

*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

John 15:7 (NIV)

“Prayer is simply asking God to do for us what He has promised to do if we ask Him.” E.M. Bounds

I have a confession to make: I have a love-hate relationship with prayer.

Prayer is a precious gift! With open arms God invites us to pour out our hearts to Him. He promises to listen when we pray. He even hears our hearts before we’ve formed the words to pray! Prayer is God’s antidote to our worries and anxiety. Prayer can even mold our hearts and desires to God’s will.

Throughout Scripture we even see God welcoming “negotiating”-prayer. Remember Abraham “dealing” with God about Sodom’s & Gomorrah’s impending doom? To save his nephew Lot, he bargained Him down from 50 to 5 people. The Lord would spare the cities if there were just five righteous people. There weren’t, but God still rescued Lot. God said, “No” to Abraham’s prayer, but granted the unspoken desire of his heart.

Prayer is a gift. I love it!

Then why is it so difficult to fulfill Paul’s command to “devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving”? (Colossians 4:2 NASB) You’d think it would come easier. Can you relate at all?

I want to pray, but I get distracted. There’s always one more thing to do. “When I finish this, then I’ll pray.” Rarely does that plan ever work! Responsibilities, entertainment, tiredness—they all conspire to derail our best intentions, leaving us frustrated and defeated. Honestly, sometimes I just don’t “believe”. Have you ever wondered “If I pray, will it really make a difference?”

You know what helps though? Praying with others.

My prayer-partners kept me going week after week in Boston. Joining with our brothers and sisters throughout Fresno and Clovis during the **21 Days of Fasting & Prayer** in January was such an encouragement! We had over 250 people together when we hosted, from more than 35 churches! Hundreds and hundreds of believers sought the Lord together on behalf of our community, that God would be glorified.

Who can you pray with? Stop reading now and ask God, “Who would pray with me if I asked?” Go for it!

Now, Thursday mornings at 6 a.m. are becoming a lifeline. This last week on the **National Day of Prayer**, nine men met to worship, pray for our leadership, our church, our city and our nation. As we prayed, I was overwhelmed by Holy Spirit’s presence creating faith within me.

*“Lord, thank You for changing my heart from being just a spectator on Sunday mornings, to a participant.”*

*“Father, give me a hunger for You, to know You and follow You. Never let this fire go out!”*

*“Give our Elders hearts to love and follow You and to lead us. Make us a church that shows Your heart, that shows Your love and power.”*

*“Oh Father, thank You for welcoming us into your presence together. I confess that I come for me, to get something for me. I want to come to FAPC eager to give to others, expecting You to meet my needs.”*

This is just a glimpse of their praying. In a way, like never before, I’m actually beginning to believe—genuinely believe—that the Lord is moving and will move among us to make us a healthy spiritual family that will impact the 60,000 Armenians—and those associated with them—in the Valley. Can you imagine how that will glorify God?

I love this quote by A.T. Pierson, “*There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.*”

Men, join us on Thursday mornings! Church, join us on Sunday mornings between 9 – 10:45 a.m. Let’s seek the Lord together in prayer to learn together in prayer what He has in store for us!

## ● Women's Ministry News ●

On March 29-30, 2019, a group of 17 multi-generational women journeyed North to Los Gatos, CA, for an adventure of the heart as we attended the 'Adorned' Women's Conference hosted by Venture Church and led by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, renowned Bible teacher and speaker, and founder of 'Revive Our Hearts' ministries. Even though I was unfamiliar with Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth and her ministry, I was intrigued by the topic 'Adorned' and the opportunity to get to know some of my FAPC sisters in Christ a bit better in a retreat setting. Just how blessed was I? Well, let me try to unwrap God's gift of this experience for you...

When we arrived at Venture Church on the evening of March 29<sup>th</sup>, we were greeted warmly and served a light dinner. Upon reflection, that light dinner seemed to be an appetizer of sorts as it satisfied our bodies, yet the real meal of spiritual nourishment was yet to come as we entered the sanctuary and were ushered into worship by an amazing team of singers and musicians who truly led us to the feet of Jesus our Lord in worship throughout each session we had with Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth.

During the first session, we were challenged to face who we are as women seeking to quench the legitimate spiritual thirst within our souls, but who may often tend to do so in ways that do not truly meet that need, especially when we try to satisfy our spiritual and emotional thirst with something other than Jesus, the Living Water. In studying the story of the 'Woman at the Well' in John, Chapter 4, we were asked to reflect on the question: What are the wells that we go to, other than Jesus, to try to satisfy our thirst?

In session two, we were challenged to be true to our Scriptural calling as women as we explored Titus, Chapter 2, and unpacked a new definition of the word 'adorned': "living out the beauty of the Church as older and younger women." We were given a strong exhortation to live lives of holiness and reverence for God, to teach "life-to-life" in the context of community, intentionally investing in each other's lives. We were then given the powerful reminder that we need spiritual mothers, spiritual daughters, and spiritual sisters in our lives as are God's intentions for each of us as women of faith. The powerful metaphor of the Church as a grove of Redwood trees that grow close together,

share interlocking root systems, and protect each other during intense storms portrays beautiful imagery of God's ideals for the Body of Christ.

Session 3 focused on the powerful nature of relationships between older and younger women as we looked more deeply at the relationship between Elizabeth and Mary in Luke, Chapter 1. It was amazing to see how the Holy Spirit was at work during their miraculous pregnancies to bring them into deeper connection with one another to strengthen and encourage each other in their faith in God. As God continues to write His story in each of our lives we were encouraged to consider these questions: Who has blessed and encourages us and to whom are we needing to be available to bless and encourage? Who has invested in my faith development and to whom will I pass on the 'baton of faith'?

My reflections on this women's retreat and the opportunities I had to get to know a few more of my FAPC sisters in Christ a little more deeply offers only a glimpse of the gifts God provided to me. I am indeed grateful to the leadership of 'The Gathering' who provided this amazing opportunity for us.

●●●●● Lori James



### Deacon's Corner

I have never been more inspired, in awe and filled with astonishment of our God, than I am now. He is all powerful, almighty and yet so close to our hearts and near to all who call on him. He is our heavenly father who loves us dearly. I know God can do more that I can ever imagine possible. As a servant of God and his people, our Lord has spiritually disciplined me in humility and love. I have seen his goodness and mercy many times. The Holy Spirit taught me to put others before myself, and to pray for others. Throughout all of this, I have seen the Lord's miracles in my life and in the life of our church. Honor and Glory is to our heavenly father! Nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Amen!

*"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care." Psalm 95:6-7*

Know that FAPC deacons are praying for you!

●●●●● Sela Ghazarian

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATES:  
MAY 12 (Mother's Day)  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

JUNE 9  
Youth Celebration Sunday  
(Last Day of Sunday School)

### Attention all Graduates

Entries for the graduation booklet are due no later than Monday, May 27. For kindergarten, 6th & 8th grade promotions, please submit your names. All other graduates, please submit your name, picture, institution you're graduating from, degree earned, activities, favorite scripture, & future plans to Marine @ fapc3@fapc.net.



Avedis Kachadourian was featured in the March issue of *Hye Sharzhoom* publication. <https://hyesharzhoom.com/kashian-family-foundation-strengthens-ties-between-diasporans-and-armenia/>

Armenian Theological Students' Aid, Inc. -- the seminary scholarship arm of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in North America -- celebrated 75 years of ministry at a milestone banquet on Sunday afternoon, April 7. The gathering took place at Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church and the program included a welcome and ministry update from ATSA President Edward S. Saliba, invocation by FAPC Senior Pastor Gregory V. Haroutunian, instrumental selections by violinist Aris Avak Howsepian, and a moving testimonial by AEUNA Pastoral Candidate Aram Bashian, a student at Alliance Theological Seminary at Nyack College in New York. ATSA Committee Members from FAPC include Dr. Jason Keledjian (Vice-President), Reverend Greg Haroutunian, George Karkazian, Jeffrey Melikian, Lisa Tokatian, and Elaine Rubio (Directors).



100 YEARS 1918 | 2018  
**AMAA**  
**SUMMER INTERNSHIP**  
July 4-19, 2019

VISION FOR MISSION  
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"...Young men shall see visions..."  
Acts 2:18

«...Երիտասարդները տեսիլներ պիտի տեսնեն...»  
Գործք Առաքելոց 2. 18



CONTACT: REV. SEROP MEGERDITCHIAN

(626) 405.9195 rev.seropmegerditchian@yahoo.com

Applications can be picked up at a local church office  
or by visiting amaa.org

“Discovering Our Purpose in Christ” is the theme of the 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Armenian Evangelical Women’s Fellowship - West Coast. The Conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, 2233 Ventura Street, in Fresno on October 4-6, 2019. Alina Melkonian Balabanian will be the keynote speaker and the conference theme is drawn from Proverbs 19:21. For complete information, please call Roseann Saliba at (559) 960-4100 or e-mail resaliba@sbcglobal.net.



Camp AREV will hold a Volunteer Clean-Up Weekend on May 10 and 11 at the E.J. Manishagian Armenian Conference Center in Frazier Park. For complete details, please contact Reverend Razmig Minassian, the Camp AREV Executive Director, at info@camparev.org.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

My name is Stephen Goodale, and I am honored to serve as the new Director of Youth Ministries here at FAPC. I was homeschooled through high school, attended Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, where I received a Bachelor's in Biomedical Engineering and a minor in Psychology. I also met my wife, Claire in SLO and we were married last October. I am the oldest of three and have a younger brother and sister. God has been working on my heart and urging me to serve Him in youth ministry. I have the pleasure of sharing some of my story of coming to Christ and my walk since then.



I first met Christ when I was four years old. At the time, my family was in Las Vegas visiting my grandparents, and my dad was reading through a children's Bible with me each night. He read to me Jesus' life and ministry on earth, and that He had died for me to forgive my sins. I was amazed and asked my dad what I could do in response to Jesus. He told me that I could ask Him to be my Savior, the Lord of my life, and we prayed that night. I remember running downstairs to tell my mom and grandma what I had done. I told them how there was a party in heaven, something my dad had told me happens when people give their lives to Jesus. Since then, I have spent time in church dedicating my life to learning how to love, know, and serve God.

As I grew up in First Presbyterian Church, God surrounded me with many opportunities to grow. There were a few moments that stick out in particular to me throughout high school. The first is, during the summer before my seventh grade year at Calvin Crest. The speaker for the week challenged me with the idea that the Holy Spirit has created a place in time and space for each of us, and we can choose what we want to do with it. We can use it to serve God and love those around us, or we can use it to do whatever we want for ourselves. I promised God that night that I would use my time here on earth to serve Him and love others, and that night has stayed with me ever since.

The second moment spans a larger portion of my life. When I was ten years old, I was diagnosed with Scoliosis, which is when the s-curve of the spine compresses and the whole body is affected. As I grew, the Scoliosis worsened, and it was clear that I would need back surgery. The surgery was set for October 6th, 2009. In the months leading up to the surgery, my parents and I prayed for healing of my back to avoid surgery, but also acknowledged that God can heal through the surgeon's hands just as He can heal with His own. One Sunday, I sat in the sanctuary as elders of the church, my parents, and the head pastor gathered around me to lay their hands on me and to pray for my healing. When I was not healed before the surgery, I wondered if it was because of a lack of faith that I had not been healed. When the morning of the surgery came, as I sat in the pre-op room, I felt peace wash over me and I was perfectly calm. The peace of God came over me and I knew that He would be me through everything to come.

I am so excited to see what God has in store for the youth group in the coming months. I am blessed to be a part of His plans and am looking forward to this summer and all that it will contain. Praise God that He pours out new blessings every day, and that His love for us is unrivaled! Please join me in praying for our youth and their walk with Christ. If you would like to help out by giving your time, making food, hosting an event, or being a guest speaker please let me know! God has blessed us all with many gifts and is glorified when we use them in serving one another.

●●●●● Stephen Goodale

SOME GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT  
AND SERVE:

***Youth Game Night***

May 17

6-10pm @FAPC

BRING YOUR FAVORITE SNACK!

We do need some VBS Youth Helpers  
***(June 2 is the deadline to sign up!)***

If you're hoping to serve  
at Camp Arev this Summer,  
***deadline to apply is May 15***  
go to [www.camparev.org](http://www.camparev.org).

# ONCE UPON A KINGDOM

## CAMP AREV Summer Camp 2019

### Dates

**Juniors:** July 7-13

**Junior High:** July 14-20

**High School:** July 21-27

**College & Career:** August 9-11

### **CLOSING CEREMONIES & KEBAB PICNICS:**

SATURDAY 11am-4pm

(parents plan to pick up campers at picnic)

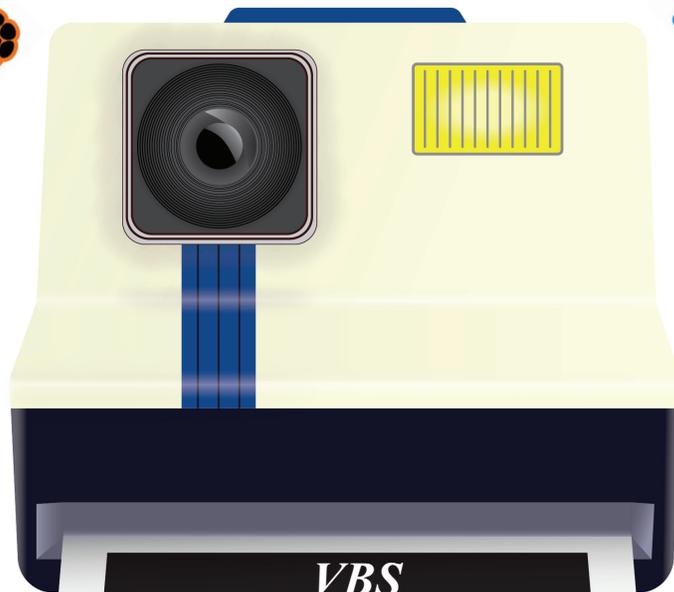
### **FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:**

Call 818.507.0922 or visit [camparev.org/summer](http://camparev.org/summer)

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:33





**VBS**  
 zoom in on Jesus  
*Into the Wild*  
 June 17-21  
 9AM-12PM  
 \$15 per child  
 \$35 max per family  
 Children 2 yrs-5th Grade

**REGISTER WITH  
 THE FORM**

# REGISTRATION FORM

## FAPC

JUNE 17-21

9:00AM-12PM

\$15 PER CHILD

CHILDREN 2 YRS-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

\$35 MAX PER FAMILY

(NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN OF VOLUNTEERS)



### ONE FORM PER FAMILY

FAMILY NAME/GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ CELL NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME/PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL NEEDS/ALLERGIES/OTHER CONCERNS \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DOB (MM/DD/YEAR) \_\_\_\_\_

DOB (MM/DD/YEAR) \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_

FALL 2019 GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

FALL 2019 GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DOB (MM/DD/YEAR) \_\_\_\_\_

DOB (MM/DD/YEAR) \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_

FALL 2019 GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

FALL 2019 GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

Child #1:

T-shirt size	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L
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Child #2:

T-shirt size	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L
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Child #3:

T-shirt size	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L
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Child #4:

T-shirt size	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L
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**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.

**MEDIA RELEASE:** I give consent to my child/children to possibly be photographed/video during this event.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



# First Armenian Presbyterian Church

430 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St Fresno, CA 93702  
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## *Upcoming Special Events*

Mother's Day	May 12
Membership/Re-Membership Class, 4:30pm	May 19
AEYF IronMan Games	May 24-26
Joint Memorial Day Picnic @PACC, 11am-3pm	May 27
Armenian Home Worship, 1:45pm	June 2
Last Day of Sunday School	June 9
VBS, 9am-12pm	June 17-21
Rev. Mgo Mekredijian's Last Sunday	June 23
Camp Arev Summer Camp, Juniors:	July 7-13
Junior High:	July 14-20
High School:	July 21-27
Colleg/Career:	Aug 9-11

**Church Office:**  
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
(M - F)  
P: 559.237.6638  
F: 559.237.9526  
E: fapc3@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  
***Anna Arakelian***, Nursery Attendant  
***Jesse Dunbar***, Interim Music Ministry Director  
***Vera Darakjian***, Armenian Ministries Pianist  
***Marine Frznlyan***, Administrator Assistant,  
Nursery Attendant  
***Stephen Goodale***, Director of Youth Ministries  
***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)

Ruling Elders: Dr. Hagop Afarian, Sevag Afarian, Ed Esajian, Paul Koligian,  
Rev. Razmig Minassian, Dr. Dennis Shamlian, Ron Statler

Deacons: Silva Esajian, Kim Garo, Sela Ghazarian, Keith Harrison,  
Maria Kalayjian, Arpi Keledjian, Kohar Kojayan, Bob Mangasarian,  
Sandra Marashian, Karine Martirosyan, Rita Shamlian, Varvara Sivas

