

THE ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

1983

PASTOR and PARISH COUNCIL

THE 1983 PASTOR'S REPORT

This year is a milestone in my pastorate, with 22 years of service in this Parish. These were 22 wonderful years for me and my family. It fills my heart with gratitude and thanksgiving towards God and my St. Thomas family.

St. Thomas has grown in serving our people and has become one of the outstanding churches of our Diocese. Of course, there is always room for improvement, but, in general, I am happy to report that by the Grace of God we have completed another fruitful year. We have a concerned, dedicated and dependable group on which we rely and give thanks for the life in the Church. We have a small group who are here every Sunday and they keep the doors of the Church open for worship. We have a small group who are the backbone of the physical existence of this Parish. Whether in office or out of office they cherish the well being of this Church, and, unfortunately, sometimes we take them for granted. A heart-felt "Thank God" for these people. Our thanks go to the Church auxiliary groups and special commendation goes to our Parish Council for their fine cooperation and work. Each group has submitted its report separately. I will report to you mainly about the sacramental and pastoral activities of the past year.

SACRAMENTAL SERVICES: During the year 26 baptisms were performed (compared to 36 last year); 16 marriages were blessed (16 the previous year); 17 funerals took place, (19 last year).

At this time let us remember our dear, departed member Alice Keshishian, mother of Matthew.

We shall also remember Haigoohi Kudian, mother of Levon Malajian; Jakomina Maria Domenie, mother of Johan Domenie; Leo Hagopian, father of June Goomrigian; Ann Barry, sister of Richard Turnamian and Hemy Tarzy; Mugurdich Kavazanjian, father of Evelyn Dinkjian; Rose Nevart Stambouljian, mother of Joan Braner and sister of Sonia Turnamian; Anooosh Kavazanjian Kassabian and Nishan George Kassabian, parents of Marion Babigian; Viktor Ezgilioglu, sister of Angel Torosian.

ADMINISTRATIVE: As ex-officio president of all church organizations, I attended most of the meetings. I directed and advised and, in many cases, helped in implementing decisions. I attended the Clergy Conference and Diocesan Assembly in Palos Heights, Illinois. I served as Chairman at the Clergy Conference.

PUBLICATIONS: We have published the Bergen Beacon monthly and put out flyers for our various affairs. Each month our Beacon is mailed to our college students residing on campus. A special thanks to Mary Ann Saraydarian for editing our Beacon. Susan

Stoneson for the greater part of the year did the type setting for us.

We thank Roseanne Arzoomanian for making the "Mahs" for us every Sunday. Our thanks to Deacon Joseph Kalemkerian who, for the third year, is training young people to serve at the Altar. It is a great sacrifice to come to Church direct from work to instruct young boys in the singing and censing at the Altar.

We thank, also, Lillian Kasparian for directing the Junior Choir. Those who have heard them singing the entire Badarak are filled with a great joy.

We thank Victor Arzoomanian and his three co-chairmen, Rose Mekenian, Virginia Victoria, and Dorothy Otchy of Bazaar '83. We also thank Edward Bashian for doubling our Bazaar profits through his rug sales and his committee, Michel Izmirly and Mary Ann Saraydarian.

This year there has been more enthusiasm shown by our Parishioners to volunteer and accomplish projects. This is due to the Parish Council, but particularly due to the leadership of Peter Ajemian. Peter has brought a fresh approach with his ability, experience, and humor.

Fr. Arnak Kasparian

THE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

We at St. Thomas Armenian Church enjoyed a very productive year for both our Parish and related organizations. With the guidance of our President and religious leader, Rev. Arnak Kasparian, the Parish Council managed the business and activities of our Parish and Church. Many of our annual fund raising events showed a slight increase, while other events that were on a downgrade were dropped. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your continued support, on all levels, for your contributions, no matter how big or small.....Many thanks again.

The following represents your Parish Council for the year 1983:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE or ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>LIAISON</u>
Rev. Arnak Kasparian	President	
Peter Ajemian	Chairman	
Grace Hagopian	Treasurer	Women's Guild
		Asst. ACYOA Jrs.
Douglas Tashjian	Secretary	ACYOA Jrs. & Srs.
Ara Babigian	Vice.Chmn. & Asst.	
	Pledge	Book Store
Samuel Demirjian	Narthex	Armenian School
Joseph Hovsepian	Membership	Cultural Comm.
Moses Kazanjian	Building & Grounds	Bldg. Comm.
Gerald Keosayian	Asst. Bldg. & Grounds	Sunday School
Edward Parseghian	Pledge	Choir
Paul Pinajian	Narthex Asst.	Men's Club
Virginia Victoria	Custodial supplies & Rentals & Calendar	Avak Society
Lucy Nakashian	Alternate	

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS & COMMUNICATIONS

The Parish Council met every second and fourth Tuesday as scheduled twelve months of the year. All of our meetings started on time and were well attended. The Parish Council meetings were presided over by the President, Rev. Arnak Kasparian, and conducted by the Chairman, Peter Ajemian. The Council meetings were always open to interested individuals, Delegates, Trustees, and Parish related organizations.

PARISH COUNCIL RELATED ACTIVITIES

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Nazar Nazarian and Vahan Najarian Co-Chairmen

The St. Thomas Building Committee has encountered some problems as was outlined recently in the Bergen Beacon, our Church newsletter. In order that we do not duplicate work in the future, an extra effort by the Committee has incorporated necessary updating of our complex in the plans. Our initial fund raising has proven successful, with less than 1/3 of our Parish participating, over \$300,000 has been

pledged. I am sure that with the balance of our membership making their contributions to the Building Fund Drive, we will not only add the new construction, but bring St. Thomas up to an up-dated facility. In order that we do not duplicate our reports, please refer to a much more detailed report by the Building Committee elsewhere in this report.

ST. THOMAS TRUSTEES: Edward G. Bashian, Chairman

The Trustees met with the Parish Council regularly during the past year, during which time they handled investments for the Parish Council. While the Trustees make up the core of the Building Committee, they have been very helpful with the "Cake Sales" and many other fund raising activities.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM: Albert Victoria, Chairman

Our Chairman, Albert Victoria, has been researching this program this past year in detail. The Stewardship Program is one where a member of the Church will make it a practice of giving of one's talents, time and material possessions back to God. Hopefully, we plan to institute this program after our Building Fund Raising Project. Once the Stewardship Program starts, we hope to eliminate other fund raising methods.

MEMORIALS COMMITTEE: Edward G. Bashian, Chairman

This Committee has found sponsors for all of our available memorials, with just a few church pews still available. Following the new construction, additional memorials will be available. We encourage those interested parties to contact Der Hayr or the Memorials Chairman as soon as possible. Many thanks to this Committee for updating our records and a job well done.

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND: Ann Ajemian, Chairperson

The St. Thomas ACEF was formed in the fall of 1982. A Church member with a minimum donation of \$100.00 was able to start their "Family Fund" in their name. To date our ACEF Fund totals \$37,766.00 with the annual interest income coming to St. Thomas Armenian Church. We urge everyone to start their "Family Fund", and to those that have already started their Fund, add to their Fund, so that we can insure a steady income to our Church for the future.

VOLUNTEER OFFICE STAFF: Marion Babigian, Coordinator

This year Der Arnak started the Volunteer Office Staff with a group of our Parishioners willing to give one day a week for this purpose. We have in this group, women who are willing to give of their time for the benefit of our Church. Along with our staff we have acquired office equipment, furniture, and our newest item, an IBM P.C. Computer with hard discs and word processor, etc. With this new office set-up we hope to run St. Thomas Armenian Church more efficiently with better record keeping and acknowledging donations and gifts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank

one of our generous parishioners who has donated our new IBM Computer, namely Mr. Rupen Saddler. We thank you, Rupen, from the bottom of our hearts.

Our most sincere "THANKS AGAIN" to Dikris Malool for her continued performance in writing letters, handling all of our mailing, duplicating, folding, setting up the monthly calendar, updating the membership list, as well as maintaining the Bergen Beacon lists. All this work takes many hours, and only a person like Dikris fits the bill.

ST. NERSESS SEMINARY: Lillian Kasparian, Chairperson

Many of our Churches are without clergy and the need to train them has reached a critical state. We here at St. Thomas Church with our liaison Lillian Kasparian are trying to generate funds for St. Nersess Seminary. Without any doubt in our minds, this is where the future of our Church lies. Aside from the budget allocation, we are attempting to run joint affairs with our sister Churches for this purpose.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Vice Chairman, Ara Babigian is assistant on pledges and our liaison to the Book Store. Ara is on a difficult work schedule, but manages to make all of our Parish Council meetings. We thank you for your efforts, Ara. Sona Doudoukjian who manages our Book Store for the past few years, many thanks again. Sona handles the store single handed and makes it a profitable venture. It has to be our low overhead.....

Treasurer, Grace Hagopian, has the toughest job on the Council, and as I said last year, she not only does it with ease, but with accuracy. Despite her busy schedule she is always there when you need her. Many thanks, Grace, for a job well done. For many years Alice Arzoomanian has helped our Treasurer with the bookkeeping chores. Many thanks to this quiet lady who never gets plaudits in the shadow of her husband. Again, last but not least, a vote of sincere thanks to Michel Izmirly who helps us all year. Namely on the budget, taxes, Rug Sales, and, as I stated last year, with good advise. Many thanks again, Michel.

Secretary, Douglas Tashjian, is liaison to the ACYOA Jrs. and Srs. Doug has been an inspiration to the Parish Council with his enthusiasm, and, besides being the youngest member, has shown a lot of wisdom with his ideas this past year. Congratulations on your good work, Doug. Keep it up...

Samuel Demirjian--Everyone who attends Church every Sunday knows that he is always on the job. Sam has just completed his 6th year on the Council, and according to the Diocesan By-Laws, must retire. The Parish Council this past October created the post of Narthex Coordinator. This post will insure us the services of Sam Demirjian who has always done an outstanding job. Our most sincere thanks to you, Sam. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Tish Basmajian, who also was named Asst. Narthex Coordi-

nator for the outstanding work he does every Sunday. Keep up the good work, Tish.

Recently Ara Martaian was appointed Chairman of Membership. Unfortunately, we are weak in our membership drives despite attempts to get it off the ground. We know that there is a fair amount of potential people that we can add to our St. Thomas Family and the trick is to find the right combination to increase our membership so that we can lighten the burden on our present membership.

Joseph Hovsepian is the liaison for the Cultural Committee. We have also been weak on cultural events. However, we are checking the possibility of conducting these events jointly with our sister Churches.

Moses Kazanjian is liaison for the Building Committee. Moses has contributed much towards our proposed expansion and the upkeep of our present facilities. He is always there when you need him. Moses, we thank you for your efforts.

Gerald Keosayian has served on many committees as well as ACYOA Jr. Advisor along with his wife, Paula, and Ara and Celia Martaian. Gerald also is assigned Assistant Building & Grounds.

PLEDGES--Edward Parseghian has served the Parish Council in a conscientious manner and has contributed a lot in his sound, down to earth manner. Edward is liaison for the Choir. Many thanks to Edward.

Paul Pinajian is liaison for the Men's Club. Paul is the minute man in the Council. He fills in wherever and whenever he is needed despite his tough time schedule. Many thanks to you, Paul.

Virginia Victoria handles custodial & supplies, and rentals & calendar, and is liaison for the Avak Society. During the vandalism problem Virginia was very helpful with the problems that came up too numerous to mention. Her contributions and efforts to the Parish Council have made us a successful group. Many thanks again to you, Virginia.

PRESIDENT--Rev. Arnak Kasparian, our Pastor, again has made strides for the betterment of our Church. While it is difficult to list each and every accomplishment over the past year, I would like to point out that we made an investment in our Der Hayr over 20 years ago, and it has really paid off. We who are on the Parish Council, admire Der Arnak for his practical and humanitarian approach to the many problems that face us. Congratulations to you and your family, and may you all be blessed with good health and happiness.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you that contribute to our Church Services,

on the Altar or in the Choir, as officers and members in the church organizations, and to the Sunday School and Armenian School teachers, and to the membership who make up our St. Thomas Family, for your services and support, both physical and financial. Without you, there is no St. Thomas, but with you, let us build a better ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH.

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT - 1983

We, the Auditing Committee, have audited the books and records of the Parish Council and its Organizations, and found all entries properly entered and substantiated.

We would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To facilitate the Auditing Committee's work it is recommended that expenses be paid by check wherever possible.
2. It would also be a help if organization elections of officers were on a calendar year rather than a fiscal year.

Ardis Kasparian
Artemis Nazarian
Dikris Malool

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 1983

BANK BALANCES AND OTHER BALANCES Jan. 1, 1983

Checking account	\$45,891.	
Savings account	2,939.	
A.C.E.F. "Diocese"	15,600.	
A.C.E.F. Adjustment	21,450.	
Trustees	100,000	
Total		\$185,880.

1983 Receipts 232,467.

1983 Disbursements 187,115.

Excess Cash after Disbursements 45,352.

Total Cash Dec. 31, 1983 \$231,232.

BANK BALANCES AND OTHER BALANCES Dec. 31, 1983

Checking account	\$ 4,017.
Savings account	3,107.
Repo	45,352.
Trustees	140,000.
A.C.E.F.	38,756.

Total Checking & Others
Dec. 31, 1983 \$231,232.

Note 1. The Bazaar Checking Account balance of \$16,144.63 at Dec. 31, 1982 and \$1088.85 at Dec. 31, 1983 are not included in the above Financial Summary.

Note 2. Approximately \$1400. receivable from One World Festival is not included in 1983 receipts.

Note 3. Due to a misunderstanding the A.C.E.F. beginning balance is overstated by \$6000. Certain donations were made directly to the Armenian Diocese earmarked for the St. Thomas Account.

Note 4. The Mortgage Balances are as follows:

	December 31, 1982	December 31, 1983
Church	\$47,796.72	\$ 27,921.17
Parsonage	9,393.33	8,149.85
	\$57,190.10	\$36,071.02

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY
BUDGET AND INCOME FOR THE YEARS 1982 & 1983
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1984

	ACTUAL 1983	BUDGET 1983	PROPOSED 1984	ACTUAL 1982	BUDGET 1982
<u>PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS</u>					
1. Pledge Receipts	\$ 40,174	\$ 39,200	\$ 40,200	\$ 36,968	\$ 36,000
2. Plates & Candles	6,691	7,200	7,000	6,778	9,000
3. Christmas Offering	1,260	1,200	1,300	1,150	1,500
4. Easter Offering	2,349	2,000	2,400	1,906	1,000
5. Prayers	572	600	600	510	300
<u>SACRAMENTS</u>					
1. Baptisms	2,025	1,900	2,100	1,765	1,500
2. Weddings	1,610	1,000	1,700	925	1,500
3. Funerals	565	500	500	525	500
4. Requiems	3,300	2,800	3,300	2,760	2,000
<u>AUXILARY ORGANIZATIONS</u>					
1. Women's Guild	8,500	10,000	9,000	7,000	10,000
2. Avak Society	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,500
3. ACYOA Jr.	200	800	500	750	1,000
4. Men's Club	12,500	10,800	13,000	10,500	11,000
<u>CHURCH AFFAIRS</u>					
1. Bazaar 1982-83	49,644	30,000	38,000	26,673	50,000
2. Memorial Day Picnic	2,746	4,000	3,000	470	6,000
3. Anniversary & Cake	4,070	3,600	4,100	3,401	5,000
4. Fall Rug Sale	21,000	25,000	21,000	23,500	-----
<u>DONATIONS</u>					
1. In Lieu Of Flowers	6,105	10,000	6,200	14,136	9,000
2. Altar Flowers	1,390	1,100	1,400	1,045	1,000
3. Memorial Fund	17,650	5,500	10,000	9,900	4,000
4. Holiday Flowers	320	-----	800	-----	-----
5. Christmas Greetings	1,616	1,300	1,700	1,275	1,500
6. Other Donations	2,170	1,100	2,200	1,080	2,000
7. ACEF	21,956	3,800	8,000	8,700	-----
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>					
1. Interest	2,841	1,000	3,000	4,134	-----
2. Interest - Trustees	9,000	9,000	13,000	10,000	7,000
3. Bookstore	1,691	2,000	2,000	1,947	1,500
4. One World Festival	577	500	1,400	-----	-----
5. Hall Donation	5,174	5,200	5,200	4,884	5,000
6. Loan Exchange	-----	-----	-----	16,661	-----
7. Miscellaneous	3,271	2,400	3,300	2,260	-----
	<u>\$ 232,467</u>	<u>\$ 185,000</u>	<u>\$ 207,400</u>	<u>\$ 203,003</u>	<u>\$ 168,800</u>

NOTE: The above figures are subject to change.

CASPAR M. KASPARIAN MEMORIAL FUND

The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarship assistance for the youth of the St. Thomas parish to attend religious study conferences, retreats, and other educational activities in the church.

During the summer, the Board of Directors awarded scholarship assistance to 17 young people, ages 12-20, to attend the St. Nersess Summer Study Programs at the Ouzoonian House in New Rochelle, N.Y. The participants received the opportunity to learn more about our church while also having the opportunity of meeting youngsters from other Armenian communities. A total of 59 youngsters have attended these programs during the past four years.

During the weekend of Oct. 16-18, we sponsored the 4th Annual Retreat for Junior High School age youngsters from our parish. It was held at the Ouzoonian House and attended by 12 youngsters. The theme of the weekend was, "And the greatest of these is love" from the letters of St. Paul, and was led by Deacon Michael Chevian who was assisted by Louise Kalemkerian, our Director of Religious Education. The retreat participants were: Peter Babigian, Donna Barsamian, Garry Hovsepian, Sarkis Jebejian, Annette Keosayian, Arpi Mekhjian, Ara Meyer, Adrian Krosnick, Elizabeth Papazian, Sloane Papazian, Thomas Papazian, and Diane Stoneson. The Fund contributed to the participation of each teenager, who learned also about the spirit of Christian love and service exemplified by Caspar Kasparian. Chaperones accompanying the group were Lillian Kasparian, Rose and George Mekenian, and Deacon Joseph and Louise Kalemkerian.

Board of Directors: Fr. Arnak Kasparian, President Ex-officio
 Joseph Kalemkerian, Chairman Lillian Kasparian, Secretary
 George Mekenian, Treasurer Zaven Dadekian, Advisor

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Income	Expenses	
Interests	\$ 902.29		
Donations (17)	1,886.21		
1983 St. Nersess Scholarships		\$ 550.00	
1983 Fall Retreat	-----	235.68	
	\$2,788.50	\$785.68	
Net Income (income less expenses)			\$2,002.82
Assets on Dec. 31, 1982			
Certificate of Deposit	10,000.00		
Checking Account	3,803.29		13,803.29
Assets on Dec. 31, 1983			
Certificate of Deposit	14,713.85		
Checking Account	1,093.26		15,807.11
Changes in Assets			
Principal Funds	116.61		
Operating Funds	1,886.12		\$ 2,002.82

BUILDING COMMITTEE - 1983

Chairman: Nazar Nazarian Trustee's Chman: Edward Bashian
CoChairman & Treas.: Vahan Najarian Parish Council Chmn: Peter Ajemian
Secretary: Michel Izmirly

Moses Kazanjian George Mekenian Dr. Haroutune Makhjian
Antranig Ouzounian Albert Victoria

Advisors: Rupen Saddler Richard Turnamian

Thirty regular meetings were held. Numerous technical and fund raising subcommittee meetings were held also.

New heating (hot water) systems were installed for the hall, all classrooms, kitchen and corridors. New railings have been installed on the steps to church from the drive. The railings to the hall entrance has been reconditioned.

At the Committee's request, George and Rose Mekenian drafted an eight page booklet describing the phases of the expansion and rehabilitation project, the estimate costs involved; and the three year pledge campaign to raise the necessary funds.

Two models were commissioned. Built by our architect A. Avakian, they will be used for parishioner information and for zoning variance review. One depicts a "Master Plan", while the second focuses on the existing buildings and current proposals.

Two pledge campaign receptions were held in the church hall. The first on June 17 was sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Haroutune Makhjian; while the second on November 11 was sponsored by the Committee. Many generous pledges were made on both occasions. The gracious ladies on the Arrangements Committee were Shake Makhjian, Chairlady; Ann Ajemian, Susan Avakian-Stoneson; Lillian Kasparian, Rose Mekenian, Mary Najarian, Artemis Nazarian, Vera Setrakian, and Shakae Shahinian.

The filling of documents with the Borough of Tenafly necessitated securing the services of a surveyor to prepare a topographic map of our property. This, together with a request for a variance, is to be filed during the second week in January 1984.

The Committee has examined several schemes to most suitably achieve the results desired by the Special Parish Assembly of September 26, 1982. In addition, it recognized that other minor improvements and some major as well as many minor works of rehabilitation should be undertaken. These are described in the booklet. The major add-on is to air-condition the church and hall. This is going to be difficult due to the desirability of protecting the elegance of our church and to avoid introducing noises. A proposal to amend the Committee's budget will be introduced at the Annual Assembly.

Although we had excellent service and advice from our Architect, A. Avakian, in October it was mutually felt desirable to secure the services of a new architect. Accordingly, proposals were invited from three architects and on December 11, E. Luders, the architect of our church, was selected.

The Committee expresses appreciation to all those who have assisted, cooperated and advanced our goals. Thanks, also, to the donors of an air-conditioning unit and painting of the new radiator covers. The pledge campaign has fifty pledges totaling \$304,475 of which \$90,625 had been fulfilled by year's end.

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
MEMORIAL DONORS - DECEMBER 31, 1983

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donors Name</u>	<u>Earmarked for</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jan. 2, 1983	Arthur & Anne Azarik	Pew	\$ 300.
Jan. 9	Andrew J. Tashjian	Pew	300.
Mar. 13	Peter & Ann Ajemian	Pew	900.
Mar. 20	Zaven & Elise Poosikian	Pew	300.
Mar. 20	Gregory & Mary Ann Saraydarian	Sound System	1,000.
Mar. 20	Richard & Martha Saraydarian	Sound System	1,000.
Apr. 3	E. Dinkjian (V.Kavazanjian)	Pew	500.
May 1	Arthur & Anne Azarik	Pew	300.
June 19	Rupen Saddler	Computer	7,000.
Oct. 30	Mrs. Leo Hagopian	Pew	500.
Nov. 27	Rupen Saddler	Liturgy Books	1,500.
Dec. 11	Henri & Yolanda Dimidjian	Youth Choir Organ	500.
Dec. 18	Mrs. Satenig Nahabedian	Side Altar	2,500.
Dec. 18	Fuhrman Memorial Fund	Grove Landscaping	800.
Dec. 18	Charles & Alice Shakarjian	Name Plaque	250.
Total			<u>\$17,650.</u>

The Memorial Committee is comprised of the following:
 Chairman: Edward Bashian Secretary: Michel Izmirly
 Members: Vahan Najarian, Peter Ajemian, Frank A. Stoneson

If you have any questions, kindly contact the Committee Members.

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
A.C.E.F. LISTING - DECEMBER 31, 1983

<u>Donor's Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Edward Bashian	\$ 2,000.
Haroutune Mekhjian	5,000.
Anoosh Kavazanjian Kassabian	1,035.
George Shahinian	20,486.
Martin Tashjian	6,285.
Arthur Otchy	1,200.
St. Thomas A.C.E.F.	2,750.
Total	<u>\$38,756.00</u>

The above names and the amount received from Victor Arzoomanian, Executive Director of A.C.E.F. Fund.

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH TRUSTEES - 1983

Chairman: Edward Bashian

Members: Haroutune Mekhjian, Vahan Najarian, Nazar Nazarian,
Rupen Saddler, Antranig Shahinian, Haig Tashjian

During 1983 the members of the Board of Trustees held two casual meetings. The following were present: Edward Bashian, Rupen Saddler, Haroutune Mekhjian, Nazar Nazarian, and Vahan Najarian.

Most of the communications with each other was by telephone if it was a simple matter to resolve.

The investments of the Fund was done by communication on the telephone with Board Members.

All the interest from the investment from the Fund was turned over to the Parish treasury as noted in receipts on the St. Thomas Financial Statement.

As of December 31, 1983, the principal amount of the Fund is \$140,000. with the accumulated interest. Upon maturity date interest will be turned over to the Parish treasury.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Bashian

ACYOA JUNIORS REPORT - 1983

Officers--Sept. 1983--June 1984

Chairman	Andrew Martaian	Secretary	Diane Stoneson
Vice Chmn.	Seta Keusy	Publicity	Andrew Martaian
Treasurer	Roger Tashjian	Phone Squad	Andrea Zoraiian

Our ACYOA has had a very productive year with the help of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Keosayian and Mr. and Mrs. Ara Martaian, our advisors. We would like to thank them for all their time and effort. We would also like to thank Der Hayr and our Parish Council Liaison, Douglas Tashjian, for their help and cooperation.

Thus far, our year has been highlighted by the success of: our Masquerade Halloween Dance, The Bazaar, our Annual Progressive Dinner, and our participation at the Christmas Eve Service. Our Halloween Dance was a social and financial success thanks to the support of St. Leon's, St. Mary's, Holy Martyrs, and St. Vartanants. Selling raffles at this year's Bazaar brought us a profit of over \$1,000. This is by far the largest amount of money ever earned by the ACYOA! A great job was done by all the members who helped.

Many thanks to the families of Annette Keosayian, Roger Tashjian, Greg Pekmezian, and Andrea Zoroian who hosted the different courses at this year's Progressive Dinner. We would also like to thank the parents who drove us to and from our many activities.

We have a lot of fun and educational activities planned for 1984. In January we are having a retreat at St. Nersess Seminary. In February we are having a ski trip and will be hosts for a "sports week-end" in New Jersey (for the first time). Our spring plans include a hockey and basketball game, a Broadway play, and a trip to Great Adventure.

I am very grateful to the members and their parents who have helped me with the activities held so far, and look forward to their continued participation in the future.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Checking Account:

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1983	\$498.47
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1983	141.98

Savings Account:

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1983	\$331.37
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1983	88.34

SENIOR ACYOA OF NORTHERN N.J. REPORT - 1983

Chairman	Lori Aslanian	St. Thomas Armenian Church
Vice Chmn.	Sosi Kirian	St. Leon's
Treasurer	Ronald Chakmakian	St. Thomas
Secretary	June Sarkissian	St. Mary's
	Barbara Sirabian	" "
Rec. Secy.	Richard Bohajian	Holy Cross
Membership	Alice Saraydarian	St. Thomas
	Lori Kalemkerian	St. Leon's
Executive Bd.	Lisa Saraydarian	St. Thomas
	Douglas Tashjian	" "

The Senior ACYOA has had a very successful year. We have firmly established ourselves in the Armenian community as a new group for young Armenian adults. Activities this year included monthly wine and cheese membership receptions at St. Leon's Hall, a weekend retreat at St. Nersess Seminary, a 2nd Annual June "Springfest" dance at St. Thomas Auditorium which attracted over 300 young adults, a picnic at Van Saun Park where over 80 attended, participation in the One World Festival and St. Thomas Christmas Bazaar, and we ended the year with our 2nd Annual New Year's Eve Party At St. Thomas at which over 350 attended.

Through these various functions we have been able to develop a sound financial base. This has enabled us to make donations to Armenian organizations. Donations this past year have been made to St. Thomas, St. Leons, Holy Cross, and St. Mary's Churches, as well as St. Nersess Seminary. Additionally, a donation was made to the Religious Education Department of the Diocese for the publication of the book "The Four Minor Orders of the Armenian Church."

We have added many new names to our membership list during the year and quite a few of these people have become involved with the group. Ultimately, we hope to get many of these people in executive board positions.

Future plans include a Third Annual June dance, picnic, and New Year's Eve Dance. Also, a weekend to St. Nersess Seminary is scheduled in October. We are looking forward to another busy and successful year.

At this time we would like to thank all at St. Thomas who helped us during the year. Special thanks go to Der Hayr and the Parish Council members. Also, special thanks to Mrs. Dikris Malool. You all have played an important part in the formation and continuation of the Senior ACYOA. We truly appreciate everything you have done for our group and it is our hope that the Senior ACYOA will grow bigger and better to serve the Armenian Church.

ARMENIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL REPORT - 1983

The Armenian Language School is a valuable part of our Church family. The School teaches its students the Armenian language, songs, dance, prayers, and general culture and conversation. Furthermore, it instills a lifelong pride and knowledge of their ethnic heritage. The School's success depends on the efforts of its Director, Sylva der Stepanian; its dedicated faculty; the Mothers' Committee; its Parish Council Liaison, Sam Demirjian; Der Hayr's spiritual guidance, and the parents who faithfully bring their children to class each week.

The Mothers' Committee holds Halloween, Christmas and Easter parties for the children each year. There is an annual Talent Show which highlights our students' musical and artistic attributes. The School sponsors an Annual Armenian Christmas Dinner and Program, a Hantes and graduation in June, a booth at the Church Bazaar, representation at the Diocesan Assembly, and various educational and cultural activities throughout the school year. An adult class is available, and special stress is placed on strengthening the Armenian conversational abilities of our students. A special attraction of the School is the Club, held weekly from 1-3:00 p.m. with lunch served and craft and game activities. A strong following of students and alumni participates. The School has established the George Shahinian Award for Perfect Attendance and the Edward Bashian Award for Achievement in Armenian History.

FACULTY

Supt: S. der Stepanian	Pre-K: S. Jebejian	K: Ani Nahabedian
1: Q. Tashjian	2: A. Mardirosian	3: M. Zokian
4: M. Hajakian	5: S. Artinian	6: Sonia Babayan
7: O. Jebejian	Convers. H. Mangassarian	Ten Alumni Aides
Dance: J. Shenloogian	Nursery: L. Samourjian	Sub.: S. Yavru

MOTHERS' COMMITTEE

Co-Chairladies: M. Babigian A. Capan Treas.: M.A. Saraydarian

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance from June 1983 \$2,074.39

<u>Income</u>		
Tuition (70 x \$75.)	\$5,250.00	
Donations	3,875.00	
Bazaar	750.00	
Armenian Christmas Dinner	(70.00)	
Hantes	180.00	
	-----	\$9,985.00

Expenses

Salaries (12 x \$20 x 33 wks)	\$7,920.00	
Textbooks (Diocese)	397.60	
Supplies + Cabinet	295.50	
Diocesan Assem. Trav. (2 teach)	640.00	
Holiday Parties	284.00	
Transportation (der Stepanian)	240.00	
Stained Glass Repair	100.00	
John Vartan - guest appearance	50.00	
Stereo cassette recorder + mike	380.00	
Letterhead + Logo	85.00	
Publicity	110.00	(10,502.10)

Estimated balance for June 1984 \$1,557.29

AVAK SOCIETY REPORT - 1983

Chairman: Nish Ohanesian Treasurer: Helen Avedisian
 Vice Chmn.: Anoosh Poosikian Asst. Treas.: Zephyr Bandazian
 Rec. Secy.: Anne Stepanian Advisors: Armen (Hemy) Tarzy,
 Corr. Secy.: Victoria Vezerian George Avedisian, Charlotte
 Thomajian

The Avak Society has now been in existence for 11 years. Our meetings are held every Thursday at the Church Hall. Refreshments are served and later there is tavloo, card playing, handcrafts, or just coming and enjoying the company of others. Many friendships have been made and they look forward to the meetings each week.

We also have trips and luncheons during the year, and are active in helping at Bazaar time making the choreg and donating it to the church, as well as other goodies.

Come and join our group; you will enjoy it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand Dec. 20, 1982		\$1,563.79
	Income	Expenses
Membership Dues	\$ 522.00	
Weekly Dues	2001.19	
Contributions	415.20	
Interest on Savings	65.89	
Profit Valentine Luncheon	37.81	
" Granit Hotel Trip	75.00	
" Atlantic City Trip	2.00	
" Mothers' & Fathers' Luncheon	91.00	
" Fallsvie Hotel Trip	176.00	
" Christmas Luncheon	212.13	
Cake Sale	<u>14.71</u>	3,612.93
Refreshments		\$1323.98
Supplies		15.01
Memorial Donations & Gifts		94.72
St. Thomas Church		1569.06
Custodian		<u>40.00</u>
		3042.77
Balance on hand Dec. 15, 1983		\$2,133.95

Provident Savings Bank	\$1297.07
Midlantic Bank (checking)	636.88
Deposit to Fallsvie Hotel for Oct. 1984 trip	200.00
	<u>\$2133.95</u>

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH CHOIR REPORT - 1983

Chairman: Mary Sanossian
 Corr. Secy.: Sonia Takoushian
 Treasurer: Archie Minassian
 Choirmaster: Edward Daghlian
 Organist: Susan Shamamian

Vice Chmn.: Dorothy Kehiayan
 Rec. Secy.: Roseanne Arzoomanian
 Advisors: Joseph Kalemkerian
 Rose Mekenian

Currently we have a total of 33 Choir members and we have all been encouraged by the attendance of our choir during Sunday Services, including our several new members.

On Theophany and Holy Thursday, a group of our Choir members helped celebrate the Diving Liturgy at the Armenian Home for the Aged. They were all happy to once again visit the Home and were rewarded by the joy and looks of appreciation of the Home residents which gave Choir participants much pleasure.

During last winter Choir members were fortunate to have some voice training sessions on an individual basis taught by Dorothy Otchy.

In the spring a Regional Choir Workshop was hosted by St. Mary Armenian Church of Livingston. Those from our Choir who attended were:
 Edward Daghlian Rose Mekenian Diane Nakashian
 Harry & Mary Sanossian Osanna Soukiassian Bertha Vaniskhian
 The workshop was both beneficial and enjoyable.

We regret that St. Thomas Choir was not represented this year at the annual convention of the Armenian Association of Church Choirs which was hosted by St. James Armenian Church in Evanston.

The Choir was pleased to participate in the Divine Liturgy outdoor services held this summer under the trees on our own Church lawn.

We are also delighted, in cooperation with the Sunday School, to have the students in the Sunday School classes, grades six and up, participate in choir singing periodically on Sundays on a rotating schedule.

St. Thomas Armenian Church Choir is planning meetings to discuss the possibility of a special musical event which suggestion will be submitted to the Parish Council for approval prior to any active work.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1983		\$558.67
	Income	Expenses
Plate Collections	\$ 338.50	
Tamburitzans Performance	133.50	\$ 123.50
Donations to Armenian Church		
Choir Association		226.85
Choir Books		80.00
Postage		10.00
	<u>\$472.00</u>	<u>\$440.35</u>
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1983		\$590.32

ST. THOMAS MEN'S CLUB REPORT - 1983

Chairman: Paul Kahaumjian
 Rec. Secy.: Gerald Keosayian
 Treasurer: Jack Ekizian

Vice Chmn.: Krikor Khorozyan
 Corr. Secy.: Arman Ajamian

Our Men's Club, which was reorganized in 1978, has continued to grow with encouraging turnouts and more active participation by our members. Since our new concept, supper is enjoyed at our meetings, prepared by different members. We have enjoyed traditional Armenian dishes, as well as Italian, Chinese, and American.

This past year we had another successful week-end trip to the Catskills where we enjoyed each other's comradeship; we also had a trip to Atlantic City. After meetings we presented programs by lawyers, engineers, and accountants.

This year, as in the past, we paid our Junior Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams' entry fees and purchased uniforms. We prepared and served "Thank You Dinners" for the Parish Council, Choir, and School Teachers.

Our Club provided the chairpersons for St. Thomas Annual Memorial Day Picnic and Bazaar. We initiated a joint venture of several parishes cooperating on a single social affair. We finished our year with another joyous Christmas Party.

With the advent of 1984 and our new Executive Officers, we are looking forward to serve St. Thomas Armenian Church and fulfill our Armenian Community's spiritual needs.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1983			\$1,634.37
	Income	Expenses	
Membership Dues	\$ 310.00		
Dinner Meetings	625.00	\$ 477.00	
Atlantic City Trip	570.00	384.00	
Berg.Cnty. Park Comm.	80.00	60.00	
Halloween Party	526.00	770.00	
Christmas Party	2,501.00	2,774.80	
Postage		87.00	
Sun. Schl. Breakfast		50.00	
St. Thomas Sport Activities		579.94	
Picnic with St. Leon's		35.00	
	4,612.00	5,217.74	
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1983			\$1,028.63

CAR RAFFLE

Sale of tickets	\$30,000.00	
Interest	157.84	
Purchase of car		17,500.00
License plates		50.00
Printing of tickets		60.00
License for raffle		185.00
Turned over to St. Thomas		12,000.00
Amount in bank		362.84
	\$30,157.84	\$30,157.84

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT - 1983

Executive Board

Officers - (Elected)	Treasurer:	Sonia Takoushian
Chairman: Rose Mekenian	Asst. Treas.: Shakae Shahinian	
Vice Chmn.: Alyce Parseghian	Advisors: Yer. Violet Kasparian	
Rec. Secy.: Mary Ann Saraydarian	Queenie Tashjian	
Corr. Secy.: Joanne Torigian	Anna Zakar	

Standing Committee Chairmen - (Appointed)

Bridge: Hermine Ajemian	Publicity: Ellen Kenderian
C.W.U. Louise Kalemkerian	Soc. Serv.: Dorothy Otchy
Devotionals: Ann Markarian	Queenie Tashjian
Emerson Home: Violet Ouzoonian	Sun. Coffee: Adele Jibilian
Historian: Dikris Malool	Margaret Minassian
Hospitality: Alicia Demirjian	Sunshine & Visitations: Celia Martaian
Virginia Parseghian	Telephone: Margaret Varbedian
Membership: Sona Doudoukjian	Ways & Means: Lillian Kasparian
Program: Alyce Parseghian	

Eight regular monthly meetings were held during the year, generally on the third Tuesday of the month. The Executive Board convened as needed. Some of the programs following meetings were Fr. Arnak on Lent; Dr. Ann Burns on Parenting; Tenafly Japanese women with their music and costumes; Louise Kalemkerian on the WCC Assembly; & Peter Balakian on his poetry.

Other activities and programs for the year included:

Joint Dinner/Mtg. with Men's Club	Salad Supper
Sunday Soup & Sandwich & Slides	6th Annual Blood Donor Day
on Trip to Armenia-A.Parseghian	Bus Trip to historic mansions
Fish & Chips Dinner	in Hudson River Valley
26th Annual Cotillion	Membership Tea (Silver Anniv.)
Tennis Party	Leslie Ayvazian in "Footlights"
Bus Trip to Met. Museum of Art	Christmas Luncheon
"Art Treasures of the Vatican"	Holiday Dried Fruit & Nut Sale
Aerobics Classes	

Our members participated in Church Women United activities during the year and in March were hosts for the CWU World Day of Prayer. We also took part in Women Saints Day at St. Vartan Cathedral. Two lovely tables of refreshments were prepared and served to the residents of the Emerson Home following services on Holy Thursday and on Armenian Christmas. Our members also take an active role in providing "birthday" celebrations for the residents of the Home. The Guild donated food to the Center for Food Action in Northern N.J.

We fulfilled our 1983 pledge of \$8500 to St. Thomas Armenian Church and, once again, supported a student at the St. Tarkmanchatz School in Jerusalem. Refreshments were provided for the Sunday School and Armenian School students at Halloween. Our members regularly lend their efforts in many ways to the success of the Church Bazaar and Picnic. A group of our ladies prepared and served meals during a two-day special meeting of clergy at St. Thomas to discuss the Jerusalem situation. We also assisted in serving soup and sandwiches after the Armenian Christmas Eve Services and coffee during the fellowship hour after services on Sundays.

Our delegates to the Diocesan Guild Conference in May in Illinois were Yer. Violet Kasparian and Louise Kalemkerian.

We currently have 144 members, 136 of whom have paid their dues through 1983.

The present Executive Board will be in office through June, 1984. We appreciate the cooperation and support of our members and friends in our efforts to perpetuate the Guild traditions of fellowship and service.

WOMEN'S GUILD TREASURER'S REPORT - 1983

Balance on Hand, January 1, 1983

\$3225.13

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Net</u>
Cotillion	\$32,585.00	\$ 22,425.71	\$10,159.29
Balance in Cotillion Check Book		309.29	
1982 Cotillion Booklet	650.00		
Cotillion - 1984 Deposit		800.00	
Tennis Party	1,074.00	700.00	374.00
Tennis Party - 1984 Deposit		100.00	
Fish & Chips Dinner	872.75	509.35	363.40
Museum Bus Trip-Vatican Display	470.00	416.50	53.50
Dues/Membership	1,440.00	182.19	
Lili Chookasian Concert	243.00	165.00	78.00
"Slides of Armenia" Lunch	222.00	93.04	128.96
Refund Alpine Country Club	200.00		
Women's Saints Day Lunch	179.00	186.00	
Bridge Club	250.00		
St. Thomas Armenian Xmas Eve	79.00	84.93	
CWU-World Day of Prayer	16.00	57.96	
Dinner with Men's Club	35.00		
Balance paid on Kitchen Equipment		723.12	
Emerson Home Visitations	41.65	132.14	
Delegate's Convention Expense 2 at \$100.		200.00	
Refreshments	3.00	89.86	
Halloween-Church Children		86.27	
Sunday Coffee		36.91	
Postage		157.66	
Church Women United Dues		50.00	
Gift Chairlady		75.00	
Publicity		12.84	
St. Thomas 1983 Pledge		8,500.00	
Donations	110.00		
Christmas Gift Garo Arakelian		50.00	
In lieu of Flowers - H. Bedrosian		25.00	
Miscellaneous	109.20	104.32	
Interest Income	312.38		
October Bus Trip	1,034.00	940.97	93.03
Balakian Lecture	218.20	204.53	13.67
Footlights (Leslie Ayvazian)	1,404.00	765.25	638.75
Xmas Luncheon	2,448.00	2,143.20	304.80
Nuts/Fruits	<u>3,137.50</u>	<u>2,423.66</u>	713.84
	\$47,133.68	42,750.70	

4382.98

\$7608.11

Balance on Hand December 31, 1983

(Checking - \$2842.21, Insured MM - \$4,765.90)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - 1983

A. Church School

The Church School began its academic year on Sept. 11 with an enrollment of approximately 105 students, divided into eleven classes. Classes are held from 10:30 to noon, concurrently with the Divine Liturgy. The students' courses of study are prescribed by the Diocese, and include the Faith, doctrine and teachings of the Armenian Church, Biblical history, Armenian Church history, and Christian living. Regular church attendance and reception of the Sacraments is at the center of the Church School program.

One of the goals of the Church School is to help the young people of the school develop into worshipping members of the Armenian Church. To further this end, a regular music program was incorporated into the Sunday morning schedule, to help in the learning of music from the Divine Liturgy. This is under the direction of Mrs. Anita Keurajian Gebhardt, a graduate of the Church School. Students of the eighth, ninth, and tenth grades read the Scripture lessons during the Christmas Eve and Easter Eve services. A special Choir Participation program was begun in the fall for grades 6-9 to also aid their understanding of and participation in the worship of the Church.

The Junior Choir continued to grow in 1983, under the direction of its devoted choirmistress, Mrs. Lillian Kasparian. These youngsters, aged 6-10, meet weekly for rehearsal to learn the hymns of the Divine Liturgy and other services of the Church. They sang in the church services several times during the year, but their greatest achievement was singing the entire Divine Liturgy, which they did on Armenian Christmas Eve (Jan. 5), and also at the Emerson Home in late January.

The newsletter DAY BY DAY continued to serve as a means of helping families learn and grow together in their Faith.

Also initiated in 1983 was the one year in-service program for all students, prior to graduation. The 11th grade students, having finished their classroom work and requirements for graduation, began serving as assistant teachers and altar servers-in-training. They will receive their Diocesan diplomas in June 1984.

The Church School is blessed with dedicated teachers who try to provide our children with a firm Christian foundation, especially by their own example. Their devotion deserves the thanks and gratitude of the entire St. Thomas family. The staff meets periodically for meetings and teacher education, to help them increase their own knowledge about the Church and provide suggestions for more effective teaching. They attended a Workshop at St. Mary's Church in Livingston in October, sponsored by the Diocesan Dept. of Religious Education.

As in previous years, the students bought gifts and foodstuffs for needy families at Christmas. This project is coordinated through the Bergen County Division of Youth and Family Service. Food was also collected at Thanksgiving time for the Center for Food Action.

in Englewood. The children raised \$56.00 for UNICEF at Halloween.

The program to train youngsters to serve as acolytes during the Divine Liturgy was continued. At present, 6 boys and 3 girls in grades 6-9 are serving on a regular rotation.

Annual events of the Church School include Armenian Christmas Eve supper, Christmas and Easter Communion, Christmas program and luncheon, Pancake Brunch, Paregantian party and closing day picnic. The Parents Committee ably coordinated these activities. We are thankful for the cooperation of the entire parish family which ensures the success of these events.

B. Adult Education

The Bible Study group continued to meet on a weekly basis. Most recently they completed study of the Epistle of James. The group explores and studies our Christian Faith as it finds expression in the Armenian Church based upon the Holy Scriptures.

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF

Director of Religious Education	Louise Kalemkerian
Nursery	Sara Malajian & Rosemary Armoudian
Kindergarten	Suzanne Ekizian, Alin Papazian, & Andrew Martaian
1st grade	Adrienne Tenbekjian
2nd "	Beverly Hajinlian & Ellen Kenderian
3rd "	Marilou Pinajian
4th "	Thomas Merjanian
5th "	Gregory Tenbekjian
6th & 7th	Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian
8th grade	Sona Damergy & June Kashishian
9th "	Stephen Jarahian
10th "	Paul Murad
Secy/Treas.	Jeanette Ekizian
Parents' Committee	Sandra Alpino & Agnes Derderian

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1983			\$656.59
	Income	Expense	
Offerings	\$510.25		
Lenten Offerings	165.93		
Lenten Donations		\$175.00	
Communion Breakfast	51.00	85.44	
UNICEF Trick or Treat	56.00	56.00	
Pancake Breakfast	176.50		
Plant & Vegetable sale	190.00		
Paregantian Party		185.14	
Sunday School Picnic		159.70	
Movie (students with 100% attend.)		120.00	
Misc. food		112.29	
Books, supplies, postage, misc.		372.79	
	<u>1,149.68</u>	<u>1,266.36</u>	
Balance on hand, Dec. 31, 1983			\$539.91

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING PROGRAM

The Altar Server Training Program is now in its third year. During 1983 seven young men served at the altar. Gregory Doudoukjian, Henry Hagopian, Thomas Kasparian, and Stephen Mekenian assisted during the Divine Liturgy as censors, while Andrew Martaian, David Kasparian, and Richard Stoneson performed other duties.

On Palm Sunday, His Grace Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan conferred the first four minor orders of the Armenian Church upon Gregory Doudoukjian, Henry Hagopian, David Kasparian, Stephen Mekenian, and Richard Stoneson. Gregory, Henry and Thomas were granted the right to wear the stole (ourar). In June, Andrew Martaian also received the first four minor orders.

Three of our young men, Gregory, Henry and Stephen have been chanting many of the litanies and Psalms. We hope to continue this program this year.

We are looking forward to adding new members to the group in 1984 to assist our Parish in this most important function.

Deacon Joseph Kalemkerian