

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF BERGEN COUNTY  
PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1962

February 3, 1963

The past year was a year of many gains for our Church, and we will try to point out briefly the accomplishments of your Parish Council.

At the Annual Parish Assembly on January 21, 1962 the following persons were elected to the Parish Council for a two year term:

Peter Ajemian	James Melcon
Steven Ananian	Richard Turnamian
Jack Charshafian	John Froonjian (1 year term)

At the first Parish Council meeting on January 24, 1962, the following officers were elected:

Chairman	Richard Turnamian
Vice Chairman	Nazar Nazarian
Secretary	Peter Ajemian
Asst. Secretary	John Froonjian
Treasurer	Zaven Halejian
Asst. Treasurer	Charles Malajian
Advisors	Steven Ananian Michael Avakian Jack Charshafian James Melcon Martin Tarzian

The chairman then designated the following committee heads:

Finance Committee	Steven Ananian James Melcon
Building Committee	Antranig Ouzoonian Jack Charshafian
House Maintenance	John Froonjian Charles Malajian
Youth Activities	Peter Ajemian
Usher Chairman	Michael Avakian
Counsel	Peter Daghljan
Controller	Haig Turnamian
Choir Coordinator	Zaven Halejian
Sunday School Coordinator	Michael Avakian
Armenian School Coordinator	Nazar Nazarian
Women's Guild Advisor	Richard Turnamian
Men's Club Advisor	Nazar Nazarian
Public Relations & Publicity	Marty Tarzian

## Parish Council Report - Year 1962

The Parish Council held 22 regular business meetings with exceptionally good attendance.

Our first order of business was to accept with regret, Der Dajad Davidian's resignation, per his request, in order that he may accept a teaching position at the new Armenian Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. This, therefore, necessitated the search for a new Parish Priest.

With Father Dajad's help and support from the Diocese, we met with many clergy trying to find the most suitable pastor for our Parish. To everyone's great satisfaction we were able to obtain the services of Father Arnak Kasparian from Detroit, Michigan.

On Saturday, February 24, 1962, a farewell Banquet was held in Der Dajad's honor. This was the first time we had a Saturday night banquet in our Church Building. This dinner was attended by our entire Parish and community. It was termed a huge success.

We then had the problem of securing a Parsonage for our new pastor. A search was made and after the most suitable quarters were found, a contract was signed for a temporary Parsonage in Closter, New Jersey.

On March 25 our First Anniversary Banquet was held in our Church with the ordination of Deacons and Choir members receiving their degrees from our Primate, Archbishop Sion Manoogian.

On Sunday, March 4, 1962, a St. Vartanantz celebration was held in the afternoon. This celebration was sponsored by our Parish in conjunction with the Mashtots Cultural society. Many Armenians from nearby communities attended, many seeing our Church for the first time.

In February our Choirmaster, Mr. Bedros Norhad resigned, due to illness. Mr. Edward Daghlian was appointed as Acting Choir Director.

On June 9 and 10, 1962 the Church Fair was held, under ideal weather conditions. It was a successful affair.

At the Quarterly Parish Assembly on Sunday, June 24, 1962 a vote was taken and passed, that a Parsonage be build on our Church property. A budget of \$22,500.00 was set for this project. A detailed report on the Parsonage will be given by our Building Committee.

During the summer, a Vacation School was started under the guidance of Father Arnak and for those who attended it proved most successful.

On Sunday, September 16, 1962 a get-together picnic was held on the Church grounds and inside the Church. This was sponsored by the Parish Council and was a most successful affair.

## Parish Council Report - Year 1962

The Parish Council sponsored its annual raffle under the chairmanship of Mr. Arman Ajamian. A trip to Europe for two was the first prize. With a donation of \$1,500.00 from the prize winner, Mr. Edward Kassabian, the Parish enjoyed a net profit of \$4,732.00.

A Halloween Party was held on November 2, 1962, a Friday night, with approximately 225 children and parents present. All the children were in costume. All candies, cakes, soda and prizes were donated by our parishioners. Admissions collected at the door represented a clear profit.

For the first time we established a calendar of events. All of our forthcoming events are listed in the A.G.B.U. Calendar. The Parish Council also has planned the following events:

Picnic	June 23, 1963
Bazaar	Sept. 14-15, 1963

The need for a conscientious membership chairman was fulfilled with the appointment of Mr. Tish Basmajian. Mr. Basmajian has already met with the Parish Council and presented his plans on how to increase our membership and pledges.

On October 17, 1962 at the Clinton Inn, a Building Committee was formed for the purpose of building our new Church. This committee will also assume the task of building the Parsonage and the upkeep of our present building. The committee is as follows:

General Chairman	Richard Turnamian
Vice Chairmen	Edward Bashian & Haig Tashjian
Secretary	Arthur Otchy
Treasurer	Charles Malajian
Asst. Treasurer	Martin Tashjian
Architectural Chairman	Antranig Ouzoonian
Contract Chairman	Charles Shakarjian
Finance Chairman	Peter Daghlian
Memorials Chairman	Steve Ananian
Publicity Chairman	Peter Dormagian

The head of each department will form his own sub-committee.

The Parish Council confirmed the creation of this body granting them the following powers:

- 1 - To organize and execute functions for the purpose of raising money for the Building Fund.
- 2 - To select a treasurer, open a bank account, a checking account, and to issue checks.
- 3 - Provided three or more members are present, to negotiate mortgage money contracts and building contracts. Said contracts to be signed by Parish Council.
- 4 - The committee is authorized to sign contracts up to \$5,000.00 per contract, cumulatively to \$10,000.00 (over and above the main contract.)
- 5 - Effective January 1, 1963 the Committee shall be responsible for the payment of all mortgages, present and future. The Parish council to advance the Committee \$2,000.00 as an initial fund.

Parish Council Report - Year 1962

The Parish Council has opened a checking account for the Building Committee at the County Trust in Tenafly, N. J. We have on deposit the sum of \$3,500.00.

On December 9, 1962, Sunday, during the Sunday School period, a preliminary Parish Assembly was held in the lobby of our building. The purpose of this meeting was that we set the agenda for the Annual Meeting and elect a nominating committee who will prepare a slate of candidates for the Parish Council. Six persons are to be elected to the Parish Council.

Before terminating this report the Parish Council Chairman and the Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all the groups that marked a successful year for our Church. I have reference to the Women's Guild, Men's Club, Sunday School, A.C.Y.O.A., Sunday School Seniors, Armenian School, and to all the various committees and groups.

In closing we wish to thank all those who have supported us and have shown confidence in us, and to all the individuals who have given many untiring hours of effort. It was with this kind of support that;

- (1) Our membership has grown from 121 pledge families to 154 pledge families.
- (2) Our financial structure was sound. We paid our debts and met our budget.
- (3) We have established a firm program for the coming year. This includes contracting for the Parsonage, laying the groundwork for our Church Building Program, and paying off as much as possible the Mortgage of \$6 our present building.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Father Arnak Kasparian, President  
Richard Turnamian, Chairman  
Peter Ajemian, Secretary  
Zaven Halejian, Treasurer.