

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. G. Schongalla-Bowman, Pastor

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

Mr. Andrew Joyce, Youth Pastor

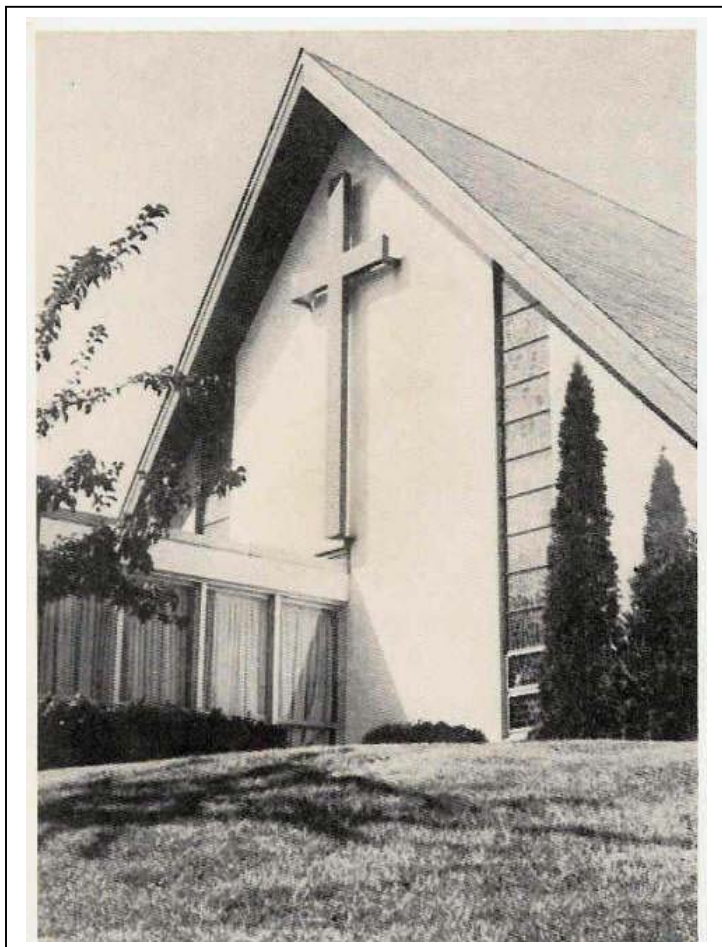
Ms. Mary Loiselle, Music Director

Mrs. Amy Larchuk, Secretary

EDITORIAL BOARD

Mrs. Lucille Tashjian

Mr. F. James Mukhalian Ms. Mary Loiselle



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Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God even put U in the name of His Son.
And each time U pray, you'll see it's true
You can't spell JesUs and not include U.
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.
And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crucified.
Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?
The stones split away, the gold trumpet blew,
And this word resurrection is spelled with a U.
When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.
"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - just as I love U."
So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs, too?
It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

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September	4	-	Worship (10AM)	<i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	5	-	<i>Labor Day</i>	
	6	-	Deacons/Trustees Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	
	7	-	Youth Group Meeting 7-9 p.m.	
	11	-	Worship (11 AM)	<i>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
		-	"Sharing the Spirit" kickoff (fellowship and workshop after worship)	
	14	-	Youth Group Meeting, 7-9 p.m.	
	15	-	Choir Rehearsal, 8 p.m.	
	18	-	Sunday School-All Ages (10 AM); Worship (11 AM)	<i>Rally Sunday;</i> <i>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	21	-	Senior Fellowship Mtg., 10:30 AM, Social Hall	
		-	Youth Group Meeting, 7-9 p.m.	
	22	-	Choir Rehearsal, 8 p.m.	
	25	-	Sunday School-All Ages (10 AM); Worship (11 AM)	<i>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	28	-	<i>UCC Stewardship Enrichment Supper, 5:45 pm. Registration</i>	
	29	-	Choir Rehearsal, 8 p.m.	
October	2	-	Sunday School-All Ages (10 AM); Worship (11AM)	<i>World Communion Sunday; Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	5	-	Youth Group Meeting, 7-9 p.m.	
	6	-	<i>All Church Retreat – Mark Your Calendars!</i>	
	9	-	Sunday School-All Ages (10 AM); Worship (11AM)	<i>Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost</i>

**Church Directories should be ready for pick-up by Rally Sunday.
Don't forget to pick up yours.**



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 ◆ *as soon as possible!* ◆

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



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.



FROM PASTOR GARY'S PEN . . .

I am required to change the way I live my life. Radically! Even though my poor eating habits and lack of exercise are not related to the cause of my current health issues, I am now required to eat well. You know ... no salt or fat or sugar. And, I am required to exercise. I have to get off my butt and move my body around. I have no choice in the matter. I simply have to do it.

My choice of exercise is what is called in medical arenas L.S.D., which stands for Long, Slow Distances. I now walk at least 3 miles each morning and 2 in the evening. I walk around the neighborhood; it takes me an hour in the morning and 40 minutes at night. This is a lot of time for a guy who would rather be inside watching a good old movie or some sports event.

What a blessing the walking has been! The benefits of consistent exercise for good health have been so thoroughly talked about that I don't want to mention them here. Mabel Boggs Sweet says: "If you don't take care of your body, where are you going to live?"

I have discovered some other wonderful benefits to walking. You know, Jesus was a walker. Wherever He went, He walked. He walked and talked and healed and fed the hungry. He walked to his teaching engagements and to the places where he delivered his sermons. I discovered a wonderful analogy for the faith journey – walking the community with eyes and ears open for the needs of others. Christianity is lived "out there" where the people are. It is so easy to miss people when I'm whizzing by them and can only catch a glimpse. Long, Slow Distance walking provides opportunity to stop and see and hear and help.

Another benefit to walking is that my mind is very busy. In between the conscious acknowledging of the stars or a beautiful bird or plant, the mind just keeps having its own thoughts. Walking gives me a great opportunity to "mind my thoughts." I learned a long time ago that what actually happens to me is less important than the way I think about what happened to me. Walking provides the opportunity for me to talk to myself about what I'm thinking and feeling. On the mornings and evenings when I am really good, I am able to start with a conscious acknowledgement of how I am surrounded by the Spirit of Christ. In fact, the Spirit is in me and every other person I happen to meet. Imagine! The Spirit of Christ is always present. Getting my mind straight about this reality helps me deal with my anxiety and fears and worry. Christ is with me; how can I be afraid?

I am truly thankful for my Long, Slow Distance walks. I have learned again to look for the good in everything.

Pastor Gary

JULY 4th WRAP UP

Our picnic this year drew a large attendance thanks to the Armenian community in the Delaware Valley. Our famous shish-kebob was prepared by Mihran Vartanian, and our staff did an excellent job cooking.

Even though the weather cooperated with low humidity and the sun shone brightly, attendees opted for the air-conditioned social hall.

The July 4th annual church picnic, next year celebrating its 100th anniversary, is organized by the Adult Fellowship. John Devedjian, chairman, would like to thank all the church members who participated in the smooth operation, from set-up and cooking, to clean-up. Proceeds from sale of desserts are sent to the AMAA to support the education of four children abroad.

The picnic is the only fundraiser of the entire year, since our annual budget is met mostly through the stewardship pledges of our members. Thanks to the generosity of numerous sponsors (see following list), we reached our goal.

Please inform John Devedjian if you were a sponsor and your name was inadvertently omitted from the list. We are still accepting donations to the picnic fund, if we overlooked your gift.

—*John Devedjian, Picnic Chairman*

We are grateful to this year's July 4th Picnic Patrons:

Alexanian, Alex and Annabelle
Antrasian, Bob and Maryann
Asadoorian, Ron and Millie
Baldadian, Art and K.C.
Balukjian, June
Bazirgianian, Nadin
Bekmezian, Millard
Benglian, David and Barbara
Bobb, Doris Bedrossian
Bogosian, John and Marge
Bogosian, Paul
Boyajian, Dr. Stephen and Debra
Buchakjian, Ed and Marian
Buchakjian, James, Sr.
Buchakjian, Leon
Caruso, Rocky
Chaney, Marjorie
Dagdigian, Haig and Joyce
DeMirjian, Charles and Diane
DeMirjian, Robert and Lorraine
Devedjian, Deborah
Devedjian, John and Florence
Devedjian, Samuel
Dorian, Harry and Alice
Endrigian, Pete and Alice
Garabedian, Howard and Rose
Garabedian, Howard S.
Gulezian, John and Florence
Hagopian, Armand and Roxanne
Hagopian, Edward
Hamill, John and Cindy
Hartunian, Calvin and Elizabeth
Hepp, Ed and Fran

Kavjian, Dr. David and Maureen
Kavjian, Dr. Edward and Grace
Kavjian, Edward and Mary Jo
Keshishian, Vicken and Jeannette
Kludjian, Karen and William
Kozel
Kurkian, Edward and Joan
Levonian, Hilton and Florence
Mason, Anna
Melian, David
Melian, John and Ruth
Melikian, Ashod and Dot
Momjian, Albert and Esther
Momjian, Chris and Gail
Momjian, Set and Joan
Mukalian, Richard and Gay
Mukhalian, F. James
Ohnigian, Steven and Stephanie
Ounjian (FL), George and Marilyn
Owens, William and Judy
Parnagian, Mary
Parseghian, John
Paulson, John and Debra
Paulson, Mae
Paulson, Paul
Rodman, Jonathan and Dorothy
Ruzian, Bessie
Santangelo, Paul and Tina
(Makoulian)
Sarian, Gregory and Laurel
Selderian, Kegham and Marine
Spirit Career Service, Inc.

Injaian, Harry and Mary
Injaian, Van and Suzanne
Jemelyan, Jerry
Juskalian, Mardie
Kalenian, Clarence
Kalustyan, Berdj and Alice

Stephen Philipbosian Foundation
Tachdjian, Vahaken and Asdghik
Tashjian, Jack and Lucille
Taturian, Gabriel and Virginia
Torigian, Haig
Uber, Donald and Diane
Vacek, Paul and Dora
Vosbikian, Mike and Babe

THANK YOU, JOHN & FLORENCE DEVEDJIAN!

For years, our annual July 4 picnic has been the defining summer social event for our region's Armenian-American community. People travel 30+ miles for more than just our savory shish kebob.

This year was no exception. Great food, great fellowship, and great conviviality. Every year, you can count on being surprised by the visit of folks you haven't seen in a long, long time, lovely memories and catching up with each other's lives, all in the presence of God's abiding love.

While 95% of us are having a grand time, the other 5% are toiling away at preparation, cooking, barbecuing kebobs, serving, and clean-up. But just this once, instead of mentioning the many who worked hard on this year's picnic, let us single out the couple who have, for years, voluntarily spearheaded this joyful annual event – John and Florence Devedjian.

John is the totally-organized chair and chief executive, and Florence gives it class with her gift for décor and cooking skills. John and Florence, our church community thanks you from the bottom of our hearts (and stomachs?). God bless you for your loving dedication.

Where would we be without you?

—*Charles DeMirjian*

AMCC BAPTIZES SELLA BABAIAN

On Sunday, August 14, Sella Talar Babaian was baptized in the sanctuary, witnessed by proud parents Daniel and Nora Babaian and their extended families. Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji performed the ceremony, much of it in Armenian.

This was truly an international event with Nora's parents from Iraq, Danny's parents from California and cousins hailing from Australia, and nearby Delaware. Following the service, the family shared wonderful fellowship hour refreshments. We rejoice as another member of Christ's family is given to us to nurture.

FAMILY PICNIC

Adult Fellowship Picnic at Brandywine Picnic Park

On June 26, 2005, the newly-formed Adult Fellowship hosted its first event, a fun-filled day at Brandywine Picnic Park (known previously as Lenape Park). Literally four generations of our members, extended families and friends, numbering 30+, attended, with ages ranging from roughly 8 weeks for Samantha, daughter of David and Sylvia (Makoulian) Borkowski, to 88 years (can you guess the identity of that person?).

The picnickers left immediately after the church service, most arriving by 1:30 p.m. Everyone enjoyed a sumptuous buffet, while a DJ serenaded us with music from many genres.

After lunch, the games began. The older youth disappeared immediately with Andrew Joyce, but “resurfaced” later on the Brandywine River. Many firsts were recorded: Nareen Babaian enjoyed her first tubing experience (sharing a double tube with Ms. Debbie, her Sunday School teacher. Her brother David joined Ed Kaiserian and was equally thrilled to ride in the pleasantly cool creek, engaging in a vigorous splashing contest with yours truly. Daniel and son David Babaian both had their first canoe ride together, and others plied the creek via kayak and paddle boat. Ed Kaiserian, Daniel Babaian, Don Uber and John Paulson raced down the sliding board, but Lane 3 seemed to have the advantage each time. In addition, there were carnival games, a petting zoo and good conversation enjoyed all day.

Thanks to Debbie Paulson and Ken the Party Planner for all their hard work, especially on the last minute details.

Our day ended at 6 p.m. and all agreed that the many activities were well worth the price and that we should make this an annual event. Don't miss next year's day of good food, fellowship and fun!
—*Debbie and John Paulson*

**SENIOR FELLOWSHIP will resume on
Wednesday, September 21, 2005,
10:30 a.m. in the Social Hall.**

KRIKORIAN UPDATES

Saturday, July 30 (exerpts): Our trip to the Chipaya village was quite an adventure. 25 of us rode the bus all night to get to the village. About 15 minutes before we got there, we came to a river which the bus couldn't cross. Some smaller, more “agile” trucks ferried us across. The area and village are

very dry, mostly all sand colored, with no green. The Chipaya wore their typical dress, a heavy wool tunic and pointed wool hat, sometimes with a colorful wool hat with ear covers under it. Some of the girls had tiny braids in their hair. Town officials and church leaders spoke, expressing appreciation for the revised Chipaya New Testament. An official letter was submitted to the Bolivian Bible Society requesting translation of the Old Testament.

Serge and I returned to Santa Cruz from the Chipaya village safe and sound, but tired. On the way back to Cochambamba, I was especially aware of God's protection as the driver of our bus was very tired and there was fog. For us, being in the Chipaya village was a good reminder of the physical and spiritual needs of many isolated groups.

Sunday, August 7: We just got back from our evening speaking engagement. The conditions were about as bad as they get. It was very cold and windy, and the church has some flaws in the construction (or some incompleting parts of the structure) and cold wind blew through the sanctuary. The young people had gone to camp, and none were there. Some of the leaders were gone because it was a holiday weekend. But despite all that, the Lord gave us freedom in sharing, and the small group that was there seemed very responsive. We enjoyed it and feel the Lord will use what we shared, added to the next three Sundays messages on missions from other folk.

Thanks so much for your prayers. God bless.

—*Serge & Marge Krikorian*

THE VICTORIAN WOMAN EVENT

Holy Trinity Armenian Church
Women's Guild

101 Ashmead Road, Cheltenham, PA 19012

Tuesday evening, October 4, 2005

7 p.m., promptly

“Unlacing the Victorian Woman”

The program will be presented by Barbara Darlin, an expert in the field of Victorian fashion. Come and hear the secrets behind the laced bodice of the Victorian woman. Learn about her trials and tribulations, and see the authentic and exquisite clothing our lady wore in the course of her day – from morning until it was time for her to retire. As our Victorian Woman is being dressed right before your eyes, you will hear amusing and enlightening stories about her life. This promises to be a most unique and entertaining evening.

\$15 advance sale only, includes light refreshments of tea, tea sandwiches and homemade pastries.

Contact: Jeanette Der Hagopian, 215-672-4188

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE

The Strategic Planning Task Force has been hard at work over the summer developing plans to assist our church in moving into the future with vitality, growth and vision. Over the past few years, Pastor Gary has worked with church members through retreats and ever-present challenges to us to "do the work of the kingdom." A key part of that process is to become clear about who we are as a church, what we want and need as a church, and how we can best serve God and the needs of others.

Our first official activity took place on July 31, when a group of fourteen people participated in two focus groups. The participants represented diverse demographic profiles, including AMCC

members and non-members with varying degrees of familiarity with our church, Armenians and non-Armenians. Each group was asked specific questions in order to gather information about their personal experiences with churches in general, and their experiences and views of AMCC.

Not unexpectedly, the diversity of the group was reflected in the diversity of their responses. We learned that there's a mixed perception about our church, and mixed desire for what people are seeking in a church. It confirmed things we already know – that we are different things to different people. Some find us open and welcoming, some don't. Some are pleased with the level of focus on worship and spiritual growth, and some aren't. We plan to share more details at a future date.

The bottom line is that we've got a lot of work to do. We need to confirm our identity and clarify who we are and what we have to offer. We need to listen to what our members as well as our non-members need. We need to assess what people are looking for in a church. We need to *be* our best and *do* our best to serve God, and to be open and welcoming to all people.

As we move forward, we hope to develop a platform that will be powerful and inviting. Based on the theme of "Sharing the Spirit," we will create brochures and activities that communicate what our church has to offer to children, youth, adults, seniors, Armenians, non-Armenians, and people with a wide range of beliefs. If we are to succeed in "Sharing the Spirit" with others, and engaging them in the experience of worship and fellowship that are so important to us, we need everyone to take responsibility and play their part. There will be many opportunities and ways for you to be involved.

On Sept. 11, we will launch our "Sharing the Spirit" program. Beginning with the worship service and followed by a special program for all, we will celebrate our commitment to God and to our church and help you discover how you can make a difference in the future of our church. This will be an important day in our church, and we hope all of our members will be there to step into the future together.

We will be keeping you informed on a weekly basis, and we welcome the opportunity to talk with you as we progress.

Members of the task force are Tim DeMirjian (chair), Karen Bogosian, Paul Doghramji, Mary Loiselle and Harry Stephey.

This is your church, your effort – we need to hear from you.
—Mary Loiselle

FOOD DRIVE

"I was hungry, and you fed me."

There will be a Fall Food Collection Drive. The food we supply is a blessing to those who receive it, and we are blessed for giving it. Bring non-perishable foods with you to church each week. There will be baskets in the Narthex.

Just a Reminder.... that the sign-up sheets for flowers and for the coffee hour are tacked on the bulletin board. Please don't forget to sign up.

— Florence Devedjian

**THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL
WOMEN'S EAST COAST FELLOWSHIP**
invites you to the First Biennial Conference entitled:

Women – The Apple of God's Eye

"Keep me as the apple of your eye..." Psalm 17:8

September 16-18, 2005

Doubletree Guest Suites, Waltham, MA

Women of all ages are invited to our first East Coast Biennial Conference. So make an effort to join us in sharing special moments of singing and fulfillment, laughter and bonding – joy and praise. You will not want to miss this opportunity. You will be enriched as a woman and be a blessing to others.

Music: Nancy Tutunjian Berger writes and sings contemporary Christian music. She is a soloist at First Armenian Church of Belmont, MA.

Speakers: Rev. Dr. Shoushan M. Salibian is the Chaplain at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center. She is also in practice at Emmaus Institute Counseling Services as a pastoral psychotherapist. Dr. Arpi Boynerian is an ophthalmologist. She also serves at the Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown, MA.

Contact the church office for registration materials.

If you enjoy singing, our church needs you! Come and sit in on a choir rehearsal. If you aren't able to be a regular member of the choir, join us for special anthems and occasions. We guarantee you'll have fun, and maybe discover a meaningful new way to worship. First rehearsal is Thursday, September 15, 8 p.m. Contact Mary Loiselle for more information.

—Mary Loiselle

CRAFT SALE & AUCTION

Saturday, September 10, 12-8 p.m.

St. Mark's Armenian Catholic Church

400 Haverford Road, Wynnewood, PA

610-896-7789

www.smacc.org

This event will be held in St. Mark's Church Hall, featuring exquisite and unique items from Armenia, Asia, the Middle East and local artists from our region. Proceeds of the sale and auctions will benefit the St. Mark's Church Building Expansion Fund.

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 the Fellowship Hour

Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Giragos Chopourian Haig and Becky Makoulian

For the AMCC School Supplies Fund

Bessie Ruzjian

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

Edward & Grace Kavjian

Howard & Rose Garabedian

John & Marjorie Bogosian

Elaine Farashian

Sirouhie Bardizbanian

Orla & Sandra Reese

Grace Ohnigian

Albert & Esther Momjian

For the Chopourian Christian Education Fund in honor of Ruth Melian's 70th birthday

Ed & Marian Buchakjian

In honor of Betty Sarian's birthday

James & Elaine Gulezian

For the DeMirjian Music Fund in honor of James Buchakjian's 80th birthday

Ed & Marian Buchakjian

Leon Buchakjian

Grace Ohnigian

For the DeMirjian Music Fund in honor of Charles De Mirjian's 80th birthday

Ed & Marian Buchakjian

In honor of Ruth Melian's 70th birthday

Edward & Joan Kurkian

In honor of John and Florence Gulezians' 60th Wedding Anniversary

Richard & Linda Vishab

Set & Joan Momjian

Jack & Helen Vishab

In memory of Marvin Preske

Menas & Grace Kalagian

Mary Parnagian

Grant Parnagian

Linda Preske

In memory of Prof. William Boghosian

Diane Edmunds & Susan Arslanian

F. James Mukhalian

Harry & Cecilia Gray

In memory of Edward Androyan

Raymond & Drew Knasiak

Sunday School for All Ages begins on Sunday, September 18, at 10 A.M.

**ARMENIAN MARTYRS'
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S
ANNUAL FALL RETREAT**

Featuring

The Rev. Dr. Peter S. Doghramji
Renowned pastor, teacher, author, intellectual

Topic

“Developing a Loving Faith”

Armenian Martyrs'
Congregational Church
100 N. Edmonds Avenue
Havertown, PA 19083
Church Phone: 610-446-3330
Cindy Hamill: 610-789-7831
Ruth Melian: 856-667-7256

**Thursday
October 6, 2005
9 a.m.—2 p.m.**

- Continental Breakfast
- Bring a Brown Bag Lunch
- Dessert and Beverages provided



**All Are Welcome!
Bring Your Friends!
RSVP Please**

