

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF BERGEN COUNTY
Tenafly, N. J.
PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1963

After the Annual Membership Meeting on February 3, 1963, the Parish Council at its first meeting elected its officers as follows:

Chairman	Richard Turnamian
Vice-Chairman	Tish Basmajian
Secretary	Mark Chookazian
Asst. Secretary	Berdj Kalustyan
Treasurer	Zaven Halejian
Members at large:	Peter Ajemian
	Steve Ananian
	Jack Charshafian
	John Froonjian
	Jack Hajinlian
	James Melcon

A total of 18 council meetings have been held throughout the year. Two interim parish assembly meetings were also held.

Membership Drive

This drive, initiated by Tish Basmajian in February, has increased the membership of our parish from 142 families to 170 families.

Church Affairs

During the year, the Parish Council has sponsored the following affairs:

On March 4th, 1963, the second anniversary dinner was held at which time all past and present parish council members were honored.

On September 14 and 15 the Church Fair was held under the chairmanship of Tish Basmajian and Jack Hajinlian.

A Halloween Party was held on October 25, 1963. Approximately 300 children and adults attended. This was a most successful affair. Chairman of this party was Mrs. Vicki Ganan assisted by Mrs. Armine Donelian.

On New Year's Eve a most successful dinner and dance was held at the Tenakill Restaurant, Tenafly under the most capable chairmanship of Mr. & Mrs. Berdj Kalustyan.

Sunday School

Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian has been appointed superintendent of the Sunday School for a term of one year commencing in June. Enrollment is now 211 children. Collections from the Lenten mite boxes have been used to support two Armenian children for one year at the school in Jerusalem. This will continue till these two students are graduated. The Liason officer between the Sunday School and Parish Council is Mark Chookazian.

Armenian School

The Armenian School has an enrollment of 19 students. Classes are held on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The teachers are Mrs. Rose Kachadoorian and Mrs. Queenie Tashjian.

Those attending enjoy the classes very much - we are only sorry that more children and parents are not taking advantage of these classes. The Liason Officer is Mr. Zaven Halejian.

Men's Club

Regular meetings have been at a minimum during the year. However, there have been a number of events which the men have been participating in, namely a card party social nite, a successfully organized bowling league, and a basketball team. Liason officer is Steve Ananian.

Choir

A drive is underway to increase the membership of our choir. Children from the A.C.Y.O.A. and the Sunday School Seniors are being trained. Mr. Edward Daghlian has remained as acting choirmaster. Mr. Bedros Norehad has been coming in every Monday Evening, since November, to teach all interested persons from 8 to 10 p.m. A commendable job is being done by certain of the choir members who pick up the youngsters by car each Monday evening to insure that they will get to the rehearsals. Liason officer is Berdj Kalustyan.

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild of our Church as always has been working in various ways towards the well being of this Parish. Liason officer is Dick Turnamian.

Diocesan Assembly

The 61st Annual Diocesan Assembly was held in Troy, New York on May 18 and 19. Delegates attending from our parish were Steve Ananian, Jim Melcon, and Nazar Nazarian (an alternate). The delegates reported back to the parish at a meeting following the assembly. The 1964 Diocesan Assembly will be held on May 2-3 in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, when the main item on the agenda will be the consideration of amendments to the By-Laws.

Restoration Fund

A total commitment of \$9,000 has been made to the Restoration Fund for the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. This commitment is payable in 1965, 1966, and 1967. Chairman of this committee is Mr. Edward Bashian with Mr. Vay Najarian as treasurer.

Cathedral Project

Our quota for the Cathedral Project is \$10,000 which is payable in five years and is to be collected from the entire Bergen County Parish.

Church Paper

The Bergen Beacon, our official church paper, is published monthly (except July & August) and is an 8 page publication. The copies for the Beacon are prepared by Yerezgin Violet Kasparian. The plates are made and donated by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Davoudian; and the printing is taken care of by Mr. Onnig Hourdajian. We thank them all for their continued services. The mailing list of the Beacon is 738.

Parsonage & Church Building Project

Under the leadership of the Building Project Committee which was officially formed on October 17, 1962, the two-fold responsibility of directing the work on the parsonage and the Church Building has been undertaken during this year and has shown an excellent record of accomplishment. The Project Committee is under the General Chairmanship of Mr. Edward Bashian and Mr. Jack Charshafian. Plans for the parsonage were prepared, approved, erected and occupied by November 8, 1963. The general contractor was Mr. John Karanfilian; the plans were prepared by Mr. Antranig Ouzoonian; Mr. Harry Kalajian was entrusted with the duty of supervising the building; and Mr. Charles Shakarjian was in charge of contracts. Our thanks to each of the above mentioned persons, particularly to Mr. Karanfilian who made possible the construction of the parsonage at such a reasonable price.

The first fund raising "get-together" for the Church Building Project was held in March at the home of Mr. Vay Najarian where pledges totaling \$70,000 were received. This was followed in April with a "Stag" Dinner at the Tammy Brook Country Club, and with a concerted drive throughout the year. The total monies pledged come to approximately \$110,000.00. After a number of modifications have been made on the church plans, the final drawings will be ready for submittal and approval of the committee. A separate Church Building Fund Account has been set up at the Country Trust Bank in Tenafly.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Haig Turnamian for his services as C.P.A. in seeing to it that our accounts are all in good order.

It is the hope of the Parish Council that each and every one in our community will work more actively in various church activities for our own spiritual and moral betterment, and for the Glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Parish Council -

Father Arnak Kasparian, President
Richard Turnamian, Chairman
Mark Chookazian, Secretary