

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

1981 ANNUAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 14, 1982

SUPPLEMENT



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ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
Rev. Patee Metjian, Pastor

February 9, 1982

Dear Parishioners:

"He who cherishes a beautiful vision, will one day realize."
"Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream, so shall you become."

These thoughts were expressed on Sunday, November 15, during the Dedication of St. Leon Community Center. Who would ever think that our community had the resources to build such a beautiful edifice. Who knows what other accomplishments are in store for us. We have every reason to be proud of it and look forward to the future of our church and community.

Our parish continued carrying out the spiritual, cultural, educational, and various social activities during the year. In every aspect of our parish life we have experienced added enthusiasm and participation, all known to you. One can sense a renewed vitality in the life of our parish.

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated every Sunday in a fitting and orderly manner. George Paroonagian, Director of the Choir, Sirvart Galstian, organist and the choir members must be thanked for their loyal service during the year. Our appreciation to the Deacons, Sub-Deacons, Incensors, and the Acolytes. They served on the altar with zeal and dedication.

I am happy to report that our Sunday and Armenian Schools are functioning very well. Our thanks to Barbara Hovsepian, Superintendent of Sunday Church School in doing an admirable job in planning, organizing, and supervising the teaching staff and assistants. We have close to 100 registered students in our Sunday School. Mrs. Hermine Menakian, School Principal, and Rose Najarian, Board Chairman of the Armenian School are doing a wonderful job in keeping our culture alive. I am happy to report that we have close to 70 enrolled youngsters attending. Our thanks to the teachers and the committee for their diligence and dedication.

The new Educational Wing, with classroom facilities, has truly enhanced learning among the students. Youngsters can now enjoy the privacy with less distraction. Now the challenge lies ahead---to prepare a generation that will assimilate our spiritual and cultural knowledge into their life-style.

As part of my pastoral callings, I visit Valley Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital on a regular basis. When informed of emergencies, I have made special visits. I have also maintained regular visits to the homes of our parishioners year round, but especially during the Christmas and Easter seasons. I have made close to 70 visits within the course of the year.

The following sacraments are recorded in our Parish Registry:
Baptisms-10 Weddings-15 Funerals-9

On Wednesdays, I provided transportation for the Seniors and on Sunday, when needed, Alfred Ferraro and Jim Soojian provided transportation. Our appreciation to both of them. As of February 1, 1982, the Van registered 31,500 safe miles.

I have kept regular office hours carrying out administrative duties of the office and the parish. Our church secretary, Alice Yazmajian, assisted me in my correspondence, in the preparation of Lradoo, Sunday Bulletin and news releases. She also helps the parish in bookkeeping and other secretarial duties, when called upon. I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to her.

Church organizations continue to be an integral part of our parish life by serving a variety of purposes and needs. They truly promote the best interests of our parish in every way. To the chairman of each organization, their committees and members, I extend my appreciation.

Of particular interest are the youths of the parish. They too are active through various social, religious and fund-raising activities. In the absence of adult advisors, the ACYOA, Jrs. seem to be traveling on their own steam. I sincerely regret that no adult couple has volunteered to act as advisors. I hope the situation can be remedied this year.

In planning for 1982 and beyond, it is necessary to look further into the future and see what challenges lie ahead. Here is a summary of future expectations:

(a) With the completion of the Community Center we have to endeavor to reduce the mortgage indebtedness and address ourselves to utilize the Community Center to the fullest potential. We will take steps to form a Fine Arts Committee to provide musicals, and cultural and noteworthy events.

(b) I am sure we are all excited about the remodeling that is going on and the intended usage of the second floor of the Community Center. Our youth will have a place to gather and socialize. We hope to organize "St. Leon Pioneers" for boys and girls, ages 8-13, with clear aims for future organizations. In other words it will be a stepping stone for the ACYOA, Jrs. We are hoping that the ACYOA, Srs. will be organized on a regional basis, whereby 18 years and older will be a part of our group.

(c) In the years ahead we must continue to focus our attention on our youth in the educational, social, and most importantly their religious aspects. Such activities include: Retreats, Vacation Bible School, Sports and church involvements. It was this concern that led me to start the St. Vartan ACYOA Camp. I am happy to report that it has become a viable institution for our youth. I wish to express my appreciation to the Parish Council for allowing me to get involved.

(d) The most important issue facing the church is the question of spiritual maturity. This should be the goal of all Christians. As members grow so must their sense of duty, discipline, and the ability to integrate the Word of God into life experiences. All should desire to be like Jesus Christ, our leader, to be conformed to His image, to reach the measure of His fullness. (Eph. 4:13b).

(e) We, the members of St. Leon, will be privileged to observe the Church's 50th Golden Anniversary--a record to be proud of. We hope to use this occasion to give ourselves a lift. Let us begin to dream of bigger things and attract wonderful people to help us fulfill these dreams. When a Christian begins to dream big they are actually beginning to think the way God intended them to think.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Sarkis Saultanian, Chairman of the Parish Council, for his able leadership and to the members of the Parish Council for their advice and consent.

I also would like to thank Zaven Dadekian, Chairman of the Building Committee, and to all the numerous committees who worked so hard and diligently towards the completion of the Community Center. My personal thanks to Sarkis Gabrellian, who spent many many hours overseeing the construction. I would be amiss if I didn't thank many unsung heroes that do so much for our church and the Diocese.

Yerezgin Angel, my children and I, truly love what St. Leon stands for. We believe that it is the best place in the world to raise children and we look forward to many years of happy relationships. We are like one big happy family and a family that prays together.

"In everything you do, put God first and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success." (pro. 3:6).

Yours in Christ's Service,

Rev. Parea Metjian

Rev. Parea Metjian

VAHRAM VARJABEDIAN
526 ACKERMAN AVENUE
GLEN ROCK, N.J. 07452

201: 447-1992

January 20, 1982

Mr. Sarkis Soultanian
Chairman, Parish Council
St. Leon Armenian Church
Fair Lawn, New Jersey

Dear Sarkis:

The members of the Auditing Committee, Sarkis Gabrellian, Lack Loughhead and Vahram Varjabedian, met several times in December, 1981 and January of this year to examine the financial reports and statements of the Parish Council and the various Church Organizations.

Reports were submitted by the Parish Council, the Women's Guild, the Armenian School, the Sunday School, the St. Leon Choir, the ACYOA Juniors, the St. Leon's Men's Club and the St. Leon Senior Center.

Our examination showed that the reports submitted reflect accurately, with some minor modifications, the financial condition of the Parish Council and the Church Organizations.

The financial report and statements of the Building Committee were independently audited by Jacques Tossounian, Parish Council Treasurer, and were approved as being accurate.

Sincerely yours,



Vahram Varjabedian
Chairman
Auditing Committee

SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATIONAL FUNDS

ON HAND AS OF DECEMBER 1981

PARISH COUNCIL (CHECKING ACCOUNT).....	\$11,889.71
PARISH COUNCIL (SAVINGS ACCOUNT).....	6,406.12
PARISH COUNCIL (MONEY MARKET ASSETS).....	6,186.98
ST. LEON BUILDING COMMITTEE.....	21,914.39
WOMEN'S GUILD.....	4,270.29
SENIOR CENTER.....	1,012.20
ST. LEON CHOIR.....	169.81
ST. LEON ARMENIAN SCHOOL.....	2,769.91
ST. LEON SUNDAY SCHOOL.....	292.43
ACYOA, JRS.....	2,034.52
MEN'S CLUB.....	196.44
SPORTS ASSOCIATION.....	346.94

WOMEN'S GUILD
ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1981

Executive Board Members:

Chairman:	Olga Chongoushian
Vice-Chairman:	Seta Boudoughian
Treasurer:	Anne Marootian
Assistant Treasurer:	Lucy Chagachbanian
Recording Secretary:	Florence Gulkasian
Corresponding Secretary:	Dorothy Karamian
Advisor:	Edna Tungrian

Total Membership:	95
Executive Board Meetings:	11
General Meetings:	10

Main Activities:

St. Leon's Name Day-Reception and Buffet for Primate and visiting Clergy.
Lenten Luncheon
Annual Fish 'n' Chips Dinner
Rummage Sale
Sunday School Communion Breakfast
Mother's and Father's Day Luncheon for Senior Citizens
Picnic, Blessing of the Grapes and Bazaar food preparation.
One World Festival
Pancake Breakfast
Religious and Cultural programs with guest speakers.
Sunday Coffee Hospitality

Future Plans for 1982:

Pancake Breakfast	Fashion Show
Lenten Luncheon	Holiday Dance (possibly)
Dinner and Play	One World Festival
Calendar Party Dinner	Bergen Mall Festival
Religious Retreat	Fish 'n' Chips Dinner
Pacha Party	

Form a Membership Committee to encourage membership of the women of our Parish.

Financial Report:

Savings Account	\$2120.16	
Checking Account	6159.34	
Special	<u>180.86</u>	
	\$8460.36	
Total Receipts	\$8460.36	
Less Special Account	<u>180.86</u>	
	\$8279.50	
Less Disbursements	<u>-6813.48</u>	
Net Profit	\$1466.02	
80% Parish Council		\$1172.80
20% Special Account		293.20

Respectfully submitted,
Olga Chongoushian
Olga Chongoushian
Chairman

ARMENIAN SCHOOL
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1981

REPORT

BOARD MEMBERS:

Rose Najarian- Chairman	Gloria Zoraian-Corresp. Sec'y.
Evelyn Kalpagian-Chairman	Barbara Boghosian-Publicity
Varsen Torosian-Co Chairman	Anna Malkasian-Hospitality
Marie Dellakian- Treasurer	Zabel Kaprelian-Properties
Marion Bandazian-Recording Sec'y.	

ACTIVITIES:

Halloween Party, Christmas Party, Annual Valentine Dance, Vartanantz and St. Leon Name Day Celebration, Communion Breakfast and Egg Contest, Closing Hantes, Picnic and Outing.

In addition, at the end of each month our Ararat Banner will be awarded to the class that has a 70% or better attendance for the month. The class with the best attendance for the year will go on a special class trip. At year end, if the school has maintained 70% attendance, we will take the children on a special trip. Students birthdays are also celebrated at the end of each month and refreshments are served.

Also, twice a year recognition will be given to the pupils from each class that have most improved, best scholar and best attendance. Their names will be posted on an Honor Roll Bulletin in the Educational Center. Also, the best over-all class will be taken to an Ice Cream Parlor as a treat.

This year we will expand our family tree project by adding an oral history questionnaire that will be given to each student with a tape to interview a family member.

Three awards will be given at the end of the school year:

1. Beshlian Award- for outstanding student in scholastic achievement. Ages 9-14.
2. Two-Jon J. Najarian Awards- to the student exhibiting the greatest Armenian spirit. Ages 3-8 and 9-14.

Beginning mid-January, 1982, there will be two adult classes in session--beginner and advanced beginner. Emphasis will be placed on conversational Armenian.

Checking Account Balance(12/30/80)	\$1,598.29
Savings Account Balance(12/30/80)	860.46
Receipts for 1981	9,911.54
Total	12,370.29
Disbursements for 1981	9,600.38
Balance	2,769.91

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria A. Zoraian

SENIOR CENTER

REPORT

We have about fifty-five members on our list, but our attendance has hardly exceeded 25 to 30. One of our major difficulties is transportation. Although our Der Hayr Paree has very gallantly helped in this area, even in bad weather, several members cannot easily be reached. We are a small community, but widely scattered one.

Our activities have been tavloo, cards, occasional bingo or sing-song, etc. There has been plenty of chit-chat, one very pleasant trip to Asbury Park and two slide shows. It is good to report that our December 13th luncheon proved to be a great success and improved our financial position. My deepest gratitude to all members and others who unselfishly but very effectively contributed to the success of the occasion. Elected officers were installed.

All Armenians 55 or over are cordially invited to join our organization. For weekly gatherings, to cover coffee and cake expenses, fifty cent is charged. Annual membership dues \$3.00.

Happy to state that we could afford to donate \$75.00 to Tarkmanschatz School in Jerusalem; and \$400.00 to St. Leon Church.

We were greatly saddened to lose several of our members during 1981 and our deepest sympathies go to the families and friends of those loved ones.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Checking Account Balance 12/15/80.....	\$ 75.55
Savings Account Balance 12/15/80.....	515.36
Cash on Hand.....	19.00
Receipts for 1981.....	<u>1,397.27</u>
Total.....	2,007.18
Disbursements for 1981.....	<u>994.98</u>
Balance	1,012.20

Very Sincerely and Respectfully,

H. Boyadjian, Chairman

CHOIR

Savings Account Balance(12/15/81).....	\$125.41
Receipts(12/15/81).....	<u>544.46</u>
Total.....	\$669.87
Disbursements.....	<u>500.06</u>
Balance.....	169.81

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Checking Account Balance (12/15/80).....	\$102.70
Savings Account Balance (12/15/80).....	243.45
Receipts for (1981).....	<u>2,078.91</u>
	\$2,425.06
Disbursements for (1981).....	<u>2,132.65</u>
Balance.....	\$ 292.43

Parliament

ITEMS TO CHECK BEFORE RATIFICATION OF NEWLY
ELECTED PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

- ✓ 1. Legality of the meeting (quorum).
- 2. Copies of:
 - ✓ a) notice of meeting (with mailing date).
 - ✓ b) Agenda
 - ✓ c) Ballot sheets with received ballots for:
 - ✓ 1. Officers of the assembly
 - ✓ 2. Parish Council
 - ✓ 3. Auditing Committee
 - ✓ 4. Nominating Committee
 - ✓ 5. Diocesan Delegates
- ✓ 3. Report form submitted by Diocese with signatures.
- 4. Reports presented to Parish Assembly:
 - ✓ a) Pastor's Report
 - b) Parish Council's Report - *NO! only from Chairman*
 - ✓ c) Committee's reports *PC report should be signed*
- ✓ 5. Financial Report
- ✓ 6. Minutes of the Parish Assembly
- ✓ 7. Have assessments been paid?
- ✓ 8. Have 1982 assessment figures been included in the budget?
- ✓ 9. Certification of newly elected Diocesan Delegates
- 10. Clergy Stipend - *NO! sheet*
- 11. *No form of Balloting mentioned*

• ACYQA, JRS.
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1981

REPORT

BOARD MEMBERS:

Peter Bedevian....Chairman	Deidre Ekmekjian...Secretary
Gary Soultanian...Vice Chairman	Lynda Chagachbanian.Publicity
Steven Tomasian...Treasurer	

ACTIVITIES:

Tennis tournament, combined picnic, hiking, food drive (Center for Food Action), Christmas party, and St. Neresss Retreat.

FUTURE PLANS:

Plan workshop for College SAT tests, participation in St. Nersess Retreat, tennis tournaments, etc.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Bedevian, Chairman

Checking Account Balance (12/15/80).....	\$ 169.78
Savings Account Balance (12/15/80).....	1,359.31
Receipts for 1981.....	4,170.57
Total.....	<u>5,699.66</u>
Disbursements for 1981.....	3,665.14
Balance.....	<u><u>2,034.52</u></u>

MEN'S CLUB
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1981

REPORT

BOARD MEMBERS:

Arthur Ohnikian - Chairman	Richard Tomasian -Advisor
Jack Loughhead - Secretary, Treasurer	Rex Kachigian-Liason
Sebouh Jessourian - Advisor	

ACTIVITIES:

Pancake Breakfast, supper meetings and programs.

FUTURE PLANS:

On April 17 we will have our first affair featuring the Vosbikian Band. Later in the year we will have more combined brunches and are planning a Masquerade Ball this Fall.

Receipts for 1981.....	\$ 250.28
Disbursements for 1981.....	53.84
Balance.....	<u>196.44</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur Ohnikian, Chairman