

# mosaix



Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.

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First Armenian Presbyterian Church

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Vol. 4:1

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Romans 12:1-2

"What God wants for Christmas, to you it's a surprise ..."

My children can recite this part of our Christmas tradition celebration by heart. It's a long poem that I shared with our Angel Tree gift-recipients in December. "What God Wants for Christmas" is an overview of the Christmas story by opening seven boxes with little figurines of an angel, Joseph, Mary, a shepherd, a magi and, of course, the baby Jesus. Box number 7 answers the question of what God wants for Christmas. I won't ruin it for you with how it's communicated, but the big idea is that God wants us to offer ourselves to Him for Christmas and always!

As we begin 2018, the theme I'd like us to focus on as a Christ-centered community comes from Romans 12:1-2, offering ourselves—all that we are—to the Lord as our appropriate response to His unfathomable mercy to us in Jesus Christ. We want to present all that we are in worship to Him. Not just in Sunday morning worship, but as Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6:5, "all your heart, soul, strength and mind".

The verses following Jesus' quote speak about God's desire that we talk about and reflect on His word in every experience of our lives, "when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." He wants His commandments on our hands and foreheads and on the doorframes and fences of our houses.

All that we are in response to all that He is and all that He has done. All that we are in response to all

that He has promised to provide and to fulfill. All that we are ... the good, the bad, the ugly, the beautiful, the impressive, the broken ... the mosaic of our lives, we offer to Him, together.

For Armenian Christmas we have a special gift for each of you. Everyone who is in church on January 7, 2018 (older than 8 years old because they're in Kids' Quest) will receive a gift from the church to help you experience what it means to "offer" something to the Lord. Here's a hint: read Luke 19:11-26.

Throughout the month, each Sunday we'll be focusing on a different dimension of our lives that we can offer to the Lord together. It's going to be exciting! We'll close the month in celebration with a Ministry Fair in the Fellowship Hall right after church highlighting all the different opportunities of service you can volunteer for and participate in. It's going to be a great day!

One last opportunity I want to encourage you to take advantage of is the community-wide 21 Days of Fasting & Prayer from January 8-28, 2018. More than fifty churches from throughout Fresno & Clovis will be praying together and fasting together to seek the face of God for our lives and for our community. We'll be meeting in different churches over this three-week period to worship & pray together. We have the privilege of hosting the first one on January 8 at 7 p.m. in our sanctuary! God has great plans for our community, our church and our lives! Let's join in!

I'm looking forward to following Christ together with you in this New Year!

Happy New Year and Merry Armenian Christmas!!!

● ● ● ● Badveli Greg

# ● ● ● ● Family Life News ● ● ● ●

FAPC commemorated Armenian Missionary Association of America Sunday on December 10. Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, spoke at the Armenian and English language worship services that day. Founded in 1918, the AMAA has initiated a Centennial Campaign with the theme, "Faithful to Our Legacy, Embracing the Future." Campaign Committee members include Linda Kay Abdulian, Tammy Bedrosian, Shegerian, and Heather Ohaneson, Ph.D. The AMAA meets the physical and spiritual needs of people at home and overseas by maintaining a range of educational, evangelistic, relief, social service, church and child care ministries in 24 countries around the world.

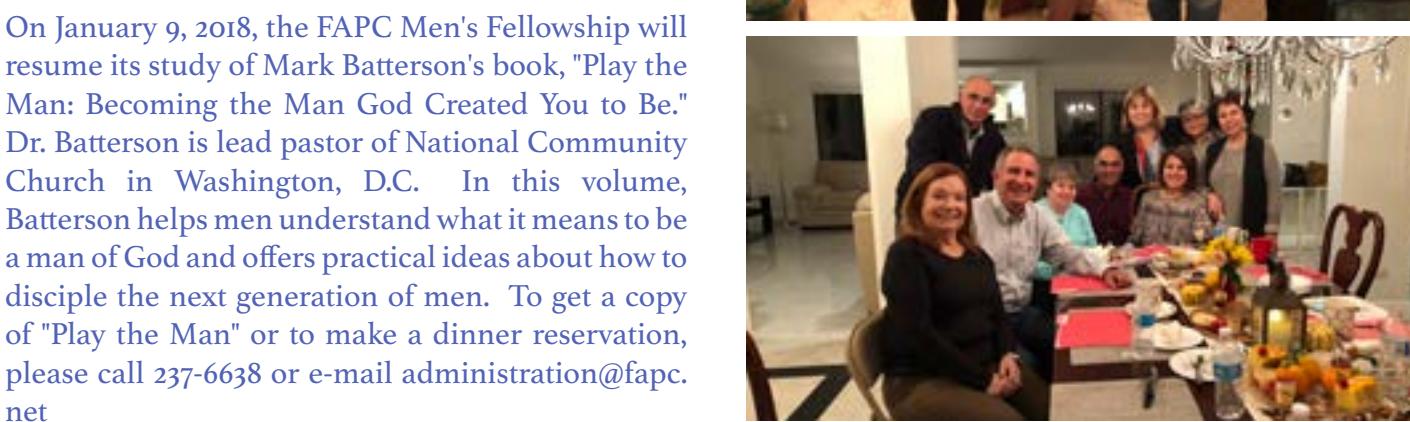


Artist Lucy Boyadjian Janjigian will exhibit her artworks from January 26 through June 2018 at the Armenian Museum of Fresno Exhibition Halls. The Museum is located in the University of California Center, 550 East Shaw

Avenue, between Fresno and Angus Streets. The Exhibition is entitled, "Creation of Universe; and Eve. Where is Adam?!" Lucy Janjigian is a noted and widely traveled Jerusalem-born painter and sculptor, focused on Biblical stories and humanity. She has exhibited extensively throughout the United States, Middle East and Europe. Her artworks are on display in numerous institutions worldwide. Members and friends of FAPC are warmly invited to Opening Night Reception, from 6 to 8 pm. on January 26. For more information, please call (559) 224-1001.



On January 9, 2018, the FAPC Men's Fellowship will resume its study of Mark Batterson's book, "Play the Man: Becoming the Man God Created You to Be." Dr. Batterson is lead pastor of National Community Church in Washington, D.C. In this volume, Batterson helps men understand what it means to be a man of God and offers practical ideas about how to disciple the next generation of men. To get a copy of "Play the Man" or to make a dinner reservation, please call 237-6638 or e-mail administration@fapc.net



## Deacon's Corner

### Why become a Deacon?

There are many needs in the congregation that can be filled by members who serve as deacons.

Jesus taught us in *JOHN 6:38- for I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.*

It takes energy, patience and obedience to serve as a Deacon. There is a great joy in serving the members of our congregation. Deacons bring care and compassion to the poor, to the oppressed and to those in hardship. We pray for the sick, give encouragement and share God's unconditional love toward his children. If you have the desire to serve as a deacon and is someone who cares for God's people, then ask God in prayer on how to become all that God wants you to be and ways you may serve. Let's follow the Lord's example and submit to him in humility and trust his plan for us. As we serve and stay in the word, we draw closer to the Father, follow him and pray daily. We thank him for guiding us in our daily lives. What a blessing it is to serve as a deacon for the kingdom of God.

● ● ● ● Sela Ghazarian

# ● ● ● ● Family Life News ● ● ● ●

The children of Sunday School marked the 120th Advent Season of FAPC by presenting their musical program "A Christmas Story," on the afternoon of December 17. Associate Pastor Mgo Mekredjian opened the celebration in the Fellowship Hall by welcoming guests and explaining "The Best Christmas Story Ever." The stage of the Hall was decorated as a large living room complete with a Christmas fireplace and tree. The youngest children, dressed in brightly colored pajamas, gathered around the Storyteller, Ted Thurber, who shared the Nativity tale in rhyme. The older children, dressed in snow gear, led the congregation in singing "What Child is This?," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "Silent Night," and "Joy to the World," with guitar accompaniment by Reverend Razmig Minassian and direction by Zovig Adanalian and Cheryl Shamlan. Julia Adanalian, Micah Garo, James Emerian, Alexan Haroutunian, and Lucas Keledjian read Gospel passages about the Birth of Jesus Christ. Badveli Mgo concluded the presentation by describing the joy that comes from the Gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Badveli Mgo and the young cast offered a responsive prayer for the evening meal. Guests then dined on Firehouse subway sandwiches, an array of hearty soups including "Merry Minestrone" and "Blitzen Bean and Potato." They topped off their meals with a hot chocolate bar and platters of cookies, brownies, dessert bars, and handcrafted candies.

● ● ● ● Phil Tavlian



# ● ● ● ● Family Life News ● ● ● ●

## HAND BELL CHOIR SIGN UPS!

We'd like to invite anyone who would like to be a part of one of the most fun musical ensembles, Handbell Choir, to sign up NOW! Please email or call/text Jesse Dunbar at 559-978-7832 or music@fapc.net to be added to the list. Rehearsals will begin sometime in January. This is a great ensemble for either the experienced musician or the beginner as it teaches the fundamentals of music notation and rhythm, but in a very fun way.



## Upcoming Events & Reminders

### January 7th:

Christmas Caroling to the Armenian Home.

Evening of praise, worship, prayer, and singing together in Armenian from 7:00-8:30pm!

### January 7th-28th:

City-Wide 21 days of Fasting & Prayer. Prayer meeting in Sanctuary from :00-8:00pm on Monday, January 8th.

### January 21st:

Join us for an Appreciation Luncheon for Badveli Phil after worship service in Fellowship Hall, as we celebrate all the time, service, and dedication he has put into FAPC over the years.

First Membership class of 2018. Sign up with Badveli Greg!



As the year came to a close, FAPC youth group had their last event of the year which was the annual Christmas Party. This year, once again, the Statlers graciously welcomed our youth group and their families to their home. The warm invitation was accompanied with delicious food, piping hot beverages and desserts that were finger licking good. As it is tradition, after dinner we gathered together for our white elephant gift exchange. The reactions of people opening their gifts, along with the reactions of those getting their gifts taken, made for a really good time! We concluded the night with a beautiful walk down Christmas Tree Lane in the crisp 45 degree weather. It was a great way to end a fun year of youth group!

● ● ● ● Anto Sakayan

### January 28th:

Minstry Fair. Contact Badveli Greg for any questions!

### February 23-25th:

Men's Retreat

**\*\*\*Parents, don't forget to sign up your children for Winter Camp at Camp AREV!**

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

I started in the nursery January of 2016. When I first started, we would average about 6 kids a week during church hour, and 1 or 2 during Sunday school. I have been confident and continue to be confident that those who show up, are supposed to be there. As time has passed, I have witnessed so much growth. I remember praying about how I could be used in ministry and how I could be actively serving and giving to the nursery. I had prayed continually for growth to happen and for Jesus to move in abundant ways. It is a pleasure to see how he has not only provided abundantly but has exceeded any sort of expectation I had.



We now average 10 kids a week during church hour and an average of 5 kids during Sunday school. We used to have ages 1-3 but because of how much the children's ministry is growing, we had to be split up and now we get the 1 and 2 year olds. This such a good problem to have because that means that each week more

children are coming to learn about Jesus and we get to be a part of that. I have loved being able to witness the growth in numbers but also be able to witness these children learning about the Gospel and love of Jesus at such a young, but pivotal age.

Since September, we have come up with short lessons that we are able to teach to the kids. Since most of them cannot give me a response back, that has not stopped us from teaching the truth of the Gospel. We still long to teach them about Jesus. Some lessons are about Jesus loving us or about Jesus creating us and the easiest way we've managed to teach this is by pairing it with a scripture to reiterate the lesson then close with a song or a short story. Our goal is to simply make Jesus known even if that means asking them every week, "who loves us?" with the hopes that as long as I have these children in there until they move up classes, that they will be able to understand that Jesus loves them very much.

As many of you have probably seen passing by the nursery, I have the most helpful attendant in there with me every single week. Marine started in the nursery almost a year ago and has been a joy to serve alongside as we both work well together and both enjoy loving on these kiddos weekly. When either Marine or I cannot make it on a Sunday, we've added Marine's friend Ani who takes care of those kiddos so easily and we are thankful to have her assist us when one of us is unable to make it on a Sunday. The time and effort that both of these girls take on a regular basis to serve and love those here at the church and I know personally I am so thankful for that.

As we enter into the New Year, my hope is that we can continue to love on and care for these kids while teaching them the truth of the Gospel at such a young age. Please continue to pray for our children's ministry program that they may come to know the love of Jesus and that there may be continual growth specifically in the nursery program. I pray continually for these children and pray Proverbs 22:6 specifically over them. May they know that they are thought of from the moment they are formed until the end of eternity.

*Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

*Proverbs 22:6*

● ● ● ● Marisa Garza





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## Upcoming Special Events

- Youth Group Broomball Event
- Armenian Christmas
- Armenian Christmas Potluck
- Christmas caroling at the Armenian Home
- Armenian Christmas Evening of Praise
- City-wide 21 Days of Fasting & Prayer
- Appreciation Luncheon for Rev. Phil
- Membership Class 4-6pm
- Ministry Fair

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

**Staff:**  
Jan 3 Suzy Artemyan, Church Administrator  
Jan 6 Jesse Dunbar, Interim Music Ministry Director  
Jan 6 Vera Darakjian, Armenian Ministries Pianist  
Jan 7 Marisa Garza, Administrative Assistant &  
Jan 7 Nursery Attendant  
Jan 21 Marine Frznlyan, Nursery Attendant  
Jan 21 Susan Ruiz, Custodian

Mosaix submissions  
are due by the  
15<sup>th</sup> of the month.  
Please e-mail  
information to  
[fapc3@fapc.net](mailto:fapc3@fapc.net).

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

**Ruling Elders:** Hagop Afarian, Kenneth Bedrosian, Ed Esajian, Krikor Kalayjian,  
Paul Koligian, 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

