladies who made the salads, pastries and punch and did all of the behind the scenes effort—the day would not have been the same without you. The tables were decorated beautifully in an autumn theme by Florence Devedjian who continually, and quietly, adds to the beauty of our church – thank you, Florence. Thanks also to John Devedjian and Jim Makoulian for heating lunch so that none of our ladies would miss the program.

And finally, a special note of thanks to Ruth Melian who was so inspired by Chaplain D at the Armenian Evangelical Women's Fellowship conference in September that she wanted us all to have the benefit of the Chaplain's message. Thank you, Ruth, for initiating, organizing and following through with all of the necessary arrangements in bringing Chaplain D here from Texas. We will not forget Chaplain D or her message of the fruit of the spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

—Carol Jerrahian Miller

## EVENING AT OLD FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

On Saturday, Nov. 3, a dozen members and friends of AMCC participated in preparing and serving dinner to the homeless men sheltered in Old First. Sponsored by the Missions Committee and organized by Diane DeMirjian, Chair, we served them our special onion-roast beef with gravy, rice pilaf, candied sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls and butter and fruit juice, with pineapple upside-down cake, lemon cake and ice cream for dessert. A large bowl of apples was left for snacking later on.

Before starting the meal, Charles DeMirjian offered a brief introduction, which included a bit of the history of our church and Christian Armenian roots. A simple prayer of thanks was offered by one of the men for the meal they were about to enjoy. And enjoy they did, returning for second and third helpings and asking if we would be returning soon!

In talking to one of the men, I learned that there are four such shelters. Each man is assigned to a shelter and must adhere to certain regulations. Some have jobs; this gentleman was a paperhanger and painter by trade and hoped to resume work soon. That night he loaded the dishwasher and helped clean up the kitchen.

Our contingent of servers included Vicken and Jeannette Keshishian, Mardie Juskalian, Elaine Farashian, Charles and Diane DeMirjian, Daniel, Nareen and David Babaian, Sevag Bakalian and classmates Danielle and David. Other contributors who could not attend were Florence Devedjian, Nora Babaian, Pauline Karjian, June Balukjian, Nevart Dagdigian and Cindy Hamill. We thank them all. The presence of young Nareen and David gave much pleasure to these men as they relaxed and watched the children play together after dinner. It is a privilege and a joy to serve these men who so appreciate the little that we do.

— Elaine Farashian



AMCC volunteers, young and old, share a meal with homeless men on November 3 at Old First Church.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Our own Tina Makoulian Santangelo was elected to the Board of Directors of the AMAA at its annual fall meeting in October. We wish her well in her participation in the AMAA, and we are confident that her presence will touch many lives throughout the world, for the glory of God.

## REACHING OUT AT THANKSGIVING

Thanks to all those church members and friends who contributed food to this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive. Mission Committee member Daniel Babaian delivered a quantity of canned and dried foods collected, along with a 21-lb. turkey, to the Interfaith Food Coalition in Upper Darby.

Along with this, our church has given to a number of charities in the past month, including the AMAA, Prime ECR, New Covenant Ministries, Thomas Brinker Christmas Baskets, and the Women's Resource Center. Your gifts for "Neighbors in Need" in October were sent to the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference.

Remember that your generous gifts to the Missions' Committee enables the church to strengthen many worthy missions and causes locally and worldwide.

— Diane DeMirjian, Committee Chair



## WARM CLOTHING

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

And once again, we are requesting socks for the homeless. A number of homeless men spend winter nights at our sister UCC church, Old First Church in Philadelphia. Each year, we request donations of two pairs of new and warm socks, wrapped in holiday paper, two pairs to a package. Bring them to church and place them under the Christmas tree by Sunday, December 16.

Thank you for thinking of those less fortunate than ourselves.

— Diane DeMirjian, Committee Chair

## ROXIE GEVJAN

May 17, 1914—November 5, 2007

Araxie “Roxie” Esther Gevjan was born May 17, 1914, in Philadelphia. She was the fourth of six children of Aghavni Kulludjian and Haigazoon Kabakjian.

Roxie’s greatest desire was to be a school teacher. Her determination led her to Philadelphia Normal School in 1935 for three years. She then went to West Chester Teacher’s College. In order to cover the expenses, she worked as a mother’s helper.

In March 1940, Roxie married Dr. Armen H. Gevjan, and worked as a dedicated fifth grade teacher while her husband served overseas in the Army during World War II. During that time, Roxie was also an active volunteer with the Philadelphia USO. When Armen came back from the service, he set up practice in Upper Darby, and the couple adopted three children, Barbara, Robert, and Lynn.

As a couple, during the Hungarian Revolution, they sponsored two Hungarian refugee families in their home, teaching them English, finding them jobs, and helping them to become U.S. citizens.

Roxie was devoted to gardening, and wrote and contributed regularly to various magazines. She was a member of the Rock Garden Society and traveled with her husband extensively, both abroad and in the United States, to further pursue her gardening interests.

In 1961, the family moved to Newtown Square, where Roxie’s labors attracted other rock garden enthusiasts to tour her beautiful, wooded gardens. She exhibited at many shows and collected a quantity of awards for her entries. Later, her husband photographed her endeavors, and he also won awards for his photography of her plants.

As the Director of the Seed Exchange of the American Rock Garden Society, she worked tirelessly sorting seeds, mailing, and, most of all, cataloging the various varieties. She also taught English as a Second Language in her home.

Roxie is survived by her husband Armen, their three children and families, including a grandson, and two great-grandchildren, as well as her sisters Betty Oolovgian, Mae Paulson, and Grace Kavjian. She was preceded in death by her two brothers, Bill and Aram, and a grandson, Paul.

Memorial donations in Roxie’s name may be sent to VistaCare Foundation, 525 Plymouth Road, Suite 315, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462.

## 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 Armenian Martyrs’ Congregational Church

Ronald & Millicent Asadoorian Paris & Sonia Garabedian

David & Suzanne Shera

For Armenian Martyrs’ Cong’l. Church Deacons’ Fund

George & Carol Churukian

For the Monthly News Bulletin

Samuel Devedjian

Philip & Rose Paregian

Ray & Diane Schnickels

At Thanksgiving

Samuel Devedjian

For The Chopourian Christian Education Fund

Elizabeth Barsamian

To the Closing the Gap Fund in Loving Memory of

Araxie “Roxie” Gevjan

June & Lucille Balukjian

In Loving Memory of Araxie “Roxie” Gevjan

Rocky Caruso

Rose Garabedian

The Gevjan Family

Mardie Juskalian

Sara Kaiserian

Grace Kavjian

James & Sona Makoulian

John & Ruth Melian

F. James Mukhalian

Grace Ohnigian

Mae Paulson

Paul Paulson

Peter & Joyce Stephenson

Haig Torigian

Zabel Zartarian

## DR. ROBERT BAGRAMIAN

Dr. Robert Bagramian, who as a young man was a member of our church, has been asked to be the Dean of the College of Public Health at the American University of Armenia. Currently, he teaches their doctors and nurses Public Health via telephone and email. He will travel there for three-week intervals in March and June.

Dr. Bagramian is currently a professor in the dental school at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He was a missionary for three years in Taiwan in the 1960s, serving as a dentist for a Presbyterian mission board. While there, he helped the Changhua Christian Hospital to establish a two-chair dental department. This has grown to a 55-chair dental clinic.

— Lucille Tashjian

As we go to press, we learned of the deaths of **Manoushag (Violet) Kondourajian**, mother of Harry Dorian, and **John Benglian**, long-time members of our church. We will offer more detailed information in the January issue of the Monthly News Bulletin. For more details, please feel free to call the office, 610-446-3330.

- December      2   -   Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship-11 a.m. **Special 100th Anniversary Service; First Sunday of Advent, with Holy Communion; Conferring of Pastor Emeritus; 100th Anniversary Banquet at Drexelbrook, 1:30 p.m.**
- 6   -   Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- 9   -   Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship-11 a.m. **Second Sunday of Advent; Dedication of Pledge Cards**
- 13   -   Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- 16   -   Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship-11 a.m. **Third Sunday of Advent**
- 19   -   NO Senior Fellowship
- 20   -   Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- 23   -   Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship-11 a.m. **Fourth Sunday of Advent; Sunday School Presentation during Worship**
- 24   -   Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m. (See announcement Page 2)
- 25   -   **Christmas Day**
- 27   -   NO Choir Rehearsal.
- 30   -   Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship-11 a.m.
- January      31   -   Philadelphia Inter-Communal Committee's Vartanantz Commemoration, in our sanctuary. Details in the January issue of the Monthly News Bulletin.

**Save the Date! Monday, Dec. 31, 2007,  
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION!  
Sponsored by PAND!  
Call John Devedjian (610) 399-9373,  
or visit [www.pandevents.org](http://www.pandevents.org)**

**Missed Chaplain D? Wish you hadn't?  
Contact the church office for an audio CD of  
her talks at the Women's Conference  
and/or Sunday's worship service  
and Veteran's luncheon.**

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Badveli Nishan will be in the office Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Please stop by or call during those hours. If you would like to make an appointment, appointment times are also available during non-office hours. Call the office 610-446-3330. Voicemail at the church office is available at any hour.

For emergencies, please feel free to call Badveli Nishan at any time on his cellphone, 267-251-3130. The secretary's office hours remain the same: Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

**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.

## ASSOCIATION AND CONFERENCE FALL MEETINGS OF UCC

The Philadelphia Association of the United Church of Christ held its fall meeting at Old First Church on Sunday afternoon, October 28. Taking into account that most delegates were coming directly from their morning services, the host church had a soup and sandwich table prepared as part of their welcome. After assembling in the sanctuary, the host pastor offered a word of welcome, and Association officers conducted the business of the meeting. During the financial report, income was reported from two pastors' installation services, one of which was our own church's. My presence as a new pastor in the Association was acknowledged with appreciation. Additionally, Pastor Gary's ongoing endeavors within the Conference were noted, in particular his work in the Conference's new church start committee.

The Association is actively pursuing a number of issues related to social and economic justice within the city of Philadelphia. Accordingly, the presentation by Rev. Chester McCall, a UCC/Unitarian minister, on the topic of becoming a multi-racial, multi-cultural church, was intended to highlight issues related to the African-American experience, and raise awareness of the institutionalized at-

titudes towards other cultures present in the denomination.

The Penna. Southeast Conference fall meeting was held at St. Paul's UCC in Amityville on Saturday, Nov. 10. Having been asked to prepare a display on our church's centennial, I set up a table with a number of items, including an Armenian Bible, our hymnal, books published by our former pastors, and a display board showing captioned photographs, old and new. A youth band, led by the Conference's Youth Minister, Josh Blakesley, began the meeting with contemporary worship songs, whereupon we divided into discussion groups. Taking selections from I Cor. 12, we exchanged ideas about our churches and their function in the Body of Christ and in their locales.

Following lunch, the keynote speaker, Rev. Robert Chase, a former denominational official in the UCC, spoke on "Being Church, UCC-Style" during a meeting/worship service. He recapped his experiences observing the events of the denomination's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary General Synod this year, and challenged the delegates to speak the truth boldly, letting their light shine and being advocates for the voiceless in society.

— Rev. Nishan Bakalian

---

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

## BICYCLE COLLECTION

Bicycles you no longer need or trashed bikes you find will be fixed up by the New Covenant Ministries in Camden, then distributed to children early on Dec. 24. If you do not have any bikes, please ask your friends and neighbors. Bring the bikes to the church or call for a pick-up. If you can help with the distributions, contact John Paulson or Ruth Melian.

