

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



3673 North First Street | Fresno, California 93726-6870 | p 559-229-2915 | f 559-229-6431 | pilgrimchurch.com

November 2018

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR NERSES BALABANIAN

Tarkmanchatz Day (Translator's Day)

On the second Saturday of October, Armenians around the world celebrate Tarkmanchatz Day, which means Translators' Day. It is a holiday celebrated for over 1600 years since the invention of the Armenian alphabet.

In 405 AD, and as soon as Mersob Mashdots invented the Armenian alphabet, he set out with

his co-workers to translate the Bible from Greek into Armenian. Greek was a foreign language to most people of Armenia. These translators wanted to make the Word of God accessible to the people. The first sentence ever translated to Armenian was: "To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding" (Proverbs 1:2). Scholars call the Armenian Bible one of the earliest translations of Scriptures in the world, the Queen Translation.

We call ourselves a Christian nation. In fact, we were the first in the world to accept Christianity as a state religion. In 2 Corinthians, Paul used different metaphors to describe the role of the followers of Christ in the world: **aroma, recommendation letter, and light.**

Jesus was very clear that his disciples should be light and salt. **"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."** (Matthew 5:13-14)

Aroma, recommendation, and light are metaphors or images that reflect on the outside world. Our transformation into Christ's image has two impacts: it changes our own lives as we walk closer with God, and we become God's instruments to bring the same change to the world, the "dark world".



I encourage you to share your faith in the world. I often hear different reasons why many of us do not do that.

• Most of the people around us were born Christian. If we go to church once a while and have respect for God, that would be enough. Why should we share with them when they do not

see the need to become Christians?

• It is not a popular thing to tell others about your faith. This is the free world. Everyone is free to believe in what they want.

• If we tell them Jesus is the Only Way, we become narrow-minded and judgmental people. Therefore it is better to be silent about it.

• Spirituality is popular talk these days, but a personal relationship with Jesus is not. People enjoy being spiritual. They search to satisfy their "spiritual" vacuum in other places.

• Talking about sin is not popular. Why should I believe that humanity is sinful? When we say that they are sinners and that Jesus died for our sins, people feel being judged. Yes, they say they are not perfect, but they are not bad people.

• Church is a boring place. Why should we attend a church where old people are gathered and their faces are not very happy anyway?

I can find a million other reasons for not sharing the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. My challenge

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Badveli Nerses Message: Tarkmanchatz Day

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is to encourage you to become Christ's aroma, recommendation letter, and light.

Paul says: **"You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."** (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

You are my recommendation letter. Paul believed in transformed lives. Paul believed that real, authentic sincere truth is when Christ dwells in people's heart and transforms them to be Christ-centered people. These letters are not written in ink, **but written on the hearts of the people.**

During Badveli Bernard Guekguezian's funeral, there was a touching moment when his grandson told us that Badveli wanted to write his memoirs but he never had the time and the chance to do it. Then his grandson said, "But you know, you are the written testimonies of my grandpa's work. My grandpa did not need to write any words, because you are the live examples of those memories."

May we go and be the aroma of Christ, the letters of recommendation and light of the world.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

By Moderator Cristel Tufenkjian

The Council meeting started with a prayer by Badveli Nerses. Since our last meeting, the Mission Committee had their parking lot sale and the Trustees the Harvest Banquet. Both events are huge undertakings. In addition, the Board of Trustees carried on with their responsibilities to maintain our facilities including receiving bids on changing out light bulbs (boy do we have a lot of light bulbs!) and coordinating bids for other major projects planned for in the future. While the Trustees take care of our campus, the Board of Deacons are faithfully caring for our parishioners and supporting Badveli Nerses with Sunday service. PACC is blessed to have many talented folks who graciously give of their time and talents.

2018 Annual Giving Recap

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

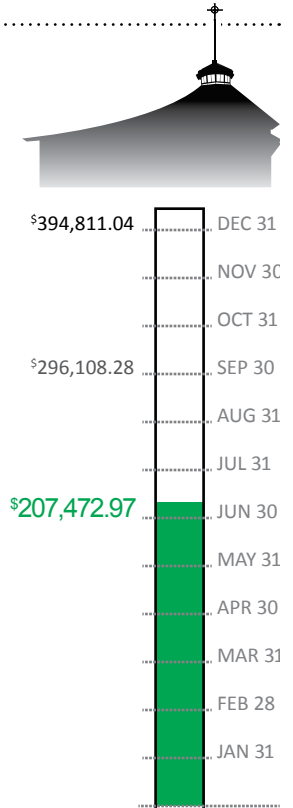
– Matthew 6:21

Shown is our total contribution income budget required for the year, 9/12ths of that budget required through August and where our contributions actually are as of September 30, 2018. We have only met 70% of our budgeted amount at this time. Our short fall is \$88,635.31 through September.

2018 has flown by. It's time to start concentrating on the 2019 budget report for our congregational meeting in December. As I have mentioned previously the last couple of months have been very difficult for us financially. Operating with income at only 70% would provide a challenge to anyone. God has amazingly provided more than once opportunities to solve immediate issues but we also need the help of the congregation. Once again the budget committee and the Board of Trustees have reviewed this past year, considered prayerfully being an equitable employer and looked into the future of what lies ahead for the coming year. If you have questions or comments we welcome them and would be happy to meet with you prior to the congregational meeting. Actually at any time during the year we are happy to meet with you and discuss financial questions you may have. An appointment will be necessary so we make sure someone is at the church to address your issues. We would like to resolve any questions you may have prior to the congregational meeting. As always our diligent office staff and her bevy of angels will be working to get the necessary paperwork to you prior to the meeting.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.'" Malachi 3:10

– Prepared By Treasurer Patrice Ruble



Pilgrim Church has a website, www.pilgrimchurch.com. It now is possible to download or read the "Progress" online. If you would like to receive the "Progress" via email, please contact the office at 229-2915, or email: office@pilgrimchurch.com.

VISA AND/OR MASTERCARD – giving is available in the church office. We also have a Square Card Reader, which gives us the capability of charging to the church using a smart phone.

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST

hosted by the

Men's Forum



Saturday, November 3, 2018

9:00 a.m.

Speaker: Andy Souza

President/CEO, Central California Food Bank

***Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church
Fellowship Hall***

**TICKETS \$10.00 per person - Edward Saliba (559) 907-8110
- Harry Sadoian (559) 974-5155**

INVITED GUESTS: Dorcas Guild Members

MEN'S FORUM

The PACC Men's Forum will be hosting a fabulous BREAKFAST on Saturday, November 3 starting at 9am sharp in our Social Hall. Reservations are required. ALL Dorcas Guild members are our guests (yes that means no charge for them). Our feature guest speaker is Andy Souza, CEO, Central California Food Bank.

The breakfast is open to all PACC parishioners and we have extended an invitation to the St. Paul Church Men's Forum and the FAPC Men's Forum and their spouses. It should prove to be a wonderful gathering of friends and acquaintances. The cost to ALL except the Dorcas Guild is only \$10. To reserve please call the Church office at (559) 229-2915, Ed Saliba at (559) 907- 8110 or Harry Sadoian at (559) 944-5155 by November 1, 2018. Hope to see you soon.

- Jerry Janigian, President

Thursday Night Bible Study will be cancelled on November 8 and Decemberr 13.
The study will resume in January 2019.

YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY... to these individuals who have a birthday in October:

Amelie Bressette
Ruzanna Petrosyan
Shania Guiba
Katelynn Overbay
Eric Petrosyan
Ruzanna Petrosyan



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Romans 15:13

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SUNDAY SCHOOL for Preschool through Sixth Grade is NOW held during the church hour. Come to church with your family at 11am. Children and Sunday school Staff will stay in church until after the Greeting and then will be dismissed to Sunday School.

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NOVEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION

Our Unit Theme for November is Worship God at Church and we are going to be learning about Solomon, Joash and Hezekiah and how people in the Old Testament worshipped God.

Dates to Remember in November

- **Sunday, November 4** – Regular Sunday School
- **Sunday, November 11** – Regular Sunday School. We will be packing our Sunday School Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child during the Sunday School hour
- **Sunday, November 18** – Thanksgiving Sunday/ Communion Sunday/Dedication of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. No Sunday School
- **Sunday, November 25** – Regular Sunday School – We will be starting work on a Christmas Mission Project for the senior members of our congregation who are unable to get to church.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Sunday School Missions Project

Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child need to be returned on or before Sunday November 4. You may leave them in the office with Houry during the week or give them to Cathy Cholakian on Sunday mornings.

**"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.
His love endures forever."**

- Psalm 136

2018 Harvest Banquet Reminds Us of Our Heritage

On a beautiful Saturday October evening, Sammy Ganimian and the PACC Board of Trustees welcomed church family and friends to the annual Harvest Banquet to celebrate God's blessing of a wonderful harvest season. Upon entering the social hall, one could see beautifully decorated tables with gold and rust linens. Fresh fruit and flowers adorned each dinner table and the mezza table. After an hour of socializing, Badveli Kevin gave the blessing and the guests were treated to a delicious shish kebab, apple cake and vanilla ice cream meal. The dinner was served to all 240 guests by our PACC Youth in only 17 minutes. Simply amazing.

Our speaker for the evening was Stephen H. Chooljian, M.D. Along with his many accomplishments, he has been a privately practicing internal medicine physician in Fresno since 1989 and part of our church family. Dr. Chooljian spoke on his visit to Armenia for a medical mission's trip. Many of our church members accompanied him and his family to Armenia. The team visited several monasteries, cathedrals, museums and plazas while in Armenia. The monasteries are still working places of worship to this day. The oldest dating back to 400 A.D.

The team was comprised of 41 members. Six physicians from across the US, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, linguists, filmmakers and volunteers. A total of 1,027 patients, including 400 children were seen. Basic medical care was given, and prescriptions to provide medicine to the patients for a year was given until the next clinic. The people were very kind and appreciative of the time being giving to them. Medical care in Armenia has many challenges. Basic care is lacking and the infrastructure once present during the Soviet era is gone, making everything more difficult. However, the Armenian people are strong and because of their faith have persevered. Dr. Chooljian was deeply moved by his experience. The abilities of a physician are portable, with great



impact to help people all over the world. The Armenian people were thankful to everyone from the team for their patience to listen and diagnose their ailments. As people dating back to biblical times, their strength and faith have helped preserve the culture. Without the adoption of Christianity and the working monasteries to provide a place to worship, our people and culture may not have survived throughout the centuries.

Misak Israelyan rounded out the program with his phenomenal operatic voice accompanied by Sevan Balabanian. He sang, "It Is Well", "O Sole Mio", and "Hayastan". After a standing ovation "Yeravan Erebuni" was sung. Badveli concluded the evening with a short story of how God

works in our lives. He shared how his grandfather had been a student of our past Badveli Manasseh Papazian back in the early 1900s. Badveli Papazian came to PACC in 1914-1940. Now years later Nerses should be called to Pilgrim as our minister. We may never know how God impacts our lives, but He has a plan for those who put their faith in Him.

We thank the Board of Trustees and the banquet committee who organized this memorable evening. We also thank all volunteers, donors and participants. We wish to acknowledge Robert and Jacqueline Manseljan as a gold sponsor of the banquet. Their names were inadvertently omitted from the program.

– Shawn Kalemkerian

SUNDAY

MONDAY

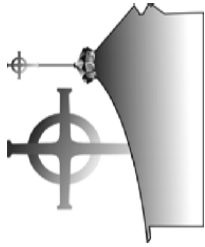
TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



CALENDAR OF EVENTS
PILGRIM CHURCH

November 2018

Daylight Saving Time Ends
10:00 am Adult Sunday School
11:00 am Elem. Sunday School (Sanc./Classroom)
11:00 am Worship
1:30 pm Sunday Funday
3:30 pm Youth Group

11:00 am Adult Sunday School
11:00 am Elem. Sunday School (Sanc./Classroom)
11:00 am Worship
3:30 pm Youth Group

10:00 am Adult Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
HOLY COMMUNION PANTRY SUNDAY
1:30 pm Sunday Funday
3:30 pm Youth Group

10:00 am Adult Sunday School
11:00 am Elem. Sunday School (Sanc./Classroom)
11:00 am Worship
3:30 pm Youth Group

10:00 am Dorcas Guild Executive Board Meeting, Overflow
6:30 pm Joint Trustees/Council Meeting
7:00 pm Young Adults, Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Dorcas Guild Executive Board Meeting, Overflow
11:00 am Pilgrim's Progress Articles Due

10:00 am Women's Bible Study, Room 6
7-8 pm Young Adults Bible Study

10:00 am Women's Bible Study, Room 6
6:30 pm Trustees, Library
7:00 pm Young Adults, Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Women's Bible Study, Room 6
6:30 pm Joint Trustees/Council Meeting
7:00 pm Young Adults, Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Women's Bible Study, Room 6
7-8 pm Young Adults Bible Study

10:00 am Women's Bible Study, Room 6
7:00 pm Young Adults, Fellowship Hall

7:00 am Men's Forum Executive Board Meeting, Yosemite Falls
4:30 pm Worship Band Practice, Sanctuary
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

12:45 pm Dorcas Guild, Wed. Circle, overflow
4:30 pm Worship Band Practice, Sanctuary

3:00 pm Men's Forum Cooking for Evangel. Home, Kitchen
4:30 pm Worship Band Practice, Sanctuary

4:30 pm Worship Band Practice, Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Dorcas Guild Bible Study/General Meeting/Luncheon

Nurses & Kevin will attend AEUNA Pastors' Retreat in Boston

6:30 pm CE Committee, Church Office
7:00 pm Monthly Bible Study, Saliba's

THANKSGIVING Office/FLC Closed

7:00 am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room
6:00 p.m. PACC/FAPC Parenting Seminar

Kevin will attend AEUNA Board Meeting

7:00 am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room
7:00 pm Young Couples

THANKSGIVING Office/FLC Closed

9:00 a.m. Men's Forum Breakfast for Dorcas Guild Members
10:30 am Tabitha Circle, Janigian's

7:00 am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room
7:00 am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room

7:00 am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room
7:00 pm Young Couples

7:00 am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room



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Senior Pastor, Rev Nerses Balabanian
Associate Pastor, Rev Kevin Kasper

YOUTH MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS

Alexander Jaramishian
Jason Davis
Claire Jaramishian

MUSIC STAFF

Director of Music, Oscar Luna
Organist, Faye DeLong

SUPPORT STAFF

Church Secretary, Houry Sabiljian
Part-Time Custodian, Joe Fischer
Wedding Planner, Sandy Avakian

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator, Cristel Tufenkjian
Vice Moderator, Ed Saliba
Scribe, Sue Moosoolian
Treasurer, Patrice Ruble

BOARD OF DEACONS

Chair, Paula Ganimian

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair, Sammy Ganimian

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Co-chair Allison Karahadian
Co-chair Robyn Esraelian

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Chair, Melinda Eritzian
Sunday School Superintendent,
Cathy Cholakian

DORCAS GUILD

Joyce Kierejczyk

FLC COMMITTEE

Chair, John Tufenkjian

MEN'S FORUM

President, Jerry Janigian

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Chair, Doreen Fischer

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Chair, Carol Forrest

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair, *Vacant*