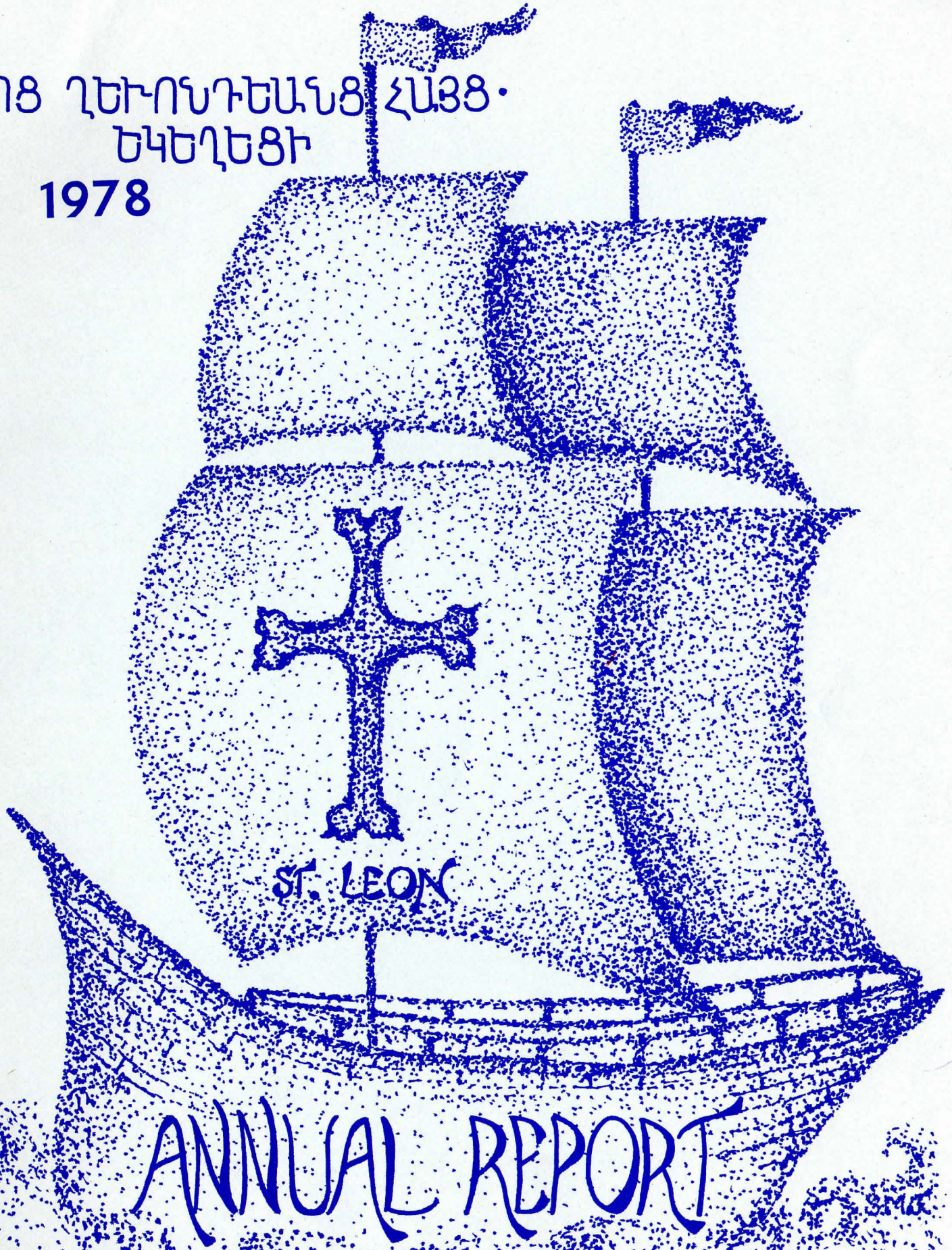


ՄՐԲՈՑ ՂԵՒՈՆԴԵԱՆՑ ՀԱՅՑ  
ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ  
1978



REV. PAREE METJIAN FAIR LAWN, N.J.



ՍՐԲՈՑ ՂԵՒՈՆԴԵԱՆՑ ՀԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

Տէր Բարի Քինյ. Մէթմեան, Հովիւ

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH  
12-61 Saddle River Road Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410

**Rev. Paree Metjian, Pastor**

Telephones: (Code 201)  
Church: 791 - 2862  
Rectory: 791 - 1583



January 23, 1978

Dear Members:

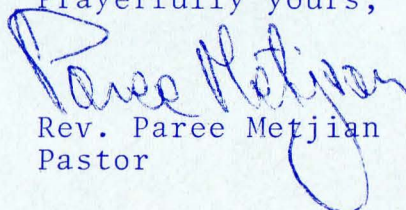
The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Leon Armenian Church will be held on Sunday, February 12th, 11:30 a.m. in the church nave. The Assembly will hear various reports, elect the leaders of our parish and take action on a proposed budget.

In order to provide you with as much advanced information as possible, the Parish Council has prepared an annual report for the use of you and your family. You are encouraged to read this booklet carefully before the Assembly in order to familiarize yourself with its contents. It is requested that you bring this booklet with you to the Assembly to aid you in the discussions.

The booklet cover is contributed by Suzanne Jerrahian. The ship is one of the early symbols for the Church. It has an Armenian cross on its mast and is shown sailing through troubled waters. The Church, like a ship, carries the faithful through all conditions of life.

Please consider your membership in St. Leon to be important enough to participate responsibly in shaping its future.

Prayerfully yours,

  
Rev. Paree Metjian  
Pastor

*Encounter Christ with us—Reflect Him to others*



ՀՈՎՈՒԱԿԱՆ ՏԵՂԵԿԱԳԻՐ  
1977 ՏԱՐՈՒԱՅ ԱՆԴԱՄԱԿԱՆ ԺՈՂՈՎԻ

Գոհութիւն Ամենակալ Աստուծոյ որ տարի մը եւս արժանացուց զիս հովուելու Ս. Ղեւոնդեանց Հայց. Եկեղեցւոյ համայնքը: Կը փափաքիմ ձեզ հետ հետադարձ ակնարկ մը նետել մեր զործունէութեանց եւ յայտնել իմ զաղափարներս համայնքիս ապագայի բարելաւման մասին:

Եթէ հակիրճ կերպով ամփոփենք իմ ծառայութիւնս եկեղեցւոյ կեանքէն ներս ան եղած է ժամապաշտութիւն, խորհուրդներու կատարում, հոգեւոր եւ ամուսնական խորհրդատուութիւն, տունօրնէք, ծիսական այցելութիւն, ըլլայ տուներու կամ հիւանդանոցներու մէջ, ծխական եւ վարչական ժողովներու մասնակցութիւն եւ պատրաստութիւն ամսօրեայ թերթիկի:

Եկեղեցւոյս բոլոր կազմակերպութիւնները իւրայատուկ օգտակար ծառայութիւններ մատուցանեցին անդամներու եւ մանաւանդ եկեղեցւոյ պայծառութեան համար: Տարէց Կազմակերպութիւնը բոլորեց իր երկրորդ տարին: Պր. Յարութիւն Պօյաճեանի ատենապետութեամբ, անոնք ունեցան, պտոյտներ, ամսական ծաշեր եւ ընկերային հաւաքոյթներ:

Կիրակնօրեայ Դպրոցի նախկին տեսուչ՝ Սարգիս Պէտէվեան հրաժարած ըլլալով, ծխական խորհուրդը նշանակեց Լիոն եւ Բօզելի Հոճիկեանները իբրեւ տեսուչ, Սեպտեմբերէն սկսեալ: Անոնք կ'աշխատին նոր միջոցներ իրագործելու որպէսզի մեր հոգեւոր կրթարանը աւելի ազդեցիկ ըլլայ: Այս տարի արժանազրուած են, 90է աւելի երկսէր աշակերտներ: Իսկ Հայ Դպրոցի խմանակալ Մարմինը՝ ատենապետութեամբ Տիկին Ռօզ Նաճարեանի, Տնօրէնուհի Տիկին Հերմինէ Մինակեանի եւ ուսուչական կազմով, ոեւէ ջանք չեն խնայեր ջամբելու մեր գաւակներուն հայացի տոհմիկ կրթութիւն: Այս տարի 68 աշակերտներ արժանազրուած են:

1977ին մեր համայնքը օժտուեցաւ 12 հոգինոց ինքնաշարժով մը: Յունիսէն ի վեր, ան օգտակար կը հանդիսանայ մեր համայնքին փոխադրութեան կարիքներուն: Անցեալ տարի եղան խմբական պտոյտներ զանազան կազմակերպութեանց կողմէ եւ մանաւանդ տարէց անդամները կրցան եկեղեցի գալ Զորեքշաքթի եւ Կիրակի օրերը ըստ ժամանակացոյցի:

Ըստ մեր տոմարին, անցեալ տարի 7 տարէց անդամներ մեզմէ բաժնուեցան, ունեցանք 4 ամուսնութիւններ եւ 8 մկրտութիւններ: 8 նոր ընտանիքներ անդամագրուեցան մեր եկեղեցին:



Մեր եկեղեցին շատերու կողմէ ճանչցուած է իբրեւ կենսունակ համայնք մը: Բարեբախտաբար ունինք գիտակից, աւանդապահ եւ Աստուածասէր անհատներ: Փառք կուտանք եւ յաճախ կ'աղօթենք որ Աստուած աւելցնէ նման անհատներու թիւը մեր համայնքէն ներս: Որքան ցանկալի պիտի ըլլար տեսնել ամէն մէկ անդամի անձնուէր սէրը եւ նուիրումը իր 'Հոգեւոր ծննդավայրին' հանդէպ: Մենք կը հաւատանք թէ մեր համայնքը պիտի ըլլայ եզակի համայնք մը:

Իբրեւ համայնք մեր եկեղեցին նպատակներ ունի իրագործելիք եւ մեր բոլոր ձեռնարկները պէտք է կեդրոնացնենք հոգեւոր եւ ազգային նպատակներու շուրջ: Երբ եկեղեցին իր ժողովուրդով գիտէ իր նպատակները եւ խանդավառութեամբ կը հետապնդէ զանոնք, երկու բարիքներ կարելի է տեսնել: Առաջին, նպատակներ ուղղութիւն կուտան ամէն մէկ անդամի եւ կը մղեն բոլորիս ջանքները միեւնոյն ուղղութեամբ: Երկրորդ, նպատակներ, համանքի մը կեանքէն ներս, կը նմանին քարտէսի. գիտենք ուր կ'ուզենք երթալ եւ ինչպէս պէտք է ծամբորդենք մեր միջոցներով այդ ուղղութեամբ ժամանակի ընթացքին:

Անգլերէն բաժնի մէջ յիշած ենք նպատակներ զորս կը փափաքինք իրագործել յառաջիկայ տարիներու ընթացքին: Կ'արժէ յիշել մի քանիները.

1. Կազմել յանձնախումբ մը որ ուսումնասիրէ մեր համայնքի ապագայ կարիքները եւ թելադրէ անհրաժեշտ քայլեր այդ ուղղութեամբ յառաջիկայ անդամական ժողովին:

2. Կազմել յանձնախումբ մը Հիմնադրամի որպէսզի պատրաստէ յիշատակարաններու ցանկ մը եւ օգտակար հանդիսանայ կտակներու պատրաստութեան:

3. Շեշտել անհրաժեշտութիւնը Շաբաթական Խոստումներու - Փլէժի կամ ձեզի ծանօթ Կիրակնօրեայ Պահարաններու դրութեան առաւել գործածութիւնը: Շատ քիչեր կը մասնակցին եւ հետեւաբար պահարաններու արդիւնքը շատ խեղճ է:

Ս. Գիրքը կը պատգամէ, 'Ուր Տեսիլք չկայ, մարդիկ կը կորսուին': Տեսիլքներ մեր առօրեայ եւ համայնքային կեանքէ ներս, պիտի մղեն մեզ դէպի լաւագոյն ապագայ: Աստուծոյ օգնութեամբ եւ ձեր ջանքերով պիտի հասնինք կատարելին:

Իմ տարեկան տեղեկագիրը լրացնելէ առաջ, կ'ուզեմ երախտագիտութիւն յայտնել եկեղեցւոյս Սարկաւազաց Դասին եւ դպրաց: Ինչպէս նաեւ բոլոր անոնց որոնք այս կամ այն կերպով, բերին իրենց տաղանդը, ժամանակը եւ նիւթական օժանդակութիւնը եկեղեցւոյ պայծառութեան համար: Աստուած վարձրատրէ ձեզ բոլորդ անհատապէս:

Արթուր  
Բարի Բնյ. Մէքճեան



## PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

By the Grace of God, we have completed another rewarding year. As we review my pastoral and some parish activities, we need to celebrate and be happy about what we have accomplished together and plan for a better tomorrow. It is with pleasure that I present to you the highlights of 1977:

- \* With the consent of the Parish Council, in late January, I attended a "Ministry by Objective" seminar, held in Huntingdon, Pa. During these three days, six participants discussed in depth such topics as: "What is the Mission of the Church?" "Can a parish survive without goals?" "If the church is meeting the needs of its people." The seminar gave me an opportunity to think seriously about the future of our parish. I hope we can be a goal-oriented parish in the near future.
- \* Tuesday, February 15, St. Leon's Name Day was celebrated by N. J. Armenian and Oriental Church leaders participating. Following an impressive ecumenical service, a reception was tendered in honor of our Primate and guest clergy by St. Leon Woman's Guild. Approximately two hundred people attended this commemorative event.
- \* Wednesday, March 2, St. Shooshan, Woman Saint of the year, was celebrated by N. Y. & N. J. Armenian Guild Chapters, organized by the St. Leon Women's Guild. The energetic committee was headed by Lucy Dabagian and Dovie Tilbian who made this project a success. More than 400 Guild members and friends were in attendance.
- \* Sunday, April 3, following church services, the ACYOA anniversary dinner and program was held. ACYOA members presented a program and a play to the delight of the community. Nearly one hundred people were in attendance.
- \* Thursday, June 2nd was a memorable day because the Van ordered in February was delivered. On Sunday, June 12th, our picnic day, the twelve passenger Van was officially blessed and consecrated. The young adult van committee raised close to \$18,000.00 for the purchase and maintenance of this van. Our gratitude and appreciation goes to these inspiring young adults for meeting the challenge head on.
- \* From June 27 to July 1, St. Leon Vacation Bible School was held. For five days, our boys and girls 43 strong, learned Bible stories and verses, sang church hymns and did religious-oriented arts and crafts. Our thanks go to 12 staff teachers and aids, making VBS a success. We are looking forward to 1978. VBS will take place from June 26 to July 1.



- \* After serving three years as Superintendent of the Sunday School, Sarkis Bedevian resigned and the Parish Council appointed Leon and Rosalie Hojegan as new co-superintendents. Since September, they have been in charge and were instrumental in creating new programs. We are fortunate and confident that under their leadership Sunday School will fulfill its mission. Sunday School has 93 students enrolled and 22 teachers and administrative aids.
- \* On Thursday, September 19, the St. Leon Senior Center members attended a theatre performance of "Madame Butterfly" at the New Jersey Art Center in Holmsdale. This was one of the many outings organized by the Senior Center, and Helen Mazoujian was the organizer.
- \* This year again St. Leon annual Bazaar took place on October 15 and 16. The energetic and hard working committee headed by Harry Zoroian and Edward Torosian, who made this major fund-raising project a success. Approximately \$12,000.00 was realized, making the best ever.
- \* Tuesday, November 29, I Hayr met with Rev. George Paffenberger, Director of Camps for the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey. We explored the possibilities of jointly organizing a camping program for juniors this summer. This program is a must for our parish. Details will be forthcoming.

As a part of my pastoral calling, I visited Valley, Hackensack, and St. Joseph's Hospitals on a weekly basis. When informed of emergency cases, I have made special visits. The preparation of the Sunday Bulletin and Lradoo was prepared on a weekly and monthly basis, respectively.

The van that our parish did acquire proved to be very beneficial. According to a schedule, prepared weekly, every Wednesday and Sunday senior citizens were able to come to church. Thanks to Jim Soojian and Al Ferraro for being volunteer drivers. The van has been used for other church activities and organizations.

The sacraments were performed, geared to the individual's needs of the families involved. The following sacraments are recorded in our Parish Registry:

Engagements - 2; Baptisms - 8; Weddings - 4; Funerals - 13

These are but a few of the things which we have accomplished during this past year and for which we need to give thanks. Living in an urban community, we have addressed ourselves to the needs of people by developing a diverse and quality program, which is not easy. I believe we are moving in the right direction



because of the people of St. Leon Armenian Church of Fair Lawn, in fact, want to carry on a ministry and are willing to invest themselves, their time, and their talents to make it all happen.

In planning for 1978 and 1979, it is necessary for us to look further into the future to see what challenges will be placed before us at St. Leon relating to the needs of the people and of the church. Here is a summary of future expectations to be accomplished through joint efforts:

OBJECTIVE ONE: Continue to expand educational opportunities through:

- 1) Vacation Bible School from 3 years old to 8 years.
- 2) Organize camping program for juniors
- 3) Encourage our youth to attend Bible Conference for a week during summer at Harvey Cedars, N. J.

OBJECTIVE TWO: Introduce Junior and Senior level service programs:

- 1) Establish diocesan Ararat Award for boys and girls
- 2) Acolyte training program for boys from 8 to 12 years old
- 3) Advanced altar server training such as censor-reader from 14 to 18.

OBJECTIVE THREE: Organize Bequests and Memorials Committee in order to:

- 1) Prepare a policy of an endowment fund
- 2) Prepare a pamphlet of memorials
- 3) Provide advice and council for the preparation of wills.

OBJECTIVE FOUR: Organize a "Committee of 80's" to address itself to these questions:

- 1) "Where are we as a parish?"
- 2) "Where we want to be five years from now?"
- 3) "How are we going to get there?"

The committee may submit preliminary reports to the 1979 Parish Assembly and implement its recommendations beginning 1980.

It has been said, "The few does the work, majority just attends." We at St. Leon have been blessed with a few who give everything that they have Sunday after Sunday. They take responsible positions on committees and work hard to make the church going. They are our "preferred" members. To those, we express our heartfelt appreciation. And to those who still like to be nominal members, we extend an invitation to become active members because

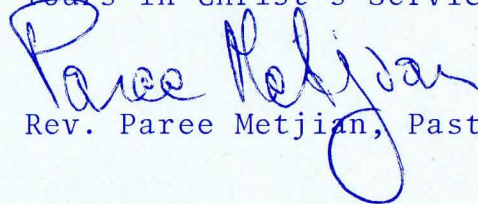


St. Leon needs your active association and friendship. Recently I came across a thought from Albert Camus that expresses fully my sentiments:

Don't walk in front of me -- I may not follow.  
Don't walk behind me -- I may not lead.  
Walk beside me -- and just be my friend.

It is my joy and privilege to serve you and I hope in the years ahead we can grow together for the Glory of God.

Yours in Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patee Metjian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rev. Patee Metjian, Pastor



Parish Council

At the Annual Parish Assembly held in the early part of 1977, the following were elected to serve on the Parish Council for a two year term:

President	Rev. Patee Metjian
Chairman	Martin Kapoian
Vice Chairman	Charles Penajian
Treasurer	Ara Hourdajian
Assistant Treasurer	Vahram Varjabedian
Recording Secretary	Agnes Voskian
Corresponding Secretary	Dovie Tilbian
Advisors	James Noorigian
	James Soojian
	Sarkis Soultanian
	<i>Florence Gulkasian</i>
	<i>Harry Zoroian (George)</i>
	<i>Debagian (GMS)</i>

The assemblage of our parishoners to the Annual Parish Assembly marks the completion of another year in the life of St. Leon Armenian Church. As Chairman of the Parish Council, I would like to share my thoughts and feelings with you as to the health of our church.

Let me begin by first counting some of our blessings which we have come to take for granted. Money, the essence of survival in a material world, has not been a major problem for St. Leon. We are truly blessed with parishoners who, although not of great wealth, have nevertheless contributed generously over the years. This has enabled our community to build and fully own the church and grounds--having burned the mortgage a few years ago. Our problem becomes one of "Operational funds." This past year marked another milestone in our ability to discharge that obligation, even with the heavy burdens of rising energy and insurance costs. I am happy to report, we even added a few dollars into our savings account.

Our second blessing comes from the dedicated workers of our parish. Although we are a small community, the response from our people has been strong over the years. Due to the dedication and "good taste", we have become to be known as the "model church." When a Van was desirable for means of transportation, the young men and women of our church were contacted and they assumed the responsibility of raising the necessary funds to purchase one. They carried out their obligations and today we own a Van--fully paid. This past year, as in previous years, the Bazaar Committee came through with flying colors.



The Bazaar was a hugh success. It took much time, planning and energy--the kind of devotion that comes with love--for our church, our people and our Armenian heritage. No question, St. Leon has the right people. We even managed to extend a helping hand to the Diocese. The Women's Guild constantly provided the expertise in the kitchen and social activities throughout the year. Individuals of our community committed their talents and time to help out.

Spiritually, our needs are being guided by our Pastor. No one is breaking down doors for want of more Christian teachings. We managed to add a few families to our church due to the influx of Armenians from the Middle East, and from all outward appearances our people are content and happy.

Our Sunday and Armenian schools are still in need of classrooms. The Parish Council has placed much of their efforts towards the combined AGBU and St. Leon Community Center so that classroom facilities can proceed. As to date, all directions are positive and hopefully we can reach some final agreement to build before the close of the year.

The Deacons, Acolytes and Choir continue to render the weekly services in magnificent fashion. We are all thankful for the spiritual fulfillment they have provided all year long.

Our activity in basketball play appears to be strengthened by the efforts of our two coaches. Our youngsters are enthused and eager to practice and play.

The ACYOA needs further strengthening. My recommendations are that we low-key the religious aspects of the organization and concentrate on keeping them together.

The Senior Center has come a long way celebrating their 2nd anniversary this past year. Our Der Hayr continues to report that all is well in the ranks. We wish them continued good health and success.

All I have said and reported indicates a healthy state of affairs. Up to now, the assumption is correct; however, certain observations and reports have raised some concern in my thinking. The lack of response in the ACYOA earlier in the year I attributed to youngster problems; however, I know from my own experience that parents play an important part. Any reluctance by the parent to transport or become involved will force the youngster to abandon the organization. The chairman of the Friendship Society indicated a lack of enthusiasm to continue in the coming year. Major drawback was the inability to obtain an executive body to lead the organization. Although a number of individuals were approached to chair the Bazaar for the coming year, no response as of this date.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Parish Council and Der Hayr for working together with me in fulfilling our obligations.

Martin Kapoian  
Chairman



January 23, 1977

Report from Auditing Committee  
To: All Parish Members:

A review of Parish Council and various church organizations, financial records was conducted for the period of December 15, 1976 through December 15, 1977. A trace of the cash receipts and disbursements was carried out and bank balances were reconciled with the book balances. No discrepancies were found at the time and all the financial records were in order.

It is recommended by this Committee that the Parish Council's financial records be audited bi-annually to facilitate the Committee's end of year audit and also give the Parish Council an insight of their financial position against the proposed budget as the year progresses.

Edward Torosian  
Chairman  
Auditing Committee

Al Ferraro

Barbara Azarian



St. Leon Armenian Church

Comparative Operating Budget Summary for 1977

Proposed Budget for 1978

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Proposed 1977</u>	<u>Actual 1977</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Proposed 1978</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Weekly envelopes, dues and Plate Collection	\$15,000	\$17,766	26.07	\$19,500	33.22
Special Donations: Sacraments, in lieu of flowers, etc.	9,500	9,302	13.65	9,000	15.33
Net profit from affairs	20,000	24,382*	35.78	16,000	27.26
Sale of Books-Lradoo	500	280	.41	700	1.19
Holiday Donations	5,500	5,826	8.55	6,500	11.07
Income from Auxiliary Organizations	3,500	3,611**	5.30	4,500	2.56
Van Net Proceeds	--	3,825	5.61	--	--
Cottage House	3,000	1,100	1.61	3,000	5.11
Misc. Income	<u>1,400</u>	<u>2,059</u>	<u>3.02</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>4.26</u>
Total Receipts	\$58,400	\$68,151	100.00	\$58,700	100.00
AGBU Contribution for Building Fund		<u>2,500</u>			
<u>Grand Total Receipts</u>		<u>\$70,651</u>			

Notes: \*Includes \$10,001 from 1976 Bazaar

\*\*Based on 1976 Income: Women's Guild \$2,692,  
Armenian School \$226, Senior Citizens \$250,  
Friendship \$222, ACYOA \$163 and Choir \$59.



<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Proposed 1977</u>	<u>Actual 1977</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Proposed 1978</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Pastor's stipend, auto allowance, visiting clergy	\$12,000	\$10,870	17.20	\$12,000	20.44
Clergy Insurance and Pension	--	1,792	2.83	2,000	3.41
Church and Parish House Repairs & Maintenance	8,000	4,780	7.56	5,000	8.51
Diocese Expenses & Dues	7,200	6,458	10.21	8,000	13.63
Publications & Mailing	1,500	1,069	1.69	1,500	2.56
Administrative & General	5,000	4,512	7.14	5,000	8.51
Armenian School	1,200	1,225	1.94	2,200	3.75
Sunday School	1,300	350	.55	1,500	2.56
Van Operating Expenses	1,500	554	.88	1,500	2.56
Church Operating Expense, Insurance & Utilities	12,500	14,262***	22.56	17,500	29.81
Church social expenditures	700	--	--	--	--
Equipment Purchase, etc.	1,500	776	1.23	1,500	2.56
Part time secretary	1,000	47	.07	3,000	1.70
Legal, architectural & engineering fees	5,000	600	.95	--	--
Net transfer to savings	--	15,926	25.19	--	--
Total Disbursements	\$58,400	\$63,221	100.00	<del>\$58,700</del>	100.0
(AGBU/St Leon Joint Venture****)		4,400		61,700	
Budget Surplus		\$67,621 \$3,030		<del>67,621</del>	
Grand Total Distursements		\$70,652			

Notes: \*\*\*Major items include, utilities - \$7,955; insurance - \$6,199.  
\*\*\*\*Separate Account for Joint Venture



St. Leon Armenian Church

Auxiliary Organization

Summary of Cash and Securities from 12/15/76 to 12/15/77

Women's Guild -	Checking Account	\$ 443.48
	Savings Account	2,657.98
Special	Savings Account	1,076.79
		<u>11,344.57</u>
		\$15,522.82
Armenian School -	Checking Account	\$ 660.99
	Savings Account	398.37
Special	Savings Account	344.09
		<u>1,403.45</u>
		\$ 1,403.45
ACYOA	Checking Account	\$ 207.52
	Savings Account	1,046.41
		<u>1,253.93</u>
		\$ 1,253.93
Sunday School	Checking Account	\$ 24.25
	Savings Account	8.43
Special	Savings Account	932.23
		<u>964.91</u>
		\$ 964.91
Choir	Savings Account	\$ 43.39
Friendship Society	Checking Account	\$ 214.25



St. Leon Armenian Church  
Summary of Financial Assets

Trust Account

Trustees: E. George Dabagian  
James Noorigian  
Anthony Tungrian

Certificate of Deposits

(Term ending May 24, 1978, Interest Rate  
7.5% per annum)

Columbia Savings and Loan	\$22,428.22
Columbia Savings and Loan	<u>\$ 5,555.60</u>
Total	\$27,983.82

General Accounts

Savings Account:	
Columbia Savings and Loan	\$35,261.06
Certificate of Deposits:	
Urban National Bank	\$ 7,500.00
Fair Lawn State Bank	<u>\$15,426.98</u>
Total	\$58,188.04
Grand Total	<u>\$86,171.86</u>

1/23/78



**ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN CHURCH**

12-61 Saddle River Road

Fair Lawn, N. J. 07410

*NON PROFIT ORG.*

**U. S. POSTAGE**

**PAID**

Fair Lawn, N. J.

Permit No. 178