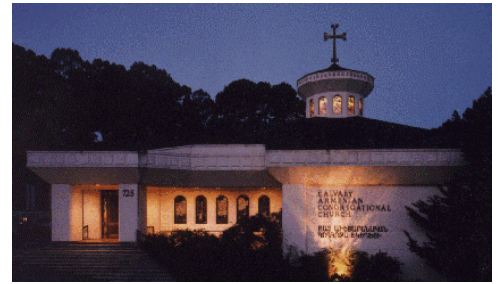


The Calvary Messenger

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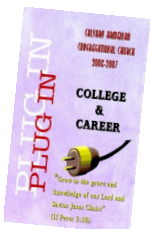


Volume 36 / Number 1
2007

The Newsletter of the
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco
725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94132-2902 Office (415) 586-2000 / Fax (415) 333-1076
Website: <http://www.cacc-sf.org> / Office Email: cacc@cacc-sf.org / Rev. Nerses Balabanian: pastor@cacc-sf.org

A View From Calvary

HD COLOR



It is 2007 and this is the first issue of Messenger in COLOR. I love colors and I believe God created us capable of distinguishing and enjoying colors. Remember your first color TV? I do. Wow, we could see things better; we enjoyed it so much. These days color TV is not a big deal; now the market is advertising HD TV, HIGH DEFINITION plasma LCD TVs.

CACC is calling you to look at things in “HD - High Definition.” If the market is going after higher resolutions, we as Christ’s body should not be behind. We cannot go in mediocrity. We need to pursue excellence.

Our main motto for 2006 - 2007 is *Plug In*. “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18). How are you doing? Where are you? Ask yourself, “Am I growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus?” We had our annual meeting in January 2007. I thank God for our church and for all the ministries that are offered here. I see that God is moving our church in ways that are pleasing to Him. I see more people are involved in becoming plugged in to God. Yes, my aim is to move you forward. On one side, I do see progress. On the other side, I see that we have a long way to go. I

(continued on page two)

2007 Coming Events

Sunday, March 11

Celebration Luncheon for the
Wedding of Aren & Alina Balabanian
Everyone is Invited

Sunday, April 1

Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 5, 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday

Sunday, April 8

Easter (Resurrection) Sunday

Saturday, May 6

Mayfest Luncheon

Saturday, May 19

81st Annual Banquet

Sunday, June 17

Graduation Luncheon

Monday - Friday, July 23 - 27

Vacation Bible School

Sunday, August 19

Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 16

Renewal Sunday

Saturday, November 10

Annual Food Festival

Saturday, December 15

11th Christmas Banquet

(continued from page one)

want to encourage you. God is walking with us day-by-day. It is important that you can see His direction in your life and continue in growing in Him.

Therefore, as I mentioned in one of my sermons, please take a moment to review your commitment to grow according to these five principles:

1. Commitment to Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord.
2. Commitment to plug in to God and begin the process of personal sanctification (to be set aside for a purpose) through the power of the Holy Spirit who can transform our lives.
3. Commitment to personal or collective Evangelism - sharing the Good News of Jesus.
4. Commitment to give back to God some of the time and resources He has given us.
5. Commitment to support organizations that help others.

Five basic principles that lead us towards "HD". We are called for excellence. This means trying our best with Jesus on our side helping us, or sometimes carrying us. Gear up, and move; the ministry is waiting for you.

"We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1Thessalonians 1:3)

Rev. Nerses Balabanian
Pastor

C.A.C.C. 81st Annual Banquet

We are pleased to announce that this year's speaker is Rev. Krikor Aghabaloghlu, the "Brave" Armenian Pastor from Istanbul, Turkey. Rev. Aghabaloghlu is the Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Gedik Pasha, Istanbul and a well known activist. This outspoken pastor had the courage to speak out publicly about the Armenian genocide on Turkish television. Rev. Aghabaloghlu was a soul mate and the pastor of our recent martyr Hrant Dink. This memorable event will take place in the Halajian Hall at CACC on May 19th, 2007. Please call the church office to reserve your tickets.

Ordination

The AEUNA ordained Aren Balabanian to his sacred office, and also installed him as associate Pastor of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church congregation, during divine services on Sunday afternoon, October 22, 2006, at the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno.



More than 400 members and friends of the Fresno congregation witnessed the new Associate Pastor's service of ordination and installation and shared in a fellowship reception that concluded the afternoon. A dozen active and retired ministers attended to the laying on of hands.

Several families went from the Bay Area to Fresno the week-end of October 22 to witness the Ordination of our Aren Balabanian as Associate Pastor of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church in Fresno. It was a beautiful service and his uncle Nerses took part in the service. We thank God that Aren and Alina have chosen to serve Him. Congratulations to the Balabanian, Nazarian and Melkonian families.

***CACC congratulates Aren's ordination.
May God use him for His Glory.***

Save the Date

***81st Annual Banquet
Saturday, May 19th, 2007
Guest Speaker
Rev. Krikor Aghabaloghlu
Brave Armenian Pastor
from Istanbul***

Prayer & Renewal

“Seven days without prayer makes one weak.”

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join us in the Library for prayer 10:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. All are welcome. Below and on the next page are suggestions for your daily prayer. Please see the weekly Sunday bulletin for updated information.

MISSIONS MINISTRIES FOR THE QUARTER

Please remember to pray for God’s world-wide ministry of evangelism. Please continue to pray for the persecuted Church.

George and Armine Manoukian minister with **Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)**. The ministry of C.E.F., is focused on reaching children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. George and Armine have a special burden for Armenian children and have prepared numerous C.E.F. teaching materials in Armenian. They have made several trips to Armenia to teach children and future instructors. Pray for George and Armine that they will know God’s future direction for this vital ministry.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) acts as a missions arm of the Armenian Evangelical churches. Its projects and ministries are farflung on six continents, and includes churches, schools, medical and social services, and evangelistic projects. Pray for Executive Director Mr. Andy Torigian, his co-workers, and that the AMAA will continue to focus on reaching the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Union of the Armenian Evangelical Church of the Near East (UAECNE) is a family of churches and related organizations throughout Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Iran, Greece, Cyprus, and Australia. Its head office is located in Beirut, Lebanon. It includes 27 churches, 13 schools, a university, and other organizations. The mission of the UAECNE has three dimensions: evangelism, social work, and education. Evangelism is carried out in the churches and their various programs such as children’s, youth, and music ministry. The social work programs reach out to the less privileged families through the social centers. The educational mission of the UAECNE is accomplished in the numerous schools it owns and runs where thousands of Armenian children receive a good education in an Armenian and Christian environment.

AEUNA SISTER CHURCHES

- * **Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church**
Fresno, CA
Rev. Ara Guekguezian, Pastor
- * **Armenian Martyrs’ Congregational Church**
Havertown, PA
Rev. Gary Schongalla-Bowman, Pastor
- * **Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church**
Los Angeles, CA
Rev. Dikran Shanlian, Pastor
- * **Armenian Evangelical Church**
Hollywood, CA
Rev. Apraham Chaparian, Pastor
Abe Chaparian, Exec. Dir. N.D.A.Y.
- * **United Armenian Congregational Church**
Hollywood, CA
Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jason Matossian, Pastor of Christian Education
- * **Saint Nareg Armenian Church**
Montebello, CA
Rev. Krikor Haleblian, Ph.D., Pastor
- * **Armenian Evangelical Church**
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Rev. Mher Khatchigian, Pastor

OUR SISTER CHURCH IN ARMENIA

- * **Armenian Evangelical Church of Hrazdan**
Edik Tadevosian, Pastor

EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP IN ARMENIA

- * **Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Gayaran and Aintab**
Hovhanness Frangoulian, Pastor

The Calvary Messenger is produced as a quarterly ministry update for our congregation and friends. Donations to offset printing and mailing costs are appreciated. Any comments, errors, omissions and/or newsworthy items may be addressed to the editors, care of the church office or sent via email to our box at cacc@cacc-sf.org. Please check our website for current ministry information. <http://www.cacc-sf.org>

CACC Ministries 2006-2007

	Target Group	Location	Time
Children's Ministries	Ages 1-11	CACC	Sunday 11:00 am
Junior High & High School	Ages 12-18	CACC	Sunday 11:00 am
College & Career	Youth above 18	Homes	Wednesday 8:00 pm
Coffee Time with God	Ladies	Haleblians'	Thursday 10:30 am
Calvary Circle	Ladies	CACC	Monthly
Bagel Time with God	Men	Foothill Covenant Church, Los Altos	Last Saturday 8:15 am
HomeBuilders	Young couples	Foothill Covenant Church, Los Altos	Third Saturday 5:00-7:00 pm
FaithBuilders	All	Homes	First Friday 7 pm
Dinner & Bible Study	All	CACC	Wednesday 7:00 pm
East Bay Bible Study	All	Bosnoyans'	First & Third Friday 7:30 pm
Foster City Bible Study	All	Tujians'	Last Thursday 7:00 pm
San Francisco Coffee Time with God	All	CACC	Last Thursday 11:00 am
Church-Wide Prayer Time	All	Foothill Covenant Church, Los Altos	First Thursday 6:30 pm

Հայաստանի Եկեղեցիքի մեր Տեր ու Փրկիչ Յիսուս Քրիստոսին շնորհքով ու գիտությունով: Անոր փառք հիմա ու մինչև յաիտեան: Ամեն:

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25th Food Festival



November 11, 2006 was a memorable day for Calvary Church family and friends. Our Halajian Hall was beautifully decorated with a Christmas tree and festive décor. The Boutique Noel, the Country Cupboard, and the raffle prizes gracing the platform were absolutely stunning. The place mats on the tables with scripture verses were sure thought provoking and heart warming. In spite of the morning rain, the afternoon turned up to give us clear skies inviting guests to attend our food festival.

At 12:00 noon, there was a long line of guests already making their way to the stations of interest: jewelry, all kinds of accessories, crocheted items, jams, jellies, pastries and more. But, most of all the food counter wafting with mouth watering aromas beckoned young and old to enjoy our famous authentic Armenian cookery. Should we take pride in our yalanchi, sou boereg, koefte, shish kebabs, salad, pilav, and a huge number of desserts, such as kurabia, mamoul, kadaif, shahabiyeh, choereg and other delectable productions? Absolutely!

The prizes for the raffle were numerous and many bought tickets. Even to the very end people were busy getting their tickets.

Our youth also participated with their own Hyebuck coffee corner. They had decorated their respective area and made it so attractive for young people to congregate and enjoy one another. The new, red popcorn machine was sure a center of attraction. The enthusiasm of our youth was invigorating.

The entertainment was another feature which added to the fun and frolic of the day. Our Pastor's love of music on the keyboard with Gagik Manookian on the synthesizer was remarkable. Of course, the two lovely ladies, Sevan and Karine who sang many duets avowed the guests.

All this festivity was a huge undertaking. We appreciate all of you who helped make our Food Festival a great one! Most of all, we thank God for His goodness and mercy.

May the Lord richly bless you until we meet again in our next Food Festival.

In His service,

Margaret Watson

Food Festival Committee Coordinator

Christmas Banquet

The largest crowd to date was in attendance for this year's Youth, College and Career Christmas Banquet. This was the tenth year that this banquet has been held, and each year has brought new faces and new reasons to celebrate.



The speaker for the evening was Chaplain (Major) Lucy Der-Garabedian, who is a chaplain in the U.S. Army and plays an active role counseling soldiers, leading other chaplains, and providing support from

her base in Fort Hood, Texas. She delivered a timely and touching message incorporating some of her experiences with the troops during this time of war.

While we were enjoying the delicious food, it was great to see the CACC Youth Band perform. They seem to get better each time they play. It was also a treat to hear the talented Merjanian family string quartet.



Each year the College and Career honors someone who has served the church and had an impact on the youth. This year's honoree was Margaret Shamlian, who has labored selflessly in so many areas.



It takes a large cast to bring an event like this together, and many people had a hand in making this year's banquet possible, under the able leadership of Alidz Nazarian. Thank you to all who gave of their time and their effort to make the

banquet run so smoothly.

We hope to see you with us at next year's Christmas Banquet.

Ara Kullukian

Welcome Babies Luncheon



A number of babies joined the CACC family in the past year. What a blessing!

In order to celebrate their arrival and

share the joy of those families, the HomeBuilders Family Ministries and the Calvary Circle organized a luncheon on January 7, 2006. The Calvary Circle prepared the lunch while the HomeBuilders was in charge of the program.

The pastor opened the event with a prayer. After enjoying a delicious meal, a PowerPoint presentation of the newborns and their families was shown. Then the couples were invited to come forward. What a sight! Moms, Dads, babies, toddler siblings, strollers, bottles and the like...

Each couple answered a question about parenting while everyone listened and enjoyed their creative and honest answers. The babies got Children's Bibles as a present. The pastor prayed and dedicated these children to the Lord.

The following is the list of the couples and their newborns:

- Alec and Anahid Gulesserian - Andrea Shakeh (11/5/05)
- Rodney and Eilene Hartunian - Kyle (12/19/05)
- Aram and Salpi Mashlakian - Anoush Christine (12/24/05)
- Chris and Salpi Dunlap - Logan Aramis (2/14/06)
- Gagik and Karine Manoikian - EmilySeda (2/15/06)
- Norm and Tereza Manoukian - Paul Souren (4/7/06)
- Joe and Marianne Ghatta - Chloe Anne (5/6/06)
- Joe and Lina Barsoian - Joshua Robert (5/2/06)
- Ara and Sirena Haleblian - Alan Azad (7/24/06)
- Ara and Sirena Haleblian - Anayis Hasmig (7/24/06)
- Dimitri and Sherrie (Paregian) Dogadkin - Dimitri Maximus (9/23/06)
- Armen and Roubina Boldi - Ethan Vaughn (9/29/06)
- Siegfried and Nancy Bender - Eric Jakob (10/24/06)
- Zaven and Valerie Khatchadourian - Chloe Sevan (12/5/06)

It is our sincere wish to see these babies grow in the church and become members of the CACC family.

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

Sevan Balabanian

Youth Ministries

Serving the Lord in the youth ministry has been very fulfilling and fun! It is exciting to see friendships growing as we discuss and hangout with each other.



In October we had an AEYF weekend retreat at the church. More than 60 high school students came here from LA and Fresno and spent the weekend at our church. We met new people and saw old faces and were able to continue the bonds through other events like Camp Arev.

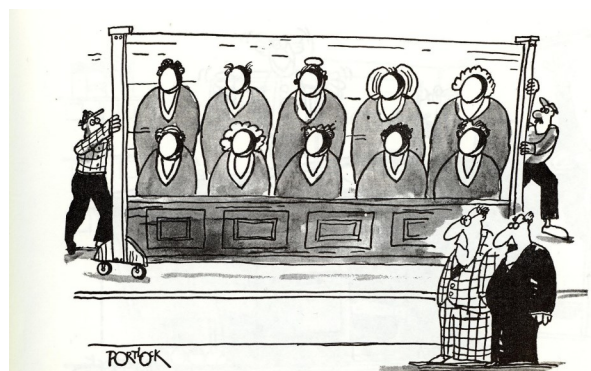
We had our first sleepover at church in December and spent the day ice skating as a group and then coming back and playing a few games, watching a movie and decorating our room for Christmas - an experience that I know many will not forget.

During the Food Festival in November we had a chance to fundraise for future events by selling popcorn, tea, coffee and a few snacks. It was a success with the help of many of the moms and the generosity of the others. Our corner called Hyebucks kept all of us busy and added a special flavor to the Food Festival! (see picture)

During Christmas we had a chance to serve at the Christmas banquet and sing a few songs. Six of our youth and I participated in the Winter Retreat at Camp Arev in February. We have so much more to look forward to and I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for the youth.

In Him,

Jennifer Bosnoyan



"We couldn't afford new choir robes"



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FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000

February 5, 2007

God's faithfulness continues to go before me as I endeavor to walk with Him. Isaiah 43.1c-3a states, "...Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God..."

This passage is dealing with the restoration and protection that God promises His people. Though we cannot see the way of the Lord nor can we understand His ways, we must lean not unto our own understanding as Proverbs says. I have found this to be true in my journey with the Lord God who called me by name before ever I was born and brought me to the place where I am to serve Him.

God's faithfulness is constantly brought to my remembrance through others that He places in my life. February 27-29 of this year, I was in Tampa, Florida, where I was invited to preach by the Associate Presbyterian of Tampa Bay Presbytery. It was great to visit with her and retell the story of God's faithfulness during the 17 years of my life in the U.S. as she and her husband have been with me through my seminary education, residency, ordination, and appointment to the military chaplaincy.

I relived the experiences of these 17 years and the challenges that a student might face who was not able to contact even her family due to the war in Lebanon in 1989. It was powerful to experience belonging to the body of Christ as total strangers embraced me and became my family. They co-signed for me when I could not buy a car because I did not have a credit history. When I needed a place to stay, they opened their house and let me know that I always have a place at their house. They were my advocate when I voiced the call to the Word and Sacrament, and they sponsored me.

I began to make connections on how they impacted my life, and I saw them ministering with me when I am counseling soldiers who see no hope in their given situations. They had imprinted on me how to be the voice of the victim in a situation where the soldier does not have a say. I realize that, as Christians, we impact each other. We are given a legacy to follow the "Footprints" of Jesus Christ who knew that one has to live his or her faith. It is imperative that we be rooted in Jesus Christ that, as broken vessels, "The Love of God" will flow through us indiscriminately to a hurting world.

I am encouraged once again by God's faithfulness as you, another part of the body of Christ, is praying for me that I might be made strong, that I might be used as God desires, that I might be a witness of the love of our Lord and Savior in the military setting where so many need the family of God to reach out and touch them.

There are those in the military for whom I am called upon to minister: death notifications – to tell someone that their loved one died in the war. There is family counseling, the pain of the separation of families when one is deployed, the family unit being broken, divorce that many times occurs as a result of long term deployment, and children who are being put in a situation where they have to take sides with one or the other of the parents.

There are also the joys of serving the Lord: when I am asked to baptize a child, the joy of reunion, the celebration of new life in a family, experiencing the growth of individuals in Jesus Christ, the healing power that comes from God when broken relationships are mended.

Joy and sorrow flowed mingled down from the Cross. Joy and sorrow flows through the ministry that each of us has. God is faithful when we need to be encouraged in the midst of reaching out. He says, "...I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" Isaiah 43.19b.

Home address: 2704 Westwood Drive
Killeen, TX 76549
(254) 526-3663

Ch (MAJ) Lucy Der-Garabedian
Resource Manager
Installation Chaplain's Office, Fort Hood, TX

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church
725 Brotherhood Way
San Francisco, California 94132-2902

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Church News

BIRTH



We congratulate Siegfried and Nancy Bender for their newborn son, Eric Jakob Bender, born on Tuesday, October 24, 2006. Congratulations also to the grandparents, Bender and Orjanian.

We congratulate Zaven and Valerie Khachadourian for their newborn daughter, Chloe Sevan Khachadourian, born on Tuesday, December 5, 2006. Congratulations also to the grandparents, Khatchadourian and Minassian.

We congratulate David and Karen Barson for their newborn daughter, Brooke Stephanie Barson, born on Thursday, February 1, 2007. Congratulations also to the grandparents, Barson and Adrouny.

BAPTISM

Our congratulations to Stephen and Tanya Velyvis on the baptism of Tanya Angele Gulesserian Velyvis and their son, Lucas Stephen Velyvis on Sunday, February 25, 2007. Please pray for them.

WEDDING



We congratulate Aren and Alina (Melkonian) Balabanian, who were married on Saturday, February 10, 2007 at First Armenian Presbyterian Church in Fresno, California. Our congratulations also to both families.

CONDOLENCES

Mr. Baruir Ashikian (father of Anahid Gulesserian) who passed away in Montreal, Canada on Thursday, November 9, 2006. Our condolences and prayers to the Ashikian and Gulesserian families.

Rev. Manasseh Shnorhokian who passed away in Mahwah, New Jersey on Monday, December 11, 2006. Our condolences and prayers to the Shnorhokian family.

Mrs. Zephyr Young who passed away on Friday, December 29, 2006. Our condolences and prayers to her daughter, Esther Lewis and her family.