

THE ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

1982

PASTOR and PARISH COUNCIL

THE 1982 PASTOR'S REPORT

This year is a milestone in my pastorate, with 21 years of service in this Parish. These were 21 wonderful years for me and 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 this Church, and, unfortunately, sometimes we take them for granted. A heart-felt "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 our Church. While I was in Armenia, Rev. Nerses Jebejian was our guest celebrant. On November 14 Very Rev. Mesrob Krikorian of Austria, Nuncio of the Catholicos for Central Europe celebrated Divine Liturgy.

During the year I invited Deacons Michael Chevian and Joseph Kalemkerian, Louise Kalemkerian, Sirarpie Feredjian, and Peter Jamgochian to deliver the message for the day.

SACRAMENTAL SERVICES: During the year 36 baptisms were performed (compared to 39 last year); 16 marriages were blessed (18 the previous year); 19 funerals took place, (20 last year).

At this time, let us remember our dear, departed members: Edward Gedachian, husband of Lillian; Sonia Kreppel, wife of Raymond; James Souren Kapakjian, husband of Shake.

We shall also remember Harry Kasbarian, brother of Irene Kasbarian; Yeremia Pilossian, father of Clara Kazanjian; Asdour

Mekhjian, father of Dr. Haroutune Mekhjian; Yenovk Shegerian, father of Lily Ajemian; Michael Tekerian, son of Mary Newbauer and brother of Marion Kahaumjian. Michael was a member of our Choir for many years. Eloise A. Stepanian, daughter-in-law of Anne Stepanian and sister-in-law of Rosanne Saxenian; Hamaspure Barikyan, mother of Arto Barikyan. We also mourn the passing of Haig Markarian, husband of Ann. Haig was instrumental in the inception of this Parish.

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 New Britain, Connecticut.

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. Susan Stoneson has been setting the type for us for the Beacon.

We thank Roseanne Arzoomanian for making the "Mahs" for us every Sunday.

We also thank Ronald Kenderian and Victor Arzoomanian, co-chairmen of Bazaar '82. We also thank Edward Bashian for more than doubling our Bazaar profits through his rug sales.

This year there has been more enthusiasm shown by our Parishioners to volunteer and accomplish projects. This is due to the Parish Council, but particularly by the leadership of Peter Ajemian. Peter has brought a fresh approach with his ability, experience, and humor.

THE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Despite the economic conditions that prevail throughout the country and the world, we, at St. Thomas Armenian Church, enjoyed a very productive year. With the guidance of our President and religious leader, Rev. Arnak Kasparian, the Parish Council managed the business and the activities of our Parish and Church. Many of our annual fund raising events fell short this year, not only due to the economic conditions, but due to the fact that times are changing, and that we do need alternate methods of income so that we will not have to rely on the events in order to fund our Church. We would like to take this opportunity to thank every one for their support, on all levels, for their contributions, no matter how big or small. The following represents the 1982 Parish Council:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Liaison</u>
Peter Ajemian	Chairman	Sunday School
Peter Jamgochian	Vice Chairman	ACYOA Jrs.
Paul Pinajian	Secretary	Men's Club
Grace Hagopian	Treasurer	Asst. ACYOA Jrs.
Ara Babigian	Asst. Secretary	Bookstore
Samuel Demirjian	Narthex	Armenian School
Moses Kazanjian	Bldg. & Grounds	Building Committee
Albert Papazian	Pledges	Choir
Virginia Parseghian	Custodian & Suppl.	Women's Guild
Virginia Victoria	Rentals & Calendar	Asst. Bldg. & Grounds
Frank Avakian-Stoneson	Membership	Avak Society & ACYOA Srs.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS & COMMUNICATIONS

The Parish Council met every second and fourth Tuesday as scheduled twelve months of the year. We started all of our meetings on time, and enjoyed good attendance throughout the year. The meetings of the Parish Council were presided over by the President, Rev. Arnak Kasparian and conducted by the Chairman, Peter Ajemian. The Council meetings were open to all interested individuals, Trustees, Delegates and Parish related organizations. The Parish Council also attended meetings of the Church Organizations in order that we may establish closer ties with them. We had two additional Parish Assemblies this year in order to get our new building project under way. They were held on May 23 and September 26, 1982.

PARISH COUNCIL RELATED ACTIVITIES

BUILDING COMMITTEE Nazar Nazarian, Chmn. Vahan Najarian, Co-Chmn.

The St. Thomas Building Committee was formed this past summer following our Parish Assembly in late May 1982. This Committee has met regularly with heads of our parish organizations to find out their needs so that we can incorporate them into our plans. The following members head this group: Nazar Nazarian, Chairman; Vahan Najarian, Co-Chairman and Treasurer; Michel Izmirly, Secretary; Richard Turnamian, Finance and Fund Raising Chairman; and many professional members of our Church offering their services for this project. We have a more detailed report by the Committee in this Parish Assembly Report.

MEMORIALS COMMITTEE Edward G. Bashian, Chairman

This latent committee was revived after laying dormant for many years. Already a few unsponsored Memorials were sponsored and we hope that this Committee can generate additional funds for our Church. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact the Committee and lend your support.

ACYOA SENIORS Douglas Tashjian, Chairman

The ACYOA Sr. group was formed during this past summer by a group of past ACYOA Jr. members who now reside in the New York-New Jersey Metropolitan area. After preliminary organizational meetings this group highlighted the year with a successful New Year's Eve Dance where the youth of all the Armenian Churches in our area attended. We congratulate the committee for their success which only comes with good planning and hard work.

ST. NERSESS ARMENIAN SEMINARY Lillian Kasparian, Chairperson

The need for more clergy has now become critical, in our Diocese and throughout the world. Lillian Kasparian is the St. Thomas liaison with the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary and her function is to raise funds so that we may support this worthy project. The Parish Council has made provisions in our new budget for this group. However, we still would like to create additional funds so more seminarians may be accommodated.

ST. THOMAS TRUSTEES Edward G. Bashian, Chairman

During the course of this past year, the Trustees met regularly, and with the Parish Council when necessary. Ed Bashian has been very helpful to the Council, and through his experience we were able to tie up many of the loose ends that existed. The Trustees have taken care of our investments, consolidated all of our funds so that we gain maximum interest for our monies. The Trustees also make up the core of our Building Committee, and help conduct the "Cake Sales" during the year.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Stewardship Program is one where a member of the Church will make it a practice of giving of one's talents, time and material possessions back to God. At the outset of this report I indicated that we need an alternate source of income so that we will not have to rely on fund raising events. The Stewardship Program is that alternate source, and with the help of our St. Thomas Parish we hope that we will be able to institute this program in the near future.

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND Peter Ajemian, Chairman

The St. Thomas Armenian Church Endowment Fund was formed in the fall of this year, where a member with the minimum donation of \$100. was able to start their Family Fund in their name. This St. Thomas ACEF Fund afforded everyone the opportunity to participate, thus

insuring an annual income to the St. Thomas Armenian Church year after year in their name. To date we have 26 families with a *\$2,800.00 contribution. We expect to add to the Fund with new members, and additional contributions from previous members. We also expect to transfer all of the Memorial Funds into the St. Thomas ACEF in the very near future.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Victor Arzoomanian, Chairman

We are fortunate to have the leadership of Vic Arzoomanian as Membership Committee Chairman, who already has taken a positive approach in this matter. Vic's committee, which includes a member from each of our Church organizations, has gone through the church records, listing all of the marriage and baptisms for the last 7 years. The Committee will contact these individuals to become members of our Church and Sunday School and related organizations. We will also recruit members that use the St. Thomas facilities but are not members. Another part of the Committee's work will be to contact past members that have not been attending services.

The Committee consists of the following: Fr. Arnak Kasparian, President; Victor Arzoomanian, Chairman; Sarkis Arslanian, Asst. Chairman; Samuel Demirjian, Parish Council Liaison; Dikris Malool, Secretary & Publicity; Paul Pinajian, Men's Club; Lillian Kasparian, Women's Guild; Sandra Alpino & June Kashishian, Religious Education; Artemis Arslanian, Armenian School; Rose Mekenian, Choir; JoAnne Daghlian, ACYOA, Jrs.; Douglas Tashjian, ACYOA Srs.; Nish Ohanesian, Avaks, and Lucy Nakashian, member.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Vice Chairman - Peter Jamgochian is the Council Liaison for ACYOA Jrs. This year we were fortunate to enlist the services of JoAnne Daghlian to advise this group. While we feel that the ACYOA Jrs. are on the right track, we are in need of parent participation. Many of these youngsters are too young to drive and the lack of transportation creates problems, getting to meetings and during field trips. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Peter Jamgochian for all of the help he gave me this year, and for never saying "No" to any request made to him.

SECRETARY - Paul Pinajian is the Council Liaison for the Men's Club. Paul also served as Secretary for the Council. Those that know Paul know that he is one of the hardest workers in our Church. Despite his heavy schedule, he is present at every meeting and delivers his minutes impeccably. When we mention Secretary we also remember Dikris Malool who gives the Church much of her time writing letters, handling all of the mailing, duplicating, folding, setting up the monthly calendar, etc. If she ever decides to leave the Church, I could use her in my business. Thanks, Dikris, from all of us.

TREASURER - Grace Hagopian, our Treasurer, has added a touch of professionalism to the Council, and it is needless to say that she, too, is always present and on the job. Grace has the toughest job and not only does she do this with ease, but with accuracy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alice Arzoomanian for working with Grace on this monumental job. Last, but not least, a vote of sincere thanks to Michel Izmirly who helps us all year on taxes, budget, and most of all, good advise. Many thanks to you, Michel.

We also thank Mr. Tatoul (Tish) Basmajian for his help to the Treasurer every Sunday.

BOOKSTORE - Ara Babigian, our liaison, has done a good job despite his unpredictable schedule. Ara never says no to any request made of him. Many thanks to you, Ara. Sona Doudoukjian served as Chair-lady of the Bookstore. Despite the economy, our Bookstore showed a profit this year. She has maintained a current and attractive Bookstore. Thank you, Sona.

BUILDING & GROUNDS - Moses Kazanjian, our pride and joy, has done a tremendous job on both buildings and grounds. We recently upgraded the west end of our hall property, and filled in the northwest part also. Moses is an engineer by trade, and his professional advise is essential in our building project.

RENTALS & CALENDAR - Virginia Victoria has been a great asset to the Council. She has organized the rentals so that it has cut confusion and made the venture profitable. Virginia is also very active in every facet of Church activities. Despite her busy schedule, she never refuses a request. Many thanks.

NARTHEX - Those that attend Church know that Samuel Demirjian is always on the job every Sunday without fail. Sam is also the liaison for the Armenian School. We hear that Sam takes his Church more seriously than his own business.

PLEDGES - This most difficult task has been in the hands of Albert Papazian for the past few years and everyone agrees that the job has been handled expertly and efficiently. Albert also serves as liaison with the Choir in our Church. Albert, we thank you for a job well done.

CUSTODIAL & SUPPLIES - Virginia Parseghian was responsible for this area of our church needs. Everyone agrees that when Virginia does something it is always done right. We would also like to thank our custodian, Garo Arakelian, for the great job he has done for us.

MEMBERSHIP - Frank Avakian Stoneson is one of the busiest men in our Parish. His work at the Diocese as Executive Director commands most of his time. However, Frank attends most of our meetings and gives us a lot of input.

The forementioned elected Parish Council, the members, those who donate their time, those who donate their monies, and those who donate time and monies make up the "ST. THOMAS FAMILY". Our "ST. THOMAS FAMILY" really starts at the Parsonage where Father Arnak Kasparian lives with his family. Over 20 years ago when I first served on the Parish Council I met the young couple from Detroit who came with their four youngsters, Stephen, Laurie, Maro and Ardis. A lot of time has passed, and with all sincerity, I know that we made the right choice twenty-one years ago when we asked Fr. Arnak and Yeretzgin Violet to come to the Tenafly Church. May God give them good health and happiness.

In closing, let me encourage everyone who is not a part of the "ST. THOMAS FAMILY" to become a part of it, You will never be sorry you did.....

Peter Ajemian

Paul Pinajian

Rev. Arnak Kasparian

Parish Council Chairman

Secretary

Pastor

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT - 1982

We, the Auditing Committee, have audited the books and records of the Parish Council and its Organizations, except the A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors, and found all entries properly entered and substantiated.

Vahan Barsamian
Ardis Kasparian
John Zakar

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 1982

BANK BALANCES & A.C.E.F. JANUARY 1, 1982

CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 18,191	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	88,347	
A.C.E.F. "DIOCESE"	<u>12,000</u>	
	TOTAL	\$ 118,538
1982 INCOME	203,003	
1982 DISBURSEMENTS	<u>157,111</u>	
	EXCESS CASH AFTER DISBURSEMENTS	<u>45,892</u>
	TOTAL CASH DECEMBER 31, 1982	<u>\$ 164,430</u>

BANK BALANCES & A.C.E.F. DECEMBER 31, 1982

CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 45,891	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	2,939	
TRUSTEES	100,000	
A.C.E.F.	<u>15,600</u>	
	TOTAL CHECKING & OTHERS DECEMBER 31, 1982	<u>\$ 164,430</u>

NOTE 1. THE BAZAAR AND ORIENTAL RUG CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCES OF \$6,326.18 AT DECEMBER 31, 1981 AND \$16,144.63 AT DECEMBER 31, 1982 ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE FINANCIAL SUMMARY.

NOTE 2. THE \$4649.00 INCLUDED IN LIEU OF FLOWERS WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE A.C.E.F. TASHJIAN FUND

NOTE 3. THE MORTGAGE BALANCES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	<u>DECEMBER 31, 1981</u>	<u>DECEMBER 31, 1982</u>
CHURCH	\$ 67,553.65	\$ 47,796.72
PARSONAGE	<u>10,680.39</u>	<u>9,393.33</u>
	<u>\$ 78,234.04</u>	<u>\$ 57,190.10</u>

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY
BUDGET AND INCOME FOR THE YEARS 1981 & 1982
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1983

	ACTUAL 1982	BUDGET 1982	ACTUAL 1981	BUDGET 1981	PROPOSED 1983
<u>PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS</u>					
1. PLEDGE RECEIPTS	\$ 36,968	\$ 36,000	\$ 34,045	\$ 33,000	\$ 39,200
2. PLATES & CANDLES	6,778	9,000	8,084	7,000	7,200
3. CHRISTMAS OFFERING	1,150	1,500	1,265	1,000	1,200
4. EASTER OFFERING	1,906	1,000	896	1,900	2,000
5. PRAYERS	510	300	198	200	600
<u>SACRAMENTS</u>					
1. BAPTISMS	1,765	1,500	1,285	800	1,900
2. WEDDINGS	925	1,500	1,280	1,200	1,000
3. FUNERALS	525	500	515	1,300	500
4. REQUIEMS	2,760	2,000	1,725	2,100	2,800
<u>AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS</u>					
1. WOMEN'S GUILD	7,000	10,000	10,000	8,500	10,000
2. AVAK SOCIETY	1,400	1,500	1,310	1,000	1,500
3. COUPLES CLUB	368	-	-	1,000	-
4. ACYOA JR.	750	1,000	39	1,000	800
5. MEN'S CLUB	500	1,000	500	500	800
<u>CHURCH AFFAIRS</u>					
1. BAZAAR	26,673	50,000	63,653	38,145	30,000
2. MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC	470	5,000	3,570	5,000	3,000
3. FALL PICNIC	-	1,000	1,293	1,000	1,000
4. ANNIVERSARY & CAKE	3,401	5,000	5,256	5,000	3,600
5. FALL ORIENTAL RUG SALE	23,500	-	-	-	25,000
<u>DONATIONS</u>					
1. IN LIEU OF FLOWERS	19,236	9,000	16,763	7,000	10,000
2. ALTAR FLOWERS	1,045	1,000	1,243	1,000	1,100
3. MEMORIAL FUND	9,400	3,000	2,960	3,000	5,000
4. FUHRMANN MEMORIAL	500	1,000	1,000	500	500
5. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS	1,275	1,500	1,275	1,300	1,300
6. OTHER DONATIONS	1,080	2,000	-	2,000	1,100
7. A.C.E.F. REGULAR	2,600	-	-	-	3,800
TASHJIAN	1,000	-	-	-	-
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>					
1. CAR RAFFLE	10,000	10,000	8,600	8,000	10,000
2. INTEREST	14,134	7,000	8,843	7,500	10,000
3. BOOKSTORE	1,947	1,500	1,308	2,000	2,000
4. ONE WORLD FESTIVAL	-	-	1	500	500
5. HALL DONATION	4,884	5,000	4,562	2,500	5,200
6. LOAN EXCHANGE	16,661	-	674	1,300	-
7. MISCELLANEOUS	1,892	-	1,318	-	2,400
TOTAL	\$ 203,003	\$ 168,800	\$ 183,461	\$ 146,245	\$ 185,000

**ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
BUDGET AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEARS 1981 & 1982
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1983**

	ACTUAL 1982	BUDGET 1982	ACTUAL 1981	BUDGET 1981	PROPOSED 1983
SALARIES, FEES & BENEFITS					
1. CLERGY SALARY	\$ 21,965	\$ 22,080	\$ 19,030	\$ 17,295	\$ 23,300
2. PARSONAGE EXPENSE	2,985	2,800	2,752	2,700	4,000
3. CLERGY CAR EXPENSE	3,115	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,300
4. CLERGY INSURANCE	2,876	3,500	3,229	3,000	3,000
5. CUSTODIAN SALARY	11,514	11,000	11,127	10,500	11,700
6. CUSTODIAN CAR EXPENSES	2,755	2,500	2,472	2,500	3,000
7. SECRETARY	-	-	-	-	10,000
8. VISITING CLERGY	1,125	600	-	600	600
9. OTHER FEES:					
A. DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
B. CHOIR DIRECTOR	1,020	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
C. ORGANIST	900	900	950	1,000	900
D. ACYOA ADVISOR	200	100	-	-	500
10. PAYROLL TAXES	2,171	2,000	1,431	4,100	2,300
11. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	1,775	2,000	1,848	1,750	1,900
OPERATING EXPENSES					
1. TELEPHONE	1,074	1,000	905	700	1,100
2. STATIONERY, PRINTING AND POSTAGE	4,584	4,500	3,836	3,000	4,800
3. CANDLES, FLOWERS	655	1,000	964	700	700
4. BOOKSTORE	1,616	2,500	2,312	2,000	1,700
5. PAPERWARE, OTHER SUPPLIES	2,188	3,000	2,769	3,500	2,300
6. ACTIVITIES	2,459	2,000	1,682	3,000	2,600
ASSESSMENTS					
1. DIOCESAN DUES	22,405	22,000	19,199	17,500	23,000
EDUCATIONAL					
1. SUNDAY SCHOOL	1,782	1,000	652	1,000	2,000
2. ARMENIAN SCHOOL	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
3. ST. NERSESS	--	-	-	-	3,500
CHURCH BUILDING EXPENSES					
1. MORTGAGE PAYMENTS	27,313	27,400	27,318	27,400	27,300
2. UTILITIES:					
A. GAS & ELECTRIC	16,241	20,000	16,864	15,000	17,200
B. WATER	236	500	494	500	300
3. INSURANCE	4,065	5,000	3,719	6,000	4,300
4. REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE	12,396	14,000	10,366	5,00	13,100
5. SNOW REMOVAL	100	1,000	300	1,000	600
6. FUHRMAN MEMORIAL	-	1,000	1,000	500	500
7. LOAN & EXCHANGE	674	-	16,000	-	-
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3,917	420	2	2,000	4,000
TOTAL	\$ 157,111	\$ 168,800	\$ 158,241	\$ 146,245	\$ 178,900

GEORGE SHAHINIAN MEMORIAL FUND

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 Armenian Church, and in exceptional cases, youth of St. James Armenian Church of Water-town, Massachusetts.

This year textbooks were purchased for the St. Thomas Armenian School and the St. James Armenian School. The St. Thomas Junior Choir robes were also purchased.

Board of Directors: Fr. Arnak Kasparian, President, Ex-officio;
 Antranig Shahinian, Chairman Sandra Shahinian, Secretary
 Shakae Shahinian, Treasurer Peter Ajemian, member, ex-officio.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance on hand December 31, 1982			\$18,133.16
	Income	Expenses	
Interest-First National Bank	\$ 17.37		
Hong Kong Invest.	2,973.24		
Additional Funds	227.19		
St. Thomas Junior Choir		\$ 100.00	
St. Thomas Armenian School		1,500.00	
St. James Armenian School		500.00	
Additional Funds	1,100.00		
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	\$4,317.80	\$2,100.00	2,217.80

			\$20,350.96

The amount of \$20,351.00 was turned over to St. Thomas ACEF.
 The yearly income from this fund will be used for the following purposes:

- 50% St. Thomas Armenian School
- 50% to sponsor 2 young adults from the St. Thomas Armenian Church for Diocesan Study Programs in Armenia.

SENIOR ACYOA OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

Chairman	Douglas Tashjian,	St. Thomas Armenian Church	Tenaflly
V. Chmn.	Suzanne Daghlian	" "	" "
Treasurer	Ronald Chakmakian	" "	" "
Secretary	June Sarkissian	St. Mary	Livingston
" "	Barbara Sirabian	" "	" "
Rec. Secy.	Dickran Bohajian	Holy Cross	Union City
Publicity	Lori Aslanian	St. Thomas	Tenaflly
Membership	Alice Saraydarian	" "	" "
Sports Week-			
End Coord.	Gary Kenajian	" "	" "
One World			
Fest. Coord.	Vartan Nazarian	" "	" "
	Lisa Saraydarian	" "	" "
	Lori Kalemkerian	St. Leon's	Fair Lawn
	Sosie Kirian	" "	" "

The Senior ACYOA of Northern New Jersey got its start in February 1982 with the guidance of the Executive Director of the Armenian Diocese, Frank A. Stoneson; the Executive Secretary of the ACYOA, James Magarian; and the 1981-1982 ACYOA Central Council Chairman, Mark Kazanjian.

A Planning Committee, with members from St. Thomas, Holy Cross (Union City), St. Leon, and St. Mary, decided that the best way to involve young Armenian adults in the northern New Jersey area was to work jointly rather than attempt to operate four separate chapters. A treasury was created with each of the 4 churches loaning \$125; St. Thomas advanced an additional \$375.

A "Kick-off Party" was held at St. Thomas in May, free of charge, with the purpose of attracting members. Over 200 people attended. Two weeks later, a business meeting was conducted, and it was decided to appoint officers for the first year. The current Executive Board consists of some original Planning Committee members and others who have expressed commitment to leadership.

The Executive Board set as goals for the first year:

1. Develop a mailing list from which to draw members
2. Develop a treasury
3. Widen the nucleus of people who will take responsibility.

This is a means to our end; encourage and develop participation in Church by young adults who will become the next generation of church leaders.

With these objectives in mind, we planned the following events: August, Picnic at Van Saun, 80 attended; Sept., participation in Sports Week-end, 70 attended; Oct. Membership Reception at Clinton Inn, 70 attended; Nov. Off Broadway Play, Dinner at Ararat, 20 attended; Dec., Instructed Divine Liturgy; also, New Year's Eve Party where 300 attended.

Future plans include a ski trip in Feb., business meeting and Membership Reception in March, and in April we plan to have a retreat at St. Nersess.

Our fund raising events were participation at One World Festival, booths at the Church Bazaars, oriental rug padding sale, and the New Year's Eve Dance.

The Senior ACYOA of Northern New Jersey, in its first year, has become a viable and hard working organization. We are especially grateful for the support we have received from our Churches, without which we could not have grown.

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ACYOA JUNIORS REPORT - 1982

Steering Committee

Gregory Doudoukjian
Henry Hagopian
Christine Jangochian
Advisor: JoAnne Daghlian

Thomas Kasparian
Karen Saraydarian
Roger Tashjian

The past year, the ACYOA Juniors have been very active with the help of our Advisor, JoAnne Daghlian. We would like to thank her for all the time and effort that she has put in to help us be successful.

The main highlights of the past year include: The Bazaar, the Annual Progressive Dinner, and the Spaghetti Dinner. We would like to thank Mrs. Saraydarian for donating the stuffed frog for our Bazaar raffle. Also, we would like to thank all the families who donated their houses for the Progressive Dinner.

In the near future, we would like to add more members and increase our savings. We are looking forward to the Spring for the Cosmos game, a Broadway show, and the trip to Great Adventure.

On Palm Sunday we donated \$750.00 to St. Thomas Armenian Church.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Checking Account:

Opening balance	January 1, 1982	\$ 2.08
Closing balance	December 31, 1982	498.47

Savings Account:

Opening balance	January 1, 1982	\$838.52
Closing balance	December 31, 1982	331.37

ARMENIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL REPORT - 1982

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 and conversation. 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 June, a booth at the Church Bazaar, representation at the Diocesan Assembly, and various educational and cultural activities throughout the school year for the students. An adult class is in progress, and special stress is placed on strengthening the Armenian conversational abilities of our students.

FACULTY

Supt.:	Sylva der Stepanian	4:	Maro Hajakian
Pre-K:	Seta Jebejian	5:	Shake Artinian
K:	Ani Nahabedian	6:	Sonia Babayan
1:	Queenie Tashjian	7:	Olympia Jebejian
2:	Ani Mardirosian		Arpine Vartivarian (Adults)
3:	Marie Zokian		Houry Mangassarian (Convers.)
	Sylvie der Khorenian (Aide)		Joyce Shenloogian (Dance)
	Elda Arslanian (Aide)		Lilik Samourjian (Nursery)
			Seta Yavru (Sub)

MOTHERS' COMMITTEE

Co-Chairladies: Ani Capan Marion Babigian

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance from June 1982		\$4,721.80
<u>Income</u>		
Tuition (60 x \$75.)	\$4,500.00	
Adult Tuition	450.00	
Donations	4,050.00	
Bazaar	657.20	
Armenian Christmas Din.	(816.50)	
Hantes	150.00	
		13,712.50
<u>Expenses</u>		
Salaries (12 x \$20 x 32 wks)	\$7,680.00	
Textbooks (Diocese)	646.60	
Supplies (Teaching)	135.27	
Diocesan Assembly Travel Expense	140.00	
Holiday Parties	348.99	
Transportation	230.00	
Gifts & Donations	125.00	
		(9,305.86)
Estimated Balance for June 1983		\$4,406.64

AVAK SOCIETY - 1982

OFFICERS

Chairman	Nish Ohanesian	Cor. Secy.	Alice Shakarjian
V. Chmn.	George Avedisian	Treasurer	Helen Avedisian
Rec. Secy.	Anne Stepanian	Asst. Treas.	Zephyr Bandazian
Refreshments:	Haig and Arax Markarian, Bertha Poosikian		
Advisors:	Anoosh Poosikian, Arax Bostanjan, Angele Parsekian		

Membership as of December 20, 1982 191

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1981			\$1,983.16
	Income	Expense	
Membership Dues	\$ 594.00		
Weekly Dues	1,927.58		
Contributions	355.00		
Interest on Savings Account	86.00		
Profit Stevensville Trip	65.00		
Profit Elberon Trip	34.00		
Profit on Atlantic City Trips	9.50		
Profit Granit Hotel Trip	<u>2.00</u>		
			<u>3,073.14</u>
			5,056.30
Refreshments		\$1,057.54	
Supplies		29.27	
Memorial Donations & Gifts		145.00	
St. Thomas Armenian Church		1,427.59	
Maintenance Man		45.00	
Mothers' & Fathers' Day Luncheon		250.43	
Christmas Luncheon		<u>537.68</u>	
			<u>3,492.51</u>
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1982			\$1,563.79
Provident Savings Bank	\$1,231.18		
Midlantic Bank (checking)	132.61		
Deposit to Granit Hotel			
for May 1983 Trip	<u>200.00</u>		
	\$1,563.79		

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH CHOIR REPORT - 1982

Chairman:	Ara Martaian	Vice Chmn.:	Mary Sanossian
Corr. Secy.:	Eileen Barsamian	Rec. Secy.:	Roseanne Arzoomanian
Treasurer:	Joseph Kalemkerian	Advisors:	Rose Mekenian
Choirmaster:	Edward Daghlian		Archie Minassian

On Theophany and Holy Thursday a group of Choir Members went to the Armenian Home for the Aged to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. We were happy to once again visit the Home. Their looks of appreciation and joy gave us great pleasure.

On Palm Sunday, His Grace Archbishop Torkom Manoogian celebrated Divine Liturgy. A special note of appreciation to Deacon Joseph Kalemkerian for his efforts toward the successful Altar Server Training Program in which seven youngsters have participated.

For a few months prior to Easter, weekly rehearsals were held to familiarize Choir Members with the Easter hymns.

On May 23, several of our Choir Members participated in the Magar Yegmalian (Ekmalian) 125th Anniversary Celebration Concert and Program held at St. Leon's Church. Those from St. Thomas who sang in the N. J. Armenian Churches Choir were Roseanne Arzoomanian, Eileen Barsamian, Edward Daghlian, Ara Martaian, Rose Mekenian, Haig Parseghian, and Sonia Takoushian. Our Choirmaster, Edward Daghlian, sang two Yegmalian selections, accompanied by Susan Shamamian.

A mid-Atlantic Regional Seminar for choir members and deacons was held on Sept. 25, hosted by St. James Armenian Church of Westchester and sponsored by the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America. The seminar, which was attended by our Choirmaster, included voice instruction and diction.

The annual convention of the Armenian Association of Church Choirs was held this year at The Holy Trinity Church in Cheltenham, Pa. Delegates were Eileen Barsamian, Edward Daghlian, Lillian Kasparian, Ara Martaian and Rose Mekenian. All in all, it was a fruitful and inspirational meeting. We're glad to participate, and look forward to someday having the convention at St. Thomas.

In December we had a successful cake sale, thanks to our members who came with their donations in spite of the inclement weather.

We have been encouraged with our new membership drive which has resulted in seven new members in a very short period of time.

Edward Daghlian, our Choirmaster, and Susan Shamamian, our Organist, have continued to serve with a faithfulness and devotion for which we are deeply grateful.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1982 \$820.39

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Plate collection	\$260.00	
Donation	15.00	
Cake Sale	76.85	

\$351.85

Donation to Armenian Church Choir Assoc.	\$150.00
Flowers	22.05
Postage	26.32
Deacons' Robes	245.00
Organ Repair	160.00

\$603.37

Balance on hand, December 31, 1982 \$568.87

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ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING PROGRAM

The Altar Server Training Program for the young men of the St. Thomas Church is currently in its second year. Eight youngsters from our parish have been actively participating in the program.

The program was initiated last year to train our teenagers to serve at the altar during the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, while at the same time, giving them the opportunity to learn more about the Armenian Church and its traditions.

During the year, Gregory Doudoukjian, Henry Hagopian, Thomas Kasparian, Stephen Mekenian, and Leon Nigohosian, Jr. assisted at the altar during the Divine Liturgy as censers, while Andrew Martaian, David Kasparian and Richard Stoneson performed other duties. On both Palm Sunday and Easter altar servers Thomas Kasparian and Leon Nigohosian, Jr. served as "double pourvar".

The participants are instructed in two groups and meet on alternating Monday evenings. At the present time the advanced group is learning how to chant the litanies and psalms during the service.

We hope that future graduates of the Church Sunday School will enter into this training program to continue to serve our Parish in this most important function.

Deacon Joseph Kalemkerian

ST. THOMAS MEN'S CLUB REPORT - 1982

Chairman: Paul Kahaumjian Vice Chmn.: Krikor Khoroizian
 Rec. Secy.: Gerald Keosayian Corr. Secy.: Arman Ajamian
 Treasurer: Jack Ekizian

Our Men's Club which was reorganized in 1978 has continued to grow with encouraging turnouts and more active participation by our members for our Parish. Since our new concept, supper is prepared and served at our meetings by different members. We have enjoyed traditional Armenian dishes, as well as Italian, Chinese, and American.

This past year we had another successful weekend trip to the Catskills where we enjoyed each other's comradeship. We have had a full array of programs at our meetings, presented by Armenian doctors, lawyers, engineers, insurance analysts, and computer programmers. We also took a bus trip to Atlantic City and also spent an evening at Yankee Stadium.

This year, as in the past, we paid our Junior Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams' entry fees, assisted our ACYOA Jrs., cooked and served "Thank You Dinners" for the Parish Council, Choir, Sunday School and Armenian School. In February we served Sunday lunch for the entire Parish.

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

We are looking forward to 1983 with greater expectations to serve St. Thomas Armenian Church to grow and fulfill our Armenian Community's spiritual needs.

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Income	Expenses	
Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1982			\$ 693.81
Membership Dues	\$170.00		
Dinner Meetings	1,099.00	\$ 975.84	
A.C.S.A. Sponsors		485.00	
Postage		65.00	
Bergen County Park Comm.		60.00	
Advance on Atlantic City Bus Trip			
Bus Trip	30.00	100.00	
Car Raffle	28,700.00	17,985.00	
Halloween Party	2,032.00	1,644.60	
Christmas Party	3,345.00	3,120.00	
	<u>\$35,376.00</u>	<u>24,435.44</u>	
Given to St. Thomas		10,000.00	
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$35,376.00</u>	<u>\$34,435.44</u>	<u>940.56</u>
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1982			\$1,634.37

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT - 1982

Executive Board of the Women's Guild:

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

The following Standing Committee Chairpersons 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	Phone Squad:	Hemmy Ajemian

Eight regular monthly meetings were held during the year on the third Tuesday of the month. Some of the programs following meetings were travelogs by Andy Shahinian and Queenie Tashjian.

Other activities and programs for the year included:

Luncheon for Parish Assembly	Membership Tea
Fish & Chips Dinner	Christmas Luncheon
Tennis Party	Covered-Dish Supper
25th Annual Cotillion	Katherine Koob-Hostage Speaker
Lenten Luncheons prior to showing of films	Aerobics classes
	Bazaar - Foods

The Guild members most willingly provided and served refreshments for the Diocesan Regional meeting held at St. Thomas; they hosted the Women's Guild Regional Meeting; set a lovely table for the Christmas Eve fellowship. Members also participated in Church Women United World Day of Prayer, Women Saints Day at the Cathedral, and the Strawberry Festival. 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 members have taken an active role in providing "birthday" celebrations for the residents of the Home, also.

We paid our 1982 pledge of \$8500 to St. Thomas Armenian Church and, once again, supported a student at the St. Tarkmanchatz School in Jerusalem. Refreshments were provided for the Sunday School students on two occasions.

Our Delegates to the Diocesan Guild Meetings in May in New Britain, Conn. were Alyce Parseghian and Susan Avakian-Stoneson.

The Women's Guild members are always ready to assist any of the other organizations of the parish in any way possible. It is a privilege to be part of St. Thomas

We have 119 members, 99 of whom have paid their dues through 1982.

WOMEN'S GUILD TREASURER'S REPORT - 1982

Balance on hand, Jan. 1, 1982

\$1,064.82

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	
Cotillion	\$25,555.00		\$17,177.48
Dues	1,085.00		
Sunday Lenten Lunches	364.70		
Women Saints' Day	203.00	211.00	
Fish & Chips Dinner	727.50	474.59	
Aerobics	550.00	485.00	
Tennis Party	968.50	785.00	
Radio City-Bus Ride	728.00	699.50	
Women's Guild Supper Sept. Mtg.	140.00	115.90	
Catherine Koob--Speaker	302.00	135.75	
Simons Fund Donation (Proceeds from Evening with C. Koob)		302.00	
Women's Guild Regional Meeting	34.00	106.53	
Christmas Luncheon	1,335.00	1,333.80	
Alpine Cntry. Club Deposit (to be refunded)		200.00	
Interest Income	164.15		
Cash used to make change	150.00	150.00	
Misc.		33.47	
Donations	16.27		
Refreshments-Monthly Mtgs.		118.70	
Postage		205.41	
St. Thomas 1982 Pledge \$8500.			
Advance paid in '81 1500.			
Balance due in '82		7,000.00	
Lili Chookazian gift		150.00	
Donation to "Focus on Family" films		100.00	
Delegates Expenses 2 @ \$50.		100.00	
Convention Registration fee		10.00	
Publicity		42.72	
Church Women United Dues		40.00	
Guest Speaker-May Mtg.		15.00	
Emerson Home Monthly Visits		20.96	
St. Tarkmanchatz School 1982-83 student fee		75.00	
Christmas Eve refreshments		25.00	
Christmas gift-Garo Arakelian		25.00	
In-lieu-flowers J. Kapakjian		25.00	
	<u>\$32,323.12</u>	<u>\$30,162.81</u>	<u>2,160.31</u>
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1982			\$3,225.13
Balance in Savings Account			\$3,000.00

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - 1982

A. Church School

The Church School began its academic year on Sept. 12 with an enrollment of approximately 109 students, divided into eleven classes. Classes are held from 10:30 to noon, concurrently with the Divine Liturgy. The students' courses of study are prescribed by the Diocese, and include the Faith, doctrine and teachings of the Armenian Church, Biblical history, Armenian Church history and Christian living. Regular church attendance and reception of the Sacraments is at the center of the Church School program.

The students' knowledge of and participation in the Divine Liturgy increased by their regular attendance. Students in the 9th grade class read the Scripture lessons at the Easter Eve Service. A Pilot Program of Church Attendance took place for 6 weeks in Oct. and Nov. providing students and staff opportunity to attend the entire Divine Liturgy. During this period classes were held at 10:00 a.m. and the staff and students attended Divine Liturgy together each week.

The Junior Choir continued to grow in 1982, under the direction of Mrs. Lillian Kasparian, the devoted Choirmistress. These youngsters, aged 5-11, meet weekly to learn the hymns of the Divine Liturgy and other services of the Church. They sang regularly during the year, especially on Palm Sunday, and at the ACYOA Christmas Eve Services. They proudly wear their new robes, sewn especially for them through the generosity of parishioners Lucy Nakashian, Nazar Nazarian and Edward Parseghian, and the George Shahinian Memorial Fund.

The newsletter DAY BY DAY continued 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 gratitude of the entire St. Thomas family. The staff meets periodically for meetings and teacher education, to help them increase their own knowledge about the Church and provide suggestions for more effective teaching. They attended a Workshop sponsored by the Diocesan Dept. of Religious Education in October.

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. Foodstuffs were also collected at Thanksgiving time for the Englewood Food Action Center. The children raised donations for UNICEF at Halloween. They collected \$72.67.

A program to train youngsters to serve as acolytes during Divine Liturgy was initiated. At present 7 boys and 3 girls in grades 5-8 are serving on a regular rotation.

Annual events of the Church School include the Fall Pot Luck supper, Christmas Program and Luncheon, Christmas and Easter Communion breakfasts, Pancake brunch, Paregentan party and closing day reception. 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 newly initiated. The Bible Study group continued to meet weekly. They studied St. John's Gospel.

A Pilot Program of Church Attendance and Adult Education took place for six consecutive Sundays during October and November. At 10:00 during the Program, adult education sessions based upon the theme "Get to Know Yourself: the Church" were held in the Church. The 45 minute sessions were followed by the Divine Liturgy, with the participation of all the children of the Church School.

A trip to Rutgers University in New Brunswick was arranged in April. Fr. Arnak and Louise Kalemkerian visited with the St. Thomas parishioners studying at Rutgers for an evening.

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF

Director of Religious Education	Louise Kalemkerian
Nursery	Irene Khoroizian & Sara Malajian
Kindergarten	Suzanne Ekizian, Alin Papazian & Andrew Martaian
First grade	Adrienne Tenbekjian & Gregory Doudoukjian
Second grade	Beverly Hajinlian & Ellen Kenderian
Third grade	Marilou Pinajian
Fourth grade	Thomas Merjanian
Fifth/Sixth gr.	Sandra Alpino & Barbara Garjian
Fifth/Sixth gr.	Gregory Tenbekjian
Seventh grade	Paul Murad
Eighth grade	Sona Damergy & June Kashishian
Ninth grade	Stephen Jarahian
Tenth/Eleventh	Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian
Secy.-Treas.	Jeanette Ekizian

Parents' Committee--Alyce Leiby, Linda Karalian & Agnes Derderian

FINANCIAL REPORT - 1982

Balance on hand, Dec. 31, 1982			\$408.62
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	
Offerings	\$ 521.74	\$	
Lenten Offerings	159.40		
Communion Breakfast	241.00	191.88	
Unicef Lebanon Relf.Fnd	151.10	151.10	
Unicef Trick or Treat	72.61	72.61	
Lunch--Dobson Film	279.00	96.97	
Misc. Donation	89.00		
Sesame Trip	237.65	186.00	
Sun.Schl. Picnic	126.00	142.01	
Lenten Donation		175.00	
Christmas Lunch		118.75	
Books, Postage, Misc.		366.84	
Misc. Food		108.37	
DRE Workshop		20.00	
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	\$1877.50	1629.53	247.97
Balance on hand, Dec. 31, 1982			<u>\$656.59</u>



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