

“Didn’t see *that* coming!”

How many times have you heard or spoken these words since the early morning of the second Wednesday of November? I know a few of you prognosticated the outcome beforehand, but most of us—most of the country—were shocked, either elated or devastated by the election.

Now we continue to pray.
“Didn’t see *that* coming!”

I’m pretty sure that’s what the shepherds thought after the angelic army exploded in light over the Bethlehem hills. “A Savior? The Christ? A baby in a manger?” The magi had read it in the stars and the Hebrew scribes found the reference in scripture. It was within the realm of possibility, but did they really expect it? King Herod played it safe and slaughtered the young boys. His savage cruelty revealed who he truly was. But he didn’t see it coming and God was one step ahead of him.

But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent Him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children.

Galatians 4:4-5

Simeon & Anna needed special revelation from the Holy Spirit to recognize Jesus in the temple. Joseph, even needed an angelic vision to cooperate with God’s plan to save His people from their sin.

No one expected it! When the Son of God arrived, it was a humble, unassuming (except for the angels, of course) appearance. Rejected from the start, Jesus broke every expectation. He was raised the son of a carpenter in the back-country of Galilee, surrounded by rumors of illegitimacy that lasted into adulthood.

Sometimes we condescend toward to the people we read about in the Gospels. We wonder in disbelief that they could have been so obtuse as to miss the fact that the Messiah was walking among them,

performing miracles and uttering wisdom beyond anything they could imagine. They just couldn’t get over the idea that “anything good” could come out of Nazareth. We wouldn’t have either. We would have been just as thickheaded. If we had a hard time calling the election results, I doubt we would have recognized Jesus as the Christ!

But God knew exactly what He was doing. At just the right time, in just the right way, the eternal Son of God took on flesh. God became a human being. He was tempted in *every way*, just like us. He lived a much more difficult and inconvenient life than we do, yet never sinned. He faced rejection from the people He loved, betrayal from a close friend and abandonment from his own family and closest friends. Yet, He never said, “No.” to His Father.

This Christmas, let’s humble ourselves and admit that God’s ways are higher and wiser than ours. Let’s admit that we need His word and His revelation to see things from His perspective. Let’s embrace the surprise of God’s ways, His way of salvation: He sent His Son to live in our world, to bear the punishment we deserve for our sin, and having died on the cross to rise again to life, never to die again! Don’t let familiarity jade you. Embrace the wonder that you and I could be so loved!

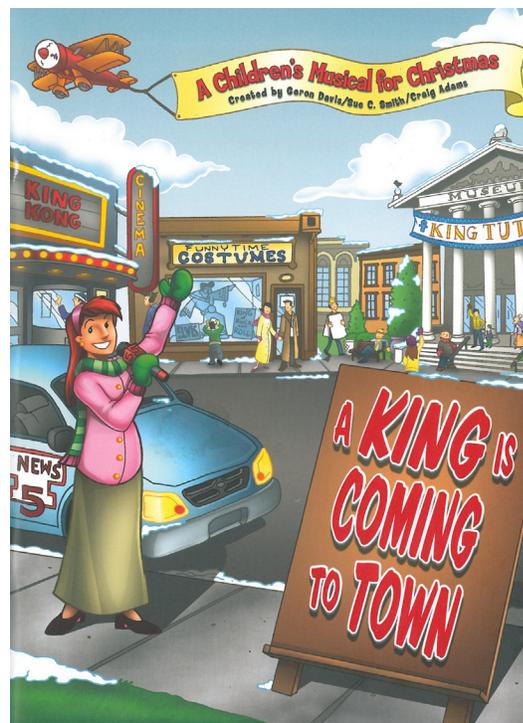
In humility, let’s worship together all month long! Don’t miss the play on the 4th or our Armenian Home visit on Friday, the 9th or the Annual meeting on the 11th (and caroling after to our homebound members) or the Sunday School Christmas Program on the 18th or the *afternoon* Christmas Eve “Carol Worship” at 3:30 p.m., and, of course, our Christmas Day Sunday worship! What a great month we have in store for us together!

You may not have seen it coming, but Christ has come! Rejoice and worship your King!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School @9:37AM

Join us on December 18, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. for “A King Is Coming To Town”, A Christmas Musical Drama. The students and a select group of adults of FAPC will put on a marvelous show about the wonderful story of the best Christmas Gift ever. The play’s setting is in a town called Rumors Mill where, you guessed it, rumors run rampant. A sign is posted in the town square that states a king is coming. Just who this King is, no one seems to know. But that hasn't stopped residents from getting ready for the upcoming event. The town reporter, Coop Anderson (Peter Kazarian), is on the story. Mayor Big Wheel (Frank Kazarian) is using the news for publicity. Sheriff Badge (Silas Emerian) is trying to keep order and Barbara Booster (Ani Haroutunian) is hoping this will get Rumor's Mill in the Top 100 Best Towns in America. Is it King Tut, King Kong, or the King of Rock & Roll? Drew (Eddy Thurber) and Ellie (Bella Thurber) have the answer, as they want to tell the real story of Christmas.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Junior High and Senior High Youth Group (Sundays after church)

Helpless Sheep Need Christmas

Last month, our FAPC youth attended an Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship (AEYF) retreat in Pasadena, CA. We were joined by churches all over California for this unique event. Typically these retreats consist of times of worship and biblical teaching; which is great, but very self-focused. This time after we concluded our worship/teaching time, all 55 of us boarded a bus and headed over to the Dream Center in Los Angeles. This is a massive ministry that ministers to people who are homeless, in drug rehab, and poor government housing neighborhoods. We had the privilege to serve the downtrodden in the Watts community. Our group walked the streets picking up trash simply to display the love of Christ to the people. Others in the group went door to door inviting the people to an outreach event where the message of Christ would be shared with them. Matthew 9:36 says that Jesus had compassion on the crowds of people because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Christmas should remind us that all of humanity are like lost sheep headed for destruction and we can only be saved by Christ. Therefore, let us go into the harvest field and proclaim the saving message of Christ in our families, neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and anywhere Christ is not known.

●●●●● Badveli Phil

Upcoming Event:

Youth Christmas Party @ The Statler Residence, December 13th 6:00-9:30pm. We will be walking Christmas Tree Lane so please dress accordingly!

WINTER CAMP 2017

FEARNOT

being certain in uncertainty

Isaiah 41:10



Weekend Dates

HIGH SCHOOL: JANUARY 13-15

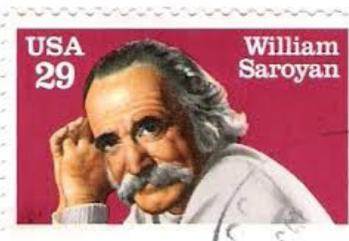
COLLEGE & CAREER: JANUARY 20-22

JUNIORS: JANUARY 27-29

JUNIOR HIGH: FEBRUARY 3-5

For information call 818.507.0922 | To register visit www.camparev.org

Longtime FAPC Member *Helen Jean (Mourad) Baboian* recently celebrated her 94th birthday in northwest Fresno. A native of Chicago, Helen married FAPC Elder Chester Baboian on October 18, 1952 with Reverend Arsham K. Yeramian officiating at the service. Helen taught for many years in the Primary Department of the FAPC Sunday School and Chester was a member of the Building Committee that relocated the Church Campus from Fulton and Santa Clara Streets to First Street and Huntington Boulevard 75 years ago. The Session wishes Helen a blessed year ahead!



The FAPC Heritage Committee and the Knights and Daughters of Vartan will present the 25th Anniversary Screening of the Award-Winning Documentary “William Saroyan: The Man, The Writer” with Director Paul Kalinian and Producer Susie Kalinian D.M.D. 1 p.m., Sunday, March 5, 2017/FAPC Fellowship Hall. Please Watch for More Details in the January Mosaix.



The FAPC Men's Fellowship returns on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 with our Annual Armenian Christmas Dinner and special guest Dr. Richard A. Kriegbaum, *President of Fresno Pacific University*. Mezza -- 6:30 p.m. Barbecue Dinner -- 7 p.m. Please call (559) 237-6638 for Reservations. More Details in the January Mosaix.

Our Condolences:



Dennis Karnig Hamamjian, longtime member of FAPC, passed away on November 8, 2016 at the age of 67. Active in produce sales for almost four decades, Dennis was preceded in death by his parents Karnig and Eleanor (Emerzian) Hamamjian, and grandparents, Paul and Annie Hamamjian and Charles and Elizabeth Emerzian. Dennis is survived by his beloved wife, Evelyn Hamamjian; his daughter, Jennifer Hovannisian and her husband Bryce; his son, Charles Paul Hamamjian and his wife Julie; and two grandchildren, Benjamin and Alice Hovannisian.



MUSIC CORNER

“Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with the timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.”

I'd like to invite you to join us with your instrument or voice in praising the Lord!

Band: rehearsals are every Wednesday from 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Choir: rehearsals are every Sunday, from 9:45am to 10:45am in the choir room behind the platform.

Questions can be directed to Jesse at music@fapc.net or on the phone at 559-978-7832



The ladies of FAPC are invited to attend a CATERED CHRISTMAS CELEBRATORY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 7th at 11:30 a.m.
 945 E. Windsor Circle, Fresno.

Join us for food and fellowship, featuring a fun time to get to know Sossy and Tamar, our Pastors' wives, better!

Please RSVP by Sunday, December 4 to Nelda at 434-6194





Congratulations to *Isabella and Gabriella Thurber* for placing 1st in the Junior Art exhibition at the the Big Fresno Fair this year!



My life story began when I truly came to know Jesus. Jesus rescued me and redeemed my life in a way I never could have anticipated or imagined. I owe every success, every good thing, and every ounce of glory to Jesus Christ.

This past May, I obtained a BA in psychology from Fresno State University. I have been working in Selma Unified School District for two years now, as a substitute teacher. God has given me a love for working with children. He has taught me that we can learn so much from children through their childlike faith, the kind of faith that God calls us to have.

I've grown up in the Christian faith since I was a child. My family has always radiated the love of Christ in our home. I didn't understand fully what it meant to have a relationship with Jesus until I was a sophomore in high school. I came to know Jesus through worship. I began to play guitar and sing songs to him and there He met me in my brokenness. Through high school and college, I was tossed by the waves and was faced with many trials in my faith. However, He kept good on his promise in Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ."



This October, *Judi Kazarian* had an opportunity to travel to Utah and be a part of the election process. She along with other teens, went door-to-door asking Utah residents their views on abortion, local politicians, and the presidential candidates. In interviewing Judi, she says, "It was adventurous to fly without my parents and to walk over 26 miles in 3 days." She also said, "The experience was great, because we were able to have an impact on this year's historical election."

Two years ago, Jesus reclaimed me as his own and redeemed my life. I began to walk with him each day and learn about who He is and who I am in Him. He placed me at VIA Church where I began leading worship with my sister and connected with people who constantly point me toward Jesus and push me in my faith. He also placed me here at FAPC and blessed me with an amazing church family here as well.

I am so thankful for all that Jesus has done in my life and I am thankful for FAPC, where I am able to use my musical gifts, my love for children, and my heart for Jesus.

●●●● Ashley Morris

Locusts on Christmas

I love the AG life.

I didn't know what AG stood for until I moved to Fresno. AG stands for agriculture. Quite honestly, this once city boy is even thinking about buying some boots and a pick-up truck. Not that that describes Fresno, but as a city boy I didn't know how great the AG life could be.

I love that on our property we have a plum, orange, lemon, tangerine tree, and a grapevine. However, the lemon tree is struggling. It has got some kind of disease. I planted it three years ago after we bought the house. Finally this year, it gave one lemon and even that had to be tossed. Repeatedly, I've treated it, cut the branches and leaves that are shriveled and have discolored. It keeps blossoming, but not giving fruit. My thought is the soil is bad so I either have to transplant it and plant it somewhere else, or toss it out. (I'm sure those readers who have AG experience will be sending me their recommendations, or will want to come over and give me their diagnosis, and I'm looking forward to it.)

I've never read through the short Old Testament book, Joel. I also don't think it's one of those books one wants to read as they get ready for Christmas. In our minds, Christmas is good, fun to celebrate with the people we love, decorations, 'the best time of the year, Jesus being born, shopping, giving gifts to those we love, and I'm sure we can come up with many other things and be reminded of our own traditions. When writing for Mosaix, I have committed myself to cover a book in the Bible for each article, and I've reached Joel. It's quite a challenge to bridge Joel, a prophet announcing the judgement coming to Israel, and Christmas.

The book of Joel is not happy and fun like Christmas. It starts with a plague of locusts destroying and devouring crops. The destruction that is described makes my lemon tree look healthy. But the illustration of this plague



is to remind God's people, that God's judgment is coming - the "day of the Lord," is coming. Again, not the story we want to remember at Christmastime. But throughout the prophet's message of judgement is a reminder of hope, compassion, and kindness to those who want to follow Jesus. It always breaks my heart when I have to discipline Emi when she misbehaves. Most of the time afterwards, I'm kissing her and hugging her until she's sick of it. I can't even fathom how God feels with us when we stray or are disobedient.

Christmas reminds me of God's love. It reminds me that even if I'm sometimes hurtful with my words, God loves me and sent Jesus for my sin. It reminds me when I'm clearly disobedient to God, that He still loved me and sent His son to die instead of me enduring that punishment. It reminds me that when I pursue other gods, that God still loves me and sent His son who saved me from those gods. Christmas reminds me that when Jesus comes again on the day of judgment, that I won't be devoured by locusts or the devastation that will happen, but because of His love, mercy, and grace on the cross, I will see and experience the best garden, healthiest with Him. This is a good reminder for us, even during Christmas.

Joel 2:32 says, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." The best gift one can give me is the news that they know Jesus as their Lord and Savior and that they live with Him daily. The best gift we can pass on to others, is Joel 2:32.

●●●●● Badveli Mgo



"It's A Wonderful Life"

Sunday Dec 4, 2016

1PM

Everybody's favorite holiday classic is on the air. Join us for a buffet lunch before curtain opens. Tickets are still available, please call Rita Shamlian to make reservations.

Merchant's Lunch 2016

We were excited to see God's amazing blessings on this year's Merchant's Lunch. It was a blessing as the church community bonded together in preparation. It was a blessing because we had a chance to serve our Fresno community. And lastly, it was a blessing because all the proceeds will go to help Syrian refugees. Thank you to all! -Co-Chairs Jonelle Kazarian and Lisa Tokatian





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Upcoming Special Events

First Friday Worship Night, 7PM	Dec 2
Joint Worship Service/Communion "It's A Wonderful Life" Play @ 2nd Space Theatre	Dec 4
Congregational Meeting	Dec 11
Christmas Caroling after Congrea Sunday School Christmas Program & Dinner, 4pm	Dec 18
Christmas Eve Service, 3:30PM	Dec 24
Christmas Sunday Worship Service	Dec 25
Administrative Office Closed	Dec 26 & Jan 2
No Sunday School	Dec 25 & Jan 1
Joint Worship Service/Communion	Jan 1
Armenian Christmas (Office closed)	Jan 6

Church Office:
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
(M - F)
P: 559.237.6638
F: 559.237.9526
E: fapc@fapc.net

***Mosaix submissions are
due by the
15th of the month.
Please e-mail
information to
fapc3@fapc.net.***

Staff:

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Jesse Dunbar, Interim Music Ministry Director
Jonathan Harrison, Media
Vera Darakjian, Armenian Ministries Pianist
Marisa Bagato, Administrative Assistant &
Nursery Attendant
Ashley Morris, Nursery Attendant
Susan Ruiz, Custodian

Teaching Elders:

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Rev. Mgo Mekredijian, Associate Pastor of Young Families' Ministries (associate@fapc.net)
Rev. Phil Garo, Jr., Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries (pgaro@fapc.net)

Ruling Elders:

Kenneth Bedrosian, Jayson Emerian, Ed Esajian, Krikor Kalayjian,
Paul Koligian, Fernando Rubio, Dennis Shamlian, Dan Sivas.

Deacons:

David Avakian, Richard Bittikofer, Vera Darakjian, Silva Esajian,
Sela Ghazarian, Keith Harrison, Maria Kalayjian, Kohar Kojayan,
Bob Mangasarian, Anto Sakayan, Rita Shamlian, Varvara Sivas.

