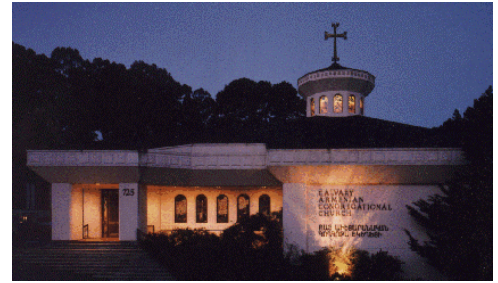


The Calvary Messenger

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Volume 40 / Number 2
2011

The Newsletter of the
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco
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A View From Calvary



Congratulations! It is summer in beautiful and sunny California! Many of you either graduated or finished another year in school. Receiving a diploma is a good feeling; it is an achievement after a lot of hard work. But what is next? Where do we go after this? What do we do with our achievements?

Lately, I was studying John's Gospel and these verses hit me. **Jesus was thirsty and hungry** after ministering in Judea and was moving towards Galilee. He took the short way which the Jews avoided because they did not want to encounter Samaritans. **Jesus took the short, yet the tough way.** He wanted to meet the Samaritans when nobody wanted to meet them.

The events unfolded when his disciples went to find food and left him sitting at the well. Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman was remarkable. She came to get water but she left without water- yet having found the **Living Water**.

Jesus was physically still thirsty and hungry. When his disciples came back with food to offer him, Jesus' answer made them rethink about life and priorities. He said: **"My food, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.** Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, **open your eyes and look at the fields!** They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:34-35)

What kind of food is this? I believe although Jesus was thirsty and hungry, yet after his encounter with the Samaritan woman he reminded his disciples that He came for one reason, to obey His heavenly Father and do His will, which meant to bring the *Good News of Salvation from sin and to give people everlasting life.*

Do we have similar food?

I admire Jesus. He had a **clear vision** about His mission. That kind of vision sustained him in all circumstances, good and bad. He knew that the harvest is around him and it was plenty, but he wanted faithful "workers" to reap the harvest. Jesus said "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Luke 10:2)

(continued on page two)

2011 Coming Events

July 18 - 22

Vacation Bible Camp

Sunday, August 21

Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 18

Renewal Sunday

Saturday, November 12

Food Festival

Sunday, November 20

Thanksgiving Sunday

Saturday, December 17

Christmas Celebration

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Sunday

85th Annual Banquet

The 85th Anniversary Banquet was the best in every way. Leading our banquet committee, John Kerkezian coordinated a fabulous meal, catered by Aram Janjigian's Armenian Gourmet, beautiful musical entertainment by Salpi Keleshian with Rev. Nerses and the brilliant keynote speaker, Dr. Kenell Touryan.



Haladjian Hall had the ambiance of the finest restaurant with orchids on every table, appetizers galore and superb steak or salmon dinners. There were nearly 150 people present to enjoy this evening of fellowship in Christian faith and fine food.

Rev. Balabanian and Mrs. Salpi Keleshian were reunited to perform the musical ministry of Nor Yerk. Their selections made our hearts sing with joy and hope. We enjoyed Salpi's beautiful singing voice and exciting contemporary Armenian Christian style. It was an honor to have her powerful presence at our banquet.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Kenell Touryan, is the most interesting scientist. He is a brilliant speaker on the certainty of God's hand in all creation. His thoughts this evening were on the

need of renewable energy in the future. His eye opening explanations clearly described pathways and possible solutions for the energy needs of the next generations. These are the intriguing connections of science and Christian faith.

Many thanks to all our generous sponsors for their kind donations of financial support which made our Annual Banquet such an outstanding event.



Sherry Arroyo

(continued from page one)

As graduates, students or parents, parents or kids, grandparents or grandchildren, let us hear God's calling for our lives and let us obey His will. We all have ordinary jobs, positions or lifestyles; yet we all need to have a *higher purpose* to live which **makes our ordinary life extra-ordinary**. Let doing the will of our heavenly Father be our food.

It is summer. For some, it is the time for vacation and relaxation, which we all need. Yet, I hope it will be a time to reflect why we are here and what we are doing with our lives.

I wish you a blessed summer. May God bless you so you become a blessing to others.

Rev. Nerses Balabanian, Pastor

Graduation Sunday

Graduation Sunday, CACC's annual tradition, was held on June 12. This year, we were blessed with a record number of graduates, ranging from preschool to college. A luncheon was organized by the Sunday School staff and volunteering ladies. Our Sunday School children first amused the crowd with recitations of Psalm 150 and the Lord's Prayer and performances of various Sunday School songs. The Sunday School recognized its only graduate Gabe Damir and the Pastor prayed for all the graduates and asked for the Lord's guidance for their futures. The graduating group posed for pictures behind the cakes, and the audience was treated to a slideshow which was arranged again this year by Alexa Nazarian. A talent show immediately followed.



The current teachers Alidz Nazarian, Roushig Kalebjian, Marge Damir and Julia Damir, and substitute teachers Arpi Haleblian and Alina

Bosnoyan received well-earned applause for heading up our Sunday School this year. The Pastor thanked the Lord for the current and past Sunday School teachers who were appreciated for their dedication.

Our whole-hearted congratulations go out to all of our graduates.

Julia Damir



This photo was taken during the Sunday worship service at the Evangelical Church of Hrazdan, one of our sister churches in Armenia where Anahid Yeremian visited in May. Recently their pastor, Rev. Edik Tadevosyan, asked for some assistance to build a bakery next to the church. In this bakery they are going to bake bread for the AMAA summer camps and they will also provide bread for the nearby nursing homes in the winter. Also, this shop will provide job opportunities for 10 families from the church. We have received a thank you letter from Badveli Edik in appreciation for the help of CACC and its friends in support of this project.



World Day of Prayer

Ladies from 5 Armenian Churches in the San Francisco Bay Area came together to praise God, on the World Day of Prayer, namely on March 5th at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church.



The theme was “How many loaves have you?” given to us from the ladies of Chile in South America.

It was an uplifting service as the ladies sang, prayed and listened to a challenging message given by Sevan Balabanian. She told us about the widow at Zarephath where she served Elijah bread and water from her most meager resources. God supplied her needs for many years to come. Sevan continued reminding us of Jesus feeding the 5000 from 2 fish and 5 loaves.



She challenged us with the question how many ‘loaves’ do you have to share with the needy?

The service was followed by luncheon prepared by the Calvary ladies, where we had ample time to fellowship.

Respectfully,

Arpi Haleblian

The AEUNA organized a pastoral retreat open to all its active pastors at Camp Arev March 29-31st. Our main speaker was Dr. Siang-Yang Tan, Senior Pastor at First Evangelical Church of Glendale and Professor of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary.



Dr. Siang-Yang is the author of many books, including *Lay Counseling*, *Managing Chronic Pain*, *Coping with Depression* (with Dr. John Ortberg), and *Disciplines of Holy Spirit*. The purpose of this retreat was to give pastors a chance to learn, share, have fellowship and get refreshed. It was a time of reflection, prayer, and communication with God and each other. I am thankful for our Union’s care for the pastors. May God be glorified.

Musical Night at Calvary

The 2nd annual Calvary Armenian Church Musical Night at Calvary concert was held on April 16th.

The 28-member church choir led by Pastor Nerses Balabanian performed for an enthusiastic crowd in the sanctuary.



Mistress of Ceremonies, Ms. Stephanie Adrouny, opened the program followed by the first song of the night of a bursting rendition of “This is the Day” which is a contemporary vocal arrangement of a 13th Century French Resurrection hymn.



The first part of the choir’s performance included beautiful songs like the famous “Majesty”, “Restore the Joy”, Calvary Church’s theme song of the year, and the spiritual “Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel?”

The popular Armenian favorites “Genats Yerk,” “Oror” and “Giligia” had many in the audience humming or singing along. Our special guest was mezzo soprano, Seda Kizirian, a graduate of the Komitas Conservatory of Music in Yerevan. Ms. Kizirian has taken lead roles at the Yerevan Opera and has performed in numerous countries overseas. A newcomer to the Bay Area, she has expressed her willingness to share her talent with the whole



community. Before her first solo, Pastor Nerses spoke eloquently of the value of the ancient song “Havoon, Havoon” written by Krikor Naregatsi, a 10th century theologian and explained how the words were an allegory of the resurrection. Ms. Kizirian’s interpretation was just enchanting. Especially poignant was the song “Eem Yerevan”. Ms. Kizirian gave life and expression to allow the audience to imagine the cold water, hot sun and lofty mountains of Yerevan.



The music took a slight turn with the introduction of the new duet formed of Pastor Nerses on the piano and Ara Anderson on the trumpet. The two met a year ago and began jazzing up Armenian music from Gomidas through Khachaturian to present an impressive medley that had spectators jittering with their piano/trumpet combo. Anderson is a noted musician and his impressive bio reveals that he studied classical pedagogy and performance at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in addition to many musical associations and accomplishments. He is an unassuming performer and brought a fresh performance to the ballet selection from Gayane, with controlled playing of the most difficult bars of the song, to then go on to surprise with an unexpected blast of tune-switching melody. Pastor Balabanian brought fire and energy to a jazzy upbeat version of the familiar and famous Armenian tunes.

The Calvary Church choir is also home to The Men’s Ensemble who rounded out the night’s program with harmonious Christian songs “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” and “Let’s Praise the Lord,” and the haunting “Lerner Hayreni” which speaks of the longing for the slopes of the homeland of Armenia.

The finale was fittingly one of America’s most beloved hymns, “Amazing Grace”, performed by all the participants and soloists of the concert. Ms. Kizirian’s descant added a great touch to the marvelous music. The Pastor introduced the song with the reminder to look to the cross as an expression of God’s amazing grace towards us as we approach the Passion Week.

Accompanying the many scores of the night were Ara Kullukian and Sevan Balabanian.

Yvonne Minassian

CACC 2011 Graduates



Lori Agbajian (Pre.K)



Joshua Barsoian (Pre.K)



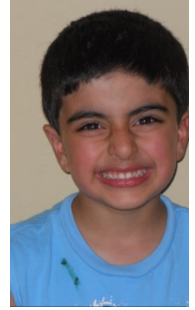
Dmitri Dogadkin (Pre.K)



Chloe Ghatta (Pre.K)



Andrea
Gulesserian (Pre.K)



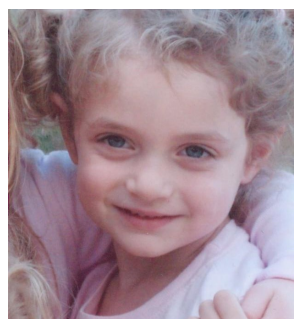
Kyle Hartuinian (Pre.K)



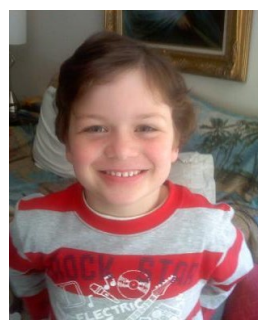
Christian Nazarethian (Pre.K)



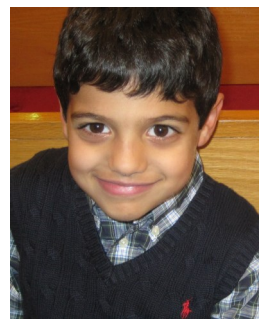
Shant Panossian (Pre.K)



Gillian Adrouny (K)



Luke Guekguegian (K)



Jonathan Orchanian (K)



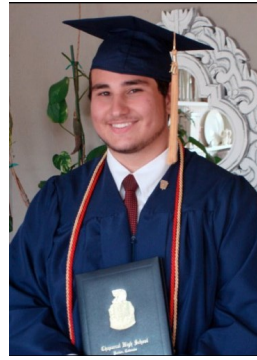
Gabriel Damir (Elem.)



Rachel Sagherian (Elem.)



Jenny Balabanian (H.Sch.)



Connor Kerkegian (H.Sch.)



Michelle Sagherian (H.Sch.)



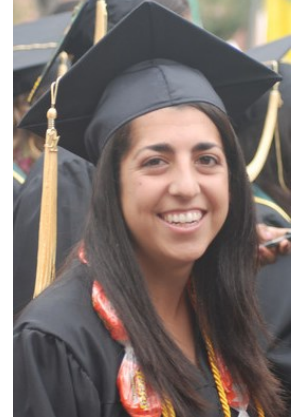
Mark Sagherian (AA)



Alina Bosnoyan (BA)



Amy Beylerian (BS)



Lauren Silverman (BS)

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church

Annual Picnic

Please join us for a day of worship, food, fellowship and of course fun!!

MENU

Kebab (Chicken or Steak) w/ Pilaf, Salad, Hummus, Watermelon and Dessert included.

- Adults: \$10.00 (2 Skewers-\$3 for Xtra Skewer)
- Children (under 12): \$5.00
- Bottled Water = \$1 & Soda = \$1
- Park Entry Fee = \$5 per vehicle

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR OUR 3RD ANNUAL BIG BBQ PICNIC RAFFLE!!!



When: August 21, 2011 with Worship Service @ 11a.m. & Food Service @ Noon

Where: Huddart Park, Werder Shelter
1100 King's Mountain Road
Woodside, CA (650) 851-0326

Reservations are appreciated
Please Call Church Office at
(415) 586-2000

Party Time
Sing & Play

Crazy
Crafts

Wild Bible
Adventures

Bamboo Blast
Games

Treetop
Treats



Rowdy
Wrap-Up



July 18th-22nd

10am-1pm
aftercare 1-3pm

Calvary Armenian
Congregational Church
725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco

for more info contact
Rene Avnessian
(415) 215-0936



morning program:

\$35.00/child/week includes snacks,
crafts and T-shirt

aftercare:

\$20.00/child/week includes lunch

Ministry Opportunities

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

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.

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.

I feel blessed to be a member of this wonderful church.

Many thanks again, it means a lot.

My best and prayers,

Betty Khatchadourian

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>

CACC Financial Report

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

2011 Budget:
\$255,000.00 (pledges & donations = \$148,000.00)

As of June 15th:
Total Income:
\$92,861.67 (pledges and donations = \$50,016.75)

Total Expenses: (\$115,507.66)

Net Loss: (\$22,645.99)

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church
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San Francisco, California 94132-2902

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Church News

BIRTH

We congratulate Armen and Rubina Boldi for their newborn daughter, Christina Rubina Boldi, born on Tuesday, March 15, 2011. Congratulations also to the grandparents.



We congratulate Dana and Elaine Long for their newborn daughter, Lucinda Grace Long, born on Thursday, May 5, 2011. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

WEDDING

We congratulate Aram and Jennifer (Bosnoyan) Kushdilian, who were married on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at Centerpoint Presbyterian Church, Pleasanton, California. Our congratulations also to Bosnoyan and Kushdilian families.



We congratulate Armen and Jasmine (DeField) Berjikly, who were married on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles, California. Our congratulations also to Berjikly and DeField families.

CONDOLENCES

Dr. Anthony Manoukian who passed away on Sunday, February 6, 2011. Our condolences and prayers to his wife, Downey, brothers, Pete, Jerry and Phil.

Mrs. Martha Agulian (mother of Astrid) who passed away on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. Our condolences and prayers to Agulian and Kalebjian families.

Mr. Hagop Jack Plavjian who passed away on Sunday, April 10, 2011. Our condolences and prayers to his wife, Berjouhi, also Plavjian, Badeer, Shabazian, Adrouny, Chukhyan, Khachadourian, Asmarian and Keshishian families.

Dr. Vahaken Tachdjian (brother of Ishkhan Tachdjian) who passed away on Saturday, June 11, 2011. Our condolences and prayers to his wife, Asdghik, also Tachdjian, Setrakian and Tekirian families.

UPCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES

Sunday, August 7
at 11:00 am

Sunday, September 18
at 11:00 am

Sunday, November 20
at 11:00 am

Sunday, January 1, 2012
at 11:00 am

