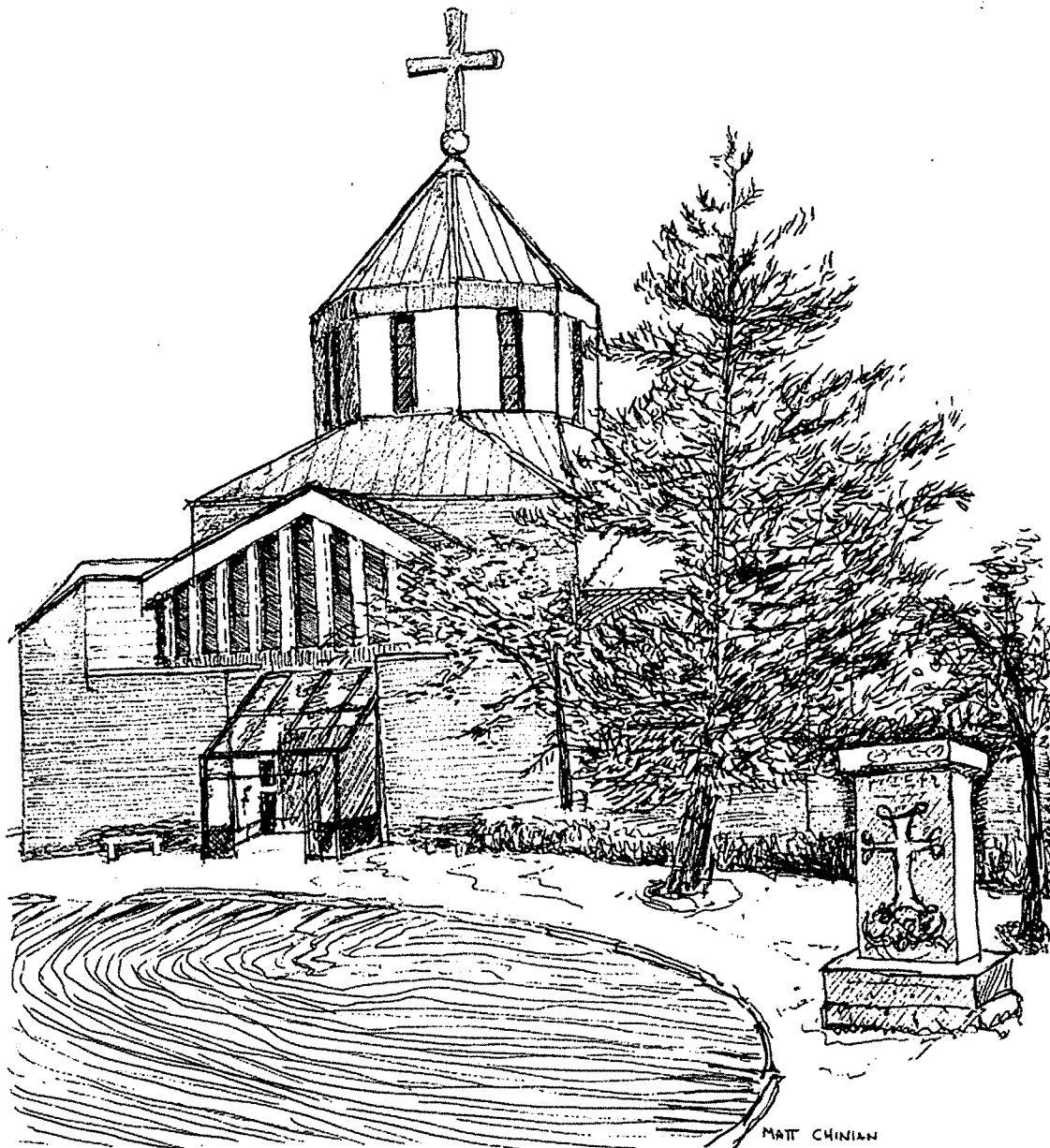


ST. PETER ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

WATERVLIET, NY



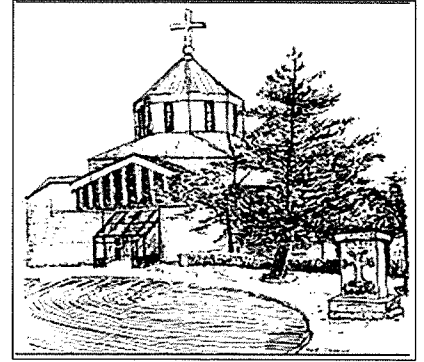
**ANNUAL REPORT
2021**

Սուրբ Պետրոս Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church

100 Troy-Schenectady Road, P.O. Box 196, Watervliet, New York 12189

Ստեփանոս Բհնյ. Տուսուքճեան, Հոգեւոր Հովիւ

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Parish Priest



February 20, 2022

The Parish Council of St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church invites all dues-paying members to the Annual Parish Assembly, which will take place at the church on Sunday, March 6, at 1:00pm via Zoom. Those individuals who have paid their annual dues through 2021 are eligible to vote and to take part in the proceedings.

AGENDA

- 1) Invocation
- 2) Welcome by Parish Council
- 3) Establish a Quorum
- 4) Minutes of the 2021 Parish Assembly
- 5) Accept/Complete Ballot of Candidates
- 6) Election of:
 - 5 Parish Council Members
 - 3 Nominating Committee Members
 - 1 Auditing Committee Member
 - 2023 Parish Assembly Officers
- 7) Pastor's Message and Annual Report
- 8) Report of the Parish Council
 - Items of New Business:
 - a) 2022 Proposed Budget
 - b) Entryway Project Research
- 9) Report of the Diocesan Delegates
- 10) Report of the Sunday School
- 11) Report of the Armenian School
- 12) Report of the Women's Guild
- 13) Report of the ACYOA Juniors
- 14) Report of the Auditing Committee
- 15) Closing Prayer

Linda Bedian

Parish Council Chair

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF ST. PETER ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH MARCH 14, 2021

Due to the ongoing concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual Parish Assembly of St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church, 100 Troy Schenectady Road, Watervliet, New York was held via Zoom on Sunday, March 14, 2021. All dues-paying members in good standing were required to register in advance in order to be provided with the link to participate in the online meeting. In addition, only those who registered were sent an official election ballot for voting purposes.

Serving as Parish Assembly Officers for the day were Charles Tutunjian, Chairman, and Ronald Kaiser, Secretary. The meeting began at 1:20 p.m. with the invocation given by Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian. At this time, a roll call confirmed that fifty-four (54) dues-paying members were present out of 151 total membership. With a quorum established, it was noted that all decisions would be obtained by majority vote.

A motion was made by Richard DeMartino and seconded by Kevork Parseghian to accept the Minutes of the 2020 Parish Assembly; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Tutunjian then announced the need to request three (3) additional nominations from the floor to complete the slate of candidates for Parish Council as well as three (3) for the Nominating Committee. The following volunteered for Parish Council: Mariam Aghayan, George Scaringe, and Charlotte Sevazlian. Sonya Moroukian nominated R. Paul Moroukian, Jr. for the Nominating Committee, who accepted the nomination, and Rhonda Boyajian and Susan Bott Kaiser volunteered to complete the slate of candidates for the Nominating Committee. A motion was then made to accept all the proposed additions of nominations to the ballot of candidates by John "Frenchie" Ekmalian; seconded by Patricia O'Keefe. The motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Chairman Tutunjian instructed all participants to write in the nominated names on the official ballot they received prior to the Assembly. While allowing time for participants to update their ballot, the names were displayed on screen for reference. Chairman Tutunjian then further instructed participants to make their selections for the various positions after the Assembly and submit their completed (anonymous) ballot to the church office, postmarked by March 24.

REPORTS

Pastor's Report: Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian recalled that, on March 13, 2020, the government announcement of the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown changed the social gathering landscape for all of us. On Sunday, March 15, the church closed for in-service gatherings. This resulted in creative and innovated ways of conducting services outdoors and online. On Sunday, March 22, we began live streaming our church services. In addition to worship services, COVID-19 affected all aspects of church life including sacraments, fellowship hours, major fundraising events such as the Annual Festival and Holiday Bazaar, Christian education (Sunday School and Armenian School classes), and all other programs/activities of the church. Our church quickly adapted to this new environment and began providing virtual gatherings for our parish.

Der Hayr noted some of the good things that took place prior to the pandemic. At the end of 2019, a new altar curtain was installed, donated in memory of Dn. Hrant Bardakjian. He thanked Parish Council member, Patty O'Keefe, for coordinating the replacement of the new curtain as well as arranging to have the embroidered cross from the old curtain framed and hung in the narthex of the church, as donated by her and her family.

Fr. Stepanos discussed the concept of church "membership" eventually moving from simply paying dues to offering "Stewardship." This is the case for over ten parishes in our Diocese and will continue to be the trend. In the past year, stewardship participation rose in our parish, also receiving many financial contributions from those outside of our parish.

He noted that 21 outdoor worship services were held under the Postoian Pavilion, expressing gratitude for having been blessed with this outdoor structure that provided a place to worship together. In October, with the diligence and hard work of Parish Council members, services moved back inside

following health and safety guidelines for gathering indoors. However, with the rate of Coronavirus cases increasing in the Capital District, church was again closed to in-person worship. From this point, services could be viewed online through Facebook Live or YouTube recordings.

He announced that the United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church of 9th Street in Troy sold their property. From the proceeds of the sale, they presented a donation to St. Peter Armenian Church in the amount of \$20,857.85. Parish Council will discuss plans in the near future on how to use or invest these funds. The Congregational Church included a letter with the donation that also offered some suggestions for which the money could be used. Additionally, the Armenian School was given a donation in the amount of \$10,428.93. Fr. Stepanos expressed his gratitude to the “9th Street Church” for their generous gifts to our parish.

He then expressed his gratitude to those members leaving the Parish Council this year for their service, hard work, and dedication to the church: Roswita Fragomeni, Rich DeMartino, Garo Derian, and Sharon Foley.

Rich DeMartino spoke of the great appreciation the congregation has for the work Fr. Stepanos did during this very difficult past year.

Chairman Tutunjian explained that all reports will be presented then one vote will be taken to accept the reports collectively, rather than a vote after each individual report, as done in the past.

Report of Parish Council: Parish Council Chair, Linda Bedian, spoke on behalf of the Parish Council. She spoke of all that went into the decisions for establishing COVID-19 protocols for all aspects of church life and noted that Fr. Stepanos consulted with the Diocese as well as other parishes. She thanked Fr. Stepanos and his family for assisting in providing online worship service.

Linda highlighted some of the building maintenance issues that were accomplished in 2020 including major repair to the roof, repair and repainting sections of the sanctuary ceiling, refinishing of the two side emergency exit doors as well as the two main entrance doors, and significant repairs made to the boilers. She commented that new boilers may need to be considered in the future.

She also noted that we are currently researching bids for a new security system for the church property that Council member Patty O’Keefe will present to the Assembly later in the agenda. She also said that plans are being discussed for renovating the entryway to the church.

Linda commented that funds obtained from the Payroll Protection Program provided us with some financial stability during a difficult year. Additional funds have also been approved for 2021. In addition to funds from these government programs, stewardship donations and other fundraising efforts kept the church financially afloat. Linda then also thanked those who are going off Parish Council. She noted that this year marks the 25th Anniversary of Fr. Stepanos’ ordination to the Priesthood, with hopes that a celebration can be held later in the year.

At this time, Assembly Chair, Chuck Tutunjian, asked when church may be opened again. Fr. Stepanos responded that church will be open for Palm Sunday. The Parish Council COVID-19 Committee will determine the number of how many parishioners will be allowed in the sanctuary, with potentially using the downstairs hall as an overflow area.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Proposed Budget: At this time, Linda turned to Parish Council Treasurer, Richard DeMartino, to present the first New Business item, the 2021 Proposed Budget. Rich noted that, for the first time in many years, a balanced budget is being presented. He gave thanks to Patty O’Keefe (Parish Council Assistant Treasurer), Lori Payette (Church Office Administrator), and Toros Shamlan (volunteer auditor) for all their help keeping the finances of the church in order.

Rich pointed out that, all things considered during an extraordinary year, the church did very well financially as the 2020 revenues exceeded expenditures by \$27,500. Although expenditures were \$11,000 above the projected amount, revenues were \$60,000 above projections. Rich then highlighted several reasons for this increase in revenue.

In addition to the government PPP loan, it is the people of this church that contributed to the church’s financial success. Fr. Stepanos’ “Help St. Peter Church Get Back on its Feet” stewardship campaign

raised \$19,000. Thanks to the leadership of Chuck and Paulette and all the volunteers, the Friday Flavors drive-thru dinners exceeded the Festival income projection by almost \$8,000. The Women's Guild assisted with Friday Flavors and held a successful Holiday drive-thru event. Endowment Fund income was \$3,700 above the projected amount. He thanked Maria Derian for her energy and dedication with her Moving with Maria classes which also benefitted the treasury of the church. Income from investments did very well and earned \$9,700. We applied for and were awarded \$31,000 from the Payroll Protection Program in 2020, which has been forgiven. We have reapplied for a second draw from the Payroll Protection Program again in 2021 and have already been approved for \$32,000. Parish Council is delighted in presenting a balanced budget for the first time in many years.

Charlotte Sevazlian inquired about the significant increase to the projected expense for Furniture & Equipment. Richard explained that some of that will be earmarked for a new security system for the church.

Mariam Aghayan asked about the Endowment Fund Statement of Assets report and if the amounts reported there were cash only or bequests made to the church. Rich asked Church Office Administrator, Lori Payette, to answer that question. Lori explained that this report represents the total amount of money invested with the Armenian Church Endowment Fund through many individual church endowments. A complete listing of these endowments is available in the office upon request.

With no further questions, Chairman Tutunjian asked for a motion to accept the 2021 Proposed Budget. Motion was made by John "Frenchie" Ekmalian, seconded by Ralph Enokian. The motion passed unanimously.

Surveillance/Security System Proposal: The meeting was turned over to Parish Council members Patty O'Keefe and Garo Derian who have been researching and obtaining quotes for a new surveillance/security system for the church property. Patty spoke about the various security concerns, including comments from an earlier meeting with a Colonie police officer. Patty and Garo have spoken to four different companies to obtain their recommendations and proposals. Serious consideration is being given to a 16-channel, 9-camera monitored system with motion sensor video recording and power outage protection. Gilbert Chorbajian inquired about the cost of monthly maintenance for such a system. Garo answered that no monthly maintenance fees will be required since the video recording will be captured on a device in the church. The Council is seeking approval from the Assembly to move forward with the proposal and the expenditure of up to \$8,000. Motion to accept the proposal was made by Rich DeMartino, seconded by Kevork Parseghian. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS (cont'd)

Report of the Diocesan Delegates: With COVID-19 protocols preventing the typical three-day conference, Cheryl Ohanesian highlighted the series of virtual meetings conducted to complete the work of the Diocesan Assembly, starting in September 2020 and concluding in February 2021. She noted that Bishop Daniel spoke of the five pillars upon which all parishes need to work. She mentioned how Vemkar is building an online platform to gather and present all relative Diocesan information and encouraged all parishioners to visit Vemkar.us. The Diocese had a balanced budget for 2019; however, budgets for 2020 and 2021 are unknown as revenues from annual appeals are not available at this time. The Diocese continues to focus on transitioning parishes from a dues-paying membership to a Stewardship-based membership. Anticipated renovation costs for the Cathedral and the complex appears to be close to \$25 million and will take from five to ten years to complete.

Report of the Sunday School: Alice McMullan, Sunday School Co-Superintendent, thanked Fr. Stepanos for his spiritual support as well as the Sunday School staff for all their help. Since the pandemic and closing of church, Sunday School classes are held via Zoom on Sunday evenings starting at 5:30pm. The Sunday School currently has two active levels, the Little Faithfuls and the Junior/Senior High School groups. There is currently a lack of middle grade pupils. Just three families provide five children for the Little Faithfuls group. To hopefully increase student participation at all levels, the Sunday School will host a "Spring Forward" event in the Postoian Pavilion on Saturday, April 17, for all families with school age children. Fran Kaiser asked about the age range for the Little Faithfuls. Holly Dadekian replied that it is for 3- to 6- year-olds and mentioned a restructuring of the Little Faithfuls that is taking place. In the near future, another group will be formed for those with newborns through age three. More information will follow this coming year.

Chuck then noted that there were three graduates of the Sunday School: Gloria Doudoukjian, Gregory Kayayan, and Noah Tutunjian. An official graduation ceremony can hopefully be held in the not-too-distant future.

Report of the Armenian School: Dr. Ara Kayayan noted that the concert/dinner/dance held in February was very successful. Since the pandemic, classes moved to online through Zoom. Although a few students were lost, those participating in the online classes found it easier to attend. Lessons are held weekly at various days/times to better accommodate the students. There is a Friday night assembly for all students to learn about the Bible and Armenian history and to keep everyone up to date on administrative and social issues. The school has 28 students and nine volunteer teachers. He acknowledged Ani Altounian who continues to serve as the Principal of the Armenian School. Dr. Ara continues to offer an adult Armenian language class on Wednesday evenings that began last summer. Dr. Ara announced a virtual concert event with popular singer from Canada, Joelle, that will be held through Zoom on Sunday, March 28 for \$20 per family. The Armenian School Year-End Hantess is being planned for June or July. Dr. Ara noted that the gift to the Armenian School from the Calvary Congregational Church was given because the school serves all Armenian youth in the area. When a member of the Congregational Church was asked why it had to close years ago, it was believed because they did not have programs like the Armenian School or the ACYOA for their children.

Report of the ACYOA: Fr. Stepanos noted that the Juniors had two in-person gatherings (prior to the pandemic) and eight virtual meetings in 2020. The Seniors had one in-person meeting and four Zoom meetings. He is also reestablishing the 20/30 Something group for those between the ages of 20 to 30. This group met two times in 2020.

Report of the Women's Guild: Sharon Foley thanked all her committee members for their help and support this past year and in years prior. The Guild assisted with the Friday Flavors of Armenian drive-through dinners in June and October. In December, they held their "Stocking Your Freezer for the Holidays" drive-thru fundraiser allowing them to donate \$7,000 to the church's general fund. A new Executive Committee was elected to serve for the next two years. Francine Kaiser is the new Chair with Sonya Moroukian serving as Vice Chair. Plans are underway for a Drive-Thru Lenten Dinner to be held on Wednesday, March 31. All orders must be made and paid in advance by March 22 and can be placed online through the church's website or by submitting a completed order form and payment to the church office.

Report of the Auditing Committee: Harry Shamlan spoke on behalf of the Auditing Committee. He will be working with Toros Shamlan with hopes to codify the Auditing process.

At this time, Chairman Tutunjian asked the Assembly for a motion to accept ALL the reports as presented. The motion was made by Rich DeMartino, seconded by Cheryl Ohanesian. The motion passed unanimously. At this time, Assembly participants were again reminded to complete their election ballots and submit them to the church office, postmarked by March 24.

Fr. Stepanos offered the benediction closing the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

ELECTION RESULTS:

All dues-paying members in good standing were given the opportunity to register and to participate in the Assembly via Zoom. Official ballots were then mailed to each registered participant prior to the Assembly. After completing the slate of candidates with additional nominations during the Assembly, members were instructed to complete their ballot and return it to the church office by March 24. Ballots received were validated by our church office administrator as being submitted by an eligible dues-paying member that attended the Assembly. Fifty-two completed ballots were submitted. The ballots were then anonymously counted by members of the Nominating Committee on March 25. The results of the election are as follows:

Parish Council: Brian Apkarian, John “Frenchie” Ekmalian, Catherine Knauer, Raffi Moroukian III, Cheryl Ohanesian, and Patricia O’Keefe; First Alternate, George Scaringe.

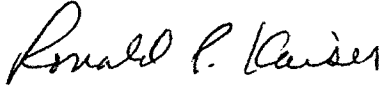
Nominating Committee: Ronda Boyajian, Holly Dadekian, and Winifred Kutchukian.

Auditing Committee: Mariam Aghayan

Chairperson for 2022 Parish Assembly: Gilbert Chorbajian

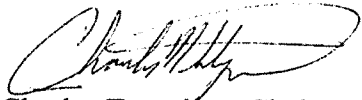
Secretary for 2022 Parish Assembly: Ronald Kaiser

Prepared by,



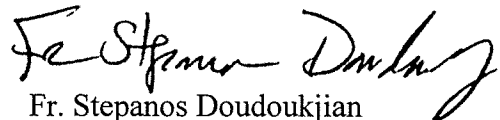
Ronald P. Kaiser
2021 Parish Assembly Secretary

Reviewed by,



Charles Tutunjian, Chairman
2021 Annual Parish Assembly

Reviewed by,



Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian
Parish Priest

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO PARISH COUNCIL AND OTHER OFFICES

PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDATES

(Vote for 5 for a two-year term)

Francine Kaiser

Arthur Mahserjian

Kevork Parseghian

Charlotte Sevazlian

Harry Shamlan

Three (3) additional candidates to be announced or taken from the floor.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(Vote for 3 for a one-year term)

Sandy Bedian

Holly Dadekian

Arpy Ernest

Two (2) additional candidates to be announced or taken from the floor.

AUDITING COMMITTEE

(Vote for 1 for a three-year term)

Two (2) candidates to be announced or taken from the floor.

CHAIRPERSON FOR 2023 PARISH ASSEMBLY

(Vote for 1 for a one-year term)

Mariam Aghayan

Ronald Kaiser

SECRETARY FOR 2023 PARISH ASSEMBLY

(Vote for 1 for a one-year term)

Ashley Bedian

Shelley Martin

PASTOR'S MESSAGE AND ANNUAL REPORT

Dear St. Peter Armenian Church Faithful,

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights..." James 1:17

The year 2021 was filled with many gifts and joys! It also had its share of struggles and challenges for each of us, but we overcame those struggles through our faith in Jesus Christ and with the support of our church family. Of those gifts, the one we all share is our beloved St. Peter Armenian Church.

Since my arrival in November 1995, I have been blessed to have served most of my ministerial career here at St. Peter Armenian Church. In 2022, I begin my 27th year serving this incredible parish.

Our community is made up of many hard working and faithful members. Your love of God and Church shined forth once again this year. As we continued to work through a challenging pandemic, we were able to be successful in many ways.

Thank you to our Festival Committee Chairs, Chuck Tutunjian and Paulette Doudoukjian, for offering and executing four successful *Friday Flavors of Armenia* drive-thru dinners, as well as to all those who volunteered to assist.

Special thanks to our Women's Guild for providing a drive-thru fish dinner during lent, assisting in the Friday Flavors of Armenia drive-thru dinners, and also offering a year-end freezer sale. What an amazing group of women!

My sincere thanks to Raffi Jamgotchian, of Triada Networks, LLC, for assisting us in all of our website needs. He has been instrumental in providing our community with the ability to use online payment services through our website for many of our events as well as for offering most any type of donation to the church.

Our **St. Peter ACYOA/Youth** never cease to amaze me. We had a mix of in-person and virtual gatherings throughout the year. In February, we had two separate in-depth discussions for our ACYOA Seniors and Juniors on "The meaning of lent and its impact on our spiritual journeys." In the month of June, enjoying the warm weather and our pavilion, 27 ACYOA Seniors and Juniors came together for a BBQ, bonfire, and discussion about "Keeping faith in a pandemic world." In July, the youth hosted a Vartavar "water" coffee hour in our church's backyard to enjoy an afternoon filled with lots of water balloons, hoses, spraying, and dunking! During the month of October, we had two separate ACYOA Seniors and Juniors pizza dinners with discussion on the topic of "Who knows your future?" In December, our combined youth met again and discussed "The differences between a secular and spiritual understanding of Christmas." They then fabulously baked and delivered over 500 Christmas cookies to members of the community.

August 15 was the Feast Day of *Asdvadzadzin* and the celebration of the Blessing of the Grapes. A unique **"Picnic in Armenia"** experience was held in our Postoian Pavilion and enjoyed by so many in our church family. A special thank you to Dr. Vardan & Dr. Smpat Amirbekian and their families for donating and cooking all the meats and vegetables for the *khoravats*. Thank you also to Violet Mirzoyan for organizing and leading those in the kitchen who prepared all the "typical" Armenia side dishes. It was a fun and successful day! We look forward to making this an annual tradition.

On September 21, 1971, our majestic St. Peter Armenian Church on the hill was consecrated to become the house of God and the bride of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through our baptisms, we have been called to be members of the holy church and to live our lives in faith, hope, and love, as well as to serve one another and to serve God. During the consecration service, His Beatitude, Patriarch Torkom Manoogian (Archbishop at the time) prayed these following holy words, as he anointed the brick and mortar of our church with Holy Muron:

“With all our hearts, we ask you, O Lord, accept this edifice, which has been built for a temple unto your most holy name, as a house for yourself to dwell in. May this Church be pleasing to you so that through it, we and the people that assemble in this church may be sanctified and expiated from our sins.” (From the Consecration Service of an Armenian Church.)

On September 21, 2021, exactly 50 years later to the date, we commemorated this very special anniversary for our community with a spectacular celebration. It was also extraordinary and truly an honor to celebrate the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the St. Peter Armenian Church edifice in Watervliet. On this momentous day, Badarak was celebrated by our diocesan vicar, Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian. Following worship services, an unforgettable extravaganza took place under the Postoian Pavilion. I thank all those who participated and worked to make this celebration perfect! The weather was beautiful, the food delicious, and the fellowship was abundant. My deepest appreciation to Sonya Moroukian and Francine Kaiser and the rest of the Women’s Guild, Linda Bedian and the rest of the Parish Council, Frenchie and the many BBQers, Lori Payette, and to all those who helped in large and small ways to make September 21 a truly festive day.

Allow me to reference my remarks from our September 21 celebration. Fifty years in our church structure in Watervliet is truly a milestone for our midsize Armenian Church community in upstate New York. We can relish in our accomplishments and in the love that emanates from our church family, as well as from the beauty of our 45-acre property. I concluded my remarks by saying that we have much work to do as a community as we move forward into the next 50 years to secure a spiritual legacy for our children and grandchildren. Moving forward into 2022, we will continue to build up the body of Christ as a Church, both physically and spiritually.

Some areas I have already begun exploring with Parish Council in 2021 and will become more solidified in 2022, will focus on **Parishioner Development**. A group of about ten people met and discussed what parishioner development means and how we can accomplish growth as a church community. The objective is to realize the treasure we have at St. Peter Armenian Church and to recognize the value of the Armenian Church, her faith, teachings, and the unique expression of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we share as an Armenian Church. I am pleased that Roswita Fragomeni agreed to help with this endeavor.

Our membership has substantially increased from 151 members in 2020 to 170 in 2021. Hopefully, we will continue this momentum in the coming year.

As we look to the future, we must visualize what the next fifty years will look like at St. Peter Armenian Church, then create a pathway to achieve that vision. I am happy to announce that Brian Apkarian has volunteered to spearhead a **Strategic Planning** project for 2022. Initially, we met three times in 2021 to discuss the process for this project and he has recently presented a working template to the Parish Council. Part of this plan will include an objective look at our strengths and weaknesses, and to create a sustainable future for St. Peter Armenian Church, focusing on three pillars: Spiritual, Physical, and Financial.

As one of the senior priests in our Diocese, I continued my **Diocesan activities** this past year. I completed my first four-year term on Diocesan Council and was asked by the Diocesan Nominating Committee to run again, which I accepted. During the 2021 Diocesan Assembly, I was re-elected for another four-year term. I continue to serve our Diocese in the following areas:

- Diocesan clergy advisor to the ACYOA Sr. Central Council.
- Diocesan Council clergy advisor to the Ararat Center Board.
- Diocesan clergy mentor to three of our newer clergymen.
- St. Vartan Camp Director for session C of camp at the Ararat Center. For the past two summers, a “virtual” camp was offered to the youth of our Diocese. In 2022, St. Vartan Camp will be in-person with session C being held from July 31 to August 13.

Our **Adult Christian Education** classroom began from humble beginnings in our church on Sunday mornings. What started years ago as an opportunity to provide “Adult” Sunday School, now has produced fruit that we would have never imagined when we began this initiative.

During the years in the early 2010s, that Paulette Doudoukjian was our Sunday School Superintendent, she participated in two Sunday School Superintendent Summits that were organized and led by the Diocesan Department of Religious Education. Paulette came back inspired to bring the enthusiasm of, not only offering Adult Sunday School, but to reestablish an ancient Orthodox tradition in which the whole family unit worships together for the entire Liturgy. It is during the past 125 years that, we as an Armenian Church in the United States separated the children from Liturgy and created a “western” style of school while Liturgy takes place. Although we continue this format, it is clear from long range studies that this practice is not effective in retaining our youth back into Sunday morning Liturgy once they graduate.

Almost ten years ago, we started the Sunday morning adult classroom with a handful of people gathering before church. Its objective was to provide a greater understanding of our Church’s rich and profound liturgical and spiritual theology. With hopes of enhancing the Sunday liturgical experience, I offered a 45-minute class and discussion then together everyone would go into the sanctuary for worship. After a year or so of teaching the classes, we began to expand and include teachers from within our community, tapping into their talents and desire to help. A special thank you to Guy & Elsie Vozzy, Rhonda Boyajian, Dn. Yervant Kutchukian, Dr. Ara Kayayan, Chuck Tutunjian, Winnie Kutchukian, and Roswita Fragomeni for offering classes over the years.

A special thank you to Rhonda Boyajian for her ongoing leadership and continuing development of our Adult Christian Education evening classes at St. Peter Church. Over the past year, there has been lots of changes with the format -- and change can be a productive thing. During the autumn of 2020, our “virtual” adult education classes began to grow, expanding our student base beyond our parish. These faith-filled, educational, and inspiring classes had caught the attention of our Diocese. Rhonda and I began to meet with Diocesan leadership about the potential of merging our program onto the Diocesan Vemkar platform. After many meetings and deliberations, Vemkar premiered their Adult Christian Education program in September 2021. Rhonda Boyajian continues to oversee this Diocesan initiative and I am proud that our parish has the largest weekly representation of participants each Tuesday evening. Please join us on Tuesday evenings as the classes and teachers are opening an entire new world of understanding the Armenian Church and her faith.

Credit and accolades have been given to our parish by the diocese because of our strong influence in this area of Adult Christian Education. On the Vemkar website, the Diocese has recognized the fruits of our labor and the following is the introductory paragraph:

History of the Adult Christian Education Program: In 2014, after attending a Sunday School superintendents conference, Yn. Paulette Doudoukjian introduced Adult Christian Education programming to St. Peter Armenian Church in Watervliet, NY, as a Sunday School initiative. Under the leadership of Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, the parish priest, adult classes began meeting nearly every Sunday morning before Badarak. Shortly after the program was initiated, Dn. Yervant Kutchukian became coordinator providing a curriculum of classes on Liturgical tradition, Armenian Church history and scripture study. In 2018, Rhonda Boyajian became coordinator, expanding the curriculum and teaching staff with classes in person for 45 minutes prior to Badarak, as well as offering other classes on Saturday evenings. In 2020, “Zoom” virtual classes were further developed and expanded, casting a wider net of students from other parishes. It became evident that, what was humbly established at St. Peter Armenian Church, could benefit the entire diocese. Adult Christian Education classes is now adopted by Vemkar so that all the faithful in the Eastern Diocese and various Armenian Church communities across the world could learn and grow in the faith of the Armenian Church.

As part of our local ongoing **Adult Christian Education programming**, we continued to offer a variety of virtual activities in 2021. We continued to offer our **Better Together Bible Study** group every other Wednesday morning. In the Fall, we did take a hiatus and plan to be back in

the early part of 2022 with an in-person format. Thank you so very much to Elsie Vozzy for sharing her faith, invaluable wisdom, and teaching gifts. Her spiritual gifts are many and she shares them freely with our group. Elsie has been the force behind our Bible Study for decades.

On Thursday mornings, I continue to offer **Zoom Reflections**. These weekly sessions lasts 30 minutes and provide a burst of spiritual rejuvenation as they redirect our thoughts and mind toward God. We are close to completing our study of the book, "Wave Therapy: Reflections by the Sea" by Dr. Floyd Hall.

Every other Friday morning, our **Pray Without Ceasing** prayer group meets virtually. Thank you to Winnie Kutchukian who organizes and leads the group. She offers guided prayer, discussion and teaching on prayer, as well as praying for the various needs and joys within our parish, diocese, country, and world. The objective and intent of this group is to pray for one another and to share prayer needs within our parish and beyond.

2021 PASTORAL VISITATIONS AND WORK

Hospital and illness related visitations: 14

General pastoral visitations: 18

Pre-marital, baptismal and chrismation meetings: 9

LITURGICAL

Home Blessings:12

2021 SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: (2)

Theodore Herbert Chorbajian, May 8

Charlotte Elizabeth O'Keefe, December 11

Marriages: (2)

David Johnson to Caroline Boyajian, October 2

Victor Eid to Tonya Karayan, August 14, assisted at St. Ann's Maronite Catholic Church, Watervliet

Funerals: 15

Robert Ajamian, January 9

George Osganian, February 6

George Hachigian, February 20

Russell J. Kilidjian, February 26

Virginia Sprinceanu, April 23 (wake only)

Eleanor Meeson, April 30

Julie Garabedian, May 21

Victor Khachikian, June 12

David Quinones, June 13 (wake only)

R. Mihran Mooradian, July 16

Vartuhi Kasparoglu, July 17

Denis Edward Kebabjian, August 17

Josephine Speanburg, August 26

Theodore Sapino, September 9

Joanne Hartunian, November 24

Vahe Shahinian, November 29

Barbara J. Anigian, December 17

Out of Area Sacraments:

First year of Marriage Blessing for Joseph Hartunian & Megan Cheney, August 28, Lake Placid, NY

Other Activities:

January 14, Led Youth Zoom discussion: "God's love through the Bible & Armenian Church"

January 18, Attended Adult Christian Education teacher's seminar

January 23, Zoom Diocesan Assembly (from 2020)

January 25, Attended ACYOA National Monday Meditations

January 27, Attended St. Vartan Camp meeting
 January 28, Women's Guild Executive Zoom Meeting
 January 27, Clergy Zoom Meeting
 January 31, Participated in the Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO) Zoom discussions
 February 4, Offered Holy Water drive-thru at church
 February 4, participated in Knights of Vartan Zoom meeting
 February 5, Adult Christian Education Meeting
 February 8, Zoom Diocesan Assembly (from 2020)
 February 10, St. Vartan Camp Meeting
 February 14, Participated in ACYOA National Diving Deep Discussions
 February 18, Led ACYOA Jrs. discussion on Lent
 February 21, Knights of Vartan Vartanantz Day Commemoration
 February 21, Attended National ACYOA Alumni gathering
 February 25, Attended Women's Guild meeting
 February 25, Led ACYOA Srs. discussion on Lent
 February 27, Participated in St. Vartan Camp "Winter" Day
 March 4, Led 20/30 Something discussion on Lent
 March 4, Participated in the Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO) Zoom discussions
 March 8, Led "Journey with the Lord" Lenten Retreat Part I
 March 12, Offered Zoom presentation on "Prescription for Distress & Anxiety" for St. Vartanantz Church, Chelmsford, MA
 March 14, Participated in the Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO) Zoom discussions
 March 15, Led "Journey with the Lord" Lenten Retreat Part II
 March 17, Clergy Lenten Retreat with Bishop Daniel
 March 17, Offered Zoom presentation on "Mustard Seed Faith" to St. Gregory Armenian Church, White Plains, NY
 March 18, Women's Guild Membership meeting
 March 19, Participated in "Beside Still Waters" discussion
 March 22, Led ACYOA National Monday Meditations "Lenten Journey"
 March 23, St. Vartan Camp meeting
 March 26, Led Zoom Lenten discussion on "God's Love" for Hye Point Armenian Church, MA
 March 27, Participated in the ACYOA National Lenten Retreat
 March 28, Attended Armenian School's virtual Joelle concert
 March 29, Conducted interview with Armenian Health Professionals Organization (AAPHO)
 April 5, St. Vartan Camp meeting
 April 7, Attended Women's Guild meeting
 April 17, Attended "Spring Forward" Sunday School event
 April 23, Attended "Digital Ministry" Seminar sponsored by St. Nersess Armenian Seminary
 April 24, Participated in Holy Martyrs Day Commemoration in Troy
 May 1, Diocesan Assembly Part I (virtual)
 May 5, Diocesan Assembly Part II (virtual)
 May 6, Participated in the Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO) Zoom discussions
 May 8, Armenian School Mother's Day Hantess
 May 11, Diocesan Assembly Part III (virtual)
 May 19, Adult Christian Education/Vemkar merge meeting
 May 22, Attended ACYOA Srs. General Assembly (virtual)
 May 23, Diocesan Assembly Part IV (virtual)
 June 1, St. Vartan Camp meeting
 June 8, Attended Women's Guild Executive Committee meeting
 June 10, Offered presentation to AAHPO on "The Spiritual Implications of Covid"
 June 11, Met with Brian Apkarian for Parish Strategic Planning
 June 16, Adult Christian Education/Vemkar meeting

June 17, ACYOA Srs. & Jrs. cookout, bonfire, and discussion
 June 25, Attended Armenian School Hantess
 June 26, Attended Ava Coogan's high school graduation party
 June 26, Attended Peter Meshkov's high school graduation party
 June 27, Attended Gregory Kayayan's high school graduation party
 June 30, Adult Christian Education/Vemkar meeting
 July 6, St. Vartan Camp meeting
 July 11, ACYOA Vartavar coffee hour and water activities
 July 12, St. Vartan Camp parent's orientation (virtual)
 July 14, Participated in Department of Christian Education's Sunday School Conversation clusters
 July 17-24, St. Vartan Camp (virtual)
 July 21, Met with Brian Apkarian for Parish Strategic Planning
 July 27, Adult Christian Education/Vemkar meeting
 August 15, "Picnic in Armenia" *Asdvadzadzin* event
 August 26, Women's Guild Executive Committee meeting
 September 9, Sunday School Staff meeting w/Elise Antreassian-Bayizian from Diocese
 September 10, Armenian School/Sunday School campfire activity
 September 11, Seminarians visit to St. Peter
 September 14, St. Vartan Camp meeting
 September 14-16, Clergy Education Retreat at Ararat Center
 September 19, 50th/25th Anniversaries Celebration
 September 21, Offered prayer at Watervliet Town Hall for Armenia's Independence Day
 September 29, Met with Brian Apkarian for Parish Strategic Planning
 October 6, ACYOA Srs. lunch and discussion on "Who Knows Your Future?"
 October 10, Women's Guild Harvest Fest
 October 17, ACYOA Jrs. lunch and discussion on "Who Knows Your Future?"
 October 18, Attended Knights of Vartan meeting
 October 24, Offered prayer at Knights of Vartan Troy Monument
 November 7, Commemoration of the 101st Anniversary of the Fall of Armenian Cilicia/Harisee Madagh
 November 11, Offered prayer at Watervliet's Veteran's Day commemoration
 November 11, Led Parishioner Development Meeting
 November 13, Attended St. Nersess' Vocations/12 Clergy celebration
 November 14, Women's Guild General Membership meeting
 November 15, St. Vartan Camp meeting
 November 30, Diocesan Assembly Part V
 December 2, Picked up lahmajune and string cheese from New Jersey for WG Freezer Sale
 December 3, Participated in a Traumatic Death/Suicide Seminar sponsored by St. Nersess Seminary
 December 4, Women's Guild Freezer Sale
 December 5, ACYOA Christmas Discussion & Outreach Cookie-Making Activity
 December 14, Adult Christian Education/Vemkar meeting
 December 17, Interviewed by St. Nersess for Pastoral Practices Digital Archives
 December 24, Conducted Christmas Eve Service

CHURCH AUXILIARIES

Throughout the year, I have attended a total of 163 church auxiliary meetings and/or activities (included in this figure are other meetings and activities that were parish related). These meetings and activities were a combination of in-person and virtual gatherings.

I express my heartfelt appreciation to all parishioners and community members who have volunteered their time and talents throughout the year. Your assistance and leadership are invaluable. The names are too numerous to mention, but please accept my thanks.

Allow me to extend a special thank you to the faithful leaders, staff, and executive committees of our church auxiliaries, schools, organizations, and ongoing committees including: Annie & Zareh Altounian & Dr. Ara Kayayan, Armenian School; Sean & Alice McMullan, Sunday School; Francine Kaiser & Sonya Moroukian, Women's Guild; Elise Vozzy, Bible Study; Gloria Doudoukjian & Kevork Derian, ACYOA Jrs.; Thomas Nevins, ACYOA Srs.; Rafi Topalian, Choir Director; all Choir Members and Deacons; Paulette Doudoukjian & Chuck Tutunjian, Friday Flavors of Armenia drive-thru dinners (in lieu of the traditional Armenian Festival; Mary Panjarjian, Altar Guild; Winnie Kutchukian, Prayer Group; Rhonda Boyajian, Adult Christian Education Vemkar

Thank you to our outgoing Parish Council Chair, Linda Bedian, who completed six years of dedicated service to St. Peter Armenian Church, having served as our Parish Council Chair for the past two years. Linda is a go-getter, with lots of energy and enthusiasm. She has seen the completion of various projects, as well as initiated other parish activities. Thank you, Linda, for sharing your generous spirit, time, and wisdom. Thank you also for not being afraid or intimidated to take on the role of Parish Council Chair. I hope others feel compelled to follow in your footsteps.

The two-year long, ongoing pandemic has been challenging in various ways for each of us individually, as well as collectively as a parish. I am indebted to the constant teamwork and spirit that our council exhibits in all their decisions and actions. We have always put the safety, health, and well-being of our parish first and foremost. I express my gratefulness to our Council members and Diocesan Delegates for their on-going and unending devotion to the ministry and general care of our church. You continue to share generously your time, energy, talented gifts, and your treasures to our parish and church. Your commitment to God, church, and our people is exemplary! It brings me great joy and fulfillment to work with each of you, as we serve together.

Shnorhagalootuin (thank you) to Dr. Ara Kayayan who completes his three two-year terms on Parish Council. He has been an invaluable asset to the Council and the parish at large. Over the past two years, Dr. Ara has offered our Parish Council and community sound and instructive medical guidance as we have navigated through this pandemic. Dr. Ara, I am so appreciative of your efforts and leadership.

Thank you, Lori Payette, (our office manager) for all that you do in the church office (and out of the office) to help keep things organized, productive, and running smooth. It has not been easy navigating through all the changes, restrictions, and limitations that has been placed upon us over the past two years. You handle the most stressful of situations with such calm and collectedness. I greatly appreciate your loyalty, dedication, and thorough diligence you display in all aspects of the job. We, as a church, are blessed to have you on our team. As the parish priest, you help make my job more efficient because of your careful and meticulous work ethic.

Thank you, Ani Chouhamlian our church cleaning specialist (*jhamgoch*). She continues to do a wonderful job and is a very hard worker. Besides the regular work that Ani accomplishes weekly, she is always ready and available at a moment's notice to tackle a cleaning job and task at church.

Please forgive me if I have inadvertently missed anyone.

We are not a church parish and church family without all of you. I thank you, our parishioners and friends, who have participated and supported the programs and activities that have been offered throughout year. I pray that the spirit of love and stewardship remain in your hearts as, together, we "Build up the Body of Christ" at St. Peter Armenian Church.

As we enter the **New Year 2022**, we remain steadfast in knowing that we are people of faith and hope, as proclaimed in our baptismal vows. When we become newly baptized members of the church, we express the desire to want "faith, hope, love, and baptism." This desire is something that we live out each day of our lives as we strive to serve God.

St. Paul reminds us in the book of Romans that we will experience suffering in this world. As followers of Jesus Christ, we too must follow Him, not only to His glory, but also to His cross. If we are able to do that, then our sufferings are no longer meaningless, but become transformed to hope - hope of resurrection.

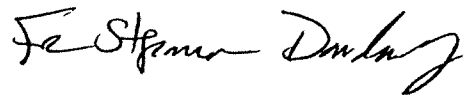
"And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Romans 5:2-5)

My pray for each of you is that this year provides us, our families, our church community, our country, and the world, with the Hope of Jesus Christ, and that our sufferings which we have endured over the past two years have provided us with opportunities to show perseverance and character.

As our church community prayed 50 years ago when our new edifice was built, let us pray those same words today. May all that we do as the body of Christ, the church, *"be pleasing to you so that through it, we and the people assemble in this church may be sanctified and expiated from our sins."*

Be strengthened and encouraged by the words of St. Paul, and may they bring life to each of us knowing that the Lord is near to the hearts of His faithful.

Respectfully submitted this nineteenth day of February 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian', written in a cursive style.

Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Parish Priest

PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

The most exciting thing about our Annual Parish Assembly this year is the fact that, once again, we can meet in person to conduct the business of our St. Peter Armenian Church. We were slowly able to reconvene our in-person church services in the early summer and have been diligent about protecting ourselves by being cautious and following the proper protocols. Recently, it appears that things are finally moving in the right direction and we will be able to continue with our in-person services, at long last. As we move through 2022, we are now looking forward to weekly Badarak services each Sunday in our church sanctuary.

A number of virtual programs were established in 2021 by several of our talented and dedicated members. A variety of online programs have provided everyone in our parish, and beyond, an opportunity to participate in daily exercise/Zumba classes, weekly Adult Christian Education meetings, book club discussions, prayer groups, Armenian lessons, and more. These offerings are vast and varied and have attracted many participants who continue to engage in these many programs. Participants from our parish, our Diocese, and even from other countries, have been attracted to our programs to enjoy and learn from all that is offered. We fully expect and hope that these programs will continue to grow and attract new participants for many years to come.

Again this year, our traditional Armenian Festival was tailored to the times by offering the *Friday Flavors of Armenia* drive-thru dinners on four Friday evenings in May and June. We thank the Festival Committee Chairs, Paulette Doudoukjian and Chuck Tutunjian, for again organizing another successful series of dinners, as well as all the committee members who volunteered to help prepare these wonderful meals to go. We thank Harry Tutunjian for heading up the 2021 Event Sponsorship program and all those who participated in the program with their contributions. Although these drive-thru dinners proved very successful, we look forward to returning to our traditional Armenian Festival in 2022.

Over the summer, a new comprehensive surveillance system was installed at the church to better keep our staff, parishioners, and church property safer and more secure. This new system stores recorded video of any and all activity around the perimeter of the church building that can be accessed when necessity arises.

On a beautiful summer day in August, we held the first of what we expect will be an annual *Picnic in Armenia* celebration. Families and friends came together to enjoy an afternoon right out of the old country!

In September, the 50th Anniversary of the consecration of our St Peter Armenian Apostolic Church in Watervliet was celebrated with an outdoor picnic under the Postoian Pavilion. This celebration also marked the 25th Anniversary of Fr. Stepanos' ordination to the priesthood.

These outdoor gatherings served to reinforce the pleasure and joy we all felt to be able to celebrate with one another again after the many months we were apart.

The St. Peter Women's Guild jumped into high gear with their assistance with the *Friday Flavors of Armenian* drive-thru dinners as well as hosting another very successful *Stocking your Freezer for the Holidays* sale to end the year on a very positive note! Our community is fortunate to have this very dedicated group that is always ready to offer their support for the greater good of the church.

The Parish Council continues to work on plans for a front entryway renovation project. We are working with an architectural firm to come up with a plan that closely resembles many of the design elements of traditional Armenian architecture. Plans will be revealed to the parish when ready for presentation and estimated cost of construction is evaluated.

The future looks bright and inviting and we are all fortunate to be able to call St. Peter Armenian Church our HOME! We will continue to move forward, recapturing all that we had before, plus enjoying all the new opportunities that have been made available to us.

Linda Bedian
Parish Council Chair

DIOCESAN DELEGATES ANNUAL REPORT

The 119th Diocesan Assembly, like the previous year, was held virtually. The main session took place on May 1, 2021. Bishop Daniel convened and eloquently spoke about the challenges of the past year in an address entitled “Hardship, Endurance, and Hope.” He underscored the fact that, in spite of many challenges, we move forward with continuing progress.

In summary, the following accomplishments were noted:

1. Reconfiguration of the Diocese Krikor and Zorab Information Center to University Fellowship in collaboration with Fordham University Orthodox Christian Studies Center.
2. Ongoing work on creating a Deacon’s Fellowship and Diocese Commission on Women’s Ministry.
3. Creation of digital ministries thematically focused using the VEMKAR platform for online Christian Education. This initiative is in line with our overarching goal of “Building Up the Body of Christ.”

Elections for various diocesan offices and committees were conducted using the Election Buddy voting platform. Elections included: Diocesan Council, Board of Trustees, and seats on the Nominating, Proposals, and Auditing Committees.

Separate breakout sessions were later held on May 5 and 11. These meetings were designated as question and answer sessions only. The following topics were included:

1. Diocesan Staff and Ministries
2. Stewardship Pilot Programs
3. Diocesan Facilities Assessment

The second general meeting, a continuation of the May 1 session, was convened on May 25. Additional voting was necessitated by the fact that results from May 1 were inconclusive in some categories. A full financial report was later postponed pending the final report from an outside firm. Lastly, a presentation was delivered by St. Mark Armenian Church (Springfield, MA), designated as the site for the 2022 Diocesan Assembly.

The final breakout session of the 119th Diocesan Assembly was convened on November 30, at which time, reports from the Diocesan Auditing Committee, including the Diocesan Council’s financial report, were presented.

In conclusion, Bishop Daniel formally adjourned by thanking everyone who works to advance the mission of the Armenian Church in America, noting that “In this incredibly challenging time that we live in, the world needs the church; the world needs Christ’s message of hope; the world needs the historic Christian example of the Armenian people.”

*Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Ohanesian, Diocesan Delegate*

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

OVERVIEW

"Remembering lessons, prayers, singing, and friendships! Looking forward to all of our children gathering together again! Being a part of a new generation of memories!"

This was the 2021-22 theme as the St. Peter Sunday School gathered for in-person classes which started on September 26, 2021. All classes have a new format, meeting twice a month on Sunday mornings starting at 10:30 a.m., following COVID protocol guidelines by wearing masks and social distancing as much as possible.

The 2021 year ended with honoring three graduates from the class of 2020: Gloria Doudoukjian, Gregory Kayayan, and Noah Tututujian. A special (in-person) ceremony took place on May 23 to recognize the accomplishment of our graduating class.

2021-2022 STAFF

- Adult Christian Education: Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Rhonda Boyajian, Elsie Vozzy, Dr. Ara Kayayan, and special guest instructor, Dr. Roberta Ervine
- High School 6th-11th Grades: Sean McMullan and Chuck Tutunjian
- 3rd-5th Grades: Alice McMullan
- Kindergarten-2nd Grades: Lena Guleserian-Hoglund and Katrina Mayba
- Little Faithfuls (Nursery/Pre-K): Holly Dadekian
- Co-Superintendents: Sean & Alice McMullan

CONCLUSION AND FORECAST

This year, we had a small, but dedicated group of students. We have been able to offer classes in-person for Nursery School-aged through High School students. We would welcome all students at any time, so please join us!

On July 22, 2021, Yn. Paulette Doudoukjian and Alice McMullan met with several clergy of the Diocese and the Diocesan Director of the Department of Education, Elise Antreassian. This 90-minute Zoom meeting involved a discussion on "Conversation Clusters" and "The Future of Faith Formation." Similar meetings were held on 11 different dates with various other parish leaders to discuss some of the following questions:

- What do we want our young people to know and experience before they graduate from high school and leave the parish?
- How should we deliver the knowledge and these experiences through "Faith Formation" structure and curriculum?
- How do we apply this to Children's Youth/Ministry/Parents?

This year, we welcomed Lena Guleserian-Hoglund and Katrina Mayba to the St. Peter Armenian Sunday School staff! We are grateful to them and thank them for their service to our youth.

*Respectfully submitted,
Alice McMullan*

ARMENIAN SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

The Armenian School continued its mission in teaching our children of our community the Armenian language along with Armenian songs and traditions.

A weekly Zoom Assembly for all students was held on Friday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Individual classes were held on Zoom at various times throughout the week. At the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, we resumed in-person classes for the younger students on Friday evenings, while older students continued their lessons on Zoom. The school held three “All in School” events including a camp fire night, movie night, and game night.

We had an enrollment of 21 students this year ranging from pre-school to high school.

In 2021, our students participated in the following community functions:

1. On January 9, the Armenian School held their **Armenian Christmas Celebration** on Zoom. The students performed songs and recited poems for parents and guests from around the world. Of course, the special guest of the program as *Gaghant Baba* (none other than our own Father Stepanos). Earlier, the students met in person at The Crossings park where Santa presented each with a gift — a beautiful tree ornament.
2. On February 22, students participated with songs and poetry at the **Vartanantz Day Commemoration** on Zoom hosted by the Knights & Daughters of Vartan.
3. On March 28, a concert was held via Zoom presented by “**Joelle Entertainment**” from Montreal. This event was a great success with many children participating. They sang, danced, and even completed an Easter craft project.
4. On April 3, students attended a fun **Easter outing** at The Crossings park where the Easter bunny (Violet Mirzoyan) hopped in with beautiful Easter baskets. Games and an egg hunt were also held that day.
5. On April 24, students participated by singing the Armenian national anthem and other patriotic songs at the **106th Anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide** that was held at the Troy Genocide monument.
6. On May 7, a **Mother’s Day** talent show was held on Zoom. Each student honored mothers by performing on their favorite instrument.
7. On June 25, the Armenian School held its **Year-End Hantess** via Zoom. This year’s program was dedicated to Father’s Day. It was an exciting evening allowing our children to present what they had learned during the school year with songs, dance, and recitation.
8. On August 28, students and families enjoyed a fun summer **water slide event** on the church grounds.
9. On October 24, all families were invited to go **apple picking at Indian Ladder Farm**. This was a great fall activity to enjoy time together.
10. On November 7, a cultural program was presented at the church in commemoration of the **101st Anniversary of the Fall of Cilicia**. Students participated in the program with two songs.

In 2021, the Armenian School received a very generous donation from the United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church community. This gift was placed into an endowment fund with its annual interest income earmarked for the Armenian School’s educational activities.

Mrs. Ani Altounian continues her role as the Principal of the school, and Dr. Ara Kayayan continues as Vice-Principal.

We have the following capable and dedicated staff: Srpoug Ashjian, Lisa Bardakjian, Maria Derian (dance instructor), Violet Mirzoyan, Rita Ohanian, Rima Rejebian, Sonia Sukuljian, and Nayiri Tournayan. We thank them all for their dedication and sacrifice to the success of our school.

The Armenian School staff is especially thankful to our Hokevor hoviv, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, and the St. Peter Parish Council for their continued support of the Armenian School program.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Ara Kayayan

WOMEN'S GUILD ANNUAL REPORT

The 2021 Women's Guild Executive Committee members were: Francine Kaiser, Chair; Sonya Moroukian, Vice Chair; Sue Dickinson, Treasurer; Charlene Hrachian, Recording Secretary; Zovig Ashjian, Corresponding Secretary; and Advisors: Sharon Foley, Ex Officio, Phyllis Jevanian, Charlotte Sevazlian, Claudia Suppa, and Carol Tutunjian.

The Women's Guild members had a very busy, productive, and camaraderie-filled year!!! My first meeting as Chair was on February 25. During this Zoom meeting, we planned two events. First, a virtual, social event - HYE TEA - which took place on March 18. It was an opportunity to get to know one another through sharing information and stories. Time was also spent brainstorming ideas for 2021 activities.

The Tahin Hatz Mid-Lenten drive-thru dinner held on March 31 was the second event of the year. This was an overwhelming success with a record number of 155 pre-ordered fish meals to go.

Our next Zoom meeting was on April 7 to plan the Women's Guild support of the Friday Flavors of Armenia drive-thru dinners. The Guild prepared 11 trays of cream kadayif, seven trays of paklava, and 600 cheese beoreg.

On July 18, we hosted a Paint 'n Sip social event at the church. Attendees created some lovely, painted items with the choice of either a wine glass, mason jar, or mug! All enjoyed a very impressive buffet lunch with dishes being prepared and donated by members of the Executive Committee. The income generated from this event exceeded expectations.

September was also a busy month. On September 9, the Guild prepared a Hokejosh meal for the family of Theodore (Ted) Sapino who was one of the Godfathers of the church. On September 19, we supported the celebration of the 25th anniversary of Fr. Stepanos' ordination and the 50th anniversary of the church's consecration in Watervliet. The Guild prepared some of the foods and helped serve the celebratory luncheon that took place outdoors in the Postoian Pavilion.

On October 10, the Women's Guild hosted "Harvest Fest." In addition to the delicious Manti soup meal, 13 scrumptious apple-themed baked items were entered in the bake-off contest and served for dessert. The 50/50 cash raffle and beautiful basket raffle were a huge success!

The Annual Women's Guild General Membership Meeting was held on November 14. Thank you to the Parish Council for preparing and serving a scrumptious roast pork dinner with pilaf, fasoulia, and dessert. This was so appreciated and enjoyed!

On December 3, a drive-thru Holiday Freezer Sale was again held this year. We had eight cooking sessions to make two kinds of beoreg, cheoreg, losh kebabs, kufteh balls, khoritzov katah, a cookie medley, and veggie stew. This was another very successful event!

In spite of the pandemic, we ALL supported a very successful 2021 and the Women's Guild was able to donate \$16,000 to the church's General Fund. Many thanks to ALL who assisted with the preparation, packaging, delivery, administrative duties, cleaning, and purchasing activities that are essential to successful events. God bless you all!

Sharon Foley, the Women's Guild Outreach Coordinator, spearheaded the first outreach project in December - "Project Warmth." The winter clothing drive, thru generous donations by so many, resulted in two large bags of warm clothing (hats, mittens, coats, socks, and scarves) being given each to five recipient organizations! Thank you, Sharon, for your time, effort, and creative ideas! Special thanks to Sonya Moroukian who made a very festive mitten tree and donation box! And many thanks to all who donated and made this project so successful.

Again in 2021, Women's Guild sent support donations to the Armenian Diocese and Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program (CASP). We received back a lovely letter from our CASP sponsored child, Lilia Bulbulyan.

The Women's Guild Executive Committee members for 2022 is as follows: Nancy Kassabian and Sonya Moroukian, Co-Chairs; Francine Kaiser, Treasurer; Zovig Ashjian, Assistant Treasurer; Charlene Hrachian, Recording Secretary; and Advisors: Valerie Demarest, Sharon Foley, Phyllis Jevanian, Claudia Suppa, and Carol Tutunjian.

Many thanks to both Sue Dickinson and Charlotte Sevazlian for their many years of service and dedication as outgoing members of the Women's Guild Executive Committee.

*Respectfully submitted,
Francine Kaiser, Women's Guild Chair*

ACYOA JRS. & SRS. ANNUAL REPORT

ACYOA Jrs. 2021 Activities:

January 14, Zoom meeting and discussion on “God’s love through the Bible and Armenian Church”

February 18, Zoom discussion on Lent

June 17, Cookout, bonfire, and discussion with ACYOA Srs. at church

July 11, Vartavar coffee hour and water activities

October 17, Lunch and discussion on “Who Knows Your Future?”

December 5, Christmas discussion and cookie-making outreach activity

ACYOA Srs. 2021 Activities:

February 25, Zoom discussion on Lent

June 17, Cookout, bonfire, and discussion with ACYOA Jrs.

July 11, Vartavar coffee hour and water activities

October 6, Lunch and discussion on “Who Knows Your Future?”

December 5, Christmas discussion and cookie-making outreach activity

20/30 Something Group:

March 4, Zoom discussion on Lent

FINANCIAL REPORTS

All the Financial Reports
(excluding budgeted and projected amounts
for the General Fund)
have been audited by the
Auditing Committee

Note: A complete listing of St. Peter Armenian Church Endowment Funds will not be included in the printed Annual Report. For those whose family has an established endowment, information on that endowment will be available upon request at the Parish Assembly or by contacting the church office.

ST. PETER ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES, CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	PROJECTED
REVENUES:	2021	2021	2022
Membership Dues (170)	\$22,500.00	\$25,500.00	\$26,250.00
Stewardship Pledges	52,000.00	63,511.90	63,000.00
Endowment Income	50,000.00	47,075.45	48,500.00
Festival/Friday Flavors Income (net)	36,000.00	26,638.14	30,000.00
Sacraments & Yughakin (Christmas & Easter)	15,000.00	24,010.00	15,000.00
Billboard Rental	17,950.00	17,949.12	17,950.00
Church Organizations	10,000.00	16,200.00	14,000.00
Loose Plate	5,000.00	2,622.00	2,500.00
Special & General Donations	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
Special Events/Programs (net):	2,000.00		2,000.00
Blessing of Grapes Picnic	0.00	327.52	0.00
Stewardship Contributions:	21,500.00		13,000.00
General Donations/Gifts	0.00	8,770.00	0.00
Moving with Maria	0.00	3,590.00	0.00
Flowers and Candles Donations	2,500.00	3,065.91	2,500.00
Special Anniversaries Donations	2,500.00	20,250.17	2,500.00
Less: Transfer to Building Fund for Entryway Project		-20,250.17	0.00
Loosaper Donations & Advertising	2,000.00	2,088.79	2,000.00
Facility Rental	1,000.00	250.00	500.00
Memorial Donations	300.00	0.00	300.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	65.54	0.00
In Lieu of Flowers / Bequests	0.00	21,801.00	0.00
Less: Transfer to Building Fund	0.00	-100.00	0.00
Payroll Protection Program Grant	36,000.00	36,030.79	0.00
Income from Investments	0.00	10,466.87	0.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$278,250.00</u>	<u>\$309,863.03</u>	<u>\$240,000.00</u>

ST. PETER ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES, CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	PROJECTED
EXPENDITURES:	2021	2021	2022
Clergy: Stipend	\$64,000.00	\$64,000.04	\$67,045.00
Insurance (Med, Dental, Life, NYS Disb)	26,100.00	26,316.48	27,600.00
Housing Allowance	22,624.00	22,624.00	23,788.00
Travel, Car & Phone Allowance	7,000.00	5,058.85	5,000.00
Retirement	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,500.00
Clergy Gift/Bonus	0.00	900.00	400.00
Secretary: Wages	41,000.00	40,581.06	41,798.50
Insurance (Med, Dental, Life)	9,100.00	9,105.00	9,500.00
Retirement	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,500.00
Sexton: Compensation	6,500.00	6,240.00	6,240.00
Employee Payroll Taxes & NYS Disability Ins.	4,000.00	4,410.54	4,500.00
Employee Gift/Bonus	500.00	375.00	375.00
Workman's Compensation Insurance	1,300.00	1,405.00	1,200.00
Choirmaster	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Organist	1,000.00	0.00	500.00
Subtotal (Personnel Expenditures)	192,724.00	190,615.97	198,546.50
Diocesan Dues	13,190.00	11,921.00	14,619.00
Lawn Service & Snow Removal	10,500.00	8,850.00	8,850.00
Utilities-Gas & Electric	9,000.00	9,713.27	10,000.00
Repairs & Maintenance	10,000.00	9,950.01	10,000.00
Church Insurance	6,400.00	4,730.89	5,720.00
Office Supplies & Printing (Except Loosaper)	4,000.00	4,584.72	5,000.00
Subscriptions: Zoom, Google, Constant Contact	0.00	663.22	0.00
Telephone	2,500.00	2,402.25	2,500.00
Furniture & Equipment (including rentals)	2,000.00	1,473.96	1,500.00
New Surveillance System	5,000.00	8,550.00	0.00
Loosaper Costs	1,500.00	1,276.46	1,500.00
Altar Supplies (including Flowers & Candles)	1,000.00	1,322.83	1,100.00
Postage	1,500.00	2,108.83	2,200.00
Diocesan Delegates Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Service	1,100.00	1,150.40	1,150.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,000.00	890.16	1,000.00
Special Anniversaries Picnic	0.00	1,196.41	0.00
Adult Christian Education	1,000.00	850.00	500.00
General Supplies	1,000.00	553.85	750.00
Security Costs	650.00	649.00	650.00
Gifts & Contributions	500.00	250.00	250.00
Stipend for Visiting Clergy	500.00	975.00	500.00
Bank & Credit Card Fees	500.00	461.77	500.00
St. Nersess/Camp Vartan/St. Peter Scholarships	250.00	0.00	250.00
Total Expenditures	\$265,814.00	\$265,140.00	\$267,085.50
Revenues in excess of (less than) Expenditures	\$12,436.00	\$44,723.03	(\$27,085.50)

ST. PETER ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES, CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 & 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
ASSETS		
Cash:		
Cash in banks	\$84,080.69	\$47,001.70
Money Market Funds-LPL Financial	<u>2,032.37</u>	<u>4,314.28</u>
	\$86,113.06	\$51,315.98
Receivables:		
Due from Building Fund	<u> </u>	<u>\$40.00</u>
		40.00
Securities Available for Sale, at Market Value (Cost 2021 \$64,517.83; 2020 \$53,963.53)	75,848.14	64,731.84
Prepaid Item:		
Postage deposit	136.18	131.10
Loan receivable	<u>12,000.00</u>	<u>13,000.00</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$174,097.38</u>	<u>\$129,218.92</u>
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES		
ACYOA Funds	\$881.04	\$1,218.61
Due to Sipan Dance Group	595.17	595.17
Miscellaneous payables	593.00	
Due to Aid to Artsakh	<u> </u>	<u>100.00</u>
	\$2,069.21	\$1,913.78
Other Liabilities:		
Reserved for Bibles/Library	\$1,844.30	\$1,844.30
Reserved for Restoration of Paintings	1,100.00	1,100.00
Reserved for Altar Servers	126.78	126.78
Reserved for HIMA	<u>1,287.60</u>	<u>1,287.60</u>
	\$4,358.68	\$4,358.68
Total Liabilities	\$6,427.89	\$6,272.46
Fund Balances	<u>\$167,669.49</u>	<u>\$122,946.46</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	<u>\$174,097.38</u>	<u>\$129,218.92</u>

GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES, CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 & 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Balances - Beginning of Year	\$122,946.46	\$95,494.30
Add: Revenues in Excess of Expenditures	<u>44,723.03</u>	<u>27,452.16</u>
Balances - End of Year	<u>\$167,669.49</u>	<u>\$122,946.46</u>

ST. PETER ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
BUILDING FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES, CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 & 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
REVENUES:		
Entryway Project:		
Church Anniversary event	\$20,250.17	
United Armenian Calvary Congr. Church	20,857.85	
Other donations		\$20.00
Entryway Project subtotal	\$41,108.02	\$20.00
Bequest/In Lieu of Flowers from Gen'l Fund	100.00	9,835.00
General donations		452.00
Amazon Smile	238.12	252.17
Clynk bottle returns	286.95	257.67
Stripe/Round-Up	274.81	303.36
Collection box		45.87
Total Revenues	\$42,007.90	\$11,166.07
EXPENDITURES:		
Entrway Project Design Fees	\$3,400.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	17.20	\$9.45
Total Expenditures	\$3,417.20	\$9.45
Revenues in excess of Expenditures	<u>\$38,590.70</u>	<u>\$11,156.62</u>

ST. PETER ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
BUILDING FUND
STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES, CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 and 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
ASSETS:		
Cash in bank	\$70,013.64	\$31,462.94
Total Assets	<u>\$70,013.64</u>	<u>\$31,462.94</u>
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES:		
Liabilities:		
Due to General Fund	\$0.00	\$40.00
Fund Balances:		
Restricted for:		
Entryway project	\$37,867.02	\$159.00
Monument maintenance	2,000.00	2,000.00
Hall renovation	1,626.00	1,626.00
Playground	626.03	626.03
Unrestricted	27,894.59	27,011.91
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$70,013.64</u>	<u>\$31,422.94</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	<u>\$70,013.64</u>	<u>\$31,462.94</u>

BUILDING FUND
STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES, CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 and 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Fund Balances, Beginning of year	\$31,422.94	\$20,266.32
Add: Revenues in excess of expenditures	38,590.70	11,156.62
Fund Balances, End of year	<u>\$70,013.64</u>	<u>\$31,422.94</u>

**ST. PETER ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
ENDOWMENT FUND
STATEMENT OF ASSETS and FUND BALANCES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 and 2020**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
ASSETS		
Funds invested at ACEF	\$1,094,102.07	\$1,078,012.34
Increase in value of investments at ACEF	432,463.50	192,008.16
Total Assets	<u>\$1,526,565.57</u>	<u>\$1,270,020.50</u>
FUND BALANCES		
Permanent Funds	\$1,378,282.18	\$1,149,281.30
Special Purpose Funds	148,283.39	120,739.20
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$1,526,565.57</u>	<u>\$1,270,020.50</u>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
ENDOWMENT FUND
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 and 2020**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	\$1,270,020.50	\$1,185,238.70
INCREASES		
Income and market value change	\$289,809.71	\$104,355.85
New endowments	2,780.25	0.00
Additions to existing endowments	11,900.00	28,050.00
Total Increases	<u>\$304,489.96</u>	<u>\$132,405.85</u>
Total	<u>\$1,574,510.46</u>	<u>\$1,317,644.55</u>
DECREASES		
Distribution to Church	\$45,365.10	\$45,017.66
Withdrawals	2,579.79	2,606.39
Total Decreases	<u>\$47,944.89</u>	<u>\$47,624.05</u>
Fund Balances - End of Year	<u>\$1,526,565.57</u>	<u>\$1,270,020.50</u>

Note: A complete listing of St. Peter Armenian Church Endowment Funds will not be included in the printed Annual Report. For those whose family has an established endowment, information on that endowment will be available upon request at the Parish Assembly or by contacting the church office.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2021		\$4,447.45
REVENUES:		
Interest from the Grace & Dorothy Kenosian Endowment Fund	\$1,007.31	
Registration Fees	125.00	
Total Revenues		<u>\$1,132.31</u>
Total Cash Available		<u>\$5,579.76</u>
EXPENDITURES:		
Graduation Gifts & Fellowship	\$383.51	
Books & Supplies from Diocese	376.00	
Total Expenditures		<u>\$759.51</u>
Ending Balance - December 31, 2021		<u>\$4,820.25</u>

**ARMENIAN SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2021		
Checking Account Cash	\$11,337.39	
Passbook Savings	2,071.52	
Total Beginning Balance - January 1, 2021		\$13,408.91
REVENUES:		
Donation from United Arm. Calvary Congr. Church	\$10,428.93	
Increase in market value of investments at ACEF	2,082.40	
School Tuition	1,050.00	
Income from Mary DerArakelian Endowment Fund	148.78	
Joelle online concert	220.00	
Donations	296.52	
Interest from Savings	0.14	
Total Revenues		<u>\$14,226.77</u>
Total Cash Available		<u>\$27,635.68</u>
EXPENDITURES:		
Books and Christmas ornaments	1,802.12	
Donation to St. Peter General Fund (from Joelle concert)	200.00	
Donation to Knights of Vartan (for Armenia)	200.00	
Donation to Holy Cross Festival	100.00	
Donation to St. Peter Anniversaries Celebration	100.00	
Donation to Holy Cross (in lieu of flowers)	50.00	
Gifts (Easter/Joelle)	47.28	
Supplies	7.92	
Total Expenditures		<u>\$2,507.32</u>
Ending Balance - December 31, 2021		
Checking Account Cash	\$10,474.30	
Investment Account at ACEF	14,654.06	
Total Ending Balance - December 31, 2021		<u>\$25,128.36</u>

**WOMEN'S GUILD FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2021 \$4,691.41

REVENUES & EXPENDITURES - EVENTS

	Revenues	Expenditures	Net
Stocking Your Freezer Sale (2021)	\$9,585.62	\$3,368.59	\$6,217.03
Mother's Day (2022)	0.00	200.00	(\$200.00)
Tahin Hatz	4,216.23	1,410.52	\$2,805.71
Paint 'n Sip	1,147.41	542.67	\$604.74
Hokejosh	600.00	212.66	\$387.34
Harvest Fest	3,062.29	753.22	\$2,309.07
Totals	<u>\$18,611.55</u>	<u>\$6,487.66</u>	
Net Revenues & Expenditures - Events			\$12,123.89

REVENUES - OTHER

Donations	\$2,145.50
Cookbook Sales	320.00
Membership Dues	690.00
Festival Sponsorship	3,525.00
Miscellaneous Income	108.29
Total Revenues - Other	<u>\$6,788.79</u>
Total Cash Available	<u>\$23,604.09</u>

EXPENDITURES - OTHER

Donation to General Fund (2021)	\$16,000.00
CASP Sponsorship	250.00
Donation to Diocese	100.00
Sam's Club Membership	48.60
Anniversaries Celebration	534.73
Miscellaneous Expenses	232.85
Mixer Repair	553.55
Total Expenditures - Other	<u>\$17,719.73</u>
Ending Balance - December 31, 2021	<u>\$5,884.36</u>

**ACYOA JUNIORS FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2021 \$1,218.61

REVENUES:

Donations	\$75.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$75.00</u>
Total Cash Available	<u>\$1,293.61</u>

EXPENDITURES:

ACYOA Central Council Dues	\$50.00
June Cookout/Bonfire	84.58
October Discussions/Pizza Dinners	122.48
Christmas Cookie Activity	155.51
Total Expenditures - Other	<u>\$412.57</u>
Ending Balance - December 31, 2021	<u>\$881.04 *</u>

*ACYOA funds are currently held in the General Fund.