

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER

REPORT OF PARISH COUNCIL FOR 1993

The 1993 Parish Council was composed of the following members:

Officers:

Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, President	Harry Nakashian, Recording Secretary
Lionel S. Galstaun, Chairperson	Alice Basmajian, Assistant Treasurer
Martha Gurahian, Vice Chairperson	Douglas Tashjian, Corresponding Secretary
Richard Papalian, Treasurer	

Councilors:

Shahen Guiragossian, Michael Guroian, Ara Momjian, Marguerite Sagatelian and Zaven Tachdjian.

Regular meetings were held, as usual, on the third Tuesday of the month. Quorums were present during all meetings. Garo Bashian who had a year remaining in his term, resigned from the Parish Council on February 14, 1993. Harry Nakashian, who was the first alternate at the election held at the 1993 Parish Assembly, assumed the position vacated by Garo Bashian at the first meeting of the newly convened Parish Council. He was elected Recording Secretary.

A very successful observance of Poon Paregentan resulted in a profit of \$4,423, including a generous contribution by Mr. S. Fesjian.

Purchase of the Meredith Martin property comprising 10.5 acres at North Street and the Hutchinson Parkway in White Plains was pursued vigorously, and resulted in a closing on May 5, 1993. We give special thanks to Gregory Essayan, Esq., for his "pro bono" services as our legal counsel during the purchase negotiations and the closing process. The price negotiated by Zaven Tachdjian and Ed Essayan was \$1,100,000, a significant reduction from the original asking price, and from the Parish Assembly's maximum authorization of \$1,350,000.

Starting in June, and continuing until October, the Parish council and the Building Committee held joint meetings on every Tuesday of the month except the third which was reserved for the Parish Council. The increased frequency of the meetings kept all parties abreast of the rapidly developing permitting process. Thanks to Zaven Tachdjian's selection of highly competent consultants, application for construction of our new church and fellowship hall was successfully placed on the Agenda of the Common Council of White Plains and approved at the October meeting of the Council. We can not exaggerate the value of the experience, leadership and devotion of Zaven Tachdjian in guiding this critical phase of our building project. Our deepest thanks to him and to Ed Essayan who provided strong support. We are now in the midst of refinements in the design of the church and fellowship hall; we hope these will be categorized as "minor changes" which will not require reconsideration by all the municipal bodies involved in the approval process.

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Inquiries have been initiated through the FAR office at the Diocese with suppliers in Armenia to determine the availability and cost of *Tufa* stone facings for our new church. They are progressing very slowly.

Thanks to an excellent committee headed by Mark Derderian and Mike Guroian, and supported by lovely weather, our annual picnic was a resounding success, resulting in a record profit of over \$9,600. Effectively, the profits of the picnic and the Poon Paregentan Observance wiped out the deficit anticipated in the 1993 Budget.

Another item that distinguishes the year 1993 is Stewardship. Our thanks go to Richard Papalian and the Stewardship Committee and to our generous parishioners whose combined efforts resulted in raising stewardship contributions to about \$40,000, an increase of about \$10,000 over the previous year.

In celebration of the acquisition of the new property, a Celebration Dinner Dance was held at the Westchester Stouffer Hotel. Under the chairmanship of Shahen Guiragossian, the committee staged an outstanding affair, including the raffle of a car made available at dealer's cost through the courtesy of Ed Kalaydjian of Kalaydjian Motors. The winner was a two-month-old boy whose parents opted in favor of a cash prize of \$10,000 which will go into his college education fund. Over \$20,000 was realized from the banquet and raffle ticket sales. Our thanks are to Shahen Guiragossian and to his able and devoted committee. Additional thanks go to Toros Mangassarian who contributed the dinner wines and after dinner drinks.

We are experiencing a reduction in the yield of our annual rug sales. Although we had projected in the 1993 budget, incomes of \$15,000 for the May sale and \$8,000 for the October sale, we realized only \$8,605 for the May sale. The October sale was not held. This subject is under study. Since the rug sales were historically an important part of the church's income, we are considering alternate times in the hope that performance might be improved.

The 1994 Proposed Budget has been prepared with a realistic approach, based on historically realizable incomes and controlled disbursements, recognizing that some expenditures are not subject to Parish Council control. Membership dues, as decided by the 1993 Parish Assembly, will increase by \$10 to \$60 per annum. We anticipate Stewardship contributions to increase to \$45,000, on the assumption that we will increase membership to 175 or more. We project a single rug sale, in the early spring, netting \$10,000. On the disbursement side, we have been notified of an increase in our Diocesan assessment to \$17,100, up from \$15,934. The overall result is a deficit of about \$10,000, the difference between anticipated expenditures and income. This will require a special activity by the new Parish Council to meet the anticipated deficit.

I want to bring the attention of the Parish Assembly to the very significant

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contribution of Michael Guroian in the maintenance of our two properties. As chairman of the Building Maintenance Committee of the Parish Council, he has spent countless hours in supervising our sexton and in seeing that the equipment is kept in working order. This is work that can too easily go unrecognized.

Recognition also is due to the volunteers who staff our office. Our deep appreciation goes to Gale Perzigian, Margaret Brophy, Elma Davidian and Martha Gurahian for their devotion to the church, and for their conscientious application of their talents for the benefit of the church. We have engaged Mrs. Nancy Kayekjian as a part time bookkeeper to replace Elma Davidian who, after nearly twenty years of volunteer work, asked to be relieved. Nancy started work on January 4, 1994. She has had extensive experience in bookkeeping and is familiar with computer techniques. She works part time in a local bank. The budget provides \$5,200 for her compensation. Her hours at the church office will be from 9AM to 2PM, Tuesdays and Thursdays. This arrangement gives us coverage at the office every week day, since Gale Perzigian covers from 10AM to 4PM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

In closing, I thank all the members of the Parish Council who contributed their time and expertise for the operation of the church. This has been an effective and purposeful Parish Council, and it has been a privilege to serve as its chairman.

Fr. Karekin Kasparian
Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, President

Lionel S. Galstaun
Lionel S. Galstaun, Chairman.

Harry Nakashian
Harry Nakashian, Recording Secretary