

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
Tenafly, New Jersey

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1965

The Parish Council officers and members were as follows:

Chairman	Vahan Najarian
Vice-Chairman	Nazar Nazarian
Secretary	Edward Stepanian
Treasurer	J. Zaven Halejian
Asst. Treasurer	John Froomjian
Members at large:	Victor Arzoomanian, Mark Chookazian
	Michael Halebian Dr. Vincent Incecian
	Jack Hajinlian Dick Turnamian

A total of 21 Parish Council meetings were held during the year.

The year 1965 was a very important year for the Armenians of Bergen County. This was the year for the opening of our beautiful church. It was the realization of years of hard work - of planning, designing and redesigning until our church was built; it was a year of fine cooperation among the parish members who opened wide their hearts and pocketbooks and built this truly magnificent edifice to prove their trust in their fellow men and in God.

Church Affairs

During 1965 the following affairs were sponsored by the Parish Council: May 30th - Memorial Day Outing was a big success under the capable chairmanship of George Gavejian. The Annual Bazaar, October 23rd and 24th, was enthusiastically attended by over 700 persons who were present during the two days. This was the first time the affair was held indoors. Many thanks to Mr. Peter Doramajian and his committee for a great job.

Building Committee

The Building Committee under the most capable chairmanship of Mr. Edward Bashian brought to completion a great and tremendous task. We are greatly indebted to the unselfish and dedicated men who gave so untiringly of their time and efforts

Consecration of New Church

On April 3rd and 4th, 1965 the great day finally arrived when the doors of our church were officially opened. The services were most inspiring and we all felt proud and humble. Although we built it, it was bigger than us. The services were beautifully conducted by our Primate, His Grace Archbishop Sion Manoogian. Our sister churches lent us their talents. Their choir leaders and members sang harmoniously with the Gomidas Choir. It was a very auspicious beginning.

Parish Council Report for 1965 (Cont'd.)

Mr. Haig Tashjian became the Godfather of our Church. He requested that the church be named after St. Thomas the Apostle, and in memory of his father.

The Consecration dinner was held at the Tammy Brook Country Club, Cresskill, N. J. and was truly an elegant and memorable affair. Over 700 guests attended.

The Consecration Book distribution was delayed due to many complications - but it was worth waiting for! We can say with pride that it is the most beautiful book of its kind so far published. Our heartfelt and sincere thanks to Dr. Vincent Incecian, Chairman, Mr. Mark Chookazian, Treasurer, and Mrs. Margaret Peterson, Editor, for a most commendable job.

Armenian School

Enrollment in the Armenian School is 35 this year. The staff is made up of Mr. Yervant Turpanjian, Mrs. Queenie Tashjian, Mrs. Artemis Nazarian and Mrs. Ann Assadourian. Liason officer is Mr. Nazar Nazarian.

Sunday School

Approximately 225 are enrolled. Our hard working Yeretzgin, Violet Kasparian, has taken full charge once again as Superintendent. Liason officer is Mark Chookazian.

Men's Club

The Men's Club is growing and getting stronger under the chairmanship of Ralph Goomrigian, chairman, and Harry Chakmakian, vice-chairman. The Costume Dance in October was artistically done and enjoyed by all present. The New Year's Eve Dinner-Dance was a tremendous success. It was a sell out and a great time was had by all.

The Bowling Teams are still going strong. It is a source of comradery. The dinner at the end of the season is always a festive affair. We are sure that under the new chairmanship of Harry Chakmakian, the Men's Club will be even more active in Church affairs.

Choir

Many thanks to Mr. Edward Daghlian who continued as Choir Director for another year. We appreciate his devoted services. We hope that more people will join the choir and that a time will be established for regular choir rehearsals. Joint choir practices are held once a month with the Union City, Paterson and our choir members.

Miss Susan Shamamian continues to play the organ each Sunday morning. We are thankful for her conscientious services.

Parish Council Report for 1965 (Cont'd.)

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild under the chairmanship of Mrs. Victoria Ganan did their usual efficient job. Their Cotillion held in a New York hotel was truly an outstanding affair, and a financial success. The Guild also did a great job acquainting our church to those of Philadelphia and Long Island by their wonderful rendition of "Carmenochi" which was written and directed by our talented Betty Kabobjian. We are indebted to the members of the Guild for their untiring cooperation in all affairs.

Church Paper

The Bergen Beacon, a monthly publication, continued its good work. We look forward to receiving it each month in our homes. Our deep appreciation to Yeretzgin who continues to edit it and prepares the copies. Our thanks also to one of our parishioners who prepares the plates each month, to Mr. Onnig Hourdajian who takes care of the printing, and to Mrs. Alice Basmajian for doing the addressing work. The mailing list of the Beacon is approximately 775.

Membership

Six new families have been added to our church membership. Our total membership now stands at 167 families, or 318 voting members.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Haig Turnamian for his services as C.P.A. in seeing to it that our accounts are all in good order.

Respectfully submitted

For the Parish Council -

Father Arnak Kasparian, President
Mr. Vahan Najarian, Chairman
Mr. Edward Stepanian, Secretary

January 23, 1966