

Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.

August 2019 Vol. 5:8

What do you think about our church? How do you feel about our church? Do you think about our church much? Most of you think a lot more about church than many would ever imagine!

Sometimes our thoughts and feelings come out only when we're hurt or upset about something. That's unfortunate because so frequently we're really excited about each other and what God is doing.

Last month I mentioned that we would be taking the time to canvas your thoughts and feelings about our church. On July 28th, we introduced the survey that you'll find in this newsletter. You can fill this out and send it back in the envelope provided or you can go to this link: [<http://www.fapc.net/survey-response/>] to fill it out electronically. You can sign your name or turn it in anonymously. But if you do complete the questionnaire, we want you to be in a drawing for two Merchants Lunch tickets! Just let us know that you've responded and you're in! While we want you to answer each of the questions, if you'd prefer to express yourself with just a few, that's fine. What we want, is to understand more fully where we are as a church.

*<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)*

We looked at Acts 2:42-47 as an expression of what God's heart is for His church. While the early church wasn't perfect, this description really does

give us a target to shoot for, a destination to have in mind as we ask what God has for FAPC in the months and years to come.

The Lord is building His church: a community that learns, loves, worships and expands beyond themselves! That's what we want to become!

But before we chart our future, it's important to know where we are now.

Again, these are the key three questions we need you to answer:

- 1) How are we UNIQUE as a congregation? What are the resources and capabilities that God has brought together in us as our church?**
- 2) What are the unique needs and opportunities both in FAPC, the local community and the Armenian community at-large?**
- 3) What is it about our church that most energizes you? When are we at "our best"? What are you/we passionate about as a church?**

**Please fill out the questionnaire by Thursday, August 15, 2019.**

I want to thank you ahead of time for your participation in with survey. We can't wait to listen to you so we can lead more effectively. Christ commanded His disciples to go into all the world and make disciples. My dream is that, more and more, we would become a disciple-making community where each one of us is unleashed to be who the Lord has created and gifted us to be in this body of Christ known as First Armenian Presbyterian Church.

Just imagine experiencing God's unique call for our church, a call that no other church anywhere can fulfill! I believe He's preparing us to move into that future! Help us figure out what our starting point is!

● Deacon's Corner ●

*“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor” Ecclesiastes 4:9.*

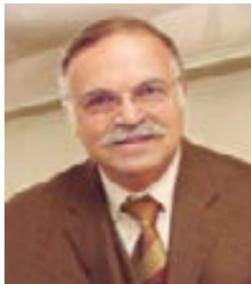
This verse is a beautiful reminder of how a church family can share a vision, work together offering their unique giftings, and glorify God with the final product. We have that opportunity every year though our involvement with the Merchants' Luncheon. On November 7, we will once again hold this amazing event with our community at large. Many visitors to our church look forward to our delicious kebabs, buttery pilaf, and country store goodies. However, even more important than the food we offer is the love of Jesus that we show our guests. This ministry is possible only when we work collectively with joy in our hearts, ready and willing to serve in the name of Jesus.

If you wish to work with your brothers and sisters in Christ on November 7 (or the food preparation prior to the event), please contact Maryvonne Gagliardi, Elaine Rubio, or Steve Marashian (country store). All you need is a servant's heart (and maybe a pound of butter)! More details will be shared in the coming months.

*“For the body is not one member, but many”*

*1 Corinthians 12:14.*

●●●●● Elaine Rubio



**Reverend Mgrdich Melkonian**, 11th Senior Pastor of FAPC, experienced a stroke in the month of July, shortly before a scheduled trip to the Republic of Armenia and his ongoing duties as Field Director/Pastor to the Pastors of Armenia for the Armenian Missionary Association of America. The Session encourages all members and friends of FAPC to lift up Badveli Mgrdich, his wife Houri, and their family in prayer as Badveli undergoes treatment and therapy in Northern California. Notes and cards of encouragement may be mailed to the following address: Reverend Mgrdich Melkonian, c/o Reverend Aren Balabanian, 5540 Glenoak Court, San Jose, CA 95129-3114.

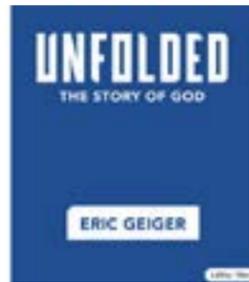


**The Charles Keyan Armenian Community School** will hold its Sunset & Sax event at 6: 30 p.m. on September 7, 2019. The CKACS Campus is located at 108 North Villa Avenue south of Herndon Avenue in Clovis. Please call (559) 323-1955 for details.

The Friday, July 5, edition of The Business Journal highlighted the tenth anniversary of **Raisels Sours**, the pioneering flavored raisin treat produced by the Bedrosian Family's National Raisin Company. **Senior Vice President Jane Bedrosian Asmar** reported that Fiesta -- a mix of lemon, pineapple, and chili flavors -- is the newest addition to the Raisels lineup.



**The Fresno Grizzlies** will observe Christian Fellowship Night on Friday, August 9, at Chukchansi Park in Downtown Fresno. The Grizzlies, Triple A affiliate of the Washington Nationals Major League Baseball Team, will face off against the Nashville Sounds, Triple A affiliate of the Texas Rangers. Gates open at 6:05 p.m., the first pitch takes place at 7:05 p.m., and post-game activities will include fireworks and a concert by Christian recording artist **Micah Tyler**.



**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.



**Evangel Home**, a Christian ministry to homeless women and children since 1955, will hold its 2019 Annual Banquet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at TorNino's Banquets, 5080 North Blackstone Avenue, in Fresno. For more information, please call (559) 264-4714 or visit [evangelhome.com](http://evangelhome.com).

**Our Condolences:**



**Reverend Doctor Lee Allison Hicks**, Interim Pastor of First Armenian Presbyterian Church from the Spring of 2001 through Christmas Sunday 2002, passed away in Boise, Idaho on Father's Day, June 16 at the age of 82. A third generation native Visalian, Reverend Doctor Hicks grew up in Santa Cruz and Los Gatos and was educated at Stanford University and San Francisco Theological Seminary. Upon ordination, Reverend Doctor Hicks served a host of churches in Nebraska over a 25-year period. In 1987, he returned to Central California to pastor Easton Presbyterian Church for seven years and then serve as Interim Pastor of four sister churches for an additional decade. During his Valley ministry, he led the "Walk to Emmaus" program for area pastors and lay leaders. During his two-year Interim Pastorship at FAPC, Reverend Doctor Hicks spoke at the Annual Martyrs' Day Commemoration and officiated at the graveside service for the remains of William Saroyan at Ararat Cemetery in Fresno. In early 2003, Reverend Doctor Hicks and his wife relocated to Boise to be closer to their daughter. In retirement, he served as Interim Executive Director of the Presbytery of Boise and taught Bible Studies at two area congregations. He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert Allison and Florence Hicks. He is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara; son Kirk and his wife, Jennifer Hicks, of Omaha, Nebraska; daughter Kerry and her husband, Steve Calverley, of Boise; brother Jerry and his wife, Ann Hicks, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and five grandchildren.

the Southern District of York (1961-1970), and New York County District Attorney (1975-2009). His grandfather, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., was U.S. Minister in Constantinople from 1913 to 1916. He vividly described the Armenian Massacres in a 1918 memoir, "Ambassador Morgenthau's Story," and helped organized the Near East Relief to assist the suffering Armenian refugees. Robert Morgenthau followed in his grandfather's footsteps by being a passionate advocate for the Armenian people throughout his long lifetime. He is survived by his wife, Lucinda, seven children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



**Mary Katherine Sarah (Kalashian) Niksarian** passed away on July 10, 2019 at the age of 76. A native of Fresno, Mary Katherine was educated at Fresno High School, Fresno City College, UCLA, and California State



University, Fresno. Her varied career included service as a teaching assistant to two Russian language professors, administrative roles at Mount Hermon Christian Camps and Conference Center in Felton, establishment of the Western Temporary Services office in London, England, staff work at the Monterey County Office of Education, and Kindergarten teaching at Roeding Elementary School in her hometown. Mary Katherine was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Raymond John Niksarian; her parents, Sarkis and Gladys Kalashian; and her brother, S. Baxter Kalashian, Jr. She is survived by her siblings, Richard Kalashian and Verjene Kalashian; sisters-in-law Sylvia Kalashian and Jane Carruth; niece Kristian Minasian and her husband, Edward; nephews Karson Kalashian and his wife, Jennifer, and Ryan Kalashian and his wife, Courtney; grandnieces Maggie and Katie Kalashian; grandnephew Calder Kalshian; aunts Dulcie Write and Anne Herogian; and many cherished cousins and friends.



**Robert Morris Morgenthau**, grandson of the United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during the time of the Genocide, passed away in Manhattan on July 21 just 10 days before his 100th birthday. A graduate of Amherst College and Yale Law School, Robert Morgenthau was a decorated naval veteran of World War II, United States Attorney for



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**Upcoming Special Events**

Camp AREV Summer Camp, College/Career: Turkish Pastor Mehmet Gurkin & family joining us in our Worship Service	Aug 9-11 Aug 11
Session, 6:45 pm	Aug 27
Congregational Meeting	Aug 25
Communion Sunday	Sept 1
Rally Sunday	Sept 8
Armenian Home Worship, 1:45 pm	Sept 8
Session, 6:45 pm	Sept 24
Armenian Evangelical Women’s Fellowship Retreat, <i>Discovering Our Purpose In Christ</i>	Oct 4-6
Communion Sunday	Oct 6
Armenian Home Worship, 1:45 pm	Oct 6
Session, 6:45 pm	Oct 22
Merchant’s Lunch	Nov 7

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

Ruling Elders: Dr. Hagop Afarian, Sevag Afarian, Ed Esajian,  
 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

**Church Office:**  
 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
 (M - F)  
 P: 559.237.6638  
 F: 559.237.9526  
 E: fapc3@fapc.net

**Staff:**  
**Anna Arakelian**, Nursery Attendant  
**Suzy Artemyan**, Church Administrator  
 (administration@fapc.net)  
**Vera Darakjian**, Armenian Ministries Pianist  
**Jesse Dunbar**, Interim Music Ministry Director  
 (music@fapc.net)  
**Marine Frnzlyan**, Administrator Assistant,  
 Nursery Attendant (fapc3@fapc.net)  
**Stephen Goodale**, Director of Youth Ministries  
 (youthdirector@fapc.net)  
**Brandon Petrie**, Media Technician  
**Susan Ruiz**, Custodian

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

