

Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.

September 2019 Vol. 5:9

*What would you do if you knew that you couldn't fail?
What would you attempt if the results were guaranteed
to be even better than you imagine?*

This question was a part of the survey we sent out last month and it's been on my mind daily over the last several months. *How would I live if the possibility and fear of failing was eliminated?*

How about you? What would be different in your life? My response to this question changes how I view Sossy and the children. It also changes how think about my aging parents. It makes me consider and reconsider how I serve Christ in our community.

What would be different if I was convinced that "success" was inevitable?

No doubt, I act more boldly. I take risks. I end up being more of an encourager than a "Debbie Downer". I become much more gracious toward others and become much less self-protective. I'm finding that I am able to live a little bit more "in the moment" because I'm beginning to let go of having to control the outcome or result.

I'm excited about these incremental changes, because we really do know how God's story ends. As we read His Word, we see that He wins! Christ died on the cross, but three days later, He arose, conquering sin and death. We read Revelation and it looks pretty frightening. But in the end, Christ appears! He makes all things right! He vindicates His people and executes justice once and for all!

We know the ending, but unlike a video, we can't jump to the end. Unlike a book, we don't get to flip to the last couple of pages. It's real life: we know how it ends, but there's a lot to go through. I've had new believers tell me that they'd rather skip life and just go to be with Jesus. They'd rather not have "all the drama".

But it doesn't work like that does it? That's not our God's designed it. While He guarantees the end of the story, I find that frequently He doesn't promise "wins" for each of my endeavors. Rather than a guarantee to make me more relaxed or calm, He actually demands that I step out in faith; that I trust Him without an

assurance in the moment. His pledge is ultimate triumph, not temporary achievement or escape from failure.

So, I guess the question that's coming now is, "*What will I do—what will I attempt—knowing that while I may "fail", Christ's ultimate victory is a guarantee?*" I love 2 Corinthians 2:14! He has taken us captive in Christ—rescued us from slavery to sin and the fear of death! We are now a part of Christ's triumphal procession throughout our lives, whose fragrance is the knowledge of Him spread through us!

*¹⁴ But thank God! He has made us His captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now He uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume.
2 Corinthians 2:14 (NLT)*

This really does change everything! If my goal in every effort is that Christ be known (rather than *my* specific goal or objective) then the fear of failure is eliminated! Ultimate victory is His! In the meantime, His fragrance pours from and through His people, angering some but bringing salvation to others.

That's a "win/win"!

It will cost; no doubt. There will be pain; no doubt. Disappointment will be real; that's pretty much a guarantee. However, Christ will be known more fully! People will experience salvation in Christ! He will transform our lives and our communities. I love what Winston Churchill wrote, "*Nature is merciful and does not try her children, man or beast, beyond their compass....For the rest—live dangerously; take things as they come; dread naught, all will be well.*"

Let's live dangerously, risking in faith and obedience, seeking to share the love and Gospel of Jesus Christ with our neighbors. Let's risk boldly to pursue and know our colleagues, the families of our children's friends, and the people we're in contact with constantly. Let's make the effort genuinely to know each other without fear!

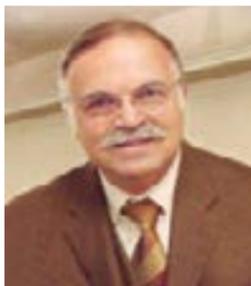
It may not be easy, but we can't lose!

● Deacon's Corner ●



We have so much to be grateful for. Together, let's take a moment right now and pray for our church, our leaders, our children, for the sick, and for the suffering. Let's focus our eyes toward heaven and lift up our church family and commit all that we have toward him. May His name be lifted high.

●●●●● Sela Ghazarian



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 continued treatment and therapy in Northern California. Notes and cards of encouragement may be mailed to the following address: Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, c/o Rev. Aren Balabanian, 5540 Glenoak Court, San Jose, CA 95129-3114.

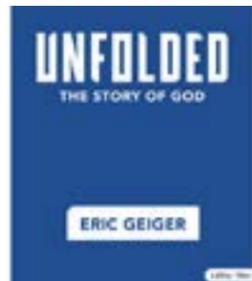


The Lively Arts Foundation will present **Soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian and Friends** at Paul Shaghoian Memorial Concert Hall in Clovis on Saturday, October 26. The 6 p.m. Concert will commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Armenian composer/choralmaster **Gomidas Vartabed** (1869-1935). For more information, please call (559) 270-3212.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

God Dreams Town Hall/working meeting on October 6 from 4:30-7:30 pm at FAPC



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 to be placed on the E-list.



The Arthroscopy Association of North America has named **Peter T. Simonian, M.D.** to its first class of Distinguished Arthroscopy Leaders. Peter is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and Diplomat of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons.



Elder Paul Wayne Koligian and Claire Heron Jaramishian were joined in Holy Matrimony on July 27, 2019. The proud parents are Wayne and Dr. Sarah Koligian and Alexander and Karen Jaramishian. Congratulations Paul and Claire!



Raffi Karayan and Nayiri Tersakian were joined in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, August 3, 2019. Congratulations to the happy couple!



Lillian (Gazarian) Pampeian celebrated her 95th Birthday on August 5, 2019. Lillian's late husband, **Edward Armen Pampeian** (1921-1998), served as FAPC Elder and Clerk of the Session in the 1960s.

Our Condolences:



Father Yeghia Daniel Hairabedian dear Brother in Christ and friend of FAPC, passed away on August 8, 2019 at the age of 66. He was the Archpriest of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic

Church of Fowler. Born in Beirut as Daniel Kerukian, Father Yeghia and his family moved to America and changed their surname to Hairabedian in 1959. Before entering the priesthood, Father Yeghia and his family organized Bible study and prayer groups in their communities while living in the Midwest and Los Angeles. He participated in the FAPC HYEM Youth Group in the early 1980s. Father Yeghia was educated at L.I.F.E. Christian College in Los Angeles and Seabury Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. In 1988, he was ordained as a Priest of the Armenian Orthodox Church in Chicago by then-primate Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. In addition to Saint Gregory Church, Father Yeghia's parishes included Holy Martyrs in Bayside, New York; St. Stepanos in Elberon, New Jersey; and St. James in Sacramento, where he offered invocations in the California Legislature. He celebrated his 30th Anniversary of Ordination in September 2018. Father Yeghia's pastoral works included publications of the "Renewal in Christ" ministry founded by his family in 1968. Father Yeghia was preceded in death by his parents, Archpriest Father Krikor and Yeretsgin Sara Hairabedian; and brothers-in-law, Valer Oganessian and Gregory Megurian. He is survived by his wife, Yeretsgin Roberta; daughter, Rakel Ani; son Daniel Russell and his wife, Mikelle; sisters, Claire, Rose, Maral, and Ruth and her husband, Tony Markarian; and their families.



The wedding work of **David Jon Photography** was featured in the noted professional webpage SLRLounge.com on July 26, 2019. Congratulations to **David and Arminé (Khushigian) Christenson!**

2019 Merchants' Luncheon



It's that time of year when there's a noticeable increase in the hustle and bustle in the church kitchen. You know what that means? It's Merchants' Lunch prep time! Once again, the doors to our Fellowship Hall will be open to the community for some amazing Armenian fare prepared by the loving hands of our church body. However, there is a lot to be done before November 7. How can you be involved, you ask? There are so many ways. Here is a brief list:

1. Volunteer to help prepare tourshee (October 2), yalanchi, and/or choereg on the work days. Dates will be forthcoming. A big thank you to Barbara Tirapelle and her crew for already preparing the cheese boeregs.
2. Prepare something for the Country Store, such as jams/jellies, Armenian desserts, nut breads, etc. See Steve Marashian for more information
3. Volunteer to help the day of the event. There are so many jobs to do, and not only would you be helping to lighten the load, it is a great time of building relationships within our church family. The word of the day is **flexibility!** Please be open to helping where the **need** exists.
4. Prayer! Not only are we interested in providing nourishment in the form of food, we hope to provide nourishment for the soul by sharing the love of Jesus and inviting our guests to fellowship with us in the future.

If you're interested in volunteering, please see Maryvonne Gagliardi, Elaine Rubio, or Steve Marashian.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

●●●●● Elaine Rubio

Family Life News

The Lord has blessed FAPC with many children over the last few years. Considering this recent growth, the Session would like to remind everyone of the many ways that children of all ages can join us in worshiping the Lord at FAPC on Sundays.



Bridal Room: We will be making the Bridal Room available for use by mothers who would like to nurse their child in private. The worship service will be broadcasted in that room via speakers. Nursing chairs and other items to support nursing mothers will be made available. This space is to be used for nursing only.

Cry Room: The Cry Room is for children 0-12 months. It is open to both fathers and mothers who want to remove their fussy child from the Sanctuary. It is not intended to be a playroom or for children over the age of 12 months. This room is meant to provide a quiet and reverent space so that everyone can partake in the worship service without distraction. Mothers who feel comfortable are welcome to nurse in this space as well.

Nursery: The Nursery is for children from 12-36 months. It is intended for both children who are crawling or walking. There are 2 attendants in the Nursery and a paging system to alert parents of any issues or concerns. A camera system is available to allow you to keep an eye on your child using your smartphone. The exterior doors will remain locked during the worship service, so that only parents are able to gain access. We are working on having the worship service broadcast into the Nursery as well.

Kids Quest: Kids Quest is for children from 3-5 years. During Kids Quest, our children will play games, do crafts, and learn about our Lord and Savior. It is a time for them to continue to grow in Christ while allowing them to remain active and engaged.

Please be respectful of the guidelines above to ensure that we can worship the Lord together in a safe and considerate environment.

Thank you,

FAPC Session

California Governor Gavin Newsom has appointed Richard M. Aaron, Esquire to the Central Valley Regional Judicial Selection Advisory Committee.



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

The 100th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America will take place October 17-19, 2019, at the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, Massachusetts. For details, please visit <https://amaa.org>.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

We are excited to announce once again our church congregation will be participating in the ministry, **Shoebboxes for Operation Christmas Child**. Just think what a blessing we can be to spread the Gospel and build His Kingdom around the world through the witness of children. Our goal this year as a church is to donate **300** shoeboxes. Look for more information in the upcoming **October Mosaix issue** and be part of the Samaritan's Purse Ministry.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Alicia Minassian was one of 15 students who formed the global contingent of the Armenian Missionary Association of America Summer Internship to Armenia. The Internship took place July 4-19, 2019. An incoming Senior at Hoover High School, Alicia is the daughter of Minas and Zovinar Minassian. This is the testimony Alicia shared in the Armenian and English languages on Communion Sunday, August 4:

"I thank God for this opportunity to be able to go see Armenia. I'd like to thank Pastor Greg for helping me through this journey, and I'd like to thank my church family for supporting me with your prayers and financial support. I appreciate it so much. This year's AMAA summer Internship theme was 'Your young shall see visions' (Acts 2:17), which was led by Rev. Serop and Alina Megerditchian.

The best thing about Armenia is the people. Their kindness, generosity, hospitality, and faith are unmatched by any other nation. The team was from eight different countries: United States, Canada, Syria, Lebanon, France, Australia, Argentina, and Australia. We bonded with each other very quickly and very well as one big family. Although we were from all over the world, we knew how to write, read, and speak Armenian. None of us were expecting this and we were amazed by it.



We had the opportunity to learn about and appreciate many ministries of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Evangelical Churches of Armenia (ECA) in our homeland. It was a time of personal spiritual growth through daily Bible studies, discussions, prayer, and evaluation sessions. We learned more about our rich Armenian heritage, roots and legacy through exposure to some significant historical, religious, and key cultural sites of our beloved homeland.



We accomplished some goals by serving and helping through different types of services, such as visiting, cleaning houses, cooking, and having prayer time and lunch with the lonely, elderly, and needy families in Vanadzor. We made jam (Mourabba) for Shough Center's kids in Vanadzor. We also worked with children at AMAA's and ECA's ministries for the children, youth, adult, elderly, and needy of Armenia. Over the two weeks, we witnessed both the tourist version of Armenia and the real cities of Armenia. I saw how

terrible the living conditions were for many people and how happy and joyful these people were knowing that God was there with them. It made me realize that I need to be appreciative and be grateful for everything I have. It showed me what a big difference we can make. I learned about different AMAA services. They support many churches, schools, and childcare centers. They also provide a lot of support for families who cannot support their children in a safe home. It was an experience that I've never had before and I am already recommending this trip to others so they can experience what I have seen."



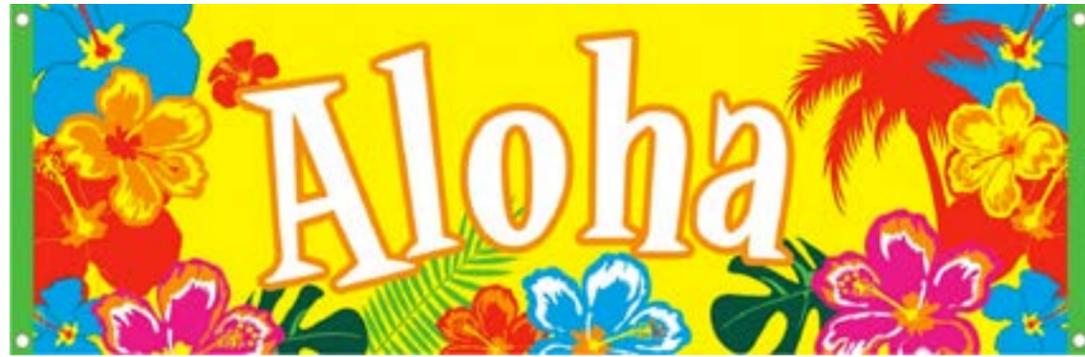
Earlier this summer, the youth group took a trip up to Hume Lake for the day. We brought lunch food and planned on hiking around the lake and soaking in the cool air and beautiful trees. Five of the youth group boys could make it, so the six of us piled in the van and headed off.

When we got there we decided to eat first before our hike. We found a picnic table and dug in. After lunch we were ready for a hike, and a few asked how long the walk around the lake was and if we could stay up there as long as possible. As we started walking around the lake, they would stop every 2 or 3 minutes to look for frogs and other creatures. It took us a good 45 minutes to go from main camp to the side of the lake with the dam, but that was ok.

We explored all along the trail, and were ready to step off the trail. When we got to the dam, we walked down behind it and crossed the small stream created by the runoff. For the next hour and a half we climbed rocks and trees, looking for good views and adventure. We walked down the stream and started looking for good places to cross and start heading back. Three of us were able to cross over by using branches and doing a bit of jumping. The other three were content staying on the other side. We all then followed the stream back to the dam where we could cross and head back to the trail. Though some of us got a few scrapes from going through bushes or jumping and climbing rocks, we all had a great time.

Our last stop was to grab shakes at the snack shop before heading back home to the heat. The hike was a great chance to enjoy some of the beauty that God created and we will be doing more hiking together in the future.

Stephen Goodale



**FAPC Sunday School Invites
the Church Family to**

Rally Sunday Festivities

Sunday, September 8, 2019
After Church — 2:00 PM
Fellowship Hall



Water Slide
(Bring Swimsuit)



Cotton Candy
Popcorn
Games
Bounce House
Kiddy Pool
(Bring Swimsuit)



Snow Cones



Tacos

And much more

First Armenian Presbyterian Church Annual Merchants' Lunch

Thursday, November 7, 2019, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.



Menu

Beef Filet Kebab - \$18
Garlic Chicken Kebab - \$16

Meals Include:

Rice Pilaf - Cheese Boereg - Green Salad
Peda Bread - Paklava

**Country Store
Opens at 10 a.m.**

New this year!

Serving lunch at 11 a.m.

Now accepting cash,
check, **and** credit card!

Make checks payable to:
FAPC

Flyer designed by Joy Rubio

Location:

**430 S. First Street
Fresno, CA 93702**

*Cross Streets:
First & Huntington*

**Dine In / Take Out /
Drive Thru**

For More Information:
Call: 559-237-6638
Email: administration@fapc.net

*For Pre-Orders, contact Suzy by
November 1, 2019*



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Upcoming Special Events

Rally Sunday	Sept 8
Armenian Home Worship, 3:00 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
Congregation God Dreams Town Hall/Working meeting @ FAPC from 4:30-7:30 pm	Oct 6
Session, 6:45 pm	Oct 22
Communion Sunday	Nov 3
Armenian Home Worship, 1:45 pm	Nov 3
Merchants’ Lunch	Nov 7
Session, 6:45 pm	Nov 26
Communion Sunday	Dec 1
Armenian Home Worship, 1:45 pm	Dec 1
Session, 6:45 pm	Dec 17

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
 Silva Esajian, Kim Garo, Sela Ghazarian, Keith Harrison,
 Deacons: 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
 15th of the month.
 Please e-mail
 information to
 fapc3@fapc.net.

