

# The Calvary Messenger

## Գողգոթա Լրաբեր



Volume 38 / Number 3  
2009

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](mailto:cacc@cacc-sf.org) / Rev. Nerses Balabanian: [pastor@cacc-sf.org](mailto:pastor@cacc-sf.org)

## A View from Calvary

### REACH OUT



### LOVE SOMEONE



Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.  
Phil. 2:4

Միայն ձեր անձերուն շահը մի՛ փնտռէք  
հապա ամէն մէկը իր ընկերինն ալ: Փիլ 2.4

C A C C • 2009-2010

When we looked for a new motto for a new year in the life of the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, we came up with **“Reach out – love someone.”** I think this is a very appropriate slogan because we as church are surrounded with people who need to be touched by the love of Christ. The scripture we chose is Philippians 2:4: **“Each of you should look not only to your interests, but also to the interests of others.”** Every time I read this verse, it inspires me. I stop a minute and think, “What am I doing? Am I a faithful steward of Jesus? Do I really love others?”

On renewal Sunday, we dedicated our church calendar year to God. We renewed our commitment in growing in His Word, learning from Jesus, and maturing in following His footsteps. Thus came our new challenge: reaching out and loving the other with the love of Christ.

The parable of the ten minas written in Luke 19 is a good example of investing whatever was entrusted to us for the growth of the Kingdom of God. The Nobleman who went away to be crowned as king and returned to his people, represents Jesus himself. While Jesus has gone to his Heavenly Father and is crowned as King, we should continue using whatever was given to us for his glory until his return.

The year 2009 was tough. Experts predict that 2010 will continue struggling economically. When is a good time to “invest” in God’s kingdom?

Today is the best time. In tough times when people are hurting, they are tempted to become isolated and focused

on their own problems. “The interests of others” become out of the equation. On the contrary, in these tough times I encourage you as the pastor of the church to look around you, beyond your own needs and REACH OUT AND LOVE SOMEONE.

*Rev. Nerses Balabanian, Pastor*

# Graduation Sunday



This year we honored those who graduated from school on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The range of ages ran from pre-school to dental school which includes 21 graduates.

In the worship service, our scripture lesson was from the Parable of the Sower. The sermon was titled "The Seed is Planted." The Word of God is planted and will continue in planting in us.



Some in good soil and some in unfertile soil. Some graduate, some did not graduate for different reasons. The pastor wished that CACC will be a fertile soil where the planted seed will grow.

Following the church service, we had a delicious luncheon featuring Izmir Kufte. Alexa Nazarian prepared a beautiful powerpoint presentation of our CACC graduates. We were also entertained by the talented performers from our Sunday School and Youth Group.

Many thanks to our amazing Sunday School superintendent Alidz Nazarian and her committee for organizing a meaningful program and luncheon. We again congratulate our graduates and their parents for their hard work and effort. May God bless their lives with "fertile soil".

*Sherry Arroyo*

**the 28th annual**  
**ARMENIAN**  
**FOOD FESTIVAL & BOUTIQUE**  
**NOEL**  
 at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church

Համով  
 Հոտով  
 Երգով  
 Պարով

**2009**  
**NOVEMBER 14-15**  
 SATURDAY 12 - 9 pm  
 SUNDAY 12:30 - 3 pm

**FREE ADMISSION**  
 Authentic Armenian  
 food & pastries  
 Live music & folk dancing  
 Crafts & games  
 for kids  
 Raffle with  
 loads of prizes!

725 Brotherhood Way  
 San Francisco  
 (415) 586 2000  
 cacc-sf.org

## 2009 Coming Events

**Saturday & Sunday, November 14-15, 2009**

Food Festival

**Saturday, December 19, 2009**

Christmas Banquet

## General Fund as of September 2009

	<u>Jan-Sept 2009</u>	<u>Budget</u> <small>(prorated for 9 months)</small>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Income</b>	\$145,160	\$178,950	-19%
<b>Expenses</b>	(\$164,130)	(\$178,950)	-8%
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	(\$18,970)	\$0	



# Annual Picnic



This year's annual picnic was held on August 23 at Huddart Park in the Town of Woodside. Thanks to the support and effort of all of the volunteers, this year's picnic committee and most of all the enthusiasm of the CACC church members. Everyone who came out this year experienced genuine fellowship. We were very blessed to have Badveli Nerses back from his vacation to the Middle East, sharing with us his experiences and renewed spirit to lead us in the light of the Lord. After a wonderful worship service that included a number of songs, a delicious lunch was served which led to many discussions about which was better: the chicken or the steak. Many people brought wonderful desserts that were a nice addition to our traditional watermelon.

There was a wonderful spirit at this year's picnic. Walking around the pavilion one could easily hear laughter and happy conversations. Walk a little and you would find the volleyball court filled with our friends happily enjoying hitting the ball over the net and laughing as the ball went somewhere they didn't intend it. Things heated up when the Tavli Tournament started. There were many intense battles which brought a lot of fun and shouts in the pavilion. In short, a happy time was had by all.



Adding to the fun this year was a Raffle! First prize was a BBQ dinner for 6 at our home. There was a flurry as people clamored to get the last of the available tickets at the picnic just before we chose the winners. Receiving the 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize of a BBQ Starter Kit was Jenny Balabanian; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of the Big BBQ Basket was Margaret Damir and 1<sup>st</sup> Prize was won by Margaret Shamlian. Thanks to all who helped support the church through the raffle and helped to add to the fun this year.

We thank God that our Church was blessed with such a wonderful picnic! See you again next year!

*Marty & Tabeen DeArcangelis*

## ***AEW3 11th Biennial Conference***



Ten ladies from the Calvary Church participated in the Armenian Evangelical Women's Fellowship's 11th Biennial Conference. A total of more than 100 ladies from various churches in California gathered in San Luis Obispo on September 25-27 to enjoy a weekend of spiritual nourishment and Christian fellowship. The speaker was Major Lucy Der Garabedian and the theme was "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

# 2009 Vacation Bible School

“And Jesus took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.” (Mark 9:36-37) When you welcome a child in the name of Jesus you welcome Jesus himself. When we minister to children – God is with us, and it shows as each year our ministry continues to grow.



This summer we had 36 children attending our VBS program entitled Crocodile Dock - Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light. Our program ran from July 20th - 24th, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. With aftercare from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. It was a great week of learning and fellowship.

Through Crocodile Dock's exciting, fun-filled, Bible based program, the children learned that God is with us, God is powerful, God does what He says He'll do, God gives us life, and God cares for us.

reinforce learning. Our station activities started with Sing & Play Swamp Stomp (worship and praise time), then Bible Bayou (bible story and prayer time), Snack Shack (snack time), Crawfish Crafts (arts and crafts time), Gator Games (play time), and the Firefly Finale (wrap up and Bible memory verse time).

Kids were encouraged to keep an eye out for “God in action” in their everyday lives, and to take notice of the daily demonstrations of His love that are often overlooked.

The total cost for the week per child was \$35.00. This included a T-shirt, crafts and snacks. For children who attended the aftercare, it was an additional \$20.00 for the week including lunch.

Zig Ziglar the famous inspirational speaker says “Kids go where there is excitement. They stay where there is love.”



Thank you to the many hands that helped provide that excitement and love in our church:

Pastor Nerses Balabanian. Crew Leaders: Jenny Balabanian, Sevan Balabanian, Marge Damir, Kohar Minassian, Lara Palanjian, Sevan Palanjian, Lauren Speers. Lunch: Nora Balabanian, Margaret Shamlian, Rosalie Kalebjian, Nanor Sadakian, Yvonne Minassian. Decorations & Ceramics: Sherry Arroyo. Helpers: Izek Avanesian, Azad Balabanian, Aram Nazarian, Taleen Nazarian & Haig Sadakian.

Respectfully,

*Rene Avanesian*  
VBS Director

## Obituary of Roxie Shamlian



Roxie Shamlian left to be with the Lord on Wednesday, August 26, 2009. She was born on July 19, 1927, in Sanger, California to Roupén and Ramala Shirinian. Roxie was very close to her family, and numerous dear friends, and will be remembered as a kind, loving and generous person. She was always thankful for her blessings, and went out of her way to help others. Roxie was a graduate of Sanger High School, Class of 1945, and attended college at C's and Fresno State College. Cooking Armenian dishes such as: monte, dolma, golorapan, and choreg for her family were Roxie's passion. She was an active member of Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, First Armenian Presbyterian Church, The Daughters of Vartan, and volunteered for many organizations. She was the loving wife of Edward Shamlian for forty-five years. They raised their three children Dennis, Janet and Debra in San Francisco. She is missed by her brother, Harry Shirinian and his wife Elizabeth, and nephew Randal Alan; her sister, Victoria Shirinian; brother, Charles Shirinian; and sister, Jessi Rizzi all of Sanger; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Arlene and Richard Kazarian and family of San Mateo. Roxie will also be dearly missed by her son Dr. Dennis Shamlian and his wife Rita of Fresno; daughter, Janet Ishkanian and her husband Vahan of Las Vegas; and daughter, Debbie Abajian and her husband Ralph of Clovis. She was a blessing to her grandchildren, Emily, Matthew, Christopher and his wife Cheryl, Michael, Tamara, Allison and Adrina. A Daughters of Vartan Service and visitation was held on Monday, August 31, 2009. A Graveside Service was held at Masis Cemetery, followed by a Memorial Service at First Armenian Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, September 1, 2009. Remembrances may be made to The Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School in Fresno; First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno; Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco; The Armenian Home Guild, or the donor's favorite charity.

## Obituary of Lenore Kartoizian



Lenore ("Lee") Kartoizian died peacefully in her home in Rossmoor, Walnut Creek, CA on August 29, 2009 after a brief illness.

Lee was born on September 30, 1912 in Fresno, CA to Arsen and Mary Donabedian. After graduating from Fresno High School, Lee moved to San Francisco where she completed nurse's training at Children's Hospital. She loved her profession and served as an R.N. in many capacities for more than fifty years.

It was also in San Francisco where Lee met her late husband Frank. At Calvary Church Lee was active in music ministry and Frank served as the treasurer for many years. They enjoyed sixty-two years of marriage before his death in 1995.

Lee is survived by her daughter Sandra Toorinjian of Honolulu, HI, her son Bill Kartoizian and his wife Tish of Danville, CA, three grandchildren, four great grandchildren and many, many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother, Donald Donabedian, her son-in-law, A.J. Toorinjian and one grandson, Rob Kartoizian.

A youthful ninety-six year old Lee loved her many friends and family members – and they loved her. She recently told her daughter and son that she had enjoyed a wonderful life and considered herself to be very, very fortunate. When asked the secrets of her longevity, Lee replied, "Never complain, always have some younger friends and eat an apple every day."

Lee's vibrant personality, warmth and strength of character will be missed by all who knew her and she will long be remembered for the lessons she taught us about how to live a meaningful and joyous life.

A memorial service celebrating Lee's life was held on September 25, 2009, at 11:00 am at Calvary Congregational Armenian Church on Brotherhood Way in San Francisco.

## The Message of Hope

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church welcomed Mrs. Rakel Dink, wife of late Hrant Dink, to join our church family on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. It was an honor for an audience of over two hundred to hear such a heartfelt message aimed towards understanding the demands of life in Turkey, and in the words of Rakel, also choosing to be “crucified for justice as the better choice.”



The presentation began with a film documentary about Hrant Dink's passion for justice and mercy, and included early influences that shaped his character. Growing up in an Armenian Evangelical boarding school in Gedik Pasha, Istanbul, he soaked up all he could about God's Word. After his death, his

family suffered and grappled with this concept he dearly consumed as a child. That is – Rakel Dink focused on God's promises.

Her personal story, the story of first hearing the news about her beloved's death – demonstrates the human weakness and vulnerability that come with loss. “Such tragedy tests your faith,” Rakel says. Her son's question that resides in every mind wonders why a tragedy is allowed for someone who truly believed in and followed Christ. Her daughter doubts she's living in a new day and age since 1915. Situations like this test our faith.

In such turmoil and confusion, what must one do? Rakel's answer is to turn your eyes to Christ. At a time where our physical bodies are defined by weakness, God is our strength. Many questions remain unanswered but God's Word is constant and she reiterates, “Thoughts of God are far from thoughts of men.” By turning to her faith, she's found the strength to use this opportunity to praise God, even in the midst of such difficult circumstances. There will be struggle, there will be suffering, and there will continue the realities of life in Turkey as they are. Rakel's message is simple. “Get up, be strong, and show your Christian faith – use every opportunity given to you, in the best of times, or the worst of times.

Meeting this woman of faith remains an unforgettable experience. She has greatly inspired all of us. May God protect her and keep her safe so she will be the light and salt in Turkey and around the world.

*Sevan Palanjian*

## Ministry Opportunities

For information please call the church office: (415) 586-2000

**Children's Sunday School, Junior High and High School Youth Groups:** San Francisco, every Sunday.

**Women's Coffee Time with God:** San Jose, every Thursday.

**Coffee Time with God:** San Francisco, first Thursday every month.

**Men's Bagel Time with God:** Los Altos, fourth Saturday every month.

**HomeBuilders for Young Couples & Families:** South Bay & Peninsula, third Saturday every month.

**FaithBuilders Couples Ministry:** South Bay & Peninsula, first Saturday every month.

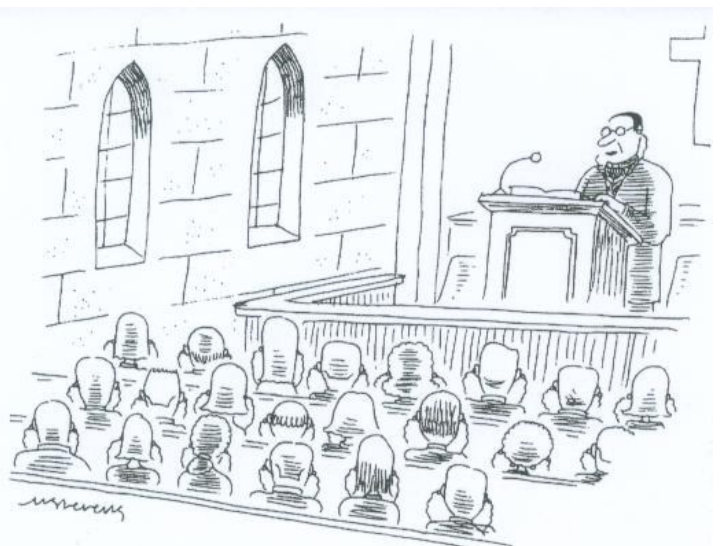
**College & Career:** South Bay and Peninsula, every Wednesday.

**Weekly Dinner Bible Study:** San Francisco, every Monday.

**Church-wide Prayer Meeting:** Los Altos 1st Thursday every month.

## Thank You

Ms. Jan Chouljian of Hawaii has donated 3 beautiful oriental rugs in the name of grandmother Helen Chouljian and father Geo Jacob Chouljian to Calvary Church.



“Please select hymn number 637 on your iPods.”

# Missions Corner

ՀԱՅ ԱՄՍԱՐԱՆԱԿԱՆ  
ԱՆՀԱՏԱԿԱՅ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

Տաղիպ, Սոփիա  
Հեռ. (963-21) 4640040



ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL  
MARTYRS' CHURCH

Aleppo, Syria  
Tel. (963-21) 4640040

Armenian Evangelical Martyrs' Church

Tel. (+963-21) 4640040

P.O. Box 4727, Aleppo, Syria

E-Mail badveli@aloola.sy

Mission Committee  
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church  
725 Brotherhood Way  
San Francisco, CA

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

On behalf of the council of the Armenian Evangelical Church of the Martyrs' (Nahadagatz) Aleppo, we thankfully acknowledge the financial support of your committee for the ministry of our church. The church has received a sum of 200 US\$ (two hundred US Dollars) from your committee and it will help us subsidize the participation of needy children, teenagers, youth and shut-ins for the summer camps scheduled in July and August.

We pray that God's abundant grace empowers you to carry on your vision and mission for the glory of Jesus' name.

Yours truly,

Dr. Robert Sulahian

Moderator

Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian

Pastor

August 2-nd, 2009  
Aleppo, Syria



ՀԱՅ ԱՐԵՏ. ԷՄՄԱՆՈՒԷԼ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ  
Ք. Ջ. ԸՆԿԵՐԱԿՑՈՒԹԻՒՆ  
ՆՈՐ ԱՄԱՆՈՍ - ՏՈՐԱ

ARM. EVANG. EMMANUEL CHURCH - CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION  
NOR AMANOS - DORA

«Ջանքի մէջ լուրիւ-  
սիւք չըլլաք, հոգիով  
բոբոբեցէք, Տեղը  
ճառայեցէք»:

Հոտմ. 12:11

Dear CACC Mission Committee

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church Chanits Youth Group thanks you for the \$200 U.S. that you have sent as a gift so that it be used for the youth camp that will take place in Kessab, between Aug.24-30,2009.

We thank you for your generous gift and will use the amount sent to help the youth to pay the camp fees so that many can participate and be blessed and grow in their faith and help others grow too. Most of the youth members are leaders in the Sunday School and Junior youth group, so this is a blessing for them as they are serving God in the church and elsewhere.

May God bless you as you are sharing His blessings with us.

The Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church Chanits Youth Group

Aug.12,2009

Arm. Evang. Emmanuel C.E. Union  
Beirut - Lebanon  
Հայ. Էվանգ. Էմմանուէլ Եկեղեցի  
Ք. Ջ. ԸՆԿ. Պալմիր, Լիբանան

Mail Address :  
ARM. EVANGELICAL  
EMMANUEL CHURCH  
P. O. Box 80169  
Nor Amanos - Dora  
Tel. : 265521

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

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Daly City, CA 94015  
Permit No. 256

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**



## Church News

### CONDOLENCES

Mrs. Roxie Shamlian who passed away on Wednesday, August 26, 2009. Our condolences and prayers to Shamlian, Ishkanian, Abajian, Shirinian and Kazarian families.

Mrs. Lenore Kartoizian who passed away on Saturday, August 29, 2009. Our condolences and prayers to Kartoizian and Toorinjian families.

Dr. Manasseh Manoukian who passed away on Friday, September 11, 2009. Our condolences and prayers to Manoukian and Manugian families.

Mrs. Carmen Ekmekji Hazen (sister of Dikran Ekmekji) who passed away on Saturday, September 5, 2009. Our condolences and prayers to Ekmekji and Hazen families.

### UPCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES

**Sunday, November 22, 2009**

at 11:00 am

**Sunday, January 3, 2010**

at 11:00 am



## Thank You

I would like to thank all of my friends at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church for their prayers and phone calls.

Thank you again for your kind thoughts and prayers.

*Arshalous Sarafian*

The Calvary Messenger is produced as a 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](mailto:cacc@cacc-sf.org). Please check our website for current ministry information: <http://www.cacc-sf.org>