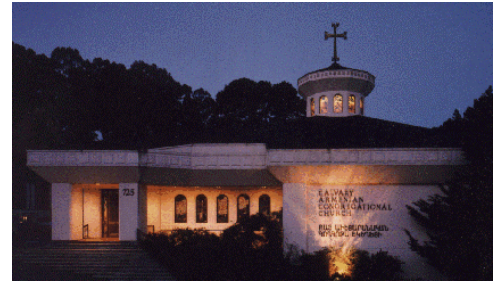


The Calvary Messenger

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2012

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

And we all...are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Cor 3:18)



Be Transformed ... into His Image...
and experience peace, joy, and unity
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C A C C • 2012 - 2013

Rev. Nerses Balabanian
Pastor

"A man goes into a deli, orders the matzo ball soup, and motions the waiter back to his table. "Taste the soup," says the man. "Sir, is something wrong?" asks the waiter. "I can get you another bowl right away." "Taste the soup," says the man. "Sir, is there something you want me to tell the chef?"

"Taste the soup."
"Fine," says the waiter, exasperated. "I'll taste it. Where's the spoon?"
"Aha!" says the man.
Sometimes you have to do what's being asked of you before you understand why it's required. You have to be willing to taste the soup in order to discover the spoon is missing.*

2012-2013 Coming Events

**Saturday & Sunday,
Nov. 10 & 11**

Food Festival

Saturday, December 15

Christmas Celebration

Sunday, December 23

Christmas Service

Sunday, December 30

Last Sunday of the Year

Sunday, January 6

Armenian Christmas

Saturday, March 23

CACC Choir Concert

Saturday, March 24

Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday

Sunday, March 31

Resurrection Sunday

I love the song *Trust and Obey*. There is no other way to maintain a relationship with our God. We cannot come to Him with an agenda. In fact, if you have an agenda, it should simply be: **to be transformed into Christ's Image**. How? **Trust and obey** even when sometimes it does not make sense. How many times was Joseph disappointed about his situation? Sold, put in prison, forgotten...you name it. But he learned to trust and obey God. Eventually God shaped him, molded him and made him a leader.

(continued on page two)

“Mission to Hayasdan”

This summer I had the amazing opportunity to go on AMAA’s Medical Mission Trip in Armenia. As a pharmacy student, this trip could not have been more perfect. Not only did I gain firsthand experience by working in an actual pharmacy, but I also got to serve the people of my unique nationality by helping to provide both physical and spiritual treatment.

We were a group of 30, ranging in age from 10-year-old daughters of doctors all the way to retired radiologists, yet every single member had a crucial role in the mission. Our team consisted of eight doctors, a registered nurse, pre-medical students, and family members. Together we traveled to Yerevan, where we spent the first two days touring the major sites, which included Khor Virap, Etchmiadzin, and the Armenian Genocide Memorial. After attending the Evangelical Church in Yerevan, we made our way to the village of Vanadzor, where we held our first clinic for two days. Vanadzor is very close to Spitak, the epicenter of the major earthquake in Armenia, and is still greatly suffering from the earthquake’s damages. In Vanadzor, we were able to hold church services for our patients twice a day, where team members had the opportunity to share their testimonies.



After Vanadzor, we traveled to Stepanavan for another two and a half days of clinic. Again, we held church services for our patients in Stepanavan, as well, to emphasize the importance of spiritual healing over physical healing. In the total of five days of clinic, our team was able to see over 900 patients. The fact that people would travel several hours just to make their yearly trip to the doctor was astonishing to me. We are truly blessed with our medical resources here in America. I am still in shock over so many families standing in line for over three hours just to pick up vitamins, Tylenol, and eyeglasses. In fact, while picking up his prescription at the pharmacy, one man said to us, “I pray that God will continue to bless you so that you can continue to bless us.” That definitely forced me to put my life and blessings into perspective.

Overall, my experience in Armenia this summer was very humbling. It was a much-needed reminder that only God is able to design and organize an educational, fun, productive, serving, and extraordinary missions trip and send me on it. I pray that one day you might have a similar experience as well!

(continued from page one)

Our new annual theme is “**Be transformed into His image.**” Our Bible studies, our sermons, our activities will be a means to teach us how to live IN Christ so we can be transformed into His image. But learning is not enough. Knowledge should bring us to our knees in prayer as we hear His voice, as we hear His whisper, as we learn, trust, and obey His WILL.

So go taste the soup. God has put delicious soups on our tables. Go and have the soup and learn to trust His will in your daily walk.

Church Council and Deacons Leadership Retreat *Margaret Shamlian*

On Saturday, August 25, 2012 the church council and deacons met at the Martin Family Guesthouse in Woodside for a day of spiritual discussion and planning for the year ahead. Pastor Jim Gaderlund, former pastor of Foothill Covenant Church in Los Altos, was the discussion leader for the entire day.

After worship singing and prayer, he introduced the format for the retreat by saying that there would be times to listen, times to pray, times to be together, and times to be alone. There would also be “the reading of scripture and how to read and how to listen”.

In the morning session the group looked back at our 2011-2012 theme from John 15:1-5: “If you abide in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.” Each person shared the significance of this passage with a partner and finally with the entire group. We were asked if there was something that God might be saying to our whole group regarding this passage in *one* word. Some of the answers were as follows: growth, obedience, pruning, fruitful, guidance, and awareness.



One of the most meaningful parts of the retreat was our “time alone”. Pastor Jim instructed each person to wander the grounds alone and in complete silence. This was a time of real retreat to enjoy the beautiful setting of the Martin Family property and quietly reflect on our relationship with Christ.

As the group came together again we looked back on the previous year and assessed what events were examples of “The fruit of Abiding in Him”. Some of the things that came to mind were maturing through Bible study, encouragement from outside our community for Vacation Bible Camp, our annual choir concert, our deacons’ prayer ministry each Sunday, and new members joining the church.

Pastor Jim then challenged the group to discuss where we had looked for fruit and hadn’t seen it. Some of the challenges mentioned were the need for more people to get involved in serving each other, a deeper dependence on God, the nature of our Bay Area community being spread far and wide.

Following lunch, the afternoon session began with a study of the coming year’s theme from 2 Corinthians 3:12-18, “Being transformed into His likeness”. Once again we shared the significance of the passage with a partner and then with the entire group. Some of the responses were as follows: Skype with God, transformation, transparency, Christlikeness, and difficult honesty.

To bring both sessions together, Badveli Nerses counseled the group that without “pruning” there will be no “transformation”. The real challenge of the sessions was to discuss which things in our programs help or hinder the process of transformation to Christlikeness.

The council and deacons are deeply grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Eff and Patty Martin who opened their beautiful property to us for a day of meaningful discussion, fellowship, prayer and quiet reflection. We were equally blessed to have Pastor Jim Gaderlund as our leader. Special thanks to our Badveli Nerses and his wife, Sevan, who coordinated the entire day with Pastor Jim and our moderator, Robert Damir.

Annual Picnic

Marty & Taleen DeArcangelis

Surrounded by nature and under a perfect sky we came together to worship the Lord at our annual picnic held this year on August 19, 2012 at Huddart Park in Woodside. Our day of worship and fellowship began with singing a



number of hymns by request led by Rafi Balabanian followed by a rousing sermon by Badveli Nerses. It is always a special time to worship God surrounded by His living and breathing works of natural splendor.

The worship service was going to be immediately followed by lunch when it was discovered that one small item somehow did not make it onto our list-plates! Thank the Lord we had a fair amount of to-go boxes that substituted for plates until plates could be brought by our savior of the day, Stephanie Adrouny. Once we actually had plates we were able to provide a kebab lunch service that once everyone was able to actually eat, was

enjoyed by all. Once again the many wonderful desserts brought by everyone to share helped put a sweet ending to the meal. Our greatest joy is witnessing all of the fellowship and bonding that happens during the picnic. It is wonderful to see the Lord working directly in and through our congregation.

As things were winding down it became time to draw the winners of this year's picnic raffle. As we decided to take a year off from putting on the picnic we decided to up the prizes this year to include a second prize of a barbeque



dinner for 4 at our home. Thanks so much to everyone who has supported the raffle over these past few years. This year our winners were Sona and Arpi Bekmezian who took home the 3rd Prize consisting of a BBQ Basket; 2nd Prize of a dinner for 4 went to Armine Adrouny and our grand prize of a barbeque dinner for 6 was won by Sherrie Paregian. By the way, there is a wonderful story behind Sherrie winning the grand prize this year (and Sona and Arpi winning the 3rd prize as well). If you get the opportunity please ask Sherrie to share the story with you. Great thanks to everyone who supported the raffle this year and in doing so supported our church.

These past years of putting on the picnic were a great joy that we now wish to pass on to others. (And let's be honest, forgetting plates is a good sign that we at least need to take a break from the picnic to renew, recharge and refocus.) We cannot thank enough the many people who have helped us make the picnic possible not only this year but for each of the previous four years as well. If it wasn't for the support of a number of people there is no way we could have put a picnic together, plates or no plates. Thanks to everyone who came out to make this year's picnic another special day.

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, second Wednesday 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.

South Bay Bible Study: Every last Friday of the month.

Women's Bible Study & Fellowship: Every Last Thursday of the month.

Lifetime Service Recognitions

During our 86th Anniversary Banquet we honored seven members from our congregation (Edward & Gloria Medzian, Vehanoush Nazarian, Yevnige Salibian, Ardson & Gladys Shegoian and Sam Yeramian). In succeeding Issues of The Messenger we are going to include remembrances from the honorees.

Vehanoush Nazarian

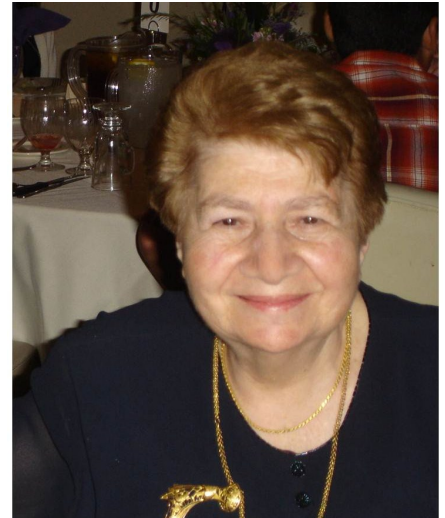
I was born in Aintab and grew up in Aleppo attending Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church with my parents and grandparents, and later, Nahadagats Martyrs' Church with my husband and children for more than 40 years. Once we moved to California in 1990, I joined the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church in San Francisco.

When I was 17 years old, I realized the impact of the Grace of God and Christian education in my life. Several of my atheist friends who had just arrived from the Nazi persecution, during World War II, had a very bitter outlook toward life. I felt so grateful that I had the Christian upbringing and surrounded by God's love and grace, which is consistently manifested to me through my family, friends, and of course the church.

God has always given me opportunities to grow in my faith, and come closer to Him. A Bible study series conducted by Rev. Barkev Apartian in Aleppo Syria significantly strengthened my faith, and lately my Grandson Aren gave me a Christian book to read, through which many of my questions were answered.

In Aleppo I served at Martyrs' church as chairperson for the ladies circle, the World Day of Prayer, and other committees, like Karageozian Foundation, the Board of Armenian Old People's Home, and many other philanthropic committees for many years. In San Francisco I enjoy helping Calvary Church by food preparation and calling on people who are sick.

My advice to the coming generation is to the parents specifically: Be a true example to your child. Attend church and encourage your children to attend church regularly and to study the word of God.



Yevnige Vahram Salibian

"I was born in 1914 in Aintab at the wake of World War I, in a Christian family of 7 children. I was 13 when my mother died of malaria. Though I missed my mother, Jesus became my comforter, and my only close friend.



After I was saved at that young age, I had a desire to serve the Lord with my life. That desire was realized when I married Rev. Vahram Salibian. My husband influenced me in my Christian life, to grow and serve together for 40 years in Lebanon, and later for many years in Calvary Church in San Francisco, and now I serve in Ararat Home and love to share the Gospel with senior men and women.

As a Yeretzgin I had to serve in different capacities. Hospitality was essential. Also, I was a Sunday school teacher and Dignantz Bible study leader. Many days I accompanied my husband in visitation to countless Armenian families in Ashrafieh and Dorah, on foot. After moving to California, we attended Calvary Church every Sunday and helped to enhance the spiritual life of the church by holding Bible studies in our home for many years.

My prayer for the new generation is for them to believe and follow Christ, the Son of God, who died for our sins and rose again the third day, then to be ready every day to meet Him in the clouds. Also, to obey His last command in Matt. 28 to go into the world and proclaim the Good News to everyone about forgiveness of sins and life eternal with God in heaven."

Vacation Bible Camp

Lorig Kalfayan

We had such a blessed and fun week at CACC's eleventh annual Vacation Bible Camp (VBC). We had 61 children ready to learn God's Word, excited to sing His praises and join in fellowship with new camp friends. This year's VBC theme was Sky: Everything is Possible with God. Mark 10:27! Our team did a great job decorating CACC's Hallajian hall with all things related to the sky, such as hot air balloons, planes, etc. We also partook in Operation Kid to Kid, which raised money for mosquito nets to help prevent illness and death in children from impoverished regions of the world. With the help of both the children and CACC members of the church, we raised enough money to buy 51 nets!



Every morning the children and leaders began the day singing worship songs and learning the Bible point of the day. The children also gave examples of their God sightings, which were illustrations of how God was working in their lives. Many of the children would

say they were thankful for camp, for their families and for their friends. Afterwards, they watched a skit that exemplified the theme of the day. Once the morning worship time were over, they would line up in their crews and learn their Bible lesson of the day. Each day they were taught a story from the Bible that illustrated the theme of that day.



The Bible point for the first day was "No matter who you are...trust God!" The Bible story was from Matthew 8:5-13 where a Roman officer trusts in Jesus. The second day's Bible point was "No matter how you feel...trust God!" Their second day's story was from John 11 when Jesus raised Lazarus back to life. Day three's Bible point was "No matter what people do...trust God!" It was from Matthew 26:36-

27:31 where Jesus was arrested and put on trial. Day four's Bible point was "No matter what happens...trust God!" On Thursday, the lesson focused on Jesus' death and resurrection. The final day's Bible point was "No matter where you are...trust God!" The final day's story was based on John 21:1-14 when Jesus made breakfast for his friends after his resurrection.

Once the Bible lessons were finished, it was snack time. Once they were full, they began watching their buddy of the day teach them a lesson and then would head to the Arts and Crafts stations. Subsequently, campers went to their game areas and each game they played followed the theme of the day. Finally, it was lunch time, an exciting time for many Armenian children. Afterwards, campers joined the Imagination Station which consisted of different arts and crafts projects. At last it was time to settle down to sing



songs of praise and recount their lessons of the day. Each day ended with the Lord's Prayer in Armenian.

God really blessed us this year with a plethora of children excited to learn God's Word, and volunteers who happily taught the children and showed them by example what it means to be a love to the next generation and we are so thankful to everyone who participated.

We are thankful to the following staff members for their contributions to Vacation Bible Camp 2012: Rene Avanesian (Director), Sevan Balabanian, Marge Damir, Lori Ishkanian, Lorig Kalfayan, Arlene Keshishian, Nicole-Corine Lenhart, Martha Missirlian, Sevan Palanjian, Marina Sweeney. We are also grateful to the following amazing team of young crew leaders: Izek Avanesian, Sofia Avanesian, Azad Balabanian, Yerem Istanbulian, Shant Kilijian, Aram Nazarian, Haig Sadakian, Lori Zadourian. Also we are grateful to Sherry Arroyo, Robert Damir and Serop Moroyan for helping decorate the hall. Finally, the following people need to be thanked for the delicious lunches they provided: John and Arpi Haleblian, Rosalie Kalebjian, Yvonne Minassian, Grace Palanjian, Mihran and Rose Sagatelian.



**Armenian
FOOD FESTIVAL**

Saturday, November 10 12:00 - 9:00 PM Sunday, November 11 12:30 - 3:00 PM

AUTHENTIC ARMENIAN FOOD & PASTRIES

Live Music & Folk Dancing · Boutique Noel
RAFFLE WITH GREAT PRIZES!

FREE ADMISSION

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church
725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco
(415) 586-2000 CalvaryArmenianChurch.org



Covenant Four Quartet sang in our Service
Sunday, September 23rd
It was a blessing for all of us.

Thank You

Dear Calvary Family,

We would like to thank you for your kind expression of sympathy during a most difficult time for us. Your prayers, phone calls, cards and emails meant a great deal. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

The Family of Richard Kazarian

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



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>

Church News

BIRTH

We congratulate Razmig and Jennifer Minassian for their newborn daughter, Arminé Rose Minassian, born on September 10, 2012. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

We congratulate Kirk and Nairi (Tashjian) Hourdajian for their newborn son, Raffi James Hourdajian, born on September 9, 2012. Congratulations also to the grandparents.



WEDDING

We congratulate Ari and Hoorig (Nassanian) Manoukian, who were married on Saturday, July 7, 2012 at United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles, California. Our congratulations also to the parents.

We congratulate Raffi and Nicole (Tujian) Vartkessian, who were married on Saturday, August 18, 2012 at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, San Francisco, California. Our congratulations also to the parents.



CONDOLENCES

Mr. Herman Gedikian (father of Steve Gedikian) passed away on Saturday, July 7, 2012. Our condolences and prayers also to Gedikian and Aroyan families.

Mr. Richard Kazarian passed away on Saturday, July 7, 2012. Our condolences and prayers also to Kazarian, Shamlian, Hagopian and Hoggan families.

Mr. Mesrob Chinchinian (brother of Varant Chinchinian) passed away on Wednesday, August 29, 2012 in Aleppo Syria. Our condolences and prayers also to Chinchinian, Arajian, Hamalian, Aroyan and Gulvartian families.

Mrs. Marie (Shemmassian) Boursalian (Arpi Kalfayan's aunt) passed away on Sunday, September 2, 2012. Our condolences and prayers also to Boursalian, Shemmassian and Kalfayan families.

Rev. Bernard Guekguezian passed away on Saturday, September 22, 2012 in Fresno, California. Our condolences and prayers also to Guekguezian families: to his loving wife, Knar (Kazanjian) and two sons, Badveli Ara & Vivvy, Asbed 'Bernie' Esq. & Amy and 5 grandchildren.

UPCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES

Sunday, November 18, 2012

at 11:00 am

Sunday, January 6, 2013

at 11:00 am

Sunday, February 17, 2013

at 11:00 am

