

PARISH COUNCIL *** ANNUAL REPORT 1983

Under the presidency of our pastor, Reverend Father Karekin Kasparian, and the Chairmanship of Dr. Jack Hachigian, the parish Council met regularly every month and held special meetings when circumstances required.

The parish Council members for 1983 were:

president.	Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian
Chairperson	Dr. Jack Hachigian
Vice Chairperson	Martha Gurahian
Recording Secretary	John Boyajian
Corresponding Secretary	paul Bashian
Treasurer	Avadis Sakalian
Advisors	Hagop Cetinkaya
	Gregory Chamourian
	Albert Darien
	Bernard Tepikian
	Florence Omartian - Alternate

The total number of parish Council members was reduced from eleven members to nine members in 1983 as per decision of the parish Assembly.

policy Decisions

The following policy decisions affecting our parish were made during the course of the year.

- * Guidelines for Rental of parish Facilities were established. Representat. of parish Council for Rentals of parish Facilities shall be named each year through whom all requests shall be made.
- * Established donation guidelines for Sacraments.
- * Established a parish Council Opportunity Fund.
- * Agreed to establish the St. James Armenian Church Award for Outstanding Continuing Service to an individual each year.
- * Devote one page or column of HOPE to parish Council news or message.
- * All requests for space and use allocations of parish Facilities shall be approved by the parish Council.
- * parish Council members will be given a door key upon assuming office.

Management Committee

Under the Chairmanship of Michael Pisani, followed by George Davidian, this Committee has met regularly to plan, and with the direction and guidance of the parish Council, execute projects for the parish. Two major renovations, as follows, were completed in 1983.

1. Resurfacing of the roof of our Church and Garage.
2. Painting and weatherstripping of the exterior of the two main buildings and Garage.

Many thanks and gratitude to all the members of this Committee.

Stewardship Program

The Stewardship Program was established in 1982 to generate funds through the pledge system to meet the needs of one third of the Operating Budget during the calendar year. In view of the solid basis established just prior to 1983, and with the initiative and guidance of the pastor, parish Council, and members of the Committee and their diligent efforts throughout 1983, we were able to realize our goal of \$25,000. This was only achieved by the wholehearted cooperation and benevolence of the Stewards who graciously made their pledges, for which we are most grateful.

Get Away Weekend

The Sixth Annual Let's Get Away Weekend was held once again under the Co-Chairpersonship of Mary Azarian and Grace Cassidy at the Granite Hotel in the Catskills during the last weekend of April 1983. This event was not only enjoyable to all those who attended, but resulted in a significant financial support to the Church.

Spring Oriental Rug Sale

An Oriental Rug Sale was held on May 21st under Garo Bashian's direction resulting in a substantial profit to the Church.

Appreciation Cookout

On June 18th, with the sponsorship of the parish Council, and with Paul and Terri Bashian as chairpersons, an appreciation picnic took place in honor of the stewards of the Church and immediate families.

Ordination of Deacons

On June 26th, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian conferred the Order of Sargavak (Deacon) upon two members of our Church, John Vakassian and Mark Kapikian. In addition, the minor orders of Tbir (Clerk or Chorister) were conferred upon Choirmaster John Wolohojian, and Altar Servers Khoren and Avedis Tutak. This was followed by a dinner held in the Courtyard in their honor which was presided over by the primate.

Annual Picnic

The Annual Picnic, under the chairmanship of Albert Darien, was held on August 28th. A profit of approximately \$3500 was realized and over 600 people were in attendance. Appreciation is expressed especially to Al Darien and to the many people who contributed their time and effort towards the picnic. It was resolved to have a live band and to plan the raffle well in advance for greater participation in 1984.

Donation of Freezer

An offer for a donation of \$1500 towards the purchase of a freezer was made by ~~Vasbouragan Lodge~~ ^{DAUGHTERS} of the Knights of Vartan in return for the use of the freezer and kitchen facilities during the forthcoming Knights of Vartan Convention. This offer was agreed to in principal by the parish Council, with the details to be worked out at a later date. The Management Committee will determine the make and model and will arrange for its purchase and installation.

100 Club

The 100 Club was formed once again in 1983 to generate income for the Church. A total of approximately \$6000 was collected, half of which were earmarked for cash prizes. A total of four drawings were held between October and December. Appreciation is expressed to Martha Gurahian and Florence Omartian for their diligent efforts in making this a success. The parish Council will look into giving prizes in place of cash in the future which may be more appealing to a wider range of our parishioners and friends.

Planning Committee

The parish Assembly held in 1983 moved that it approves and urges the parish Council to proceed with a Building Fund Drive and prepare plans to develop the property in accordance with the needs of our Parish. In view of this, the Committee consisting of Jack Hachigian, Gary Bashian, Edward Dorian, and Apkar Omartian ^{AND GEORGE PAVIDIAN} have met with the Architect periodically during the course of the year. Two Site plans were prepared for the development of the property, which includes the building of a new Church. The Committee, under the guidance of the parish Council, subsequently prepared a preliminary financing method to be presented to the Special parish Assembly for approval. Prior to this, however, the financing method which includes a sales/lease back arrangement was submitted to the Diocesan Council for approval before proceeding further. The Diocesan Council replied by letter which stated that the "Diocesan Council, in regard to the proposal to raise funds for a new church structure, authorizes with restrictions the sale or lease at the proper value, subject to appropriate lease back provisions of the buildings, located on property of St. James Armenian Church on conditions that the proceeds of such sale or lease be utilized for erection of Church facilities upon said property." Based upon this approval, the parish Council proceeded with arrangements to hold a Special Parish Assembly.

Special Parish Assembly

A Special Parish Assembly was convened on September 25th to present and discuss the Site plans submitted by the architect and to gain approval to the financing method which includes a Sale/Lease Back arrangement regarding the current two buildings. This was approved by the Assembly. Letter was subsequently mailed to the Primate to pursue a sale/lease back arrangement as approved by the Special Parish Assembly. The Diocesan Council has appointed one of its members to act as coordinator in the implementation of this proposed plan.

Annual Bazaar - October 16 and 17

The Bazaar, co-chaired by Ed Essayan & Ara Shimshidian, was held on our grounds. The oriental rug sale held in conjunction with the Bazaar was once again conducted by our own Garo Bashian and his cousin George Bashian, Jr. In addition to the rug sale, food at the Bazaar was skillfully arranged by Yerezgin Dawn and Elmas Davidian. Co-Chairman Ara Shimshidian also handled the raffle. A profit of approximately \$31,000 was realized from the Bazaar. A debt of gratitude is extended to these people and to the many others in the parish who helped to make the Bazaar a tremendous success.

Young Couples Group

Steps have been taken to initiate a Young Couples Group in our parish. Several get-togethers were arranged to date. Young couples and couples "young at heart" from all age groups are invited to become members.

Kef Nite

Kef Nite was held on a grander scale in 1983. The event was held at the Greek Orthodox Church hall in Rye, N.Y. on October 22nd. A profit of approximately \$3,000 was realized, which was substantially higher than in previous years. The event was chaired by the Church Choir, with Raffi Sevadjan serving as the general chairman. Many thanks to the members of this committee, and especially to Joyce and Edmund Papazian, and to the people who attended for their cooperation and support. Some modifications will be made by the newly formed committee to make the event in 1984 even more enjoyable.

Annual Banquet

The Fourth Annual Consecration Banquet of our church was held on Sunday, December 4th at the Tappan Hill Restaurant, Tarrytown, N.Y. under the co-chairpersonship of John and Anita Wolohojian. A delicious luncheon and a most interesting program was offered which included guest speaker Robert Tembeckjian and coloratura soprano, Miss Audrey Melikian. Many thanks are given to John and Anita for once again giving us a celebration which is characterized by its touch of dignity and class.

Conclusion

The Pastor and Parish Council appreciate and commend all the church organizations, the Chair persons and members of various committees, and all contributors for their continuous support and involvement in the progress and well being of our parish. We have had a good and eventful year. It has been a year where the Parish Assembly has given the green light to proceed with a Building Fund Drive, and to prepare and finalize plans to develop the Church property in accordance with the needs of our parish. The Diocesan Council has approved with restrictions on a sale/lease back arrangement of our buildings as a prelude to the building of a new church. There is much work to be done. With the continuing spirit, dynamism, and foresight which exists in our parish, we shall continue to move forward to make our parish the focal point of community life in the area of Westchester and Southern Connecticut.

We are happy to report that our Diocesan Delegate, Supreme Court Justice Vincent Gurahian, was elected to the Diocesan Council during the Diocesan Assembly in 1983.

Recognition for special service is extended to Elmas Davidian.

Dr. Jack Hachigian, Chairman
Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, Pastor and President

Respectfully submitted

John Boyajian, Rec. Secretary

