



“so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:5 (NIV11)

It’s all about relationships!

Whether we’re talking about business, sales, church, education, family, parenting, social media—even farming!—it’s all about relationships! How many of you have heard or used Theodore Roosevelt’s expression “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”?

It’s all about relationships!

This is especially true in the church. The Apostle Paul tells us that each one of us belongs to all the others in the body of Christ. We don’t all have the same functions or gifts. We belong to each other; we need each other. We’re different from each other so relationships aren’t always neat and tidy. In fact, most churches are filled with messy relationships that demand understanding, grace, and forgiveness. We at First Armenian Presbyterian Church are no different.

Haven’t you found yourself challenged by the differences between us that the pandemic has surfaced? It will be easy to withdraw from each other and allow disagreement to foster neglect and distance between us. Have you found yourself tempted to just let go? Please don’t!

We need each other! We belong to each other. It’s all about relationships!

I believe we grow in our relationship with Christ to the degree that we lean into relationships, to the degree that we’ll do the hard work of engaging “heart, soul, mind & strength” in our relationships. You can see the relationships illustrated in the diagram to the right: First, with Christ (abiding in Him), second, with our relationships in the body of

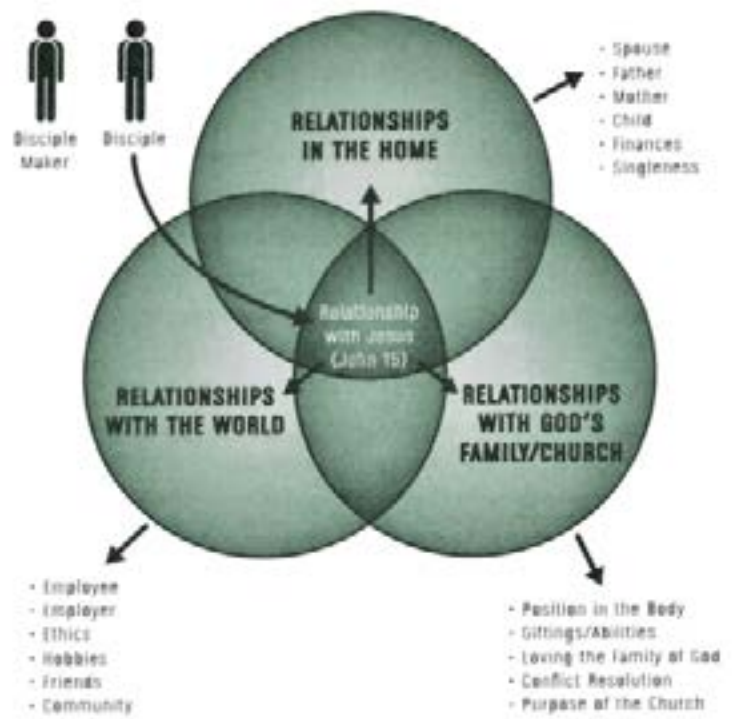
Christ—the church—our church!, third, our family relationships in our home and extended family, and finally, our relationships with the “world,” those who do not yet know Christ. It’s in the context of these relationships that we grow in Christ.

While it’s true that we don’t “belong” to people who don’t know Christ yet, we surely belong in relationships with them and they can come to know Jesus, through us—and sometimes in spite of us! (But that’s for another column!)

How are you growing in your relationships? Are you learning what Christ says about each of these spheres? Is your character growing to love God and others intentionally? Are you growing in your willingness to obey Him in the context of each sphere? This is what matters!

It’s all about relationships! Let’s grow together!

●●●●●Badveli Greg



CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Aris Howsepian and his band, A Ring in Silence, on recently releasing a debut album of eclectic instrumental music, "A Ring in Silence." The album can be found on Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music. For more information, please visit: <https://linktr.ee/aringinsilence>. Congratulations Aris!



Ara Karkazian Watch & Jewelry Company for earning top honors in the 2021 Fresno Bee People's Choice Awards. Heartiest congratulations to Ara and Lena Karkazian and Family!



FAPC Senior Pastor Gregory V. Haroutunian on successfully completing the 2021 San Francisco Marathon on September 14, 2021. Wearing Bib Number 6858, Badveli Greg completed the 26.2 mile course in five hours, nineteen minutes, and seven seconds, placing 39th in his age group. The run took Badveli, a San Francisco native, through such familiar attractions as Fisherman's Wharf, Marina Green, the Presidio, Golden Gate Park, and Mission Bay. Well done, Badveli!



The Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest (POPS), the regional governing body of our denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). POPS held a Pastors' Retreat at Mission Springs Christian Conference Center in Scott's Valley on October 5-7 and its first in-person Presbytery Meeting since the pandemic on October 8 and 9 in Fremont, CA. Senior Pastor Greg Haroutunian represented our congregation at the meeting.

FAPC will be hosting the January 21-22, 2022 Presbytery Meeting.



The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) on their 102nd Annual Meeting Banquet featuring a keynote address from Artsakh State Minister Artak Beglaryan. The event was held on Saturday, October 23, at First Armenian Presbyterian Church. AMAA Board Member LindaKay Abdulian, President of National Raisin Company, organized this year's Banquet and served as Mistress of Ceremonies.



THANK YOU TO...

Peter and Shushan Telian and their family for joining us as special guests on Sunday, October 10, 2021. Peter shared his faith journey and the ministry of The ALTAR and Shushan presented the Children's Message (Genesis 8:20) and two contemporary Christian hymns in the Armenian language. Peter, a native of Oakhurst, and Shushan, a native of the Republic of Armenia, minister through ALTAR, a multifaceted storefront space in Yerevan designed with both a business and ministry component. The ALTAR is located at 17 Azatutyun (Freedom) Street and includes the first Christian Bookstore in Yerevan, a room for prayer and worship, and a modern Cafe. Thank you for visiting!



FAPC Administrator Syuzanna Artemyan and Administrative Assistant Marine Frnzlyan recently departed their weekday roles to pursue new professional and educational opportunities. The Session and Congregation extend heartfelt thanks to Suzy and Marine for their faithful service over so many years.



UPCOMING EVENTS...

"Biblical Encouragement" is the theme of the Autumn 2021 Women's Sunday School Class. The class meets in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. each Sunday and women of all ages are welcome. Please join discussion leader Joanne Garabedian for this special study in God's Holy Word.



"How Jesus Loves Us" is the theme of the Autumn 2021 Wednesday Men's Family group. Men of all ages are invited to join Badveli Greg Haroutunian and other discussion leaders from 12:10 to 1 p.m. each week for a study of the Gospel of Mark and a delicious meal.

Please email administration@fapc.net or call (559) 237-6638 to join the group's E-list.



UPCOMING EVENTS...

Indoor Soccer has returned to the FAPC Campus, on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you enjoy European-style football in a comfortable setting, please contact Garo Minasian at minasiangaro@gmail.com to be included in a group text thread for prospective players.



Pacific Standard Time returns to California on the first weekend of November. Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, November 6, and join the Church Family for in-person and streaming worship on Communion Sunday, November 7, at 10:30 a.m.



"Bold Love" (Hebrews 4:16) is the theme of the 2022 Biennial General Assembly of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) and Convention of the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship (AEYF). The convocation will take place June 23-26, 2022 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Reverend Hendrik Shanazarian is the new AEUNA Minister to the Union.



DEACONS' CORNER

"We would like to nominate you to be an FAPC Deacon. Would you be interested?" That is a question I am certain many of you have been asked. When that question was posed to me in 2018, I was curious exactly what the role and expectations of a Deacon were.

A few days later, I enjoyed talking with Sela Ghazarian who shared with me her experiences and time in serving as a Deacon/Chairperson of the group. The most vital role of the Deacon is to reflect the love, compassion and care of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Well, no surprise—ending to this story. I did say "yes" to being nominated, and nearly three years have elapsed since becoming a Deacon. What have I learned? What have been my experiences?

There is no training manual to learn the role of a Deacon. My wonderful peer Deacons have walked alongside me in various ways. As I was finding my way to learn the role, peer Deacons have been available to talk to, encourage and support me. Peer Deacon partnerships have been one of the most unexpected blessings in my experience as a Deacon.

What I deeply value in being a Deacon is that each person has unique gifts and attributes that are well suited for different areas of the Deacon ministry. As such, each person has the opportunity to participate in an area in which they have a passion to serve. Observing our Deacon Group, and/or individuals, experience a compelling calling to initiate an area of service to others was a visible illustration of one using their time and talents for God's glory. This was such a testimony of a compassionate and purposeful act to help others feel encouraged and loved in our FAPC congregation. There are numerous ways to reach out to our church family, and I have truly enjoyed this aspect throughout these three years.

Each of us has a special mix of attributes and traits that can offer others some cheer and support when feeling discouraged. Or perhaps a phone call or note may bring some humor and renewed energy to a person that was needing a caring thought. Being a Deacon has revealed to me how important it is to be attentive to the needs of others. I am so grateful to the Deacons who have served over these many years at FAPC and for their tireless efforts to help others.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
Philippians 2:4 (ESV)

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

●●●●● Sandy Marashian

Dear Church Family,
I would like to take the opportunity to thank each of you for praying for my mom Briske Barsamian during her recent illness. Glory to the Lord, she is doing great. I would also like to give a special thank you to Sela Ghazarian and to Kohar Kojayan for their graciousness in providing food for my mom many days and weeks. May God bless you all.
Best,
Dr. Lynette Nahigian



THE ANNUAL
FAPC FRESNO



Harvest Fest

FOOD(FREE)
TRUCK

NACHO &
CHILI BAR

TRUNK
OR TREAT

GAMES
& MUSIC

COSTUME
CONTEST

MUCH
MORE!



SCAN TO SIGN UP

Everything is FREE!

3-7 P.M. | OCTOBER 31, 2021

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. SAFE FAMILY FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT. ALL AGES WELCOME!

EVENT LOCATION:

2173 S MINNEWAWA AVE, FRESNO, CA 93727

Men's Retreat 2021

I had the opportunity this year to attend the Men's Retreat at Camp Arev. I had not been there except for a quick visit years ago. What an amazing place tucked in the mountains on the Grapevine! We were joined not only by the men of FAPC but also men from our sister churches in Los Angeles. The food was absolutely delicious! My favorites were the kebob dinner, of course, and the charcuterie board. We had a tavaloo tournament and a hatchet throwing contest, which I did not win. Our speaker was Greg Sarian of Pennsylvania. He spoke on being Men of Integrity. The first session was "a man and his work" and how we point people to Christ, the second was personal integrity in our relationships, and third was stewardship and how we as men give what God has given to us to bring about His glory. Overall, the retreat was a big success and I want to give a big thank you to Badveli Razmig for all his hard work and effort into making it such a wonderful time. Looking forward to next year!!

Paul David Bedrosian



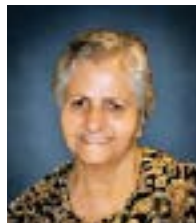
Our Condolences

Editors' Note: Remembrances of a number of beloved members and friends of our church were not included in the previous issue of Mosaik. Please accept our deepest apologies for the delay. Remembrances are listed chronologically in order of passing.

Grace (Nazarian) Aynedjian, beloved sister in Christ, passed away in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on August 17, 2020 at the age of 88. Grace was born in New York City to longtime missionaries to the Middle East. She worked for the Curtiss-Wright Corporation and Paramus New Jersey Board of Education. Grace was married to Hagop "Jack" Aynedjian, Ph.D. and the couple relocated from the East Coast to Clovis during the pastorate of Reverend Bernard Guekguezian to serve in FAPC outreach ministries to the Armenian-American Community of Central California. In 2005, the Aynedjians retired to Willow Valley Communities in the Pennsylvania Dutch Country, where they continued their outreach to the unsaved. Grace was preceded in death by her parents, Nazar and Margaret Nazarian, and her brother, Jeremiah. She is survived by her dear husband, Hagop; children, James and his wife Amy Runion, John, and Sharon and her husband, Dana Barkdoll; brother John Nazarian and his wife, Millie; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Vartouhi (Kerkezian) Filian, beloved sister in Christ, passed away on October 27, 2020 at the age of 97. A native of Bitias, Musa Ler, Vartouhi moved to Anjar, Lebanon in 1939 where she met and married Movses Filian, a farmer and dairyman who was related to Reverend George Haroutune Filian, second pastor of FAPC. The Filians settled in San Francisco in 1975 and relocated to Fresno—the "Larger Anjar"—in 1992 to be closer to the extended Filian, Kerkezian, Derkalousdian, and Keledjian Families. Vartouhi was preceded in death by her dear husband, Movses, and her parents, Kevork and Sara Kerkezian. She is survived by her children, Arousiag and Nishan Derkalousdian and Levon and Dr. Liliana Pantoja Filian; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; four brothers and one sister.



Mardiros "Mardig" Dakessian, dear brother in Christ, passed away on December 12, 2020 at the age of 76. He was laid to rest at Masis Ararat Cemetery on December 21, 2020. Mardiros is survived by his dear wife, the former Alice Devejian, and his sons, Paul Mardiros Dakessian and his wife, Tonya, of Monroe, Washington, and Peter Mardiros Dakessian of Addison Texas; and two grandchildren.



Major Charles Garo "GI Chuck" Berberian (U.S. Army-Retired), newly-elected Deacon of FAPC, passed away on February 10, 2021 at the age of 75. A native of Fresno, Chuck received his early education at Lowell Elementary, Washington Junior High School, and Fresno High School (Class of 1964). He had the opportunity to summarize the next four decades of his life in a keynote address at the 2014 Fresno Rescue Mission Banquet. He was a devoted member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. At FAPC, Chuck taught the Men's Sunday School Class, sessions of the Wednesday Men's Bible Study, and was an active servant in the "Sheepdog Security Ministry" at church. Chuck was preceded in death by his dear wife, the former Ruth Ann Mallett, and his parents, Garabed and Hermine Berberian. He is survived by his sons, Captain Matthew Berberian and his wife, Su-Yeoung of South Korea, and Staff Sergeant David Berberian and his wife, Jamie, of Clovis; and four grandchildren, Stephanie, Kuriya, Chloe, and Olivia.

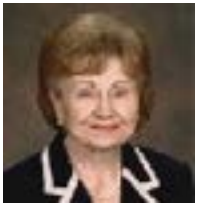


Evelyn Virginia Babigian, one of the most senior members of FAPC, passed away on February 26, 2021 at the age of 95. Born on the family ranch and Clovis and Jensen Avenues, Evelyn was a proud graduate of Lone Star Elementary School and Sanger Union High School and attended then-Fresno State College during the World War II years. She eventually joined her mother and older sister on the raisin line at Bonner Packing Company, serving for 42 years. She was an avid sports fan and a gifted competitive bowler. At FAPC, Evelyn followed in the footsteps of her parents, Head Usher Edgar Harry Babigian and Chancel Choir Member Rose (Cloud) Babigian. She actively participated in the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor and Chancel Choir with her sister, Eleanor Jean. In later years, the two sisters exemplified the words "Silent Servants" and "Quiet Stewards." Evelyn was preceded in death by her parents and sister. She is survived by her cousins, Debbie-Cloud Soghomonian and her husband, Nishan; their daughter, Sarah Soghomonian; Steven Ronald Cloud and his sons, Steven Jr. and Ryan John Cloud; Robert Bashian and his wife, Nora; Lynne Bashian-Kuckenbecker and her husband, Richard; and many extended cousins, friends, and neighbors.



Our Condolences (cont.)

Marion J. Melikian, beloved sister in Christ, passed away on March 12, 2021 at the age of 96. Marion grew up in Sanger, California where she attended Highland Elementary School and graduated from Sanger High School. She was married to Paul Melikian of Madera on May 12, 1945 in one of the first wedding ceremonies at the then-new First Street and Huntington Boulevard Campus of FAPC. In recent years, she made possible the restoration and lighting of 1940s-era stained glass Gospel Message windows in the narthex of the present-day Fellowship Hall. Marion was a lifelong member of FAPC, the Young Women's Society of Fidelis, a Patron of the California Armenian Home Ani Guild, and the Madera Hospital Guild. Marion was preceded in death by her dear husband, Paul; her sons, Larry and Rodney Melikian; her parents, Kapriel and Varter Kaprielian; and her sister, Elizabeth. She is survived by her children, Jeffrey and wife, Karen, and Cheri and husband, Mark Melkonian; and daughters-in-law Denise and Diane Melikian. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren, Kristi Zinkin and husband, DeWayne Jr., Michael Melikian, Ashley Emerzian and husband, Aaron, Aram Melikian, Jonah Melikian and wife, Millie, Bryan Melikian and wife, Malorie, Adam Melikian, Philip Melkonian and wife, Elyssa, Shelli Melkonian, and Michael Melkonian; and nine great-grandchildren.



Henry O. Keledjian, faithful brother in Christ, passed away on March 16, 2021 at the age of 76. A native of Zahle, Lebanon and the youngest of seven children, Henry emigrated to the United States on a refugee visa in 1964. He settled in Fresno and worked multiple part-time jobs to matriculate at then-Fresno Pacific College, where he earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. He met and married fellow FPC student Arpi Chamichian in 1971 and devoted his 39-year career to elementary education in Fowler and Fresno, including the FAPC neighborhood school, Jackson Elementary. Henry was a warm and thoughtful counselor to the FAPC Men's Fellowship and other Church ministries. He loved traveling throughout North America and around the globe, tending to the family vineyard in Madera, and steeping himself in the history of Musa Dagh and Armenia, among many interests. Henry was preceded in death by his parents, Hovhanness and Takouhi (Filian) Keledjian and his in-laws, Reverend James and Eunice Chamichian; his sisters, Laura Keledjian and Martha Karkazian; and his brothers-in-law, Vahe Sagherian and Alexander Istanboulian. Henry is survived by his loving wife of almost 50 years, Arpi; his children, Jason Keledjian, D.D.S. and wife, Lisa, and Jennifer Poochigian, Esquire and husband, Mark; five beloved grandchildren, Deran, Anna, Lucas, Julia, and Natalia; brother-in-law, Movses Karkazian, brother George Keledjian and wife, Patricia, sisters, Zahik Istanboulian, Sona Alikian and husband, Arsen, Maro Sagherian; and by sisters-in-law, Ani Chamichian and Grace Chavoor and husband, Jack; as well a large extended family of nieces, nephews, and cousins.



Gerald Warner Baxter, member of a seven-generation FAPC Family, passed away in Fresno on August 21, 2021 at the age of 87. A native of Fowler, Jerry graduated from Fowler High School in 1953 and went on to work at Baxter Brothers Chevrolet, a beverage retailer, and J & L Lawn Service in the years that followed. He was a lifelong member of the Fresno Chapter of the Triple X Fraternity and a gifted automotive artisan and master gardener. Jerry routinely won dozens of ribbons for his entries in the Home Gardener Division of the Agriculture/Horticulture Section at The Big Fresno Fair and won Best of Show Honors for his restored 1950s Chevrolet Pickup Truck at the 2011 Big Fresno Fair. Jerry was preceded in death by his son, Robert Avedis Baxter; brother, Harold Harvey Baxter; parents, Avedis and Gladys Bertha (Paul) Baxter; and his grandparents, Israel and Persape (Bagdasarian) Paul, and Bagdasar and Varteni (Bagdasarian) Baxter. He is survived by his beloved wife, Loretta, and many dear cousins and relations in his and Loretta's extended families.



Armine Nancy Avakian, beloved Sister in Christ, passed away in Fresno on October 1, 2021 at the age of 82. A child of Southern California's San Fernando Valley, Nancy was educated at Westmont College in Santa Barbara and California State University, Fresno, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Kindergarten-Eighth Grade Teaching Credential. She taught in Burbank and at Winchell Elementary School in Southeast Fresno. Nancy married a young FAPC member, Reverend Karl Vartan Avakian, in 1963 and they worked together in ministering to the youth of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, to the membership of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, New Jersey, and to the Churches, Missions, and Fellowships of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. Nancy was preceded in death by her dear husband of 46 years, Badveli Karl; by her parents, Jacob and Effie (Roumian) Malootian, and by her aunt, Armenouhie Roumian. She is survived by her children, Laura and David; by her sister-in-law, Veronica Keoshkerian and her husband, Daniel; and by her nieces and nephews and their families.





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Church

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Upcoming Special Events

October 31 - Harvest Fest
November 7 - Communion Sunday
November 10 - Merchants Lunch Drive-thru
November 17 - FAPC Monthly 24 hour prayer
November 28 - First Sunday of Advent
December 5 - Communion Sunday
December 12 - Congregational Meeting
December 17 - FAPC Monthly 24 hour prayer
December 24 - Christmas Eve Service
January 21-22, 2022 - Host Presbytery

**Unsolicited submissions are
welcome.
All submissions are subject to
editorial revisions.
Please email to
administration@fapc.net**

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Kalem Kazarian, Rev. Razmig Minassian, Dr. Dennis Shamlian

Deacons: Grace Chavoor, Kim Garo, Sela Ghazarian, Keith Harrison,
Maria Kalayjian, Arpi Keledjian, Kohar Kojayan, Bob Mangasarian,
Sandra Marashian, Karine Martirosyan, Noelle Nightingale,
Rita Shamlian, Ando Sivas, Kinsey Sivas, Varvara Sivas