

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:2

“Someone *must* be praying for me!”

“It’s the prayer! It *has to be* the people praying! There’s no other explanation!”

You’ve thought this before, haven’t you? Right now, I am absolutely convinced someone or a number of people are praying specifically for me. They have to be praying for my marriage and my relationship with my children. There’s no other explanation for my increased level of patience or kindness. They know me and I know me! Something’s different!

They have to be praying for my relationship with God. I confess that it’s been quite a while since I have enjoyed my time with God in prayer, reading His Word, and even praying for other people like I am right now. I don’t want to be dramatic, but I genuinely look forward to spending time with the Lord. Not a bad thing for your pastor, right?!

They are definitely praying for me as a pastor too! I am thinking differently, doing things differently, planning things (more than 1-2 weeks in advance!) and experiencing perspective as the Senior Pastor of FAPC like never before!

The only explanation is God! Yet, I’m convinced that frequently God waits to accomplish His will in our lives until we or someone else or multiple “someones” begin to pray and continue to pray. Too frequently I’ve thought of prayer like feeding coins in a vending machine, like a formula. Offer enough prayers, with enough earnestness, from enough people and you’ve got a better chance of getting the answer that you want.

But our Heavenly Father is a person! How would you feel



if your friends treated you like a vending machine? Your kids? Wait, don’t answer that! Honestly though, I know I’m not the only person who has missed out on experiencing an intimate relationship with

God in prayer. To quote a friend who’s praying for me daily, “It’s not about the answers, Greg. It’s about the relationship. He wants you to know how much He loves you and wants you to experience His love.”

What’s funny is that as I begin (and I so feel like a rookie!) to focus on God as a person, He seems to be doing some significantly tangible work in my life. What I’m loving is that there is not a discernible correlation to time spent in prayer or Bible-reading and His clear involvement. So much so, that it’s been other people asking me what’s going on.

We have a long way to go in growing up in Christ, but I’m very encouraged! And I’m so grateful because the timing couldn’t be better for my family and several people that we love dearly who are in desperate need of prayer. I feel like I’m beginning to learn about how to pray for healing and it’s not coming from books. The lessons come more from tears and gratitude than printed or pixelated pages.

Please join us on Sunday mornings from 9-10:40 a.m. in the Bridal Room. Isn’t that an appropriate place for the Bride of Christ to meet in prayer?! You don’t need to stay the whole time. Just come & go as you can before Sunday School or come early for church and pray ahead of time. Honestly, in the last minute rush before we worship, I’m only there part of the time, but Kalem Kazarian and several others are there—both men and women.

Also, there are a small number of people praying together daily at 10 a.m. over the phone. We call in to a conference call and we share a little and pray for a total of about 25 minutes max. Ask Kalem for the details and join us when you can!

I’m excited to focus on prayer during the Lenten season. From February 18-March 18 we’ll be reflecting on prayer picking up from where we left off with Ephesians 6:18, “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

We’ll be reflecting together from different passages about “all kinds of prayers and requests” from the Old and New Testaments. I hope you’ll plan on participating in worship and joining in giving special attention to develop a life of prayer.

Finally, please do pass on to me any prayer requests you have for Sunday morning. Tell me directly, tell your Deacon or email them to me or text them to me or even slip a piece of paper in my mail slot outside the office. We want to make sure that we can share each others’ joys and hardships in prayer together.

MUSIC NEWS!

Our first handbell choir meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7th in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. Please RSVP to Music@fapc.net or by calling/texting Jesse Dunbar at 978-7832. Thank you and see you there.

"...with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals."

2 Samuel 6:5b



Hope Now for Youth, Inc., a Fresno-based mission supported by FAPC, will hold its 25th Anniversary Banquet on February 22. More information is available by calling (559) 237-7215 or visiting www.hopenow.org. Rev. Roger A.D. Minassian founded the ministry to inner city gang members in 1993.



Tim and **Noelle Nightingale** and their daughters Ivory and Vienne were featured in the December 2017 issue of Bluffs View Magazine, a publication of Best Version Media. Also, special congratulations to Tim Nightingale on being named Interim Executive Director of Stone Soup Fresno founded by Kathy Garabed, Stone Soup is a community benefit organization located near the Fresno State Campus and dedicated to serving the Southeast Asian and El Dorado Park communities.



"Places You Know, Places You've Been" an exhibition of cityscapes and landscapes by Ara F. Normart, Jr. will be on display at the Henry Madden Library of California State University, Fresno beginning the evening of February 9. The brother of former FAPC Organist Joyce Kerkorian, "Corky" Normart is known for his watercolors, sculptures, stained glass works, and design of the Dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. For more information about the exhibition, please call Sharon Ramirez at (559) 278-5790.

Deacon's Corner

FAPC Armenian Women's Bible Study
Christmas Celebration

Christmas is my favorite time of the year. I love Christmas because our Lord Jesus was born for us! The Armenian woman's Bible study group got together for a special Christmas party at Sivas residence. The Christmas celebration, led by Karine Martirosyan, was meaningful and fun. The afternoon began with lunch followed by Bible games and gift exchange. It's an awesome feeling to come together to celebrate and remember Christ our Lord.

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Matthew 2:10



●●●●● Sela Ghazarian

FAPC hosted the first nightly fasting prayer service in the 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting of 2018. More than 100 people from congregations across Fresno and Clovis gathered at the FAPC Campus on January 8 to pursue the theme "Unity with God: Repentance" and to learn that prayer and fasting are normal in the life of believers, now and in the past. The 21 Day Adventure of Obedience concluded with an "End of Fast" Celebration at Cornerstone Church in Downtown Fresno on January 28.



The Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School started the New Year with a January 8 student assembly featuring a prayer of invocation by our very own Rev. Mgo Mekredjian and introducing new CKACS Interim Principal Curtis Shamlin.

Our Condolences:



Margaret Mary June (Aslanian) Krikorian, mother of Susan Dalitian, passed away on November 27, 2017 at the age of 95. A native of the Wahtoke/Reedley area of Fresno County, Margaret graduated from Fresno Technical High School and served for many years as office manager of the family business, West Coast Draperies and Interiors. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Leo; parents, Dickran and Baidzar Aslanian; and sisters Eunice Rustigian and Dorothy Longcor and their spouses. She is survived by her daughter, Susan; son-in-law Ronald; grandson, Matthew Braydon; and a number of nieces and nephews.



Mariam Mary (Kirakosian) Megrđichian, mother of Rosie Bedrosian, passed away on January 7, 2018 at the age of 88. A native of North Ossetia-Alania, Mariam grew up in Novorosisk, Russia and was relocated with her family to forced labor camps in Heilbronn, Germany during World War II. Through the efforts of Restaurateur George Mardikian and Brigadier General Haig Shekerjian, Mariam was one of more than 5,000 Armenian Displaced Persons who emigrated to the United States from Postwar Europe, settling first in Detroit, Michigan and later Central California. Mariam was preceded in death by her parents, Gregor and Begsat Kirakosian; brother Galust Kirakosian, and beloved husband, Hovhannes Megrđichian. She is survived by her daughter, Rose Varouhi, and son-in-law Bryan Bedrosian; grandson Armen Bedrosian, M.D. and his wife, Stephanie; great-granddaughters, Lillian Sonya and Vivian Rose; and siblings Rose Hovanesian and Levon Kirakosian and their families.



Isabel (Paul) Garabedian, precious member of FAPC, passed away on January 17, 2018 at the age of 95. A native of New Castle, Pennsylvania, Isabel moved to California in 1977 and was a banking administrative assistant for the Wells Fargo and Sanwa financial institutions. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 37 years, Gary Garabedian; her brother, Harry Paul; and her sister, Florence Najarian. She is survived by her four children and their families: Robert and Kay and their children, Aaron and Lauren; Donald and Cassandra; Lisa Garabedian; and Karen and Alfred Sandoval. She is also survived by her two nephews, Jim and Harry Najarian, and brother, Ara Paul.



The Armenian Missionary Association of America invites the young people of FAPC to participate in the All-Armenian Evangelical Youth Conference 2018.

The global conference will take place in the Republic of Armenia on August 2-16, 2018. The conference program will include sightseeing and worship in and near Yerevan, a special retreat at the AMAA Sheen-Shoghik Conference Center in Hankavan, and hands-on missions service throughout Armenia and Artsakh. The theme of the Conference is "Continue in what you have learned . . ." (2Tim. 3:14). Financial assistance is available. Please contact Badveli Greg or Badveli Mgo for an application form and Conference brochure.

More than 170 people gathered in the FAPC Fellowship Hall on the afternoon of January 21 to celebrate the ministry of *Philip Charles Garo, Jr.*, Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries. Badveli Phil recently concluded six and one-half years of ordained ministry at FAPC to re-enter private enterprise.

The afternoon opened with a prayer of invocation by Senior Pastor Gregory V. Haroutunian. Guests dined on sumptuous Famous Dave's barbecue cuisine served buffet style by members of the FAPC Youth Groups. At the end of the feast, Deacon Anto Sakayan introduced a video by Morgan Marashian and Carina Tokatian. The video, entitled "Dear Pastor Phil," featured members of the FAPC Youth and the Youth Advisory Team sharing their warm memories of Badveli Phil's service.

Speaking live in the Hall, Carina Tokatian, Morgan Marashian, and Mark Haroutunian offered their impressions of Youth Group, Camping, and Bible Study experiences with Badveli Phil in their "growing up" years. Anto Sakayan praised Badveli Phil for staying true to the Scriptures and described his tenure as "awesome". Anto also reminded guests that Badveli Phil would continue to be part of the FAPC family in a lay capacity. Adriné Tokatian, Alexandra Garabedian, and other members of the College Youth Group presented Badveli Phil with a framed portrait of their Bible Study group taken in the FAPC Sanctuary. Reverend Mgo Mekredjian, Associate Pastor of Young Families' Ministries, teasingly described his pastoral colleague as "The Velvet Hammer" and offered six points of thanks for Badveli Phil's service, including his fun-loving spirit, uncompromising stand on the Scriptures, gift of teaching, and willingness to listen and engage. Senior Pastor Haroutunian presented Badveli Phil with a token of appreciation from the Session and praised his departing colleague as a "straight shooter" who was committed to "asking the hard questions and getting the answers".

Badveli Phil concluded the afternoon by thanking Lisa Tokatian and members of the Luncheon Committee for all their efforts and by giving all the Glory to God for his time of ordained ministry at FAPC. He capped the afternoon with a moving prayer of dismissal and the guests responded with a spontaneous standing ovation.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS & EVENTS

The beginning of the New Year for youth group began with our annual broomball game at the Gateway Ice Center with Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church. There were over thirty people in attendance, ranging from Junior High to College age. The night started off cold, but as soon as the ball was put into play, things warmed up quickly! Both teams played very well and got really close to victory, but FAPC prevailed! The best part of the entire night was that it was marked by good conversation, plenty of laughs, and a healthy competitive spirit. We look forward to what the Lord has for us this New Year.

●●●● Anto Sakayan



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

On Sunday Jan 21, we started something new, "Questions with Badveli Greg." During JAM time and in the classrooms, students will be asked to submit questions in the question box that pertain to Biblical understandings such as, "Are angels real and if so, why did God create them? Once a month Badveli Greg will answer some of these hard questions!

Mark your calendars:

No Sunday School:

Easter, April 1

join us for Easter Breakfast at 9:30AM

Mother's Day, May 13

Last day of Sunday School is June 10 where we celebrate with the Youth leading the worship service on Youth Sunday.

VBS in the mornings: June 11-15

The Minas Project!

On January 7th, you received a "present" for Armenian Christmas. It was an envelope with \$10 in it urging you to "put it to work" for the sake of Christ's kingdom. Like the servants of the Nobleman, we've each been entrusted with resources: our money, our time, our gifts & talents. Taking this \$10 and investing it is a concrete way we can participate wholeheartedly in the life of FAPC.



Be creative! We've had some people make cookies & brownies that they'll be selling at bake sales. Others have purchased

tools and earned money using them. A few people joined together and purchased an investment. What will you do?

Our original plan was to collect the "return" on January 28th. We realized that this was too short a length of time, so we'll bring everything on March 4 at our Annual Meeting—which will be a BREAKFAST meeting! Details to follow!

**Play the Man
Be the Man
Make the Man**

**Men's Retreat
February 23-25, 2018**

**Rev. Ariel Babikian
Hartland Christian Camp
\$265**



WINTER CAMP 2018

**ABOVE
AND
BEYOND**

EPHESIANS 3: 14 - 21

WEEKEND DATES

COLLEGE/CAREER = JANUARY 26 - 28
JUNIORS = FEBRUARY 2 - 4
JUNIOR HIGH = FEBRUARY 9 - 11
HIGH SCHOOL = FEBRUARY 16 - 18

**FOR REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.CAMPAREV.ORG/YOUTH - CAMPS/WINTER**

**OR CALL US
818.507.0922 X2**



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Upcoming Special Events

Men's Fellowship Dinner, 6:30pm	Feb 6
Vartanantz Worship Service @ St. Gregory, 6pm	Feb 8
Armenian Home Visit, 1:45pm	Feb 11
Men's Retreat @ Hartland Christian Camp	Feb 23-25
Annual Breakfast Meeting, 9:00am	Mar 4
Armenian Home Visit	Mar 4
Palm Sunday	Mar 25
Maundy Thursday Communion Service	Mar 29
Easter Breakfast & Worship Service	Apr 1
Men's Fellowship Dinner, 6:30pm	Apr 10

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
Vera Darakjian, Armenian Ministries Pianist
Marisa Garza, Administrative Assistant &
Nursery Attendant
Marine Frznlyan, Nursery Attendant
Susan Ruiz, Custodian

Teaching Elders: Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Senior Pastor (badveli@fapc.net)
Rev. Mgo Mekredjian, Associate Pastor of Young Families' Ministries (associate@fapc.net)

Ruling Elders: Dr. Hagop Afarian, Ed Esajian, Krikor Kalayjian, Paul Koligian, Fernando Rubio, Dr. Dennis Shamlan, Ron Statler

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

