

Sometimes, don't you just want to push back? Aren't there times, when you wish you could leave behind the considerate, courteous ... and obedient Christian life? Maybe just for a few minutes?

Maybe it's with a colleague or a boss or a neighbor. Maybe it's the parent of one of your children's friends. Maybe a customer or client or even a family member gets under our skin. Maybe a teacher or a bully at school—or maybe it's a teacher who is a bully at school! Sometimes most of us come to the end of our selves and want to push back.

We come up with various rationalizations that justify our imagined counter-attack. We gleefully envision their humiliation. They grovel before us, the righteous ones!!! Well, maybe that's going a little too far. For some of us, maybe not far enough!

Harder still is when we experience disrespect because we are followers of Jesus Christ. It's not just our children or students who experience rejection because of their faith. Many adults, even in our congregation, have been silenced and intimidated into remaining silent about their love for Christ and their passion to see Him honored and praised.

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 1 Peter 3:15

Have you gone quiet in your witness? Maybe you keep quiet because you don't trust yourself to remain respectful if a disagreement ensues. Maybe you secretly hope they *won't* repent and believe so you could quietly rejoice in their impending doom.

But we can't hit back and we can't withdraw. Those in close proximity to us need to hear about the love of Christ and they need to hear it from people who reflect the resolute and unflinching respect and gentleness of Jesus Christ, the risen Son of God.

Instead of pushing back, our Savior calls us to express His love in word and action, giving an answer to everyone who asks about our hope. Wait! Does this mean if no one asks then we don't need to say anything? That sort of misses the point.

The gentle and respectful Christian's behavior nearly always prompts and invites questions, almost teasing those around them, baiting them to find out how and why they conduct themselves so differently than everyone else. When we love God with all that we are and others as ourselves (when we "set apart Christ as Lord"), we really do stand out!

They may not have verbalized their questions to you, but they're watching, maybe waiting for just the right, safe, casual moment to ask. They may even be waiting for you to ask them about their opinions about spiritual things and how people can know God. Go ahead and ask. Most people would be happy to give you their thoughts if they knew you wouldn't be "locked & loaded", ready to give it to them. Ask & listen ... and stay quiet! Resist the urge to correct. It may just be the beginning of a wonderfully respectful and transformative relationship.

Don't miss, too, the opportunity to invite your friends or colleagues or classmates or neighbors to CITYFEST, April 1-2 at the SaveMart Center. This is a fantastic chance to welcome them to a non-threatening context to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. Easter Breakfast and Worship are coming up in April too. Let's pray for three people who need the love of Christ and pray for us to be respectful and gracious bearers of good news!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School @9:37AM

Kids Quest (Ages 4-7) during the worship service

Nursery: (Ages 1-3) (9:30AM-12:30PM)

This is an article that will be printed in an upcoming AMAA magazine.

FAPC Sunday School Children Help Children in Syria

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) recently received a donation of \$550 from the Sunday School children of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church in Fresno, CA. Each year the Sunday School children select a mission project to invest their prayers, concerns and resources. This year they selected the children in Syria, who have undergone and continue to experience so much suffering and unrest.



Arpi Keledjian, Sunday School Director, said that the 15 children, ages 5-12, were moved by all the devastation taking place in Syria. Several students were so touched that they emptied their piggy banks on a regular basis. Within a few months, they were able to collect the money to send to the AMAA.

Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO, thanked the children for their generosity and concern and encouraged them to continue developing a giving heart and to pray for the children and their families in Syria.



On February 12, 2017, Lydia Kalebjian (right), Micah Garo (center), and Lucas Keledjian (left) recited all of 1 Corinthians 13 by heart. They were awarded medals and gift cards for their efforts.



Our 2017 FAPC's Sunday School Mission Theme is to help the Syrian refugees in Toronto, Canada. Arpi Keledjian was able to connect with Rev. Serop Megerditchian, Senior Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto and she was informed that our sister church in Toronto has taken in close to 65 people. So our Sunday School classes of all ages are collecting funds to send over some relief to our sister church. If you would love to participate, please make sure you hand your donations to Arpi K.

●●●●● Arpi Keledjian

WINTER CAMP 2017

FEARNOT

being certain in uncertainty

Isaiah 41:10



Weekend Dates

HIGH SCHOOL: JANUARY 13-15

COLLEGE & CAREER: **MARCH 12-14**

JUNIORS: JANUARY 27-29

JUNIOR HIGH: FEBRUARY 3-5

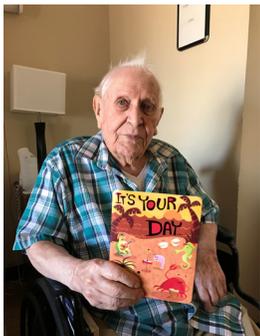
For information call 818.507.0922 | To register visit www.camparev.org



Armenian Theological Students' Aid, Inc. will hold its 73rd Annual Scholarship Luncheon on Sunday, March 19, at FAPC. The complimentary brisket dinner will take place at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Harut Khachatryan**, Youth Pastor at United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, will be the guest speaker. For more information, please contact Dr. Jason Keledjian at (559) 301-1127 or Edward Saliba at (559) 907-8110.



Marisa Sue Bagato and **Toby Steve Garza** were engaged to be wed on February 3, 2017 in Maui, Hawaii. Marisa is the daughter of Tony and Kim Bagato of Clovis and is the FAPC Administrative Assistant and Lead Nursery Attendant. Toby is the son of Lupe and Martha Garza of Selma and is currently an admissions representative and recruiter for Grand Canyon University. The happy couple welcome the prayers of the extended FAPC Family during this very special time in their lives.



Clarence Davis celebrated his 97th Birthday at Pacific Gardens Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Sunnyside on February 15. Clarence was married to Doris Mae (Hovivian) Davis for many years until her passing in 2006. His loved ones include daughters Karen Davis and Ruth Nash, son-in-law Eddie Nash, grandchildren Michael and Sarah, and nieces Joyce Markarian and Nancy Hensel and their families.

Eddie Nash, grandchildren Michael and Sarah, and nieces Joyce Markarian and Nancy Hensel and their families.



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!

Praise Band: rehearsals are every Wednesday from 6:30–8:30pm.

Choir: rehearsals are every Sunday, from 9:45-10:45am in the choir room behind the platform.

Questions for Jesse at music@fapc.net or on the phone at 559-978-7832



The Deacons Corner

Badveli Phil,

We are honored to be able to celebrate with you on your special day. Thank you for all you do for our church. May the lord bless you richly. Happy Birthday!



(Picture above) Deacons visiting **Badveli Greg's** parents, **Vahack & Elizabeth Haroutunian**



"What is Friendship?" is the theme of the 2017 Saroyan Writing Contest, presented by the William Saroyan Society in association with the Fresno County Public Library and Office

of Education. The Contest is open to students from First Grade through College. Additional information and flyers are available at www.williamsaroyansociety.org.

IN PREPARATION FOR YOUR EASTER CELEBRATIONS:

ARE YOU IN KNEED FOR MORE DELICIOUS CHOREG? WANT MORE?

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS OPPORTUNITY!!

BRING YOUR CHECKBOOKS TO CHURCH ON **SUNDAY, MARCH 12**, BECAUSE WE HAVE REDUCED THE PRICES GREATLY ON CHOREG.

- A DOZEN FILLED CHOREG FOR \$10.00
- A DOZEN PLAIN CHOREG FOR \$7.00
- 1 ROEJIG STICK FOR \$5.00

PLEASE SEE ELAINE GARO, JONELLE KAZARIAN OR LISA TOKATIAN

The 2017 Camp AREV Celebration Banquet will take place in the Los Angeles Area on Sunday, March 19. The 2017 Camp AREV Woemn's Retreat will be held at the Edward J. Manishagian Conference Center in Frazier Park on March 31 - April 2. For more information, please call (818) 507-0922 or visit www.camparev.org.



FOR ALL AGES:

On April 14, 2017, 9:30AM, Sona Atoian will lead a workshop on Wooden Egg Acryllic Painting. You don't want to miss this family fun event. IT IS FREE. Sign up by either emailing Marisa, fapc3@fapc.net or call the church, 237-6638. Please make sure you let us know the ages of your children.



Our Condolences:



Carmella Marie Bandelian, widow of John Bandelian, Sr., passed away in Fresno on February 10 at the age of 91. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband; parents Luigi and Angelina Russo, and brothers John and Lou. Carmella is survived by her three sons, Chuck and his wife

Lisa, Richard and his wife Shaunna, and Johnnie Jr. and Caro all of Fresno; and by her devoted long time caregiver, Mina Martinez. She is also survived by her sisters-in-law, Janice Russo of Fresno, and Emily Bandelian of Grover City; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



FAPC was the host congregation for the 2017 Fresno Community Vartanantz Celebration of Faith & Nation. The Celebration took place on the evening of February 23 and commemorated the Battle of Avarair in 451 A.D. when a band of Armenian soldiers, clergy, and companions under the leadership of General Vartan Mamigonian resisted the massive Persian army.

The Armenians sacrificed their lives to defend their Christian faith and preserve their freedom to worship God. The 2017 gathering opened with a Joint Worship Service featuring vocal music by a joint choir under the direction of Jesse Dunbar. Reverend Gregory V. Haroutunian delivered the Armenian Message, a meditation on 1 Peter 3:15. Father Yeghia Hairabedian of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church of Fowler gave the English Message.

The evening continued with a Civic Program. Garo I. Istanbulian, C.P.A., the Commander of the Knights of Vartan Yeprad Tahlij, served as Master of Ceremonies. Philip Tavlian shared the 1952 Vartanantz Message of FAPC's seventh pastor, Reverend Arsham Khachadoor Yeramian (1897-1972). The students of the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School offered stirring songs, poems, and recitations to round out the program. The gathering concluded with a buffet dinner hosted by the Knights and the Daughters of Vartan Alidz Otyag in the Fellowship Hall.

Phil Tavlian

“Mr. Fix-It”

FAPC Men’s Ministries kicked off the 120th Anniversary Year of the Congregation with their 2017 Men’s Retreat at Hartland Christian Camp. The 18th Annual Convocation took place on the weekend of February 24-26. The snow-carpeted hills of the Sequoia National Forest greeted 56 men between the ages of 13 and 80+. Many of the guests were first-time attendees and the group convened in the beautiful A-Frame Sequoia Chapel.

Reverend Philip C. Garo, Jr., Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries, was the keynote speaker for the weekend and his topic was “Mr. Fix-It.” Using a 3-horsepower Briggs & Stratton lawnmower engine as a teaching aid, Reverend Garo described the need for men to have Compression, Spark, and Fuel in their spiritual lives. He explained that “God is Mr. Fix-It – He takes us from death to life; from condemnation in our sins to useful work.” He added that “our response to new life in Jesus Christ should be good works done joyfully” to build up the Body of Christ for unity. The three-day ministry event consisted of four sessions,

featuring “Guess the Guest” contests, Badveli Phil’s talks, and praise worship led by Interim Choir Director Jesse Dunbar and a rotating seven-member Praise Band. Highlighting the weekend were small group prayer sessions in which guests read Scripture and interceded for brothers at the Retreat as well as many others in the extended Church Family.

Guests enjoyed sumptuous meals – from the Friday New England Thanksgiving Dinner to the Sunday Omelet Brunch Buffet -- prepared by Executive Chef Joshua Embry and his culinary team. Saturday afternoon was devoted to indoor sports at the Hartland Gym and skeet and paper target marksmanship at a neighboring shooting range. The fireside lounges in Eshom and Whispering Pines Lodges were hotbeds of evening activity, offering endless snacks, board games, and high-decibel hands of French Belote. The Sunday morning session concluded with Holy Communion and the singing of the Hayr Mer. If you would like more information on FAPC Men’s Ministries or would like more information on Badveli Phil’s talks, please call (559) 237-6638 or e-mail pgaro@fapc.net.

Phil Tavlian



GOOD NEWS IN THE VALLEY

www.fresnocityfest.org

fresno
CITYFEST

APRIL 1-2

SAVE MART CENTER

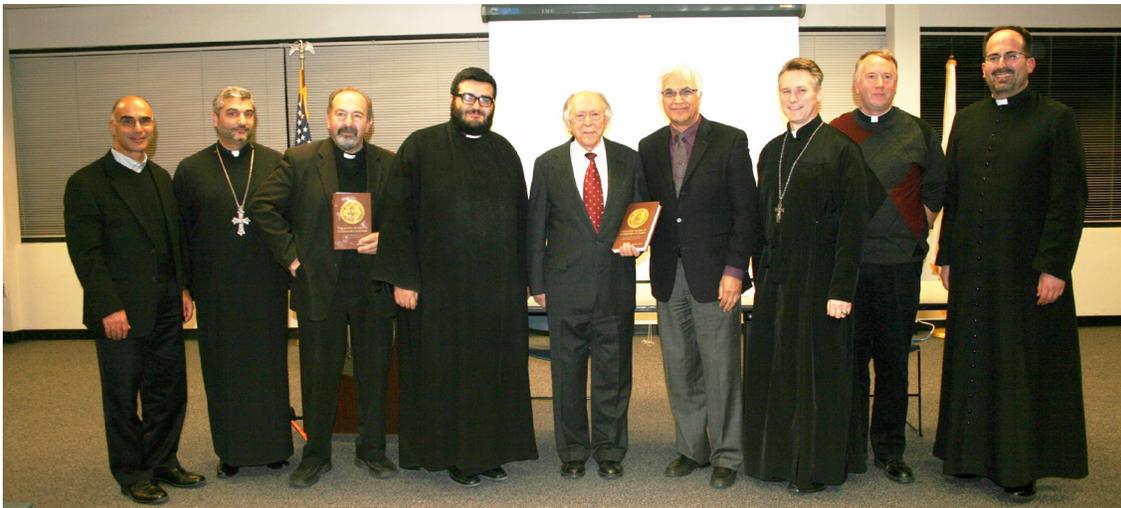
FREE EVENT

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM TRAINING

March 2 | 7:00 PM
Crosspoint Church
2518 N Cedar Avenue

March 5 | 12:15 PM
Northwest Church
5415 N West Avenue

Bring a FRIEND to the
Ladies Luncheon
Noon, Wednesday, March 29
Valdez Hall, Selland Arena



Rev. Greg Haroutunian and several of the area clergy with Dr. Abraham Terian on the presentation of his book, *The Festal Works of St. Gregory of Narek*.



**First
Armenian
Presbyterian
Church**

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Upcoming Special Events

First Friday Worship & Prayer	Mar 3
Armenian Home Worship	Mar 5
ATSA Luncheon	Mar 19
Annual Meeting	Mar 26
Luis Palau City Fest	Apr 1-2
Armenian Home Worship	Apr 2
Palm Sunday	Apr 9
Maundy Thursday Event	Apr 13
Wooden Egg Acrylic Painting	Apr 14
Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt & Worship Service	Apr 16
First Friday Worship & Prayer	May 5
Memorial Day Event	May 28
First Friday Worship & Prayer	June 2

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:
Suzy Artemyan, Church Administrator
Jesse Dunbar, Interim Music Ministry Director
Jonathan Harrison, Media
Vera Darakjian, Armenian Ministries Pianist
Marisa Bagato, Administrative Assistant &
Nursery Attendant
Marine Frznlyan, Nursery Attendant
Susan Ruiz, Custodian

Teaching Elders: Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Senior Pastor (badveli@fapc.net)
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: Hagop Afarian, Kenneth Bedrosian, Ed Esajian, Krikor Kalayjian, Paul Kologian, Fernando Rubio, Dennis Shamlan, Ron Statler

Deacons: Vera Darakjian, Silva Esajian, Maryvonne Gagliardi, Sela Ghazarian, Sossy Haroutunian, Keith Harrison, Maria Kalayjian, Kohar Kojayan, Bob Mangasarian, Anto Sakayan, Rita Shamlan, Varvara Sivas

