

“⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”
Acts 2:46-47 (NIV)

I’ll never forget Drs. Al & Barbara Howsepian’s wedding! I was still recovering from my Indonesian food poisoning/Christmas Eve FAPC fainting episode, but when Badveli Bernard asked Al if he would have Barbara to be his “wedded wife”, he responded with gusto, “Անշուշդ/ ANSHOOSHHD”!!! Translated: OF COURSE!!!

What zeal! What enthusiasm! There was no question in anyone’s mind that Al was committed! It made such an impression on me that at my wedding in Ainjar, I substituted one of my favorite newly learned Armenian words at my vow to Sossy: Անկասկած/Angasgadz, “without a doubt”! I can’t claim the same force or volume, but it did earn several “tsk, tsk’s” from some of the older women in the front pew and at least one, “ամոտ”/amot/shame on him”! Poor Sossy! But at least I left no doubt regarding my commitment!

Anshooshd & andgasgadz are two Armenian words I love. Another favorite is “անպայման/ anbaiman,” “absolutely, without condition, unconditional.” When we use “anbaiman,” we are insisting that it’s non-negotiable. We will not proceed unless this condition is met.

Why the language lesson? Because I believe these three words apply to how we view our church. When we’re asked if FAPC is our church, “of course” is the frequent response. The point is not how often we attend or participate. We identify ourselves with our church, of course!

We move on to “angasgadz” as we become more committed and involved. “Without a doubt” we

will be coming to church, singing in the choir, participating in Bible study and serving at the Merchants’ Lunch. “You can count on me!” expresses our willingness to sacrifice for each other, serve each other, pray for each other and genuinely care about each other.

It gets tricky though, when we place conditions, non-negotiables about church. If something does or doesn’t happen, if our conditions are not met then our identification and commitment to the church come into question. These are not bad, by any means. I know I have them!

Do you have conditions?

Do you know what your conditions are?

Frequently, you can spot them when we attach the word “enough” to them: biblical-enough, Armenian-enough, contemporary-enough, friendly-enough, supportive-enough, attentive-enough, accepting-enough, traditional-enough. You may have others.

What’s important is making sure our conditions match up with God’s revealed will in His Word. We want to apply the Lord’s non-negotiables to our lives and to our church and we want to match them with His call on the life of our church.

What is His mission for us?

What are our core values?

Our hope is that our working meeting on Sunday, October 6, helps us clarify this together. I hope you participated in this gathering. If not, we hope you’ll be joining us at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 8th and another working meeting upcoming in early 2020.

God has a dream for our church and as we understand it more fully, **of course**, we’ll join together **unconditionally** to follow Christ **without a doubt!**

●●●●● Family Life News ●●●●●

On Labor Day Weekend, the *Mousa Ler Associations of Fresno and Los Angeles* held the **104th Commemoration of the 40 Days of Musa Dagh** at the Fresno County Peace Officers' Training Grounds in Northwest Fresno. Our own **Hovig Karayan**, a student at Fresno City College, offered an Armenian language meditation on Revelation 12:10-11 at the Sunday commemorative worship service. Two weeks later, Raffi Karayan read the Scriptural passage and Hovig restated his meditation, "A Tribute to the Lord from Musa Dagh" in the FAPC Sanctuary:

"Musa Ler 1915, in the times of World War I, our enemies, (the Turks) were giving our people a lot of trouble. During that troublesome time, there was a meeting with the clergymen and leaders of the 6 villages of Musa Ler, to decide what to do for the safety of the villagers. Although they could not come up with a unanimous decision, Badveli Deekran Antriyasyan thought the safest thing to do was to go on top of Musa Ler. And so a total of 6,231 people climbed the mountain. While the villagers were on top of the mountain, the Turks attempted to climb the mountain four times. The last time they attempted to do so, our Forefathers held them off with their old guns and little ammunition. However, 18 people from our side lost their lives that day. On top of the mountain, our people make Red Crosses in hope of a ship to see them, and reuse them. A French ship saw them, and took them to "Port-Saiid." Our people stayed there for 4 years. When World War I was over, the Musa-Ler people return to their homes, only to find everything broken, and dried up. But with hard work, they were able to restore their villages to the way they used to be, and the visitors started to come again. In 1932, there was a monument made for the 18 heroes who lost their lives fighting our enemies when we were waiting for help on top of the mountain. In 1939, Musa Ler, and the area around it known as Sanjack was given to the Turks. They threatened to kill the people of Musa Ler if they did not convert to Islam, or if they did not flee their homeland. And so, the majority of the Musa Ler Armenians fled their homes for a second time. After a long journey the Musa Ler Armenians arrive in Anjar. They lived in tents from the end of 1939, until 1940 when each family's one room houses were made. (There were a total of 1068 houses). Those houses were built with our grandfathers' hands. In 1946, 650 families left Anjar, and went to Armenia. Today we remember our brave forefathers, and

the sacrifices they made for their Christian faith. Some of which are still alive, and remember their childhood in Musa Ler, and the hardships they faced leaving their homes. We must learn from them, and absorb all that we can from them. Those generations did all they could not to lose their faith, and we as a nation must do the same. Today we do not live in Musa Ler, or even Anjar for that matter, but that spirit in us should never die. We must never forget where we came from, and what brought us here today."



Our Condolences:

Sirvart (Ashkian) Sarimazian, dear sister in Christ, passed away on September 4, 2019 at the age of 95. Sirvart was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Boghos "Paul" Sarimazian, son Zaven, daughter Ashken, and sisters Annig and Ovsana Ashkian. She is survived by daughters Hasmik Topalian and Salpi Sarimazian Sahyuoun, sons Sahak and Vasken Sarimazian, six granddaughters; six grandsons; 26 great-grandchildren; sisters Nvart and Zvart Ashkian; and brother Vartan Ashkian.



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>.



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



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Merchants' Luncheon

Tickets may be purchased at the door, from the Church Office or after Church every Sunday. They will not be mailed out in advance.

Deacon's Corner

I praise the Lord for giving us the heart of compassion for others. In the last month, we had the privilege of visiting **Mr. Vahack Haroutunian, Mrs. Liz Haroutunian, Mrs. Margaret Harrison and Mr. Gary Simonian**. Visiting our elders was very fulfilling. During our visit we shared the love of Christ through worship and by praying together. It was wonderful remembering how much service these spiritual friends have given to our congregation. As the Lord works through us and guides us in our service, we will continue to love and care for our homebound friends.

• Proverbs 20:29 •

"The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair."

●●●●● Sela Ghazarian



Mommy & Me, Pray & Play is back together again for the fall! We're so excited to meet together every Friday morning at 10 a.m. The children love being together and watching their friendships grow is a wonderful gift! They love singing and playing! The moms love the encouragement and support they give and receive from each other. Sometimes it can be the only time in our weeks when we can rest and let others pray for us. It's so good!

If you know of any mothers who could use a little break and some encouragement, send them our way! The children are ages newborn through pre-school! One of the children said it best on his first day! With arms outstretched he announced, "Hev guys! I'm here!" He knew he was welcome and so are you!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

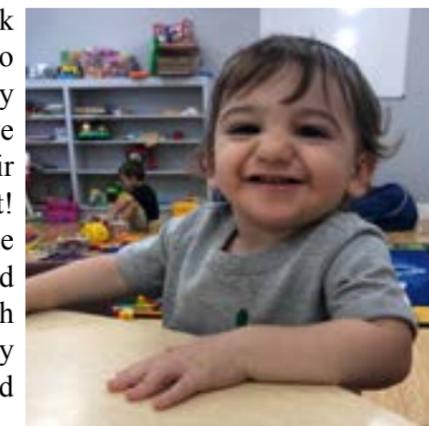
Once again, we are delighted that our church will be participating in the ministry, Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. After church, we will be in the back of the Narthex distributing the shoeboxes. The dates for picking up the shoeboxes are:

- ❖ Sunday, October 20th
- ❖ Sunday, October 27th
- ❖ Sunday, November 3rd

THE FILLED BOXES ARE DUE BACK BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10th OR BEFORE.

Yes, our goal this year as a church is to donate **300 shoeboxes!** Just think what a blessing our church can be to spread the Gospel and build His Kingdom around the world through the witness of children.

MOMMY & ME



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Do you know what God sounds like? Has He spoken to you? Do you listen?

A few weeks ago during youth group, we talked about listening to God. John 10:27 says, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” That is what I want! I want to listen to God, to know that it is His voice, to be known by Him, and to follow Him. But to do that, I need to read His Word.

I need to be familiar with His voice so that I can hear when He speaks. I need to spend time listening for Him, and then do what I hear Him say. That way when someone tells me what God is saying to them or to me, I can know if it is truly God speaking, or if it is just a good saying or advice.

Do you know what God’s voice sounds like? If I told you something and said it was from the Bible could you tell if it really was? I came up with a list of verses and sayings and mixed them together. Then I asked the youth group to listen to the “verses” and tell me which ones are real and which are not from Scripture! Overall, they did very well! Each of them mixed two up, out of the 8 that I read to them.

How would you have done? You have a chance to find out! I have written the sayings and verses below for you to see if you can tell!

Of the first two sayings, one is correct, and one is not. They are your warm up! The other six are a mix, could be 5 real verses, could be just 1! Email me and tell me which you think are real verses and which are fake! No cheating, don’t use your Bible or search them online! All verses are taken from the NIV

1. **“For we live by faith, not by sight.”** (2 Corinthians 5:7)
2. **“Hide His Holy Word in your heart. Keep it secret, keep it safe.”** (Galatians 3:6)
3. **“He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.”** (Psalms 72:13)
4. **“By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another.”** (John 13:35)
5. **“Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the rest is in the hands of God.”** (Joshua 17:11)
6. **“I tell you the truth, God will not give you more than you can handle.”** (Mark 3:24)
7. **“My mouth speaks what is true, my lips detest wickedness.”** (Proverbs 8:7)
8. **“To be idle is a short road to death and to be diligent is a way of life; foolish people are idle, wise people are diligent.”** (Proverbs 8:17)

How did you do? If you didn’t do too well, there is still hope! There is a way you can learn how to know His voice, or to know it better! God has given us an amazing gift in His written Word. We can pour over it daily and recognize His voice. If you have trusted Christ as your Lord, asked for forgiveness for your sinful life, and believed in your heart that He is God then you have His Holy Spirit. That Spirit is your Teacher and Guide and will help you to discern what is from God.

Take time to listen to God. Take time to read His Word and know His voice. He has things to tell you, and He wants you to listen.

●●●●● Stephen Goodale
Youthdirector@fapc.net

2019 Merchants’ Luncheon



November 7 is just around the corner, and we are still welcoming volunteers with open arms! If you’d like to help on the day of the event, please notify Maryvonne Gagliardi, Elaine Rubio, or Steve Marashian. Also, if you would be willing to bring country store items such as baked goods, both Armenian and American, or homegrown produce, contact Steve Marashian.



This year, we will not be sending luncheon tickets to households via the mail. We will sell pre-sale tickets after church in the narthex every Sunday in October, as well as on November 3. Of course, tickets will be available on the day of the event as well.

We look forward to working alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ!

• 1 Corinthians 12:14 •

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

●●●●● Elaine Rubio

Everything is Meaningless

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

“The grind never stops,” one of my friends observed at the start of this school year. We both struggled to satisfy the demands of high school. Now, we’re living up to the same expectations of college together. She’s right. The competition never ends. In this society, especially, we are trained to be sprinters. Heaven forbid we are walkers, then someone else will pass us up. So, we sprint. We toil, and we toil hard.

Throughout high school, I felt the constant pressure to run at a quicker pace than my peers. They might not directly tell you this, but you know you cannot run at the same pace as everyone else. You must sprint faster because one day you will be compared to them by colleges. And after college, you will be compared to them by employers. However, what anyone fails to mention is that you cannot get through life sprinting the whole way or else you’re going to get “burned out.”



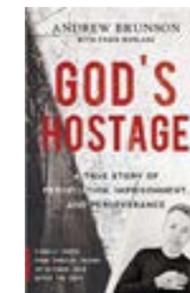
For the longest time, that is what I did. That is what I still do sometimes – I sprint. I constantly fix my eyes on my future, nagging myself to rush through tasks x, y, and z. I convince myself that if I sprint now, all the work, all the stress, will soon be over. So, I wake up in the morning and I pray, “Lord, get me through the day.” Harmless, right? WRONG! This is where I mess up. You know why? My intention is not for God to use me but to quickly deliver me through each day. I care more about when not how I accomplish my tasks. But this is not how God designed our lives. He did not engineer us to live only for the future but to live in the present and make each moment count.

So, at this point, you’re probably wondering, what does any of this have to do with Ecclesiastes, Carina? And this is why: the whole point of this passage is to demonstrate that our lives are repetitive. When we sprint through each day, “there’s nothing new under the sun.” For instance, Ecclesiastes 1:5 states, **“The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises.”** Are we not like this too? Do we not sometimes wake up, rush through the day, and plop right back into bed just to start all over again? And, it might be a high school diploma, a college degree, a job promotion, or a retirement that motivates us to repeat this daily cycle, but, ultimately, all these incentives are vain, meaningless, because

they are no substitute for what could be gained in the present moment. This is why we get burned out. This is why we hate getting up in the morning.

When we lose comprehension of our present purpose in life, we sprint through today, living for tomorrow. It’s selfish and it’s sloppy. As the old adage claims, “haste makes waste.” If we hasten through each day like the sun, we waste valuable opportunities to take heed of others’ needs in every moment. And that is what makes life meaningless – when we toil without meaning, when we run the treadmill and get nowhere. It’s time to stop this habit. Don’t be in so much of a rush that you don’t slow down for others. Because what’s the point of life, if we’re not living for God and others now? Everything becomes meaningless.

●●●●● Carina Tokatian



We prayed for **Rev. Andrew Brunson** for more than a year when we learned that the Turkish government had imprisoned him, charging him with being a spy. Pastor Andrew is an Evangelical Presbyterian Church Teaching Elder who had served the Turkish Church for two decades. He became a pawn in a political game between Turkey and the USA. We have copies of his newly published autobiography, *God’s Hostage*. You’ll definitely want to read it! They’re available in the church office or on Sunday’s after church in the narthex.

MEN’S MINISTRY NEWS



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.

11
-
1
-
19

Bring your favorite
appetizer to share



JONELLE KAZARIAN'S HOME
5678 S. DEWOLF AVE.
FOWLER 93625

6 PM

LIST OF EVENTS FOR THE YEAR

The Gathering

- Friday, November 1st, 6PM
Game Night @ Jonelle Kazarian's

Saturday, December 14th, 11AM
Family Christmas @ Varvara Sivas'

Saturday, January 25th, 10AM
Armenian Cooking with Kohar
@FAPC

February 28-29 Embrace
Conference in Fresno

- Saturday, March 21st
10AM- Egg Painting with
Sona @FAPC

- Saturday, April 25th
9:30AM -Family of Faith @
Karen Daoudian's

Saturday, May 2nd,
5:30PM- Armenian Dance
@FAPC (co-ed)

- Denotes No-Cost events





430 S. 1st St Fresno, CA 93702
 Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Fresno, CA
 Permit No. 398

Upcoming Special Events

Shoebox Pick-up for Operation Christmas Child Session, 6:45 pm	Oct 20	
	Oct 22	
Shoebox Pick-up for Operation Christmas Child	Oct 27	
Young Families Harvest Carnival	Oct 27	
The Gathering, Game Night	Nov 1	
Communion Sunday	Nov 3	
Shoebox Pick-up for Operation Christmas Child	Nov 3	
Armenian Home Worship, 1:45 pm	Nov 3	
Merchants' Luncheon	Nov 7	
Hunger Project	Nov 23	
Session, 6:45 pm	Nov 26	
Communion Sunday	Dec 1	
Armenian Home Worship, 1:45 pm	Dec 1	
Session, 6:45 pm	Dec 17	
Children's Christmas Program	Dec 21	
Teaching Elder:	Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Senior Pastor (badveli@fapc.net)	

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

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
 (Brandonpetrie@gmail.com)
Susan Ruiz, Custodian

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

