

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

1974 ANNUAL REPORT

The first parish council of the Armenian Church of Westchester, elected by the parish assembly on March 22, 1974 met 27 times from March to December of 1974, under the presidency of our pastor and the chairmanship of Edward Dorian. The council members and representatives of church committees had a special meeting with the Primate on April 26, 1974. His Eminence expressed his hopes and expectations of this new church in terms of becoming an education-oriented and worship-minded family parish with the ability of making experiments in the attainment of the church's goals.

Deacon Hovhannes Kasparian, appointed by the Primate as the spiritual administrator of our parish, was ordained a priest on May 18 - 19, 1974 at the St. Vartan Cathedral, New York City and was re-named Father Karekin. After his "Karsoonk" he became our pastor and has been guiding us in our activities and growth.

MEETINGS The parish council meetings have concerned themselves with the weekly operations of the parish, church functions, consideration of a church property and fund raising. On September 29, 1974, at a special parish assembly a decision was made (62 - 19) to purchase a piece of property on Westchester Avenue, Harrison, N.Y., for \$225,000. Subsequent activities of the parish council in conducting negotiations through Attorney Gary Bashian, and undertaking a fund raising campaign will be reported by the Fund Raising Committee. Suffice it to say that the parish council ended up spending considerable time during its weekly meetings discussing matters related to the purchase of the property as a subject of first order of magnitude.

The parish council was also represented at a regional parish councils meeting organized by the Primate's office and held at Holy Cross Church, New York.

Our parish was represented at the Annual Diocesan Assembly at the Cathedral by our diocesan delegate, Edward Dorian, the first weekend in May.

The number of our paid members has increased to 130.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS On September 8, a very successful picnic was held on the grounds of the Greek Orthodox Church in Harrison, New York. Three hundred seventy five people attended and \$1814.00 in profit was derived. The co-chairmen of the affair were George Sanosian and George Davidian.

On the weekend of September 13-14 our church participated in the One World Festival, sponsored by the Diocese, by selling boorma and khadayif in our beautifully decorated booth by the Cathedral. A profit of \$1700.00 was made and this was divided evenly with the Diocese. Menas Daderian was responsible for the success of the event.

On December 8th a celebration banquet was held by the parish council at the Westchester Hills Country Club, White Plains. The Most Rev. Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan was the guest speaker, Miss Lily Chookasian was the guest artist and the entertainment of the afternoon was provided by Miss Anahid Alexanian, an accomplished pianist. Mr. Edward Dorian, Mrs. Jeanette Smith and our pastor took care of the banquet arrangements.

WORSHIP After having three different services (January 13, March 24, April 28) at the Manhattanville College Chapel, Purchase, N.Y. and St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Eastchester, we were fortunate to find a church available for rental to conduct services on regular weekly basis. Since September 22, our services have been held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Yonkers. The parish council continues to look for a more suitable property, either for rental or purchase, at a more centrally-located area. In the meantime, we hope all those who have associated themselves with our parish church will attend services more regularly.

The parish council members have continued to discharge their duties on Sundays on a rotating basis.

PUBLICITY David Davidian and our pastor have submitted articles on various occasions to the Armenian press, keeping the public and other parishes informed of our activities. Twice in the year, the Yonkers newspaper Herald Statesman has carried feature articles about the Armenian Community in Westchester in general and our parish in particular. In addition their combined effort have produced the pamphlet that sets forth the reasons why an Armenian Church in Westchester is a must.

In October three members resigned from the parish council. They were: Menas Daderian, George Guendjoian and Harry Abajian. Their resignations were accepted with regret. Two recipients of next highest votes were invited to serve completing the terms of office. They are: Berge Derdarian and Zaven Asadourian.

We conclude this report thanking all our members and friends for their support and encouragement for what has been achieved so far. Our special thanks to the/St. Nersess Seminarians, who under the guidance of our pastor and their director, continued to help ~~help~~ substantially in our regular worship services and children's educational programs.]

Edward Dorian
Chairman

Pauline Babakian
Secretary

AUDITING COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Auditing Committee has examined the Treasurer's books and has found them in good order.

Jack Avedisian
David Davidian
Robert Stepanian
John Babakian