

*<sup>15</sup> Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. <sup>16</sup> After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea. Colossians 4:15-16 (NIV)*

What's *our story*? What distinguishes us from all the other churches in the Valley?

Last month I asked what *your story* is. But we're more than just a group of individuals.

Who are we as a church? What's the narrative that binds us together as the church "at 430 South First Street" in Fresno? Multiple locations, multiple pastors and multiple challenges over the last 120 years have all gone into creating First Armenian Presbyterian Church!

But there's more to *our story* than just the past. What story is God writing among us right here, right now? We've had so many shifts and changes over the last five years, it's been hard to keep up! Now with Badveli Mgo's departure, we face another transition.

**Staffing update: the Elders have decided to spend the next several months in "discernment", seeking the Lord regarding what position, what ministry-focus God will be leading us to fill with our next Associate Pastor. So, we'll wait to call a Pastor Nominating Committee, until we have a clearer sense of direction. So, these next months are going to provide an opportunity for some of you to step into greater service.**

The future is also part of the FAPC story. Where is the Lord taking us? What is our specific and unique calling as a church in 2019 and beyond? You are a key part of our discerning process in following God's guidance. So ...

Here are three questions we need you to answer:

- 1) What is it about FAPC that most energizes you?**
- 2) What are the unique needs and opportunities both in FAPC, the local community and the Armenian community at-large?**
- 3) What are the resources and capabilities that God has brought together in us as FAPC?**

At the Session's direction, our *God Dreams* Team continues to work on understanding our unique calling as a church and in the next several weeks you have the opportunity to express your perspective on these three and a few other related questions.

Beginning in the July 28 worship service, we will be taking time to canvas your thoughts and feelings. It's going to be a very different Sunday! Other opportunities for providing your input will be available via email, an electronic survey, and a second "face-to-face" time on Sunday, August 4. Anonymous and "identified" responses are welcome! After receiving all the responses, we'll compile and collate them and share the results with you in September.

Our *God Dreams* Team has spent more than thirty hours together seeking the Lord and listening well to each other, and now with your contribution, I believe we will have greater clarity as we identify our mission and vision as a disciple-making church both now and in the years to come!

This is an exciting time in the FAPC story! Mark your calendars! Be sure to participate!

●○○● Badveli Greg

# ●○●○ Family Life News ●○●○



**Reverend Doctor John Markarian**, founding President of Haigazian University of Beirut, Lebanon, celebrated his 102nd Birthday on June 7 in West Pittston, Pennsylvania.



**Kalem Kazarian**, Kazarian Custom Homes, and Bedrosian Tile & Stone were featured in an episode of Go Big or Go Home, an HGTV pilot for a Central California-based home renovation show.



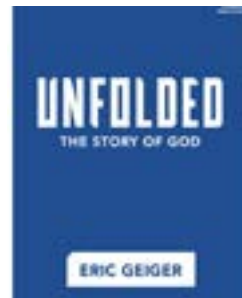
**Annie S. Rubio** recently decorated a public utility box as part of the Main Street Hanford downtown revitalization project. Annie's project is part of a community-driven Public Art Program in Kings County. Her utility box is located at 218 North Douty Street, adjacent to the Rabobank Hanford Branch.



**Hoops in the Hall** --the FAPC Basketball Ministry -- is taking a well-deserved break following an exciting year of full-court action and halftime devotionals. Please watch future editions of Mosaix for the 2019-2020 Hoops in the Hall Schedule.



The **Friday Men's Bible Study** Luncheon group will meet throughout the summer of 2019 and into the fall. The group will be viewing Dr. Eric Geiger's video conversations, "Unfolded: The Story of God," and learning God's powerful story of redemption.



Dr. Geiger is Senior Pastor of Mariners Church in Irvine and Senior Pastor Greg Haroutunian will be our discussion leader for the 16-week series. Please call 237-6638 or e-mail [administration@fapc.net](mailto:administration@fapc.net) to be placed on the E-list.

## ● Deacon's Corner ●

I look forward to music worship service on Sunday mornings. By singing hymns and spiritual songs, we praise our Father in heaven and glorify His name. As I look around, I see hands reaching out toward Heaven and I know the Holy Spirit is with us; this brings me overwhelming joy and tears to my eyes. I commend our brothers and sisters in the Choir, and also the worship band, who take part in the music ministry of our church. What a blessing! Psalm 100:1-5 *Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

●○●○● Sela Ghazarian



If you shop on Amazon, don't forget to link FAPC with AmazonSmile, so that the church will receive a donation from Amazon, at no extra cost to you. Happy shopping! [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)



FAPC celebrated **Graduation Sunday** 2019 during the 11 a.m. Worship Service on June 9. Natalie Adanalian and Taleen Afarian offered the Call to Worship. The Youth Band shared instrumental praise music in the English and Armenian languages with vocals by the Sunday School Youth and the congregation at large. Peter Kazarian and Lucas Keledjian delivered prayers and Eddy Thurber, Mark Haroutunian, and Carina Tokatian shared their testimonies. Julia Adanalian provided offertory music and Junior High School Boys addressed the community life of the Church Family. Members and friends viewed a video on the upcoming 2019 Summer Camping Season at Camp AREV. The First and Second Grade Sunday School Students made a special presentation under the guidance of their instructor, Julie Thurber. Associate Pastor Mgo Mekredijian introduced the 2018-2019 Sunday School Servant Leaders and prayed on their behalf. Youth Director Stephen Goodale gave a moving charge to the youth of FAPC. Senior Pastor Gregory Haroutunian closed the service with the benediction and worshippers adjourned to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious Graduation Sunday Reception.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



1 Corinthians 12:27 says, *"Now you are a part of the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

When I am sitting by myself in my house, it is hard for me to know what part I play in the body of Christ, but when I am serving with other parts of the body, it is very easy to begin to identify where we all fit. This has never been truer for me than it has been during the week of VBS. Our theme was "In the Wild," and it took a variety of very talented, very willing people to pull this week off.

We had four different groups of children traveling through the CE building having various encounters with Jesus (plus one tiny group of babies in the nursery).



Each morning began with an energetic worship rally where kids sang songs, learned about and gave to Young Life Armenia (almost \$500!), and were primed for their time in Bible Study. Each day the children studied a different event in the life of Jesus. They worked

toward understanding that Jesus is the Son of God and that He knew His purpose was to be our Messiah.



After Bible Study, the groups moved through rotations of games snacks and crafts. In each rotation, the leaders emphasized the main truth of the Bible story. Whether it was making a wildlife diorama or zebra puppet in crafts, playing water games or getting messy with shaving cream, or eating cookies made to look like sandals—the focus was always on Jesus.

The final day of the week ended with an interactive presentation with Reptile Ron and his animal friends. Kids (and adults!) were able to interact with a stick bug, a king snake, a pancake turtle, and a large lizard. The highlight of the presentation was the six foot long yellow boa constrictor. Kids had a chance to pet the large snake and a handful of adults volunteered to "wear" the snake. Everyone enjoyed seeing that big snake draped across the shoulders of their friends.

## ● Family Life News ●

More than 200 members and friends of FAPC gathered at the Church Campus on Sunday, June 23, to bid farewell to **Reverend Mgo Mekredijian, Tamar**, and their children, **Emelia and Ara**. Badveli Mgo concluded eight years of pastoral ministry at FAPC as Associate Pastor of Young Families' Ministries.



Badveli Mgo preached the Worship Messages at the 11 a.m. Service, an Armenian Language Message entitled "Let's Celebrate!" (Psalm 66: 1-7) and an English Language Message entitled "Only Thing that Matters!" (Philippians 3: 7-14). Garo Cardoux shared his faith journey and testimony reflecting the impact of Badveli Mgo's ministry on his life.

At the conclusion of the Service, worshippers gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a luncheon to honor the Mekredijian Family. The Hall was decorated with family and scenic photographs taken by Badveli Mgo and each banquet table included a beautiful floral arrangement with a picture of the honorees with various FAPC members. Guests signed a hardwood cutting board for the honorees to use in their home kitchen in the years to come.



**Dr. Christopher Shamlian** served as Master of Ceremonies for the celebration and delivered the invocation. Guests feasted on a buffet of Maw N' Paw smoked Kentucky-style barbecued meats with torpedo rolls, salads, sides, and seasonal fruits. The serving



The reptile presentation closed with everyone having the chance to pet a giant Flemish rabbit. Even the most skittish of kids enjoyed giving that big bunny a rub. After the presentation, parents joined their kids for a lunch of Chick-fil-a nuggets followed by ice cream sandwiches—the perfect way to end a full, fun week. The theme verse for the week was John 20:31—***"But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that my believing you may have life in his name."*** It is our hope that through their encounters "In The Wild," each child who participated in VBS will believe in Jesus and have life in His name.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this wild event, whether it was by bringing your kids, helping to set up, decorating, planning, teaching, or just lending a hand where needed. The Body of Christ was working well together!

●○○● Kim Haroutunian and Sue Garabedian

tables were decorated with soccer memorabilia in recognition of Badveli Mgo's favorite intramural sport.



As guests enjoyed dipped desserts and delicacies from two chocolate fountains, members of the Session and Congregation paid tribute to the Mekredijian Family. Dr. Chris Shamlian warmly remembered eight years of "Mgo Moments," including Badveli's skill in preparing barbecued meals. He described Badveli as "a man who cares . . . for his flock and the people he is called to shepherd," including the families of the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School of Clovis.



**Reverend Razmig Minassian**, Executive Director of Camp AREV, recounted his 20-year friendship with Badveli Mgo dating back to their shared service as Regional Leaders of the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship (AEYF). Reverend Minassian vividly described Badveli Mgo's impact on the Armenian

Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA), the Union's Committee on Ministry, and the Board of Directors of Camp AREV.



**Elaine Rubio** read a humorous letter from Maryvonne Gagliardi, who was in Southern California and unable to attend the celebration. After teasing Badveli about her sermon notetaking abilities, Maryvonne said, "I look forward to what God has planned for you." Elaine thanked Badveli Mgo for ministering across the generations and for watching out for her daughter Joy on a Young Life Armenia missions trip. She added, "I admire you two – Tamar and Mgo – because you are letting God design your next steps. We love you!"



**Julie Tikijian Bogosian** thanked Tamar of behalf of the young mothers of the Mommy & Me ministry. Julie said no words could adequately describe the impact of Tamar on the four-year Friday morning ministry. Julie said Tamar led by example, was always helpful, and was willing to share in the joys and struggles of young mothers with an open heart and encouraging spirit.

*Elder Sevag Afarian* spoke on behalf of the members of the Young Couples' Bible Study group. He said Badveli Mgo and Tamar were a real encouragement to all the participants and were open and abiding to each couple in the face of needs and challenges. Sevag noted, "If God is calling [Badveli Mgo] to step aside so that we [at FAPC] may go forward, he must obey. He's my friend who happens to be my pastor. He wears his emotions on his sleeve." **Senior Pastor Gregory V. Haroutunian** spoke of his 17-year friendship with Badveli Mgo and recalled his endorsement of Badveli Mgo to the FAPC Associate Pastor Search Committee in 2010: "Outstanding pastor. Passion for Jesus. Genuinely loves people. Not afraid to show it." Badveli Greg presented Badveli Mgo a token of esteem on behalf of the Session and Congregation and referred to the honoree as one who "taught well, preached well, and loved well." Badveli Greg thanked Badveli Mgo for experiencing the love of Jesus Christ and then sharing that love with all of us at FAPC.



Badveli Mgo responded to the tribute by thanking all the speakers, saluting his spiritual mentor, the late Reverend Ara Jizmejian, and expressing gratitude to the congregation for "the deep way you have embraced us and loved us." He extended heartfelt thanks to the volunteers in various FAPC ministries, fellow staff members past and present, and his senior colleagues, Senior Pastor Mgrdich Melkonian, Interim Senior Pastor Paul Irwin, and Senior Pastor Gregory Haroutunian. Badveli Mgo concluded his remarks by saying, "*We don't know what's next or where. Please pray for clarity and discernment.*" The day concluded with Dr. Chris Shamlian offering just such a prayer on behalf of Badveli Mgo, Tamar, and their family.

The Session extends heartfelt thanks to the following members of the Celebration Luncheon Arrangements Committee: Maryvonne Gagliardi, Sela Ghazarian, Arpi Keledjian, Steven and Sandra Marashian, Barbara Tirapelle, Nelda Baker, Sue Garabedian, Carol Hagopian, Sossy Haroutunian, Dr. Hagop Afarian, Philip Garo, Jr., Jonelle and Kalem Kazarian, Susan Ruiz, Maggie Curtis, and Nancy Nersesian.



●●●● Phil Tavlian

# 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**



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**Upcoming Special Events**

Camp AREV Summer Camp, Junior High:	July 14-20
High School:	July 21-27
College/Career:	Aug 9-11
Armenian Home Worship, 1:45pm	Aug 4
Communion Sunday	Aug 4
Communion Sunday	Sept 1
Rally Sunday	Sept 8
Armenian Home Worship, 1:45pm	Sept 8
Women's Fellowship,	
<i>Discovering Our Purpose In Christ</i>	Oct 4-6
Communion Sunday	Oct 6
Armenian Home Worship, 1:45pm	Oct 6

**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:**  
**Anna Arakelian**, Nursery Attendant  
**Suzy Artemyan**, Church Administrator  
**Vera Darakjian**, Armenian Ministries Pianist  
**Jesse Dunbar**, Interim Music Ministry Director  
**Marine Frnzlyan**, Administrator Assistant,  
 Nursery Attendant  
**Stephen Goodale**, Director of Youth Ministries  
**Brandon Petrie**, Media Technician  
**Susan Ruiz**, Custodian

Teaching Elder: Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Senior Pastor (badveli@fapc.net)

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

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

