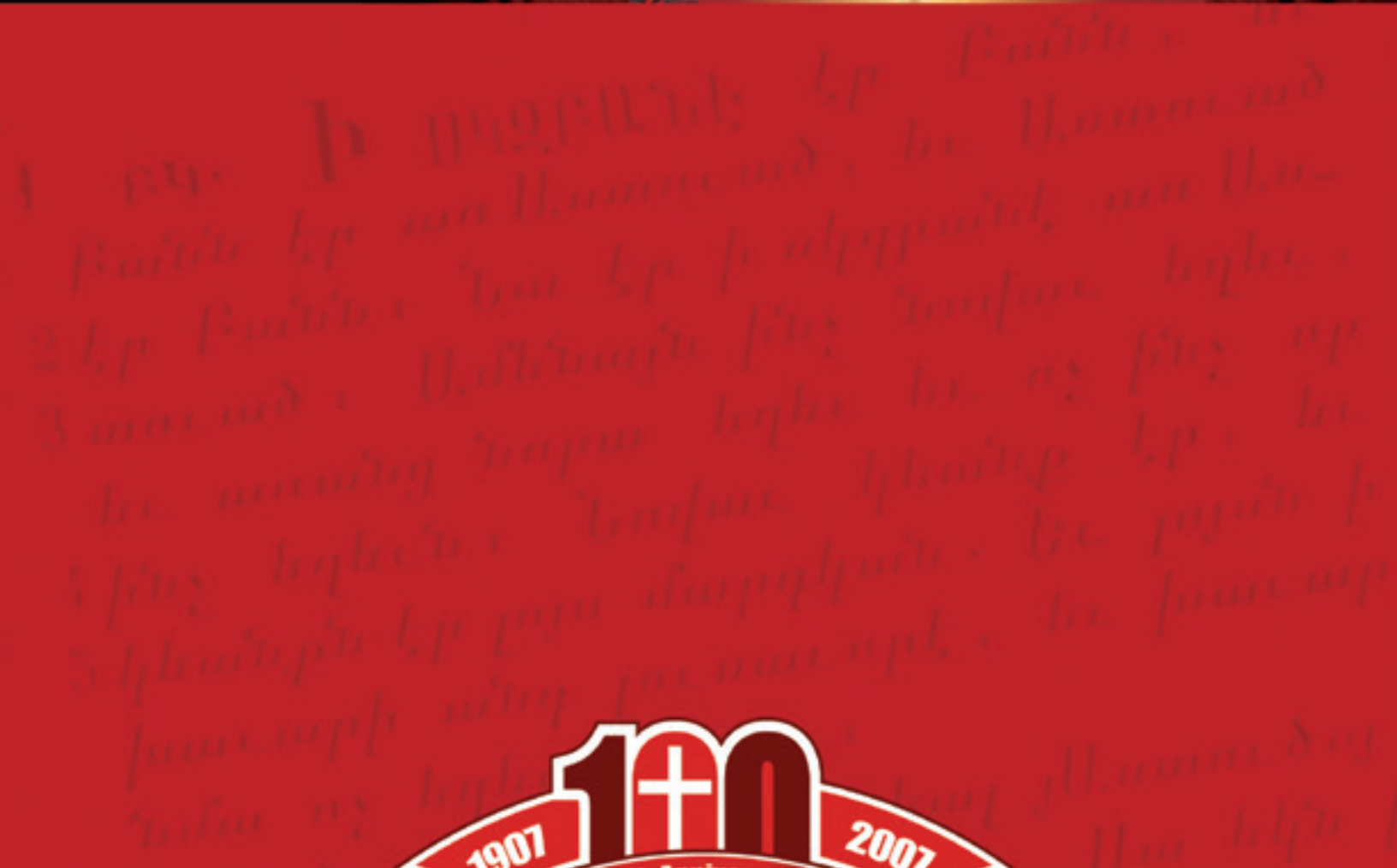


# ARMENIAN MARTYRS' CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



HONORING THE PAST • CELEBRATING THE PRESENT • SHAPING THE FUTURE

## ABOUT THE COVER OF OUR COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET

As you scan the handsomely designed cover, you will note the name of our church, our 100th Anniversary logo, and reference to our past, present and future. Closer observation will reveal a faint inscription printed on a field of red.

Stated in ancient classical Armenian (*krapar*), these are the opening words of the Gospel of John: **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."** This powerful statement is an affirmation of our Armenian Evangelical faith. The field of red symbolizes God's ultimate sacrifice of his son Jesus Christ for our salvation. And, as the name of our church implies, it acknowledges the blood of Armenian martyrs who died to preserve and perpetuate our faith.

We are indebted to our art director, Steven Green, a man of faith, for his sensitivity to include these words in the language of our ancestors.

CHD

# **COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET**

**100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ARMENIAN MARTYRS'  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**1907-2007**



100 North Edmonds Avenue • Havertown, Pennsylvania, 19083





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>Welcome</b> Dr. Eileen Stephey, Moderator	2
<b>Foreword</b> Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor	3
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	
Charles DeMirjian	4
Co-chair, 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee	
<b>Banquet Program</b>	
Albert Momjian, Esq., Master of Ceremonies	7
<b>Keynote Speaker Profiles</b>	
Dr. Peter B. Doghramji	9
Dr. Tony Campolo	11
<b>History of Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church</b>	13
Dr. Peter B. Doghramji	
<b>Our Donors</b>	38
<b>Our Donors' Statements of Tribute</b>	42
<b>Church Family Album of Photographs</b>	82
Worship and Music Ministry	
Christian Education	
Organizations	
Missions & Outreach	
Social Events	
Conventions and Retreats	
Special Events	

Welcome

## **EILEEN STEPHEY, MODERATOR**

On behalf of the Board of Deacons I welcome each of you to this 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church. The history of this church is a special one. Having been founded by immigrants, and ones who immigrated to the United States in order to escape with their lives, the congregation came together because they had a common bond. They were Armenian, they were Protestant, and they were immigrants in a strange land. Their faith and the fellowship they established were the center of their lives, thus they were able to support one another in a strange country.



We are proud of their ability to survive because of the strength provided them by their faith in God and the support of their fellow congregants. The generations that have followed have relied on the intergenerational bonds that our original church members created as they raised their families in the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church. Our congregation is much different today. Most of the congregation was born in the United States and speak only English, and about 20 percent of the active members are non-Armenian.

This church has been an integral part of my life for forty-nine years. I have participated in every aspect of church life, I continue to learn, and feel that my spiritual journey will continue through my life. I do believe that we are not "there" yet; that we do have an obligation and an ability to reach out to others and challenge our comfort level.

My father, Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian, continuously challenged his comfort level. Led by his strong faith in God, he lived his Christian life in service to others. He believed in the mission of Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church to reach out to others, and thus he led the congregation to move from Ludlow Street in Philadelphia to Havertown. He led the church to become members of the United Church of Christ, yet another way for us, the congregation, to reach out our faith to the larger community. His message to the congregation, whom he dearly loved, remains "We have loved you sincerely, and have unselfishly sought your well-being and happiness. Stay your true Christian course."

God is still speaking. My prayer is that we will listen to do his will.

Thanks be to God,

Eileen Stephey, Moderator

## Foreword

### REV. L. NISHAN BAKALIAN

IT IS INDEED A HAPPY OCCASION to celebrate our centennial, and fitting to record it in word and action. This church took shape early in the twentieth century and weathered all of its storms, from the Genocide to this day. Now, early in the twenty-first century, we gather to praise God and commit to obey him into the future.

In terms of time passed, our hundred years may be a small thing. Yet, if we reflect on all that transpired across the globe which gave form to our existence and activity, we cannot help but recognize the guiding hand of our Father. Similarly, when we narrow our focus to consider the challenges we have faced here at home, and how our lives have been woven together to create the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of today, we are awed by the grace of the Lord Jesus at each step.

Now it is time to consider the future, and the promise of the Spirit's continuing presence and guidance as we move forward. To begin, let us view ourselves and our world from God's perspective. As we do so, God will surely reveal to us a fresh and exciting plan for us, reflecting both on our identity as a church and as unique individuals. As we move forward together, the Holy Spirit will equip us to extend our hand and enable us to speak in the language of the Father's love.

So, let us celebrate as we move into our next century!

Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian



*ՄԵԾԱՂԷՍ ՕՐՀՆՈՒԱԾ ԵՆՔ, գիտնալով թէ Աստուած ոչ միայն հարիւր տարուայ պատմութիւն մը տուած է մեզի, հապա նաեւ դարստոր ժառանգութիւն մը: Այդ ժառանգութիւնը հին եւ այժմեական է: Հին՝ ինչպէս հայ ժողովուրդին եւ եկեղեցւոյ պատմութիւնը, եւ այժմեական՝ ինչպէս Հայց. Աւետարանական եկեղեցւոյ առաքելութիւնը: Սակայն այդ հին եւ այժմեական ինքնութիւնը պէտք է սարինք նոր միջավայրի եւ զանազան մշակոյթներու մէջ, անդրադառնալով թէ բոլորէն առաջ եւ բոլորէն վեր է մեր Տէր Յիսուսը: Իր Խօսքը եւ իր Հոգին է որ անհատ հաւատացեալին եւ եկեղեցիին ճշգրիտ ուղղութիւն կու տայ, մինչ նոր կարելիութիւններ եւ մարտահրաւերներ կը դիմագրաւենք մեր յաջորդ հարիւրամեակին մէջ:*

*Որքան Աստուծոյ օրհնութիւններով օծուած՝ միասին քալե՛նք դէպի ապագայ:*

*Վեր. Լ. Նշան Դազալեան*



# 100 YEARS AND COUNTING

*Charles H. DeMirjian, Co-chair, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.*

A century of life for any church is significant in itself. It is even more so for Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church. Many of today's celebrants are the very children and grandchildren of our founders, some of whom were the shattered survivors of the Armenian Genocide seeking new life in the New World.

We today are the beneficiaries of their invincible courage. Thus we first thank God and acknowledge our forebears. Our challenge – our privilege – is to build upon their Christ-centered faith in this new century.

## WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE:

### OUR GENEROUS DONORS

From the outset, this booklet was envisioned as a living keepsake, a commemoration of God's goodness. Its focal point is a memory lane paved by your written tributes in honor of those who enabled us to reach this landmark. Donors' tributes have come from 21 different states, plus Canada and England, illustrating the geographic range of our extended church family. We humbly acknowledge your generosity and inspiring tributes.

### OUR HISTORIAN AND FEATURED PARTICIPANTS

We acknowledge Dr. Peter B. Doghramji, erudite scholar, author and our former pastor, for his concise and engaging historic encapsulation of our first 100 years, written especially for this booklet. It follows that Dr. Doghramji's topic for the banquet addresses our church's history and legacy.

With equal excitement, we acknowledge and are honored by the presence of Dr. Tony Campolo, renowned evangelist and motivational author. Dr. Campolo's topic for the banquet addresses the outreach of the church universal. Biographic information for Dr. Campolo and Dr. Doghramji is provided in this booklet.

We're proud to acknowledge Daniel Kaiserian, a 2007 honors graduate of Penn State University, B.S. in mechanical engineering, star athlete, and vibrant member of AMCC. Dan briefly addresses our youth on their importance to our church's future.

We acknowledge our own Albert Momjian, Esq., master of ceremonies. One of America's top family lawyers, Albert has for decades lovingly provided, pro bono, expert legal services for numerous Armenian-American philanthropic foundations and educational and missionary agencies.

### OUR 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

We acknowledge our co-chair, John Devedjian. John not only took responsibility for the reception and banquet facilities, he alerted us early in 2006 to start thinking about a celebration. John is known throughout our greater community as a hands-on manager of special events, including AMCC's popular July 4 picnics.

We thank the Bogosian family, lifelong benefactors of AMCC. Starting with John, whom we keenly miss, Marge and daughter Karen continue the tradition. As owner and chief executive (respectively) of Visual Sound, Marge and Karen have generously donated their services for the staging and production of this gala event.

Celebrations of this scope require willing hands and professional skills. I'm always amazed by the capable people God has given our small church. In creating this booklet, I personally thank my three ACEs (Angels of Calm Expertise), Jeannette Keshishian, Maria Bakalian, and graphic designer Lori Brown.



Thus we acknowledge our stellar Banquet and Booklet Committee:

## RECEPTION AND BANQUET

Administrators: . . . . . **John Devedjian, James Buchakjian, Jr.**  
Assisted by: . . . . . **Howard S. Garabedian**  
Staging and production: . . . . . **William Luff, Karen Bogosian; Visual Sound**  
Décor: . . . . . **Marge Bogosian**  
Guest seating: . . . . . **Pauline Karjian, Jeannette Keshishian**  
Video: . . . . . **Karen Bogosian, Linda Preske**  
Keynote speakers: . . . . . **Charles DeMirjian**  
Pastors' mementos: . . . . . **Joan Momjian, Marge Bogosian**  
Music director: . . . . . **Mary Loiselle**  
Publicity and PR: . . . . . **Marian Buchakjian, Mary Loiselle**  
Direct mail letters: . . . . . **Charles DeMirjian**  
Address lists: . . . . . **Jeannette Keshishian**  
Printing, collating, mailing: . . . . . **Tim and Jackie DeMirjian**

## COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET

Creative director and editor: . . . . . **Charles DeMirjian**  
Donor gift administrators: . . . . . **Don Uber, Edward Kaiserian, John Melian**  
Donor tribute administrator: . . . . . **Maria Bakalian**  
Photo research: . . . . . **Jeannette Keshishian, James Mukhalian**  
Photo digitizing: . . . . . **Karen Bogosian, Richard Barnes**  
Photo editing and captioning: . . . . . **Maria Bakalian, Jeannette Keshishian**  
DePersico Creative Group  
Art director: . . . . . **Steven Green**  
Graphic designer: . . . . . **Lori Brown**  
Production and printing: . . . . . **Tim and Jackie DeMirjian**

## GENERAL

Co-chairs: . . . . . **John Devedjian and Charles DeMirjian**  
General administrators: . . . . . **Jeannette Keshishian and Maria Bakalian**  
Office secretary: . . . . . **Amy Larchuk**  
Home secretary: . . . . . **Diane DeMirjian**  
Ex-officio: . . . . . **Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor**  
**Dr. Eileen Stephey, Moderator, Board of Deacons**  
**Denise VanRoy, Chair, Board of Trustees**

*In a publication of this kind, we sincerely regret there may be errors of accuracy or omission.  
We ask your understanding and, if you choose, a note pointing out the error.*

## OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



Sitting L to R: Pauline Karjian, Marian Buchakjian, Linda Preske, Marge Bogosian, Joan Momjian, Jeannette Keshishian; standing L to R; James Buchakjian Jr., Don Uber, Howard S. Garabedian, Maria J. Bakalian, Charles DeMirjian, Mary Loiselle, Edward Kaiserian, John Devedjian

L to R: Amy Larchuk, John Melian, Tim DeMirjian, Diane DeMirjian, Karen Bogosian, F. James Mukhalian



# 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 2, 2007 — Drexelbrook, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania

## BANQUET PROGRAM

**Welcome** Dr. Eileen Stephey, Moderator

**Invocation** Rev. Dr. Sghomon Nuyujukian, Pastor Emeritus

**Dinner** (Paree Akhorzhak! Bon Appetit!)

**Master of Ceremonies** Albert Momjian, Esq.

### **Acknowledgment of**

Honored Guests

Letters of Congratulation

100th Anniversary Committee

**Choral Selections** AMCC Choir

Mary Loiselle, Director

Judy Large, Accompanist

**AMCC History and Legacy** Dr. Peter B. Doghramji

**Honoring Our Pastors** Joan Momjian and Marge Bogosian

Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian

Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji

Rev. Dr. Sghomon Nuyujukian

Rev. Dr. Eugene Grau

Rev. Jirair Sogomian

Rev. Gary Schongalla-Bowman

Rev. Hovhannes Karjian

Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian

**Encouraging Our Youth** Daniel Kaiserian

**Choral Selections** AMCC Choir

**Outreach of the Church Universal** Dr. Tony Campolo

**Closing Thoughts and Benediction** Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor





## Guest Speaker

**PETER B. DOGHRAMJI, TH.M., D.D., PH.D.**

Peter was born in 1929, in Aleppo Syria. He grew up in the Syriac Evangelical Church within the Armenian Evangelical Union. He attended the one-room school of the church, until the Rev. Edward Tovmassian, his pastor/hero, enrolled him in the fourth grade of the elementary section of Aleppo College, where he continued through high school and the freshman year in college. The Rev. Dikran Antreassian helped him enroll in the seminary in Beirut in 1948. Peter graduated in 1953, with a B.A. from the American University of Beirut and a Diploma in Theology from the Near East School of Theology (NEST).

There he met his future wife, Marie Bedikian, an elementary school teacher who wanted to pursue her career in Christian education. They were married on February 26, 1953, and honeymooned in the Syrian Desert, in the dead of winter, as they were heading to Peter's first parish in Hassakeh, Syria. He preached in Arabic to a congregation of mostly Arabic-, but also Armenian-, Aramaic-, Kurdish-, and Russian-speaking people. Their first son, Karl, was born there in 1954. Peter was ordained in 1955.

The following year Peter joined the faculty of Aleppo College as a teacher of religion and philosophy. Paul, their second son was born in 1957. In 1959, he was elected as the first national President of Aleppo College. He was given a year's leave for graduate study at Harvard University Divinity School, where he studied under such luminaries as Paul Tillich. He received a Master of Theology (Th.M.) degree in 1961.

From 1961 to 1966, Peter served Aleppo College as president and professor of religion. He was also the interim pastor of the National (Arab) Evangelical Church in Aleppo. Their third son, Jimmy, was born there in 1963. Peter resigned his position in 1966 to continue his doctoral studies in a joint program between Princeton University and Princeton Theological Seminary. His doctoral dissertation was "Christian Ethics in the Muslim Context." He was awarded a Ph.D. degree, magna cum laude, in 1970.

During his last year at Princeton, he served the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church in Havertown, Pa., as part-time interim pastor. He declined the invitation of the church to be their permanent pastor due to his commitment to teach at NEST as professor of theology. After two semesters of teaching in 1969-70, he and his family settled in Havertown, where he resumed the ministry of the church on a full-time basis.

After serving the church for 9 years he resigned in 1979 to join the staff of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ as an Assistant to the Conference Minister. In 1985, he became the President and Minister of the Conference. Having served a full term of six years, he retired in 1991.

His retirement was interrupted several times: first, in 1993 as interim pastor of Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, Calif; next as interim (1993-4) and then senior pastor (1994-96) of the United Armenian Congregational Church in Hollywood, Calif; twice as interim pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York (2000-3; 2006- present); and as Executive Director, Armenian Missionary Association of America in 2004.

Peter was a trustee and Adjunct Professor of Theology at Lancaster Theological Seminary. He served as Executive Secretary (1979-84), Moderator (1984-6), and Chairman of the Theological Commission of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. He has been widely known as a theologian, Biblical scholar, preacher and teacher. He is the author of a book of sermons, articles, and meditations, published by the New York Church in 2004, entitled *In Other Words*. He and his wife continue to reside at 240 David Drive, in Havertown, Pa., where they maintain and share a lovely home and garden with their friends and family. They have seven grandchildren.







Guest Speaker

**ANTHONY CAMPOLO, PH.D.**

Tony Campolo is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania. He previously served for ten years on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Eastern College and earned a Ph.D. from Temple University.

Founder and President of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education (EAPE), Dr. Campolo has worked to create, nurture and support programs for “at-risk” children in cities across North America, and has helped establish schools and universities in several developing countries.

Dr. Campolo is a media commentator on religious, social and political matters, having appeared on television programs like *The Colbert Report*, *Nightline*, *Crossfire*, *Politically Incorrect*, *The Charlie Rose Show*, *Larry King Live*, *CNN Dayside*, *CNN News* and *MSNBC News*. He co-hosted his own television series, *Hashing It Out*, on the Odyssey Network, and presently hosts *Across the Pond*, a weekly program on the Premier Christian Radio Network in England. He is also a highly respected and sought-after guest on radio stations across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

He is the author of 34 books, with the latest releases in July 2007, *The God of Intimacy and Action*, and November 2006, *Letters to a Young Evangelical* (Basic Books). His other recent titles are *Speaking My Mind*, *Which Jesus* (W Publishing Group), *Everybody Wants to Change the World*, *Practical Ideas for Social Justice* (Co-authored by Gordon Aeschliman, Regal), *Adventures in Missing the Point* (Co-authored by Brian McLaren, Zondervan), *The Church Enslaved* (Co-authored by Michael Battle, Fortress Press), *Let Me Tell You a Story: Life Lessons from Unexpected Places and Unlikely People* (W Publishing Group), *The Survival Guide for Christians on Campus* (Co-authored by Will Willimon, Howard), *Revolutions and Renewal* (Westminster John Knox Press), *Following Jesus without Embarrassing God* (W Publishing Group), just to name a few.

Dr. Campolo is an ordained minister, has served American Baptist Churches in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and is presently recognized as an associate pastor of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church in West Philadelphia.

Dr. Campolo and his wife, Peggy, live in the Philadelphia area and have two grown children and four grandchildren.

# Charter OF The Armenian Congregational Church of Philadelphia.

In the Court of Common Pleas No. 4;  
 of the County of Philadelphia, March Term, 1921, No. 4444.

To the Honorable, the Judges of the said Court:

Agreeable to the requirements of an Act of the General Assembly entitled "An Act to provide for the Incorporation and Regulation of Certain Corporations" approved the 10th day of April, A.D. 1874 and the supplements thereto, the undersigned, all of whom are citizens of Pennsylvania, having associated themselves together for the support of public worship, and desiring to be incorporated according to law, hereby certify:

Article I. The name of the proposed corporation is:

**The Armenian Congregational Church of Philadelphia.**

Article II. The said corporation is formed for the purpose of the worship of Almighty God, according to the faith, doctrine, word, usage and discipline of the Armenian Apostolic Church, and to be established permanently in the City of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania.

Article III. The business of the said corporation is to be transacted in the City of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania.

Article IV. The said corporation is to exist perpetually.

Article V. The said corporation is not for-profit and therefore has no capital stock.

Article VI. The names and residences of the subscribers are as follows:

Hagop A. Khatibjian, 1115 Locust street, Philadelphia; Sarkis H. Adourian, 1115 Locust street, Philadelphia; Article VII. Section 1. The number of trustees of said corporation fixed at three, a majority of whom shall be lay members and the names and residences of those who are chosen trustees for the first year are:	Arshak M. Malayanjian, 148 Lexington avenue, 5th floor, New York, N.Y.; Hagop M. Dadourian, 1115 Locust street, Philadelphia; Joseph Simon Hagopian, 6185 Longwood, Philadelphia.
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Article VII. Section 2. The number of trustees of said corporation may be changed from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws of the said corporation duly adopted from time to time.

Article VIII. Section 1. The said corporation may acquire and hold real estate and personal property in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the title yearly income from which shall not exceed such amount as is authorized under the terms of the Commonwealth.

Section 2. All property, real and personal, belonging to the said corporation in which shall hereafter be acquired, devised or conveyed to it shall not be otherwise taken and taken over by it, than subject to the control and disposition of the lay members of the corporation and constitute officers or representatives thereof or shall be composed of a majority of lay members.

Article IX. The number of said corporation may be amended, changed or altered from time to time in accordance with the terms of at least a majority of the members of the corporation present at a meeting of the corporation duly convened for that purpose.

In witness whereof the subscribers have hereunto set their hands and seals the 10th day of March, A.D. 1921.

Witness: Emily S. Handley, Clerk. [Signature]	Arshak M. Malayanjian Hagop A. Khatibjian Sarkis H. Adourian Hagop M. Dadourian Joseph Simon Hagopian
-----------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**  
 Department of Public Welfare  
 Bureau of Charities and Public Welfare  
 Harrisburg, Pa.  
 March 15, 1921

**Decree.**

In the Court of Common Pleas No. 4 of the County of Philadelphia, March Term, 1921, No. 4444.

And it is the order of the Court that the said corporation be incorporated and that the said corporation be authorized to acquire and hold real estate and personal property in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the title yearly income from which shall not exceed such amount as is authorized under the terms of the Commonwealth.

And it is further ordered that the said corporation be authorized to acquire and hold real estate and personal property in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the title yearly income from which shall not exceed such amount as is authorized under the terms of the Commonwealth.

Witness my hand and seal the 15th day of March, A.D. 1921.

[Signature]

Recorded in the office for the recording of deeds, maps and land of Philadelphia in the City and County of Philadelphia in the Book No. 69, page 57.

Witness my hand and seal the 15th day of March, A.D. 1921.

[Signature]

# CENTENNIAL REFLECTIONS ON THE ORIGIN AND DESTINY OF OUR CHURCH

*By Peter B. Doghramji, Th. M., Ph.D., D.D.*

## INTRODUCTION

Each of us has a beginning in time. It is called “birthday.” None of us remembers the birth event. Years later, when we are old enough to ask where we came from, we are told the story of our birth. At one hundred, we are old enough as a church to ask the same question about our birth event. How did it all start? What name was it given? Who were the charter members at birth? Who were the spiritual parents who nourished it and helped it grow? And then what happened? Children keep asking these questions because they want to know who they are. We are the children of the Armenian Martyrs’ Congregational Church and, in this centennial year, we want to know our origin so that we may seek and find our proper destiny.

What follows is an attempt to write a brief history of our church. History is more than a chronology of names and events; it is in the realm of meaning. All events are not meaningful. Our collective memory sifts unimportant events and retains those that have an impact on future generations. It is appropriate that we reflect on the meaningful events of the last hundred years, and interpret them in the light of the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. The history of our church is a faith-based narrative of what God has done in and through our church in the last hundred years.

## THE FORMATIVE FIRST FIFTY YEARS

In ancient times, episodes and periods of history were marked by the reign of kings and emperors. The same is true for ministers whose tenures serve as historical markers to help identify one era in the life of a church from another. The roster of our permanent and interim ministers and their tenures during the first fifty years is on page 14.

### The Initial Stirrings of the Spirit

*Genesis 1:2*

A handful of Armenian immigrants made Philadelphia their home in the waning years of the nineteenth century. The Armenian community of Philadelphia, numbering about 120 in the early 1900s, held occasional worship services in Odd Fellows Hall on North Broad Street whenever preachers were

available. They included Revs. Hovhannes Haygouni, Khachadour Benneyan of Worcester, Hovhannes Santigian of Boston, and Haigag Khazoyan of New York. The Armenian community was truly ecumenical, not only by design, but also by ethnic and spiritual necessity. In 1902 Protestant and Apostolic leaders formed a joint steering committee of five members to arrange for bi-weekly religious services led by an available priest, minister, or even a layman.

This ecumenical initiative prompted the then-Primate of the Apostolic Church, Bishop Hovsep Sarajian, to give his blessing and encouragement. That same spirit of cooperation would later on produce such organizations as the Philadelphia Inter-Communal Committee in the 1960s and PAND, the acronym for the New Year’s Eve celebration, which

began in 1981. The fledgling Armenian community of Philadelphia had already been conceived by the Holy Spirit and was about to begin birthing “baby” churches.

It is indeed providential that an exceptionally talented minister was available to act as the “midwife” to facilitate the birth of the first Evangelical Church. The Rev. Haroutune Jenanyan was an erudite scholar, an ardent evangelist, and the founder of numerous schools and institutions in Anatolia. His presence during this period of ecclesial gestation is the first historical marker of our nascent church. He married the first Armenian couple in 1898, Arakel Zartarian and Aghavni Ohanian, and led monthly services for the entire Armenian community from 1896 until his untimely death in 1907. He was the first Armenian to be buried in Arlington cemetery in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.

The Rev. Hovhannes Haygooni was a contemporary of Rev. Jenanyan and occasionally assisted him in leading worship services. Typical of the time, in order to subsist, he was also a salesman for foreign and patented medicinal products.

The Rev. Aristakes Nouskhajian was born and ordained in Marash, Turkey, and settled in Philadelphia in 1898. He was a popular preacher in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, and was the author of numerous hymns in Turkish.

## Birth of Our Parent Church

### “Born of God”

*John 1:12*

With the arrival of more Armenian Evangelical families, among them the Keuhnelians, Diradourians, Mukhalian, and Hovsepians, the pregnancy of the Armenian ecumenical community proved to be more promising than originally assumed. There were several embryos ready to be born. Among them was an Evangelical group that appointed a pastoral search committee composed of Dr. Mihran Kassabian, Dr. Dicran Kabakjian, Aghavni Kabakjian, Roupen and Armenag Mahjoubian. The committee came up with an exceptionally qualified candidate in the person of the Rev. Haig Yardumian. Born in Marsovan, Turkey, he grew up in the village of Injirli. He graduated from Anatolia College and was ordained in 1888 for ministry in Yozghat. Missionaries helped him go to Scotland and enroll at Edinburgh University for graduate work. At the time

## Roster of Ministers During the First 50 Years

**Haig Yeghia Yardumian** (1866 – 1933)  
July 18, 1907 – August 25, 1925

**Puzant S. Levonian** (1890 – 1963)  
June 20, 1920 – April 14, 1930

**Hagop Mardiros Depoyan** (1881 – 1956)  
September 1, 1930 – December 29, 1935

**Haig Adadourian** (1870 – 1951)  
Interim, Sept. 6, 1936 – April 30, 1937;  
Interim also in 1948

**Samuel M. Rejebian** (1883 – 1966)  
Interim, September 1, 1937 – August 31, 1938  
Permanent, September 15, 1940 – June 28, 1948

**Dicran Kassouny, M.D.**, (1910 – 1979)  
Permanent, Sept. 18, 1949 – June 30, 1952  
Interim, July 1, 1952 – October 4, 1953

**Puzant R. Rubyan** (1916 – 1993)  
November 22, 1953 – August 31, 1955

of his call, he and his wife Esther and their children were refugees in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, where he served the Armenian Evangelical Church.

Upon his arrival on July 18, 1907, the congregation was named The Armenian Evangelical Church of Philadelphia. Services were held in the Central Congregational Church at 18th and Green Streets, and later in the gymnasium at the rear of the historic Holy Trinity Church on Rittenhouse Square. During the critical years of the First World War and the Armenian genocide, Rev. Yardumian focused his ministry on relief and rehabilitation and became the Field Secretary of the Philadelphia Committee of the Near East Relief in 1917. It is not hard to understand the frustration of some church members, especially the *ruhji* (spiritualist) element, over the bifurcation of their pastor’s attention to the detriment of what they described as “the spiritual ministry” of the church.

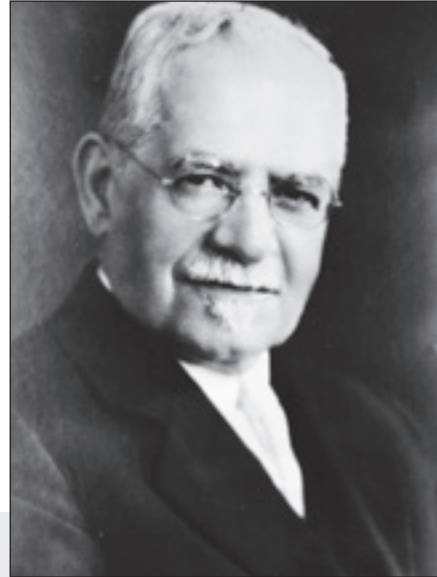


## “Adam’s Rib”: The Armenian Congregational Church of Philadelphia

*Genesis 2:21*

A partner church was created from our parent church, much the same way that God created a helpmeet from the rib of Adam. Some church leaders held a consultation on January 25, 1920, and recommended to recall Rev. Yardumian from the Near East Relief so that he might devote all his time and energy to the church. The congregation approved the proposal on February 8, 1920, but Rev. Yardumian declined it. There may have been other concerns indicated by the poignant statement of Puzant Balukjian during another informal meeting on February 22. “It is necessary,” he said, “that we either reform the church or bring about a church that is reformed.”

Murmurs and complaints about the way the church was run proved to be its birth pangs for the creation of a partner Armenian Evangelical church. The rib taken from the parent church formed *The Armenian Congregational*



**Haig Yeghia Yardumian** (1866 – 1933)  
July 18, 1907 – August 25, 1925

**Puzant S. Levonian** (1890 – 1963)  
June 20, 1920 – April 14, 1930

*Church of Philadelphia* on March 7, 1920, when regular worship services began in Liberty Hall at the corner of Larchwood and 60th Street. The Armenian Evangelical Alliance, precursor of the Armenian Evangelical Union, received the church into membership on June 5, 1920. On November 21, 1920, the church was formally constituted during an organizational worship service at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church at 60th and Callowhill Streets with an annual budget of \$3,000. A building fund campaign was launched, and the sum of \$4,300 was pledged.

Rev. Puzant Levonian came to Philadelphia with his wife Beatrice and children on June 20, 1920. The church petitioned the Congregational Association of Philadelphia on December 21 to receive the church into membership and install the Rev. Levonian as their pastor. The Association endorsed the petition and extended ecclesial and ministerial standing to the church and the pastor. Also in that petition, Hagop Dadourian, the church clerk, spelled out the rationale for joining the Congregational denomination saying,



“Almost all of our members had been members of the Congregational churches in the old country, and hence were imbued with Congregational belief and polity.” As for motive, “The intention (was) forming an *orderly* and *regularly* constituted church. There was no feeling of contention or rivalry with any other body.” (Italics mine)

The church adopted its constitution based on the Congregational Manual. It was incorporated on March 29, 1921, with the following signatories of the charter: Reuben Mahjoubian, Haigazoon Kabakjian, Setrak Adourian, Hagop Dadourian, and Yervant Benglian. There were 53 charter members of the church. They are listed below.

## More Stirrings of the Spirit

### *1 Corinthians 12:12-13*

A third embryo was born in the mid 1920s called, *The First Armenian Methodist Church in America*. It was prompted by the arrival of the Rev. Abraham H. Hartunian (1872-1939). Sunday services were held at the Spruce Street Theater, then in Liberty Hall, and finally in a building on 59th Street and Cedar

Avenue. The Rev. M.P. Krikorian served as interim during Rev. Hartunian’s pastoral interlude in Buenos Aires, and resumed his ministry following Rev. Hartunian’s death until the church folded in 1949.

A fourth sibling was born in 1921 as *The Armenian Church of the Brethren*. The Rev. Bedros Agulian and the Rev. Sanadruk Shamlan provided spiritual leadership, as did lay leaders of the church. They worshipped in several locations, and found a home of their own on 59th and Cedar Avenue. The Rev. Khachig Sarian (1892-1992) also served the church as its sponsored minister after he came to America in 1947. The church folded when most of its members moved to California, and Rev. Sarian joined our church and volunteered his services in preaching and other pastoral needs whenever called upon.

All these ministers of our sibling churches participated and provided leadership in programs, activities, commemorations, celebrations, and ecumenical prayer and revival meetings to which the entire Armenian community was invited.

## CHARTER MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH MARCH 29, 1921

Edward Adourian	Hagop Dadourian	Boghos Kalemkerian	Yester Mesjian
Never Adourian	Theresa Dadourian	Ovsanna Kalemkerian	Anna Miadzinian
Setrag Adourian	Maritza Dadourian	Yepratik Kalpakian	Doudou Nouskhajian
Zenouhie Adourian	Nouritza Garabedian	Haig Keyishian	Isahag Parnagian
Aznive Armaghanian	Diran Hagopian	Arousiag Knadjian	Ovsanna Pilibosian
Marina Atmajian	Sima Hagopian	Haroutune Krikorian	Mary Poladian
Krikor Attarian	Mariam Jambazian	Aram Kulunjian	Arousyag Raphaelian
Yervant Balian	Stepan Jambazian	Beatrice Levonian	Yepraksi Sharoyan
Puzant Balukjian	Kevork Jamoosian	Mary Mahjoubian	Repega Tateossian
Perlantine Benglian	Haiganoush Jamoosian	Mayrenie Mahjoubian	Hrant Yacoubian
Yervant Benglian	Mariam Jegerian	Roupen Mahjoubian	Armenouhie Yorganjian
Zarouhie Benglian	Aghavni Kabakjian	Yester Mahjoubian	
Sarkis Bogosian	Haigazoun Kabakjian	Kaloust Matheossian	
Siranoosh Buchakjian	Yeghisapet Kabakjian	Lucy Mekhitarian	





Interstate Union Convention, Ludlow St. Church; 1932

## THE ARMENIAN MARTYRS' CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**"And They Became One Flesh."**

*Genesis 2:24*

The relationship between the parent Evangelical Church and the newly formed Congregational Church was amicable, but the rift was also painful. The Holy Spirit was at work among the leaders of both churches to bring about a "marriage." The Rev. M.S. Piranian (1875-1968), a real estate and insurance agent, and Dr. Eliazar Sarkis, a distinguished Iranian-Armenian physician, who had served on the medical staff of the Shah, were the delegates of the Evangelical church. Stepan Jambazian and Diran Hagopian represented the Congregational church. They met on March 6, 1924 from midnight until 2:30 in the morning to finalize the terms of the merger of the two congregations.

The Evangelicals tried to retain their unique status as the only non-denominational Armenian Evangelical church in America. They included "martyrs" in the name of the church to venerate their memory. They also demanded that Rev. Yardumian be designated as Senior Pastor, his primary responsibility being

the "external" matters of the church, while Rev. Levonian's, the "internal" and "spiritual" concerns. The Congregationalists insisted on their historical ties with the denomination and prevailed. Finally, on August 25, 1925, the historic merger of the two churches was achieved, and it was named, *The Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Philadelphia*. Rev. Levonian continued as pastor and Rev. Yardumian became the senior pastor. Upon his retirement in 1926 the new church honored him with the title Pastor Emeritus. He continued to preach occasionally until his death on August 23, 1933.

### March of the Saints

*Daniel 7:18*

From its very inception, our church has been blessed by dedicated leaders, both lay and ordained, who have volunteered to serve in various supporting roles. Setrak *effendi* Adourian was an educator and an evangelist. He assisted the pastor in teaching and home visitation, and was an occasional preacher in 1937-1938.

The Rev. Avedis S. Darakjian Reed (1870–1961), was the organizing pastor of the Armenian Evangelical (mission) Church of Camden. From 1920 to 1924 he was the spiritual leader of the Armenian Evangelical community in Southern New Jersey and Philadelphia. He was conferred the title Minister Emeritus of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, on December 17, 1933.

The Rev. Sarkis Ruzian (1886–1947) was always available as an occasional preacher in Turkish as well as in Armenian, especially in 1937–1938. He also served many years as superintendent of the Sunday Schools.

Women constituted more than half of the charter members. They played prominent roles, not only in ladies' organizations but also in the aggregate ministries of the church as deaconesses, teachers, church clerks, youth leaders, Sunday school superintendents, and editors. Women and men are duly recognized for their leadership and thanked in various ways for their service. Most of the "saints" of our church, however, remain unacknowledged; but their works are never forgotten. Their names are registered in the Book of Life. (Revelation 20:12)

## From Marriage to Home-Building on Ludlow Street

Rev. Levonian's legacy was the consolidation of the two congregations and the building of a new church. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on September 5, 1924 at 6029 Ludlow Street. The cornerstone was laid on Sunday, October 5, 1924, and the first service of the united church was held on September 16, 1925. The Congregational Church Building Society gave \$12,000 in grants and loans toward the building of the sanctuary at an estimated cost of \$48,000. A parsonage was also built in 1928 at the cost of \$12,800. It was sold in 1957 for \$7,300. The church was formally dedicated on the last Sunday of November 1928 and the mortgage was cleared in 1944. As demographics changed, it was eventually sold in 1962 to the West Bethlehem Baptist Church for \$60,500. On January 1, 1974, fire destroyed it completely. Due to the foresight of Vahan Benglian, Chairperson of the Trustees, our church was compensated by the insurance we had on the mortgage.



Laying of the cornerstone, Ludlow Street Church; 1924

## “The Rains Came, and the Winds Blew Against That House!”

*Matthew 7:25*

The Rev. Hagop Depoyan was married to Maritza Chopourian. He shepherded the church during the great economic depression of the 1930s. The church had difficulty making mortgage payments and was delinquent even in the payment of the pastor's salary. Despite that, the annual report labels the year “the most successful in the history of our church.” He reportedly made 1103 pastoral visits in 1932.

Inflated claims may be permissible during economic depression. However, the church registered moderate growth with 150 communicant and 100 honorary members. Worship services were trilingual and additional services such as prayer meetings were numerous. Rev. Depoyan provided steady and effective leadership in those years of hardship. His resignation on October 20, 1935, may have been partly due to the



**Hagop Mardiros Depoyan** (1881 – 1956)  
September 1, 1930 – December 29, 1935

**Haig Adadourian** (1870 – 1951)  
Interim, September 6, 1936 – April 30, 1937;  
Interim also in 1948

inability of the church to pay his salary on time. The church could not convince him to reconsider his resignation. A farewell dinner was given in his honor on December 30, with a parting gift of a portrait of himself.

## “But the Laborers Are Few!”

*Matthew 9:37*

There was no permanent pastor during the next four years, 1936-1940. Except for Rev. Samuel Rejebian's interim ministry during his furlough year in 1937-1938, the church was served by guest preachers, notably Rev. Khachadour Benneyan, Rev. Avedis Darakjian, Professor Xenides, Rev. Garabed Adanalian, and Dr. Yervant Hadidian (1895-1997), who was later to become the key advisor during the turbulence of 1957. Rev. Rejebian was called for another interim ministry of two years starting September 15, 1940, until pastor-elect Edward Tovmassian could travel from Beirut to be permanent pastor. But World War II prevented that transition and Rev. Rejebian became permanent pastor.





# OUR CHURCH SERVES OUR COUNTRY AT WAR

*Ecclesiastes 3:8*

**“Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled!”** *John 14:1*

Rev. Rejebian's ministry spanned World War II and its aftermath. His compassionate pastoral presence was comforting to all, especially the 55 young men and women who served their country in the Army, Army Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and the Marine Corps. They constituted 20% of the church membership, and their absence adversely impacted on the life of the church. The November 1944 issue of the church periodical, *The Messenger*, published the names of those who were in the service at that time and were associated with our church. They are listed in Appendix 1 (page 34.) (There were also others from our church who served in WWII, and later, in Korea and Viet Nam.) Many saw combat action in Europe, Africa, and in the Pacific. Although a few suffered wounds, John Minassian was the only one who failed to return. We were shocked and grieved to learn that he was killed in action in Holland on March 15, 1945. The church held a special memorial service in his honor on Sunday, March 17, 1946, and dedicated a plaque in his honor.



## The Aftermath

The post-war marked several transitions for second generation Armenians. No longer were they refugees or immigrants, but American citizens who had fought a patriotic war for their country. Turkish was gradually discontinued and Armenian was still the primary language at worship, but English became a necessity. Women entered the work force and they had less time for church activities. So did the youth. More people had cars, and parking became a problem. Church membership declined to about 170. The neighborhood began to change and the exodus to the suburbs gained momentum.

Rev. Rejebian's loving ministry brought peace and tranquility to a congregation that endured the challenges of the war and its adverse effects. His resignation, announced from the pulpit one Sunday morning, took the church by sad surprise. Rev. Rejebian was deeply appreciated and his wife Aznive, and their children, were well-loved. The church gave them a farewell dinner on June 26, 1948. His departure was a historical marker for the passing of the formative era of our church.



**John Minassian** Killed in action in Holland on March 15, 1945

# “STRIVE TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH!”

*1 Corinthians 14:12*

## “We Are Fellow Workmen for God”

*1 Corinthians 3:9*

The congregation continued to “strive to build up the church” during a decade of transformation. Arsen Gulian was the student minister until September 18, 1949, when the Rev. Dr. Dicran Kassouny M.D., took office as pastor and served the church full-time for three years, then part-time for a year. Dr. Kassouny and his wife Joy introduced a refreshing sense of American culture and appealed especially to the young adults. Both were musically experienced and they enhanced the choir. As an example, in June 1953, Mrs. Kassouny produced and directed a full-dress abbreviated version of Gilbert and Sullivan’s “The Mikado.” Similarly, in the late 1970s, Dr. Kassouny formed “The Sacred Music Singers,” combining our choir with those of Paramus and New York. Rev. Puzant Rubyan was called on July 5, 1953, as full-time pastor. At the



**Samuel M. Rejebian** (1883 – 1966)  
Interim, September 1, 1937 – August 31, 1938  
Permanent, September 15, 1940 – June 28, 1948

**Dicran Kassouny M.D.**, (1910 – 1979)  
Permanent, Sept. 18, 1949 – June 30, 1952  
Interim, July 1, 1952 – October 4, 1953

Thanksgiving Banquet on November 22, 1953, the church bid farewell to Dr. Kassouny and welcomed Rev. Rubyan and his wife Arshalus. But two years into his ministry, Rev. Rubyan informed the church on July 1, 1955, that his real calling was for missions, that he was planning to attend a school of missions in Connecticut, and that he would only be available to preach on Sundays. The church terminated his call in August 1955.

A fleeting semblance of pastoral permanence had been set by the tenures of Dr. Kassouny and Rev. Rubyan. Dr. Kassouny “Americanized” the church and enriched its music ministry. During his tenure a Church Building Committee was formed on June 19, 1950, and a fund was begun in 1954 for that purpose. Worship leaders included student ministers Paul Gertmenian and Carnegie Calian (Calian went on to get a doctorate in theology and became president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary), and guest preachers Vartan Hartunian and Nazar Daghlilian. Despite such commendable efforts, the church suffered an entire decade of instability and tentativeness.



## “I Hear There Are Divisions Among You.”

*1 Corinthians 11:18*

A crisis was brewing in the theological identity of the church. It climaxed with doctrinal battles prompted by Mr. Vartan Hartunian’s article, “I Believe,” in the January–February 1956 issue of *The Messenger*. The congregation was spellbound by Hartunian’s dynamic oratory, but it was split over his interpretation of church doctrines. The mostly younger “liberal” supporters of Mr. Hartunian were eager to call him and have him ordained as their minister. The “conservative” older group opposed that. A “Committee of 15 for Reconciliation” was appointed “to capture the feeling of brotherhood that has disappeared during the recent controversy.”

Dr. Edward Kavjian chaired the meeting, and Mr. Vartan Hartunian gave sound and conciliatory advice to the committee. Ultimately, a congregational meeting was called to vote on his candidacy. The result was negative, but the church was able to weather the storm and come out of it stronger, wiser, and spiritually more mature.



**Puzant R. Rubyan** (1916 – 1993)

November 22, 1953 – August 31, 1955

Ironically but providentially, the church was scheduled to host the Annual Convention of the Armenian Evangelical Union, Eastern States, during the turmoil of 1957. The Joint Council, under the chairmanship of Charles DeMirjian, steered a balanced course despite the absence of pastoral leadership. In his closing remarks in the annual report for 1957, he states: “Our greatest need is not only for a new minister. We need soul-searching self appraisal and genuine humility. We must start practicing Christianity.” This was, and continues to be, the strength of our church, that the dedicated laity could utilize the power of the Holy Spirit to confront the obstacles that threaten the integrity of the church, as well as its ministry and mission. “The rains came, and the wind blew, but the house that was built on the rock stood firm.”



# THE SECOND FIFTY YEARS: THE NEW ERA

## From the Wilderness to the Land of Promise

*Amos 2:10*

In 1957, Mr. DeMirjian was entrusted with yet another daunting task: leading the pastoral search. His consultations with the Armenian Evangelical Union pastors and leaders, particularly Dr. Yervant Hadidian, Moderator of the Union, led to the Rev. Giragos Chopourian as the best-qualified candidate for the spiritual leadership of the church. Rev. Chopourian had been introduced to the congregation during the AEU convention in 1957, but not as a candidate. At a special congregational meeting on June 8, 1958, a resolution was presented by the pulpit committee to invite the Rev. Giragos Chopourian “to be the regular pastor of the church, starting September 1, 1958.” It was adopted unanimously. That proved to be a historic marker and a positive climax to our first fifty years, thus resolving the frustrations of its last decade. It also marked the beginning of a new age in which the congregation was led by a fresh new generation of dedicated pastors to and in the land of promise.

The church resumed the seminal idea of moving to another location. A few sites were considered and rejected. Rev. Chopourian put his heart into the project and made it his top priority soon after he took office. He was involved in every aspect of the new church building such as site selection, purchase of the lot at the corner of Edmonds Avenue and Gladstone Road in Havertown, the agreement of sale on January 6, 1961 at \$40,865, and the final approval of the township zoning board on August 23, despite the concerted opposition of the neighbors. That was a major victory thanks to the efforts of our lawyers, Martin Hatch and Albert Momjian. Settlement was on February 14, 1963. Mr. Momjian was honored at the 47th Annual Rededication Banquet on Nov. 6, 1971 with a plaque citing the gratitude of the church for his “ceaseless and loving services.”

At a kick-off dinner hosted by Harry Kuljian, a small group of about 30 persons raised \$70,000 on October 14, 1960. An additional \$33,000 was promised at a Pledge Campaign Banquet on November 19. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on May 5, 1963, 40 years after a similar event on Ludlow Street.

A Victory and Thanksgiving Banquet was held on May 11. The cornerstone was laid on December 1, 1963, and construction started on September 12 at an estimated cost of \$197,370. The final cost was about \$310,000. The first worship service was celebrated on September 13, 1964, and the church was dedicated on Sunday, November 8. In the interim, services were held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church a block away.

At the Dedication Banquet on November 7, 1964, Rev. Chopourian was given a plaque from the officers and members of the church in grateful tribute for his leadership, faith, and example, in “transforming a long-sought dream into the reality of this place of worship.” Himself a good steward, he taught and trained the church in good stewardship. On November 5, 1966, at the 42nd Annual Rededication Banquet, Harry Kuljian and Martin Hatch were each presented with a plaque for their services to the church.

## Roster of Ministers During the Second 50 Years

**Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D.** (1914-2006)  
Sept. 7, 1958 – Dec. 31, 1968

**Peter B. Doghramji, Th.M., D.D., Ph.D.,** (b.1929)  
Part-time Interim: Nov. 10, 1968 – Sept. 29, 1969  
Permanent: July 1, 1970 – Oct. 7, 1979

**Soghomon Nuyujukian, D.Min.,** (b. 1923)  
August 3, 1980 - June 15, 1988

**Eugene Grau, Ph.D.,** (b.1917)  
Interim: April 9, 1989 – July 29, 1990

**Jirair M. Sogomian** (b.1937)  
August 5, 1990 – April 15, 2001

**Gary Schongalla-Bowman** (b. 1946)  
Interim and Stated Supply:  
September 9, 2001 – August 31, 2007

**L. Nishan Bakalian** (b.1956) Sept. 1, 2007 –

Significant as the relocation and the building of the church were, even more important was the building up of the church, thanks to the “healing” of the congregation. There were many firsts: Cultural Discussion Group, Junior Women’s Auxiliary, Men’s Club, Valentine’s Dinner Party, the News Bulletin and the Church Directory, a part-time secretary, July 4th Picnic at the Hill Top Farm, the envelope system of pledging, revision of the by-laws and, on May 11, 1965, the legal adoption of our church’s name, “The Armenian Martyrs’ Congregational Church of Philadelphia.”

Rev. Chopourian worked for a doctoral degree from Temple University during the last two years of his tenure and earned a Ph.D. in 1971, after leaving the church to become the Executive Secretary of the Armenian Missionary Association of America in 1969. He was given the title Pastor Emeritus, in 1995. He was married to Yeprouhie Der Boghossian.

## “But the Word of God Grew and Multiplied.” *Acts 12:24*

Rev. Peter Doghramji was a doctoral student at Princeton Theological Seminary when he was invited to begin an interim ministry overlapping the last two months of Rev. Chopourian’s tenure. Upon the recommendation of the pulpit committee, chaired again by Charles DeMirjian, the congregation voted on November 3, 1968 to invite Rev. Doghramji both as a part-time interim during his doctoral studies and full-time upon their completion. But he had to decline the full-time invitation due to his previously assigned obligation to teach at the Near East School of Theology. Drawn by his exceptional preaching skills, a sad congregation bid farewell at a fellowship dinner given for the Rev. and Mrs. Marie Doghramji on September 21, 1969. But good news was yet to come.



Groundbreaking of the new church in Havertown, May 5, 1963 Kneeling, L to R: John Samelian, John Zanazanian, Rev. Giragos Chopourian. Standing: Aram Kabakjian, Queenie Fereshetian, Dr. Edward Kavjian, Joseph Sirabonian, Grace Zorian, Samuel Jerrahian, Alex Antrasian, Suran Ohnigian, Lucy Welch, Edward Buchakjian, Millard Bekmezian, Vahan Benglian.

During the next nine months frequent guest preachers were Nazar Daghlilian (10), Dr. Chopourian and Dr. Kassouny (7), Rev. Sarian (6). Queenie Fereshetian, the church secretary, was virtually the lay minister of the church. The pastoral search committee was also busy during this interval. The chairman reported at a special congregational meeting on May 3, 1970, the committee's recommendation, together with the endorsement of the Boards of Deacons and Trustees, that Rev. Doghramji would be available to become our pastor beginning July 1, 1970. "The congregation, responding with enthusiasm and alacrity, voted unanimously to accept the proposal." Rev. Doghramji and his family returned from Beirut on July 4th. He was installed on September 27, 1970.

## "Meanwhile the Church Had Peace and Was Built Up."

*Acts 9:31*

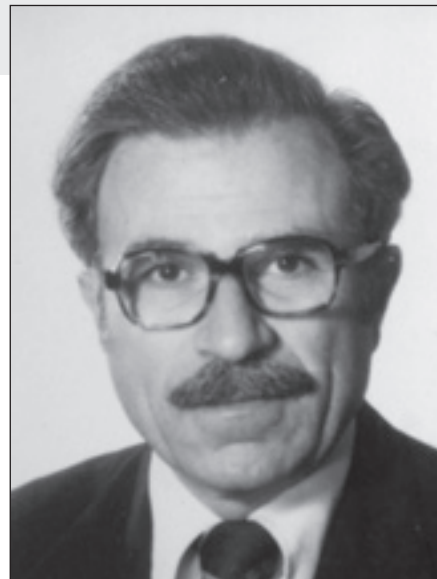
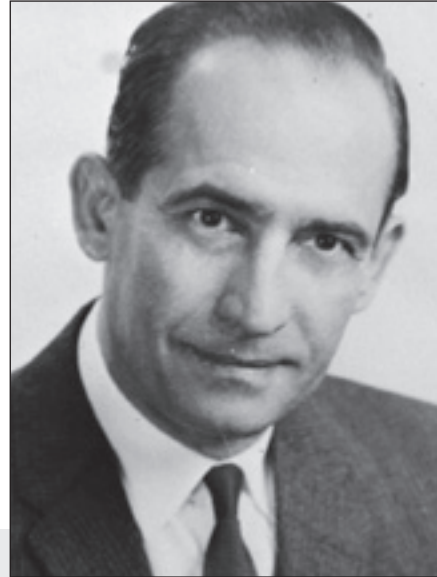
Pastor and congregation met that challenge with ardor and commitment. In the next nine years they continued to build on the foundations already established. New

**Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D.** (1914 – 2006)  
Sept. 7, 1958 – Dec. 31, 1968

**Peter B. Doghramji, Th.M., D.D., Ph.D.,** (b.1929)  
Part-time Interim: Nov. 10, 1968 – Sept. 29, 1969  
Permanent: July 1, 1970 – Oct. 7, 1979

structures were also added. The by-laws were revised to eliminate the two-tier church membership which totaled about 250 in 1970. Dr. Doghramji also had a major role in drafting the constitution and by-laws of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America in 1971 as the result of the merger of the Unions of the Eastern Region and California. He also volunteered his services as its first Executive Secretary. As a major undertaking, our church hosted the AEUNA Biennial Assembly and the first Armenian Evangelical World Conference, convened at Haverford College in June 1978. Our Golden Anniversary was celebrated at a banquet on November 1, 1975.

Spiritual activities included Wednesday evening fellowship of prayer, ladies' weekday Bible study, and Sunday evening vespers in homes. Christmas Eve and Maundy Thursday services became integral parts of the church calendar. So were the annual Women's Retreat and the Christian Education Spring Seminar on six consecutive





Wednesdays. Sermons were printed for distribution, and worship services were recorded on tape for shut-ins. The bilingual Armenian Evangelical Hymnal was introduced. An Armenian section was added to the *News Bulletin* edited by Rev. Sarian. Also serially featured was Dr. Doghramji's commentary on the Apostles' Creed entitled, *Exploring Our Faith*. An Armenian language school and a Daily Vacation Bible School program were started. Christian education and youth directors were added to the staff. The church produced three seminarians: the Rev. Dr. John Mokkosian, the Rev. Laurence Nishan Bakalian, and the Rev. Carol Sarian. Women and youth began participating in UCC Conference retreats and other denominational and ecumenical activities. A year-round confirmation class for early teens was taught by the pastor. An endowment fund was started by the initial donation of a residential property (appraised at \$40,000) by Mr. Ernest Novotny as a charitable donation. Subsequently, memorial donations were assigned to that fund administered by an *ad hoc* committee. Fund-raising

**Sghomon Nuyujukian, D.Min.,** (b. 1923)  
August 3, 1980 – June 15, 1988



**Eugene Grau, Ph.D.,** (b.1917)  
Interim: April 9, 1989 – July 29, 1990

efforts included sponsorships of the July 4th picnic, the silent auction and food bazaar, and Election Day food sale for mission and outreach.

However, signs of decline began to appear in the late 1970s. The maturing church was also aging. There were 51 funerals during Rev. Doghramji's tenure. The birth rate was at its lowest. Youth were leaving for college. Average attendance at worship was down from 142 to 122. Distance was not a problem at the Ludlow Street church; parking was. Conversely, in Havertown, parking was not a problem, but distance was.

Dr. Doghramji was acknowledged as a distinguished preacher and teacher. He led the church back to the basics of faith. He resigned to become Assistant to the Conference Minister in 1979. In 1985, he was elected President and Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, and was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree by Ursinus College in 1986.



## “The Spirit Is Willing But the Flesh Is Weak.”

*Matthew 26:41*

The pastoral search committee, chaired by Charles DeMirjian, was again at work. They recommended, and the church voted unanimously, to call the Rev. Dr. Soghomon Nuyujukian to the ministry of the church in 1980. He brought to the church the wisdom and maturity of three decades of pastoral ministry in Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and the United States. He had also served as the juridical head and representative of the Armenian Evangelical community (*millet*) in Syria, and as the Executive Secretary of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East. His style was traditional and dignified, exemplifying the best of pastoral ministry in the Near East Union. A major asset was his skill in counseling, having done his graduate studies in that field, while shepherding the Salem church. He was married to Hilda Cholakian.

Yet the decline had set in, as predicted by Rev. Doghramji's survey a few years earlier. Dr. Nuyujukian tendered his resignation in 1988 upon attaining the age of retirement. The church was served by guest preachers until an interim pastor was found.

Dr. Nuyujukian remains a faithful churchman and an exemplary parishioner. His continued presence at worship is both comforting and reassuring.

## “Rejoice in the Lord Always!”

*Philippians 4:4*

The Rev. Dr. Eugene Grau, retired emeritus minister of Brownbacks UCC, was highly recommended by the Conference Minsiter, Dr. Peter Doghramji. At first the church was reluctant to have an interim who could not preach in Armenian. That changed soon. Not that he learned Armenian, but that a honeymoon began between pastor and parish. In April, 1989, Dr. Grau became the first non-Armenian “Armenian” pastor. He served the church with such gusto and joy that a loving relationship with the congregation continues to this day. His preaching exuded confidence and hope to a church that was without a pastor for about a year. Dr. Grau and his wife Dorothy's presence at special events, as well as his occasional preaching, is appreciated by the congregation.

## “We Received Grace Upon Grace.”

*John 1: 16*

The interim of love was followed by the permanence of grace. The pastoral search committee, again chaired by Charles DeMirjian, located the right candidate for a church that was ready to put the grace of Christ into daily practice. The Rev. Jirair Sogomian was the man. From the onset of Rev. Sogomian's tenure on August 5, 1990, the church was blessed by his manifold gifts of preaching, teaching, and administration. His presence was ubiquitous, not only in the chancel but also in the nave of the church as he greeted the worshippers individually at the conclusion of the service, and proceeded to the social hall. He was present in the office, together with his wife Lorraine, working with the editors of the monthly *News Bulletin*, printing the order of Sunday worship, and providing oversight for all aspects of the normal running of the church. He was present for Christ and his church at hospitals and other care facilities. He was present in community activities and ecumenical gatherings. In all these and more, especially in his preaching and teaching, he lived out the free and unmerited grace of God in Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and the promise for renewal.

The church enjoyed a decade of stability and steadfastness. A plan to refurbish the narthex was begun. “As good stewards of God's varied grace,” the congregation became a vibrant force for mission and outreach, responding to such needs as feeding the homeless at the Old First Church in Philadelphia, participating in walkathons for community causes, and raising the budget of the Missions committee to the unprecedented level of almost one-third of the operating budget of the church.

Rev. Sogomian's departure on April 15, 2001, was mutually painful both for pastor and parish. He responded to an urgent call from the AMAA to fill the vacancy in the office of executive director due to the sudden death of the Rev. Movses Janbazian.

The refurbishing of the narthex included new stained glass windows based on the theme of service in Matthew 25. They were dedicated on Sunday, November 7, 2004. The windows were a fitting memorial to Hagop Dedeyan, a humble churchman and a faithful steward. Rev. Sogomian was invited to preside over the service of dedication.

## “Whom Shall I Send, and Who Shall Go For Us?”

*Isaiah 6:8*



When the prophet Isaiah volunteered to go, he did not know exactly where and for what purpose God was sending him. The same was true about the Rev. Gary Schongalla-Bowman when he became our part-time interim pastor, two days before the tragedy of 9/11. Pastor Gary, as he preferred to be called, was gentle, down-to-earth, and informal. Humble and unassuming, he simply equated himself with the congregation. His style of preaching was new to the congregation. He “talked” to them rather than “preached” at them, and not from the pulpit but by standing among them. They learned to appreciate his simple message because it was devoid of rhetoric and oratory.

Pastor Gary came for one year, as interims often do. The search committee was frustrated by the unavailability of a bilingual candidate suitable for

**Jirair M. Sogomian** (b.1937)

August 5, 1990 – April 15, 2001

**Gary Schongalla-Bowman** (b. 1946)

Interim and Stated Supply:

September 9, 2001 – August, 31 2007



the needs of the church. With the approval of the Conference, Pastor Gary agreed to be the part-time “stated supply” for renewable periods of one year at a time. Despite health issues and a long driving distance to the church, he continued to provide a loving ministry.

Pastor Gary encouraged the church to open up to the community at large and to adopt a new mission statement. The community, Armenian and *odar*, was invited to a series of gatherings at church and in various homes to study *Forty Days of Purpose* by Rick Warren. The church continued to receive non-Armenian members who, like those who joined through marriage, were happily integrated into its ministry.

Following his farewell sermon on Sunday, August 26, a reception was given for Pastor Gary, his wife Nancy, and their family, at which he was given a purse and a book of letters conveying the gratitude and appreciation of the church.



## “And They Began to Speak in Other Tongues.”

*Acts 2:4*

Throughout Pastor Gary’s tenure, the Armenian sermon was not neglected. It was yet another gift from God that the Rev. Hovhannes Karjian came to America in 2000, with his wife Rebecca. Before his retirement in 1977, Rev. Karjian had a distinguished career in ministry, serving churches in Syria, Lebanon, and Australia, and providing oversight as president of Aleppo College, the Near East School of Theology, and the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East.

It was providential that Rev. Karjian was available to “speak in other tongues.” From 2001 until 2007 he delivered the sermon in Armenian and, for the benefit of those who could not understand Armenian, he printed an inspiring English translation in each Sunday’s program. The church greatly appreciated the depth of his message as well as his insight as a theologian. The tradition of bilingual worship was thus kept alive.



**Hovhannes N. Karjian** (b.1927)

Sermons in Armenian

2001 – 2007



# THE DAWN OF THE SECOND HUNDRED YEARS

## Our “Levites” in the Ministry of Christian Education and Youth

Three categories comprised the community of ancient Israel: priests, Levites, and the rest of the people. Levites were assistants of the priests. Our church has had its own “Levites” who have served in specific roles that require professional training. Among them are seminarians who served as Christian Education and Youth Directors. We have also been blessed by non-professional Levites who served as volunteer youth leaders and Sunday school teachers and superintendents to enhance the teaching ministry of pastors. Many other Levites have also been involved in the ministry and mission of the church. While it would be impossible to identify them all, we can at least acknowledge our Sunday school superintendents and youth directors, and celebrate their ministry. They are listed in Appendix 2 (page 35.)

## Our “Levites” in the Ministry of Music

Choral music is an essential component of worship, even in heaven. Our volunteer choirs, comprised of ordinary church members, have had a rich repertoire of classical and contemporary selections based upon musical quality and spiritual content. They are mainly in English, sometimes in Latin, and always inclusive of the *sharagans* of the Armenian Apostolic liturgy sung in Armenian. Our choirs have also presented special concerts for the community at large.

Our academically trained organists and directors of music, often selected while students at top local institutions such as West Chester and Temple Universities, Haverford College, and the University of Pennsylvania, have gone on to achieve notable professional careers. This is exemplified by our current Director of Music, Mary Loiselle, who was with us earlier during her student days. Following a distinguished career in music, and despite major new executive responsibilities, she accepted her present tenure with grace and dedication.

Appendix 3 (page 36) lists the names of organists and choir directors since 1930. Earlier records are

unavailable Up to 1965, with one exception, the organist also directed the choir. Since 1965, again with one exception, we have had both a director and organist, resulting in a better trained choir, musically and spiritually.

## The Multitude of Our Laypersons

The Book of Hebrews devotes an entire chapter (11) to the heroes of faith. They are neither priests nor Levites, but laypersons. They include Abraham, Moses, and even Rahab the harlot. The list is so long that the author is unable to mention them all. We are in a similar quandary when we try to list our heroes of faith, our laypersons, who served Christ and his Church with love and dedication. It would be impossible to acknowledge them by name without overlooking many. We celebrate this legion of the faithful, both past and present, hold them dearly in our hearts, and thank God for their legacies. Their names may not be in this book, nor in the Book of Hebrews, but certainly in the Book of Life.

## “I Have Made You a Sign for the House of Israel.”

*Ezekiel 12:6*

In the first 100 years of our church, all of its Armenian pastors were foreign-born. The church entered a new era on September 1, 2007, when the Rev. Laurence Nishan Bakalian took office as the first American-born son of the church. Having served as pastor of churches in San Francisco, Beirut, and New York, and more recently the chaplaincy of Haigazian University in Beirut, Rev. Bakalian, fluent in English and Armenian, was deemed to be highly qualified to minister to the young and the not-so-young, the Armenian and the *odar*, familiar childhood friends and newer unfamiliar ones.

Thus the long, arduous search process, chaired initially by Charles DeMirjian and subsequently by Edward Kaiserian, was brought to a joyful conclusion when, on Sunday, January 7, 2007, the congregation voted overwhelmingly to invite Rev. Bakalian as its new pastor, and he accepted our call. Rev. Bakalian is

married to Maria, née Jizmejian

*Nishan* is the Armenian for “sign.” In Biblical usage, sign means a wonderful act, a miracle, or a very special messenger of God. The prophet Ezekiel is told by God that he has been made a sign for the house of Israel. Nishan, by the grace of God, has been made a sign for our house. Thanks be to God!

## “So Teach Us to Number Our Days That We Get a Heart of Wisdom!”

*Psalms 90:12*

Dates are mere numbers unless they have historic significance. God is our historiographer and teacher of special math. It is God who teaches us to number our days in such a way that we can learn something from the past and gain a heart of wisdom for our course in the future.

We have learned a few precious lessons in the hundred years of our history. First and foremost, our church is truly ours when we do not claim it as a possession but a gift from God through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Savior. That is why we belong primarily and exclusively to Christ. We also belong *inclusively* to our own Armenian heritage. We exclude no one from our fellowship but include everyone as we all honor the cause for which the *Armenian Martyrs* gave their lives; we uphold our historic partnership with the United Church of Christ, heirs of the *Congregational Church*; and extend the

ministry and mission of our church beginning from *Philadelphia* to the entire world. Therefore, our name continues to be: *The Armenian Martyrs’ Congregational Church of Philadelphia*. As children of God, we make no distinction among members with regard to ethnicity, race and language, country of origin, social status, or education.

Second, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, as our martyrs echoed St. Paul’s famous declaration. No controversy or disagreement can divide us or break us up. Our division of 1920 led to a stronger united church in 1925. The doctrinal battles of 1957 did not deter us from building our church and from being built up in Christ’s love.

Third, our church has learned to be sensitive to differences in theology, styles of worship, use of languages, and standards of morality. In all these, we uphold our traditional values without being enslaved by them. We dare to explore new avenues of effective ministry in the name of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Fourth, we have learned not to be complacent in times of plenty, nor despair in lean years. We have gone through two World Wars and a major economic depression. We have had periods of stability with “permanent” spiritual leaders. We have also managed to maintain our church life during their absence, thanks to a core of dedicated laypersons.

Rev. Rejebian’s resignation prompted Vahan



**L.Nishan Bakalian** (b.1956)  
September 1, 2007 –

Fereshetian, the church clerk, to write as follows in his report for the year 1948: "Pastors come and go, but our Church has always stood firm."

Fifth, we have learned to love and honor our pastors and their families. We are unable to acknowledge, in this brief historical summary, the importance of our pastors' wives and their children in the life of the church. They have provided the love and immeasurable support pastors need, especially in times of hardship and crisis. Our pastors have known their inadequacies and shortcomings as all pastors do. They may not have lived up to the expectation of all the members all the time. They never mastered the art of walking on water. Nevertheless, we have enjoyed their love, and have loved and respected them, not only as our badvelis, but also as our friends. During his 50th birthday celebration, Dr. Chopourian said: "Do not leave me out of your social life." We did not. We shall not.

## "He Destined Us in Love to Be His Children."

*Ephesians 1:5*

Between our original past and our future destiny lies that moment we call the present. We glory in our past and feel confident about our destiny. It is the present that may distract us into despair. We have a mental list of church activities that have subsided. They include Ladies' Aid, Junior Women's Auxiliary, Men's Fellowship, Senior and Junior Youth Fellowships, Christian Endeavor, food bazaars, and fund-raising events.

There was a time when we met in homes; not any more. Pastors were expected to visit members in their homes; not any more. People visited one another and had their dinner parties in homes; not any more. Convention delegates were guests in our homes; not any more. Our homes are farther away from the

church. It is frustrating for pastors and church leaders to plan activities that do not receive appropriate response and support. Membership is down. So is church attendance. As we age we also lose the youth. Ironically, the more members we lose, the richer we get. Our Endowment Fund builds up, but empty pews are depressing. We are concerned about the future of our church. We often forget that we are destined in love to be God's children.

## "Surrounded by a Cloud of Witnesses."

*Hebrews 12:1*

Nevertheless, "we do not lose heart." (2 Corinthians 4:1) The history of our church is only a fragment of the story of Christ and his Church. We had a humble beginning as a small group of immigrants and refugees from persecution. They are "the cloud of witnesses" surrounding us and cheering us on. God led us for a hundred years and brought us to where we are.

We honor our past because we worship the living God who is the Origin in whom our past is preserved.

We celebrate who we are at the present because we worship the ever-present Holy Spirit who empowers and guides us to shape our authentic future.

Knowing our origin, we can be confident about our destiny because God is both our Origin and our Destiny. God is our Alpha and Omega, our Beginning and our End.

We now start a new century with a new pastor who summons us, as all his predecessors have done, to press on as a revitalized church to serve Christ.

This is our commencement!







## Appendix 1:

# WORLD WAR II “OUR BOYS IN THE SERVICE” (see p. 20)

<i>Lt. Albert Anderson, Army</i>	<i>George Kalemkarian, Army</i>
<i>Jack Apoyan</i>	<i>Ens. Esther Kumjan, WAVES</i>
<i>Ens. Mihran Ashodian, Navy</i>	<i>PM2/c Charles Kumjan, Coast Guard</i>
<i>Cox. Semon Benglian, Coast Guard</i>	<i>Sgt. Edward Kurkjian, Army Air Force</i>
<i>Sgt. Vahan Benglian, Army</i>	<i>Maj. Harry Mesjian, Army</i>
<i>Sgt. John Benglian, Army</i>	<i>Capt. Herbert Moffses, Army</i>
<i>Cpl. Millard Bekmezian, Army</i>	<i>Lt. Edward Maissian, Navy</i>
<i>A/S Harry Balukjian, Navy</i>	<i>Lt. John Miadzinian, Army Air Force</i>
<i>S 2/c James Buchakjian, Navy</i>	<i>T.Sgt. John Minassian, Army Air Force</i>
<i>Walter Childson</i>	<i>Sgt. James Nouskhajian, Army</i>
<i>Pfc. Charles DeMirjian, Marine Corps</i>	<i>Lt. Vahan Nouskhajian, Army</i>
<i>SM2/c Noubar Dadourian, Navy</i>	<i>Pfc. Vahe Nouskhajian, Army</i>
<i>Pfc. David Davidian, Army</i>	<i>Cpl. John Pekmezian, Army</i>
<i>CM1/c Querken Diradourian, Navy</i>	<i>Capt. Aram Rejebian, Marine Corps</i>
<i>Cpl. Edward Djergaian, Army</i>	<i>RM2/c John Rejebian, Navy</i>
<i>Pfc. Robert Djergaian, Army</i>	<i>Pfc. Haig Salverian, Army Air Force</i>
<i>Sgt. Edward Ezekian, Army</i>	<i>Sgt. George Salverian, Army</i>
<i>Cpl. John Fereshetian, Army</i>	<i>Michael Semerjian, Army</i>
<i>Capt. Armen Gevjian, Army</i>	<i>Cpl. Martin Semerjian, Army</i>
<i>Sgt. Edward Gureghian, Army</i>	<i>S.Sgt. Peter Semerjian, Army</i>
<i>Cpl. John Gulezian, Army</i>	<i>Lt. Albert Shahinian, Army</i>
<i>A/C George Hagopian</i>	<i>Pfc. Robert Stone, Army</i>
<i>Edward Janbazian</i>	<i>S2/c Vahan Shahinian, Navy</i>
<i>Y1/c Leonard Jenides, Navy</i>	<i>Pfc. Daniel Sarafian, Army</i>
<i>T.Sgt. Paul Jemelian, Army</i>	<i>George Tashjian</i>
<i>S2/c Harry Jemelian, Navy</i>	<i>S2/c George Terjanian, Navy</i>
<i>S2/c Nick Jemelian, Navy</i>	<i>T/4 Edward Vassian</i>
<i>Pfc. William Kabakjian, Army</i>	

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH (see p. 30)

### Superintendents of Sunday School

1930-1963 (West Philadelphia)

*Rev. Sarkis Ruzian*

*Anna Miadzinian*

*Siroon Keshishian*

*Aznive Maissian*

*Rose Antrasian*

*Albert Hartunian*

*Arlen Sarian*

*Lucy Welch*

1964-2007 (Havertown)

*Lucy Welch*

*Mary Touloumdjian*

*Norma Philibossian*

*Harriet Shirikjian*

*Howard B. Garabedian*

*Harry Stephey*

*Grace Bakalian*

*Jeannette Keshishian*

*Anna Marie Benlian*

*Debra Paulson*

### Youth Directors

1970s

*Jean Alexander*

*Shoushan Salibian*

*Keith Curran*

1980s

*Cassandra Carkuff*

*Hilda Shahinian*

*Joseph Valentin*

*Joseph Graetzel*

1995 - 2005

*Jonelle Garo*

*Ani Janbazian*

*Andrew Joyce*

*Due to incomplete records, we sincerely regret  
that there may be errors of omission.*

## Appendix 3:

# MINISTRY OF MUSIC (see p. 30)

## Choir Directors (\*and Organists)

*Yervant Levonian c. 1930s-1940*

*\*Vahan Dagdigian c. 1940-1943*

*\*Gloria Jerjisian c. 1944-1948*

*\*Vahan Dagdigian c. 1948-1955*

*\*Sara Opp Nov. 1956-Sept. 1961*

*\* Vahan Dagdigian Oct. 1961-Dec. 1964*

*\*Jack Phillips Feb. 1965-June 1965*

*Janet Lytle Oct. 1965-June 1970*

*Jean Houk Sept. 1970-June 1971*

*Mary Kinder Loiselle Sept. 1971-June 1974*

*Jennifer Cox Sept. 1974-June 1978*

*Clifford Athorn Sept. 1978-June 1979*

*Garland Newcomb Sept. 1979- Dec. 1981*

*Raquel Garcia March 1982-June 1987*

*Sylvia Golijov Sept. 1987-June 1991*

*Elinor Armsby Oct. 1991-June 1997*

*\*Barbara Romesburg Sept. 1998-June 2000*

*Mary Kinder Loiselle Dec. 2000-June 2002*

*Mary Kinder Loiselle Sept. 2002-present (full time)*

## Organists

*Florence Stone c. 1930s*

*Jeff Janoski c. 1966-1968*

*Arthur McKenzie c. 1968-1970*

*Susan Nestler c. 1970-1972*

*Shelly Mayernick April 1975-Oct. 1986*

*Susan Matthews Nov. 1986-Dec. 1987*

*Sept. 1989-May 1990*

*Judy Large*

*Lucille Balukjian*

*Pauline Karjian*

*May 1990-August 1998*

*Judy Large*

*Michele Scanlon*

*Lucille Balukjian*

*Pauline Karjian*

*July 2000 - present*

## DR. DOGHARAMJI'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following sources have been consulted in preparing the  
*Centennial Reflections on the Origin and Destiny of Our Church.*

### A. Church files and archives

(some incomplete or missing)

1. Minutes of boards, joint council, and committees, 1920-present
2. *The Messenger* (1944-1956) and the *News Bulletin* (1957- present)
3. *Hooshakirk* (The Tenth Anniversary Booklet 1924-1934)
4. Miscellaneous papers, reports, announcements and correspondence
5. Church Registries: Book I (1920-1935); Book II (1920-1955)  
The Parish Register, begun 1958, (1920 - present)

— • —

### B. Oral histories obtained through interviews from the following:

Harry Balukjian, Charles DeMirjian, Grace Kavjian, James Mukhalian, Mae Paulson, Robert Tashjian, and others

— • —

### C. Documents and brief narratives about the history of our church

1. Queenie Fereshetian:  
“A Brief Historical Sketch” 1968
2. Peter Doghramji: “History of the Church” (Golden Anniversary Directory)  
“Introducing the AMCC”  
(1977 survey of the church)
3. Charles DeMirjian: Research articles and memorabilia from files
4. Jeannette Keshishian:  
Research church records and files

5. Robert Tashjian: Research papers and documents about the early history of Armenians in Philadelphia

6. Archives of the Congregational Historical Society

7. *Armenian-American Veterans of World War II*, published by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) in 1951: source for the rank and/or military branch missing in the listing of *The Messenger*

— • —

### D. Biographies of pastors and churches

1. Dikran Kherlopian: *Vosgemadian* (Golden Book), 1950; 2 volumes
2. Vahan Tootikian: “*Pioneer Armenian Evangelical Clergymen*,” 1880-1950  
“*Fifty Years of Christian Service*.” 1950-2000

— • —

Marie Doghramji read the manuscript in progress and made extremely helpful comments and observations regarding omissions, mistakes, necessary additions, and the overall flow of the narrative.

Charles DeMirjian merits a very special word of gratitude and appreciation for proof-reading the document several times as it was being constantly revised. Even more helpful have been his editorial comments and suggestions that are interwoven anonymously in this essay.

ARMENIAN MARTYRS' CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**OUR DONORS**

IN CELEBRATION AND COMMEMORATION  
OF OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD

**BENEFACTORS**

Marge Bogosian  
Florence DeMirjian Brown  
Rev. Dr. Peter & Marie Doghramji  
Grace Kavjian  
Lisa Melian and David Melian  
Albert & Esther Momjian  
Paul Paulson  
Joseph & Joyce Stein

**PATRONS**

Arthur & K. C. Baldadian, Brian & Joyce Hoyle,  
John & Ruth Melian  
Dr. Stephen & Debra (Paulson) Boyajian  
James Buchakjian, Sr.  
Rev. Dr. Carnegie S. & Doris Calian  
Charles & Diane DeMirjian  
Aida Dishman  
Dr. Paul & Kathleen Doghramji  
Martin F. Hatch Fund  
William, Jr. & Catherine Kabakjian  
Edward & Carol Kaiserian  
F. James Mukhalian  
George & Marilyn Ounjian  
Linda Preske  
Ilah Salverian  
Jack & Lucille (Krikorian) Tashjian  
Don & Diane Uber  
Dr. Edward & Barbara Zobian



## SPONSORS

Harry Balukjian  
Edward & Ann (Sarkis) Bayleran  
Dr. Vahan, Jr. & Dickie Benglian  
George A. & Carol J. Churukian  
Deborah Devedjian and Jacquelyn (Devedjian) DeMirjian  
John & Florence Devedjian and Samuel Devedjian  
Dr. Robert S. Djergaian  
Dr. Karl & Laurel Doghramji  
Howard S. Garabedian  
Rose Z. Garabedian  
Harry & Mary Injaian  
Karen Kludjian & William Kozel  
James & Sona Makouljian  
Carol (Mason) DiMaggio, Barbara (Mason) Benglian,  
Suzanne Mason  
Set & Joan Momjian  
Michael & Liane Paulson  
P. John & Debra Paulson  
Bess Ruzian  
Gregory & Laurel Sarian  
Hosmig (Mickey) Sherian  
Harriet Shirikjian  
Gloria Sussman  
Haig Torigian  
Louis Yardumian

## SUPPORTERS

Alex & Annabelle Alexanian  
Dr. Zaven & Lori Ayanian  
Edward & Marian Buchakjian  
James, Jr. & Susan Buchakjian  
Marjorie Chaney  
Susan, Tim & Jacquelyn, and Michael DeMirjian  
Jenika, Derek, Caprice, and Brielle DeMirjian  
Seb & Alice (Jeannides) Gertmenian  
Rev. Dr. Eugene & Dorothy Grau  
John & Cynthia, Brian, Andrew & Eileen Hamill,  
Robert & Maryann Antrasian  
Edward & Fran Hepp  
Edward & Lucy Janjigian  
Richard & Christine Jeryan  
Mardie Juskalian  
Berdj & Alice Kalustyan  
Pauline, Rev. Nayiri, Rev. Nerses (Balabanian) & Sevan,  
and Datev Karjian  
Dr. David & Maureen Kavjian  
Dr. Jack & Leila Kevorkian  
Edward & Joan Kurkian  
Henry & Arpine (Semerjian) Maxwell  
Ashod & Dorothy Melikian  
Gary & Carol (Jerrahian) Miller  
Rev. Dr. Soghomon Nuyujukian  
Joyce Shenian  
Sunday School Class of 1963  
Nubar & Peggy Tchilinguirian  
Frank C. Videon Funeral Home  
Arthur & Greta Yegyan

## CONTRIBUTORS

Diana Apoian	Alyce Hovsepian-Gordon
Noubar & Nevart Aposhian and Taline	Armen & Oksana Hagopian
Arlington Cemetery Company & Toppitzer Funeral Home	Dr. Edward Hagopian
Armenian Delight (Asdghig Kazanjian)	Calvin Hartunian
Kegham Avedissian	Dr. Nelson & Rev. Joanne Hartunian
Berge & Arpine (Daghlian) Ayvazian	Van & Suzanne Injaian
Daniel & Nora Babaian	Louisa Janbazian
Hripsime K. Babikian	Harry Jemelian
Rev. L. Nishan & Maria Bakalian	Jerry Jemelyan
Mihran Bakalian & Dr. Nao Chuma	Siran Jizmejian
Dr. Vahe & Anni Bedian	Sara Kaiserian
Dr. Edward H. Bedrossian, Jr.	Dr. Mark & Mariett Kalenian
David & Barbara Benglian	Dr. Raffi & Sara Kaprielian
David & Ani Bogosian	Edward M. Kavjian, Jr.
Ara & Suzanne Bouloutian	Marjorie Kertmenian
The Brinker Organization (Joseph Brinker)	Richard & Grace Keshgegian
Leslie & Laura Button	Vicken & Jeannette Keshishian
Dominic G. Caruso	Gladys Keuhnelian
Olimbio (Rocky) Caruso	Tony & Joyce Kowalski
Ruth Miller Cox and Jennifer C. Cox	Diana Krikorian
Anne Dayian	Hilton & Florence Levonian
Lawrence & Jeanette DerHagopian	Mary Kinder Loiselle
Richard Diradourian	Dr. John & Inge Markarian
Harry & Alice Dorian	James & Karen McPhillips
Paul Elanjian	Dr. Diran & Koudsy Mikaelian
Barbara Elanjian	Rosemary (Hajenian) Miller
Barbara Elanjian and Joyce (Elanjian) Kowalski	Pauline Molinare
Dr. André & Virginia Garabedian	Bruce & Christine (Nuyujukian) Momjian
Kenneth & Dorothy Garabedian	Michael & Queenie Mullian
Dr. Garo Garibian	

## CONTRIBUTORS *(continued)*

Paul & Shoushig Oflazian  
 James & Margery Ohnigian  
 Steven & Stephanie Ohnigian  
 Donald Paretchan  
 Mary Parnagian  
 Grant Parnagian  
 Manuel & Ellinor Parseghian  
 David Paulson  
 Mae (Kabakjian) Paulson  
 John & Betty Peck  
 Sarkis Philibossian  
 Pica's Restaurant  
 Dirk Salverian  
 Clara Samelian  
 Florence Samuelian  
 Merle Santerian  
 Robert & Mary Sarkisian  
 Ray & Diane (Ohnigian) Schnickels  
 Michael & Elizabeth Scutti  
 Aram & Ashkhen (Tachdjian) Setrakian  
 Paul Sevag  
 Sun-ni Cheese  
 Dr. Vahaken & Asdghig Tachdjian  
 Dr. Gabriel & Virginia Tatarian  
 Alan & Kathy Toomayan  
 Philip A. Vishabazoon  
 Anthony Vraim and Vraim Funeral Home  
 George & Margaret Yacoubian  
 Miryam Yardumian  
 Alexander & Nancy Zanazanian and Robert Zanazanian

## FRIENDS

Anonymous  
 Dr. Jacob & Ruby Baboian  
 John & Lisa Baboian  
 Armen and Sevag Bakalian  
 Ruth (Yardumian) Bonelli  
 Dawn Chakmakian  
 Robert & Lorraine Damerjian  
 Alice DeRose  
 Rachel Dohanian  
 A Friend  
 Adrine Kassouni  
 Nancy Krody  
 Loving Relatives  
 Lucy Mahjoubian  
 Dr. Robert & Jane (Najarian) Porter  
 Jonathan & Dorothy Rodman  
 Betty Sarian  
 Jean Sarkissian  
 Roxie Sudjian  
 Robert, Jr. & Hasmig Tashjian  
 George & Elizabeth Terjanian  
 Martin Tourigian and Virginia Tourigian

### DONOR CATEGORIES

BENEFACTORS	\$5,000 and above
PATRONS	\$1,000 and above
SPONSORS	\$500 and above
SUPPORTERS	\$250 and above
CONTRIBUTORS	\$100 and above
FRIENDS	All Others

# THE TRIBUTES OF OUR DONORS

IN LOVING HONOR OR IN MEMORY  
OF FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES  
AND IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR THE  
ARMENIAN MARTYRS' CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
ON ITS 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In memory of the unknown citizens of the forgotten Genocide.

*Anonymous*

• ————— •

In loving memory of George & Victoria Mooradian.  
Family of George & Victoria Mooradian

*Alex & Annabelle Alexanian  
Cherry Hill, N.J.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of parents, Michael & Elizabeth Apoian,  
and brother Joseph Apoian. And, in memory of the kindness of  
Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian. Also, in honor of  
Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji, Rev. Dr. Sghomon Nuyujukian,  
and Rev. Jirair Sogomian.

*Diana Apoian  
Philadelphia, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of Artin & Seydi Zabounian,  
Hovannes & Varteni Der Ohannessian, Aposh & Yester Aposhian,  
and Varteni Karamanougian.

*Noubar & Nevart Aposhian and Taline  
Upper Darby, Penna.*

**Congratulations on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Armenian Martyrs' Church.**

*Arlington Cemetery Company and Toppitzer Funeral Home  
Drexel Hill, Penna.*

• ————— •

**Congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

*Armenian Delight (Asdghig Kazanjian)  
Broomall, Penna.*

• ————— •

**In loving memory of devoted parents Ohannes & Esther  
Avedissian, who now rest peacefully in their heavenly home.**

*Kegham Avedissian  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

**In honor, and in memory, of the Bakalian family, our  
cousins. We honor Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian, pastor of this church.  
His good life and work are an inspiration to all of us. We also  
have such fond memories of his dear mother, Grace.  
She truly lived a life of grace and love.**

*Dr. Zaven & Lori Ayanian  
Matawan, N.J.*

• ————— •

**Our parents, Nazar & Lucy Daghlilian loved their  
involvement with AMCC. They kept the Sabbath holy and  
considered the Bible the most valued book in their library.  
Knowing the Bible well, Dad was a lay preacher and served the  
church in pivotal roles over many years.  
Mom loved to sing the beautiful hymns.**

*Arpiné (Daghlilian) Ayvazian, Marise and Hagop Daghlilian  
Arlington, Mass.*



In loving memory of mother and grandmother,  
Sara Tarverdiyan, and father and grandfather, Barour Avedisian.

*Daniel & Nora, Nareen, David and Sella Babaian  
Broomall, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of Rev. Misak P. Krikorian.

*Hripsime K. Babikian  
Drexel Hill, Penna.*

• ————— •

In honor of Rev. L. Nishan & Maria Bakalian and family.  
Welcome home! Our best wishes and prayers  
are with you as you begin your ministry in your home church.

*With love, Dr. Jacob & Ruby Baboian  
Watertown, Mass.*

• ————— •

In memory of Rev. Khatchig & Lydia Sarian.

*John & Lisa Baboian and Family  
Belmont, Mass.*

• ————— •

To our uncle and aunt, Vicken & Jeannette Keshishian,  
for their selfless service to the church community. Thank you.

*Armen and Sevag Bakalian  
Havertown, Penna.*

In memory of Grace Bakalian, our wise and loving mother  
and grandmother, who, encouraged by the church family,  
found joy and purpose in gently nurturing so many of the  
children of the Sunday School as teacher and superintendent.

Her service in many capacities, especially in the choir,  
is a constant inspiration to us.

*Vicken & Jeannette (Bakalian) Keshishian  
Mihran Bakalian & Nao Chuma  
L. Nishan & Maria Bakalian, Armen and Sevag  
Broomall, Penna.; New York, N.Y.; Havertown, Penna.*

---

In memory of my parents, Puzant & Esther Balukjian,  
dedicated workers for Christ and the church. Puzant served as  
Sunday school teacher and church moderator, and Esther as  
president of the Ladies Aid Society.

Also in memory of my sister, Marion Sarian.

*Harry Balukjian  
Bethesda, Md.*

---

In memory of our parents  
Leon Der Sarkis & Alice Sarkis Baylerian.  
We feel blessed that our parents raised us in AMCC,  
providing us an extended family and a strong Christian  
foundation. Mom especially enjoyed Dr. Doghramji's Bible study  
and Dad appreciated serving as treasurer. Our grandfather,  
Dr. Sarkis, participated in the church's formation.

*Ann Bayleran, Ed Sarkis, Isabel Kurkechian  
Orchard Lake, Mich.*

---

In memory of Rev. Dr. Giragos H. Chopourian.

*Dr. Vahe & Anni Bedian and Family  
Framingham, Mass.*

In memory of E. Howard Bedrossian, M.D., we wish to  
congratulate the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church in  
celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in bringing the joy of  
Christ to our community.

*Dr. Edward H. Bedrossian, Jr., and Family  
Drexel Hill, Penna.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of our parents,  
Vahan & Sara Benglian and William & Anna Mason,  
lifelong factors in the quality and development of our church.

*David & Barbara Benglian  
Wynnewood, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of parents and grandparents:  
Vahan E. & Sara (Demirjian) Benglian,  
Minas G. & Keghany (Yardumian) Demirjian,  
Yervant S. & Zarouhy (Hagopian) Benglian.

*Dr. Vahan E., Jr. & Dickie Benglian  
Don Mills, Ontario, Can.*

• ————— •

In honor of Charles & Diane DeMirjian, for decades of  
tireless service to the Armenian Evangelical community.

*David & Ani Bogosian  
Glendale, Calif.*

• ————— •

In honor of Marge & John Bogosian who for over fifty years  
have called Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church their  
home. Their extended family included those they worshipped  
with and the outstanding Badvelis that led the church.  
With thanksgiving and love we remember our parents for their  
thoughtful and caring ways.  
Congratulations to the church on its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

*John Paul Bogosian; Newtown Square, Penna.  
Rob & Joanne (Bogosian) Ikeler, Alexa and Devon; Berwyn, Penna.  
Karen Bogosian; Newtown Square, Penna.*

Just before the Genocide, Sarkis Bogosian came to Philadelphia to study photography. A letter advised him not to return to Turkey—his family had been massacred. A self-made courageous man, Sarkis opened a camera store and raised a family, becoming a long-standing member of Armenian Martyrs' and donating much to the Armenian community.

He was a great inspiration to his son, John.

*The John Bogosian Family  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of our grandmother,  
Sirarpi Bogosian Gogian, a long-time member of  
Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church.

*John Paul, Joanne and Karen  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

In honor of Jirair & Lorraine Sogomian whose friendship we greatly treasure and whose presence we miss today. Thank you for your ministry to Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church.

*The Bogosian Family  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of my beloved husband of fifty-one years,  
John S. Bogosian.

*Marge Bogosian  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of my parents, Dr. & Mrs. Krikor Yardumian.  
My father was Rev. Haig Yardumian's youngest brother.

*Ruth Yardumian Bonelli  
Sarasota, Fla.*

In memory of Minas & Evkine Bouloutian, and  
Richard & Victoria Aramian.

*Ara & Suzanne Bouloutian  
Willow Grove, Penna.*



With grateful hearts we celebrate AMCC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
in honor of our wise and generous father, Paul, and in  
memory of our dear mother, Laura. Just as their union resulted  
from fellowship in this church, so our marriage similarly  
stemmed from the youth ministry.  
Praise God for His goodness and faithfulness.

*Dr. Stephen & Debra (Paulson) Boyajian  
Lumberton, N.J.*



In memory of John Bogosian.

*The Brinker Organization (Joseph F. Brinker)  
Havertown, Penna.*



It is an honor to share in the celebration of the church  
founded by my uncle, Haig Yardumian, and the church in which  
I grew up. This gift is given with love and in memory of my  
parents Minas & Kephany Yardumian Demirjian.  
Their moral, Christian guidance has made me the  
spiritual person I am today.

*Florence DeMirjian Brown  
Joyce Carroll and Sarah Paynter  
Wallingford, Penna.; Essex Junction, Vt.; Swarthmore, Penna.*



In memory of Edward & Lucy Welch, Allan Welch,  
Richard & Nancy Powell, Garabed & Siranoosh Buchakjian.  
May their souls rest in peace in His keeping.

*Edward & Marian Buchakjian  
West Chester, Penna.*



In memory of Florence Buchakjian.

*James, Jr. & Susan, James, Carly and Brooke Buchakjian  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of my sweet wife, Florence Buchakjian.

*James Buchakjian, Sr.  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of our grandfather George N. Hagopian.

*Leslie & Laura Button  
Big Flats, N.Y.*

• ————— •

In memory and appreciation of Joseph and Grace Zobian and  
their Christian nurture through the help of the  
Armenian Martyrs' Church.

*Sam & Doris Calian  
Dennis & Lois Trautvetter  
Raffi & Sara Kaprielian  
Phil & Jill Calian  
Pittsburgh, Penna.; Evanston, Ill.;  
London, England; Evanston, Ill.*

• ————— •

In memory of Pasquale & Angeline Caruso.

*Dominic G. Caruso  
Pennsauken, N.J.*

• ————— •

In memory of June (Sarafian) Caruso.

*Olimbio (Rocky) Caruso  
Springfield, Penna.*

**Congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

*Dawn Chakmaklian  
Plymouth Meeting, Penna.*

---

**In loving memory of:**

**Grandparents, Hagop & Teresa Dadoorian; Hagop was the church's first clerk. Parents, Megurdich & Anna Miadzinian who served this church in leadership, music and education.  
Dear brother John, and sister Ruth, my wonderful mentors, accomplished musicians and most fun.  
And of my loving and most caring husband, Albert Chaney.**

*Lovingly, Marjorie Chaney  
Upper Darby, Penna.*

---

**In memory of Haig & Lucia Yardumian.**

*The Yardumian Descendants  
George A. & Carol J. Churukian  
Bloomington, Ill.*

---

**In memory of George & Elizabeth (Yardumian) Jerjisian.**

**Congratulations for one hundred years of continual activity in the Armenian Protestant community of Philadelphia.  
Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church has been blessed with excellent leadership.  
May it continue to enrich the spiritual lives of all who come to worship  
and serve God for years to come.**

*George A. & Carol J. Churukian and Family  
Bloomington, Ill.*

---

**In memory and in honor of those who have served so faithfully in the church choir in the past century.**

*Ruth Miller Cox and Jennifer C. Cox  
Havertown, Penna.*

Congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*Robert and Lorraine Damerjian  
Glenside, Penna.*



In memory of Noury & Lydia Ounjian,  
Khoren & Victoria Ounjian, and Florence (Ounjian) Sevag.

*Anne Dayian  
East Greenwich, R.I.*



In loving memory of parents Minas Garabed Demirjian &  
Keghany Gorgorian Demirjian (née Yardumian).  
Eternal thanks to God for their unshakable Christian faith despite  
losing their first spouses and Minas's family of five children  
in the Armenian Genocide.  
Of such is God's kingdom.  
Of such is the quality of our earthly lives.

*Charles & Diane DeMirjian  
Media, Penna.*



In appreciation of a constant and enduring application of  
mindfulness, time and their many talents, to the spiritual and  
pragmatic life of our church,  
we joyously pay tribute to our loving parents  
Charles & Diane DeMirjian.  
Our lives have been enriched by their zeal.

*Susan, Timothy & Jacquelyn, and Michael DeMirjian  
New York, N.Y.; West Chester, Penna.; New York, N.Y.*



Praising and thanking God for the nurturing our grandparents  
– John & Florence Devedjian and Charles & Diane DeMirjian –  
have bestowed upon us through their loving care,  
guidance and touch.

*Jenika, Derek, Caprice and Brielle DeMirjian  
West Chester, Penna.*

“With God all things are possible”

*Lawrence & Jeanette Der Hagopian  
Warminster, Penna.*

● ————— ●

In memory of Samuel J. DeRose.

*Alice DeRose  
Broomall, Penna.*

● ————— ●

In memory of parents Vahan & Gadar Devedjian.

*John & Florence Devedjian and Samuel S. Devedjian  
West Chester, Penna.; Collingswood, N.J.*

● ————— ●

In honor of John and Florence Devedjian for their steadfast love,  
leadership, beauty, humor, and inspiration they have brought to  
our church and its Fourth of July Picnic,  
Sanctuary Décor Committee, Boards of Trustees and Deacons,  
Women’s Auxiliary, Men’s Fellowship,  
Pilgrim Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

*Daughters Deborah and Jacquelyn  
New York, N.Y.; West Chester, Penna.*

● ————— ●

When the need was there, the church family was supportive  
of my mother Janet Derad Diradourian and her young son.  
God Bless you all.

*Richard Diradourian  
Montrose, Calif.*

● ————— ●

In memory of Dr. Arthur Dishman.

*Aida Dishman  
New York, N.Y.*

In memory of my father, Robert G. Djergaian.

*Dr. Robert S. Djergaian  
Camas, Wash.*



We celebrate the Centennial of our wonderful fellowship by  
honoring our loving parents and grandparents  
Peter & Marie Doghramji and Stephen & Christine Najarian.

*Karl & Laurel, Mark and Leah Doghramji  
Berwyn, Penna.*



In honor of Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji, father, grandfather  
(Bebaba), and pastor for years and years, and Marie Doghramji  
(Memama), whose ever-present support, love and understanding  
have truly been an oasis for us.

*Paul & Kathleen Doghramji, Paul Jr. and Alexander  
Berwyn, Penna.*



The family of Rev. Peter & Marie Doghramji  
Karl, Laurel, Mark, Leah  
Paul, Kathleen, Paul Jr., Alex  
Jimmy, Rose, Kristen, Matthew, Nick  
celebrates this Centennial with gratitude and love,  
honoring memories of Peter's mother, Rose  
Marie's parents, Penyamine & Ovsanna Bedikian  
Rose's parents, Harry & Rose Davis  
Laurel's father, Stephen Najarian.

*Rev. Dr. Peter B. & Marie Doghramji  
Havertown, Penna.*



Congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*Rachel Dohanian  
Belmont, Mass.*



In honor of parents Bernard & Violet Kondourajian.

*Harry A. & Alice Dorian  
Villanova, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of Doris S. Elanjian

*Barbara Elanjian & Children  
Broomall, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of our grandparents,  
Dr. Shahin & Haigouhi Shahinian.

*Barbara Elanjian and Joyce (Elanjian) Kowalski  
Broomall, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of my wife Doris (Shahinian) Elanjian.

*Paul Elanjian  
Havertown, Penna.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of loyal and long-standing members of  
our church, including Nishan, Beatrice and Edward Androyan.

Many children of the Sunday school will never forget the  
Christmas and Easter candy provided to them by  
André Candy Company.

*A Family Friend  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of Ted & Elizabeth (Androyan) Brooks.

*A Family Friend  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

In loving memory of the Chakmakian family — John, Louise  
and Jane — who were an integral part of our church's past.

*A Friend  
Huntingdon Valley, Penna.*

• ————— •

Heartfelt congratulations for a century of great achievements.  
May the good Lord provide your leaders and church members  
with vision and stamina to continue your  
mission of faith and love.

*Dr. André and Virginia Garabedian and Family  
Norristown, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of our father, Howard B. Garabedian, a devoted,  
compassionate man, who listened to your concerns,  
and provided kind encouraging words.  
Dad gave us wise and helpful advice and was always there for us.  
He gave our family love, joy, happiness, patience, kindness,  
goodness, and gentleness. We love you Dad and miss you.

*Howard S. Garabedian and Family  
Mt. Laurel, N.J.*

• ————— •

In memory of Howard B. Garabedian.

*Kenneth & Dorothy Garabedian and Family  
Haddonfield, N.J.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of Howard B. Garabedian who served his  
church in many capacities - - Sunday school teacher,  
Sunday school superintendent and various committees.  
He is truly missed.

*Rose Z. Garabedian and Family  
Westmont, N.J.*

In memory of Karapet Garibian.

*Dr. Garo Garibian, Antranig and Adrina  
Rydel, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of the Jeannides and Kavjian Families.

May the Lord's blessing be with the  
Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church.

*Seb & Alice (Jeannides) Gertmenian  
Pasadena, Calif.*

• ————— •

In memory of my mother Bessie Kerbeck Hovsepian  
My mother Bessie arrived in America with brother George  
and mother Bulbul, and settled in Philadelphia with her father  
Garabed Charles Kerbeck. With no Apostolic clergy available in  
those early years, Rev. Yardumian became our pastor.  
Despite a large family and little means,  
one had to force him to take a gift.

*Alyce Hovsepian-Gordon  
Atlantic City, N.J.*

• ————— •

In appreciation of being received so lovingly by the AMCC  
congregation through Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji who proposed  
my interim pastorate to the Search Committee chaired by  
Charles DeMirjian; to church secretary Marjorie Chaney who  
kindly introduced us to the church family,  
and, to fellow pastors who welcomed us:  
Revs. Chopourian, Nuyujukian, Sogomian,  
Karjian and Schongalla-Bowman.

*Rev. Dr. Eugene & Dorothy Grau  
Philadelphia, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of Sarkis H. Hagopian  
and in honor of Araxie Hagopian.

*Armen & Oksana Hagopian  
Brick, N.J.*

In memory of our beloved father and mother Hagop & Victoria Hagopian, and brother George. The Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church was their second home. They loved attending and serving in all ways. May their memory live on.

*Florence (Hagopian) Samuelian  
Rose (Hagopian) Snyder  
Dr. Edward Hagopian  
Van Nuys, Calif.; Springfield, Penna.; Garnet Valley, Penna.*

---

In loving memory, and thankfulness to God, for Rose & Alex Antrasian, whose lives were a testimony to their deep spiritual values based on steadfast faith in God and the teachings of our Lord. They had unequivocal love for us and respect for all people, living a life of honesty which influences our lives to this day.

*The Antrasian, Hamill, and Kaspari Families  
Scottsdale, Ariz.; Havertown, Penna.;  
Exton, Penna.; Keswick, Va.*

---

In loving memory of Albert & Alice Hartunian.

*Calvin A. Hartunian Family  
Ridley Park, Penna.*

---

In memory of faithful servants: Alex & Rose Antrasian, Florence Gulezian, Albert, Alice, and Mary Hartunian.

*Dr. Nelson S. & Rev. Joanne G. Hartunian  
Gregory & Joanna, Jonathan and Elizabeth  
Belmont, Mass.*

---

In memory of our parents and grandparents,  
Martin F. Hatch, Esq. & Stella Tabibian Hatch

*Dr. Carol H. Roberts, Dr. Colin M. Roberts,  
Imogene W. Hatch and Dr. Martin F. Hatch, Jr.  
Trustees of the Martin F. Hatch Fund, Ithaca, N.Y.*

In memory of mother, June (Sarafian) Caruso.

*Ed & Fran Hepp  
Tualatin, Ore.*

• ————— •

In honor of grandfather, Rocky Caruso.

*Ed & Francesca Hepp  
Robert & Sarah Burke  
Laura Hepp  
Tualatin, Ore.*

• ————— •

In memory of our dearly beloved, departed forebears.

*Harry & Mary Injaian  
Moorestown, N.J.*

• ————— •

In honor of the church's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*Van & Suzanne Injaian  
Cherry Hill, N.J.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of husband and father,  
Rev. Movses B. Janbazian  
(Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America.)

*Louisa, Vahak and Ani Janbazian  
Paramus, N.J.*

• ————— •

In memory of Rev. Dr. Giragos H. Chopourian and in honor  
of Yeprouhi Chopourian. We congratulate and rejoice with you  
on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We applaud your past ministers and  
congregation for your remarkable history.  
Now, with Rev. Nishan and Maria Bakalian,  
may God continue to enrich your ministry.

*Edward & Lucy Janjigian  
Franklin Lakes, N.J.*



In memory of Kevork & Lucy Jemelian  
and in honor of my brothers.

*Harry Jemelian  
Menlo Park, Calif.*

• ————— •

In memory of mother, Flora Jemelyan. And in celebration  
and joy for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Armenian  
Martyrs' Congregational Church. Here's hoping that the new,  
younger generation will work hard to keep the church so that  
there will be future celebrations; with God's blessing.

*Jerry Jemelyan  
Drexel Hill, Penna.*

• ————— •

We honor the contributions of the Jeryan, Jerrahian and  
Dadourian families to the  
Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church  
— its founding, its growth and its vital role in our spiritual,  
cultural and personal lives.

*Richard & Christine Jeryan  
Beverly Hills, Mich.*

• ————— •

In memory of Grace Bakalian, acknowledging the life  
she led, dedicated to the work of the church.

*Siran Jizmejian  
Scarborough, Ontario, Can.*

• ————— •

In memory of my father and mother,  
Mardiros & Shnorhig Juskalian, and brother John Juskalian.  
During a week in 1961, without suggestion or  
encouragement from anyone, I walked in the church  
on Ludlow Street to tell Badveli Chopourian  
that I want to attend his church.  
It was one of the best decisions of my life.

*Mardie Juskalian  
Warrington, Penna.*

In loving memory of my father William Kabakjian, Sr.  
An honorable man, Dad maintained his father Haigazoun's  
business with his wife Rose (Artin). Decorated a WWII hero,  
he started a Boy Scout Troop in war-torn Holland. Faithful  
members of AMCC, my parents focused on developing youth  
to become Christ-centered responsible adults.

*Bill & Kitty Kabakjian  
Mt. Pleasant, S.C.*

• ————— •

In tribute to the Armenian settlers of Philadelphia who, with  
great courage and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, established  
and sustained Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church  
for us today; and to those who have guided our faith journey  
and supported us in a loving, extended family,  
and participated in raising our children to love Jesus Christ.

*Edward & Carol Kaiserian  
Bryn Mawr, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of my husband, Edward Ardashes Kaiserian  
and the families of Gemerek.

*Sara Kaiserian  
Haverford, Penna.*

In loving memory of Marian (Najarian) Kalenian.  
We remember mother and wife, award-winning, dedicated  
teacher and friend, born in Brighton, Mass. Aug. 14, 1925, who  
passed away September 8, 1999. We all miss her smile, her laugh,  
her love of her Lord and Savior and her music.  
We look forward to being reunited with her.

*Clarence Kalenian  
Dr. Mark & Mariett Kalenian  
Philadelphia, Penna.; Dothan, Ala.*

• ————— •

In memory of Steve Najarian.

*Berdj & Alice Kalustyan  
Moorestown, N.J.*

• ————— •

In memory of Grace Zobian, our grandmother and the  
great-grandmother of our children Thomas, Grace and Hannah.

*Dr. Raffi & Sara Kaprielian  
London, England*

• ————— •

We pay tribute to our parents  
Rev. Hovhannes and Rebecca Karjian  
for their over 60 years of Christian ministry to  
congregations, educational institutions and the larger Armenian  
community, in Syria, Lebanon, Australia and the US.  
Their commitment to Jesus Christ and the church  
fills our hearts with thanksgiving and gratitude.

*Pauline, Rev. Nayiri,  
Rev. Nerses (Balabanian) & Sevan, and Datev Karjian  
Media, Penna.; Easton, Conn.; Palo Alto, Calif.; Hackensack, N.J.*

• ————— •

In memory of my parents, Misak and Siroon Keshishian.

*Adrine Kassouni  
Elk Grove, Calif.*

In honor of the church's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*Dr. David & Maureen Kavjian and Family  
Annandale, Va.*



In loving memory of parents Haigazoon & Aghavni Kabakjian, charter members whose commitment to their faith was demonstrated as they lived each day; and of husband Edward M. Kavjian, M.D. who served the church in many capacities including Moderator, Boards of Deacons and Trustees, Endowment and Missions Committees, as well as working with Rev. G. H. Chopourian in the relocation of the church.

*Grace Kavjian  
Newtown Square, Penna.*



In memory of Aram and Rose (Minassian) Kabakjian; Aram served the church as treasurer for many years, sang in the choir, and through his handiwork on many jobs around the church made the facility sparkle. Rose was active in the women's groups and used her artistic skills to beautify the sanctuary and social hall.

*Grace Kavjian and Family  
Newtown Square, Penna.*



In honor of my Kabakjian grandparents who were among the church's founders, and helped guide it through its first 50 years; and of the latest generation of Kavjians who built and supported it during the second 50 years; and in honor of our children in whose hands its fate lies through the next 50 years.

*Edward M. Kavjian, Jr. and Family  
Annandale, Va.*



In memory of my beloved husband George Kertmenian and to celebrate the church's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*Marjorie Kertmenian  
Collingswood, N.J.*

**Congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

*Richard & Grace Keshgegian  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

**A tribute to Ovsanna (Aposhian) Keshishian, a lifelong true  
disciple of Christ. Sharing the message of Hope while sharing her  
love for the Lord with others. Of Faith, while trusting the Lord  
in all her earthly battles. Of Love, while continuously giving of  
herself, her time and ... her *hamov* Armenian foods.**

*Vicken & Jeannette Keshishian  
Ara & Karen Keshishian, Rachael and Sarah  
William & Arpie (Keshishian) Hudson  
Broomall, Penna.; Forest Hill, Md.; Apex, N.C.*

• ————— •

**In loving memory of grandparents  
Haroutune & Prapion (Tumaian) Pekmezian,  
who survived and documented the Genocide,  
served the Armenian community,  
contributed to the life of this church,  
and gave themselves  
unselfishly to their family.**

*Jeannette (Bakalian) Keshishian,  
Mihran Bakalian, L. Nishan Bakalian  
Broomall, Penna.; New York, N.Y.; Havertown, Penna.*

• ————— •

**I congratulate your church for providing the opportunities for  
spiritual birth, growth, and renewal through all your worship and  
cultural programs these past hundred years.**

*The Keuhnelian Family  
Fort Lee, N.J.*

• ————— •

**In loving memory of our parents, Krikor & Rosa Kevorkian,  
and Martti & Eeva Tuomisto.**

*Dr. Jack & Leila Kevorkian  
Swarthmore, Penna.*



In loving tribute to Stephen and Mary Kludjian, who survived the  
Genocide and created a new life in America.

Their legacy is one of courage, integrity, and devotion  
to family and community.

Their memory will live with us always.

*Karen Kludjian & Bill Kozel*

*Kevin Wurzer*

*Keith, Laura, Justin, and Derek Wurzer*

*Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

In honor of our beloved Sunday school teacher,  
Charles DeMirjian. Charles, you demonstrated a commitment to  
family, community, and church that we strive to equal. You shared  
with us a love of learning that extended to art and music. And  
you embraced life with an enthusiasm that inspires us still.

*AMCC Sunday School Class of 1963*

*Vonnie Benglian; Don Mills, Ontario, Can.*

*Paul Dagdigian; Baltimore, Md.*

*Richard Jeryan; Beverly Hills, Mich.*

*Karen Kludjian; Newtown Square, Penna.*

*Carol "Cookie" Mason; Princeton, N.J.*

*Ashkhen (Tachdjian) Setrakian; Bryn Mawr, Penna.*

*Eileen (Chopourian) Stephey; Havertown, Penna.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of our mother and grandmother,  
Doris S. Elanjan.

*Tony & Joyce (Elanjan) Kowalski and Children*

*Broomall, Penna.*

• ————— •

For my dear parents Sarkis & Louise Krikorian in whose life  
Jesus Christ was pivotal. For the deep inter-generational  
relationships within the church family. For Christian Endeavor  
through which I personally learned of God's saving grace.

For my dear Sunday school students who have  
a place in my heart and prayers to this day!

*Diana Krikorian*

*Myerstown, Penna.*

Congratulations on a century of ministry in the  
Philadelphia area! Your friends at Collenbrook United Church  
(and throughout the Philadelphia Association  
of the United Church of Christ)  
join in celebrating this significant anniversary and the new phase  
of ministry that has begun with Badveli Bakalian!

*Nancy E. Krody  
Springfield, Penna.*

• ————— •

In honor of our dear friends John & Florence Devedjian.

*Edward & Joan Kurkian  
Bonita Springs, Fla.*

• ————— •

In memory of Harry & Alice Kuljian, loving supporters of  
the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church.  
It was the Kuljian Corporation's architect, John Samelian,  
who designed the Havertown church.

*Hilton & Florence Levonian  
Wynnewood, Penna.*

• ————— •

In honor of Richard Yardumian, Gary Schongalla-Bowman,  
Nishan Bakalian, our organists, and especially the AMCC choir –  
dear friends all, and collaborators  
in making music to the glory of God.

*Mary K. Loiselle  
King of Prussia, Penna.*

• ————— •

In honor of Dr. Charles & Dorothy Mahjoubian.

*Lucy Mahjoubian  
Paoli, Penna.*

In memory of Sona's father and brother,  
Sarkis and Khacher Koessayan who were killed in Lebanon's civil  
war. We thank Martyrs' church who welcomed this refugee (1958).

Sona and I were the first couple married in the new sanctuary  
where our three children heard God's word. With God's blessings,  
we never refused a request for help, especially as chef during  
many fundraising banquets, choir barbeques and  
a Philibosian Foundation dinner.

*James & Sona Makoulian  
Drexel Hill, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of Rev. & Mrs. Hagop Markarian.

*Dr. John & Inge Markarian  
West Pittston, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of our grandmothers Aznive Maissian, long-time  
Sunday school superintendent, and Antaram Terjanian – both  
original members – for whom our church was a haven  
for their faith. Our mother, Anna Mason, continued their  
traditions through the church to teach us God's love  
and a sense of community.

*Carol Mason  
Suzanne Mason  
Barbara (Mason) Benglian  
Princeton, N.J.; Merion Station, Penna.; Wynnewood, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of parents Garabed & Rouhama Semerjian,  
siblings Peter, Lucy and Michael Semerjian, faithful, loving  
members of Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church,  
especially during its West Philadelphia years. Sunday in its  
entirety was special.

Our family attended church wearing our Sunday best.  
Following worship we socialized and in the  
evening attended Christian Endeavor.

*Henry L. & Arpine (Semerjian) Maxwell  
Wilmington, Del.*

In loving memory of our devoted husband, wonderful father, and  
adoring grandfather – Michael Yervant Semerjian.  
We miss you very, very much and we'll never forget you.  
Our hearts are with you always.

*Margaret  
Karen, Michael, Mark  
Deidre, Candace, Tatum, Garrett, Matthew, Devon  
Collegeville, Penna.*

• ————— •

Lucy Semerjian is lovingly remembered as a joy and an  
inspiration to her entire family.

*Semerjian, McPhillips, and Maxwell Families  
Wilmington, Del.; Upper Darby, Penna.; Collegeville, Penna.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of our grandparents, Avedis & Elise Melian and  
Samuel Baldadian. In honor of our grandmother,  
Dorothy Baldadian, 98, who continues to offer us her wisdom  
and love; and two very special people, John & Ruth Melian whom  
we are blessed to call Mom and Dad.

*David and Lisa Melian  
New York, N.Y.; Pennsauken, N.J.*

• ————— •

In honor of our amazing mother, Dorothy Baldadian, 98 years  
young, who is still praising and thanking God and continues to  
be a wonderful role model. In loving memory of our dear Louise  
Melian, whose peanut-butter cheorag and hand-made flower  
pictures will always remind us of her talent and grace.

*Arthur & K.C. Baldadian; Philadelphia, Penna.  
Brian & Joyce Hoyle; Potomac, Md.  
John & Ruth Melian; Cherry Hill, N.J.*

• ————— •

In memory of Verkin Ohanian and Victoria Koshoian.

*Ashod & Dorothy Melikian  
Villanova, Penna.*

In honor of Dr. Peter B. Doghramji.

*Dr. Diran & Koudsy Mikaelian  
Wynnewood, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory our grandparents,  
Samuel and Clara (Levonian) Jerrahian; who came from Ordu  
and Aintab. They were active in the church and the  
Armenian community in various organizations.  
Grandmother's brother, Puzant Levonian, was AMCC's second  
Badveli, and her brother, Yervant Levonian, was choir director.  
They were kind and loving grandparents.

*Gary & Carol (Jerrahian) Miller  
Aram & Barbara (Jerrahian) Kumkumian  
West Chester, Penna.; Havertown, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of our parents,  
Robert and Nazeli (Jazvejian) Jerrahian.  
We feel blessed that Bob and Naz were authentic individuals  
with the courage of their convictions!  
Free spirits and free thinkers, they were ahead of their time.  
Beautiful inside and out, they attracted people of all ages,  
backgrounds and races. We miss them every day.

*Gary & Carol (Jerrahian) Miller  
Aram & Barbara (Jerrahian) Kumkumian  
West Chester, Penna.; Havertown, Penna.*

• ————— •

In honor of my relatives: the Browns, the DeMirjians,  
the Benglians and their families.

*Rosemary (Hajenian) Miller  
Palestine, Tex.*

In memory of my parents Robert & Eliza Kellejian.  
In 1913, at age 20, my father Robert Kellejian came through Ellis  
Island and went directly to his uncle's home:  
the Rev. Haig Yardumian, where he was welcomed, was helped  
with finding a job, and concentrated on learning English.  
In 1920, he and my mother Eliza were married,  
with Uncle Haig officiating.

*Pauline A. Molinare  
San Francisco, Calif.*

*Since offering this tribute, Pauline Molinare herself was  
called to be with her Lord, in October 2007.*

● ————— ●

In memory of our parents: Hagop & Arousiag Gostigian  
and Garabed & Johar Momjian who were born about the  
time the church was established. We praise God for AMCC's  
milestone and the opportunity to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
The Lord will surely be at the helm as the  
church sails through the next 100 years.

*Albert & Esther Momjian  
Huntingdon Valley, Penna.*

● ————— ●

In honor of my parents, Rev. Dr. Sghomon Nuyujukian and  
Hilda (Cholakian) Nuyujukian, for their sacrificial love and  
service to their brothers and sisters in Christ at  
Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church.

*Christine (Nuyujukian) Momjian  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

● ————— ●

May God continue to bless  
Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church,  
remembering all those who have been here before us  
as we pray for those who are to follow.

*Set & Joan Momjian  
Nubar & Peggy Tchilinguirian  
Huntingdon Valley, Penna.; Brielle, N.J.*



In loving memory of parents, Sarkis and Aznive Mukhalian.

*F. James Mukhalian  
King of Prussia, Penna.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of Robert G. Djergaian.

*Michael & Queenie Mullian and Family  
Sarasota, Fla.*

• ————— •

In memory of my beloved “Yeretzgin” Hilda Nuyujukian and son, Ara Nuyujukian. To remember the unreserved eight years of ministry – 1980-1988, my dear wife Hilda and I rendered to God and the beloved congregation, for which we are ever grateful.

*Rev. Dr. Soghomon Nuyujukian  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

In joining with you wholeheartedly in celebrating  
the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
the Armenian Martyrs’ Congregational Church,  
we also honor the memory of the Rev. Dr. Giragos Haroutiun  
Chopourian, a brave soul, who stood tall, “for the liberty and  
freedom of conscience in matters of faith and conduct.”

*Paul & Shoushig Oflazian Family  
Huntingdon Valley, Penna.*

• ————— •

In honor of our parents, Suran & Grace Ohnigian.

*James & Margery Ohnigian  
Winchester, Mass.*

• ————— •

In honor of our parents, Suran & Grace Ohnigian.

*Steven & Stephanie Ohnigian  
Denver, Col.*

In celebration of the memory of our loving parents, grandparents,  
and great grandparents, Noury & Lydia Ounjian. Also, in loving  
memory of Uncle Khoren & Aunt Victoria Ounjian,  
and beloved cousin Florence Sevag. Love always.

*George & Marilyn Ounjian  
Grandchildren Jennifer, Jonathan and Kori Ounjian  
Great grandchild, Victoria Johnson  
Delray Beach, Fla.*

• ————— •

In memory of Sooren Paretchan.

*Donald Paretchan  
Broomall, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of my father, Martin Vartan Parnagian.

*Grant Parnagian  
Moorestown, N.J.*

• ————— •

To the memory of beloved husband and brother-in-law,  
Martin Vartan Parnagian, our loving father, Hrant Sarkisian, and  
our wonderful parents, Bedros & Verkin (Sarkisian) Semerjian.

*All our love, Mary Parnagian and Robert & Mary Sarkisian  
Mt. Laurel, N.J.; Broomall, Penna.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of parents, Haigazoon & Serpouhi Parseghian.

*Manuel & Ellinor Parseghian  
Wayne, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of grandparents, Haigazoon & Aghavni Kabakjian,  
charter members of our church.

*David H. Paulson  
Secane, Penna.*

In memory of mother Laura (Amen) Paulson and in honor of father Paul Paulson. A wise aphorism reminds us that we “drink from wells dug by our predecessors” and we have sipped often from the AMCC well. Paul and Laura met through Christian Endeavor. Contemporaries welcomed us and the adults sagely guided us all. Let’s dig new wells together to the glory of God.

*John & Debra Paulson  
Media, Penna.*



In remembrance of parents Haigazoon Haji Kabakjian & Aghavni (Kulludjian) Kabakjian, charter members of this church who devoted their lives to serving in every area to insure the church’s success and survival. They, along with others, helped newcomers, welcomed them into a new church home and life in the new world.

*Mae (Kabakjian) Paulson  
Drexel Hill, Penna.*



My Kabakjian grandparents were among the founders of AMCC. Encouraged by my mother Mae (Kabakjian) Paulson, I attended in my late teens. This church, Rev. Giragos & Yeprouhi Chopourian and family became a very important part of my life. While I have moved frequently, AMCC remains my home and my family. I love you all.

*Michael & Liane Paulson  
Falls Church, Va.*



In memory of my beloved Laura – my wife of fifty-one years – as we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Armenian Martyrs’ Congregational Church. Rev. Rejebian performed the marriage ceremony at the Ludlow Street church on June 26, 1948.

*Paul K. Paulson  
Media, Penna.*

In loving tribute  
To my father, Haroutune Pekmezian,  
Consul Leslie Davis' assistant in Turkey,  
Fund-raiser for Near East Relief here in America,  
A builder of the Armenian community in Philadelphia  
And to my mother, Prapion Pekmezian,  
Nurse, helpmeet, homemaker, and church worker,  
Who gave her all for her family.

*John H. Peck  
New Smyrna Beach, Fla.*

• ————— •

With love we fondly remember our aunt, Ethel G. Peck,  
Whose determination saw her through so much adversity,  
Who by love and faith made us into one big family.

*From her Nieces and Nephews  
Penna., N.Y., N.J.*

• ————— •

In memory of my loving wife, Norma Philibossian.

*Sarkis Philibossian  
Douglassville, Penna.*

• ————— •

Congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*Pica's Restaurant  
Upper Darby, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of Stephen Martin Najarian and Sonia Topalian.

*Dr. Robert & Jane (Najarian) Porter  
Chadds Ford, Penna.*

In tribute to the memory of Marvin A. Preske, DPM –  
husband, father and inspiration,  
a man of both success and value.  
His wisdom, influence and warm heart  
live on in all those who knew him.

*Linda, Marin and Brandon Preske  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of Hampton & Grace Kalyn,  
and Setrak N. & Zenoohi Adourian.

*Jonathan & Dorothy Rodman  
Torrance, Calif.*

• ————— •

In memory of Rev. Sarkis V. & Mary Ruzian, my parents,  
and also in memory of the Androyan family, my relatives  
– all life-long and dedicated members of AMCC.

*Bess Ruzian  
Upper Darby, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory and honor of Rev. Haig Yardumian and his grandson,  
Haig Salverian. One showed the way and the other followed,  
lived, and led others to the Lord.

*The Salverian Family:  
Rebecca; Dirk & Julie, Alex and Megan  
Huntingdon Valley, Penna.; Vienna, Va.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of George Ardashes Salverian, M.D.  
Elder son of Estelle Yardumian and Leon Salverian. Shared  
parents' love and attention with siblings Marian, Haig and  
Elizabeth. Grandchild of Rev. Haig Yardumian. World War II  
veteran, 69th Division. Graduate of Jefferson Medical College.  
Guided by Christian teachings throughout his life.  
Greatly missed by his wife and five children.

*From the family of George and Ilah Salverian  
Huntingdon Valley, Penna.*

Our parents, John and Araxie Samelian, were compassionate about Armenian culture. Our father, a gifted architect, designed four of the five Philadelphia Armenian churches, including Armenian Martyrs'. Our mother, a gifted advocate of Armenian youth, promoted culture through concerts, and with Dad's help, the Ararat Dance Group. We are honored to witness to their fruitful contributions.

*Clara, Jon and Frederic Samelian  
Drexel Hill, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of Ned Santerian and Corinne Santerian, D.O.

*Merle Santerian  
Huntingdon Valley, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of my parents James & Esther Kelian, and  
brother Charles Kelian.

*Betty Sarian  
King of Prussia, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of Rev. K. T. & Lydia Sarian, and  
James & Esther Kelian.

*Greg & Laurel Sarian and Family  
Malvern, Penna.*

• ————— •

Congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*Jean Sarkissian  
Philadelphia, Penna.*



In memory of my father, Suran Ohnigian, and in honor of my mother, Grace Ohnigian. I express my appreciation for being a part of such a loving, caring church family. Where else could I have gotten my cheeks pinched so many times as a kid? We have grown up and traveled through many seasons of life together.

May God bless you all!

*Ray & Diane (Ohnigian) Schnickels  
Canby, Ore.*

• ————— •

In memory of our parents George & Juhar Sherian  
and Michael & Anna Scutti.

*Michael & Elizabeth Scutti  
Philadelphia, Penna.*

• ————— •

Congratulations to  
the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church  
on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*Aram & Ashkhen (Tachdjian) Setrakian  
Bryn Mawr, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of Victoria Ounjian.

*Paul Sevag  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of Florence (Ounjian) Sevag.

*Paul, Jeffrey and Philip Sevag  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of parents Richard & Sarah Farashian  
and husband Popken Shenian

*Joyce Shenian  
Newtown Square, Penna.*

In loving memory of my husband, George Sherian, Jr.

*Hosmig (Mickey) Sherian  
Philadelphia, Penna.*

• ————— •

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AMCC. I want to thank the church for all they have done for my family and me. It is our church home, and we felt loved here. My children have never forgotten this! May you celebrate many more years shining the Gospel Light.

*Harriet Shirikjian  
Millis, Mass.*

• ————— •

Stephen Philibosian, my father, had a special affection for Dr. Giragos Chopourian and the Armenian Martyrs' Church. Although a bit skeptical about relocating from Ludlow Street, he soon rejoiced when the beautiful Havertown church was built and established.

He would join us in congratulating you on accomplishing the Lord's work.

*Joseph & Joyce Stein  
Indian Wells, Calif.*

• ————— •

Congratulations on such a momentous occasion.

*Roxie Sudjian  
Springfield, Penna.*

• ————— •

Congratulations for 100 years of service in the community.

*Sun-ni Cheese Co.  
Broomall, Penna.*

In memory of George Jerjisian & Elizabeth (Yardumian) Jerjisian.  
Elizabeth was a daughter of Rev. Haig Yardumian.

*The Sussman Family:  
Gloria J., Robert A. and Dr. Theodore D.  
Reston, Va.*

• ————— •

In memory of parents, Ohannes & Shoushan Tachdjian

*Dr. Vahaken & Asdghig Tachdjian  
Wynnewood, Penna.*

• ————— •

In loving memory of my father, Harry Krikorian. "Poppa"  
arrived in America at sixteen. Years of diligent work led to  
establishing Krikorian's Photo Service. He then married Alton  
Dadekian. They enjoyed working together, their family, friends,  
and church activities. Harry was a devoted father, trusted friend,  
a Christian man who quietly helped many.  
Folks lovingly remember him still.

*Jack & Lucille (Krikorian) Tashjian  
West Chester, Penna.*

• ————— •

Congratulations to everyone  
at Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church.

*Robert, Jr. & Hasmig Tashjian  
King of Prussia, Penna.*

• ————— •

On this auspicious occasion we wish to extend our  
congratulations and best wishes for your continued success.

*Dr. Gabriel & Virginia Tatarian  
Moorestown, N.J.*

Six generations,  
from founding members to today,  
have worshipped at Armenian Martyrs':  
Hovhannes & Verkin Keuhnelian  
Zora & Satenig Gulezian  
Avedis & Zarouhi Darakjian  
John & Virginia Reed  
Set & Joan Momjian  
Nubar & Peggy Tchilinguirian  
Bruce & Christine Momjian  
Christopher & Gail Momjian  
Gregory & Tory Tchilinguirian  
Matthew, Luke, Peter and Catherine Momjian  
Reed and Claire Momjian

*"What's past is prologue"*  
—William Shakespeare

*Nubar & Peggy Tchilinguirian  
Set & Joan Momjian  
Brielle, N.J.; Huntingdon Valley, Penna.*



Antaram Terjanian was a faithful member of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church for many years. Truly, her life depicted love and devotion to her Lord and family. Known as a wise woman, she built her house with sacrifice and love for her children and grandchildren. Her worth: far above rubies.

*George & Elizabeth Terjanian  
Coatesville, Penna.*



In memory of parents, Siranoush & Hmayag Torigian;  
sister, Varsenia Mukalian; niece, Marcina Mukalian.

*Haig Torigian  
Philadelphia, Penna.*



In loving memory of Alice Hartunian.

*Martin Tourigian and Virginia Tourigian  
Drexel Hill, Penna.*

In honor of the loving AMCC family.  
Congratulations, Armenian Martyrs', on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.  
We have enjoyed being a part of the warm, loving  
church family that has helped nurture our daughters into young  
women and treated us all as blood relatives.  
We look forward to being a part of your next 100 years.

*Don & Diane, Danielle and Nicole Uber  
Malvern, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of John S. Bogosian.

*Frank C. Videon Funeral Home  
Broomall, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of my beloved wife  
Jervina Anna Kerbeckian Vishabazoon.

*Philip A. Vishabazoon  
Philadelphia, Penna.*

• ————— •

Congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*The Vraims and Vraim Funeral Home  
Upper Darby, Penna.*

• ————— •

Best wishes on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*George & Margaret Yacoubian  
Broomall, Penna.*

In memory of our grandfather and great-grandfather  
Rev. Haig Yeghia Yardumian.

“... The Lord does not, in Himself, need our giving of  
glory or of thanks to Him, but that it is  
we who need to give glory and thanks to the Lord.  
So it is that the man we honor does not need our memorial,  
but it is we who need to give it...”

—Richard Yardumian (1977)

*Louis, Andrew, Gary and Linda Yardumian  
Palm Desert, Calif.*

• ————— •

In honor of Charles DeMirjian.

*Miryam Yardumian  
Baltimore, Md.*

• ————— •

In memory of grandfather Rev. Hagop Der Gazarian,  
a Methodist minister and national activist  
who was executed in Ankara, Turkey in 1915.

*Arthur & Greta Yegyan  
Swarthmore, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of our beloved parents, John and Mary (Jemelian)  
Zanazanian. Born in Aintab, Turkey, John survived the massacres;  
with a friend, emigrated to the United States in 1925, married  
Mary in 1930 and raised Alexander, Edward and Robert  
in the Ludlow St. church.

*Alexander & Nancy Zanazanian and Robert Zanazanian  
Longwood, Fla.; Philadelphia, Penna.*

• ————— •

In memory of Joseph & Grace Zobian.  
They gave lovingly of their courage, compassion, talents  
and treasure to Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church  
and to the Armenian community at large.

*Dr. Edward & Barbara Zobian  
Wyomissing, Penna.*



# **CHURCH FAMILY ALBUM OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

# WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY



Choir Concert, Ludlow St. Church, Organist Florence Stone and Conductor Yervant Levonian; late 1930s.

Worship Service, Ludlow St. Church; Christmas 1940.

Church Choir, Ludlow St. Church, Conductor Vahan Dagdigian and Pastor Rev. Dr. Dicran Kassouny; Easter 1952.



# WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY



Last Sunday of worship, Ludlow St. Church, Badveli Chopourian at the pulpit; June 16, 1965.

Photo of the congregation on the last day of worship, Ludlow St. Church; June 16, 1965.

# WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY



L to R, the Revs. Sogomian, Grau, Nuyujukian, Chopourian, Doghramji; January 1990

Worship service, Havertown Church; 2005

L to R, the Revs. Chopourian, Karjian, Doghramji, Nuyujukian, Schongalla-Bowman; December 2004



# WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY



Church choir, Music Director Mary Loiselle; March 2006

Accompanying the choir: L to R, Derek DeMirjian, drums; Paul Doghramji, Jr., guitar; John Paulson, bass guitar; 2005

Acolyte James Buchakjian, 2006.

Children's message; L to R, Christian Sarian, Nareen Babaian, Badveli Nishan, Claire Santangelo, David Babaian, Carly Buchakjian, Nicholas Santangelo; October 2007

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



“Crusader” Sunday School class; L to R row 1: George Terjanian, Alice Semerjian teacher, George Salverian; row 2: David Davidian, Daniel Sarafian, Robert Djergaian; row 3: Charles DeMirjian, John Rejebian, Paul Jemelian, Alex Kounganian; row 4: John Fereshetian, Edward Kurkjian, John Minassian; 1941

New church members confirmed by Rev. Samuel Rejebian; L to R front: Lucy Semerjian, Alice Jeannides, Shirley Sirabonian, Grace Kabakjian; middle: Hester Hashian, George Terjanian, Sara DeMirjian, John Fereshetian, Florence DeMirjian, John Rejebian, Charles DeMirjian; back: George Salverian, Robert Djergaian, Marian Salverian, Lillian Kabakjian, Gladys Kalemkarian; April 6, 1941



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Christian Endeavor Society; L to R front: Robert Fereshetian, Marjorie Miadzinian, Harry Balukjian, Alice Semerjian advisor, Diana Krikorian, F. James Mukhalian, Grace Buchakjian; middle: Mary Hashian, Harry Mkalian, Hester Hashian, Haig Torigian, Esther Keshishian, Mary Torigian; back: Mary Mkitarian, Edward Buchakjian, Robert Balukjian, Virginia Mukhalian, Manuel Parseghian, Ruth Krikorian; 1943

Sunday School class; kneeling: Diane Zobian, Doris Zobian, Addie Keshishian; standing: Gay Mooradian, Rebecca Sarajian, Mary Torigian, Vicky Kondourajian, Mary Mkitarian, Betty Salverian, Diana Krikorian, Ruth Krikorian; c. 1945



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School Halloween party, c. 1947

Christian Endeavor Society; L to R front: Arlene Kabakjian, Doris Zobian, Lucille Krikorian; seated: Sona Parseghian, Anne Ounjian, Arousiag Kassouny, Dr. Kassouny, Armine Baghramian, Arous Kumkumian; standing: Jack Kossayan, Harry Balukjian, Robert Balukjian, Robert Darpinian, John Melian, Jim Mukhalian, John Kashishian, Serge Krikorian; 1953

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Christmas Caroling, 1955

Sunday School children, Superintendent Lucy Welch; Easter, 1962



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School Class of 1963; kneeling: Vonnie Benglian; L to R: Charles DeMirjian teacher, Ed Jeryan, Paul Dagdigian, Karen Kludjian, Vera Chopourian, David Benglian, Richard Jeryan, Eileen Chopourian. Missing from photo, Ashkhen Tachdjian, Cookie Mason, Barbara Mason

Sunday School Class, teacher June Caruso; L to R: Janice Garabedian, Joanne Spence, Michael DeMirjian, Lisa Melian, Arpi Asdourian, Barbara Garabedian, Scott Chaney, Debbie Devedjian, Robert Klingenberg, Judy Kavjian; April 1975

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Mothers' Day performance, Grace Bakalian teacher, on stage L to R: (boy in blazer) Dan Kaiserian, Janice Paulson, Amber Benlian, Andrew Benlian, Julia Paulson; May 1987

Sunday School Class, Lorraine Sogomian teacher; L to R: Danielle Uber, Alexa Ikeler, Devon Ikeler, Alex Doghramji, Caprice DeMirjian, Jenika DeMirjian, Paul Doghramji Jr., Nicole Uber, Derek DeMirjian; 1994

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Confirmation Class; L to R: Leon Aghazarian, Amber Benlian, Andrew Benlian, Christina Stephenson, Daniel Kaiserian, Brandon Preske, Janice Paulson; June 1999

Confirmation Class; L to R: Paul Doghramji Jr., Michael Kaiserian, Derek DeMirjian, Jenika DeMirjian, Caprice DeMirjian, Michelle Stephenson, Danielle Uber, Julia Paulson, Evelyn Aharonian; June 2003

Children's Day; children: Claire Santangelo, Nicholas Santangelo, Brooke Buchakjian, Christian Sarian, James Buchakjian, Elizabeth Sarian, Araxi Reese, David Babaian, Nareen Babaian, Carly Buchakjian; teens: Danielle Uber, Dan Kaiserian, Nicole Uber, Paul Doghramji Jr., Brielle DeMirjian, Derek DeMirjian, Lara Kaiserian, Jenika DeMirjian, Anna Selverian; June 2005



# ORGANIZATIONS



Ladies' Aid Kitchen Band! 1930s  
Church Youth, advisor Queenie  
Fereshtian far left and  
Rev. & Mrs. Samuel Rejebian,  
c. 1941-42





# ORGANIZATIONS



Youth groups with  
Rev. Chopourian, c. 1960

Church Leadership, c. 1962  
L to R front: Queenie  
Fereshetian, Nishan Androyan,  
Rev. Giragos Chopourian,  
Steven Philibosian, Armenouhi  
Yorganjian; middle: Eunice  
Kavjian, Dr. Edward  
Kavjian, Haig Dagdigian,  
Joseph Sirabonian; back:  
John Chakmakian, Charles  
DeMirjian, Millard Bekmezian,  
Paul Dagdigian, Albert  
Hartunian, Joseph Spence,  
Vahan Benglian



# ORGANIZATIONS



New Church building Council;  
L to R front: Rev. Giragos  
Chopourian, Stephen  
Philibosian, Charles DeMirjian;  
middle: Mary Bekmezian, John  
Hamill, Queenie Fereshetian;  
back: Robert Jerrahian, Millard  
Bekmezian, Haig Dagdigian,  
Dr. Edward Kavjian; 1965

Officers, Junior Women's  
Auxiliary; L to R: Florence  
Devedjian, Queenie  
Djergaian, Alice Dorian, Mary  
Touloumdjian, Marge Bogosian;  
c. 1968

Choir at the home of composer  
Richard & Ruth Yardumian,  
1978



# ORGANIZATIONS



Christian Youth Fellowship Officers; L to R: Debi Devedjian, Betty Ann Spence, Jimmy Doghramji, Arpi Asdourian, Janice Garabedian; June 1978

Ladies' Aid Society, c. 1980s L to R front: Antaram Terjanian, (visitor), Esther Balukjian, Mary Hartunian, Sona Hisarlian, Lydia Sarian, Sirarpi Gogian; back row: Rose Antrasian, Lydia Ounjian, Victoria Ounjian, Ovsanna Keshishian, (visitor), Mary Zanazanian, Louise Krikorian, Mariam Davidian

# ORGANIZATIONS



Ladies' Aid Society; seated: Esther Balukjian, Lydia Sarian, Louise Krikorian, Grace Zodian; standing: Ovsanna Keshishian, Zabel Kaldjian, Victoria Ounjian, Araxie Hagopian, Rev. Dr. Soghomon Nuyujukian; c. 1980s

Women's groups at Ruth Melian's home, c. 1990

Sunday School teachers; Daniel Babaian, John Paulson, Debra Paulson, Susan Buchakjian, Jeannette Keshishian; June 2006





# SOCIAL EVENTS



An original skit about Armenian immigrants; L to R: Hester Hashian, Manuel Parseghian, Ruby Kalemkerian, Ray Chalikian, Florence DeMirjian, Edward Welch, Millard Bekmezian; c. 1947

A social evening at Ludlow St., c. 1950

# SOCIAL EVENTS



The Men's Club fishing party, Cape May, New Jersey; c. 1948

The Mikado; seated: Lucille Krikorian, Diane DeMirjian, Mary Surenian, Esther Keshishian; standing: Rev. Dr. Dicran Kassouny, Jack Kossaian, Charles DeMirjian, John Benglian, John Fereshetian, Arousiag Kassouny (Director); June 1953



# SOCIAL EVENTS



Armenian Evangelical Union Banquet;  
mid 1950s

Shish kebab crew, Fourth of July picnic,  
1969; L to R: Harry Dorian, John  
Chakmakian, John Devedjian, John  
Melian, Joe Spence, Sarkis Philibossian,  
Steve Kraynik, Bob Djergaian

"Double Tom Thumb Wedding"  
with identical twins Barbara & Janice  
Garabedian and Paul & Jim Dorian;  
May 15, 1970.





# SOCIAL EVENTS



Youth group play *"Daros Chem Oozer"*; L to R: Lisa Djergaian, Lisa Sarian, Tim DeMirjian, Ara Sahelian; February 1974

Sing and Rejoice Choral/Dance Group; sitting L to R: Anne Sarkis, Lena Kevorkian, Betty Ann Spence, Michael DeMirjian, Director Armeen Dishtchekenian; standing L to R: Susan DeMirjian, Tim DeMirjian, Jeannette Bakalian, Larry (Nishan) Bakalian, Jimmy Doghramji, Joanne Spence; June 1977

*Doghramji Bross yev Larry Barbershop Quartet* with Paul, Jimmy, Karl and Larry (Bakalian); 1980

# SOCIAL EVENTS



Youth group play "Life With Hyrig"; L to R: Tim DeMirjian, Paul Fereshetian, Jackie Devedjian, Michael DeMirjian, Haig Makouljian; 1981

Kitchen crew; L to R: Paul Paulson, Aram Kabakjian, David Melian, John Melian, John Devedjian, Mark Kalenian, Bob Balukjian, John Gulezian, Charles DeMirjian, John Hamill; mid 1980s

# SOCIAL EVENTS



Kitchen cleaning crew; L to R: Diane DeMirjian, Joan Momjian, John Devedjian, Sarah Farashian, Mardie Juskalian, Rose Garabedian, Ruth Melian, John Melian; April 1997

Christmas Dinner chefs; L to R: John Melian, Florence Devedjian, Jack Tashjian, Jim Makoulian, Leon Buchakjian, Paul Ohnigian; 2005



# MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Habitat for Humanity, West Philadelphia, Dan Kaiserian and Vicken Keshishian; May 2003

40 Days of Purpose, Missions and Ministry Fair; L to R: Diane DeMirjian, Lucille Tashjian, Mary Loiselle; 2004

Missionaries Serge and Marge Krikorian, Wycliffe Bible translators since the mid 1960s



# MISSIONS & OUTREACH



"New Covenant Ministries", Camden, New Jersey

Gift recipients with Marvin Preske, 2002

L to R: David Melian, Pastor Gary, Don Uber, Danielle Uber, Matt Belluardo, Linda Preske, Lisa Melian, Karen Bogosian; 2004

Repaired bicycles ready to be distributed to children, 2004





# MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Chairman Ruth Melian with gift recipients of bikes, 2005

Happy gift recipients with Missions Committee Chair Diane DeMirjian, 2005

AMCC Volunteers, 2006



# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Y. K. Children's Mission  
New Year's Eve  
1962

hello  
my name is Lorian  
5 year old  
iam in kindergarten i like  
school very much  
and play with my  
friends

to Lorian 5-5  
year old, 4 years  
old, 5 years old  
for 5 years  
to 5 years old  
7 years old to 5  
years old to 5 years  
old to 5 years old



Sponsorship of education for needy children in Lebanon and letters of gratitude through the Armenian Missionary Association of America.



# MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Dinner for the homeless at Old First Church (4th and Race Sts., Philadelphia);  
November 2007

# CONVENTIONS AND RETREATS



Armenian Evangelical Union Convention, Pastor Rev. Samuel Rejebian, front row, extreme left; c. 1935

Armenian Evangelical Union and Interstate Union Convention; Rev. Dr. Dicran Kassouny, Pastor, fourth from left; c. 1950



# CONVENTIONS AND RETREATS



Family retreat, Fernbrook, Pa.; mid 1970s

Armenian Evangelical Union of North America  
Family retreat, Worcester, Mass.; July 1975

Youth retreat, June 1976



# CONVENTIONS AND RETREATS



AEUNA 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Youth Convention, Haverford College, Haverford, Pa.; June 1978

Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship Convention at AMCC; October 2004



# SPECIAL EVENTS



First wedding ceremony in Havertown Church, James and Sona Makouljian, Rev. Giragos Chopourian officiating; December 19, 1964

Stephen Philibosian Testimonial Dinner, Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia; 1965

Stephen Philibosian presented with testimonial mementos, 1965



# SPECIAL EVENTS



Anniversary of our church; L to R: Nazar Daghljan, Zarouhie Benglian, John Devedjian; November 1975

Celebrating 25 years in our Havertown church; L to R: Millard Bekmezian, Moderator, Rev. Dr. Giragos H. Chopourian, Vahan Benglian, Chair of Trustees; November 1989

“SAMMY” (Serving Armenian Martyrs Many Years) presented to Rocky Caruso, accompanied by wife June Caruso; November 1993

“SAMMY” awarded to John & Marge Bogosian, November 1994.



# SPECIAL EVENTS



George Hagopian receiving “SAMMY” Award, November 1994

Bible Study Group visit to the White House, hosted by Set Momjian; 1998



# SPECIAL EVENTS



Rev . Dr. Giragos H. Chopourian becomes Pastor Emeritus of AMCC; L to R: Rev. Movses Janbazian, Dr. Chopourian, John Bogosian, Albert Momjian, Esq.; April 21, 1996



Celebrating Howard Garabedian's 80th Birthday; L to R: Victoria Davis, Tyler Frankowski, Rev. Jirair Sogomian and Howard B. Garabedian; October 3, 1999

# SPECIAL EVENTS

We lovingly remember Hagop Dedeyan for his spirit of thankfulness, his ability to give generously, quietly unassumingly, and his humility to receive graciously; for living the simple life by choice and not because of material need; and for his readiness to be helpful. Blessed is Hagop's memory and legacy in our church.

*His friends at Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church*



Hagop Dedeyan and Rev. Jirair Sogomian; mid-1990s

Stained Glass Doors, dedicated in memory of Hagop Dedeyan, showing the Armenian Cross. Left panel "Christ was crucified for us", right panel "Christ arose from the dead".





## TO THE UNRECOGNIZED, UNNAMED LAITY...

Throughout our 100 years, dedicated laity comprised the functioning body of the church from year to year. The faithful members of our church - as in any church - provide continuity as we seek to serve Christ and his mission.

It would be impossible to acknowledge by name this legion of the faithful, both past and present, without overlooking many.

We can bring them to mind as we recall events in the life of our church, whether spiritual, cultural or social. We celebrate them in our hearts and thank God for their loving and talented service by which we all have benefited and continue to do so.

God knows us by name - each of us -  
and to him be the glory.



ARMENIAN MARTYRS'  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

