

*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."
3 John 4 (NIV)*

I'm not sure why, but I really enjoy picking up the mail. Most of the time it's just bills, ads and junk mail. Catalogues can be fun and, of course, my Runner's World magazine is one of my favorites. The occasional Amazon shipment that ends up in the mailbox is always a treat!

But it's the personal letters that really grab my attention. Are you like this? Do you get excited to get a card or a letter in the mail? It does not really matter if it's for me, Sossy or the children. It's nice to receive a personal card or letter in the mail. But it's becoming more and more rare too, isn't it! I love it when someone comments how happy they were to receive a card from their Deacon.

I'm not sure why I enjoy "snail-mail" notes so much. Growing up, my family was not a writing family. In our house during the sixties and seventies, the phone was a much bigger thing! In San Francisco, we had a phone on the wall with a curly cord attached to the handle that could pretty much stretch throughout our entire 1200 square ft. house! In my grandmother's house, the cord enabled us to carry the phone all over AND we could close the door for private conversations.

One consistent and unforgettable sentence that was included in nearly every letter, card or note my mother wrote—especially during college and beyond—was from the Apostle John's short third letter. It's only one chapter. The fourth verse expressed her heart:

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

I'm pretty sure my brother and sisters got the same verse. Sometimes she would hear of us walking in the truth, from our own lips as we described our

daily lives each week on the **phone**. Sometimes it would be from a family friend who heard something about us or who had visited us. On the rare occasions that we actually wrote to her, she would read about our various struggles or triumphs. And most of the time—not always, of course—we really were walking, however haltingly, in the truth.

This brought her such joy!!! It still does!

Isn't that true for all of us parents? We find no greater joy, satisfaction—even a little bit of vindication and validation—when we learn that our children are living out the faith that we've sought to instill in them.

This is also true of "spiritual parents," isn't it? Bible Study leaders, Sunday School teachers, disciple-makers, mentors, Family Group leaders—when we invest in others spiritually and we see or hear about them putting their faith into practice, there is no greater joy!

Family Camp was so good! We focused on the theme "A Family in Christ." The dual focus was on both our immediate/nuclear family and the greater church family. Hagop & Cynthia Ketenjian did a great job of making parenting and spiritual investing very practical. Key take-away: we have to be intentional & deliberate!

As we start back in Sunday School on Rally Day, September 12, and restart our weekly Family Groups, I want to urge you to train your children to walk with the Lord! Invest in each other's lives! Encourage each other to "walk in the truth!" Ask the Lord who you should invest your life in!

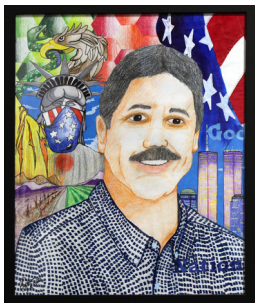
Remember, 1 to follow, 2 to go, 1 to show!

There's no greater joy!!!

●●●●●Badveli Greg

**Join us for Rally Day!!!
Sunday, September 12, 2021**

●●●●● Family Life News ●●●●●

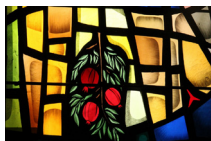


Fernando D. Rubio earned honors for his painting in the recent Arts Visalia Exhibit, "Surviving or Thriving: 2020 in Review." Fernando's mixed media work is entitled "*9/11: Portrait of an Immigrant.*"



Annie S. Rubio will be displaying her artwork at the Tulare County Arts Consortium Taste the Arts Event on Saturday, October 16. Visit Annie at Booth No. 230. The annual free arts festival will take place on Garden Street in Visalia from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America will hold its 102nd Annual Meeting on October 21-24, 2021 in Fresno. Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church will be the host congregation and First Armenian Presbyterian Church will be the site of the Annual Meeting Banquet, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 23. For more information, please call (201) 265-2607 or email info@amaa.org.



The 2021-2022 Leadership Team of the **Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School** in Clovis includes **Christopher Shamlian, D.D.S., Chair; Rosie Bedrosian, Vice Chair; Kathleen (Chavoor) Bergen, Robert Garabedian, CFP, and Nyrrie Karkazian.**



Tammy (Bedrosian) Shegerian was featured in the Business Journal Executive Profile on December 11, 2020. Tammy is the President and Chief Executive Officer of ERI (Electronic Recyclers International).



Congratulations to Maggie (Boyajian) Courtis on opening Scarab Creative Arts Center in Downtown Fresno. The Center is located in a historic brick building near the intersection of Broadway and Divisadero Streets. Learn more about the Center by visiting <https://www.scarabgallery.com>.

Sister Churches Luncheon | Sept. 18th

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to join in unity with women from all the Armenian churches in our community. Invite a friend to join you at St. Gregory Armenian Church on Saturday, September 18th at 11:30 A.M. Connect with Grace Chavoor for more details.

The FAPC Annual Congregational Meeting took place on after the Worship Service on December 13, 2020, the Third Sunday of Advent. Communicant Members of the Congregation elected **Rita Barsamian, Simon Kalebjian, Ando** and **Kinsey Sivas**, and **Charles "Chuck" Berberian** to the Board of Deacons (Deacon Class of 2023) and **Paul Haroutunian** to the Session (Elder Class of 2023). The Membership also received and reviewed the 2021 Annual Budget of the Church as adopted by the Session. The Session extends heartfelt thanks to the Committee on Nominations (**Edward Esajian** and **Dr. Hagop Afarian** (Co-Chairs), **Sandra Marashian, Kim Haroutunian**, and **Maral Afarian**), the Committee on Budget and Finance (**Sue Garabedian**, Chair), and the Committee on Personnel (**Ronald Statler, Esq.**, Chair) for their tireless efforts throughout the past year.

DEACON'S CORNER

There are many troubles that face our world and cause our hearts to be heavy with sadness and grief. We must remain confident that God is sovereign and that our lives are in his hands. We all go through difficult moments of frustrations and anger, but we must remember to focus our thoughts and eyes on the Lord and his great mercies each day.

Our church deacons who have been serving and caring for our congregation, in the past year are **Rita Barsamian, Grace Chavoor, Kim Garo, Sela Ghazarian, Keith Harrison, Simon Kalebjian, Arpi Keledjian, Kohar Kojaian, Karine Martirosian, Sandra Marashian, Noelle Nightingale, Rita Shamlian, Kinsey Sivas, Ando Sivas.**

We have been meeting regularly to share our thoughts on our deacon responsibilities in caring for our church family. I thank the Lord for the role each of us are playing in putting God first in our lives and serving our heavenly father. I also thank the Lord for the Love and compassion each deacon has. Our goal is to demonstrate the Love of Christ through our works, to bring unity, to encourage one another the best that we can and to pray for the families that we care for. Most of all we want to serve our living God Wholeheartedly.

John 14:21

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.

●●●●● Sela Ghazarian

Certified Financial Planner **Gregory Sarian** of Pennsylvania will keynote the **2021 Men's Retreat at Camp AREV**. The Retreat will take place October 1-3 at the E.J. Manishagian Conference Center in Frazier Park and the theme is **"Meet Jesus Christ, Be Transformed, Serve the World."** For complete information, please call (181) 507-0922 or email info@camparev.org.



Congratulations to **Nelda Baker** on being named **Evangel Home 2020 Volunteer of the Year!** Founded in Fresno in 1955, Evangel Home upholds and honors Jesus Christ by serving women and children in crisis, meeting their basic physical needs, promoting personal development and responsibility, and encouraging spiritual growth. Nelda has been a part of the Evangel Home ministry for many years as Board member, teacher, and Christmas Party host, among many other responsibilities.

Richard Avedis Hagopian and **his Ensemble** joined members and friends of FAPC at the 124th Annual Memorial Day Picnic of the congregation. The event took place on Monday, May 31, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hillcrest Tree Farm in Reedley. The event included complimentary barbecue lunches, bounce house and face painting for children, a backgammon tournament, and steam train rides for all ages. A native of rural Fowler, California and proficient in more than 50 musical instruments, Hagopian is best known as a Master of the Oud, a lute-like instrument. He gained fame as part of the Kef Time Band, which played a style of dance music popular among the Armenian-American communities throughout the United States for the past half century. Hillcrest Farm is the oldest Christmas Tree Farm in the San Joaquin Valley of California. Founded in 1960, the Farm includes the Hillcrest & Wahtoke Railroad, a five-inch scale/15-inch narrow gauge railway with live steam locomotives and a host of gondolas and stock cars. **U.S. Air Force Veterans Sean** and **Melissa Bautista** are the current proprietors of the Farm, Shops, and 1.2 mile Railroad.

Heartiest congratulations to **Syuzanna Martirosyan** and **Tyler Shegerian** on passing the October 2020 California Bar Examination. The Session and Congregation extend very best wishes to the Kazaryan, Martirosyan, Bedrosian, and Shegerian Families as the new admittees embark on careers as Attorneys and Counselors-at-Law.

Recipe Corner:

A Hundred Years and Still Cooking, Recipes from First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno

On June 19, two of the late **Victoria Jamgotchian's** favorite family recipes (Stewed Fruits and Rice Pudding) were featured in the Armenian Mirror-Spectator Newspaper in Watertown, MA. Her recipes are included in *A Hundred Years and Still Cooking*, from the First Armenian Presbyterian Church (FAPC) of Fresno Fidelis Women's Society Centennial recipe collection. This extraordinary collection includes recipes by the pioneering Armenian women who first settled in California more than 120 years ago. Victoria passed away in Fresno on July 15, 1980. She was a native of Harpoot; her husband Donabed was a native of Diyarbekir. She arrived in the United States in 1913; he arrived in 1910. They were married in Parlier on October 2, 1914 with Reverend M.G. Papazian, early-day pastor of Fresno's Pilgrim Church, officiating. Victoria's maiden name was Tutunjian. Here are the links to her recipes and story:

<https://mirrorspectator.com/2021/06/17/recipe-corner-a-hundred-years-and-still-cooking-recipes-from-first-armenian-presbyterian-church-of-fresno-2/>

<https://mirrorspectator.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Armenian-Mirror-Spectator-June-19-2021.pdf>

The author of the story is Christine Vartanian Datian, a native of Fresno and a regular contributor to the newspaper.

First published in 1993 by H. Markus Printing, the highly collectible 496-page cookbook includes instructions for preparing 636 different recipes. To order a copy for gifts or at the holidays, send a check or money order for \$35.00 to: First Armenian Presbyterian Church 430 S. First St., Fresno, CA 93702, e-mail fapc3@fapc.net.



AEYF-WEST
UPCOMING EVENTS

Iron Man Games

WHERE: FRESNO, CA
WHEN: SEP 17-19, 2021

More info to come on: www.aeyfwest.org



●●●●● Family Life News ●●●●●
2021 Family Camp @ Calvin Crest



Family Life News



●●●●● Family Life News ●●●●●

Our Condolences:

Nancy Louise (Joseph) Vartabedian, dear sister in Christ, passed away on September 19, 2020 at the age of 90. A native of St. Clairsville, Ohio, near the border of West Virginia, Nancy moved with her family to Reedley, California in 1937. She met World War II veteran Robert Vartabedian in the 1940s. They were married in 1949 and shared 53 years together in Fresno County. Although Nancy was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in her early 30s, she lived and shared a life of courageous optimism. Nancy was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Robert; her brothers, Albert and George Joseph; and by her sisters, Rosanna, Mary, and Pauline. Nancy is survived by her sons, Steven, Robert A., and Donald; her daughters-in-law, Marilyn, Laurel, and Wendi; her grandchildren, Melanie, Stefanie, Pamela, Robert C., Sarah, Alex, and Meghan; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.



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Penny A. (Tateosian) Emerzian, dear sister in Christ, passed away on December 8, 2020 at the age of 93. A native of Fresno, Penny married Clarence Emerzian on July 26, 1952. Clarence was a Public Accountant, U.S. Air Force veteran, and member of a pioneering FAPC family. Penny was predeceased by her beloved husband of 61 years, Clarence; her parents, Giragos George and Louise (Eskenderian) Tateosian; and her siblings, Alice T. Koenig, Robert Suren Tater, and Mary Tateosian Johns. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Donna Lee and Thomas Adams; son Barry T. Emerzian; three grandchildren, Jennifer Adams, Laura Gonzalez and her husband, Alvaro, and Jason Adams and his wife, Lea; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



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Robert Keith Fleming, Head Usher of FAPC at the time of the Millennium, passed away on December 13, 2020 at the age of 90. A native of Saint Louis, Missouri, Bob grew up in the home of his uncle and adoptive father, Louis Bradfield, a prominent stock and cattle rancher in Olpe, Kansas, near Emporia. He relocated to Central California in his teens and was educated at Madera High School. After service as an aerial photographer in the United States Navy, Bob pursued a career in sales in Madera and Fresno. At FAPC, his sunny smile greeted worshippers on a host of Sundays in the years leading to the 21st Century. He also served as Master of Ceremonies for the November 1995 "Afternoon in Armenia" cultural event at Fresno City College, featuring the music of the Chookaszian International Folk Ensemble, a talk by Dr. Levon Chookaszian of Yerevan State University, and the artistry of Raphael and Sona Atoyan. Bob was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Doris (Emerzian) Fleming; his parents, Lenore Reynolds and Jim Fleming; and his brothers, Jack Fleming and Bill Franklin. Bob is survived by his sons, Mark Fleming; Scott Fleming and his wife Cheryl; and Eric Fleming and his wife Jessica; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many members of Doris's family.



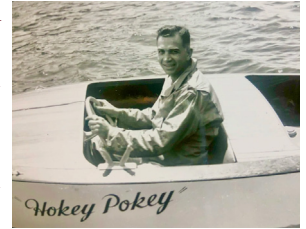
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Alice (Michigan) Walker passed away at the California Armenian Home on February 6, 2021 at the age of 87. A native of Tulare and gifted majorette, Alice graduated from Tulare Union High School in 1951 and attended College of the Sequoias for one year before relocating to Fresno. In Fresno, Alice entered the banking industry and served in a variety of roles at Crocker National Bank and its successor, Wells Fargo, for 30 years. Alice was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Charles W. Walker; parents Mihran S. and Armenoohi Michigian; and siblings Arah M. Michigan, Hermina Kargenian, and Evelyn Michigian. She is survived by her nephews, Harry and Robert Kargenian; niece Karen Michigian; Charles's sons, Charles D. and Joseph C. Walker; grandchildren Kelly and Cassandra; her lifelong Tulare friend Nancy Moody; and cousins in Las Vegas, Southern California, and Michigan.



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George H. Bagdasarian, member of a pioneering FAPC Family, passed away on February 10, 2021 at the age of 96. George grew up in the Lone Star District of Fresno County and was educated at Sanger Union High School and Fresno State College, where he majored in Viticulture. After graduation, George and his brother James farmed a thousand acres of vineyards and orchards in Central California. George went on to found Baggie Agricultural Supply, serve as a consultant to Occidental Petroleum, work as manager of Central California Field Operations for Tenneco Oil., serve as President of Lodi Vintners, Ltd., and serve as President and General manager of Baggie Farms from 1980 until his retirement. He also served on numerous agricultural advisory boards and was a Trustee at Lone Star Elementary School. At FAPC, George was Co-Chair of the General Building Council Finance Committee, Member of the Third Phase Building Committee which constructed the Fellowship Hall in 1988, and was President and Member of the FAPC Board of Trustees (1960-1966). George was preceded in death by his dear wife of 64 years, the former Marian Kezerian; his parents, Haigos and Esther (Nalbanian) Bagdasarian; his brother, James Bagdasarian; and his daughter-in-law, Susan Bagdasarian. George is survived by his son, Gary G Bagdasarian and his wife, Alexis; his daughter, Darlene Slaughter and her husband, William; his sister, Mary Lou Bagdasarian; six grandchildren, Gerad and Sarah Bagdasarian, Samuel and Ryan Slaughter, and Adam and Jerrod Laputz; eight great-grandchildren; his sister-in-law Armene Bagdasarian; nephew Mitchell Bagdasarian and his wife, Anita, nieces Lori Ruh and Carrie Sorenson; and many cousins.

●●●●● Family Life News ●●●●●

Morris Samuelian, a child of our Church, passed away on March 29, 2021 at the age of 103. A gifted vocalist and athlete, Morris worked in the family business, Sam's Re-Nu-All and Sam's Luggage and Leather Goods, for more than half a century before retiring in 1982. He served as a Fresno County Grand Juror in 1973 and participated in the FAPC Men's Fellowship Dinners on a number of occasions in the 1990s. Morris was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Ione; his parents, Mugerlich and Dovey Samuelian; his brothers, Harold and Richard; and his granddaughter, Mia. He is survived by his children, Dale Samuelian and his wife, Charlene, and Lynn Samuelian and her husband, Ruben Fernandez; grandchildren Bryce Samuelian and his wife Sarah, Ryan Samuelian and his wife, Megan, and Vince Mancini and his wife Emily; and five great-grandchildren.



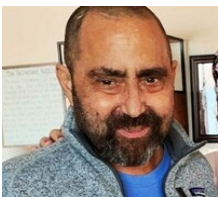
Reverend Doctor John J. Markarian, founding President of Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon, died in West Pittston, Pennsylvania on June 29, 2021 at the age of 104. A native of Windham, New York, Dr. Markarian was a graduate of Lafayette College, the Wharton School of Finance, and Princeton Divinity School. He was an ordained Presbyterian minister and earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in theology from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Dr. Markarian spoke at FAPC on a number of occasions in his lengthy ministry and he related his Beirut service in the moving 2010 memoir, "The Thirsty Enemy." Dr. Markarian and his wife, Inge, later moved to California and eventually to West Pittston where they resided the last 34 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Reverend Hagop and Dora (Euth) Markarian, and his first wife, Ruth. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Inge; his daughter, Joanne Kubler, of Los Angeles; his grandson, Michael Kubler and his wife, Kathryn; and great-grandchildren, Gabriel and Ari, all of Sydney, Australia.



Madeline Arakelian, 1972-1973 President of the FAPC Young Women's Society of Fidelis, passed away on July 13, 2021 at the age of 82. A native of Long Beach, California, Madeline grew up in Oakland, where she graduated from Castlemont High School and served as President of the Girls' League. She went on to study Diagnostic Radiology at Fresno State College and entered a 45-year career as an X-Ray Technician in Central California. Madeline was an active member of the Armenian Christian Endeavor Union of California and assisted the community by serving the California Armenian Home, Armenian Christian Women's Organization, Women's League of the Armenian Community School of Fresno, Manchester Elementary Parent-Teacher Association, and the Girl Scouts of America. At FAPC, was well-known for skilled handling of advance and day-of-event ticket sales to the Annual Merchants' Luncheon and for managing reservations and seating charts for Church Fellowship Dinners and gatherings. Madeline was preceded in death by her parents, Barkev and Tourvanda Halajian, and by her brothers-in-law, James Bagdasarian and Donald Arakelian. She is survived by her beloved husband of 60 years, John Arakelian; children John Arakelian and his wife Mechelle and Allison Garabedian and her husband Michael; grandsons Michael Titus and his wife Gina, Grant Arakelian, Joseph Garabedian, Blake Garabedian, and Michael Garabedian; great-grandson Rex Titus; brother Harry Halajian and his wife, Dolores, sister, Armene Bagdasarian; sister-in-law Adeline Arakelian; and many dear nieces and nephews.



Charles Jeffrey Yeramian, a child of our Church, passed away on July 23, 2021 at the age of 51. A native of the San Joaquin Valley, Jeff graduated from Sanger Schools and California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor's Degree in Business. He grew up working at the family business, Enoch Packing Company, and in recent years was Manager of the Fresno Branch of Dadant and Sons, the leading purveyor of beekeeping supplies and equipment in America. Jeff was preceded in death by his father, Lee Yeramian, and his grandparents, Charles and Mary (Tateosian) Enoch and Ara and Melba (Peters) Yeramian. He is survived by his mother, Judith Yeramian-Davidian; sisters Kristi Bishop and her husband Toby, and Kathi Case and her husband Michael; and many nieces and nephews.



Sharon Lynn Aslanian passed away in Fresno on August 24, 2020 at the age of 75. She was preceded in death by her parents, Sam and Martha (Kevorkian) Aslanian. Sharon is survived by her son, Bryan Kramer; sister Lillian Azarian of Glendale; uncle LeRoy Kevorkian of Fowler; nephews Darren and Alex Azarian and their families; cousins Melvin and Dennis Kevorkian; and many dear family members.

Rally Day, Sunday, September 12, 2021
Sunday School and Family Groups restart!!! Casual Sunday!



First
Armenian
Presbyterian
Church

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Unsolicited submissions are always welcome. Submissions are also subject to editorial revision. Mosaix submissions are due by the 15th of every month. Please e-mail to fapc3@fapc.net

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