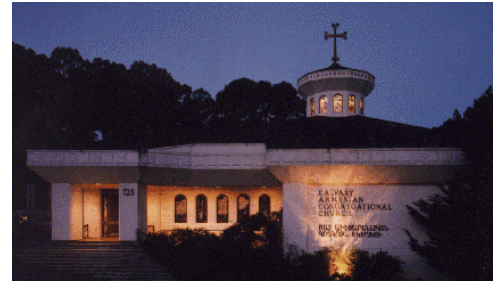


The Calvary Messenger

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Volume 40 / Number 1
2011

The Newsletter of the
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco
725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94132-2902 Office (415) 586-2000 / Fax (415) 333-1076
Website: <http://www.cacc-sf.org> / Office Email: cacc@cacc-sf.org / Rev. Nerses Balabanian: nbalabanian@gmail.com

A View from Calvary

"The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable." (Brannan Manning). I was shocked when I read this quote and I started to think about my own life as a Christian, then as a husband, a father, and finally a pastor. I began thinking that about the series of sermons that I am currently preaching on James titled "Walk the Talk." Every day, I encounter people who are not Christians. As a witness of the Christian faith, I think about how I talk and communicate with the "world". Am I representing a Christ-like character?

Lately Sevan and I have been singing in a community choir in our town. Since we both love music, we decided to join this musical community. Most of the choir members are not Christians. In fact, we usually hear them making jokes about Christians. When we first joined the choir, I introduced myself as a pastor. Some liked to talk with me, while others kept a distance. I understood and remained patient. After a few months, God opened interesting opportunities. In the choir's bass section where I sing, three different singers opened their hearts to me asking for advice. One singer even asked for prayer for his miserable condition. Just a few months ago, one of those guys was making strange remarks about the words of Christmas carols we had to sing for the winter concert (amazingly they had chosen to include these Christian songs). At the time, I was angry and I wanted to fire back. I was being tempted. I did not retaliate, instead, I simply smiled. God gave me the courage to stand firm in my faith and reflect Christ's love in various ways. Again and again I asked God, "How can you shape me to have a Christ-like character in this world?" Francis Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel at all times; if it is necessary use words."

James urged his audience to pray for **wisdom from above**. He knew our lives in this world would be full of trials, temptations, and tough situations. But he also instructed us to receive those trials and difficult situations with *joy* and *perseverance*. Therefore, my prayer today is: "Lord, change me so I can be sanctified, so I can love the unlovable, so I can continue to rejoice in these difficult times, even though I do not understand why I am in this situation..."

My message is simple, Walk the Talk. Jesus said: "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46) Take your commitment to Christ seriously. Remember, you are an ambassador of Christ in this world. You never know who will be led to Christ through you. Allow *him* to give you wisdom to walk the talk.

Rev. Nerses Balabanian, Pastor



2011 Coming Events

Saturday, March 5

World Day of Prayer

Saturday, April 16

Musical Night at Calvary

Sunday, April 17

Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 21

Maundy Thursday

Sunday, April 24

Easter Sunday

Sunday, May 8

Mother's Day

Saturday, May 14

Annual Banquet

Speaker, Dr. Kenell Touryan

Sunday, June 12

Graduation Sunday

July 18 - 22

Vacation Bible Camp

Sunday, August 21

Annual Picnic

Christmas Celebration

The College and Career and Youth of Calvary Armenian Congregational Church held its annual Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 19, 2010. With God's grace and the generosity of a single, anonymous donor, we were able to offer tickets to attend this event for free. The response from our Church community was overwhelming. Over two hundred people made reservations to attend.



Halajian hall was decorated with green trees, lots of twinkle lights and beautiful gold and silver decorations. The delicious food was prepared and executed under the direction of Chef Marty DeArcangelis. This "family style" dinner has been a success since the College and Career group implemented it last year. The plentiful food was delicious and

enjoyed by all.

Hrag Kalebjian did a great job as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Jenny Balabanian (harp) and Hagop Nazarian (violin) entertained the crowd before the dinner. Ara, Bryan, Hagop and Badveli serenaded the crowd during dinner with our favorite Christmas carols. The evening's head-liner was a stand-up routine by our own Greg Asdourian. Loud guffaws of laughter could be heard throughout the room. The audience was treated to musical entertainment by CACC's Choir. Alidz and Sevan prepared their own version of 'hangman' where groups of contestants had to fill in the missing letters to guess the correct answers. Competition was fierce! Yummy chocolate prizes were handed out to the winning team. The evening's program ended with Christmas carols led by the youth worship band and singers who invited the audience to sing along.



Badveli's message was about coming to the banquet to which God invites us. This banquet is free. It is only through His Grace that we can come to the banquet God prepared for us.

The Christmas banquet was a time to reflect on this invitation.

(continued on page three)

(Continued from page two)

We especially want to thank all of you who donated money to our event. With your generosity, we were able to help a family in need in our community.

*Susan Kazarian and Roushig Kalebjian
(co-chairs)*



Christmas Sunday

The Christmas Worship Service at Calvary was held on the 19th of December. Calvary Church members used all their musical talents to celebrate the birth of our Lord. The Sunday School participated by singing, reading and reciting. The Orchestra played the hymns. The Choir sang the beautiful “Amen” and guest trumpeter Ara Anderson gave a special glow to the service. The Christmas message “And He shall be called...” connected the names of Jesus with the gifts the magi bought him.



We praise God for all those who made that worship service memorable.



Missions Corner

Visit to Evangelical Church of Yerevan

During my October 2010 visit to Armenia, I had the opportunity again to worship with our brothers and sisters at the Evangelical Church of Yerevan, this time in their newly constructed sanctuary on the grounds of AMAA complex on 18 Marshall Baghramian Boulevard.

The new sanctuary which can hold around 350 people, with its all new amenities, is the latest addition of Evangelical church buildings in Armenia. Attached are two views of the entrance and the pulpit of the church. During my visit to the Evangelical Church of Yerevan, Rev. Hamlet Kyuregyan, the pastor of the Evangelical Church of Yerevan, was the messenger.

We praise God for the freedom of worship which came with independence of Armenia. The Evangelical Churches in Armenia are vibrant and under

the leadership of Rev. Rene Leonian and fellow brethren. Presently there are about 50 fellowships across Armenia.



Entrance view of the Evangelical Church of Yerevan



View of the pulpit of the Evangelical Church of Yerevan

Calvary Church has been financially supporting and praying for the following three fellowships:

- Evangelical Church of Hrazdan
- Evangelical Church of Aintab
- Evangelical Church of Alaverdi

Let us keep in our prayers our brothers and sisters of the Evangelical Churches of Armenia.

John Haleblian

Welcome Babies

On Sunday January 9 Calvary Church welcomed the babies born in 2010 during the Fellowship Hour. The pastor prayed for the babies and their families and each of them was given a children's Bible. Then the parents cut and served the cake.

The newborn children were:
Grace Dogadkin, Lincoln Avedis Dunlap and Julianna Eliza Arroyo.



Food Festival

The CACC annual Food Festival and Boutique Noel was held on November 13 and 14 this year.

The weather was beautiful, sunny and warm. We started with a gathering of all the first shift volunteers in the kitchen with a prayer of thanks to God for this great opportunity and the privilege of representing Him on this day. After months of hard work, planning, cooking, baking, rolling and setting up, everything was finally ready to be catered to our precious guests. It was an expression of the gift of hospitality towards the community. The attendance was great this year. Guests arrived before our 12 noon start time. This was an indication of a good turnout by our community of church members, friends and relatives, and local folks who had read or seen one of our ads in the community media.



Our hall was full of cheerful and hungry people all day. They came to sample the delicious food prepared by our church ladies



who have been working for months planning and preparing for this big event. The hot food line was busy almost all day Saturday. The country cupboard was selling delicacies to take home while our youth cafe, Hyebucks, was ready with coffee, drinks and sweets. For those looking for a gift or a special something to take home, Boutique Noel was full of handmade items such as rugs, tablecloths and other interesting items. All attendees received a ticket for a mini raffle that was done hourly.



We were prepared to feed those spiritual needs for our guests as well. The book department was very busy with free Bibles and other Christian books, DVDs and CDs for sale. The Deacons greeted each visitor, welcomed them at the door, and handed them flyers about the ministries of the church. Our church believes in the power of prayer and thus we had a special box for

confidential prayer requests which was used by several visitors.

This year our musical and dance program was really wonderful. The Calvary Jazz Band started things off at 2 PM on Saturday with a set of Armenian and “Odar songs” done only as our band can interpret them, just wonderful. The new singers and musicians flavored this year’s performance with the addition of trumpet, saxophone, and new Armenian songs. Then we were joined by the Hamazkayin Araz Dance Group and Yerevan Dance Group that captivated the crowd. The festive atmosphere was alive all day Saturday.



(continued on page six)



The evening was capped by the raffle of prizes donated by our friends in the local business community. Everyone had a great time.

We continued the food festival on Sunday following the worship service with great food and fellowship.

Thank you to all attendees, all those volunteers who worked



tirelessly, the wonderful music and dance groups, and most of all to God for making this day a special event in the life of His church.

See you next year in November...

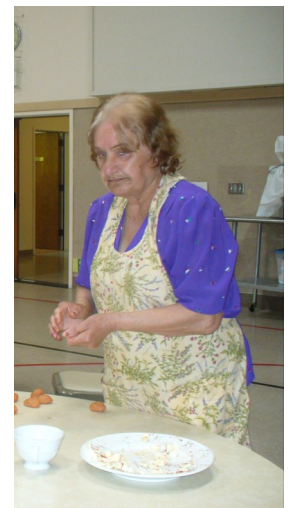
Armen Beylerian

Behind the Scenes...

After finishing a delicious plate of koftas, kebabs, hummos, sou beoregs, pilav, and much more, I wondered to myself who the blessed and talented cooks were who prepared all this food. Who had the time to organize, recruit, shop, bake, roll, and cook for this annual festival?



Behind the scenes at CACC, there are several dedicated women and men who go out of their way to make the Food Festival happen. Their commitment has no limits. Sometimes spending an entire day or week in the church's kitchen, they come together to marinate the meat, roll the sarma, stuff the sou beoreg, season the kebab, prepare the yalanchi, cut the mante, and do so much more.



Mrs. Perouz Kherimian



One lady who helped us faithfully for years, passed away peacefully in the past month. We will miss you Mrs. Perouz Kherimian. We appreciated your kindness, faithfulness, and your dedication to all the Armenian Churches of the Bay Area. Your commitment to the church and your deep trust in the Lord will never be forgotten.

Musical Night at Calvary

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Saturday April 16, 2011 7:00pm

Calvary Choir
Men's Ensemble

Guest Musicians

Seda Kizirian, Soprano
Ara Anderson, Trumpet

RSVP and for tickets info call CACC office at 415-586-2000 or Alidz Nazarian at 408-241-3232
725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco
Adults \$15, Student/Children \$10

CACC Financial Report

Summary results for the period January 1st
through February 15, 2011

2011 Budget:

\$255,000.00 (pledges & donations = \$148,000.00)

As of February 15th:

Total Income:

\$17,379.00 (pledges and donations = \$15,213.00)

Total Expenses: (\$27,823)

Net Loss: (\$10,444.00)

The Calvary Messenger is produced as a ministry update for our congregation and friends. Donations to offset printing and mailing costs are appreciated. Any comments, errors, omissions and/or newsworthy items may be addressed to the editors, care of the church office or sent via email to our box at cacc@cacc-sf.org. Please check our website for current ministry information: <http://www.cacc-sf.org>

Ministry Opportunities

For information please call the church office: (415) 586-2000

Children's Sunday School, Junior High and High School Youth Groups: San Francisco, every Sunday.

Women's Coffee Time with God: San Jose, every Thursday.

Coffee Time with God: San Francisco, first Thursday every month.

Men's Fellowship: Los Altos, fourth Saturday every month.

HomeBuilders for Young Couples & Families: South Bay & Peninsula, third Saturday every month.

College & Career: South Bay and Peninsula, every Wednesday.

Weekly Dinner Bible Study: San Francisco, every Monday.

Church-wide Prayer Meeting: Los Altos 1st Thursday every month.

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church
725 Brotherhood Way
San Francisco, California 94132-2902

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Church News

CONDOLENCES

Mrs. Azadouhy Getsoyan (mother of Varouj Getsoyan and Silva Khoshafian) who passed away on Tuesday, December 7, 2010. Our condolences and prayers to Getsoyan and Khoshafian families.

WEDDING

We congratulate Jon and Jen (Tcharkhoutian) Khoshafian, who were married on Saturday, August 21, 2010 at Bel Air Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles, California. Our congratulations also to Khoshafian and Tcharkhoutian families.



DEDICATION

Our congratulations to Vehazoun and Lauri Guekguezian on the dedication of their daughter, Leia Sevana Guekguezian on Sunday November 7, 2010. Please pray for them.

UPCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES

Sunday, February 27

at 11:00 am

Sunday, April 21

at 11:00 am

Sunday, June 12

at 11:00 am



Thank You

Dear Friends of CACC,

I just wanted to express my appreciation to you all for your heartfelt prayers, cards, visits and phone calls during my recovery from hip surgery. The delicious food that you prepared for me and Dick was a special bonus. I feel blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family. Thanks again, it means a lot.

My best,

Arlene Kazarian

Dear Badveli Nerses and Congregation,

Thank you for all your prayers and help during my episode. Your caring really made a big difference!

Love,

Audrey deLoache