

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
Tenafly, New Jersey

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1966

The Parish Council officers and members were as follows:

Chairman	Richard Turnamian	
Vice-Chairman	Mark Chookazian	
Secretary	George Gavejian	
Treasurer	J. Zaven Halejian	
Asst. Treasurer	Antranig Ouzoonian	
Members at large:	Victor Arzoomanian	Ray Kreppel
	John Froonjian	Apkar Omartian
	Jack Hajinlian	John Seferian

A total of 25 Parish Council meetings were held during the year.

A YEAR OF FIRSTS - 1966 was an eventful and rewarding year with many "firsts" for our church. Our first anniversary was celebrated on Palm Sunday, April 3rd with a Banquet in our Church Hall, ably chaired by Mark Chookazian. Victor Arzoomanian was the principal speaker who gave a never to be forgotten humorous history of our church.

Another first was the honor accorded us by the Diocese in holding the Diocesan Assembly at our church. For this rare privilege we thank our church delegates: Jack Charshafian, Vay Najarian, James Melcon, Steve Ananian, Nazar Nazarian, Edward Bashian, and Der Hayr. Richard Turnamian, Chairman of the Parish Council was General Chairman; Vay Najarian, chairman of food; and Andrew Ouzoonian, chairman of information and arrangements.

Our thanks to these gentlemen and their committees for their devoted efforts for which we all received many compliments. Our thanks also to Mesdames Sirarpie Dadaian and Araxie Varjan for the many delicacies prepared for the assembly.

Another first was the preparing and meeting of a new budget of almost \$60,000. This shows the determination of our parishioners to support our church in its many activities which further unites us in work and worship.

This was also the first year of our Board of Elders, now known as Stewarts of the Church. This group is made up of several of the original founders of the church, past chairmen of the Parish Council, and individuals intensely interested in the welfare of the church. Their primary purpose is to advise the parish council on problems of the church such as past financial and legal matters in which newly elected parish council members may not be informed. Still another purpose of the Stewarts is to more effectively bring back to the fold those members who have stayed away from church for one reason or another. They have done commendable work and they suggested the membership drive as our greatest need.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - If the Diocesan Assembly was the most important event on our calendar certainly the most important activity of the year was the Membership Drive spearheaded by our even enthusiastic chairman, Vic Arzoomanian. Starting in early summer many meetings were

Parish Council Report for 1966 (Cont'd.)

held with area chairmen. Completely organized, the drive began shortly after Labor Day with a Get-Together Dance and a Victory Dance 30 days later. We have gained 34 new members this year, and the drive will continue as the organization is still intact. Congratulations and thanks to Vic.

CHURCH AFFAIRS - During 1966 the following affairs were sponsored by the Parish Council: On May 30th, our Memorial Day Outing was a great success with Vahan Zarifian as Chairman and Richard Kabobjian as co-chairman. On August 14th we celebrated Blessing of the Grapes with a picnic with John Seferian as Chairman. This event was in mid-summer and was very successful.

On November 2nd our parish was honored with the presence of His Grace, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of our Diocese. He was officially greeted by our chairman, Richard Turnamian at the dinner following the Hrashapar Service in Church. Chairlady of this very special event was Mrs. Jack Charshafian and again food arrangements were handled by Vay Najarian. Members of the ACYOA served.

Our Annual Bazaar was held on December 3 and 4, headed and directed by Vay Najarian, Virginia Parseghian his co-chairman, and their very hard working committee. This was the most successful bazaar to date in spite of threatening weather which Vay chased away.

Improvements on our Church and Property - You may have noticed many changes and improvements during the past year. The underbrush on the Clinton Avenue side of the church property was cleared away at no cost to the church by our council member Ray Kreppel. Also, because of a gas leak, the necessity arose for a new gasline from outside of the building to the kitchen and once again we are indebted to Ray Kreppel for digging the trench necessary for the line, again at no cost. The planting of trees and flowers and the general care of same has been done with much love and attention of Rupen Saddler. The ping-pong table which many of our youngsters are enjoying was the gift of Mr. & Mrs. Nazar Nazarian. The Juke-Box was the gift of Mr. Walter Vartan, a delegate to the Diocesan Assembly from Chicago. New carpeting and a sofa-bed were provided for the parsonage by the Parish Council. Six blackboards were provided for the use of our Sunday School, one of the blackboards is the gift of Mr. & Mrs. Aram Kratljan. The church's godfather, Mr. Haig Tashjian, has again shown his generosity by donating two beautiful oak tables and twelve chairs which are seen upon entering the church, and in the small meeting room used by the Parish Council.

Our new custodian, Mr. William Montero (of Tenafly) has been seeing to it that the church, auditorium and classrooms are always presentable and is ably assisted by his wife when needed.

Rental of our Church and Property - Our special thanks to Ralph Goomrigan who was instrumental in the renting of our parking lot to Volkswagon Co. for three months. Because of this they generously donated \$3,000 to our church.

There has been a marked increase in the number of times our church hall has been rented this year and we hope to encourage this by keeping our building attractive and the rates reasonable.

Parish Council Report for 1966 (Cont'd.)

Armenian Language School - This year we have 25 students enrolled in the Armenian School. Mrs. Queenie Tashjian is doing an enthusiastic job as head of the school, ably assisted by Mrs. Shake Torigian. Liason officer is Andrew Ouzoonian. It is hoped that many more of our youngsters will become interested in learning the Armenian language and take advantage of our facilities. Classes meet on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon.

Sunday School - We are always proud of our Sunday School enrollment. This year we have 255 enrolled. Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian, our superintendent, directs her staff of 18 teachers and drives them as hard as she does herself. Liason officer is Mark Chookazian.

Men's Club - This year the Men's Club has come into its own under the most able chairmanship of Harry Chakmakian. The Thanksgiving Dance was very successful and everyone had a great time. As usual the New Year's Eve Dinner-Dance was a wonderful occasion as well as a financial success. The Cadillac Raffle brought in an additional \$5,000 under the chairmanship of Armen Ajamian. The men of the Men's Club must be commended for the wonderful way they have always come running to aid in any affair where they are needed.

Women's Guild - The ladies outdid themselves this year by several new events. The Art Show early in the year revealed talent within our parishioners and is worthy of repetition. The Cotillion held at Tammy Brook Country Club was again the outstanding social event of the season and, of course, a financial success. Another innovation was the Antique Show and Sale which was so successful that arrangements have already been made to have it each spring and winter. Mrs. Margaret Peterson, Chairlady of the Guild, is to be thanked for her hard work, her enthusiasm and for getting such wonderful results.

A.C.Y.O.A. JUNIORS - We are most happy to see the reorganization of the ACYOA. It is wonderful to see the youngsters get together with so much enthusiasm and determination to get things done. Of course, much of this is owed to the wonderful leadership and encouragement given the youngsters by Mrs. Floraine Halejian. She is always with them, planning affairs, showing them the right way, and always ready to have them at her home for a good time - and eats! Keep up the good work.

Church Paper - The Bergen Beacon, a monthly publication, continues its good work. We look forward to receiving it each month in our homes. Our 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.

Choir - This year we have been fortunate to obtain the services of Krikor Pidejian as choirdirector. He is in church every Sunday and also faithfully appears every Friday night for rehearsal. We hope more people will join the choir and come out to rehearsals. Remember, even if you already know the music you can help some youngsters sing a

Parish Council Report for 1966 (Cont'd.)

little more confidently during rehearsal and thus make our Sunday Mass even more beautiful. Our heartfelt thanks to Miss Susan Shamamian who plays the organ every Sunday and has also been to every Friday night rehearsal. We are indebted to her for her constant help.

Recognition - As our church does not have an office secretary, you must realize how much incidental or regular work accumulates. For these secretarial services we would like to thank Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian. In closing, the Parish Council would like to thank the membership in general for their cooperation during 1966 and trust that this spirit of friendship and work will unite us into an even stronger church in 1967. Fully aware of some differences of opinion on a variety of matters, the Parish Council has tried to minimize these differences where they could and conscientiously did its utmost to promote unity and goodwill during its term of office. We hope that the success of our efforts can be seen in the growing number of people in our church each Sunday joining us in worship.

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 -

Rev. Arnak Kasparian, President
 Mr. Richard Turnamian, Chairman
 Mr. George Gavejian, Secretary

January 29, 1967

- - - - -
STATEMENT - MEMORIAL FUND

Parish Treasurery	\$ 260.00	
Payment for memorial fund by Parish Treasurery	<u>233.18</u>	\$ 26.82
<u>Memorial Treasurery</u>		
Building Fund Transfer	\$ 4,256.33	
Memorials	11,715.00	
Interest to date	<u>451.35</u>	
	\$ 16,722.68	
To Parish Treasurery	<u>- 2,009.00</u>	
Total balance		<u>14,413.68</u>
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 14,440.50
Committee: Steve Ananian, Chairman Vay Najarian Rupen Saddler Apkar Omartian, Liason Parish Council		