

## PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report - 1980

February 8, 1981

Under the presidency of our Pastor, Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, and the Chairmanship of Garo Bashian, the Parish Council met regularly twice a month and held special meetings when circumstances required.

The Parish Council members for 1980 were:

Chairman	-	Garo Bashian
Vice-Chairman	-	John Wolohojian
Rec. Sec'y	-	Richard Sarkisian
Ass't Rec. Sec'y	-	Robert Khadjehturian
Corre. Sec'y	-	Ann D. Boghosian
Treasurer	-	Ara Shimshidian
Ass't Treas.	-	Gregory Chamourian
Advisors	-	Zaven Adourian
		Judge Vincent Gurahian
		Ben Tepikian
		Ohan Bas

Pledge - Under the chairmanship of Ara Shimshidian, the pledge committee continued its work and attempted to augment the number of pledgers in order to expand the participation of the Parish in this important program. In a separate report the chairman of this committee will share his concerns with the parishoners today. The Parish Council is very appreciative of all the time Ara spent throughout the year. In addition, we are also thankful to Anita Essayan for keeping accurate and complete records of the pledges.

Building Committee - The Building Committee under the dedicated and capable chairmanship of George Davidian and with the participation of Apkar Omartian and Berge Derdarian undertook and completed the challenging task of converting the existing structure into our present church, keeping the expenses well under the budget. At this point the Parish Council would like to thank George Davidian, his committee, all the parishoners who helped in the project especially Gerry Ksayan, Gino Urbanelli, and Norik Haroutounian.

Celebration Banquet and Car Raffle - This year's celebration banquet under the chairmanship of Ethyl Dorian was held at the Rye Country Club on January 13, 1980, where we honored Edward and Anita Essayan as the "Couple of the Year" for their dedicated service to our church. At the conclusion of the program Bob Stepanian in charge of the Car Raffle conducted the drawing of the three prizes. The grand prize was a 1980 Pontiac Phoenix donated by Mr. Edward Kalayjian of Mt. Kisco. The first prize of the current raffle originally scheduled to be drawn on December 7, 1980 is once again a Pontiac Phoenix which is also donated by Mr. Kalayjian, provided all 150 tickets are sold. The chairman of the current raffle committee is Mr. Ed S. Dorian of White Plains. Parish Council is greatly

indebted to Mr. Kalayjian for his extremely generous donations, and to Bob Stepanian and Ed Dorian for their efficient handling of the raffles.

House and Grounds Management Committee - At the beginning of the year the Parish Council appointed a committee in charge of upkeep, maintenance and supervision of our property. Under the able chairmanship of Edward Essayan the committee worked tirelessly to keep our two buildings and the grounds in excellent condition. Of particular importance is the installation of our new heating system which was negotiated and supervised with great care by Edward Essayan who gave countless hours of his time for this project.

Caretaker - After two consecutive caretakers whose performances fell short of our expectations we are happy to report that our present caretaker Mr. Melchan (Shan) who joined us at the end of November has so far exceeded our expectations with his conscientious performance.

All Executives Committee Meeting - On March 18 upon the invitation of the Parish Council, the executive members of various church organizations assembled to discuss their participation in various church programs and functions. This meeting proved to be mutually beneficial.

Raleigh Weekend - On May 2 through May 4, 1980, the third "Let's Get Away" weekend took place at the Raleigh Hotel in the Catskills. Organized once again by Mary Azarian and Grace Cassidy it proved to be a very enjoyable affair for those who attended and the church realized a handsome profit from it.

Dedication Ceremony - June 7, 1980 will long be remembered by our parishioners as the first stage of the culmination of our dreams through the impressive ceremony of dedication and opening of our new church presided over by our Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. Following the services in a brief program memorial donations were acknowledged. A complete list of these donations and other gifts were made available at the Consecration Banquet of December 7, 1980.

White Plains Festival - Our church under the chairmanship of Mr & Mrs. John Vakasian participated in the annual White Plains Art Festival on June 8, 1980. Despite adverse weather conditions all participants enjoyed themselves, and the church gained financially from it.

Appreciation Outing - On July 13, 1980, under the sponsorship of the Parish Council and the co-chairmanship of Benny Tepikian and Greg Chmourian an "Appreciation Picnic" took place to thank the Sunday School teachers, Armenian School teachers, members of the Choir, and all who worked in the conversion of our church structure and their families, for their dedicated service to our church.

Annual Church Picnic - For the first time our Annual Picnic was held on our own beautiful property on August 24, 1980. For the second year in a row the picnic was chaired by Berge Derdarian who did a fantastic job in organizing and running the event. Over 500 people enjoyed the delicious food and beautiful Armenian music. The church realized an income of more than one and a half times the budgeted amount.

One World Festival - Our church once again participated in the One World

Festival at St. Vartan Cathedral Complex on September 6 and 7, 1980. All who worked at the festival enjoyed themselves immensely and the church realized a good profit from it. This affair was co-chaired by Benny Tepikian and John Vakasian.

Special Parish Assembly - A Special Parish Assembly took place in our Church Hall on September 14, 1980 the minutes of which were read today.

Bazaar - Our third annual bazaar was held on October 18 and 19, 1980, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Yonkers N.Y. Under the chairmanship of Robert Khatjehturian, the bazaar once again concentrated in three areas: the sale of Oriental Rugs, an a-la-carte table and a white elephant section. A profit in excess of double the amount budgeted was realized. The net income from the bazaar exceeded one third of our proposed budget.

Men's Club - Upon the invitation of Der Hayr and the Parish Council a group of interested men were brought together to form the nucleus of a men's club to serve the community as another arm of the church.

Consecration - The climax of the activities and the joys of the Parish came on December 7, 1980 when our Primate in a solemn and moving ceremony consecrated the Altar, giving the church its present name - Sourp Hagop (St. James). Mr. Suren D. Fesjian, the benefactor of our Parish served as the Godfather. Following the ceremony a gala banquet took place at the Westchester Country Club, where in the course of a delightful program Mr. & Mrs. Suren D. Fesjian were presented with a plaque in grateful acknowledgment of their generosity and support. On that occasion Mr. Fesjian made a donation of \$20,000.00 towards the Building Fund. During the course of the banquet recognition was given to officials of the town government and the judiciary for their assistance in the acquisition of our property.

A special Consecration Booklet was prepared containing the history of the Parish and its organizations as well as educational materials in addition to the list of the donors. The Parish Council appreciates the efforts of Mr. Berg Boghossian for soliciting donors for the booklet.

New Year's Eve Party - Our annual New Year's Eve Party was organized by the Men's Club and for the first time took place in our Parish House. All who attended had a grand time.

Conclusion - The Parish Council appreciates and commends all the church organizations, the chairmen and members of various committees and all contributors for their continuous support and involvement in the progress of our Parish.

Special thanks are due at this time to Elmas Davidian and Aida Pisani for their dedicated service to our church.

The present Parish Council feels fortunate and honored to have been part of the developments and the growth in the life of the Parish in this extraordinary year. We feel gratified and enriched by our humble service to our church and we thank the membership for giving us this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Sarkisian, Rec. Secty.

Garo Bashian, Chairman