

The Calvary Messenger

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Volume 41 / Number 1
2012

The Newsletter of the
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco
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CACC ON LINE www.cacc-sf.org Rev. N.B., Pastor

Mother Teresa once said, "God hasn't called us to do great things; but to do small things with great love." This is a great principle in serving God. Our theme of the year is "Abide in Christ and bear fruit" (John 15:4). On a daily basis we need to surrender to Jesus, live a Christ-centered life, abide in Him, and obey his commandments. We then will bear fruits one of which is **His Love**. We are called not to do great things; we are called to love God and serve Him. Those small acts need to come from our heart.

You know by now that I love people because I love Jesus. I will do anything to tell about Him to my neighbor, barber, friend, enemy, sister, brother, colleague, anyone. Lately I was thinking about the ministry of **CACC online**. Why do we need to have a website? Why do we post sermons on the website? Who reads them? Who listens to them?

Here are four testimonies from four different parts of the world. The first one is from a physician in Saudi Arabia, now residing in Dubai. The next is from a computer scientist from Moscow, Idaho. The third email is from the field director of a social service organization in Beirut called Howard Karageuzian Association for Child Welfare. Finally the last is from a graduate Nursing student at Yale University in Connecticut.

2012 Coming Events

- Saturday, March 31**
CACC Concert
- Sunday, April 1**
Palm Sunday
- Thursday, April 5**
Maundy Thursday Service
- Sunday, April 8**
Easter Sunday
- Sunday, May 13**
Mother's Day
- Saturday (ՄԵՏ)**
Annual Banquet
- Sunday, June 10**
Graduation Sunday
- Sunday, June 17**
Father's day
- July 16 - 20**
Vacation Bible Camp
- Sunday, August 19**
Annual Picnic



"I consider myself a virtual member of Calvary Church, as I regularly attend your sermons online. Being in Saudi Arabia a place where church is forbidden I was thrilled to find your website and enjoy listening to the word of God through the website sermons. Each one of them was a blessing for me and I was always looking forward to receive the next week's sermon and the power point presentations which inspired me and gave me hope and strength through the difficult times when I was the only Christian in the city of Taef... God bless you and make your efforts fruitful."

Tsolag Basmajian (Dubai, Emirates)

"Each week, I look forward to downloading and listening to the sermons from CACC. With his love of the Bible, Badveli Balabanian,

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Christmas Celebration

Roushig Kalebjian

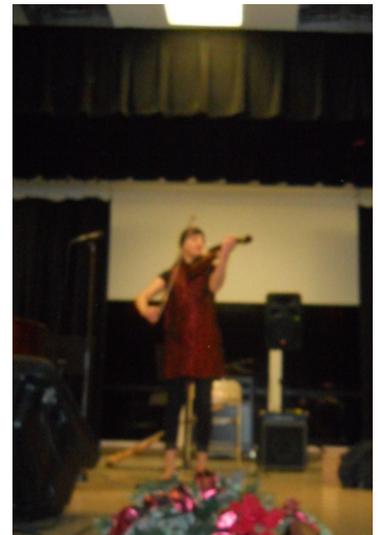
“Sunrise, Sunset. Sunrise, Sunset. Slowly go the years.....” It seems like the years are flying by doesn’t it? During times when I feel out of control with how fast the years are

unfolding I like to take a minute and reflect back on some of the joy-filled experiences.

Starting with this year’s College and Career Banquet. For those of us who were fortunate enough to attend didn’t we have one of the most amazing times?! Filled with musical performances, theatrical acts and delicious food we left with our left brains truly saturated!



For the Second Year in a row we were blessed to have our Banquet graciously funded by an anonymous donor. This act of kindness triggered a cascade of generosity starting with the humorous and always charming Hrag Kalebjian MC’ing the night’s events. We enjoyed a comedic stint by Marty DeArcangelis who successfully translated the time honored “12 days of



Christmas” into an Armenian version that made me want to call my true love “hokis” but only if he brought along some koufteh! Suzanna Mouradyan provided us with the most breathtaking violin solo, and Ara Anderson and the CACC Jazz band created an atmosphere of an actual “jazzy Christmas.” Our musical night would not have been complete without Badveli Nerses and Hagop Nazarian serenading us with their accordion and violin while we ate. How fortunate for us that we have all these talented musicians in our church!

It seems to me that our church has a penchant for creativity. In addition to the comedic act and the musical performances, we were privy to a theatrical piece by Badveli Mike Mekredijian. His interpretation of how Adam must have felt when he was with God, and his fall and his reconciliation through Christ was inspiring.

Thank you College and Career for a beautiful banquet. What a wonderful way to remember the passing year!



Food Festival

Armen Beylerian

The 30th annual CACC Food Festival was held on November 12 and 13, 2011. Wow, 30 years of hard work and dedication on the part of several church members.



This is the biggest event in the church calendar each year. Preparation begins months in advance just for the food. There are numerous gatherings to make Sou Beoreg, Yalachi Sarma and other delicacies. Everything builds to a crescendo the week of the festival when



the hall is prepared and the meats are brought in for cutting and marinating. And finally Saturday morning arrives and all the

volunteers are there with eager anticipation for a busy and somewhat hectic day.



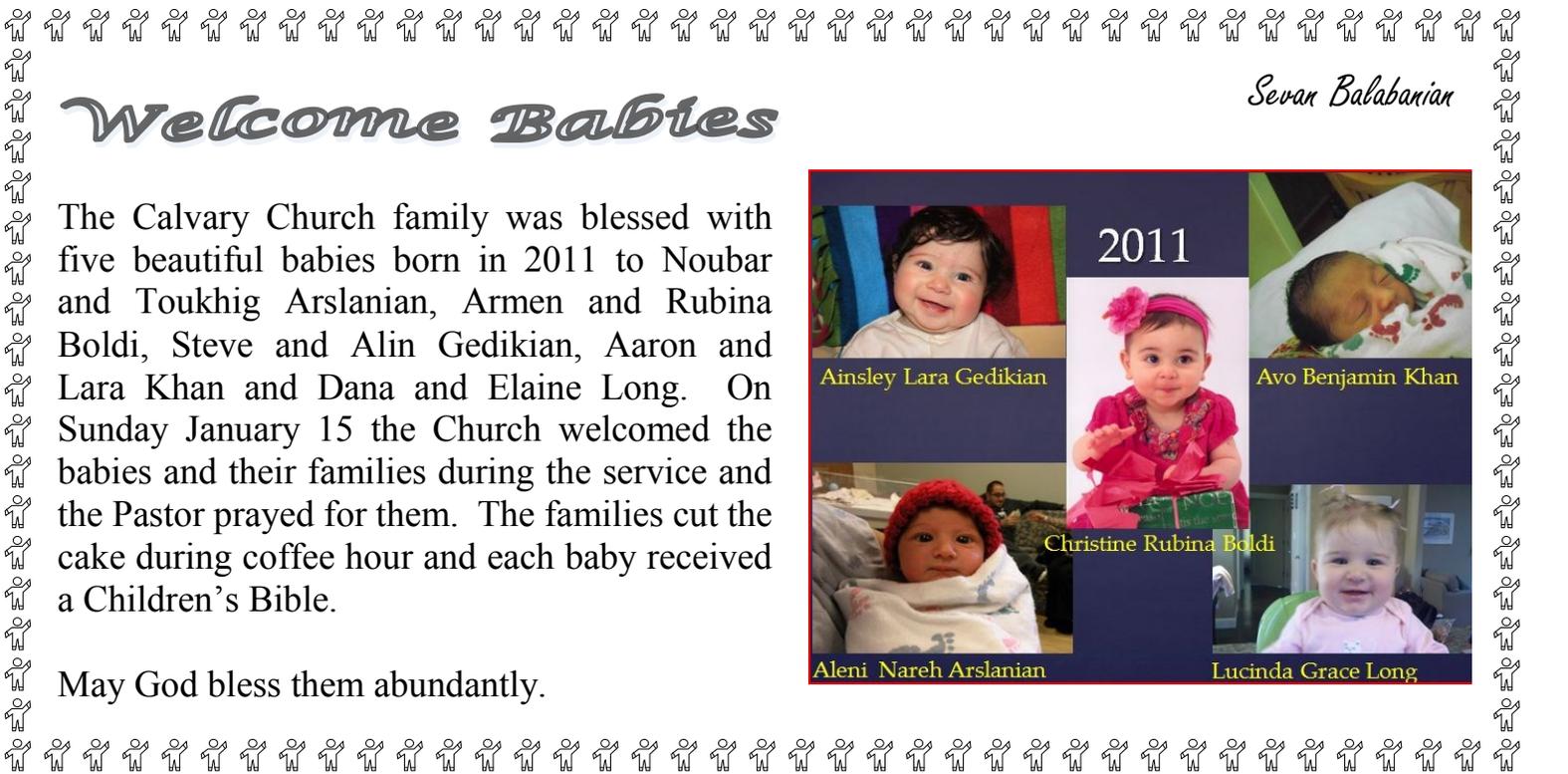
The weather was fine once more and the attendees arrived early. Needless to say the food was excellent. The lamb kebabs were especially delicious.



(continued on page four)



Our Saturday was filled with music and dance. The CACC Jazz band kept the spirits high with many wonderful songs from Jazz standards as well as familiar Armenian songs and hymns slightly modified to be Jazzy. The crowd loved it. A group of students from KZV Armenian school sang a beautiful song. We were blessed with two Armenian dance groups from the Bay Area once again. They were the Hamazkayin Araz Dance Group of San Francisco and the St. Vartan Armenian Dance Ensemble from Oakland.



Welcome Babies

Sevan Balabarian

The Calvary Church family was blessed with five beautiful babies born in 2011 to Noubar and Toukhig Arslanian, Armen and Rubina Boldi, Steve and Alin Gedikian, Aaron and Lara Khan and Dana and Elaine Long. On Sunday January 15 the Church welcomed the babies and their families during the service and the Pastor prayed for them. The families cut the cake during coffee hour and each baby received a Children's Bible.

May God bless them abundantly.



Friends of the AMAA Peninsula Chapter Fund-Raising Activities in 2011

Nina Tashjian

The year 2011 was busy and fruitful for the Friends of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Peninsula Chapter. Through two successful events, the Peninsula Chapter was able to fund its ongoing work supporting the educational needs of Armenian children in Lebanon and Syria.

Wine and Cheese Garden Party

On Saturday October 22, the Friends of the AMAA Peninsula Chapter held a Wine and Cheese Garden Party to raise funds to expand its work. Co-chaired by Kris Gulesserian and Nina Tashjian, this inaugural event was held on a beautiful California evening at the home of Ike and Kris Gulesserian. The Indian summer night enabled guests to gather outdoors as they enjoyed an array of domestic and imported gourmet cheeses, specialty hors d'oeuvres, and a selection of California wines.

Mr. Levon Filian, the Executive Director of the AMAA, was able to attend the event and show his support for the work of the Peninsula Chapter. The Wine and Cheese Garden Party was successful in educating new audiences about the work of this chapter and in attracting new supporters to the cause.



Annual Christmas Luncheon

The Friends of the AMAA Peninsula Chapter held its annual Christmas Luncheon on December 9 in Hillsborough, CA at the home of Mardo and Seta Kaprealian.

Attended by around fifty supporters, the luncheon – which is this chapter's hallmark annual event – included group caroling led by Sevan Balabanian at the piano and a Christmas message by Badveli Nerses Balabanian. The fellowship, warm atmosphere and food, lovingly prepared by committee members, set the tone for a joyous Christmas season.

Members of the Friends of the AMAA Peninsula Chapter's committee include Alina Balabanian, Nora Balabanian, Anahid Gulesserian, Kris Gulesserian, Margo Gulesserian, Arpi Haleblian, Lara Khoury, Aline Richards and Nina Tashjian.

AEYF Fall Retreat 2011



On October 28-30 the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship (AEYF) of the West Coast held a retreat at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco. Seventy young people ages 15-22 arrived on Friday from Los Angeles, Fresno, and the San Francisco Bay Area. The program included worship, teaching, fellowship and trips to the famous Fisherman's Wharf and the trampoline park House of Air. The main topic was "The Jealous God" and the speaker was Rev. Aren Balabanian who taught that God loves us so much that He is jealous for us. He wants our devoted love towards Him. He does not want anything or anyone else to take His place.

Farewell Luncheon for Armen Beylerian

On Sunday January 22nd, the CACC family said farewell to a long-time dear member Armen Beylerian who will be leaving us to serve as the Field Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) based in Paramus, NJ.



The CACC thanked God for Armen's commitment to serve the Lord in this new capacity. The Pastor offered a special prayer on this occasion. After the service, everyone was invited for a luncheon in Armen's honor. Many people stood up and shared their memories and experiences with him.



Throughout the years, Armen has offered his services to our church as Moderator, Council member, Youth leader, member of the Choir and the Men's Ensemble.

The church will miss Armen greatly. May God bless him in his mission.

(continued from page one)

brings insights to the Word that are particularly applicable to the Armenian community. He encourages us to be Christians first and love our Lord and serve not only our own community, but to spread the love of God to all we come in contact with."

Karl Hakimian (Moscow, Idaho)

Hearing and listening to the sermons of CACC online is truly a blessing. Regularly I receive the sermons via email. After reading them (the Armenian & the English versions) I sometimes go online to hear them.

I've known Rev. Balabanian and his family since 1998 when he encouraged me to be part of the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel church in Beirut. Since that time God has been shaping my life. I'm grateful that I have the opportunity to hear God's word on CACC online. These sermons are God-centered, focused on the current events and surroundings. There is always a challenge at the end where it encourages the readers to apply the Word in their lives and to strive for godliness. "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord".

Serop Ohanian (Beirut, Lebanon)

"Being part of an Armenian church community has always been a huge part of my life. So, when I found myself moving to New Haven, where the nearest Armenian Church is 20 minutes away, I thought I was going to be at a disadvantage. That is until Badveli told me about the CACC website and the online sermons that are updated once a week.

Every Sunday, I carve out about an hour to listen, meditate, pray and reflect on each sermon's topic. These online sermons have served as an anchor for me to connect with God and his teachings when I am physically unable to attend a "traditional" Church. At times when my life brings on its challenges, I am comforted by the familiar sounds of my home church coming through my computer speakers."

Roushig Kalebjian (New Haven, Connecticut)

A small thing, just like downloading our church service online, yet I do it with great love. I do this on your behalf to spread His Word to all people, in all places.

In the cartoon of the first page, the pastor is worried that his congregation will never go out to the mission field. We need to go out. We should and have to go out. It is a biblical command to go out and preach and teach the gospel. So I encourage you, to not be afraid when you are entering the mission field where Jesus is already waiting for you. He will guide you. It is His mission.

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church

Musical Night at Calvary

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Saturday March 31, 2012 7:00pm

Calvary Choir
Men's Ensemble

Guest Musicians

Seda Kizirian, Soprano
Dave Scott

RSVP and for tickets info call CACC office at 415-586-2000 or Alidz Nazarian at 408-241-3232
725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco
Adults \$15, Student/Children \$10

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.

HomeBuilders for Young Couples & Families: South Bay & Peninsula, third 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.

Armenian Evangelical Union of North America
presents the

21st Biennial Conference June 28-July 1, 2012

Sheraton Hotel, Montreal, Canada

Join us for a time of spiritual growth and fun for the whole family.

- Great for teens and adults of all ages
- Dynamic speakers
- Sports, Sight-seeing and more...
- More details to follow in January...

Hosted by

First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal

www.hayavedmontreal.com/biennial

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



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 Noubar and Toukhig (Arabian) Arslanian for their newborn daughter, Aleni Nareh Arslanian, born on Saturday, December 17, 2011. Congratulations also to the grandparents.



We congratulate Todd and Aline (Ekmekji) Childers for their newborn daughter, Lily Ekmekji Childer, born on Friday, January 20, 2012. Congratulations also to the grandparents.

WEDDING

We congratulate Arek and Talar (Injejikian) Arabian, who were married on Sunday, January 8, 2012 at St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church, Pasadena, California. Our congratulations also to Arabian, Injejikian, Sadakian and Arslanian families.



CONDOLENCES

Mrs. Mary (Tachdjian) Henne (sister of Ishkhan Tachdjian) who passed away on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 in Columbus, Ohio. Our condolences and prayers to Tachdjian and Henne families.

Mrs. Siran (Bezirgianian) Jizmejjan (sister of Arax Kizirian and mother of Maria Bakalian) who passed away on Saturday, January 7, 2012 in Toronto, Canada. Our condolences and prayers to the Jizmejjan, Wilk, Bakalian, Koeshkerian, Abrahamian, Chnorhokian and Kizirian families.

Mr. Samuel Tokmakjian (father of Dikran Tokmakjian) who passed away February 2012 in Aleppo, Syria. Our condolences and prayers to the Tokmakjian family.

Mrs. Sosie (Kazanjanian) Kochayan (sister of Aro Sadakian) who passed away on Monday, February 13, 2012. Our condolences and prayers to the Kazanjanian, Kochayan and Sadakian families.

UPCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES

- Thursday, April 5, 2012**
at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, May 27, 2012**
at 11:00 am
- Sunday, July 8, 2012**
at 11:00 am

