

*If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead. But He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

*1 Corinthians 15:13-19*

I'm sure you've been tricked at some point, confused and befuddled, only to have someone shout out, "April Fools!"

One of my college friend's mother would tape the handle of the kitchen sink rinsing nozzle and point it away from the faucet. When she washed her breakfast dishes before school she was so stunned that she just stood there getting soaked! (If I'm not mistaken, Jason Keledjian pulled this one off on his family in high school!)

This same mother woke her daughter up when April 1st was on a Saturday and sent her out to wait for the bus. I can't remember how long she let her wait. Yep, my friend has a mildly warped sense of humor!

Imagine if God liked playing pranks on His creation.

This year Easter—Resurrection Sunday—falls on April 1st, April Fool's Day. For many, the irony will be too rich to resist mocking those of us who actually believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. I can hear it already, "Finally the calendar proves what we've been saying all along! Only a fool would believe that God raises the dead and that your Jesus is a king and not just a pitiful victim of injustice."

But imagine for a moment that scoffers are right, that Jesus was simply crucified and that was it. Would it make any difference to your faith if archeologists found His tomb and could prove the body belonged to Jesus of Nazareth?

Some will say emphatically, "No! I benefit so much from my faith in Christ, I'd never give it up." This follows the path of Pascal's wager, "Even if God doesn't exist, I lose nothing if I believe in Him. But if He does, then I gain everything."

How about you? Would you keep coming to church or reading your Bible? Would you still pray?

*If the resurrection is a hoax, would you still follow Jesus?*

You may be thinking I'm trying to lead you to say, "Yes! Absolutely! I'm a faithful Christian and if my forefathers died for the Christian faith, then I will loyally believe it, even if it's not true."

Actually, it's the opposite. The Apostle Paul says if Jesus' resurrection is not true that we are the most pitiful people on the planet. Did you read that? Does that surprise you?

If Jesus did not rise from the dead that Sunday after Passover, our faith is wasted. Sure, it may give you "peace" or confidence to face challenges, but if it's not true, you may as well believe in leprechauns or genies or in Odin or Zeus. There are a lot of false beliefs that serve people and meet needs. But Paul says that they're ultimately empty. And worse, we're spreading lies about God if He did not raise Christ from the dead.

I remember laying in a bunk bed at Camp Arev years ago when a young man, newly-arrived from Armenia, told me he didn't believe that Jesus was alive. I responded that then it's good that he was not a Christian. He was a bit confused and said, "Why wouldn't you want me to be a Christian. Aren't you supposed to want that? Isn't that your job as a priest?" I told him that if he was right, that I'd stop being a Christian too. His eyes were getting larger by the moment. Finally, when I told him that the man who wrote most of the New Testament also would have quit following Christ if He wasn't raised from the dead, all bets were off and I realized I wouldn't be going to sleep any time soon. It was awesome!

*"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead ..." 1 Cor. 15:20*

There is abundant evidence that it's fully reasonable to believe in Christ's resurrection and I'm happy to pass that on to you if you'd like to bolster your faith with reason and evidence. I'd encourage you to study up and use these next several weeks to prepare yourself to share your faith in Christ with your friends, family, and anyone else the Lord brings across your path. Let them know that Easter--Resurrection Sunday—is not a myth; it's not just something we believe. It's true and because it's true, it changes everything!

With so many of those we love battling cancer or heart disease or terminal illness, it's so good to know that our faith is anchored in reality, on the truth of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. He is alive! So, we have hope and peace from God, not simply our imagination.

*Christ is risen! Blessed be the resurrection of Christ!*



### Music News

We're so excited to see the continued growth of music at FAPC. Many of you came up to inquire about ways to serve in

music, and to those that signed up to help, you will be receiving an email or phone call about practice and participation.

We had our first handbell rehearsal on Wednesday, February 7th. We had a lot of fun and look forward to rehearsing again soon. Unfortunately, we need to send the handbells away for maintenance as they've been somewhat forgotten about for several years now. When we get them back you will be notified, and we will continue our rehearsals.

SPECIAL EVENT: Easter season is coming, and we need special volunteers to help with music. If you've wanted to help with music but couldn't commit to an extended period of time, now is your chance. We will be holding a special choir rehearsal on March 21st at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room. Please feel free to join us with your lovely voice. If you've wanted to help with the band, please get ahold of myself or Chris Shamlian to find out about rehearsal times.

●●●● Jesse Dunbar



"Mistakes" comprise the theme of the 2018 Saroyan Writing Contest. The Contest is open to students in the First through Twelfth Grades and the deadline for entries is April 15, 2018. Contest flyers are available at branches of the Fresno County Public Library or by visiting [www.williamsaroyansociety.org](http://www.williamsaroyansociety.org). The annual Contest is presented by the William Saroyan Society in association with the Fresno County Public Library and the Fresno County Office of Education.

### Deacon's Corner

Precious children of God

As deacons of FAPC, we are assigned the responsibility to serve and pray for the spiritual and emotional healing of our church family. Within the past year, the deacons have visited members that were homebound or in nursing homes. Among those we visited: Irma Karabian, Margaret Harrison, Liz and Vahack Haroutunian, Briske Barsamian, Hagop Karkazian, Liz Shirinian, Zarouhi Guzelian, Jane Bedrosian, Cindy Rettig, and many more members. We are so grateful for what our Lord Jesus has done for us, and we want to express our love and grace that we have been given. Some of us have been going through difficult situations in the last year, but we know that God is in control of our trials and hardship. Let's focus our eyes on the Lord Jesus and have joy in the midst of our trials. Let's pray for God's presence in each of our situations and to deepen our relationship with our God.

Romans 8:28 : *"and we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose."*

Deacon team: Vera Darakjian, Silva Esajian, Maryvonne Gagliardi, Sela Ghazarian, Keith Harrison, Maria Kalayjian, Kohar Kojayan, Bob Mangasarian, Karine Martirosyan, Rita Shamlian and Varvara Sivas.

●●●● Sela Ghazarian



Linda Kay (Bedrosian) Abdulian was featured in the Executive Profile column of The Business Journal (February 2, 2018 edition). Lindakay

is President and Chief Executive Office of National Raisin Company in Fowler.



Reverend Mgo Mekredijian, FAPC Associate Pastor for Young Families' Ministries, was the keynote speaker at the Camp AREV 2018 Winter Camp for High School students. The camp took place February 16-18 at the E.J. Manishagian Conference Grounds and Center in Frazier Park. The theme of Winter Camp 2018 was Above and Beyond (Eph. 3: 14-21).

#### Our Condolences:



Arkie Margosian, Uncle of Senior Pastor Gregory V. Haroutunian, passed away on Tuesday, February 6, at the age of 98. A native of Tulare, Arkie served as a U.S. Navy Aviation Machinist's Mate First Class in the Pacific Theatre of World War II (Scouting Squadron VS-65). In civilian life, he co-founded and operated M & T Distributing Company which became Margosian Beverage Company. Arkie was preceded in death by his birth parents, Harry and Vera Arakelian; his adoptive father, Menzo Margosian; and his sisters, Virginia Kizirian and Rose Kossian. He is survived by his beloved wife, Rose; son, Glen Paul Margosian; daughter Janet Margosian-Hein and her husband, John; granddaughter Sofia Rose Hein; and many nieces and nephews.



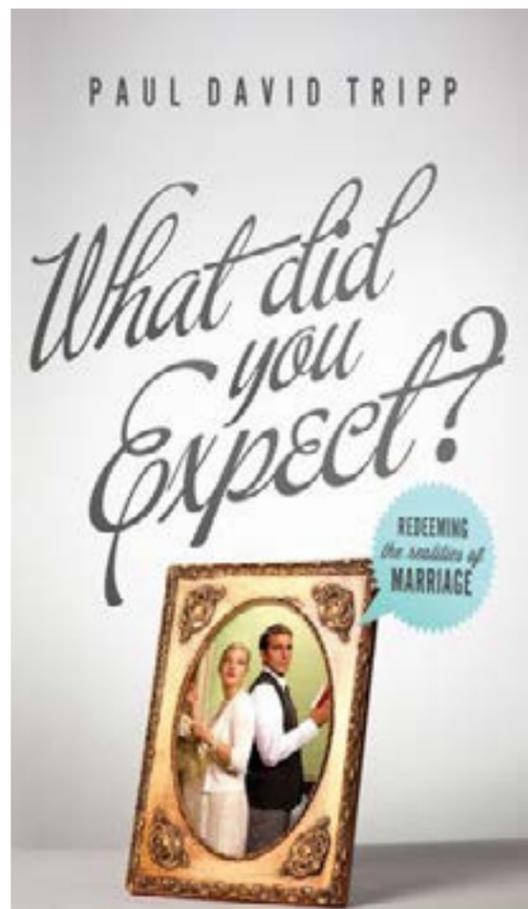
Isabel "Zabel" (Keklikian) Lion passed away on February 22, 2018, just ten days shy of her 92nd birthday. A native of Yettam, Isabel graduated from Visalia High School and married Herbert Alexander Lion on December 20, 1946 in the original First Street Sanctuary of FAPC. Through five decades of married life, Isabel was a devoted helpmate to Herb, who served as FAPC Sunday School teacher, Trustee, Elder and Clerk of Session, and member of the Building and Pastor Nominating Committees. In the 1960s and 1970s, the Lions opened their Hume Lake Cabin to many FAPC Christian Endeavor youth gatherings. In later years, they quietly endowed stewardship funds to benefit missions and ministries at home and abroad. In 1997, Isabel underwrote the publication of the FAPC Centennial History in Herb's memory. Isabel was preceded in death by her beloved husband; her parents, Aran and Rose Satenig Keklikian; brother Harry Keklikian; and sisters and their spouses Roxie and Kalem Dashjian and Madeline and Ralph Moradian. She is survived by her sons, Larry Alfred Lion and his wife, Patricia, and John Herbert Lion and his wife Manuela; grandchildren Sara Lynne Kassabian and her husband Gregory; Jennifer Antone and her husband, Gary; Rose Gamino and her husband Jesse; Alex Lion and his wife, Janna; nine great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.



Daylight Saving Time returns on Sunday, **March 11, 2018**. Set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 10, and plan to be at FAPC the next morning for Sunday School, Praise Worship, and Fellowship!



Badveli Mgo also presented the Scripture Reading at the 2018 Community Vartanantz Service. The Service and Civic Program, co-sponsored by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, took place on the evening of February 8 at Saint Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in Fowler. **Mark S. Poochigian**, Esquire delivered the keynote address at the Civic Program.



“It won’t take long for you to be disappointed in marriage. It won’t take long for your dreams to be dashed. The reality is that you can’t escape the brokenness of this world. You won’t be able to avoid the sin of your spouse.

The Bible teaches that we all bring something destructive into our relationships – sin. But as Paul David Tripp explains, we buy into the delusion that our biggest problem is outside of us. We blame our spouse. We blame our circumstances. We rarely take seriously the nature of our own sin.

Unlike other marriage books that only diagnose horizontal problems, What Did You Expect? fights a much deeper war over the worship of our heart. It’s only when we worship God as Creator, Sovereign and Savior that we will ever love as we should.

What Did You Expect? challenges you to look into the mirror of God’s Word and see yourself with clarity. Maybe it’s you. Maybe you love yourself more than your spouse. Maybe you love your little kingdom more than God’s big Kingdom. When you reach that level of honesty, you’re at the edge of real good things for your marriage.

Start working on a marriage of unity, understanding, and love.”

**Starting Apr 8 during Sunday School Time, 9:37AM-10:45AM in Fireside Room, led by Kalem & Rev. Jonelle Kazarian.**

This February was a jam-packed Camp AREV month for our youth group. The theme was Above and Beyond and the verse was Ephesians 3: 14-21. During the three weeks we had a team of seven volunteers from our youth group serving in different ways at Camp AREV. It was definitely an amazing experience for them as it was for me. We had a total of 23 campers attend from FAPC over the three weeks. We spent time worshipping together, praying together, diving into scripture, having great fellowship and having so much FUN! The staff planned fun games for campers as well as running activities like paintball, zipline and archery. We got to enjoy all of this all while being surrounded by God’s creation. The last week of camp, our very own Pastor Mgo was the speaker for the high school group. He reminded us of how much God truly loves us and how through Christ we have been set free from our shame, guilt, or anything else that has a hold on us. We left the last weekend of camp encouraged to love one another the way Christ loves us. Camp AREV is truly a blessing.

●●●●● Gohar Sakayan



## CHILDREN’S MINISTRY NEWS

Mark your calendars:

**Sunday School Open House**

**March 11:** for Coffee Hour Fellowship, roam the Christian Ed Wing and see what the students are learning in each of the grades.

**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**

# “Be the Man”

More than 50 men spanning three generations participated in the 19th Annual FAPC Men’s Retreat. The Retreat took place February 23-25, 2018 at the snow-blanketed Hartland Christian Camp in Badger, Tulare County. The theme of the conference was,



“Play the Man: Becoming the Man God Crated You to Be,” drawn from Reverend Mark Batterson’s acclaimed book. Reverend Ariel Yeghia Babikian,

AIA, an ordained Nazarene pastor and Church architect, was the keynote speaker.

The weekend opened with a four-course New England Thanksgiving Dinner in the Dining Hall. The men then adjourned to the Sequoia Chapel for praise worship and prayer under the servant leadership of Interim Music Director Jesse Dunbar and Ara Catchatoorian.

Employing a systems-oriented approach mixed with warm humor and a focus on Revelation 22:5, Reverend Babikian explored the purpose, directive, and various roles of a man’s life. The Friday evening session concluded with praise music and prayer and guests departed to play card and board games and sports in the Hartland Gym.

Saturday morning opened with a prayer time, an omelet buffet, and praise music by Jesse Dunbar, Dr. Chris Shamlan, Sevag Afarian, and Ara and Hagop Catchatoorian. Reverend Babikian opened his remarks by asking, “What is my purpose, what are my marching orders?” He went on to explain five steps for Kingdom living: (1) the purpose of life (Rev. 22:5); (2) grace; (3) the prime directive (Deut. 6:5), (4) spiritual disciplines; and (5) discipleship. He reminded the men that “God is training us to reign with Him forever” and shared the wisdom of Christian philosopher Dallas Willard: “We must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from our lives, for hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our world today.”

The men adjourned for group photos taken by David Jon Christenson followed by a sandwich buffet at the dining hall. After the meal, the men enjoyed an afternoon of marksmanship under the guidance of rangemasters Sevag Afarian and Raffi Karayan as well as paintball fun in the Sequoia National Forest.

The Saturday night session began with a time of prayer, Yankee Pot Roast Dinner, praise hymns, and a presentation on Safety Ushers by Senior Pastor Greg Haroutunian and Elder Fernando Rubio. Badveli Babikian shared the VIM Model – Vision, Intention, and Means – and the New Commandment (“marching orders”) of Luke 10:27. He concluded the Session by surveying the men about spiritual maturity.

The Sunday morning Session began with prayer time, a lumberjack breakfast, praise music, and a review of the survey results. Badveli Babikian pointed to 1 Thessalonians 1:3 and Paul’s focus on “your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” Badveli Ariel urged the men to “encourage one another daily.” (Heb. 3:13) He concluded his presentation by inviting Chuck Berberian to share his moving remarks to his son, Matthew, upon Matthew’s commissioning as a U.S. Army Lieutenant at West Point in 1997 (Proverbs 3: 5-6). The final session ended with the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Senior Pastor Greg Haroutunian and Associate Pastor Mgo Mekredijian administered the elements and Reverend Babikian offered a brotherly embrace and words of encouragement to each participant.

●●●●● Phil Tavlian





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**Upcoming Special Events**

Minas Project "Fair"	Mar 18
Fresno-Clovis Prayer Breakfast	Mar 20
Palm Sunday	Mar 25
Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 6:30pm	Mar 29
Men's Breakfast, 7:00am	Mar 31
Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt, 9:30am	
Easter Worship Service	Apr 1
Armenian Home Visit	Apr 8
Men's Fellowship Dinner, 6:30pm	Apr 10
Armenian Home Visit	May 6
Mother's Day	May 13
Joint Memorial Day Picnic @ Pilgrim	May 27

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  
 15<sup>th</sup> 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, Karine Martirosyan, Rita Shamlan, Varvara Sivas

