

*"We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect ..." James 3:2*

We were taught to say it. We've taught our children to say it on the playground. We've tried to believe it. But no matter how hard we try, experience has convinced us that the old childhood expression "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never harm me" is simply not true.

Do you remember telling your parents that you would have preferred a punch to being called a name that classmates endlessly and mercilessly repeated? I can laugh now about our family nickname, "harry-tuna-fish" but in elementary school, boy, did it sting!

Unkind words, whether intentional or not, can cause great damage, sometimes for years! Proverbs 12:18 says it so well, *"The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."* Daily, actually moment by moment, we have the choice to bring pain or blessing.

What is it about the power of our words to give life and encouragement, and at the same time to crush and devastate? James reminds us that our tongues can give praise to God and curse a person. *"Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be."* James 3:10

What a contrast to what we're witnessing at graduations!

They may be long, but I love them because they are filled with praise and gratitude! Graduates are recognized, awarded and honored for all their accomplishments. Parents and loved ones, teachers, coaches and anyone who has contributed to a graduate's success are publically thanked. Students are launched into the future with hope and promise. It's wonderful to hear all these inspiring words.

But then we return to "real life" and a passing comment or conversation confirms Proverbs 10:19, *"When there*

*are many words, transgression is unavoidable"* (NASB). It's so easy to let words slip out that we hadn't planned on saying or bringing up one more thing to make your point that ends up hurting them even more than you intended. You may have been prepared to ask for God's forgiveness for a "little" bite, but by the time we're done there's so much more to confess.

Remember the favorite children's message about being careful about what we say illustrated by



trying to get toothpaste back in the tube? It never works and it's not just for children! It's for all of us!

Once again, I turn to Proverbs. This time the first verse of chapter 15, *"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."* Imagine how many disagreements we could avoid or even stop before they get out of control if we'll respond with gentleness rather harshness or defensiveness.

Like James says, none of us are perfect. However, there's no question that God expects us to come to him in repentance and to seek Him for grace and strength so that what comes out of our mouths is a blessing. The tricky part is allowing Him to deal with our hearts. Jesus said that our speech arises out of the abundance of our hearts. (Matthew 12:34)

If we find the words of our mouths betraying and revealing our hearts, let's come to the Lord, asking Him to cleanse us and strengthen us, so we can discipline our tongues. I'm at the head of the line, so you can fall in behind me! Well, thankfully, there's no line! We can come to Him for grace & mercy when we need it. (Hebrews 4:15-16)

Oh, Lord! May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing to You! (Psalm 19:14)

## Men's Ministry

"Gifts: The Joy of Serving God" is the current theme of the Friday Men's Bible Study Luncheon Group. The group meets most Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room Kitchen for a delicious meal and a practical study of the Old and New Testaments under the guidance of FAPC Senior Pastor Greg Haroutunian. Please call (559) 237-6638 or e-mail administration@fapc.net to be placed on the E-list for the Friday Men's Bible Study Luncheon Group.

"Loving God" was the theme of the May 19 Maturing Men Breakfast in the Christian Education Building Fireside Room. In 90 minutes, guests enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast followed by teaching, reflection, sharing in small groups, prayer for one another, and praise worship. The monthly Saturday breakfasts build on the themes and bonds of the 2018 Men's Retreat. Men of all ages are welcomed to attend. Future breakfasts will take place from 7 to 8:30 a.m. on the following Saturdays: June 30, July 28, August 18, September 29, October 27, November 24, and December 29. For more information, please e-mail Associate Pastor Mgo Mekredijian at mmekredijian@fapc.net or call (559) 237-6638.

FAPC Men's Ministries will open the 2018 Summer Season with a *Men's Fellowship Dinner* on Tuesday, June 5. The Dinner will take place in the Fellowship Hall Narthex starting at 6:30 p.m. Join *Senior Pastor Greg Haroutunian* for a fantastic barbecue meal and a study in Reverend Mark Batterson's award-winning inspirational volume, "Play the Man." To make reservations, please call (559) 237-6638 or e-mail administration@fapc.net.



## Important Dates

Last Day of Sunday School will be *June 10*. Our worship service will be led by the children and youth of our church.

Throughout the Summer we will still have KidsQuest during the church hour, for ages 3-7. We are always in need of volunteers, if you would like to volunteer please e-mail Badveli Mgo at associate@fapc.net.

## Deacon's Corner

A very dear member of our church once expressed her thoughts to me that she would love to go and visit homebound members to sing hymns of praise with them. This was a very touching comment. Homebound members, who were once very active members at church, are not able to attend worship service due to disabilities that affect their psychological, physical and emotional state. They cannot be forgotten or ignored. These members normally receive a few visits a year from our pastoral staff and our deacons, by taking the communion and church worship to them. The homebound members miss their friends and the fellowship of other church members. These people miss being involved and we want them to feel the connection they once had at church. I encourage members of our congregation to make a special connection to these homebound members, whether it be by visits or by something as simple as sending a greeting card to put a smile on their faces. We want to remind them that they are never alone and that God's love for them is eternal.

In the last month the deacons had the privilege of visiting Elaine and Gary Simonian at the Terraces at San Joaquin Gardens.

*"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come."*  
Psalm 71:18

●●●● Sela Ghazarian



## The Food Pantry is LOW!!!!

Our food pantry is IN NEED of the following items ONLY: *pasta, pasta sauce, rice, mashed potatoes, mac & cheese, canned fruits, canned corn, pinto or kidney beans, canned chicken or tuna, soups, & cereal.* Thank you for your generosity in contributing to this important ministry!

### Our Condolences:



*Courken George Deukmejian, Jr.*, 35th Governor of California, passed away at his Long Beach home on May 8, 2018 at the age of 89. A native of Menands, New York, he was educated at Siena College and the St. John's University School of Law in his native state. After serving in the United States Army (1953-1955), he relocated to Southern California, where he worked as a lawyer in local business, government, and private practice. He served four years in the California State Assembly, 12 years in the State Senate, and one term as Attorney General. During his eight years as California's chief executive (1982-1990), he graciously received delegations of Armenian Evangelical and Apostolic clergy at the Governor's Office and later sent warm greetings and messages of encouragement to the FAPC congregation during our Five Year Centennial Celebration (1992-1997). Governor Deukmejian was preceded in death by his parents, Courken and Alice Deukmejian, and by his sister and brother-in-law, Anna and Noubar H. Ashjian, uncle of Dolores Armo and Edward Ashjian. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, the former Gloria Saatjian; daughters Leslie Gebb and Andrea Pollak; son George K. Deukmejian; and six grandchildren.



Longtime FAPC Member *Elaine June (Arootian) Simonian* passed away on May 19, 2018, just a month shy of her 80th birthday and 60th wedding anniversary. Born in Selma, Elaine grew up in Parlier, attended local schools, and became an accomplished pianist. She married Gary Charles Simonian at FAPC on June 21, 1958 and became an active and beloved member of the congregation, serving as Sunday School Teacher, Vacation Bible School volunteer, and active member of the Young Women's Society of Fidelis. Elaine and Gary extended special videotaped greetings to the Church Family during the FAPC 120th Anniversary Celebration on October 21, 2017. Elaine also devoted countless hours as a volunteer in her children's classrooms and served as President of the Parent Teacher's Association, Room Mother, and Library Aide. Through the years, Elaine and Gary hosted many gatherings in their beautiful backyard on Armstrong Avenue to support the Church and Sanger High Athletics. Elaine was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Marie (Dadigian) Arootian, and by her brother, Gilbert Rudy. Elaine is survived by her husband, Gary C. Simonian; son, Gregory Charles Simonian and his wife Jeanne; daughter, Sarah Lynne Koligian and her husband Wayne; son, Peter Todd Simonian and his wife Patricia; son, Matthew Paul Simonian and his wife Valerie; grandchildren, Paul, Patrick and his wife, Kelly, John, and Katherine Koligian; Jonathan and Madison Simonian; Lauren and Taylor Simonian; Elizabeth, Margaret, and Samuel Simonian; and by great-granddaughter, Caroline Elaine Koligian.



**MINAS PROJECT UPDATE:** On January 7 following the worship service, we gave \$10 to each member. But it wasn't a gift. Badveli Greg had just preached from the parable of the minas (Matthew 25; Luke 19). In the parable, the master hands three servants ten minas (money) each and they were asked to put the minas to work until he comes back. The first servant, returned showing he had doubled it. The second one had gained half. And the third servant, was frightened by the master, so he hid and just returned the money. So Badveli Greg challenged us to see how we could creatively invest our \$10, to double, triple, quadruple with what God has given us, or in this case FAPC.

The creativity behind some of our members was great to see. All in all, the total money collected was \$4550.

THAT'S AMAZING!

Session decided to designate this money to help strengthen the Armenian language and Christian Education Curriculums at the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School. There are many members from our church who have served there as volunteers teaching Christian Education: such as *Sonia Yemenjian, Varvara Sivas, Barbara Tirapelle, Rev. Razmig Minassian, & Rev. Mgo Mekredijian.*

In addition, we wanted to set the pace for broad support from the entire Armenian community. We wanted to show this financially by investing in the only Armenian school in the Central Valley.



*For more information & registration*  
call 818.507.0922 or visit [www.camparev.org](http://www.camparev.org)

*Dates*

- Juniors (3rd-5th grades) July 8-14
- Junior High (6th-8th grades) July 15-21
- High School (9th-12th grades) July 22-28
- College & Career September 14-16

*Closing Ceremonies and Kebab Picnic*  
Saturday 11-4pm  
(Parents plan to pick up campers after picnic)



**FIRST ARMENIAN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**9:30-11:30 A.M.**

**JUNE 11-15**

**AGES: 2 YRS-5TH GRADE  
\$10 PER CHILD**

**REGISTER WITH THE FORM ON  
THE BACK, BY MAY 15**



**A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE!**



# Registration Form

**FAPC**

June 11-15, 9:30-11:30AM

\$10 per child 2 yrs to 5th grade  
\$25 max per family



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings Attending? Please include their names and ages on the line below:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs/Allergies/Other Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a friend your child would like to be with? \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Child #1:</b>									
<b>T-shirt size</b>	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L
<b>Child #2:</b>									
<b>T-shirt size</b>	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L
<b>Child #3:</b>									
<b>T-shirt size</b>	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L

**MEDICAL RELEASE:** In case of emergency, I understand that a reasonable effort will be made to contact me. If I cannot be reached, I hereby give an agent of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church the permission to act in my behalf to seek emergency medical treatment for my child in the event treatment should be needed. I give permission to any licensed physician selected by this agent to administer such emergency treatment as said physician in his/her judgment deems necessary; and I hereby absolve First Armenian Presbyterian Church, it's agents and employees from any and all liability resulting from their conformance with these instructions.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## “What Did You Expect?”

For five weeks in April and May, Paul and I participated in the marriage class that was held in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday evenings. Each week we enjoyed dinner together and then watched two “episodes” of a video curriculum by Paul David Tripp, “What Did You Expect?” We spent time in discussion around our table after each of the videos. The material hit us right where it should when we’re talking about any relationship, but especially marriage: the heart.

We were challenged each week to think about our hearts in relationship to God first and then our spouse. Many times, our discussion around our table moved towards our family, friends and beyond as we realized that our relationship with God really does impact every relationship that we’re in. One of the take-aways from the first session that has stuck with us even now, and hopefully will forever, is this line: *“I am my biggest marriage problem.”* If Paul and I do not blame each other, but instead look to our own hearts for the root of the issue, we find things will be much different.

One of the other parts of the course that stood out to me was Tripp shaking a water bottle. Seemed like a silly illustration. Of course, when you shake the water bottle, the water will come out! He challenged us to think about the problem in the scenario. It is not that the bottle is being shaken but what is coming out of the bottle when it is shaken. If it’s full of water, water will come out; if it’s full of acid, acid will come out. The point is that in this life, we will be shaken, but what is in our hearts? Whatever is in our hearts is what will come out, grace or condemnation. We are praying that we will be full of God’s grace so that when the circumstances in our lives shake us, grace will be what comes out of our hearts.

●●●●● KimHaroutunian



- Laugh
- Play
- Sing
- Swim
- Pray
- Learn
- Study
- Encourage
- Listen
- Run
- Imagine
- Rest

## ONE-DAY FAMILY CAMP

Aug 25

9:30am-8pm

Calvin Crest

Details to follow



**First  
Armenian  
Presbyterian  
Church**

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*Upcoming Special Events*

Armenian Home Visit	June 3	Church Office:	Mosaix submissions
Men's Fellowship Dinner	June 5	8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	are due by the
Youth Sunday (Last Day of Sunday School)	June 10	(M - F)	15 <sup>th</sup> of the month.
VBS 9:30-11:30am	June 11-15	P: 559.237.6638	Please e-mail
Father's Day	June 17	F: 559.237.9526	information to
Men's Fellowship Baseball Game	June 23	E: fapc3@fapc.net	fapc3@fapc.net.
AEUNA/AEYF Biennial in LA	June 28-July 1	<b>Staff:</b>	
"Maturing Men" Breakfast	June 30	Suzy Artemyan, Church Administrator	
Armenian Home Visit	July 1	Jesse Dunbar, Interim Music Ministry Director	
"Maturing Men" Breakfast	July 28	Vera Darakjian, Armenian Ministries Pianist	
Armenian Home Visit	Aug 5	Marine Frznlyan, Nursery Attendant	
One-Day Family Camp	Aug 25	Marisa Garza, Nursery Attendant	
Rally Sunday	Sept 9	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

