

THE ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

1981

PASTOR and PARISH COUNCIL

THE 1981 PASTOR'S REPORT

This year is a milestone in my pastorate, with 20 years of service in this Parish. These were 20 wonderful years for me and for my family. It fills my heart with gratitude and thanksgiving towards God and my St. Thomas family.

St. Thomas has grown in serving our people and has become one of the outstanding churches of our Diocese. Of course, there is always room for improvement, but, in general, I am happy to report that by the Grace of God we have completed another fruitful year. We have a concerned, dedicated and dependable group on which we rely and give thanks for the life in the Church. We have a small group who are here every Sunday and they keep the doors of the Church open for worship. We have a small group who are the backbone of the physical existence of this Parish. Whether in office or out of office they cherish the well being of this Church, and, unfortunately, sometimes we take them for granted. A heartfelt "Thank God" for these people. Our thanks go to the Church auxiliary groups and special commendation goes to our Parish Council for their fine cooperation and work. Each group has submitted its report separately. I will report to you mainly about the sacramental and pastoral activities of the past year.

WORSHIP SERVICES have been conducted every Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to noon, with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and a sermon. During the year, we had as guest celebrant Archbishop Torkom Manoogian on Palm Sunday when we celebrated the anniversary of the consecration of the Church.

SACRAMENTAL SERVICES: During the year, 39 baptisms were performed (compared to 23 last year); 18 marriages were blessed (21 the previous year); 20 funerals took place, (19 last year).

At this time, let us remember our dear, departed members: Charles Garbis Derderian, husband of Renee Derderian. Vahe Arkell, husband of Araxie Arkell. Vahe faithfully attended church services and had served Holy Cross of New York for many years. Dr. Gerard Balakian, husband of Arax. Dr. Balakian was one of the founding fathers of this church and served on the first Parish Council. Marie Topjian, mother of Artemis Nazarian. Mrs. Topjian had sewn

the first set of vestments being used in our church. Martin Tashjian, husband of Sonia. Martin's loss was tragic; he was still young, and he always was involved with the sports activities of our youngsters. Michael Vahan Avakian, husband of Rebecca. Michael was one of the founding fathers of this church and had served on the Parish Council for many years. Garabed Yedibalian, the husband of Jacqueline.

We shall also remember Agnes Nigosian, mother of Ann Stepanian; George Terjanian, Jr., son of George Terjanian; Stephen Najarian, brother of Vahan Najarian; Assad Hamad, father of Gloria Ermoian; Alex Nahabedian, brother of Vahan Nahabedian; Nancy Manoushag Kuyamjian, mother of Vahan and Dr. Gerard Kuyamjian; Roxanne Mirijanian, sister of Harry Mirijanian, Mannik Davoudian, mother of Edward Davoudian; George Newbauer, husband of Mary Tekirian Newbauer.

ADMINISTRATIVE: As ex-officio president of all church organizations, I attended most of the meetings. I directed and advised and, in many cases, helped in implementing decisions. I attended the Clergy Conference and Diocesan Assembly in Watertown, Massachusetts.

PUBLICATIONS: We have published the Bergen Beacon Monthly and put out flyers for our various affairs. Each month our Beacon is mailed to our college students residing on campus. A special thanks to Mary Ann Saraydarian for editing our Beacon. Sandra Alpino and Susan Stoneson have been setting the type for us for the Beacon.

We also thank Mrs. Lucy Chakmakian and lately Roseanne Arzoo-
manian for their time and efforts for making the "Mahs" for us every Sunday.

We thank Michel Izmirly and Mrs. Amy Jamgochian, co-chairmen of Bazaar '81. We also thank Edward Bashian for more than doubling our Bazaar profits through his rug sales.

Today we are counting our blessings. The greatest blessings that God has given us are the wonderful people who worship together, who work together and make St. Thomas available to the thousands of Armenians who live in Bergen County, people who are only hitchhikers, and take this church for granted. This handful of people are performing a great service for the Armenian Community of Bergen County by making the church the binding force for the entire community.

THE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

With the guidance of our President and religious leader, Der Arnak, the Parish Council managed the activities of our parish and the church complex this year to the best of their abilities. With the cooperation of the members of the parish, parish organizations, and the dedicated efforts of the individual members of the parish, 1981 was another successful year for our parish. This year we managed to again stay within the proposed budget, and to improve financially the position of our parish. We would like to thank each and every one in the parish who have contributed to the success of this year.

This year the Parish Council underwent two changes in membership. With the resignations of Haig Varjian, and Leon Nigohosian, both for reasons of personal business, the two alternates elected at last year's assembly became members of the council. We thank Haig and Leon for their efforts while members of the council, and we thank Moses Kazanjian and Paul Pinajian for stepping in to serve when needed.

<i>NAME</i>	<i>OFFICE</i>	<i>ASSIGNMENT</i>	<i>LIAISON</i>
Peter Jamgochian	Chairman	-----	-----
Leon Nigohosian	Vice Chairman	-----	Men's Club
Albert Papazian	Vice Chairman	Pledges	Sunday School
Ara Babigian	Secretary	Pledges	
Haig Varjian	Treasurer	-----	-----
Vahan Barsamian	Treasurer	Pledges	Choir, Couples Club
Samuel Demirjian	-----	Narthex, Sacraments	Armenian School
Moses Kazanjian	-----	Buildings & Grounds	-----
Jack Hajinlian	-----	Rentals & Calendar	A.C.Y.O.A. Jrs. A.C.S.A.
Virginia Parseghian	-----	Supplies & Custodial Service	Women's Guild
Paul Pinajian	-----	-----	Men's Club
Charles Doudoukjian	-----	Bookstore	Avak Society
Frank Avakian Stoneson	-----	-----	A.C.Y.O.A. Srs.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

The Parish Council scheduled most of their meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the church. During the months of July and August the council scheduled only one meeting. The council also met during the year as needed. The meetings of the council were presided over by the President, Der Arnak and conducted by the Chairman, Peter Jamgochian. Meetings were open to members of the parish upon their request. Leaders of various parish organizations, and Delegates attended the meetings during the year to discuss matters of interest.

PARISH COUNCIL RELATED ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP - Membership was an area that was not emphasized this year. There was however, a net gain of four individual members in the parish this year. A number of members of our family passed away last year, but we were joined by nine new members. In essence our parish has remained the same in size at a time when other denominations are experiencing losses in membership. This is to our credit, but there is much room for growth. We should set a goal each year for our parish, to increase in size of membership and to retain the participation of those who are already members.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS - This year the area of Buildings and Grounds was initially assigned to Frank Avakian Stoneson. With the demands of Frank's new position as Executive Director of the diocese curtailing much of his free time, the position was reassigned to Moses Kazanjian. We thank both Frank and Moses for their efforts in this area. Below are listed the improvements and repairs made during the year.

- a. The picnic area adjacent to the creek has been graded and leveled off. This will add more room for tables during the annual picnic. The area will be seeded during the early Spring.
- b. The church complex now has a fire alarm system that is directly connected to the tenafly fire department. All areas of the complex are wired with the appropriate detectors.
- c. The bell system has been repaired and improved. If anyone is in the complex in the evening, the doors may be locked for security reasons. The bell can be heard all over the complex. There is provision for cutting off the bell during services on Sunday.
- d. New lighting is being installed in the Parking Lot. The new light posts will illuminate the entire lot.
- e. Kitchen and corridor exterior doors at the rear of the complex are to be replaced with metal doors. The added security of metal doors in the rear will help protect the complex from forced entry. Both sets of doors were in need or replacement.
- f. The main parking lot is to be extended to the South by grading and the addition of a gravel surface. This will add many spaces that could be used during those times when our present lot is inadequate.
- g. A new water heater was installed to provide hot water for the rest rooms in the church annex.
- h. The existing heating system has been repaired so as to put it back to effective operation.
- j. Additional high intensity lighting has been installed on the 9W side of the church complex.
- k. A collapsed drain pipe under the driveway at the rear of the kitchen will be replaced and extended to provide proper drainage in that area.

PLANS, PROGRAMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COMING YEAR INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING.

- a. Plans have been drawn up and sent out for bids to enclose the Vestibule area at the entrance to the Church Annex. The enclosure would provide heat conservation, and make the area just inside the present doors usable during the winter months. Bids have been received. Action is pending depending on the outcome of item (c) below.
- b. Several plans to convert the heating system of the Church Annex to a hot water system with the addition of Air Conditioning capability as an option have been received with prices for the conversion. Action is pending depending on the outcome of item (c) below and the report of a heating and air conditioning engineer on the needs of our complex.
- c. We have engaged the services of an architect, Mr. Armen Avakian, who will prepare conceptual plans for the directions that expansion might take for our church complex. We have informed the architect of the basic needs of our parish and are awaiting the results of his efforts. Mr. Avakian was the principal architect in the re-design of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kansas City to repair the results of the tragic collapse this year. That has prevented his report on our project from being ready at this time. In addition, we have a conceptual drawing by another architect, Mr. Dan Bartelluce, for the expansion of the church annex.
- d. The driveway to the kitchen area is still in need of repair, but with the grading in the area to the rear and the repair of the drain, resurfacing will have to wait at present.

SACRAMENTS AND NARTHEX - Samuel Demirjian was again this year responsible for the coordination of items necessary for religious services. Under the constant care of Sam who is always there, things ran smoothly and without a flaw.

SUPPLIES AND CUSTODIAL SERVICES - Virginia Parseghian was responsible for this area of our church needs. Assisting her again this year was our custodian Garo Arakelian. Virginia has overseen this area for a number of years and has done her task well and without oversight.

PLEDGES - Albert Papazian is the chairman of this activity of the Parish Council. He is assisted by Ara Babigian and Vahan Barsamian. This most difficult and time consuming task is well handled by Albert and his committee. During the years that Albert has handled pledges he has developed a system that is hard to beat.

RENTALS - Jack Hajinlian was again responsible for this area of Parish Council operations. He handled the task in a most professional manner, and was present almost every Sunday to record and advise organizations and individuals as to their needs on the calendar.

SECRETARY - Ara Babigian served as Secretary to the Parish Council and recorded the minutes of the meetings and special meetings held during the year. We thank Ara for a job well done.

TREASURER - Haig Varjian served as treasurer from the beginning of the year to the time of his resignation for business reasons in September. Vahan Barsamian who has served three years as treasurer prior to this year, took over the task on Haig's resignation. We thank both men for their attention to detail and the splendid manner in which they accomplished this most critical of Parish Council functions. We also thank Alice Arzoomanian again who served so well as bookkeeping assistant to the treasurer. Thanks also to Michel Izmirly for his help and guidance in this area. We also thank Mr. Tish Basmajian for his help to the Treasurer every Sunday.

BOOKSTORE - Charles Doudoukjian served as liaison to the Bookstore. Sona Doudoukjian served as chairlady of the Bookstore. We thank Sona and Charles for maintaining a Bookstore that is current and attractive.

AFTER CHURCH SOCIAL - We thank the committee of volunteers from the Women's Guild for the splendid way in which they have taken care of this little get-together that means so much to us all after church.

CULTURAL COMMITTEE - The Cultural Committee presented a splendid evening of entertainment for the parish by Mr. Dikran Jamgochian. The concert and social gathering afterwards was a pleasure to attend. The committee also sponsored a panel discussion during the year.

PARISH COUNCIL SOCIAL FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

1. TWENTY FOURTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER - April 12, 1981
General Chairman, Peter Jamgochian
Awards: St. Thomas Award - Dorothy and Arthur Otchy
Alice and Antranig Shahinian
2. MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC - May 25, 1981
General Chairman, Paul Pinajian
Mike Fenarjian
3. ONE WORLD FESTIVAL - September 12-13, 1981
General Chairman, Peter Jamgochian
4. GET-TOGETHER (FALL) PICNIC - September 20, 1981
General Chairman, Peter Jamgochian
5. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - December 5-6, 1981
General Chairman, Michel Izmirly
Amy Jamgochian
6. CAR RAFFLE - January 1, 1982
*Note: The responsibility for the annual car raffle has been transferred to the Men's Club and it is no longer a Parish Council function. However, the Parish Council would like to recognize and thank the General Chairman, Zaven Poosikian for the splendid work he has done in this capacity.

INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bashian and their family by their efforts and generosity contributed substantially to the success of our annual bazaar. They conducted and guided the Oriental Rug Sale which is a feature of our annual bazaar, and their efforts made it the success that it was.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bashian donated \$10,000 to the Cathedral Endowment fund. The income of half of this donation annually is to come to St. Thomas Church.

Dr. and Mrs. Haroutune Mekhjian donated \$10,000 to the Cathedral Endowment Fund. The income of half of this donation annually is to come to the St. Thomas Armenian School.

Mr. Rupen Saddler donated a new plain paper copy machine to the church for its use. This annual report has been reproduced on that machine.

Dr. Gerard Kuyamjian donated new candlesticks for use on the altar of our church.

Dikris Malool donates her time and services as an unofficial secretary for our parish. She has done this for a number of years cheerfully and with the love and care of a truly dedicated member of our parish.

The Parish Council would like to thank all those parishioners who have given of themselves in order to make this parish the success that it is. It is through the efforts of dedicated members that we will continue to succeed. This report is much too short to allow the mention of all the members of our parish who have helped to make it what it is, and if anyone is overlooked it is through lack of space rather than appreciation.

OUR RELIGIOUS LEADER - Der Arnak and his family have served the St. Thomas Family for many years with love and consideration. We thank God that he has provided us with a shepherd of the quality of Der Arnak. He directs the efforts of the council with the perfect combination of firmness and good humor, and spends many hours along with his family working for the benefit of our St. Thomas family. We thank Yerezgin Violet for her many hours of dedicated service to the parish. We pray that God will bless Der Arnak and his family with many long and happy years together with us.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Listed below are recommendations which we would like to refer to the 1982 Parish Council for their consideration and further action.

- a. Set up a committee to increase the membership of our church. this committee should set a goal for a specific number of members and meet that goal.
- b. Continue with the on-going projects of planned improvements to our Church complex.
- c. Continue with the increase of religious adult activities.
- d. Re-establish the A.C.Y.O.A. Seniors.
- e. Increase the programs for the A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors.

- f. Explore the possibility of appointing a Youth Director for the parish.
- g. Complete the reorganization of the Memorials Committee under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council.
- h. Get as many people involved in Church activities as possible.

CONCLUSION

We are proud of the accomplishments of the St. Thomas family during this year. We have all donated our time and efforts to make St. Thomas a home for all Armenians seeking religious and ethnic fulfillment. We must continue to do so if we are to succeed. It is difficult to conduct the programs of the parish with only the efforts of a dedicated "few" members. We must be ready to serve when called upon, so that the burden is lightened and equally divided amongst the members of our family. If we desire an improvement to our parish, we must work to that end together and not expect others to do so for us.

St. Thomas is a family affair, and that means that all members of the family are involved and should be there working together to make this parish what it has always been and will continue to be, a success! May God bless you all

Peter A. Jamgochian
Parish Council Chairman

Ara Babigian
Secretary

Rev. Arnak Kasparian
President

NOMINATION

In accordance with the Charter to the Board of Trustees adopted at the Annual Parish Assembly, February 8, 1981, The Parish Council nominates for the approval of the Parish Assembly, February 7, 1982, Mr. Edward Bashian to serve as trustee for a term of seven years from February 1982 to February of 1989.

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 1981

BANK BALANCES JANUARY 1, 1981

Checking Account		\$ 11,451.85
Savings Account		<u>69,865.91</u>
Total		81,317.76
1981 Income	\$183,460.71	
1981 Disbursements	<u>158,240.83</u>	<u>25,219.88</u>
Total Cash-December 31, 1981		<u><u>\$106,537.64</u></u>

BANK BALANCES DECEMBER 31, 1981

Checking Account	18,191.28	
Savings Account	<u>88,346.36</u>	
Total Checking & Savings		<u><u>\$106,537.64</u></u>

- NOTE 1. The Bazaar checking account balance of \$20,376.59 at December 31, 1980 and \$6326.18 at December 31, 1981 is not included in the above Financial Summary.
2. The \$16,000.00 balance in "Loan and Exchange" is due from the Car Raffle.
3. The \$28,700.00 receivable from the Car Raffle is not included in the above balance.
4. The mortgage balances are as follows:

	<u>DECEMBER 31, 1981</u>	<u>DECEMBER 31, 1980</u>
CHURCH	\$67,553.65	\$85,482.27
PARSONAGE	<u>10,680.39</u>	<u>11,898.71</u>
	<u><u>\$78,234.04</u></u>	<u><u>\$97,380.98</u></u>

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY
BUDGET AND INCOME FOR THE YEAR 1980
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1982 & 1981

	ACTUAL 1981	BUDGET 1981	ACTUAL 1980	BUDGET 1980	PROPOSED 1982
<u>PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS</u>					
1. Pledge Receipts	\$ 34,045	\$ 33,000	\$ 31,594	\$ 32,000	\$ 36,000
2. Plates & Candles	8,084	7,000	6,910	6,000	9,000
3. Christmas Offering	1,265	1,000	641	1,500	1,500
4. Easter Offering	896	1,900	1,855	1,800	1,000
5. Prayers	198	200	195	200	300
<u>SACRAMENTS</u>					
1. Baptisms	1,285	800	735	1,400	1,500
2. Weddings	1,280	1,200	1,170	1,500	1,500
3. Funerals	515	1,300	1,240	500	500
4. Requiems	1,725	2,100	2,085	2,200	2,000
<u>AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS</u>					
1. Women's Guild	10,000	8,500	9,000	8,000	10,000
2. Avak Society	1,310	1,000	900	1,000	1,500
3. Couples Club	—	1,000	1,000	1,000	—
4. Acyoa	39	1,000	1,000	500	1,000
5. Men's Club	500	500	500	500	1,000
<u>CHURCH AFFAIRS</u>					
1. Bazaar	63,653	38,145	35,062	30,000	50,000
2. Memorial Day Picnic	3,570	5,000	4,288	4,000	5,000
3. Fall Picnic	1,293	1,000	550	2,500	1,000
4. Anniversary & Cake	5,256	5,000	4,235	5,000	5,000
<u>DONATIONS</u>					
1. In Lieu of Flowers	16,763	7,000	6,920	6,000	9,000
2. Altar Flowers	1,243	1,000	990	500	1,000
3. Memorial Fund	2,960	3,000	2,935	1,000	3,000
4. Fuhrmann Memorial	1,000	500	500	500	1,000
5. Christmas Greetings	1,275	1,300	1,285	1,000	1,500
6. Other Donations	—	2,000	15,000	1,500	2,000
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>					
1. Misc.	1,318	—	—	—	—
2. Car Raffle	8,600	8,000	9,000	10,000	10,000
3. Interest	8,843	7,500	3,688	6,000	7,000
4. Bookstore	1,308	2,000	2,207	1,200	1,500
5. One World Festival	—	500	490	800	500
6. Hall Donation	4,562	2,500	2,335	2,500	5,000
7. Loans & Exchange	674	1,300	10,073	—	—
TOTAL	\$183,461	\$146,245	\$158,383	\$130,600	\$168,800

4 5,500
12 → 7,000
1,500
\$170,300

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
 BUDGET AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1980
 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1982 & 1981

	ACTUAL 1981	BUDGET 1981	ACTUAL 1980	BUDGET 1980	PROPOSED 1982
<u>SALARIES, FEES & BENEFITS</u>					
1. Clergy Salary	\$ 19,030	\$ 17,295	\$ 16,264	\$ 16,845	\$ 22,080
2. Parsonage Expense	2,752	2,700	2,269	2,500	2,800
3. Clergy Car Expense	3,000	3,000	2,531	2,600	3,000
4. Clergy Insurance	3,229	3,000	—	—	3,500
5. Custodial Salary & Ovr tm	11,127	10,500	10,000	10,000	11,000
6. Custodian Car Expenses	2,472	2,500	1,500	1,500	2,500
7. Visiting Clergy	—	600	—	300	600
8. Other Fees:		4,600	3,820	4,000	5,000
A. Director of Christian Education	3,000				
B. Choir Director	1,020				
C. Organist	950				
9. Payroll Taxes	1,431	4,500	1,948	4,200	2,000
0. Employee Benefits	1,848	1,750	5,011	3,500	2,000
<u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u>					
1. Telephone	905	700	675	650	1,000
2. Stationery, Printing and Postage	3,836	3,000	1,931	2,500	4,500
3. Candles, Flowers	964	700	238	700	1,000
4. Bookstore	2,312	2,000	3,087	1,500	2,500
5. Paperware, Other Supplies	2,769	3,500	2,858	3,500	3,000
6. Activities	1,682	3,000	1,905	2,500	2,000
<u>ASSESSMENTS</u>					
1. Diocesan Dues	19,199	17,500	17,486	17,500	22,000
<u>EDUCATIONAL</u>					
1. Sunday School	652	1,000	235	1,000	1,000
2. Armenian School	—	—	—	—	1,000
3. St Nerses					1,500
<u>CHURCH BUILDING EXPENSES</u>					
1. Mortgage Payments	27,318	27,400	27,087	24,500	27,400
2. Utilities:					
A. Gas & Electric	16,864	15,000	11,418	13,000	20,000
B. Water	494	500	247	300	500
3. Insurance	3,719	6,000	4,029	6,000	5,000
4. Repairs, Maintenance	10,366	5,000	2,125	5,000	14,000
5. Grounds care, Snow Rem.	300	1,000	250	1,000	1,000
6. Fuhrman Memorial	1,000	500	500	500	1,000
7. Bldg. Equip. Grounds, Improvement	—	7,000	2,060	3,500	7,000
8. Loan & Exchange	16,000	—	10,603	—	—
9. Miscellaneous	—	2,000	2,824	1,505	420
TOTAL	\$158,241	\$146,245	\$132,899	\$130,600	\$168,800
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
					\$170,300

REPORT ON 1981 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

The Diocese of the Armenian Church held its 79th Annual Diocesan Assembly during the weekend of April 30-May 2 in Watertown, Mass., hosted by the St. James parish of that city.

The St. Thomas Parish was represented by Diocesan Delegates Arthur Azarik, Victor Arzoomanian, George Mekenian, and Joseph Kalemkerian, Rev. Fr. Arnak Kasparian and Parish Council Chairman, Peter Jamgochian.

The Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, delivered his address in which he stressed the need for church unity, the financial stability of the Diocese, and violence in today's society.

The Assembly directed the Church Unity Committee to continue its discussions with the separated brethren committee to achieve church unity.

The delegates heard a report on the impending creation of the Diocese of Canada. The date will be determined following final negotiations between His Holiness and the parties involved.

Due to the acute clergy shortage a proposal was accepted charging the Primate and the Diocesan Council to appoint a committee to formulate the plans and organizational details for the creation of a Department of Clergy Recruitment.

The budget for 1981 of \$1,170,000 was approved. Parish dues assessments will total \$425,000. The St. Thomas Parish has been assessed \$19,199.

According to the report submitted by Victor Arzoomanian, Executive Director of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund, there is \$1,800,000 in assets in the Fund which earned \$77,000 for the Diocese.

In conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly, meetings were also held for Sunday School Teachers, Armenian School Teachers, ACYOA, and Women's Guilds. St. Thomas was represented at those meetings as well by members of the organizations.

The 1982 Diocesan Assembly will be held in early May in New Britain, Conn.

Joseph Kalemkerian

CASPAR M. KASPARIAN MEMORIAL FUND

The Caspar M. Kasparian Memorial Fund was established in 1979. The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarship assistance for the young people of the St. Thomas parish to attend religious study conferences, retreats and other educational activities in the church.

During July and August, the Board of Directors awarded scholarship assistance to sixteen young people, ages 15-20, to attend the ten day St. Nersess Summer Study Programs at the Ouzoonian House in New Rochelle, N.Y. The participants were given the opportunity to learn more about the Armenian Church while at the same time had the opportunity of enjoying the fellowship of other young people like themselves from other Armenian communities in the U.S. During the past two years a total of 29 youngsters have attended the Summer Study Program with assistance from the Fund.

Those who attended were the following: Nancy Arzoomanian, Lance Berberian, Suzanne Demirjian, Gregory Doudoukjian, Gregory Ekizian, Paula and Suzanne Iskenderian, Leon Nigohosian, Andrew Martaian, Stephen Mekenian, Glenn and Robin Poosikian, George Saraydarian, Karen Saraydarian, Linda and Rita Tchalikian.

During the weekend of Oct. 16-18, the Fund sponsored the second annual retreat for the 10th-12th graders at the Carmel Retreat House in Mahwah, N. J. The weekend was attended by 12 youngsters. The theme of the weekend was "Teach Us To Pray" and was led by Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, Pastor of St. James Church, Westchester County, N.Y. He was assisted by Nancy Basmajian of the Diocesan Dept. of Religious Education, our Pastor, Fr. Arnak, and Louise Kalemkerian, Director of Christian Education of the St. Thomas Church.

The Fund contributed to the participation of each teenager, who learned also about the spirit of Christian love and service exemplified by Caspar Kasparian. Chaperones accompanying the group were Lillian Kasparian, George Mekenian, and Joseph Kalemkerian.

During 1981 20 individuals donated a total of \$1890. to the Fund.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Interest Income		\$1,520.94
	Expenses	
1980 Retreat	10.00	
1981 St. Nersess Scholarships	480.00	
1981 Retreat	406.00	
Misc.	<u>6.65</u>	
		<u>-902.65</u>
		618.29
Donations received		<u>1,890.00</u>
Net Income & Donations		\$2,508.29
Assets on 12/31/81:	Certificate of Deposit	\$10,000.00
	Checking Account	<u>1,545.60</u>
		11,545.60
Assets on 12/31/80:	Parish Council Treas.	<u>9,037.31</u>
Change in Assets 1981		\$ 2,508.29
<u>Board of Directors:</u> Fr. Arnak Kasparian, President, Ex-officio; Joseph Kalemkerian, Chairman; Lillian Kasparian, Secy.; George Mekenian, Treas.; Zaven Dadekian, Advisor.		

GEORGE SHAHINIAN MEMORIAL FUND

The By-Laws of the George Shahinian Memorial Fund were approved at the Annual Assembly on February 8, 1981.

The purpose of this Fund is to provide full or partial scholarships and other funding to primarily further the cultural education of the youth of St. Thomas, and in exceptional cases, youth of St. James Armenian Church Parish of Watertown, Mass.

This year textbooks for the Armenian School were purchased. The Fund partially sponsored the trip to Armenia for some of our Choir members. The Fund also partially sponsored Thomas Kasparian's retreat.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income	Interest	Disbursements	
\$17,992.00	\$78.03 (First Natl. Bank, Tenafly)	\$16,400.00	Invested
		500.00	St. Thomas Armenian Language School
		400.00	St. Thomas Choir trip to Armenia
		500.00	St. James Sahag- Mesrob School
		50.00	St. Thomas--Thomas Kasparian, Retreat

		\$17,850.00	
Balance at Savings Account			\$ 220.03
Balance at Hong-Kong Investment (as of Dec. 11, 1981)			17,913.13

			\$18,133.16

Board of Directors: Fr. Arnak Kasparian, President, Ex-officio; Antranig Shahinian, Chairman; Sandra Shahinian, Secy.; Shakaeh Shahinian, Treas.; Peter Jamgochian, member, ex-officio.

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT - 1981

We, the Auditing Committee, have audited the books and records of the Parish Council and its Organizations and found all entries properly entered and substantiated.

The Couples' Club still has a checking account open.

Grace Hagopian
Joseph Hovsepian
John Zakar

ACYOA JUNIORS REPORT - 1981

Officers - Sept. 1981 - June 1982

Chairman	Leon Nigohosian	Vice Chairman	Melissa Arzrouni
Secretary	Narissa Bogoshian	Treasurer	Roger Tashjian
Publicity	Christine Jangochian		
Phone Squad	Karen Saraydarian	Advisor	Dr. Gary Dadaian

Our ACYOA has had a very productive year with the help of Dr. Gary Dadaian, our advisor. We appreciate the time and effort he has put into our endeavors. We would also like to thank Der Hayr and our Parish Council Liaison, Mr. Jack Hajinlian, for their help and cooperation.

Thus far, our year has been highlighted by the successes of both the bazaar and our annual progressive dinner. The "Armenian Power" shirts and the two raffles at our booth brought a profit of nearly \$400. Many thanks to the families of Narissa Bogoshian, Melissa Arzrouni, Lee Goomrigian, and Laura Saraydarian who hosted the different courses of this year's Progressive Dinner. We would also like to thank the parents who drove us to and from our many activities.

During the remainder of the year, we hope to increase our participation in service to our Church. Service projects are being planned to restore the Ouzoonian House, the site of the St. Nersess Religious Conferences. We would also like to help the Caspar Kasparian Memorial Fund. In October, the Fund sponsored a very successful and enlightening retreat for the youth of our Parish. It has helped high school students attend the St. Nersess Conferences. We are grateful for the opportunities the Fund has given us to enrich our faith in God.

I am very grateful to the members and their parents who have helped me with the activities held so far, and look forward to their continued participation in the future.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Checking account:

Opening balance	January 1, 1981	\$140.09
Closing balance	December 31, 1981	2.08

Savings account:

Balance	December 31, 1981	\$838.52
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ARMENIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL REPORT - 1981

The Armenian Language School is a valuable part of our Church family. The School teaches its students the Armenian language, songs, dance, prayers and general culture. Furthermore, it instills a lifelong pride and knowledge of their ethnic heritage. The School's success depends on the efforts of its Director, Sylva der Stepanian; its dedicated faculty; the Mothers' Committee, its Parish Council Liaison, Sam Demirjian, Der Hayr's guidance and the parents who faithfully bring their children to class each week.

The Mothers' Committee holds Halloween, Christmas and Easter parties for the children each year. There is an annual Talent Show which highlights our students' musical and poetic attributes. The School sponsors an Annual Armenian Christmas Dinner and Program, a Hantes and graduation in May, a booth at the Church Bazaar, representation at the Diocesan Assembly, and this year held a Martyrs' Day Luncheon and Program. An adult class was initiated and special stress was placed on strengthening the Armenian conversational abilities of our students.

FACULTY

Supt: Sylva der Stepanian	4: Maro Hojakian
Pre-K: Seta Jebejian	5: Marie Zokian
K: Ani Nahabedian	6: Sona Babayan
1: Queenie Tashjian	7: Olympia Jebejian
2: Ani Mardirosian	Arpine Vartivarian (Adults)
3: Ani Maybalian	Shakeh Artinyan (Conversation)
Sylvie der Khorenian (Aide)	Joyce Shenloogian (Dance)

MOTHERS' COMMITTEE

Co-Chairladies: Marion Babigian Ani Capan

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance from 1980 (Spring)		\$3,697.59
<u>Income</u>		
Tuition (62 x \$75.)	\$4,650.00	
Adult Tuition	450.00	
Donations	2,000.00	
Bazaar	650.00	
Armenian Christmas Dinner	<u>365.00</u>	8,115.00
<u>Expenses</u>		
Salaries for Faculty (11 @ \$20. x 31 wks.)	6,820.00	
Textbooks (Diocese)	1,100.00	
Supplies (Teaching)	140.00	
Diocesan Assembly (4 Teachers)	210.00	
Parties & Teachers' Mtgs.	365.00	
Transportation	150.00	
Gifts & Donations	50.00	
Hantes	<u>75.00</u>	(8,910.00)
Estimated balance for June 1981		<u>\$2,902.59</u>

AVAK SOCIETY - 1981

OFFICERS:

Chairman	Nish Ohanesian
Vice Chairman	George Avedisian
Rec. Secretary	Anne Stepanian
Cor. Secretary	Alice Shakarjian
Treasurer	Helen Avedisian
Asst. Treasurer	Zephyr Bandazian
Refreshments	Haig Markarian, Arax Markarian, Bertha Poosikian
Advisors	Vartoohi Halebian, Diane Nakashian

Membership as of December 31, 1981 198

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand 12/31/80			\$1,877.52
	Income	Expenses	
Membership Dues	606.00		
Weekly Dues	1,222.00		
Contributions	676.00		
Interest on Svgs. Acc.	71.43		
Transfer of funds			
Bergen Bank	2.75		
Received from Talcom			
Research	144.00		
Profit Valentine Party	150.82		
Profit Elberon Trip	48.00		
Profit Atlantic City Trip	40.00		
Profit White Beauty Trip	53.00		
Profit Luncheon Oct. 15	149.72		
Profit 50/50 Raffle	30.50		
Profit Club Bene Trip	<u>85.00</u>		
			3,279.22
			<u>5,156.74</u>
Refreshments		\$1,099.68	
Supplies		58.90	
Memorial Donations & Gifts		165.25	
St. Thomas Armenian Church		1,314.03	
Maintenance Man		55.00	
Mothers' & Fathers' Day Luncheon		320.93	
Wildwood Trip		16.75	
Christmas Luncheon		<u>143.04</u>	
			<u>3,173.58</u>
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1981			\$1,983.16
Provident Savings Bank	\$1,645.12		
Midlantic Bank (checking)	<u>338.04</u>		
	\$1,983.16		

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH CHOIR REPORT - 1981

The officers for the past year were: Chairman, Ara Martaian; Vice Chairman, Mary Sanossian; Corr. Secy., Eileen Barsamian; Rec. Secy., Roseanne Arzoomanian; Treasurer, Joseph Kalemkerian; Advisors: Dr. Gerard Kuyamjian and Archie Minassian.

On Theophany and Holy Thursday a representative group of choir members went to the Armenian Home for the Aged to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. The guests of the Home were very pleased with our presence and we in turn came away pleased for having given some happiness to these senior citizens.

Edward Daghlian, our Choirmaster, and Susan Shamamian, our Organist, have continued to serve with faithfulness and devotion for which we are deeply grateful. A special note of appreciation to choir member Ara Martaian who has stepped in to lead the choir whenever Mr. Daghlian has been unable to be present for the Divine Liturgy or choir rehearsals.

On Palm Sunday, His Grace Archbishop Torkom Manoogian ordained Joseph Kalemkerian to the diaconate of the Armenian Church. Deacon Joseph has been serving at the altar along with Sub-Deacon Armen Basmajian and Dr. Gerard Kuyamjian. In October, Deacon Joseph inaugurated an Acolyte Training Program in which seven youngsters have been participants. The acolytes have been assisting at the altar on alternating Sundays. These young people are Gregory Dou-doukjian, Henry Hagopian, David Kasparian, Thomas Kasparian, Andrew Martaian, Leon Nigohosian, and Richard Stoneson.

In November we had a successful Cake Sale.

Since the fall, we have had regular rehearsals twice a month to familiarize our members with the hymns of the Divine Liturgy.

Choirmaster Daghlian attended the annual Choir Assembly in Cambridge, Mass. We hope to host the Assembly at St. Thomas someday in the future.

We thank the Parish Council and the members of our Church for their continued support and we hope we will continue to fulfill their inspirational needs during the celebration of Divine Liturgy.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance on hand January 1, 1981			\$608.81
	Income	Expenses	
Choir Workshop	\$239.00	\$153.24	
Easter Plate			
Collection	314.00		
Nov. Cake Sale	<u>100.70</u>		
	653.70		
Donation to Armenian Church Choir			
	Assoc.	125.00	
Dues to ACCA		85.00	
Flowers		<u>78.88</u>	
		442.12	
Balance on hand December 31, 1981			\$820.39

ST. THOMAS MEN'S CLUB REPORT - 1981

Our Men's Club which was reorganized in 1978 has continued to grow with encouraging turnouts and more active participation. We have instituted a new concept at our meetings, where supper is prepared and served by different groups of members, in which we enjoyed traditional Armenian food as well as Italian, Japanese, and American.

This past year we had an exciting year with two weekends at the Catskills, where we all enjoyed each other's comradeship; with programs at our meetings presented by Armenian doctors and lawyers. We also had a bus trip to Atlantic City.

This year, as in the past, we paid our Junior Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams entry fees, assisted our ACYOA Juniors on various trips and sponsored the annual St. Thomas Car Raffle.

We finished our year with another successful Christmas Party at the Fireside Inn, which is known as the Annual St. Thomas Christmas Party for all our Parishioners.

We are looking forward to 1982 with great expectations and to help St. Thomas Armenian Church to grow and fulfill the community's spiritual needs.

Chairman Paul Kahaumjian Recording Sec'y. Gerald Keosayian
 Vice-Chairman Krikor Khoroizian Corres. Sec'y. Arman Ajamian
 Treasurer Jack Ekizian

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Income	Expenses	
Balance on hand 1/1/81			\$ 681.96
Membership Dues	\$ 310.00		
Dinner Meetings	847.00	\$ 765.90	
Sale of Monte Carlo			
Gifts	180.00		
Catskill Weekends	22.00		
Armenian Sports Assoc.		605.00	
Annual Picnic	120.00	128.00	
Christmas Party	2,545.00	2,542.00	
Memorials		75.00	
Atlantic City Outing	720.00	436.00	
Postage		50.00	
Film Presentation			
"Armenian Case"		104.00	
Miscellaneous		26.25	
	-----	-----	
	\$4,744.00	\$4,732.15	
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1981			\$ 693.81

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT - 1981

The following Women's Guild Executive Board was elected in May:

Chmn:	Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian	Treasurer:	Margaret Varbedian
Vice-Chmn:	Lillian Kasparian	Asst. Trear.:	Artemis Nazarian
Rec. Secy.:	Virginia Parseghian	Advisors:	Alicia Demirjian Mary Chookazian
Cor. Secy.:	Susan Avakian-Stoneson		

The following Standing Committee Chairmen were appointed:

Membership:	Sona Doudoukjian	Sunshine	Celia Martaian
Hospitality	Adele Jibilian	Social Service	Queenie Tashjian
Ch.W.U.	Artemis Nazarian	Emerson Home	Violet Ouzoonian
Sun. Coffee	Roxie Daghljan	Phone Squad	Alice Goulian
Publicity	Susan Avakian-Stoneson	Bridge Club	Hemmy Ajemian

Our regular monthly meetings were held on the third Tuesday of the month. Some of the programs following meetings were police officer speaking on "How to Burglarproof your Home"; Dr. Knar Khatchadorian on nutrition; an interior decorator; Lillian Kasparian on her trip to Armenia.

Other activities and programs for the year included:

Luncheon for Parish Assembly	Soup & Sandwich Luncheon
Fish & Chips Dinner	Membership Tea
Tennis Party	Tenafly Sidewalk Festival
Covered-Dish Supper	Lenten Dinner
24th Annual Cotillion	Christmas Luncheon

The Guild members have most willingly provided and served refreshments when called upon by the Parish Council, ie the Regional Conference held in our Auditorium; meetings of the Tenafly Clergy.

We paid our 1981 pledge of \$8500.00 to St. Thomas Armenian Church. Once again we supported a student at St. Tarkmanchatz School in Jerusalem. We provided refreshments for the Sunday School students on two occasions. On Christmas Eve (Dec. 25th) a lovely table was set for the fellowship following services. We participated in Women Saints Day and members of our Guild took part in a week-end retreat at the St. Nersess Seminary. Two lovely tables of goodies were prepared and served to the residents of the Emerson Home for the Aged following services on Holy Thursday and on Armenian Christmas.

Our Delegates to the Diocesan Guild Meetings in May were Rose Mekenian and Lillian Kasparian.

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT - 1981

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand January 1, 1981 \$ 892.32

	Income	Expenses	
Cotillion	\$23,454.50	\$14,574.92	
St. Thomas 1981 Pledge		8,500.00	
Investment-Certificate		1,500.00	
Dues	893.00		
Women's Saints Day	270.25	256.50	
Fish & Chips Dinner	895.12	467.87	
Gourmet Club	31.00	218.01	
Tennis Party	723.42	396.00	
Tenafly Sidewalk Sale	533.00	396.80	
Bridge Club	125.00		
Soup & Sandwich Luncheon	356.00	285.92	
Christmas Luncheon	952.00	969.00	
Trnsf. Funds from Marine Midland	300.00		
Interest United Hudson	152.49		
Donations	51.00		
Misc.	5.65	84.23	
Postage		169.73	
Refreshments		62.78	
Visits to Armenian Home for Aged, Emerson		68.98	
Christmas Eve Refreshments		30.00	
Covered Dish Supper		12.00	
Diocesan Assembly Expenses		110.00	
Donuts & Cider for Sun. Schl.		23.39	
Membership Tea		64.17	
Sunshine		14.84	
In Lieu of Flowers Donations		75.00	
Church Women United 1981 Dues		40.00	
St. Tarkmanchartz Schl. Student Fee		75.00	
Bazaar Expenses 1980		24.79	
Gifts		150.00	
	<u>\$28,742.43</u>	<u>\$28,569.93</u>	
Excess cash after disbursements for the year			<u>172.50</u>
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1981			\$1,064.82
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1981			
Savings account Hudson United Bank			\$3,000.00

A. Church School

The Church School began its academic year on Sept. 13 with an enrollment of approximately 107 students, divided into nine classes, plus Nursery. Classes are held from 10:30 to noon on Sunday morning, concurrently with the Divine Liturgy. The students' courses of study include the Faith, doctrine and teachings of the Armenian Church, Biblical history, Armenian Church history and Christian living, as prescribed by the Diocese. Regular church attendance and reception of the Sacraments is at the center of the Church School program.

The students' participation in the Divine Liturgy increased by their regular recitation of the Psalms at the beginning of the service. Students in the eighth grade class read the Scripture lessons at the Easter Eve service. A special service of anointing and re-dedication marked the graduation exercises on June 14; twelve young people received the Diocesan certificate of graduation.

A new program of the Church School this year has been the formation of a children's choir, under the direction of Mrs. Lillian Kasparian. The youngsters, aged 5-12, meet weekly to learn the hymns of the Divine Liturgy and other services of the church. Their first public performance at the Christmas Eve service was very well received.

The newsletter DAY BY DAY continues to serve as a means of helping families learn and grow together in their Faith.

The Church School is blessed with dedicated teachers who try to provide our children with a firm Christian foundation, especially by their own example. Their devotion deserves the thanks and appreciation of the entire St. Thomas family. The staff meets regularly for teacher education, to help them increase their own knowledge about the Church and provide suggestions for more effective teaching.

As in previous years, the students bought gifts and foodstuffs for needy families at Christmas. This project is coordinated through the Bergen County Division of Youth and Family Services. The children also collected donations for UNICEF at Halloween. They raised \$50.

Annual events of the Church School include the Fall Pot Luck supper, the Christmas Program and Luncheon, Christmas and Easter Communion breakfasts, Parental party and the Graduation reception. The Church School also treated the congregation to birthday cake on the feast of Pentecost, June 7, the "birthday" of the Church. The Parents' Committee ably coordinated these activities. We are thankful for the cooperation of the entire parish family which ensures the success of these events.

B. Adult Education

Several programs for the adults of the parish were undertaken, some continued from last year, and others, new. The Bible Study group, which was formed last year, continues to meet weekly. Their lengthy study of St. Mark's Gospel concluded in March, and they began a study of I Corinthians, which lasted until December. In addition to Bible Study, this group also studied the Divine Liturgy.

A panel discussion entitled "Does the Armenian Church Speak to the American Born?" was held in May, and generated a lot of interest. Three subsequent sessions were held to discuss issues which arose from the panel.

The Instructed Divine Liturgy, which is a narration of the Badarak to help all participate more fully, took place on Nov. 1.

A course in CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) was organized in conjunction with the Red Cross. Nine people completed the first session, and were certified. A second and third session will be held in 1982 to accomodate those parishioners who wish to learn this life-saving technique.

* * *

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF

Director of Religious Education

Louise Kalemkerian

Nursery

Stephen Jarahian

Kindergarten

Suzanne Ekizian & Alin Papazian

Andrew Martaian, Ass't.

First grade

Adrienne Tenbekjian, Greg Doudoukjian, Ass't.

Second grade

Beverly Hajinlian & Ellen Kenderian

Third grade

Greg Tenbekjian

Fourth/Fifth grade

Thomas Merjanian

Sixth grade

Sandra Alpino

Seventh grade

Carol Partin

Eighth grade

Sona Damergy & June Kashishian

Ninth/Tenth grade

Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian

Secretary-Treasurer

Jeanette Ekizian

Parents' Committee

Gladys Fenarjian, Marilou Pinajian

Irene Khorozian

