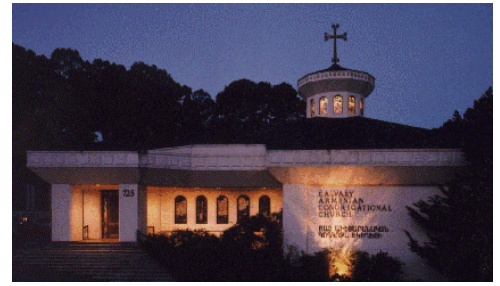


The Calvary Messenger

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The Newsletter of the
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco
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A View From Calvary

Rev. Nerses Balabanian
Pastor

"Rooted, strengthened and overflowing with thankfulness" is our theme for the year 2013-2014 based on Colossians 2:6-7. At CACC, as we focus on growth this year, we realize that we need to grow in all directions. We want to grow **downward** by being "rooted" on Christ. We want to grow **upward** by being "built up." We want to grow **inward** by being "strengthened in the faith" as his disciples. And finally we want to grow **outward** as we "overflow with thankfulness." Please visit our new website www.calvaryarmenianchurch.org and you will find the sermon series covering these topics.

In this issue you will find reports from our church and other sister churches. This summer our Vacation Bible Camp was blessed with a record 57 kids who came everyday with enthusiasm and joy. We are also thankful that our missions committee supported Vacation Bible School at the Emmanuel Church in Beirut. Over 140 children attended every day for one month in the hot summer when there was nothing else they could do to keep themselves busy. The church provided Christian education and a healthy environment. I am happy to share that we have been supporting them for the last 6 years.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Colossians 2:6-7)



Rooted, strengthened and overflowing
with thankfulness

Որքան ինչպես ընդունեցիք Քրիստոս Յիսուս Տեր՝ այնպես ընթացե՛ք անով, արմատացած ու շինուած անոր վրայ, եւ հաստատուած հաւատքին մէջ՝ ինչպէս սովեցաք, ու ճոխացե՛ք անոր մէջ շնորհակալութեամբ: (Կող. 2:6-7)

CACC 2013-2014

2013-2014 Coming Events

- Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 9,10**
CACC Food Festival
- Saturday, December 21**
Christmas Celebration
- Sunday, December 22**
Christmas Worship Service
- Sunday, January 5**
Armenian Christmas
- Saturday, April 12**
Musical Night at Calvary
- Sunday, April 13**
Palm Sunday
- Thursday, April 17**
Maundy Thursday
- Sunday, April 20**
Resurrection Sunday

For the last 2 years all we have been hearing about Syria is war. Here are some joyful stories from Aleppo. All the Armenian Evangelical churches of Aleppo were able to have summer programs for the kids. CACC supported Vacation Bible School at the Martyrs' church. Even though it looked impossible and unsafe to do anything for the children of the war-stricken city, yet more than 150 neighborhood kids came to church every day. I am proud of the dedicated volunteers who took the risk to run this project. I am thankful to God for protecting them every single day. They were laterally protected. On a busy day at VBS, and just after the kids had left for their homes, a rocket hit the next building destroying walls and windows. Thank God there were no injuries. I am thankful to all of you who financially supported this church in those tough times. Through your donations, we were able not only to run the program, but also to provide some nutritious food items for the families.

Coming back to our theme, we need to grow. It is not numbers that we are seeking. Christ wants faithful servants who are ready to be His disciples. **Plug in** to one of our **Bible study groups** because you need a small group to learn, share and grow. Therefore, **grow downward, upward, inward and outward.** Amen

Vacation Bible Camp

Roushig Kalebjian

Kingdom Rock Rocked!

Every year we thank God for an amazing Vacation Bible Camp and we can't imagine a better turnout. And every year we are surprised to be given even more and better than that which we received previously. This year was no different. Vacation Bible Camp held from July 15-19 was one of our more exciting camps. With the Kingdom Rock theme, the 57+ kids who attended truly rocked that week.



The days started with kids singing praise songs and learning Bible verses that taught them to STAND STRONG for God. Characters like Sir Valiant the Lion and Victoria the Fox helped the kids



remember the Daily Bible Points. Volunteers like Martha Missirlian, Lindsey Sivaslian, Lori Ishkanian and Alexis Burke rallied around everyone and were tremendous in creating excitement over the newly learned songs and verses. Yerem Istanboulian's work behind the stage kept the music going. The energy was thrilling and contagious even through the afternoon. Parents who came by early to pick up their kids couldn't help but smile and nod to the rhythm of the music.

Perhaps kids learned most about the Bible during the Epic Bible Adventures. Crew leaders like Caroline Sagherian, Marge

Damir, and Aline Kalebjian led kids through stories about King David, Queen Esther, and Jesus's cross and resurrection. Afterwards, VBC Director Rene Avanesian linked everything together during Imagination Station by connecting the Bible story with a science-focused activity to further embrace the day's message. Ask your kids what a Truman Tumbler is and what is inside that makes it so special!

And, what Armenian event doesn't include food?! A big special thank you to Salpi Dunlap and Shant Kilijian for preparing all the snacks for the entire week. Crown rounds, heart tarts and



prayer mix were just a few of the specially prepared snacks created to match the day's theme. The following



parents and grandparents also donated daily lunches to feed this hungry army: Eleonore Aslanian, John and Arpi Haleblian, Rosalie Kalebjian, Marale Kanaan, John and Anahid Kerkezyan, Yvonne Minassian, Askanaz Mackhitarian, Alidz Nazarian, Nanor Sadakian, Mihran and Rose Sagatelian, and Gladys Shegoian.

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There were many other special volunteers and helpers who deserve all our appreciation and acknowledgement for all they did: Sherry Arroyo, Aaron Avanesian, Sofia Avanesian, Sevan Balabanian, Roushig Kalebjian, Serop Moroyan, Rachel Sagherian, Rebecca Sagherian and Marina Sweeney.

No event is ever successful without the hand of God. Let us remember Him in everything we do... even when we are "rocking out" in His Kingdom.

Thank you to all who attended and let's "STAND STRONG" this coming year!



VBS, Emmanuel Church, Beirut, Lebanon



The Vacation Bible School for children ages 4-12 took place this year as well, from July 8 - August 2, 2013 for four consecutive weeks. On the due date, as we were expecting more than eighty children, we were blessed with more than 140 children, 48 of them were from Arm. Evang. Torossian School, and the rest came from other schools. They gathered every morning, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm to have their worship time, the Bible lesson, hear other stories, make handcrafts, and also have outdoor activities. The Bible lesson was based on Ephesians 6:11-18, especially on the verse that says: "Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." The children were trained to be warriors for God by wearing the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. They learned the practical ways of becoming true soldiers standing up for the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are thankful to God and to all who helped us serve our children. Thank you.

Liza Barsoumian, Director

VBS, Martyr's Church, Aleppo, Syria



In the middle of one of the most turbulent times in Syria, the Lord blessed the Martyrs' Church of Aleppo with over 100 children who came to the church for four consecutive weeks. The VBS program was run by Director Lena Kelleyan and an awesome crew of young volunteers.

Annual Picnic

Caroline Sagherian

What a great day it was for a picnic! Sunday, August 18, 2013 was a "...not too warm, ...not too humid,...but a just-right" day at Huddart County Park in Woodside, CA. That was the day we got to enjoy an outdoor service of Worship together - singing hymns, hearing an interactive sermon, eating traditional picnic food [:)...yes, shish-kebobs, of course] - as well as having a time of fellowship, including organized games for the children, a fun raffle, and opportunities throughout the day to meet new people!



During the "church service" portion of the day, Badveli Nerses Balabanian directed the fresh-air breathing congregation in an interactive message - asking us questions about the people involved in the John 6 account of the feeding of the "great multitude" on the mountain. Given the fact that there were thousands of people who had followed Jesus to that place and were now starting to get hungry, we were asked to consider what type of reactions we might likely have under the circumstances of seeing such a situation unfold. Would we be eager, like the crowds of people following Jesus, to see if He would perform any more miraculous signs - like the ones they had already seen him perform on other occasions? Would we be more likely to see the situation overly pragmatically - and even slightly



pessimistically, as with human eyes (like the disciples Philip and Andrew did) - not seeing how anyone could possibly feed thousands

of people with such little available food out on that mountain? Could we even imagine what Jesus might possibly do with the 5 barley loaves and two small fish that belonged to the young lad in the crowd? The exercise of considering our reactions, our attitudes and our thought-processes under such circumstances was effective



in making us see how we would do well to trust Jesus in even the most seemingly impossible circumstances; and how we might want to confidently and eagerly anticipate that His power is able to accomplish much more than we can even imagine...maybe even having loads of crumbs to spare within our lives, too!



Overall, it was a great day to learn more about Him who can accomplish all things, to enjoy His creation, and to be thankful for the many ways He continues to provide for us and our well being. Many thanks to Mr. Armen Beylerian for leading the planning and organization of this year's picnic. We gratefully

acknowledge him and the many volunteers who worked together there and behind-the-scenes to contribute to the wonderful success of this year's CACC Annual Picnic. We praise God for His provision, and give Him all the glory!

Plug In

We want to praise God for two new CACC home groups that were born last year. The first one, Women's Bible Study and Fellowship, attracts young women who meet once a month and



study the Bible under the leadership of Alina Balabanian. This group loves the cozy setting and the warm discussion about the message of the Gospel through the life of Ruth and other passages from the Bible. The second group was named South Bay Bible Study and attracts adults and couples of all ages. Rev. Aren Balabanian's teaching of the character of God is much appreciated by everyone. We are grateful to Vicken and Caroline Sagherian for their input in organizing these events and their warm hospitality.

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 Bible Study & Fellowship:** Every first Saturday of the month at 7:00 pm.
- ♦ **Young Adult Bible Study:** Every Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.
- ♦ **Dessert and Bible Study:** San Francisco, every Monday at 7:00 pm.
- ♦ **Women's Coffee Time with God:** San Jose, every Thursday at 10:30 am.
- ♦ **Coffee Time with God:** San Francisco, second Monday every month at 11:00 am.
- ♦ **South Bay Bible Study:** Every second Friday of the month at 7:00 pm.
- ♦ **HomeBuilders for Young Couples & Families:** South Bay & Peninsula, third Saturday every month at 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm.
- ♦ **East Bay Bible Study:** Dublin, second and fourth Sunday every month at 7:00 pm.
- ♦ **Church-wide Prayer Meeting:** San Francisco, first Sunday every month at 12:45 pm.

Armenian FOOD FESTIVAL
Saturday, Nov 9, 2013 12:00 - 9:00 PM Sunday, Nov 10, 2013 12:30 - 3:00 PM
AUTHENTIC ARMENIAN FOOD & PASTRIES
Live Music & Folk Dancing · Boutique Noel
RAFFLE WITH GREAT PRIZES!
FREE ADMISSION
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church
725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco
(415) 586-2000 CalvaryArmenianChurch.org

CACC Leadership Retreat

Caroline Sagherian

On August 24th this year, the members of our Church Council and Deacons savored the valuable opportunity to gather together for a beneficial 3-fold purpose: 1) to celebrate and give thanks for the fruit of God's work at CACC during the past year; 2) to look forward to how we might serve God's mission for us in the coming year; and 3) to find personal refreshment in Him as we spent time (together and in solitude) reflecting, evaluating and praying with anticipation that His Spirit will work mightily within our congregation in the year to come and beyond.

The theme for the day called us to "Dwell in the Word". It drew its proposal from the teaching of Colossians 3:15 which asks believers to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...". Letting the word dwell in us necessitates that we first go to the word regularly and spend time in it; absorbing it so that we can give it an opportunity to dwell richly in us. It requires us to take positive action to keep studying and learning the word of Christ so that it can continually be on our minds and in our hearts. Only then does it have a chance to dwell in us like that.



The invitation doesn't intend merely to be a suggestion. It's a bold challenge given to all believers that we take the time to get to know His word and listen carefully to it. It is a plea that we ponder God's word deeply and meditate upon it prayerfully so that it will have ample opportunity to take hold in our hearts and minds in order to dwell there.

May it be our objective to go to the word frequently, habitually, and as a matter of usual practice. And, may we have the desire to linger in it - earnestly seeking to understand what God is saying through it. The petition we are given urges us to take pause in His word and tarry there - staying, resting and essentially hanging out in His word as much as possible so that we will have the opportunity to listen to Him, learn His thoughts, know Him more deeply and truly be able to abide in Him! What a great return on investment waits for us there!

During the retreat, our attention focused on two specific passages of Scripture: first, in 2 Corinthians 3:12-18, we recollected and evaluated last year's theme of "Being transformed into His image"; then, we went to Colossians 2:6-7, to spend time examining and contemplating what it means to "Be rooted, strengthened, and overflowing with thankfulness" - the goal being (for us, and all believers) to grow deeper and stronger in Christian maturity, and bear fruit for Christ's Kingdom with abundant thankfulness to Him. May God accomplish all of this as He wills for His Glory.

The retreat wrapped-up as we considered and gratefully acknowledged the many blessings God has given us - both individually and as a congregation. It was a worthwhile exercise to write down some of those blessings to enable us to take-in what amazing good God has specifically accomplished (and continues to provide) for us. And, in that spirit, we thank Eff & Patti Martin for graciously allowing us to hold this gathering in their lovely guest cottage. The setting added much to our ability to attain the purposes intended. We were also privileged to have Rev. James Gaderlund, retired pastor of Foothill Covenant Church in Los Altos, CA lead us through many of the activities of the day. His guidance and insight - in concert with the direction and supervision of Badveli Nerses Balabanian - served us well. We wholeheartedly acknowledge and thank both of them for their work among us - knowing that they, too, give all the glory to God.

AEWF 13th Biennial Conference

Suzie Vehouri

To God I give thanks for moving my heart, and allowing me to take my second journey to the Armenian Evangelical Women's Fellowship with my sisters in Christ from CACC.

It was a journey that united me with over 160 women from all walks of life and distant cities of our state of California. All yearning like myself to hear and be heard, to learn and to grow, to worship and rejoice, with hymns of praise to our Lord.

The conference was led by a dedicated group of women who carried out with grace and commitment a successful plan of activities, including a guest speaker, musical worship band, devotional sharing, seminars and an evening banquet.



Denise Baronian, our conference speaker, founder of Kindred Hearts Mentoring for Women, inspired all believers to "Leave a Legacy" and "Bridge the Gap between Generations". She shared many personal stories that revealed her passion for Christ as her source of peace in the midst of chaos. A lesson well learned.

Another highlight were the seminars "The Worry-Free Lifestyle" to which I found myself drawn to, as any other mother or wife would, "The Balancing Act," and "Compassion: The Ultimate Bridge for All Generations."

Our second day ended with a banquet hosted by the Pilgrim Armenian Church and serving delicious food, then music and Armenian dancing.

Finally, on Sunday morning, we met for the last time for a devotional sharing with Godly women who filled us with words of hope, love and appreciation before parting our separate ways. The Conference ended with worship and Communion Service.

I wish and pray that this opportunity will be yours next time, for words cannot do justice for what this experience can do for you!

CACC Financial Report

Summary results for the period
January 1st through October 21, 2013

Our Budget for 2013 is \$261,100.00

As of October 21, 2013:

Total Income: \$176,034.42

(pledges and donations = \$103,798.00)

Total Expenses: (\$206,073.65)

Net Loss: (\$30,039.23)



Save the Date

Christmas Celebration at Calvary
Saturday, December 21, 2013
at 6:30 pm

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



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. Please check our website for current ministry information: <http://www.cacc-sf.org>

Church News

BIRTH

We congratulate Raffi and Nicole (Tujian) Vartkessian for their newborn son, Theodore Dikran Vartkessian, born on Wednesday, July 24, 2013. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

We congratulate Armen and Jasmine Berjikly for their newborn son, Carter Alen Berjikly, born on Friday, July 26, 2013. Congratulations also to the grandparents.



We congratulate Kevork and Sona Playjian for their newborn daughter, Grace Marie Playjian, born on Monday, August 5, 2013. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

We congratulate Razmig and Jennifer Minassian for their newborn daughter, Sevan Allison Minassian, born on Saturday, October 5, 2013. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

CONDOLENCES

Mrs. Rosa Barseghyan (mother of Laura Barseghyan) passed away on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 in Armenia. Our condolences and prayers to the Barseghyan family.

Mr. Richard B Tujian (Jerry Tujian's brother) passed away on Sunday, August 25, 2013. Our condolences and prayers also to the Tujian, Schofield and Vartkessian families.

Mr. Sam Yeramian passed away on Monday, September 9, 2013. Our condolences and prayers to the Yeramian family.

Mr. Azkanaz Mackitarian passed away on Friday, 11, 2013. Our condolences and prayers to the Mackitarian, Painter, Helsel and Dombalian families.

UPCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES

Sunday, November 24
Sunday, January 5, 2014
Sunday, March 0, 2014
Thursday, April 17, 2014

