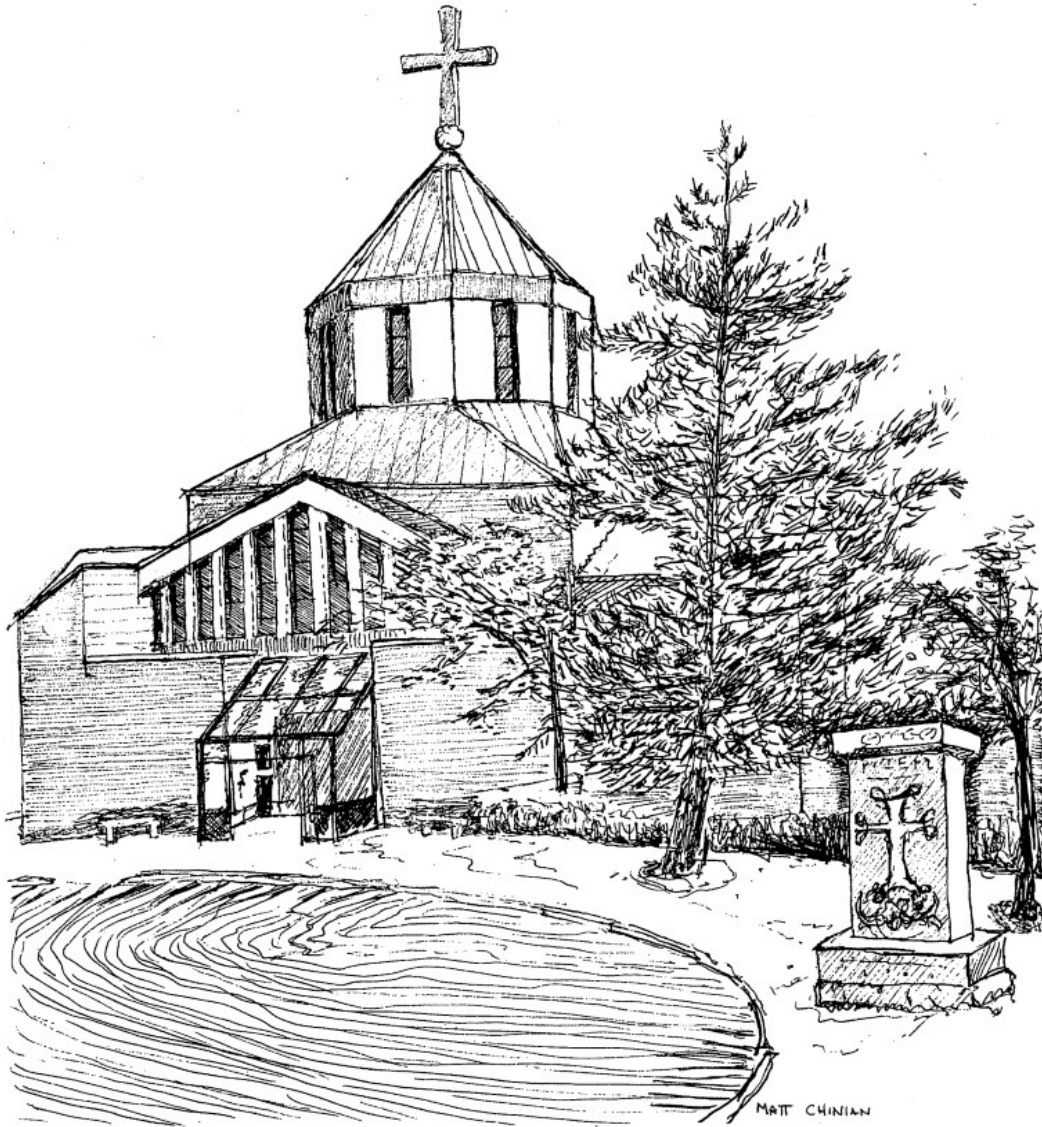


ԼՈՒՍԱԲԵՐ LOOSAPER



Սուրբ Պետրոս Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի

ST. PETER ARMENIAN CHURCH

100 TROY-SCHENECTADY ROAD, PO BOX 196, WATERVLIET, NY 12189

SUMMER 2019

St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church

100 Troy-Schenectady Road, P.O. Box 196

Watervliet, NY 12189

Phone: (518) 274-3673 ~ Fax: (518) 274-3103

E-mail: office@stpeterarmenianchurch.org

Website: www.stpeterarmenianchurch.com

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SUNDAY WORSHIP:	Morning Services	9:45 a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	10:15 a.m.
OFFICE HOURS:	Monday-Friday	9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Parish Priest

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Niskayuna, NY 12309

(518) 377-7448

E-mail: frstepd@gmail.com

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Charles Tutunjian

9 Dyke Road

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E-mail: chastutu@gmail.com

(518) 785-9423

CHURCH ORGANIZATION CONTACTS:

ACYOA Jrs.

ACYOA Srs.

Armenian School

Bible Study

Choir Director

College Group

Prayer Group

Sunday School

Women’s Guild, Chair

Sarah McMullan

Thomas Nevins

Anahid Altounian

Elsie Vozzy

Dn. Rafi Topalian

Winnie Kutchukian

Yn. Paulette Doudoukjian

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Dr. Ara Kayayan

Roswita Fragomeni

Richard DeMartino

Garro Derian

Roswita Fragomeni

Charles Tutunjian

Sharon Foley

Remember St. Peter Armenian Church in your will!

All articles must be submitted on a timely basis by following the “Schedule for Publication” listed below:

AUTUMN 2019 SCHEDULE FOR PUBLICATION

Articles Deadline	Monday, September 23
Typing and Proofreading	Monday, Sept. 23 - Friday, Oct. 4
To Printer	Tuesday, October 8
Mailing	Thursday, October 10

The *Loosaper* constitutes a vital and an historical record of the life of the St. Peter Church Community. Therefore, it is important to make every effort to preserve and maintain the continuity of this publication. In order to do this, we need help. Any parishioner interested in being a reporter or assisting the editorial staff with this publication should call the church office.

Church Secretary, Lori Payette, is responsible for compiling and typing this issue. A volunteer group performs editorial tasks such as: proofreading, layout, writing, and editing of articles. **All materials submitted are subject to editing by the Editorial Staff.** The mailing of the *Loosaper* is also handled by volunteers.

If you find errors in this edition of the *Loosaper*, please understand that, while perfection is always our goal, it is one that may remain forever beyond our reach!

CURRENT VOLUNTEER STAFF:

Editorial: Vicki Bajakian, Gil Chorbajian, and Nora Derian

Please forward all articles to the church office.

LOOSAPER DONATIONS

There is an outlay of approximately \$500 for publishing and mailing each issue of the *Loosaper*. Any contribution sent to defray part of this cost will be gratefully appreciated. Names of donors and contributions will be listed in the *Loosaper*, unless we are requested not to do so.

Many thanks to the most recent donors who answered our call to help offset the costs of our church publication with donations totaling **\$378.05** from the following: **Brian & Garyn (Gdanian) A’Hearn, Anonymous, Mary DerArakelian Endowment Fund, Sue Dickinson, Barbara Hrachian, Mary (MiMi) Kumjian, Sally Mahserjian McNeff.**

Please use the form below to send your donation to:

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PO Box 196, Watervliet, NY 12189

PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION FOR THE *LOOSAPER* in the amount of \$ _____

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I prefer to have my issue of *Loosaper* sent to my ☐ home address and/or my ☐ e-mail address.

DEDICATE AN ISSUE OF LOOSAPER: A donation of \$500 will dedicate an entire issue of *Loosaper* in honor of someone, in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special event. Contact the church office for more information.

**A Word from the
PASTOR ♦ . . Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian**



**ST. PETER ARMENIAN CHURCH
PILGRIMAGE TO ARMENIA
June 29-July 10**

Words are not expressive enough to describe the experience that the 48 participants felt during this once-in-a-lifetime journey to Armenia. Below are a few photos that capture the experience. An article and additional photos will be prepared for the next issue of *Loosaper*. Additionally, a presentation of the trip will be offered to our community during a coffee hour one Sunday this autumn. Stay tuned for a date to be announced in the near future. Enjoy the summer, stay cool, and I hope to see you on Sundays in our air-conditioned Church sanctuary.

God bless you, Fr. Stepanos



A Message from the Parish Council

I sometimes find myself thinking that I am just too busy to write a thank you note and am grateful that texting and email allows me to send a quick “Thanks for everything” message and be done with it. Today however, on behalf of the Parish Council, I write this “THANK YOU” to all those who worked so hard to make our Festival a great success this year. As I begin, I already know that I won’t remember everyone, but I can’t let that stop me!

First, we must salute the Festival co-chairs: Chuck Tutunjian and Yn. Paulette Doudoukjian. Chuck and Paulette would be among the first to say, “It wasn’t me. It was all the great people I had working with me.” However, it was the leadership, organizational skills, and past experience that these two brought to this project that contributed to its success. Thank you both for sharing your talents and your energy with us.

I also thank the Executive Committee and membership of our Women’s Guild. Where would our Festival be without them? They began preparing our famously delicious foods early in the year. In fact, some of them have recently been out picking grape leaves to stuff for the Holiday Bazaar in December as well as for NEXT year’s Festival. As this year’s Festival grew closer, many Women’s Guild members were here for hours and hours, day after day. They did a remarkable job, as always. They are a treasure to this community. Thank you one and all!

How did we make sure that there were enough hands to do all the work that had to be done prior to and during the Festival? For some reason, this task was especially challenging this year, BUT Holly Dadekian once again took the lead in that effort – wrangling volunteers! With persistence and good humor, Holly managed to find the “manpower” we needed. Thank you, Holly!

And then there is our Der Hayr! On June 1st and 2nd, he was everywhere! He welcomed people. He answered questions. He filled in where he was needed. He gave a TV interview. He made sure that those who had worked the longest hours got some relief. He led our Badarak on Sunday morning and then jumped right back into Festival mode! For all you do Der Hayr, thank you!

And finally, we are grateful to ALL THOSE who helped in so many other ways – setting up, parking, the new shuttle service, trash removal, cleaning up at the end of each day, etc., etc. We thank those of you who solicited sponsors and who worked on promoting our Festival. Thanks to the folks who spent the weekend in the cooking pavilion and to all the people who served food and drinks, indoors and out. Thanks to our talented dancers and their coaches. Many of you provided unique services that made this event extra special. If only we could list all of your names. Nevertheless, we are grateful to all of you for the success of our Armenian Festival 2019!

*Roswita Fragomeni,
Parish Council Chairman*



new and improved

9th ANNUAL MEN’S NIGHT

Friday, September 20

stay tuned for details

The following is a list of participants to date in our 2019 Membership/Stewardship Pledge program. At the end of each year, a Membership Dues/Stewardship Pledge Form is mailed to all parishioners requesting their annual Dues/Pledge commitment for the following year. The list below represents those who have made that commitment thus far in 2019; please accept our thanks. If your name does not appear in the list, please consider making that commitment now by completing the form on the following page or by contacting the church office.

2019 Membership / Stewardship Participants

Rosemary Ammian
Winifred Ammian
Helga Apkarian
Beatrice Arzoumanian
Gerald Arzoumanian
Zovig Ashjian
Betty Avakian
Nazar J. Bakerian
Ara Baligian
Ashley Bedian*
Linda Bedian
Robert & Sandra Bedian
George & Elsie Bedrosian
Ricardo Blanco (CA)*
Leonard & Antoinette Buchakjian
Charles & Alice Chorbajian
Herbert & Linda Chorbajian
Joanne & Michael Coogan*
Robert & Holly Dadekian
George & Karen Dayian*
Paul & Melissa DerOhannesian*
Isabel Derian
Rich DeMartino & Barbara Derian
Suzanne Dickinson
Marguerite Djehizian*
Yn. Paulette Doudoukjian
Arleen Drooby
Sherry Edwards
John & Debbie Ekmalian
Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian
Arpy Ernest
Sharon Foley & Valerie Demarest
Roswita Fragomeni*
Julie Garabedian
Phil & Linda Gross*
Joanne C. Hartunian

Mary Hartunian*
Richard & Beth Hartunian
Barbara Hrachian*
Charlene Hrachian*
Seren Hrachian
Sarah Hrachian
Hripsime & Phyllis Jevanian
Don Kaiser*
Leon & Susan Kaiser*
Linda Kazanjian
James & Marion Kehrer
Lenna Kandarjian*
Edward & Lucille Kaprielian*
Karen Khachadourian
Russ & Sandy Kilidjian*
Catherine Knauer*
Harry Koshgarian*
Isabel Krempa
Steven Krempa
Virginia Mahserjian
Gregory Mardigian
Christopher Martin
Will & Shelley Martin*
Katrina Mayba
Lori Megherian
Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.
David & Carmen Minassian*
Mary Minassian
R. Mihran & Ovsanna Mooradian
Pam Moroukian*
R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian*
Lucy Morton
Gregory Nazarian
Trudy Nazarian*
John & Karen Nevins
Thomas Berj Nevins

Cheryl Ohanesian*
Dan & Alex O'Keefe*
Joseph & Patricia O'Keefe
George & Elizabeth Osganian
Mary Panjarjian
Florence Papanian
Helen Papanian
David & Breann Parseghian
Kevork Parseghian*
David F. Quinones
George & Joanne Scaringe
Charlotte Sevezlian
Farid F. Shafik, MD (CT)
Harry Shamljian*
Toros Shamljian, Jr.
Mary P. Shanks
Carole Kazanjian Smith
Leo Sogian
Lucille Sogian
Susan Sogian
Hariton Sprinceanu
Claudia Suppa
Charles & Carol Tutunjian
Ed & Adrina Tutunjian*
Nazar & Joan[†] Tutunjian*
Daniel Vartigian
David Vartigian
Alex Safarov & Mary Yegoryan*

*Is your
name here?*

**Indicates those who have committed to the Membership Dues / Stewardship Pledge program since the list that was published in the Winter 2019 issue of Loosaper.*

**The SEVEN
I AM
Sayings of Jesus**

Who is Jesus Christ?
**An exploration of
THE SEVEN I AM'S OF JESUS**
Special program date to be announced.

2019 Membership Dues/Stewardship Pledge Form

Name(s): _____

Please list name(s) of all committed givers.

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

***“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing
of the Lord your God which He has given you.”***
(Deut 16:17)

St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church Membership Dues and Stewardship Pledge Form — Giving 2019

There are two categories listed below. Membership Dues are necessary for St. Peter Church to pay to the Diocese in New York City. Stewardship pledge is an individual commitment to help meet the needs of our own St. Peter Church parish.

A) **Membership Dues for 2019***\$ _____

(\$150 times the number of each dues-paying member in household.)

Dues-paying members of St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church must be at least 18 years of age and pay the annual dues of \$150 in order to be in good standing. Only dues-paying members in good standing may vote at Parish Assembly Meetings or hold elective offices.

B) **Stewardship Pledge for 2019**.....\$ _____

(Total for all persons listed above.)

A pledge is a personal commitment, in addition to or besides Membership Dues, to support the mission and goals of St. Peter Armenian Church.

C) **Total Contribution for 2019**.....\$ _____

(Add Line A and Line B)

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Please return this completed form to the church office as soon as possible to activate your 2019 Dues/Pledge account. No payment is necessary to submit a Pledge Form. It is asked that Dues/Pledge monies be paid by the end of the 2019 calendar year.*

If you have any questions on how to fill out this form, please call the church office at 274-3673. Once this form has been submitted, you will be assigned an account number and offering envelopes (if you choose to use them) that can be picked up the following week at the church office.

***According to Diocesan by-laws, dues must be paid in full prior to end of the calendar year.**

☐ **Yes**, please issue me a box of
offering envelopes.

☐ **No**, a box of offering envelopes
will not be needed.

2019 Annual Armenian Festival Report

Another successful Armenian Festival! We are happy to share that net proceeds for this year's Festival were just about \$41,000, a slight increase over last year and \$5,000 above our budget projections. We could not achieve this without the help of numerous individuals who work tirelessly leading up to and during the Festival weekend itself. Whether it be seeking sponsorships, executing the publicity, working the barbecue and food lines, setting up and breaking down the facilities, baking & cooking, and everything else... this is most definitely a community team effort. THANK YOU TO ALL!

Leading up to the event, Sharon Foley, Bridgette Chorbajian, and Sandy Bedian worked tirelessly making contacts to secure sponsors. We maintained a professional level of marketing and promotion through paid and free publicity thanks to Gil Chorbajian and Rafi Topalian. The level of professionalism was undoubtedly elevated by Sonya Moroukian's amazing graphic design work with the menus and more!

Of course there is all the food prep leading up to the Festival, which is obviously essential. Thank you to the Women's Guild bakers and the meat marinators, including Raffé Paul Moroukian and his crew.

During the weekend itself, there are numerous volunteers who put in their shifts (or two or three), but it's Holly Dadekian, as the Volunteer Coordinator, who wrangles them . . . not an easy task by any means! Maria Derian kept the crowds entertained by choreographing Armenian dance performances with the youth of our community. They all did an amazing job!

A shout out to John "Frenchie" Ekmalian for assisting with all the shopping and facility preparations along with Jonah Doudoukjian and the O'Keefe Family! John Avakian and his protege, Raffi Moroukian, did an outstanding job in the beverage area (and securing the Armenian beer). Our kitchen crew was awesome as usual... calm, cool and collected. Thank you to Laura Clark and Lena Guleserian-Hoglund for coordinating this key area so efficiently. Of course there are our many barbecuers, who toil over hot flames all day to bring us perfectly cooked kebabs.

Thank you to the entire Parish Council, under the leadership of Roswita Fragomeni and pastoral guidance of Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, for the encouragement, support, and help in executing this monumental event.

Last but not least, where would we be without our faithful and fearless Church Secretary, Lori Payette? She literally pulls it all together and keeps us moving seamlessly through the weekend. Thank you, Lori!

Thank you also to those from outside our church community who contributed to the enjoyment of the Festival including *The John Sarkisian Ensemble* for providing musical entertainment for our dancing and listening pleasure; DeeDee Gardiner of *DJ Sales Plus*, an annual return vendor, for helping coordinate and increase our number of vendors this year; and to *J&M Amusements* for providing games and rides for the youth to enjoy. All of them added to the overall Festival experience!

We certainly did not mean to leave anyone out, but if we did, we apologize profusely as we know this Festival takes the entire St. Peter Church community to come together and successfully showcase our food, culture, and church to the greater Capital District community-at-large. So thank you, one and all, from the bottom of our hearts.

*With sincere appreciation,
Paulette Doudoukjian & Chuck Tutunjian
2019 Festival Co-Chairs*



2019 Events Sponsors, Supporters & Vendors

Businesses and individuals/families were again given the opportunity to offer their support through various sponsorship levels. This year, as a special bonus, all of this year's Festival sponsors will also be provided with a comparable level of acknowledgement at the church's Holiday Food Bazaar in December. Thank you to all those listed below who offered their generous sponsorship support, raising over \$17,000. Income from Vendor Fees totaled \$1,400. Several parishioners and friends also gave general donations in support of the Festival totaling over \$1,300.

We thank you all . . .

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In memory of our loved ones who are so dear to us

Parker Bros. Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.
S & G Truck Repair

BRONZE SPONSORS

*Anonymous in honor of Der Garen Gdanian
and Dn. Hrant Bardakjian*

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Bryce Funeral Home, Inc.

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Linda & Herb Chorbajian

The DeMartino/Derian Family

DerOhannesian & DerOhannesian

Attorneys at Law

Sharon Foley & Valerie Demarest

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hartunian & Family

Maggie's Gift Shop

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Toros Shamlian, Jr.

Vanguard-Fine LLC

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Michael Arce & Michael Koshgarian
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Christopher Jamgotchian
Diane Roth
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Kateri's Collectibles, Joseph Fondano
Little Turtle Soaps, Shannon Nelson
Live, Love, Silver, Kimerly Wirtes
Livilu Boutique, Darcy McCutheon
Margot Jones
One Energy, George Keleshian
Paintings by Glo, Gloria Doudoukjian
Pampered Chef, Lisa Jubert
Paparazzi Jewelry, Lamesha Pettway
Pink Zebra Home, Michele Miller
Reens Soy Candles & Essentials, Shareen Frazier
Reid Massage & Wellness, Alexandra Reid
Thirty-One Gifts, Heather Craven
Tupperware, Joanna Robilotti
Young Living, Sarah-Jane Fawcett

EVENTS' SUPPORTERS

The Ashby Family (OH)
Catskill Hudson Bank
Delmonico's Italian Steakhouses
Maria Derian
Gloria Doudoukjian
William & Cheryl Gerstler
Barbara Hrachian
Charles & Delia Israelian
Krause's Homemade Candy
Ted & Grace (Jaffarian) Sapino (FL)
Satch Sales, Inc.

FESTIVAL RAFFLE WINNERS

Once again, this year's raffle was a hybrid version of a 50/50 raffle, with prizes of 25%, 15% and 10% of the \$4,110.00 total collected.

Congratulations to the following winners:

1st Place: \$1,027.500 - Girard Kasparian (CA)
(who graciously donated a portion of his winnings back to the church)

2nd Place: \$616.50.00 - Robert & Holly Dadekian
(who graciously donated their winnings back to the church)

3rd Place: \$411.00 - Violet Dadekian
(who graciously donated a portion of her winnings back to the church)

KITCHEN RENOVATION FUNDRAISING EFFORT SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES IN JULY. CELEBRATORY EVENT TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER!

We did it! Through our collective efforts, in just one year the St. Peter Armenian Church community managed to raise the necessary funds to pay off the entire expense of the Kitchen Renovation project. Monies temporarily redeemed from one of the parish's endowment funds, as well as borrowed from the Building Fund account, have all been repaid. The total of \$142,625 that was raised is slightly over the amount of the expenses incurred for this much needed project. Congratulations to all!

Special acknowledgement goes to the hard working and very committed fundraising committee who implemented traditional as well as creative means in raising funds which included direct appeals, fundraising dinners, and even crowdfunding and recycling programs. Thank you to each of the following committee members: Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Gil Chorbajian, Valerie Demarest, Rich DeMartino, Sharon Foley, Roswita Fragomeni, Sonya Moroukian, Thomas Nevins, Patty O'Keefe, Harry Shamlian, Toros Shamlian, Jr., and Tanya Tutunjian. Thank you also to our church secretary, Lori Payette, who diligently tracked all the contributions, pledges, and expenses.

Additionally, our ACYOA Juniors and parents hosted a very successful Sports Weekend in October 2018, in which a significant portion of the weekend proceeds were donated to the kitchen project, truly making this fundraising campaign a generational effort.

On Sunday, September 15, immediately following worship services that morning, the entire community is invited to a celebratory barbecue to acknowledge the conclusion of the Kitchen Renovation Fundraising Campaign and offer special thanks to all the donors. The barbecue will be held in the Postoian Pavilion with more details coming soon.

*Most Sincerely, Paulette Doudoukjian
Kitchen Renovation Fundraising Committee*

Church Organizations News

Women's Guild

The long-awaited summer is finally upon us and I hope everyone is enjoying a well-deserved vacation to relax and rejuvenate the mind and body.

The Annual Diocesan Assembly was held at the Marriott Burlington in Massachusetts on the first weekend of May. Our parish was once again well represented by two delegates, Phyllis Jevanian and Zovig Ashjian.

The Mother's Day Luncheon was held on May 19 at Moscatiello's Italian Family Restaurant. The buffet was scrumptious and the service was excellent. It was a celebration of all women, with special recognition of our Mother-of-Year, Holly Dadekian, who received this well-deserved honor. Her hard work and dedication to our Guild and Church is exemplary! Holly was additionally surprised with the attendance of her husband, son, mother, and granddaughter (*shown in photo*). Thank you Carol Tutunjian and Alice McMullan for organizing this fun event.



The Armenian Festival was a huge success thanks to the hard work of the entire parish especially the Women's Guild members who spent weeks preparing the delicious food and array of desserts for all to enjoy. Many hands were needed and countless hours were put into it; it is a labor of love with a beautiful celebration of our culture in the Capital District.

After this short summer break, we are going to start planning for the second biggest fundraising event of the year, The Holiday Bazaar, to be held on Saturday & Sunday, December 7 & 8. We will again be calling on everyone to assist with this major event that has proven essential to the Church's financial operating budget. A new approach was taken this year in raising sponsorship donations for the Festival and the Bazaar. The effort leading up to the Festival resulted in \$17,430 in sponsorship donations, a new record. Twenty-five percent of that amount was presented to the Women's Guild for the Holiday Bazaar. Those who gave sponsorship donations for the Festival will also be acknowledged at the Bazaar and will not be asked to contribute again. Those who did not take the opportunity to offer a sponsorship donation for the Festival will be encouraged to do so for the Bazaar, with appreciation.

When planning your holiday shopping this season, or for any occasion, please consider gifting our unique Women's Guild Cookbook (\$20). This book of time-honored, traditional Armenian recipes will bring generations together in the kitchen.

What could be better than enjoying an evening of jazz music under the stars?!? Come and bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the sounds of the *New York Voices*, featuring our own hometown girl, Kim Nazarian Ashby. There will be wine tasting and Mezze available. The date is Saturday, August 17 starting at 6:30pm. For tickets or more information, please contact Marion Kehrer at (518) 461-9325. (*See flyer in this issue for full details.*)

The 3rd Annual Harvest Fest will take place on Sunday, September 29 right after church services. This event is fun for the whole family! The menu will be the Women's Guild famous, homemade Dolma, served with pita bread, fresh vegetables, and yogurt. We will have a pumpkin drawing contest, pumpkin bake-off, and pumpkin cocktail samples. Don't miss out! (*See flyer in this issue for full details.*)

One of the most important events of the year for the Women's Guild is the Annual General Membership Meeting and Luncheon. I encourage everyone in the community to come, listen, and learn about the spirit of dedication and volunteerism that exists among the women who

have served in the past and those who currently serve the Lord and His Church with gladness. The date for this event is slated for Sunday, November 10.

Stay tuned for more fun activities to be announced once the dates and venues are set.

I hope you have a wonderful remainder of the summer season, but please don't forget to come to church for Sunday services because God does not take a vacation; He is always there to greet us with His loving arms on Sunday mornings.

Mary Panjarian, Vice Chairman

Sunday School

The St. Peter Sunday School finished the 2018-2019 school year on Sunday, May 19. Following a brief moving up ceremony for all students, diplomas were presented to three graduating students: Ryan Brown, Avo Eleyjian, and Kaelyn McMullan. After the ceremony, a light luncheon was held in the Gdanian Auditorium to honor the graduates. We wish them well and may they continue to serve and share their talents in the Armenian Church. We look forward to another successful school year that will begin this fall.



Notes of Thanks

Hello Everybody! I just wanted to take this time to express how truly blessed my husband and I are. We truly appreciate all the prayers, kind thoughts, as well as all the donations! We are pleased to announce that we were able to find a place. It is such a blessing to have this home for our family. So thank you all so much for everything!

Much love,

John & Melissa Sargeant

Dear Fr. Stepanos,

On behalf of St. James Armenian Church, I extend my most heartfelt appreciation to you and the St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church parish, for your very generous donation of \$100 toward the 117th Diocesan Assembly and Clergy Conference Commemorative Booklet.

The Clergy Conference and Diocesan Assembly was a successful and memorable week. It was an honor for our church to host our Diocesan Clergy and delegates, to provide a comfortable setting for important and productive meetings, and to host activities and events that highlighted our St. James parish's warmth, love, and hospitality. We are sincerely grateful for your support and generosity.

With prayers, Rev. Fr. Arakel Altjalian

Adult Bible Study Class

The AM Bible Study class has been taking place for 25 years. Elsie Vozzy has primarily led the Bible Study since the beginning, with the guidance and support of the parish priest. Elsie is devoted to the Lord and dedicated in sharing His word. The AM Bible Study Class will be making a change this fall (see below for more information). Regular participants of the class were asked to share testimonies of their experiences in the class. Here are a few replies:

The Bible Study at St. Peter Armenian Church with Fr. Stepanos and Elsie Vozzy is an hour and a half class which meets twice a month. In this time, I am given the incredible opportunity to learn about God's Word, pray, and develop a closer relationship with my Lord. It also nurtures a deeper desire to know, to serve, and to worship God. When we meet, we pray that God would give us a deeper understanding of His Word. I truly feel His presence because I always leave with a deeper understanding. There is also community within the members of Bible Study. Everyone who comes is respectful of one another, kind, gentle, and willing to offer support as we go through the ups and downs in life. It's a comfort to know you are not alone. The classes are always well thought out and encouraging. I leave energized and thankful that this is offered at our church. I would be a different person without it.

Rhonda Boyajian

Why do I love the Bible Study? It has developed from my love of the scriptures. Some might say that the Old Testament is a record of how the Jewish faith evolved, others might say that the Gospels are writings about the life of Christ, and the Epistles are letters to encourage and instruct new Christians in their faith. This is all true; but, in my experience, the Bible is so much more. It is a living word, inspired by God, and it is as pertinent today as when it was written. Through the years, I have learned that my Lord longs to personally communicate with me and He uses the scriptures to do it. The Bible Study is a beautiful way to learn of the depth and richness of what God wants to share with each of us, while challenging us to go deeper into His Word.

Mary Curley

Bible Study is more than learning God's word, it is how we can apply these lessons to our everyday life. He teaches how to face joy, happiness, and diversity. We come to learn that He is always with us; we are never alone.

Anonymous

I am so happy that our church has had a Bible study for so many years. When I was physically able to attend, I enjoyed the Bible Study class very much. I feel very sad that I can no longer attend due to my health. Although, I have not given up on my hope to one day return. When I was attending, I learned so much about our Lord through the scriptures. I love all the people who have attended through the years and I have learned from each one of them. May the Lord continue to bless you, Der Hayr, as well as all those who attend the Bible Study.

Julie Garabedian

New this fall — "Life is Better Together" Group



Something a little different is coming this fall! We are calling it the **"Life is Better Together"** group. Gatherings will be held every other Wednesday morning, 10:30am-12:00pm, in the St. Peter Armenian Church conference room. *(This Wednesday AM group will replace the Friday AM Adult Bible Study group starting this fall. The Friday AM Adult Bible Study group concluded in June.)*

We'll start with coffee and a little something sweet, then TOGETHER we will listen to music, pray, read scripture, and enjoy some good discussion.

All are invited — bring your thoughts, questions, and prayer needs. The goal is to have you leaving refreshed, encouraged, and excited to come again.

Look for the fall/winter schedule coming soon — and we hope to see YOU there!

Parish Community News

Sacraments and Rites

Marriage

Daniel Joseph O’Keefe, son of Joseph & Patricia O’Keefe, and **Alexandra M. Pomato**, daughter of Michael & Joann Pomato, were married on May 11, 2019. Best Men, Christopher & Matthew O’Keefe; Maid of Honor, Brittany DeMarco; Celebrant, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

Funeral

Joan Avakian Tutunjian entered her eternal rest on May 26, 2019. Survivors include her husband, Nazar Tutunjian; two sons, Harry J. (Francesca) Tutunjian and Charles (Carol) Tutunjian; three grandchildren, Tanya, Reyna, and Noah Tutunjian; and several nieces and nephews. The funeral services was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on May 30, 2019.

Karasonk (40-Day Memorial)

May 12, 2019

Archbishop Mesrob II Mutafyan, Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople - requested by Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern).

Dareleetz (First Anniversary)

May 5, 2019

Takrouhi Karayan; Karayan Family - requested by Vartan & Liza Karayan; Anita Karayan; Kevork Karayan; Karayan Family.

May 12, 2019

Suren J. Hrachian - requested by Sarah Hrachian; Mr. & Mrs. Edward M. Kaprielian; Barbara Hrachian; Mr. & Mrs. Seren A. Hrachian; Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Lukasik & Family; Mr. & Mrs. Kai Wendt & Family; Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hrachian; Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hrachian; Kenosian and Kaiser Families.

Hokehankist

May 12, 2019

Fr. Arten Ashjian - requested by Zovig Ashjian.

Nevart & Garabed Garoogian - requested by the estate of Margaret Avakian.

Lucy Osganian (Twenty-Fourth Anniversary); **Ann & Ralph Vartigian** - requested by George & Richard Osganian and Families.

Henry & Fay Talarico; Paul Urban; Frank & Julia Urban; Carol Duro; Juliana Hamada; Talarico, Parsakian, Simonian, Sogoian, Duro, Hamada & Urban Families - requested by Urban & Hamada Families.

June 16, 2019

Robert Asadorian; Joseph Asadorian; Mesrob Haboian; Daniel DerDerian - requested by Carolyn & John Haboian (CT) & Families.

Aram Bajakian (Fifth Anniversary) - requested by Helen Bajakian; Victoria Bajakian & Family; Gregory Bajakian & Family (CA).

Jimme B. Shanks (Tenth Anniversary on June 13) - requested by Mary P. Shanks.

Philip Zadigian (Thirty-Seventh Anniversary) - requested by Catherine (Zadigian) Knauer & Family.

Gift of Prayer Ministry

“You shall be remembered before the immortal Lamb of God.” Special prayers may be requested for healing, remembrance (in memory of), or special recognition by contacting the church office. Both the person making the prayer request, as well as the one being prayed for, will be remembered. A beautiful "Gift of Prayer" card will be sent as an acknowledgment of the prayer request. Please continue to keep those for whom prayers have been requested in your personal prayers.

June 16, 2019

Joan Tutunjian[†] - prayers of remembrance as requested by Yn. Zabelle Gdanian.

Special Donations

Donations to the **General Fund** totaling \$285 were received from the following: **Brian & Garyn (Gdanian) A'Hearn; Rosemary Burgher; Michael & Rebecca Dearstyne; The Ghazaryan Family;** and **Michael Jesep** (*for Fr. Stepanos' presentation on the Armenian Genocide to the eighth grade class at the Iroquois Middle School*). An additional **Gift of Love** donation, on the occasion of the Church's 119th Anniversary in 2018, was received by *The Ashby Family (OH)*, bringing the total amount to \$3,133.

Carnations distributed on the occasion of Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12, were donated by **John "Frenchie" Ekmalian** *in the memory of Edward Belemjian*.

Thank you to the **Tournayan & Chohamlian Family** for providing the meal for the Falafel Luncheon held at the church following worship services on Sunday, June 23. All income, totaling \$500, from the luncheon was donated to the church's general fund.

Bequests of \$500 each were provided to St. Peter Armenian Church from the estates of **Virginia Esaian-Noga** and **Rose Foley**. *Please remember St. Peter Armenian Church in your will!*

Correction to Picnic Table donors: The corrected list of donors of the picnic table made in honor/memory of the Kazanjian Family is as follows: *Ara & Nancy Balian, Peter & Patty Boorujy, Robert & Arleen Drooby, Lisa Harootunian, Arthur & JoAnn Kazanjian, Edward & Nirva Kazanjian, Linda Kazanjian, Karen & Levon Khachadourian, Leo & Donna Kazanjian, Robert & Ginny Kazanjian, and Carole Smith.*

Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF)

We recently received our annual distribution check from the ACEF. The amount of the distribution was calculated by the ACEF by applying the rate of 4.5% to each endowment fund's average market value for the prior twelve calendar quarters. Most of the distribution is from endowments established with St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church, but managed by the ACEF. Additionally, some of the distribution is received from endowments established by individuals directly with the ACEF wherein the Church receives the income distribution.

Distribution for the year 2018 received in 2019 from the ACEF for Church endowments amounted to \$42,745.34 plus \$1,701.92 from direct endowments for a total of \$44,447.26. This amount was reduced by transfers, in accordance with provisions of special purpose funds, totaling \$2,520.91 and reinvestments of \$1,292.17, resulting in a net endowment income of \$40,634.18.

No new endowments were established in 2018. Additional amounts totaling \$7,921.61 were added to the following existing endowments in 2018:

Anonymous, Albert Avakian, Margaret & Bertha Avakian Cultural, Kenneth Chorbajian, Sarkis & Sonia Hachigian, Lynne Hartunian, Paul & Alice Moroukian, Toros Shamlan, and Charles & Mary Tashjian.

Additions to existing funds can be made at any time during the year. If interested in establishing an endowment fund, please contact the St. Peter Church office.

Knights and Daughters of Vartan ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC Sunday, August 11

The Knights and Daughters of Vartan will hold their Annual Summer Picnic at the *Postoian Pavilion* of St. Peter Armenian Church on Sunday, August 11, starting at 12:00 noon (meal served at 1:30pm). Bring your family and friends for good food, fun, and a Tavloo tournament. Cost is \$25 per person with choice of steak or chicken and includes corn, salad, and dessert. All are cordially invited; however, reservations are required by August 4 by contacting Paul Kahian at (518) 364-1037.

Easter Yughakin Donations

Mr/Mrs Kirkor Agopyan	Brian & Gasryn (Gdanian) A'Hearn	Vartouhi Allahverdi
Rosemary Ammian	Winifred Ammian	Mark Anigian
Anonymous	Brian Apkarian	Helga Apkarian
The Ashby Family (OH)	Anne & Andre Assalian	Aram Atashian
Nazar Bakerian	J. Albert & Alice Barsamian	George & Elsie Bedrosian
Herb & Linda Chorbajian	Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian	Paul Dichian
Sue Dickinson	Rev/Mrs Stepanos Doudoukjian	Frenchie & Debbie Ekmalian
Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian	& Family	Arpy Ernest
Carmen Giunta	Mr/Mrs Phil Gross, Jr.	Barouyr Hairabedian
<i>in memory of Dorothy Giunta</i>	Joanne Hartunian	Mary Hartunian
Mr/Mrs Richard Hartunian	Charles & Delia Israelian	Mr/Mrs John Jerian
Vartan Jerian	Hrepsime & Phyllis Jevanian	Mr/Mrs Leon Kaiser
Girard Kasparian (CA)	Hagop Kazanjian	Eddy Kebabjian
James & Linda Khachadourian	Catherine Knauer	Arthur & Shigeko Koshkorian (VA)
Isabel Krempa	Steven Krempa	Winifred Kutchukian
Kyaruns Family	Virginia Mahserjian	Jaden Markarian
Mary Markarian	Christopher Martin	Sally (Mahserjian) McNeff
Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.	Mary P. Minassian	R. Mihran & Ovsanna Mooradian
Cheryl Ohanesian	Mr/Mrs Joseph O'Keefe	George & Elizabeth Osganian
Mary Panjarjian	Helen Paparian	Jackie & Meredith Prince
David F. Quinones	Ted & Grace (Jaffarian) Sapino (FL)	Mr/Mrs George Scaringe
Leon Sedefian	<i>in memory of Miriam & Toros Jaffarian</i>	Lucille Sogoian
Susan Sogoian	Artin & Mary Sukljian	Pat & Claudia Suppa
Mr/Mrs Charles Tutunjian	Mr/Mrs Gary Vartanian	Daniel Vartigian
Mr/Mrs Augustus Vozzy	Kai & Susan Wendt	Alex Safarov & Mary Yegoryan

Total: \$3,600

Sincere appreciation and acknowledgment are extended to the above-named individuals for their generous Yughakin donations.

In Lieu of Flowers Donations

IN MEMORY OF ANN RAKIJIAN (CA)

Edward & Adrina Tutunjian

Total: \$100

IN MEMORY OF JOAN TUTUNJIAN

Mr/Mrs Kirkor Agopyan	Anonymous	Linda Bedian
George & Elsie Bedrosian	Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian	Herb & Linda Chorbajian
Robert & Holly Dadekian	Rich DeMartino & Barb Derian	Frenchie & Debbie Ekmalian
Helena Ekmalian & George Hachigian	Eleyjian Family	Paul & Rita Ely
The Derian Family	Gary M. Favro	Goldberger & Kremer
Nora's Grocery	Sarkis & Heidi Guleserian	Christine Hagopian (MA)
Joanne Hartunian	Mary Hartunian	Tim & Lena Hoglund
Charlene Hrachian	Mr/Mrs Vartan Jerian	Hrepsime & Phyllis Jevanian
Vartan Karayan	Greg & Ayda Karian	John Karian
Mr/Mrs Bedros Karian	Ara Kayayan	Linda Kazanjian
Lori Khachikian-Brown	Dianne & Mike Koshgarian, Sr.	Arthur & Sylvia Mahserjian
Virginia Mahserjian	George Mahserjian III	The Marchese Family
Sean & Alice McMullan	Anahid Minassian	Mr/Mrs Necess Minassian
Mr/Mrs Sarkis Minassian	Paul & Nancy Montarello	Pam Moroukian
Lucy Morton	Cheryl Ohanesian	George & Elizabeth Osganian
Mary Panjarjian	Nancy A. Russomono & Gina Gorman	Barbara & Gene Snay
Berj & Lusine Topalian	Karen & John Tozzi	Lorraine Vezina & Amick Seikertian
Sylva & Dickran Yeretzian (MA)	Matthew & Lisa Natcharian (CT)	Chemung Canal Trust Co.
Toros Shamlian, Jr.		

Total: \$3,045

Sincere appreciation and acknowledgment are extended to the above-named individuals for their generous memorial donations.

IN REMEMBRANCE: Our sincerest condolences are offered to the family and friends of **Garrett J. Meeson** (14) who entered his eternal rest on July 9, 2019. Garrett is survived by his parents, Lance & Laura (Merwitz) Meeson; brother, Lance Myles Meeson; grandparents, Robert (Sheila) Meeson; great grandmother, Eleanor Meeson; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Community News

Congratulations to the following for their academic accomplishments. We wish them much success in their future endeavors.



Melina Sue Aceti, daughter of Sam & Kim (Dickinson) Aceti, graduated with honors from Grand Island Senior High School and will be attending Daemen College in Amherst, New York to pursue a degree in Physical Therapy. Melia is the granddaughter of Sue Dickinson.

Jake Hagop Derian, son of Garo & Maria Derian, graduated from Bethlehem Central High School with honors. He will be attending Siena College to continue his education as a business major. Throughout college, Hagop plans to continue serving on the altar on Sundays, God willing. He is the grandson of Hagop & Nectar Derian and Fouad & Berjouhi Shamounian.

Nora Derian, daughter of Garo & Maria Derian, graduated Summa Cum Laude from SUNY Albany in accordance with the UAlbany Honors College. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and Entrepreneurship. Nora is the granddaughter of Hagop & Nectar Derian and Fouad & Berjouhi Shamounian.

Jonah Doudoukjian, son of Fr. Stepanos and Paulette Doudoukjian, graduated from Niskayuna High School. He is presently working in Oroville, California, as a maintenance coordinator for a relief camp for workers rebuilding the town of Paradise, which was completely destroyed by fire last year. In January 2020, Jonah will begin studies at Hudson Valley Community College. He is the grandson of Girard and the late Virginia Kasparian and the late Charles and Sona Doudoukjian.

Elizabeth Hagopian (MA), daughter of Christine (Mahserjian) Hagopian, graduated from Villanova University (PA) with a degree in Nursing. Elizabeth is sister to Margaret and Katharine Hagopian and granddaughter to Virginia (Ginny) Mahserjian.

Ian Mahserjian, son of George & Cathy Mahserjian, received a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from New York University and is working for the New York City Department of Transportation as a civil engineer. Ian is the grandson of Sally Mahserjian McNeff and the late George Mahserjian, Jr.

Matthew J. Shufelt, Jr., son of Matthew Sr. & Rosanne (Arghnian) Shufelt, graduated from Watervliet Junior/Senior High School. With advance college credits, Matthew will obtain his two-year associate's degree in accounting in one year from Hudson Valley Community College. He then plans to continue on to the University of Tampa to pursue a Masters Degree in Accounting. Matthew is the grandson to Marion and the late William Shufelt and the late Alexander & Marion Arghnian.

Reyna Tutunjian, daughter of Chuck & Carol (Jevanian) Tutunjian graduated from Shaker High School and plans to attend the University at Buffalo to study business. Reyna is the granddaughter of Nazar and the late Joan Tutunjian and Hrepsime and the late John Jevanian.

Another noteworthy accomplishment:

Alexa Mahserjian, daughter of George & Cathy Mahserjian, made the Dean's List with highest honors at the State University at Brockport. She will be entering her third year in the fall, majoring in the study of Physical Education. Alexa is the granddaughter of Sally Mahserjian McNeff and the late George Mahserjian, Jr.

ST. PETER ARMENIAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: High school students entering a two-year or four-year accredited college or university in the 2019-2020 academic year may apply for a \$250 scholarship from the St. Peter Armenian Church Scholarship Fund. The student must be the child of a dues-paying member of St. Peter Armenian Church and must also submit a 500-word essay on the topic "How has your Armenian-Christian identity impacted your life and how has your faith developed over the years?" These essays will be reviewed by a panel of three members of the church community.

ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ ԱՍՏՈՒԾՈՅ

«Եկեղեցի» անունը քրիստոնեաներուն համար սիրելի, մտերիմ եւ գրեթէ ամենօրեայ գործածութեան մէջ եղող անուն մըն է։ Ամէն անհատ եւ ամէն ժողովուրդ «եկեղեցի» ըսելով նոյն բանը չի հասկնար սակայն։ Ամէն անձ «եկեղեցի»ի հանդէպ նոյն տեսակի սէր, եռանդ եւ հաւատք չի ցուցաբերեր անպայման։

Եկեղեցիի գաղափարը եւ եկեղեցիի սկզբնաւորութիւնը կը տեսնենք Հին Կտակարանի առաջին գիրքերուն մէջն իսկ։ Հայր Արքաճառ Աստուծոյ համար խորան կանգնեց։ Նոյն ըրին իր գաւակն ու թոռնիկը։ Մովսէս մարգարէ Աստուծմէ հրաման ստացաւ Աստուծոյ տուն եւ տաղաւար շինելու համար։ Սողոմոն թագաւորի կանգնած տաճարը եկեղեցիներու ամենէն գեղեցիկը եղաւ։ Նոր Կտակարանի մէջ «եկեղեցի» եւ «տաճար» բառերը յաճախ կը գործածուին։ Յիսուս հանապազ տաճարին մէջ կը քարոզէր։ Ս. Պետրոս ուզեց Այլակերպութեան Լերան վրայ երեք տաղաւարներ կանգնեցնել։ Յիսուս Իր աշակերտները մխիթարեց եւ ըսաւ որ Ինք պիտի երթայ եւ անոնց համար օթեւան պիտի պատրաստէ երկինքի մէջ։ Վերնաստունը Առաքեալներուն համար առաջին Եկեղեցին եղաւ։

Քրիստոնեաներու համար Եկեղեցին Աստուծոյ Տունն է։ Հոն կը հաւաքուինք աղօթելու համար։ Ահա թէ ինչու մեր շարականներուն մէջ եկեղեցի բառին տեղ կը գործածենք նաեւ աղօթարան, ժողովարան, արքայարան եւ քաւարան։ Համաձայն մեր եկեղեցւոյ Հաւատոյ Հանգանակին՝ եկեղեցին մի է, ընդհանրական է, առաքելական եւ սուրբ է։

Դժբախտաբար սակայն, այսօր, անհաւատ եւ անունով միայն քրիստոնեայ մարդիկ եկեղեցիին կու տան այնպիսի իմաստ մը՝ որ անոր սուրբ եւ աստուածային կոչումին հետ որեւէ կապ չունի։ Օրինակի համար, անկրօն երկիրներու մէջ եկեղեցիները կը պահուին եւ կը պահպանուին որպէս յիշատակարան, հնութեան միայն պատկանող գանձ մը։ Անոնք՝ որոնք եկեղեցին կը նկատեն

պարզապէս «թուրիսթ արթաքշըն», նոյնքան անկրօն գործ մը կատարած կ'ըլլան: Անոնք՝ որոնք եկեղեցի կը վազեն պարզապէս «պինկօ» խաղալու համար՝ սուրբ արարք մը կատարած ըլլալէ քոյրովին հեռու են: Մենք զմեզ չխաբենք սակայն, Աստուած չըսաւ որ եկեղեցիներ շինենք միայն պարահանդէսներ եւ կամ ալ դաշտահանդէսներ սարքելու համար: Եկեղեցին թշնամութիւններու կեդրոն եւ կոռախնձոր դարձնելը ոչ միայն անսուրբ է՝ այլ նաեւ վնասակար եւ կործանարար: Հապա անոնք՝ որոնք եկեղեցիի անունը կը յիշեն միայն իրենց տուրքերու թուղթերուն մէջ, թէ՛ իրենք զիրենք եւ թէ՛ Աստուած խաբած կ'ըլլան: Քրիստոս եկեղեցւոյ շրջափակէն խաբազանով վոնտեց ամէն անսուրբ գործ եւ ամէն անսուրբ մարդ ըսելով. «Տուն իմ, տուն աղօթից կոչեցի եւ դուք արարէք զայդ այրս աւազակաց»:

Աստուծոյ եկեղեցին ո՛չ գեղեցիկ շէնք եւ ո՛չ ալ գեղեցիկ աղիւս է ուրեմն: Եկեղեցին չոր ու ցամաք հաստատութիւն մը չէ: Եկեղեցին վերացական, հեռաւոր, անանձնական եւ կամ ալ անշօշափելի իրականութիւն մըն ալ չէ:

Եկեղեցին կեանք է: Եկեղեցին ամենափրաւ, ճշմարիտ եւ լեցուն կեանք մըն է: Եկեղեցին Աստուծմէ տրուած հրաշալիք մըն է: Եկեղեցին Աստուծմէ խնդրուած աստուածային ապրելակերպ մըն է: Եկեղեցին զոհաբերութիւն եւ ողորմածութիւն է միաժամանակ: Եկեղեցին ուխտավայր մըն է: Հոն է որ կը բնակին սուրբերու միաբանութիւնը, զինուորեալ եւ յաղթական մանուկներու բանակը, եւ Սերովբէներու ու Քերովբէներու բազմութիւնը: Եկեղեցւոյ մէջ մեղաւորներ եւ արդարներ միեւնոյն բաժակէն կ'ըմպեն անմահութեան ջուրը: Եկեղեցին երկինքի թագաւորութիւնն է երկրի վրայ հաստատուած: Եկեղեցին այն սրբավայրն է՝ ուր Աստուած կը բնակի, ուր Սուրբ Հոգին կը շնչէ եւ ուր Յիսուս Քրիստոս կը թագաւորէ:

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(Look for more details on most of these events inside this issue.)

All events and activities are held at St. Peter Armenian Church, unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, August 11	Annual Summer Picnic: Postoian Pavilion ~ 12:00 noon <i>hosted by Knights and Daughters of Vartan</i>
Tuesday, August 13	Parish Council Meeting: Conference Room ~ 6:30pm
Saturday, August 17	Jazz on the Hill: Postoian Pavilion ~ 6:30pm <i>featuring New York Voices</i>
Sunday, August 18	Feast of the Assumption / Blessing of the Grapes
Wednesday, Sept. 11	NEW Life is Better Together Group: Conference Room ~ 10:30am
Sunday, September 15	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Friday, September 20	AM Prayer Group Resumes: Conference Room ~ 10:30am 9th Annual Men's Night: Postoian Pavilion ~ 6:00pm
Sunday, September 29	Harvest Fest: Postoian Pavilion ~ immediately following worship services <i>hosted by St. Peter Women's Guild</i>
Sat-Sun, November 2-3	SAVE THE DATE! Bishop Daniel Findikyan's visit to St. Peter's <i>more information forthcoming . . .</i>

Jazz on the Hill
Saturday, August 17, 6:30pm
(details inside)