

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church
Haverhill, Massachusetts

1996 Parish Council Report

Parish Council Members:

President: Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian
Chairman: Albert Movsesian
Vice-Chairman: James Derderian
Secretary: Anne Drouin
Treasurer: Cynthia Kasparian
Asst. Treasurer: Harry Kasparian
Advisors: Stephen Arthur
Sevan Demirdogen
Louis Nicolosi
Virginia Tavitian

Diocesan Delegate:

Paul S. Tavitian

1996 was an exciting and challenging year for the members of our church. We made every effort to develop a variety of activities that would stimulate a greater participation of our members.

The Annual Parish Assembly was held on January 28th when several important matters were settled and 5 parish council members were elected bringing the total from seven to nine as decided by the vote of the 1995 Parish Assembly.

During the Lenten period, Friday night dinners were served by the various church organizations, followed by a brief Lenten worship service lead by Der Sahag, and concluded with a lecture on a different subject each week. The programs proved to be interesting and informative.

On April 4th, copies of a letter to Archbishop Khajag Barsamian were received from four Parish Council members informing him that they had resigned effective on that date. A special Parish Assembly was held on Sunday, April 28th to fill the vacancies of the resigned members. Starting in early May, the newly elected Parish Council members assumed their responsibilities to administer the necessary function of our church.

There were 20 Parish Council meetings held throughout the year. Each meeting was well attended and there was active participation by all members.

The Steeple Project was put on hold for most of the year particularly because of financial constraints. Temporary repairs were made on the tin roof within the steeple. A full and detailed plan will be presented at the assembly.

Our annual picnic was held in June on the church grounds. The weather was pleasant, the capacity crowd enjoyed the day, and the event was both socially and financially successful.

Also in June, the second section of the front doors of the church was repaired and installed. The benefactors paid for all repairs and also established a special memorial fund to ensure the proper maintenance of the doors.

Most of the summer months were devoted to stabilizing our financial status and maintaining the necessary physical activities of the church. Much has been accomplished to secure the physical life of the church proper, but we have an old structure that needs constant attention.

Throughout the summer months our Auction Committee worked diligently to prepare for our first-ever Auction, which was held on Saturday, October 3rd. The combined work and effort of so many members helped make it a successful event raising a fairly substantial purse, thanks to the well-organized and hard working members of the committee. A second auction this fall promises to be even bigger and better.

The members of the Parish Council held several Saturday night dinners coupled with a program creating a great deal of activity in the church and raising a modest amount of revenue.

A special Parish Assembly was held on September 29th which we called an "informational forum" to inform everyone of all that has taken place during the last four months.


Twenty new vinyl replacement windows were donated for the Parish House and installed in October. The windows will improve the energy efficiency of the house as well as enhance its appearance. We also gratefully received two generous donations - a large screen television and a commercial-style dough mixer.

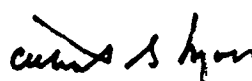
The two-day Harvest Festival held in November created a great deal of excitement and activity and generated much needed income for the Church. In fact, the Saturday night dinner was so successful nobody wanted to leave.

On our 51st Anniversary Celebration, we were fortunate to have as our guest celebrant and banquet speaker, His Eminence Archbishop Kude Nakashian - Primate of Paris and the Pontifical Legate of Western Europe.

Overall, we had a fairly successful year, generating a greater interest and activity for our members. We certainly have many challenges ahead for all of us - we have made some progress but we recognize that there is much to be done. We are certain that we can implement the necessary programs to advance the mission of our church.

Respectfully,


Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian
Pastor


Albert S. Movsesian
Chairman


Ann Drouin
Secretary

