

PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 1976

The third Parish Council of the Armenian Church of Westchester, elected by the Parish Assembly on January 25, 1976, met on a biweekly basis from February, 1976 through January, 1977, under the presidency of our pastor, Der Karekin Kasparian, and the chairmanship of Apkar Omartian. Where needed, additional "special" meetings were also held.

MEETINGS: The focus of much of the work at Parish Council meetings is the determination of policy and the supervision of the successful, overall operation of the Church. Various topics are dealt with at meetings including worship services, membership, growth, finances, education, social functions, and church property. Since August, 1976, one important function of the Parish Council has been to delegate a committee to meet approximately every two months with a vestry committee from St. Andrews Episcopal Church so that issues of mutual concern may be satisfactorily discussed and resolved. The Parish Council continues to represent the A.C.W. at diocesan and regional assemblies. On July 21, our Archbishop, the Most Reverend Torkom Manoogian, met with the Parish Council for an evening of conversation regarding matters affecting our church, our diocese, and our diaspora. As expected, the evening was most beneficial for those in attendance. Our Treasurer, Mr. George Sanosian, resigned from his post in July and from the Parish Council in December of 1976. The Council accepted his resignation with reluctance and regret while appreciating his service to the church. Our present treasurer is Mr. Ed Dorian and assistant treasurer, Mr. George Davidian.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS: On June 6, the Armenian Church of Westchester participated in the annual White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival and Heritage Day. Unfortunately, adverse weather conditions on that day severely affected attendance. The annual church picnic was held on September 5 and again proved to be an enjoyable experience for those attending. The One World Festival, which took place at St. Vartan's Cathedral on September 11 and 12, involved the active participation of the Armenian Church of Westchester. Our annual Autumn Festival Dance held at Temple Emanuel attracted a good-sized crowd and provided much enjoyment for those present.

WORSHIP: During 1976 our weekly Sunday services continued to be held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Hartsdale. Also, during Easter and Christmas, additional services were held.

In conclusion, while we continue to search for a permanent home for our church, we remain grateful for having the facilities of St. Andrews Episcopal Church available to us. To facilitate the location of a suitable church site, the Parish Council appointed Menas Daderian to chair the Site Selection Committee which has investigated dozens of leads during the past year.

For our church, this period is one of transition and hope. In less than three years, we have begun to establish a church which we hope will be fully able to meet the religious, cultural, and social needs of the Westchester Armenian Community. With God's blessing and the continuing tireless and selfless efforts of our membership, priest, and seminarians, we shall overcome temporary obstacles, and we will have our own church.

Respectfully submitted,

Apkar Omartian
Chairman

Ara Ishkanian
Secretary