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ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
WASHINGTON, D. C.

REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
1972

On behalf of your Parish Council I would like to welcome you, my fellow parishioners of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church of Washington, D. C. to our year-end business gathering.

As is well known to us all the Parish Assembly, composed of pledged-members of our Church, holds this meeting once a year to see just what the various church and parish bodies have been doing throughout the year and, on the basis of accomplishments and failures, to direct newly-elected units along the guidelines to be laid out for the new year. In other words, this is a day of accounting. Briefly, we the servants are here to report to you, the masters.

Ordinarily, your Parish Council held bi-weekly meetings totaling 23 and, pending the receipt of the Diocesan confirmation of newly-elected members, the present Council may have to hold say 3 more meetings.

You have in your hands something like a dozen reports to pore over and I see no point in rendering a detailed statement covering all the operations that the Parish Council conducted or supervised during 1972, although we would be only too glad to elaborate on any one particular phase of such activities that you might care to dwell upon.

It would, however, be useful to cast a bird's eye view of some of the noteworthy happenings and affairs.

- Two summer picnics, the first on June 11 observing Father's Day and the second on August 13 celebrating Soorp Asdvadzadzin highlighted by the blessing of the grapes.

- Sponsored one ACYO member, the only one interested, to attend the summer studies program at Elberon, New Jersey.

Under S^r Mkis Satian's guidance the ACYO twice and profitably ventured a chicken BBQ on the Church grounds, and I am pleased to report that in appreciation of such big brotherly attention they went ahead on their own to paint the pastor's office.

- The cockroach and rat extermination project was successfully conducted and concluded. Dr. Essefian bears all the blame for the fumigation and massacre of the roach population that so far had enjoyed our warm hospitality.

- On August 9 the Parish Assembly held a special meeting to consider the findings of the Site Committee. The proposed purchase of land was turned down.

- Together with the Holy Cross parish and the Greek Orthodox community our own Church paid tribute to Marjorie Housepian with a testimonial dinner.

- Following an interval of several months the SHNORHALL bulletin began to be published again under the able editorship of Dr. Srpouhie Essefian. This journal can be favorably compared with any similar publication put out by most other parishes.

- Vandalism struck our Church when twice its stained glass windows were broken. The repair cost was fully covered by our insurance policy.

- For the first time in the history of our Church an inspection was conducted on the premises by D. C. officials whose report ~~report~~ requires us to undertake certain repairs and safety precautions as you will notice. The three stairwells and wash-rooms are undergoing a somewhat slow but thorough remodelling. Jack Hananian deserves praise for the tough and dangerous job which he voluntarily braved. We also want to thank Casp^r Kasparian who repaired the roof over the door of the hall.

- The annual bazaar is characterized by four days of toil and sweat preceded by many more days of preparations. The Women's Guild deserves every praise and, let's face it, as I am often fond of saying, St. Mary's marches on the shoulders of her ladies.

- The Diocesan assessment amounted to a total of \$2,200.00 for 1972. The new assessment just received consists of \$1,932.00 provided we fulfill our share of commitments in recruiting an adequate number of St. Vartan Stewards.

The Women's Guild again made a triumphant hit by introducing into our social calendar a New Year's Eve Dance. Its tumultuous success fully justifies its continuation.

The chairman of our Building Fund Committee, Dr. Ed Onanian was telling me the other day that we now have enough savings in that fund to burn our Church mortgage. This good news is especially welcome in this the tenth anniversary of our Church.

In concluding, I would like to say a few words of deep appreciation for my fellow members of the Parish Council. It was indeed a most rewarding experience for me to be associated with such dedicated people who so gallantly placed their top efficiency and expertise at the disposal of their Church and community whenever called upon.

May I also express my gratitude to the Parish Assembly for entrusting to us the operation of our Church business for a whole year. Truly, it was my privilege to be working with such a wonderful team of trustees including, for the first time, two ladies. Dr. Srpouhie Essefian, our Vice Chairman, voluntarily devoted her time and efforts in organizing the Pastor's office and reshaping the files and has almost always been available here at Church meticulously supervising one operation or other.

Miss Ann Kavookian, our very able Secretary, has been recording the minutes in shorthand, with a copy of the finally typed-out record given to each member. Here in this handsome folder are filed the recordings of all our meetings together with Diocesan communications. I doubt if any other church is as lucky as we are in this respect.

Our Treasurer, Mr. Vaughn Sayian, is a real pro, with long years of experience with the IRS. He was lucky to enjoy the capable assistance of Dr. Albert Manian.

Robert George, a newcomer to our parish, is a perfect example of devotion and readiness to give a helping hand whenever called upon. His business connections have saved our Church many a dollar in the purchase of raffle prizes and other supplies.

Jack Hananian and Sarkis Satian have been very useful together with Jack Andonian as members of our Maintenance Committee.

Did we have a parliamentarian? We sure did in the person of Levon Garabedian in charge of leasing the Church hall. He has distinguished himself with a ready answer to many a puzzling question.

We wish the incoming Parish Council smooth sailing in the course of 1973.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Abraham Bodurian
Chairman, Parish Council