

mosaix

A publication of
First Armenian Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.

May 2022 Vol. 8:4

*"He has made everything beautiful in its time."
Ecclesiastes 3:10a (NIV)*

These last two years have been anything but normal. I don't believe I've read anyone over these last twenty-six months claiming, "This is exactly what I said would happen!" No one predicted how the world and our lives would be turned upside down & inside out.

Would you have believed it if someone had predicted the pandemic? I wouldn't have. I didn't even believe that Russia would invade Ukraine. Our son, Mark, a third year cadet studying Russia in Moldova this last semester, was sure that the intelligence reports were wrong! Thankfully, they evacuated him before the conflict started!

Life has felt chaotic. Some faithful brothers and sisters in Christ are absolutely certain that we are living in the last days, that Christ's return is imminent. They may be right! Are you ready if they are?

The challenge of these days and, especially, my parent's passing within six weeks of each other, have caused me to ponder this passage from Ecclesiastes 3:11. Has He really made everything beautiful in its time? Earlier in the chapter we read that "There is a time for everything, and a season for everything activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die ..." (Eccl. 3:2)

I grew up singing that great folk song of the sixties by the Byrds, "Turn, Turn, Turn". The lyrics quote this passage contrasting all the different seasons: weeping & laughing, mourning & dancing, keeping & tossing, silence & speaking, even war & peace.

These are the rhythms of a fallen world, the rhythms that prompt us to pray, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done." God is not the author of evil. I want to repeat that: God is not the author of evil. This is humanity's contribution to the rhythms of life. The Scripture proves verse 9 of chapter three daily, "... the burden God has laid on the human race."

These rhythms humble us. Sometimes they crush us. Yet, we cling to His promise that He can and does make everything beautiful in its time. Let's keep encouraging each other as we look to the day when all His promises will be fulfilled!

Because He lives,

●●●●● Badveli Greg



UPCOMING EVENTS...

Camp AREV's annual Women's Retreat is back and better than ever! We know many of you miss being on the mountain top to experience God's presence and enjoy time of fellowship. Sign up by going to the Camp Arev website. www.camparev.org



Join us for the Memorial Day Picnic! Remember the fun time we had together last year at Hillcrest Farms? Well, we are doing it again this year! Come on out to Reedley and join us for food, Armenian dancing with Richard Hagopian, bounce houses, train rides, and more! Plan to come enjoy good food with our church family. Who can you invite this year to join us? The Picnic will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

●●● PAST EVENTS...



California State University, Fresno celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the campus Armenian Studies Program at an annual banquet on Sunday, March 20, 2022 at Fort Washington Country Club. Heartiest congratulations to the ASP 2021-2022 Scholarship Recipients from FAPC: Alec Karayan, Morgan Marashian, Kara and Mitchel Statler, and Eddy and Isabella Thurber.



Congratulations to Morgan Marashian on being a nominee for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Woman of the Year campaign 2022. Morgan was the youngest candidate participating in the Central Valley campaign. Gracious thanks to our FAPC church family who supported Morgan in this non-profit campaign in which LLS serves and supports those diagnosed with blood cancers. A very heartfelt thank you to Jane Bedrosian and Kimberly Bedrosian who were her encouraging mentors along the campaign.



FAPC MISSIONS

Local Missions : Hope Now for Youth

Last month in church we heard from Executive Director of Hope Now, Vanna In. Vanna is one of Hope Now's transformed lives. He's a role model of what Hope Now can do. He is Hope Now. One of the things Vanna appreciates most is that Hope Now was the only place willing to give him a chance. It was the only organization to contact him, and then give him that one job he needed while seeking a new life outside of prison and gangs. He entered the Hope Now program and earned his Certificate of Completion in 2002.



Vanna never forgot the life-changing chance extended by Hope Now. A chance he now wants to see duplicated many times over in lives he comes across in his new role. Much of what Vanna has overcome will now be used by Christ to help other young men overcome similar obstacles.

Rev. Roger Minassian, Founder of Hope Now states, "I would estimate that he's helped transform the lives of over 150 gang youth. Vanna always had a heart to give back. God had called him to help other homeless, helpless and hopeless youth get off the path of destruction. His Lord Jesus was not going to waste any of Vanna's painful past, but was going to use what he had learned to lift others up."

Hope Now, and Vanna In is one of the local ministries that FAPC Missions supports. You can find out more about this ministry at hopenowforyouth.org

●●●●● DEACONS CORNER ●●●●●

We bring you warm greetings on behalf our Deacon's Ministry.

Our Deacon ministry is focused on four areas of Christian service. With Christ at our center, we remain dedicated to strengthening Prayer, Witnessing, Fellowship, and the impact of the Word. Over these past many months, our Deacons have been working collaboratively at FAPC while growing together. We would like to share with our FAPC church family our role and expectations of this Ministry as expressed by the following core values:

We affirm that we trust in Jesus Christ our Savior, acknowledge Him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through Him believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's word. We affirm in our own life to seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love our neighbors and work for the reconciliation of the world.

These two passages of Scripture guide us:

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. --1 John 1:3 ESV

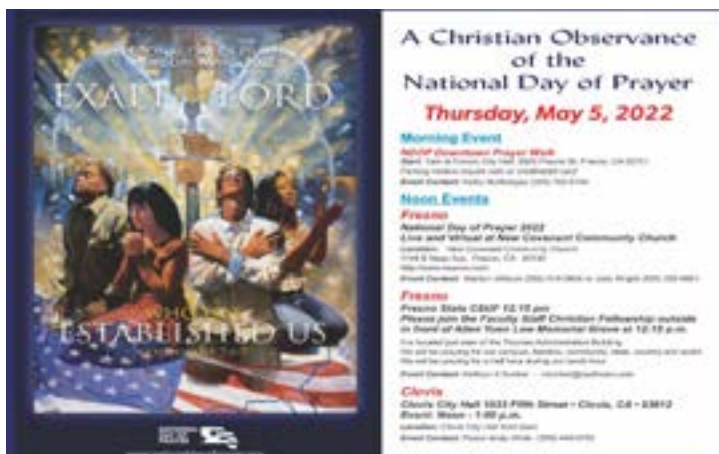
That is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. -- Romans 1:12 ESV

May God richly bless you and your loved ones. In the service of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Sandy Marashian / Deacon Co-Chair



Wednesday, May 11, 2022. Interested in going? Contact the office for tickets!



Our Condolences...

Mary Lou Bagdasarian, devoted servant of the Lord, passed away on March 6, 2022, just six days shy of her 84th birthday. A member of one of the earliest families of FAPC, Mary Lou was educated at Roosevelt High School and then-Fresno State College. She taught Kindergarten and First Grade students at Lone Star Elementary School in the Sanger Unified School District for 38 years and the Kindergarten Playground was named in her honor at the time of her 1998 retirement from education. At FAPC, Mary Lou was an active member of the Christian Endeavor, was a 50-year member of the Chancel Choir, led the Junior Choir for more than a decade, and chaired the Committee on Music, Mary Lou is well-remembered for her vocal offerings on Palm Sunday (“The Holy City”), Independence Day (“God Bless America”), and Advent (“O Holy Night”). She served as President of the Young Women’s Society of Fidelis (1989-1991, 1997-1999), was the longtime Wedding Coordinator of the Congregation, completed multiple terms as Ruling Elder and Clerk of the Session. and was an active member of the FAPC Centennial Commemorative Committee. The Session honored Mary Lou for her lifetime of joyful service as a Silent Servant of FAPC. In addition, Mary Lou was a Director of the California Armenian Home from the 1990s, served as Board President in 2008-2009, and was Board Secretary from 2010 until her passing. She was a Patron Member of the CAH Ani Guild and was deeply involved in the development of The Vineyards independent living community at the CAH. Mary Lou was preceded in death by her grandparents, Haroutune and Mariam (Kachian) Bagdasarian; her parents, Haigos and Esther (Nalbandian) Bagdasarian; her brothers, George and James Bagdasarian; her sister-in-law Marian Bagdasarian; her niece, Susan Bagdasarian; and her nephew, Mark Victor Ruh. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Armene Bagdasarian; nephew Gary G. Bagdasarian and his wife, Alexis; niece Darlene Slaughter and her husband, Bill; nephew Mitchel Bagdasarian and his wife, Anita; niece Lori Bagdasarian-Ruh; twelve great-nieces and great-nephews; and countless friends and family members.



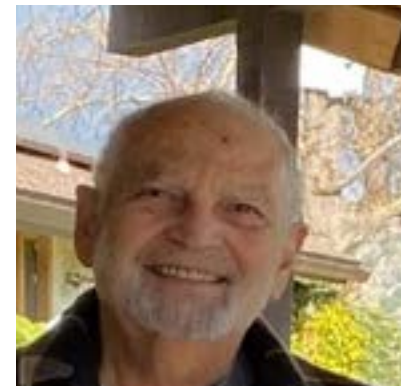
Knar (Kazanjian) Guekguezian, vibrant Yeretsgin of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church for more than two decades, passed away in Fresno on March 1, 2022 at the age of 85. A native of Aleppo, Syria, Knar met her life’s partner at a Christian summer camp, where she served as a counselor and he was a seminarian who had been educated at the American University of Beirut, Near East School of Theology, and New York Theological Seminary. Knar and Badveli Bernard Guekguezian were married in the mid-1950s. Their first American pastoral call took place in 1960 and they served congregations in Worcester, Massachusetts and Paramus, New Jersey. When Badveli Bernard was installed as the Senior Pastor of FAPC on December 10, 1978, Knar complemented his “No Problem/High Energy” approach to pastoral ministry by singing in the Chancel Choir, coordinating Summer Vacation Bible Schools for the Congregation and the Huntington-Holmes Neighborhood, acting as unofficial liaison to the Ladies’ Aid Society of Senior Church Members, arranging Christmas Caroling at the homes of shut-ins, initiating Monday night Bible Studies for single adults and Thursday morning Bible Studies for women in the congregation and community, and sharing the secrets of dessert making with Fresno State Armenian Studies classes. A graduate of Aleppo College, Knar continued her education in Central California, earning a Bachelor’s Degree and two Master’s Degrees. She employed that education by reaching out to newcomers at Central California Refugee Ministries. Knar was also a longtime Director of the California Armenian Home. A popular retreat and conference speaker, Knar “always spoke about the love God showed through Jesus,” said her younger son. Knar was preceded in death by her beloved husband, FAPC Pastor Emeritus Bernard Asadoor Guekguezian, her parents, Hrand (a survivor of the Armenian Genocide) and Agavne Kazanjian, her aunt and uncle, Mateos and Victoria Der Mateosian, and her brother-in-law, Maurice T. Gerges. She is survived by her sons, Reverend Ara Richard Guekguezian and his wife Evelina and Asbed Bernard Guekguezian, Esquire and his wife, Dr. Amy Simon; five grandchildren, Peter and his wife, Marilyn, Madeleine, Lee, David, and Jonathan; great-grandson, Zekiel; sister Ruth Gerges of Charlottesville, Virginia; many dear nieces, nephews, and cousins; and loving Church Families in New England, New Jersey, and Central California.



Louis Arthur “Guido” Bozigian, gifted vocalist for the Lord, passed away on March 29, 2022, just two months shy of his 82nd birthday. A native of Los Angeles, Lou, his mother Alice, and older brother Thomas relocated to Fresno after his immigrant father died in a tragic automobile accident in 1941. Lou received his early education at Kirk, Emerson, and Burroughs Elementary Schools, Yosemite Junior High School, and Roosevelt High School, where he was a member of the varsity diving team and President of the Boys’ Federation. Upon graduation in 1958, Lou attended Fresno City College and was a member of the United States Army Reserves. Following in the footsteps of his mother, an accomplished pianist and music teacher, Lou mastered the keyboard, drums, and guitar. He studied vocal music under Johnny Mathis’s Bay Area teacher and went on to perform professionally at venues throughout California, the United States, on international cruise ships, and in Europe. He performed locally as “Guido and his Singing Guitar” at the Hacienda Mermaid Room and other dining spots and composed numerous pieces of music. He went on to additional careers as a real estate and small business broker and rounded out his work life as a private chauffeur. In the 1980s, Lou gave his life to Jesus Christ in the Orange County home of his brother Charles and sister-in-law Darcy. At FAPC, Lou was a faithful member of the Wednesday Men’s Bible Study Lunch Group and for two decades sang Tenor with the FAPC Chancel Choir, often sharing hymns accompanied by his mother on piano. Lou was preceded in death by his parents, Napoleon L. and Alice Lucille (Marderosian) Bozigian; his stepfather, Joseph Arthur Deveau; his brother, Steven Deveau; and his aunt and uncle, Ergen and Carl Jensen. He is survived by his brothers, Thomas, Charles, Anthony and Richard and their spouses; 13 grandnieces and grandnephews; and a dozen great- and great-great grandnieces and grandnephews.



At the time of publication, the Mosaix learned of the passing of Reverend Theodore Diran Lyons, Jr. on Good Friday, April 15, 2022. Badveli Tedd, son of a beloved FAPC Youth Leader of the World War II era, served as Associate Pastor and Youth Director of FAPC during the 1970s. The Session and Congregation extend heartfelt sympathies to Badveli Tedd’s widow, Dione, their children, and the extended Lyons Family. The Mosaix will honor Badveli Tedd’s memory and Christian Ministry in the next edition.



Prayer List

How can we be praying for you? Let us know any specific prayer requests you have by emailing them to add them to our prayer chain emails. If you have a prayer request or would like to join the prayer chain email list please let Karen Daoudian know at

karendaoudian@gmail.com







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Upcoming Special Events

May 8th - Mothers' Day
May 17th - 24/7 Prayer Day
May 20th-22nd - Camp Arev Women's Retreat
May 30th - Memorial Day Picnic
June 12th - Youth Sunday
June 17th - 24/7 Prayer Day
June 23-26 - AEUNA/ AEYF Biennial

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All submissions are subject to editorial revisions.
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Deacons: Sandra Marashian, Noelle Nightingale, Maral Afarian, Steven Baker, Rita Barsamian, Grace Chavoor, Simon Kalebjian, Karine Martirosyan, Ando Sivas, Kinsey Sivas