

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 - Fax: (610) 446-3963

Email: amcchavpa@yahoo.com

Web: www.amucc.com

The Rev. G. Schongalla-Bowman, Pastor

The Rev. Dr. G. H. Chopourian, Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Andrew Joyce, Youth Pastor

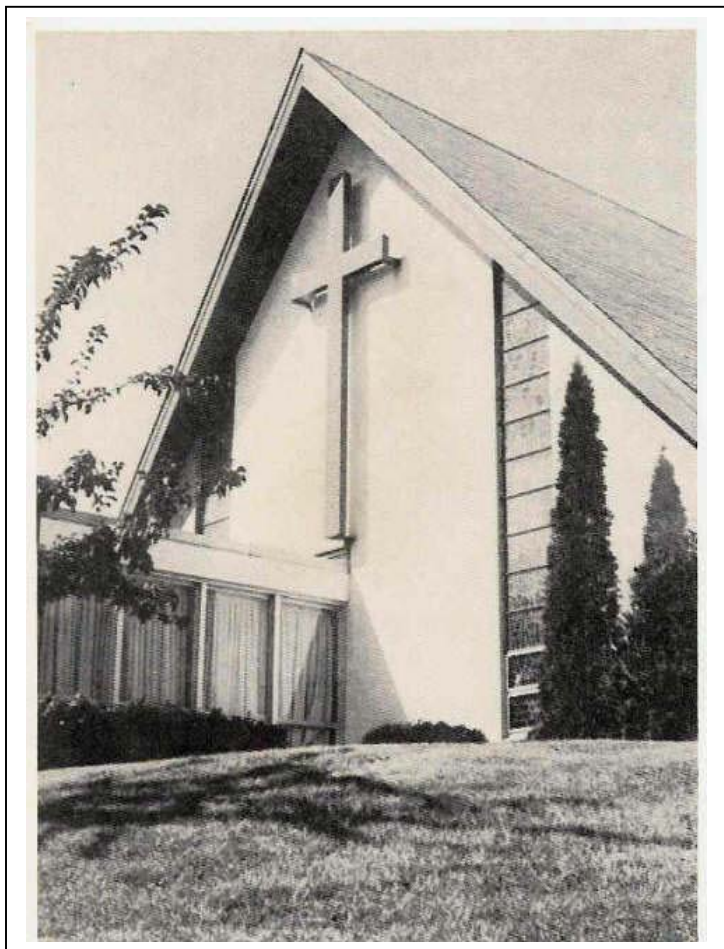
Ms. Mary Loiselle, Music Director

Mrs. Amy Larchuk, Secretary

EDITORIAL BOARD

Mrs. Lucille Tashjian

Mr. F. James Mukhalian Ms. Mary Loiselle



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Every Spring, the dead-looking ground shatters assumptions
by becoming vibrantly alive with color.

People are like that. "Same-old, same-old" until that day
when God gets a toe-hold in the soil of someone's everyday life.

God surprised the world with miraculous appearances
in people we might have believed were dull and useless.

What is it that may be slumbering in you?

Let God get a toe-hold in your everyday life this summer.

You may be amazed at what grows!

— *Patricia Stoltzus*

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<i>July</i>	3	-	Worship (11AM)	<i>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	4	-	JULY 4TH PICNIC (12:30PM)	
	5	-	Youth Group (7-9PM)	
	10	-	Worship (10AM)	<i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	12	-	Youth Group (7-9PM)	
	17	-	Worship (10AM)	<i>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	19	-	Youth Group (7-9PM)	
	24	-	Worship (10AM)	<i>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	26	-	Youth Group (7-9PM)	
	31	-	Worship (10AM)	<i>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</i>
<i>August</i>	2	-	Youth Group (7-9PM)	
	7	-	Worship (10AM)	<i>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	9	-	Youth Group (7-9PM)	
	14	-	Worship (10AM)	<i>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	15-20	-	AMCC 'AT-HOME' MISSION PROJECT	
	16	-	Youth Group (7-9PM)	
	21	-	Worship (10AM)	<i>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	23	-	Youth Group (7-9PM)	
	28	-	Worship (10AM)	<i>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	30	-	Youth Group (7-9PM)	
<i>September</i>	4	-	Worship (10AM)	<i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	5	-	Labor Day	
	11	-	Worship (11 AM)	<i>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	18	-	Sunday School-All Ages (10 AM); Worship (11 AM)	Rally Sunday

ADDRESS UPDATE (town and zip code change):

Boyadjian, Dr. Stephen & Mrs. Debra 107 Fostertown Road Lumberton, NJ 08048



AMAA ARMENIA SUMMER CAMP & CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE *sponsors*

SCHOOL SUPPLIES for THE CHILDREN of ARMENIA & KARABAGH

SUGGESTED ITEMS:

Elementary Level

Colored pencils or markers (no crayons)
Pencil sharpener
Pens, Pencils, Erasers, Ruler & Pencil Case
Folders; Notebook with lined paper; Plain white paper

High School Level

Calculator
Pens, Pencils, Erasers & Highlighters
Folders; Notebook with lined paper
Pencil case

Your donations in lieu of school supplies are tax deductible. Suggested donation is \$10 for each package. Please make your checks payable to the *Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church* with a memo: *School Supplies*.

School Supplies—or donations toward school supplies—are to be sent **◆ by August 14, 2005 ◆**

to: Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church *Attention: Missions Committee*
100 North Edmonds Avenue Havertown, PA 19083

The school supplies will be distributed to the children at the conclusion of summer camps. In this way, they will return home, joyful and ready for school.

Any questions? Phone Diane DeMirjian 610-565-1834

FROM PASTOR GARY'S PEN . . .

Today, June 16, is my first real day back to work since spending a week in the hospital and a week recovering at home. It feels good to be back at work, although I know I need to pace myself. Soon, I trust, I will be back full force.

I want to begin by thanking you for your prayers, visits, phone calls and cards. It was a little strange being on the receiving end of pastoral care, but I want you to know how helpful your ministry was to both Nancy and me. It was encouraging, uplifting and deeply appreciated. Being the recipient helped me to understand again how important these acts of ministry are to the soul and spirit of one who is in need.

I was probably only weeks away from a truly catastrophic event. Being cognizant of that forced me to think about my own death in a way I never have before. One result of this is a new commitment to doing some things differently. I suggest that the things I list below could apply to all of us, and that maybe we needn't wait for a crisis to live them out. Let me know what you think.

1. I want to make a concerted effort to express my gratitude and thanksgiving to God for the richness of life. I want to do it several times throughout the day, each day.
2. I want to be lavish with my love and support for my family, each and every day.
3. I want to be sure that I do not allow things to be unfinished. I want to be sure and seek forgiveness when I need to. I want to be sure to say what needs to be said and listen to what others need to say to me.
4. I will pay attention to the leading of my spirit and reach out to others without delay. I will do this even if they don't seem to be in need.
5. I will take more time to "smell the roses."

My life could change if I worked on these things in a consistent way. Giving thanks regularly, I am told, can change your whole perspective. I know being in the moment with my most important relationships has changed and will continue to change my life. Being present in each moment and savoring it, I believe, can bring a joy to life that flows like an underground river that is always there and from which we can always drink.

Thanks for letting me reflect with you, and if it is OK, I would like to do more of it in the future.

Pastor Gary

SOMETHING

I SHOULD HAVE SAID A YEAR AGO

June 13 marked a full year since our choir presented its *Spirit Concert*, organized and directed by our multi-talented Mary Loiselle. By all accounts, the concert was indeed spirited and very well received by a large and appreciative audience.

At intermission, however, after thanking the audience for its gracious support, Mary made a surprise announcement that a music fund was being established in my name. I'm still embarrassed by the fact that I just sat there stunned (which is fairly normal for me) and speechless (which is not normal for me).

Now, that's the good news. The bad news is that in my state of stupor, I never properly acknowledged the honor. But more importantly, I failed to share it with my fellow choir members. While it's true I've bellowed in the choir since the Dark Ages (less thirty months while I was with the Marines in WWII), there are many in our choir who have given decades of dedicated service through our ministry of music in praise and glory to God.

So, to help make amends a year later, I hereby express my heartfelt thanks to Mary and to our supportive congregation for this honor—accepted only on behalf of the entire choir.

Starting last June, many of you have contributed to this special music fund. We are grateful for your substantive encouragement which we continue to welcome. Please know that this fund enables us to purchase music needed to coordinate with the sermon text and church calendar for a greater worship experience. As the old hymn reminds us, our aim is to 'give of our best to the Master'. Your support helps us to do that.

One closing note. Singing songs of praise and thanksgiving to God is an incredibly uplifting spiritual experience. Our gifted director Mary Loiselle (who herself is a gift to our church) has a way of encouraging the best from us. Please consider joining the choir and see Mary for a friendly interview.

—Charles DeMirjian

DEACONS' REPORT

Marian Buchakjian, Moderator, opened the June 16, 2005 meeting with a prayer. All Deacons and Trustees were delighted to have Pastor Gary in attendance after his hospitalization.

In the joint meeting with the Trustees, we were again reminded that our current treasurers agreed to serve only one year. Marian will contact the Nominating Committee to fill the vacancies. The

Joint Boards also heard John Paulson report on the progress made by the Christian Fellowship including what to expect for the June 26 picnic at Brandywine Picnic Park.

Deacons continued their separate meeting. They were thanked for the many phone calls made through our Caring Connection including information concerning the two recent funerals; we apologize if anyone was missed. Andrew Joyce reported about the youth group. Also, the summer session of 10:00 A.M. church services will begin July 10. We will also be sending out a letter about the new fall schedule. Our in-house "Church Makeover" will be the week of August 15. All volunteers should report to Vicken Keshishian.

Pastor Gary outlined his plans for the confirmation class beginning in October. He would like seven two-hour 'class' sessions per month and two one-hour meetings of confirmands with mentors. There are possibly six young people who will be eligible for the fall class. Anyone interested in being a mentor, should inform Pastor Gary.

Barring any emergencies, the Deacons' next meeting will be in September; give any agenda items or concerns to Marian Buchakjian before that time. Thank you to all the Deacons for their hard work. Remember that the Deacons are available for the concerns of everyone in the church: Pat Arcaro, Dan Babaian, Marian Buchakjian (Moderator), Tim DeMirjian (Vice Moderator), Set Momjian, Sandra Reese, Eileen Stephey, Diane Uber.

—Marian Buchakjian, Moderator

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

The Senior Fellowship gathered for its final meeting on Wednesday, June 15th. Twenty hardy souls braved the 90° heat to fellowship with their friends and enjoy a great BBQ. In Pastor Gary's absence, Lucille Tashjian gave the devotion and Mae Paulson blessed us and the food with a beautiful prayer. Special thanks to Dick Kashishian and Jim Makouljian for manning the grill and for cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs to perfection, despite the heat. Cindy Hamill and Rose Garabedian filled in the rest of the menu by preparing cole slaw, baked beans, and many condiments; Rocky Caruso provided the beverages; Lucille provided an ice cream cake for dessert.

We missed those who could not be with us, and remind everyone that we will not meet again until September 21st. Have a healthy and wonderful summer.

—Lucille Tashjian

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP PLANNING GROUP UPDATE

I have been leading the planning for the Christian Fellowship (CF) group and wanted to provide an update to the congregation. Your committee includes: Vicken Keshishian, Debra Paulson, John Paulson, Paul Santangelo, Greg Sarian, Denise Van Roy and will include Cindy Hamill in the future. We have met twice to date and have enjoyed excellent participation and follow-up.

Our goal is to unite all generations of the church and provide something of interest for everyone. We looked at prior activities of the CF and Adult Fellowship, and decided that regular monthly meetings no longer work well due to work schedules, family commitments, difficulty driving at night, etc. We believe that our activities should have *purpose* and the four pillars of purpose we have adopted are: faith, fellowship, service and culture.

To that end we have planned roughly a half-dozen activities centered on those different themes. In late June, we kicked off the year's schedule with a Sunday afternoon picnic at the Brandywine Picnic Park and the men will have had the opportunity to attend the Promise Keepers event in Philadelphia.

Another 'faith-centered' activity will be a Christian child-rearing seminar taught by the Sarians. It is planned for the fall and we believe it will be attractive to both young families as well as aunts, uncles and grandparents who want to "update their parenting skills". In the 'service' category, we plan to support the in-church mission 'trip' planned for mid-August and to get involved with the City Team Ministries organization.

Regarding 'culture', we are planning an Armenian food class for early next year that will allow skilled cooks to teach younger generations how to prepare our traditional recipes; of course, included in this class is the opportunity to sit down together and enjoy the fruits of our collective labor. We also plan to take advantage of existing cultural events throughout the year (such as provided by the Tekeyan Cultural Assn. and the Inter-Communal Committee) to support and attend as a group.

Rounding out the year's planning cycle, we will need to take a significant role in next year's July 4th picnic. If you have other ideas, or want to get involved please feel free to contact me or any member of your committee. And remember, you rarely get more *out* of an activity than you put *in*, so please partake in the faith fellowship, service and culture that awaits us. —*John Paulson, Chair*

STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE

A Strategic Planning Task Force has been formed to assist the Board of Deacons in charting the future of our church, including dealing with the matter of our declining church population. The members of the SPTF are Karen Bogosian, Tim DeMirjian (Chair), Dr. Paul Doghramji, Mary Loiselle and Harry Stephey.

Although the five meetings which have followed since its inception in April have been productive, there are many challenges which will undoubtedly test us. For starters, our goal: bringing "new blood" into our church, is formidable by its very nature, as is the tall task of its planning and execution.

Nonetheless the SPTF is enthusiastically forging ahead, beginning with the creation of a 'marketing plan' which will lay out the objectives, means and action items needed to accomplish the goal. The most visible feature of this 'marketing plan' will be an AMCC brochure which will be the centerpiece of a marketing campaign planned for the fall, 2005. This marketing campaign will include mailings, phone calls, personal contact and special events targeting: ■ Armenians ■ non-Armenians ■ past church members.

The participation of all willing and able members will be essential to the success of the Marketing Campaign. For starters, we need immediate help in identifying people whom we want to contact. Please present the names of such people to any of the members of the SPTF.

We will keep the congregation apprised throughout the summer and welcome any correspondence regarding this matter.

—*Tim DeMirjian (Chair)* 610-500-1205
pps@printproduction.com

CONGRATULATIONS!

❁ *MORE GRADUATES!* ALEXA and DEVON IKELER graduated from Tredyfferin-Easttown MS this June, 2005. They will attend Conestoga HS in the fall. Both sisters achieved high honors while at T-E. They have been active in volleyball and have participated in school plays as members of the stage crew. We wish them well!

❁ THE REV. DR. PETER B. DOGHRAMJI was honored on June 20, 2005 at the Penna. Southeast Conference's (UCC) Spring Meeting on the 50th Anniversary of his ordination! Congratulations both to Badveli Peter and Mary!

STEWARDSHIP & MISSIONS UPDATE

Each member of our congregation should be informed of the ongoing projects of your Stewardship and Missions Committee. Members are Daniel Babaian, Diane DeMirjian (Chair), Pauline Karjian, Vicken Keshishian and Lucille Tashjian. What follows is a six-month update of the work being done on your behalf.

Since January 2005, we have contributed \$11,950 to local and international missions. Of that amount, \$7000 was given to the AMAA and, on a lesser scale, \$2000 to the PA Southeast Conf.-UCC.

In March, we prepared and served dinner to the homeless men at Old First UCC Church in Philadelphia. We also launched a Lenten Food Drive to help the hungry in Delaware County.

During the winter, afghans, hats, scarves and mittens were knitted for the children and adults in Armenia. The special effort of Nadia Bazirgianian should be noted: she alone knitted 29 sets of hats and scarves and three afghans. Our other faithful knitters are Rebecca Karjian, Grace Kavjian, Mary Lindsay and Miriam Mardirosian.

We are now working toward supporting the AMAA's Drive for School Supplies in Armenia and Karabagh. Please see the notice elsewhere in this issue and lend your timely support.

Our committee continues to strive to fulfill its stated goals: to create an environment in which stewardship is a joyful response to the gospel's call for Christians to be stewards of all life, and to provide opportunities for our congregation to respond through personal participation and financial support. We sincerely thank you for your monetary gifts and your hands-on involvement that continues to make missions a central part of our church life.
—Diane DeMirjian, Chair

WOMEN: PLAN TO ATTEND!
ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP
(AEWF) – EAST COAST
FIRST EAST COAST GATHERING
SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2005 at the
DOUBLETREE HOTEL in WALTHAM,
MA

Contact Pauline Karjian or the church office
for registration details.

DAVID MURRAY

David Joseph Murray, 23, son of Joanne (Spence) Parker and Gary Murray Sr., was killed in action in Baghdad, Iraq on Thursday June 9, 2005. David was a sergeant with the Louisiana National Guard (Bravo Company, 1088th Engineer Battalion, 256th Infantry Brigade). Before he was deployed to Iraq, he was a sheriff's deputy with the East Feliciana Parish (LA) Sheriff's Office. He graduated from high school at the Silliman Institute (Clinton, LA) in 2001 and had a passion for physical fitness. In his youth, he had attended Sunday School at AMCC. His funeral service was held in Louisiana on June 17 and interment on June 21 in Arlington National Cemetery.

David is survived by his mother Joanne and step-father John Parker; also, by his father Gary Murray Sr., brother Gary Michael Murray, step-sister Caitlin Parker and step-brother Coley Parker; aunts Carol (Spence) Pike, Patricia (Spence) Bellows, and Elizabeth (Betty Ann) Spence and their families. His maternal grandparents were the late Joseph and Marian (Salverian) Spence of our church. Notes of condolence may be sent to Joanne & John Parker, 11683 Highway Route 961 Clinton, Louisiana 70722.

ARAXIE SAMELIAN

Our church extends its condolences to the family of Mrs. Araxie Samelian who died on June 6, 2005. Mrs. Samelian added her own enthusiasm to her husband, John's effort as the architect assigned by the Kuljian Corp. to design our present church building. Even after his early death, Araxie was a great supporter of our church and its activities.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

➤ CHURCH DIRECTORY ◀

The 2005-06 edition of the church directory is being prepared.

Please email Amy Larchuk in the church office (amcchavpa@yahoo.com) right away if your email address has changed in the past year.

Other changes are also welcome.

Final corrections will be added only until the end of July. Please don't delay.

CONGRATULATIONS!

On May 9, 2005, a daughter, Samantha Eileen was born to David and Sylvia (Makoulian) Borkowski. She is welcomed by brother, Luke, and proud grandparents Jim & Sona Makoulian and Gary & Eileen Borkowski. Congratulations to all!

MARVIN A. PRESKE

A beloved member of our congregation, Dr. Marvin A. Preske, 62, died suddenly on May 20, 2005. 'Marv' was born and raised in Glenolden, the son of the late Marvin and Esther Preske of Glenolden. He graduated from Thiel College (B.A.) and Phila. College of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.). After completing his Residency at the Cleveland Foot Clinic, he established himself in the practice of podiatric medicine here in the Philadelphia area.

Dr. Marv was a noted podiatric surgeon with two active practices in Bryn Mawr and Aston. He served as Chairman of Podiatric Medicine/ Surgery at the Bryn Mawr Hospital and as Co-Director of the Bryn Mawr Wound Care and Vascular Center. He was active in many professional associations and was affiliated with most of the local hospitals. He was Board Certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery and the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Care and was licensed to practice medicine by the State of Pennsylvania.

Marv's many friends remember him as not only a skilled professional but as a devoted family man, husband, father and friend committed to his faith, and a concerned citizen with a strong sense of community. To all of his endeavors, he brought energy, drive, commitment and intensity, whether in business, faith, golf, skiing, sailing or general camaraderie.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Linda (Parnagian), their three children, Marin and Brandon Preske and Denise DeFries. He also leaves behind a brother, Terry, and a sister, Jeanne Zuzek.

A memorial service was held in our church on May 25. Contributions in lieu of flowers were sent to the Hirth Organization-Easter Seals and to our church. We thank the following people for their donations to AMCC in Marvin's memory:

<i>Linda Preske and Family</i>	<i>Edward & Joan Kurkian</i>
<i>Herman & Charlotte Ajamian</i>	<i>Charles & Bernice Kurkjian</i>
<i>Harry & Joan Ajamian</i>	<i>Albert & Myra Laub</i>
<i>Glenn & Margaret Ajamian</i>	<i>Donald & Gail Lulejian</i>
<i>Hermine Ajemian</i>	<i>Dr. William & Pamela Mammella</i>
<i>Lily Ajemian</i>	<i>Noubar & Anie Megerian</i>
<i>Peter & Allegra Alexander</i>	<i>Papken & Anahid Megerian</i>
<i>Alex & Annabelle Alexanian</i>	<i>Hrair & Ana Megerian</i>
<i>Mamas & Clara Alexanian</i>	<i>John & Ruth Melian</i>
<i>Ted & Kathie Arslanian</i>	<i>Ashod & Dorothy Melikian</i>
<i>Migirdich & Marie Azadian</i>	<i>Rose, Melanie & Adrine Minassian</i>
<i>Dorothy Baldadian</i>	<i>Set & Joan Momjian</i>
<i>Arthur & K.C. Baldadian</i>	<i>Gregory & Ala Monokian</i>
<i>Steven & Linda Barsamian</i>	<i>Ronald & Joy Monokian</i>
<i>Jeffrey & Nancy Barta</i>	<i>Dr. Harry & Cynthia Monokian</i>

<i>Armena Bartow</i>	<i>Edward & Veronica Monokian</i>
<i>Mrs. Takoohie Basmajian & Ruth Ann</i>	<i>Richard & Gay Mukalian</i>
<i>John & Marge Bogosian</i>	<i>F. James Mukhalian</i>
<i>Vahan & Florence Boyajian</i>	<i>Mary Murphy</i>
<i>Edward & Marian Buchakjian</i>	<i>George & Seta Nazarethian</i>
<i>John & Elizabeth Carnie</i>	<i>Grace Ohnigian</i>
<i>Dr. Nicholas & Anna Marie Cavarocchi</i>	<i>Victor Orlando</i>
<i>Dr. Paul Cryan</i>	<i>Kosrof & Grace Pakhtigian</i>
<i>Robert D'Anjolell</i>	<i>Glenn & Ann Papazian</i>
<i>Charles & Diane DeMirjian</i>	<i>Robert & Diane Paretchan</i>
<i>Boghos & Shake Derderian</i>	<i>Mary Paretchan</i>
<i>Dr. Hagop & Lori DerKrikorian</i>	<i>George Paronagian</i>
<i>Alice DeRose</i>	<i>Mary Parnagian</i>
<i>John & Florence Devedjian</i>	<i>Dr. Grant Parnagian</i>
<i>Samuel Devedjian</i>	<i>Paul Paulson</i>
<i>Joan Eretzian</i>	<i>Thomas & Nancy Repetti</i>
<i>William & Susan Essick</i>	<i>John & Emma Reynolds</i>
<i>Elaine Farashian</i>	<i>Larry & Brenda Roelofs</i>
<i>Bernice Gallo & George Paroonagian</i>	<i>Glenn & Dawn Roos</i>
<i>Ann Ganley</i>	<i>Sally Rock Nine Hole Ladies Golf</i>
<i>Dr. Andre & Virginia Garabedian</i>	<i>Merle Santerian</i>
<i>Howard B. & Rose Garabedian</i>	<i>Robert & Elizabeth Sarkessian</i>
<i>The Rev. Dr. Eugene & Dorothy Grau</i>	<i>Harry & Dolores Sarkisian</i>
<i>William Gross & Donna McLaughlin</i>	<i>Diane Sarkisian</i>
<i>Dr. Michael Grossman</i>	<i>Robert & Mary Sarkisian</i>
<i>Jack & Judith Guldalian</i>	<i>Victor & Stephanie Sarkissian</i>
<i>Shirley & Jacquelyn Hajinian</i>	<i>Murray & Ruth Seidelman</i>
<i>John & Cynthia Hamill</i>	<i>Harry & Sona Selverian</i>
<i>David & Marjorie Hammond</i>	<i>George & Ani Semerjian</i>
<i>Jerry & Dawn Hause</i>	<i>Elizabeth Seraydarian</i>
<i>Victoria Hoplamazian</i>	<i>Peter & Adrienne Seropian & Family</i>
<i>Joseph & Sona Hoplamazian</i>	<i>Elizabeth Shaffer</i>
<i>Edward & Joan Hoplamazian</i>	<i>Richard & Alice Shakarjian</i>
<i>Brian & Joyce Hoyle</i>	<i>George & Mickey Sherian</i>
<i>Gregory & Maria Javardian</i>	<i>Sam & Margo Silk</i>
<i>Alyce Jilajian</i>	<i>Peter & Joyce Stephenson</i>
<i>Mardie Juskalian</i>	<i>Roxie Sudjian</i>
<i>Edward & Carol Kaiserian</i>	<i>Robert & Carol Temoyan</i>
<i>Sara Kaiserian</i>	<i>Edward Terzian</i>
<i>B.C. & Alice Kalustyan</i>	<i>Tom & Fran Torcomian</i>
<i>Sarah & Diane Kapikian</i>	<i>Haig Torigian</i>
<i>Rose Karakashian</i>	<i>Harry & Rose Tourigian</i>
<i>Dr. Edward & Grace Kavjian</i>	<i>Donald & Diane Uber</i>
<i>Richard Kazigian</i>	<i>Frederick & Donna Volk</i>
<i>Dr. Albert & Patrice Keshgegian</i>	<i>Richard & Evelyn Weinsheimer</i>
<i>Margaret Keshgegian</i>	<i>Robin Woodrow</i>
<i>Dick & Grace Keshgegian</i>	<i>John & Cheryl Woodrow</i>
<i>Vicken & Jeannette Keshishian</i>	<i>Garo & Maritza Yepremian</i>
<i>Ovsanna Keshishian</i>	<i>Berj & Mary Yepremian</i>
<i>Martin & Virginia Kouyoumjian</i>	<i>Nauver & Arpie Zerounian</i>
<i>Aram & Barbara Kumkumian</i>	

📌 REMINDER 📌

'SUMMER' WORSHIP HOURS - 10 am
'WINTER' HOURS *begin on* SEPTEMBER 11
WORSHIP at 11 am

NORMA PHILIBOSSIAN

Norma was born on July 20, 1924, the youngest of the five children of Joseph and Marian Serabian. Norma grew up in North Philadelphia with her brother John (Bud) and her sisters, Vicky, Pearl, and Margie. She attended Simon Gratz HS and was very active in her family's church. After graduation, Norma took accounting classes and worked as a bookkeeper for the Insurance Co. of North America.

Through a church function she met Sarkis Philibossian and, after a short courtship, they were married in 1954. They bought an old house in Flourtown and started renovations to what would be their home of twenty-three years.

In August 1956, Sarkis and Norma had their first and only child, Gale Marian. During her years as a young mother, Norma was involved in a number of community activities. Her love of children led her to be a Brownie Troop Leader, a Sunday Schl teacher in our church and later Superintendent.

Norma's personal hobbies included tending her vast flower garden, cooking Armenian food, playing the piano (mostly hymns) and collecting Hummel figurines and fine china. She also enjoyed sewing; using her talents as a seamstress she enjoyed the opportunity to make draperies for an interior designer. Eventually, Norma went back to work full-time for several years as a secretary until her daughter graduated from college. Norma and Sarkis also bought a house in the mountains which they both enjoyed for weekend retreats.

Family time was always a priority for Norma; however, her greatest joy came from spending time with her grandchildren, Laura and Karen. Throughout their formative years, her loving care helped to mold them into fine young ladies.

Norma is survived by her husband Sarkis, daughter Gale and son-in-law Edward Leonard, and two grandchildren Laura and Karen. Notes of condolence can be sent to her husband Sarkis at 4147 Twynn Wood Road, Lafayette Hills, PA 19444

A memorial service was held in our sanctuary on June 2, 2005 with the Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji officiating. We thank the following for their donations to our church in Norma's memory:

Nevart Dagdigian	Andrew & Kathleen Jensen
John & Florence Devedjian	Dr. Edward & Grace Kavjian
Howard B. & Rose Garabedian	Charles & Bernice Kurkjian
Mary Garabedian	Margaret Lamania & Kathleen Van Dessel
Frank & Mary Gorman	Iris Papazian
John & Florence Gulezian	Elizabeth Philibossian
Lynne Gulezian	Berj Philibossian
Dr. Edward Hagopian	Wallace & Rosely Stronski

BOWLING, ANYONE?

The Armenian Bowling League was founded over fifty years ago. It has just finished 51 consecutive years of bowling and is preparing for the upcoming 2005-06 season.

The League is sanctioned on the national level by the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) and is a member of the Greater Phila. Bowling Assn. (GPBA)

Men and women at all skill levels are welcome to join. Although the majority of members are Armenian, the league is open to all, Armenians and non-Armenians alike, in the greater Phila. metropolitan area. The season runs from the first Wednesday after Labor Day and continues through mid-May. For more information, please call Sarkis Berberian (610)449-0826.

THANK YOU

*"Your kindness was a gift my (and our) heart needed...
(pun intended!)"*

Dear friends in the AMCC congregation,

Your love, support, concern, prayers, cards and calls have meant so much to us as we have gone through this time. The orchid plant you sent is absolutely lovely in our living room window.

The whole experience brings new awareness and gratitude for the intelligence and intricate interdependence of the cells and functioning of the body. And to the metaphor of the church as Christ's body, each member having his/her own unique role in the spreading of love.

We appreciate the warmth, humor and encouragement of your notes and words so very much. They have helped the healing efforts of the practitioners supporting Gary and have added to the self-healing, self-sustaining intention so obviously at work in Gary's body and spirit.

With gratitude and love, *Nancy Schongalla-Bowman*

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:

To the Chopourian Educational Fund in honor of the Chopourians' 60th Wedding Anniversary

Patricia Arcaro John & Florence Gulezian

Ed & Marian Buchakjian John & Ruth Melian

John & Florence Devedjian Set & Joan Momjian

Lynne Gulezian Albert & Zarmine Soltanian

In honor of James Buchakjian's 80th birthday

Charles & Diane DeMirjian

In memory of Araxie Samelian *Paul Paulson*