

THE ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH 1987 ANNUAL REPORT

PASTOR AND PARISH COUNCIL

THE 1987 PASTOR'S REPORT

By the grace of God, another year has ended, marking 26 years of my service to St. Thomas Armenian Church. I have seen numerous changes in our Parish during those years. New faces have come forward to enlarge our St. Thomas family; at the same time we must never forget those who are no longer with us. We celebrated the 23rd anniversary of the building of the Church sanctuary in April.

A hearty "thank you" to church organizations, and all the untiring members of our Parish. Each organization has submitted its own report, and our Parish Council Chairman, Peter Ajemian, has acknowledged their service in his report; therefore I shall report mainly on the sacramental and pastoral activities of the past year.

WORSHIP SERVICES: Divine Liturgy was celebrated every Sunday but 3. There was no Badarak on June 28 (my vacation) and October 24 and November 1 (visit of His Holiness Catholicos Vazken I). We had two guest celebrants during the year: Fr. Mardiros Chevian on March 15, while I went to Holy Martyrs in his place, and Fr. Arshen Aivazian on December 13, while I traded places and went to St. Leon's. Deacon Joseph Kalemkerian conducted services when I was on vacation and delivered the sermon several other times during the year as well, always receiving favorable comments.

A special service of thanksgiving honoring our deacons and altar servers was held on December 20, the feast of St. Stephen. Special thanks to Deacon Joseph for his continued dedication in preparing acolytes and altar servers. On January 18 the churches of Tenafly conducted an ecumenical service for Christian Unity at Mt. Carmel Church, at which I was the preacher.

SACRAMENTAL SERVICES: During the year 36 baptisms were performed out of which 2 were adult confirmation (26 last year); 15 marriages were blessed (17 the previous year); 25 funerals took place (18 the year before).

At this time let us remember our departed members: George Gavejian, Lucy Chakmakian, Apraham Guluzian, Vartan Coloian, Ashan Victoria Bostonian, Dorothy Seferian, Dorothy Horasan, and Susan Goomrigian.

ADMINISTRATIVE: As ex-officio President of all church organizations, I attended many of the meetings. I directed, advised, and in many cases helped in implementing decisions. I attended the Clergy Conference and Diocesan Assembly in Springfield, Mass, in May. I served as chairman of the Clergy Conference. I participated in the various activities and religious services connected with the visit of His Holiness the Catholicos, and also served on the Banquet Committee.

PUBLICATIONS: We have published the Bergen Beacon monthly and prepared flyers for our various affairs. Each month the Beacon is mailed to our college students residing on campus. A special thanks to Alyce Parseghian for providing most of the photographs, and to Gregory and Richard Saraydarian for preparing the photographs for publication.

This year there has been more enthusiasm shown to our parishioners to volunteer and accomplish projects. This is due to our Parish Council, particularly to the leadership of Peter Ajemian. Peter has been a God-send at the crucial time of our expansion project. He has brought wisdom, humor, drive, and maturity. He has been a person who does not seek recognition in any way. Thank you, Peter, for all you have done.

In September, we were pleased to expand our staff to include Anita Anserian as Office Manager and Louise Kalemkerian as Pastoral Assistant. This has enabled us to increase our service to the community. Anita has ably taken care of our secreterial needs, as well as worked on the computer, bringing all our financial and other records up to date.

Six months ago, I made an ardent plea for a pastoral assistant. The Parish Council was kind enough to abide by my wishes. I am pleased with the results of Louise's help to me in my pastoral work.

She has arranged various programs for the benefit of our parishioners and the Community, including a film on the Shroud of Turin, "The Silent Witness". A panel discussion on "Has the Christian Faith Been Detrimental to the Armenian National Existence?" and a forum on the church's efforts to reach young people entitled "Is there Life After Sunday School?".

She has organized two gatherings for college students. She has worked with me every week on my sermons. We have done numerous home and hospital visitations together, and she has made many home and hospital visitations alone. The vast majority of the new members who joined St. Thomas during these last few months of 1987 are as a result of our home visitations, personal contact and recruitment efforts. I welcome many of them to today's meeting.

She edits the Beacon, prepares the Sunday bulletin and works with the ACYOA Jrs., & Srs., planning programs and projects. Together we conduct Bible Study twice a month, which is attended by people from other churches, as well as St. Thomas.

Louise has been of assistance and support in all aspects of my pastoral work with the exception of performance of the sacraments. I am positive that these efforts will continue and bear greater fruit for the betterment of St. Thomas Church.

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The year 1987 marks my 6th consecutive year as Parish Council Chairman of St. Thomas Armenian Church. Grace Hagopian and Virginia Victoria also are serving their last term with me, because of the statute of limitation in our Diocesan By-Laws. I would like to take this opportunity at the outset to thank them sincerely for their dedicated service to the Council and our Church.

The passing away of our Builder, Mr. John Keseli has left the final negotiations of Construction Project incomplete; however the landscaping is nearing completion. During the course of the year we did expand the role of the Trustees and have formed a permanent committee to handle all future maintenance and repairs to our complex.

This past year our Office finally became 100% computerized thus insuring a smoother operation in the future. We will now be able to give accurate updates to our membership on their pledges and all donations.

We are still working with the original Construction loan which we obtained at 7 1/2 % interest. The interest rate has gone up to 8 3/4% and we are now considering a permanent fixed mortgage. This will be decided at the 2nd session of our Parish Assembly.

Most of our parishioners and friend have made pledges towards our Building Project, and they have met them. However there is still a small group that has not participated. Recently we received a letter from one of our parishioners stating that at the time of our drive they were not able to contribute, however, things are better now, and they sent a check in the amount of \$1,000.00, indicating, that there is always hope.

We are happy to report that with the combination of our Membership Committee, and our Administrative Pastoral Assistant we have been able to recruit over 50 members into our Parish this year. We still say that no one can do a better recruitment job than our present members.

### THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS YOUR PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1987

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	LIAISON
Rev. A. Kasparian	President	
Peter Ajemian	Chairman	
Edward Parseghian	Vice Chairman	
	Pledge Chairman	
Arax Parseghian	Secretary	Bookstore Ass't
Grace Hagopian	Treasurer	ACYOA Jr. & Sr.
Virginia Victoria	Rentals/Calender	Church School
Paul Kahaumjian	Ass't Pledge	Men's Club
	Custodial/Supplies	
Sam Demirjian	Membership	Armenian School
Joseph Kalemkerian	Membership Chairman	Choir/Altar Servers
Richard Papazian	Membership	Avaks
Ara Pekmezian	Membership	Bookstore
Joanne Torigian	Parish Relations Chmn.	Women's Guild
	Membership	

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Parish Council met on every second and fourth Tuesday of each month as scheduled, with additional meetings when necessary. Parish Council meetings were well attended with many meetings enjoying 100% attendance. Sunday Church attendance of Parish Council members was also very good. Parish Council meetings were presided over by the President, Rev. Arnak Kasparian, and conducted by the Chairman, Peter Ajemian. The Council meetings were always open to interested individuals including Delegates, Trustees, and Parish related organizations.

EVENTS HELD BY THE St. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH AND THE RELATED ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE YEAR 1987

- Jan. 5 Armenian Christmas Eve Services and Supper. Children's Christmas Communion.  
 6 Armenian Christmas Badarak and Women's Guild visit to the Emerson Home.  
 11 Armenian School Christmas Dinner and Program.  
 25 First Session of Parish Assembly.
- Feb 1 Annual Parish Assembly  
 6 Church School Pot Luck Supper  
 20 Panel Discussion "2001: The Armenian Future" Part I  
 27 ACYOA Jr. Progressive Dinner  
 28 Saturday Night Jive Dance by the Women's Guild.
- March 6 Panel Discussion "2001: The Armenian Future" Part II  
 20 Fish'n Chips Dinner by the Women's Guild  
 28 Day of Spiritual Renewal
- April 1 Sew & Show Fashion Show and Luncheon by the Women's Guild.  
 3 Panel Discussion "2001: The Armenian Future" Part III  
 12 Anniversary Dinner  
 14 Panel Discussion on Adolescent Suicide  
 16 Maundy Thursday Badarak and Women's Guild visitation to Emerson Home  
 26 Madagh for the Armenian martyrs
- May 2 ACYOA Jrs. Spring Dance  
 5-10 Diocesan Assembly, Springfield, Mass  
 9 Women's Guild Cotillion  
 25 Memorial Day Picnic/Car raffle - Men's Club  
 29 Joint Dinner with Sts. Vartanantz women's Guild and Men's Club
- June 6 Big and Little String Orchestra  
 7 Church School Graduation  
 12 Armenian School Hantes  
 13 Armenian and Church schools picnic
- July 24 Garo Appreciation Party  
 26 Luncheon for St. Nersess students.
- Sept 11 Rug Sale  
 12-13 One World Festival - Men's Club participation  
 27 Church School Balloon Launch

- Oct 16 Film and Discussion of the "Silent Witness"  
 18 Crop Walk for Hunger  
 24 Children's participation in Youth Day with Vehapar
- Nov 1 Vehapar's Banquet co-chaired by St. Thomas and St. Leon's  
 6 Church Women United - World Community Day hosted by the  
 Women's Guild  
 14-15 St. Thomas Annual Bazaar  
 20 Forum on "Has the Christian Faith Been Detrimental to  
 Our Armenian National Existence?"  
 22 College Night Dinner and Program
- Dec 4 Forum on "Is there Life After Sunday School?"  
 9 Women's Guild Annual Christmas Luncheon  
 20 Church School Christmas Dinner and Program  
 24 ACYOA Jr. Christmas Eve Services and fellowship  
 27 College Brunch

In addition, on-going activities of the Parish include; Church Basket Ball Team Games, Boys and Girls, Men's Club, Women's Guild, ACYOA Monthly meetings, Weekly Greeter's program, holiday Poinsettia and Lily sales, Armenian and Church School activities and weekly classes, AVAK weekly meetings, Parish Council Meetings, Building Committee and Trustees meetings, Junior & Senior Choir Rehearsals, Bible Study, Narek Prayer Group and the making of Mahs.

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their efforts in Service, Leadership, and Fund Raising for the benefit of St. Thomas Armenian Church for the year 1987:

- ACYOA Juniors - Gregory Amerkanian & Peter Babigian, Co-Chairmen  
 ACYOA Seniors - Lisa Ohanesian, Chairman  
 Armenian Churches Sports Assoc - Michael Kenajian, Chairman  
 Douglas Martaian, Coach  
 Armenian School - Ani Capan, Marion Babigian, Co-Chairmen  
 Avak Society - Nish Ohanesian, Chairman  
 1987 Bazaar Committee - Paul Kahaumjian & Ara Pekmezian, Co-chairmen  
 Victor Arzoomanian, Consultant  
 Bazaar Cake Sale - Dr. Harout & Shake Mekhjian, Chairmen  
 Bazaar Raffle - Harry Hajinlian, & Zaven Poosikian, Co-Chairmen  
 Bergen Beacon - Anita Anserian, Typist  
 Board of Trustees - Edward Bashian, Chairman, Dr. Harout  
 Mekhjian, Co-Chairman  
 Building Committee - Nazar Nazarian, Chairman, Vahan Najarian,  
 Co-Chairman  
 Building Technical Committee - Albert Victoria, Coordinator,  
 Moses Kazanjian, George Mekenian, Antranig  
 Ouzoonian & Jerry Keosayian  
 Car Raffle - Zaven Poosikian, Chairman  
 Choir - Edward Daghlian, Director, Eileen Barsamian, Chairman  
 Junior Choir - Rose Mekenian, Director  
 Christian Education & Sunday School - Louise Kalemkerian, Director  
 Church Custodian - Garo Arakelian (Past), Gary Horn (Present)  
 Computer Coordinator - Lori Kalemkerian  
 1987 Cotillion Committee - Celia Martaian, Chairman  
 Deacon's Training - Joseph Kalemkerian

Mahs - Violet Ouzoonian  
Memorials Committee - Edward Bashian, Chairman  
1987 Memorial Day Picnic - Men's Club  
Men's Club - Paul Pinajian  
Narthex Directors - Sam Demirjian & Tish Basmajian  
Office Manager - Anita Anserian  
Organist - Susan Shamamian  
Photography - Alyce Parseghian & Albert Papazian  
rug Sales - Edward Bashian, Michel Izmirly, Mary Ann Saraydarian  
Women's Guild - Mary Ann Saraydarian, Chairman, Pauline  
Pekmezian, Co-Chairman

The Parish Council wishes to acknowledge all of our parishioners not listed above, who time and time again, volunteer their services in our church, office kitchen, events, etc. whenever or wherever they are needed. Many thanks to all of you.... You people make the St. Thomas Armenian Church.

#### PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Edward Parseghian, Vice Chairman, also Pledge Chairman, has been an outstanding Council member and a hard working dedicated person for our Church. Thank you Ed for your support during the past 5 years.

Arax Parseghian, Secretary, also serves as Liaison to the Bookstore. Arax, a professional secretary and office manager, keeps accurate minutes of all our meetings.

Grace Hagopian, Treasurer, also serves as Liaison to the ACYOA Jrs. and Srs. Grace has served our Parish in an impeccable fashion these past 6 years even though she takes care of her ailing mother at home. This is true dedication. Grace has indicated she will serve on our projects committee in the future. We at this time would like to acknowledge our adopter comptroller Michel Izmirly, who for many years has helped us prepare our budget, take care of all of our taxes, and serves as Treasurer to the Memorial Committee, Trustees, and our Building Committee. Many thanks again to you Michel.

Virginia Victoria, Rentals/Calendar, also serves as Liaisons to our Sunday School. Virginia is also completing her 6th consecutive year on the Parish Council. Her sincere dedication, and willingness to work makes her available at all times. We are very fortunate to know that she will still serve on Rentals/Calendar after she leaves the Council this year. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the other of the Victoria family, namely, Albert Victoria, who accepted the large responsibility of coordinating our Building Committee activities including construction, repairs of existing buildings and new equipment necessary for the operation of our complex. Albert's efforts have and will reflect savings of many many dollars for St. Thomas Armenian Church. Our sincere thanks again Albert...

Paul Kahaumjian, Custodial/Supplies and Assistant Pledge, also serves as Liaison to the Men's Club. Paul, a hard working member, served as Co-Chairman at our 1987 Bazaar with Ara Pekmezian. Paul is always there when you need him, and comes up with novel ideas when you need them. Keep up the good work Paul!

Sam Demirjian, Membership, also serves as Liaison to the Armenian School. Sam for many years has been Narthex Director arranging our greeters every Sunday along with setting the schedule for Council Members. You can always count on Sam being there. Thank you Sam.

Joseph Kalemkerian, Membership Chairman, also serves as Liaison to the Choir. Joseph also trains our Altar Servers and Deacons. Jo has been a great asset to the Council along with the membership drive which proved successful this year with over 50 new members. Our sincere thanks to you Joseph. Keep up the good work.

Richard Papazian, Membership, also serves as Liaison to the Avak Society. Richard has spent most of his life in service of the Armenian Church and there is every indication he will continue to do so. His pilaf cooking is getting better every year but I doubt if he will ever be as good as his father Edward Papazian, who was a good friend of mine. Kidding aside, Richard is a dedicated hard working member and you can always count on his help. Many thanks to you Richard.

Ara Pekmezian, Membership, also serves in charge of our Bookstore. This year Ara served as Co-Chairman of our 1987 Bazaar with Paul Kahaumjian. A Salesman by profession, Ara has been a great asset to the Council by applying his thoughts to many problems that confront us every meeting. Ara we all thank you for your many contributions towards our cause.

Joanne Torigian, Membership, also serves as Liaison to the Women's Guild. Joanne also chairs our Parish Relations Committee which has been one of the factors of bringing our Parish together and the increase of our membership. Her approach to many delicate situations that exist in our Parish have been resolved for the benefit of St. Thomas Armenian Church. We also have to compliment the other half of the Torigian clan for coming up with this novel idea of a Parish Relations Committee. Many thanks to Puzant for bringing it up at the last Parish Assembly. A more detailed report about this committee will be found following this report. We thank you again, Joanne, we all love you...

Rev. Arnak Kasparian, our Pastor and President of our Parish Council, has been working very hard to make the adjustments necessary for the operation of our new and much larger complex. Dea Hayr along with the Parish Council are making plans to upgrade our operation so that we can meet the needs of Armenians in our geographical area. The Parish Council has petitioned the Diocese for additional clergy help. The first plea was for Lay Clergy where a person like our own Deacon Joseph Kalemkerian will become a Lay Priest and help our Pastor whenever there are duplicate events. We also petitioned the Diocese for an Assistant Pastor early in the year and again to date we have not received any answer. The Parish Council after much deliberation voted to retain the services of Louise Kalemkerian as an Administrative Pastoral Assistant on a trial basis. Louise was serving as Director of Religious Education at that time and her educational background indicates she would be qualified for the new position also. After more than 4 months at this position, and following a joint meeting with our Parish Council, Trustees and Building Committee where a statement of performance was given, we feel

we are on the right course until an Assistant Clergy can be found. We all know that the shortage of Clergy presently and in the future is critical and we must support our St. Nerses Seminary.

We wish Der Arnak continued good health and success in all of his endeavors for St. Thomas Church in the future.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people at St. Thomas Armenian Church during the course of the past 6 years who worked with me in various projects for the benefit of our Church. I know that during that time, while under stressful situations I might have offended some of my co-workers, and for this I apologize. If I may offer this bit of advise for all future workers for whatever position you fill, once you accept a position or responsibility treat it as a job that you work at for a living. Do not treat it as a hobby! Your failure to perform will defeat your original purpose. It is simple, you are going to do it sooner or later!!! Why not do it right away and look like a hero? Let us all join hands and together build a better St. Thomas Armenian Church for the future...

For the parish Council

Peter Ajemian, Chairman

#### FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 1987

##### BANK BALANCES AND OTHER BALANCES January 1, 1987

Checking Account	\$ 10,120.00	
Savings Account	3,622.00	
Investment "Repo"	62,688.00	
A.C.E.F. Diocese	<u>58,741.00</u>	
Total		135,171.00
1987 Receipts	222,682.00	
1987 Disbursements	<u>199,909.00</u>	
Excess Cash after Disbursements		<u>22,773.00</u>
Total December 31, 1987		<u>157,944.00</u>

##### BANK BALANCES AND OTHER BALANCES December 31, 1987

Checking Account	26,745.00	
Savings Account	3,884.00	
Investment Repo	28,574.00	
A.C.E.F. Diocese	58,741.00	
Transfer to Trustees	<u>40,000.00</u>	
Total December 31, 1987		<u>157,944.00</u>



St. Thomas Armenian Church, Tenafly, New Jersey  
Proposed Budget for 1988  
Income For the Years 1987 & 1986

	Proposed <u>1988</u>	Actual <u>1987</u>	Budget <u>1987</u>	Actual <u>1986</u>	Budget <u>1986</u>
Pledges & Offerings					
1. Pledge Receipts	\$50,000	48,130	49,000	48,893	47,200
2. Plates and Candles	9,000	9,095	8,000	8,055	8,900
3. Christmas Offering	3,000	5,013	2,300	2,265	2,200
4. Easter Offering	2,500	1,920	2,600	2,497	2,800
5. Prayers	600	610	800	735	600
Sacraments					
1. Baptisms	2,700	2,755	1,800	1,800	1,500
2. Weddings	6,500	6,350	3,400	3,100	3,800
3. Funerals	1,200	1,425	1,200	1,150	500
4. Requiems	4,000	3,935	2,900	2,895	3,100
Auxiliary Organizations					
1. Women's Guild	14,000	13,400	12,000	10,000	11,400
2. Avak Society	1,500	1,000	1,500	1,500	2,000
3. A.C.Y.O.A.	1,500		1,600	1,600	
4. Men's Club	17,500	17,500	11,500	11,500	17,000
Church Affairs					
1. Bazaar	31,000	27,922	29,000	26,627	50,000
2. Memorial Day Picnic	5,500	3,493	8,000	6,752	6,000
3. Anniversary Dinner-Net	7,500	7,152	12,000		10,000
4. Oriental Rug Sale	15,000	12,527	24,000	22,946	25,000
Donations					
1. In lieu of flowers	14,000	22,808	11,000	10,090	8,000
2. Altar flowers	1,800	1,785	1,800	1,730	1,300
3. Memorial Fund	2,000	3,600	5,000	17,425	10,000
4. Holiday Flowers	1,200	590	1,700	1,580	1,100
5. Christmas Greetings	1,000	1,520	1,100	1,090	1,300
6. Other Donations	4,000	3,238	2,000	2,000	4,500
7. A.C.E.F.			3,600	3,600	1,100
Other Income					
1. Interest A.C.E.F.	400	3,818	5,000	5,609	4,000
2. Bookstore	350	341	500	612	1,000
3. One World Festival	700	720-	1,000	1,910	1,000
4. Hall Donations	35,690	11,372	13,500	7,065	10,000
5. Loan & Exchange					
6. Misc, Trustee Int, etc	<u>4,000</u>	<u>12,103</u>	<u>13,600</u>	<u>10,255</u>	<u>2,000</u>
 Total	 <u>238,140</u>	 <u>222,682</u>	 <u>231,400</u>	 <u>215,281</u>	 <u>237,300</u>

St. Thomas Armenian Church, Tenafly, New Jersey  
Proposed Budget for 1988  
Disbursements for the Years 1987 & 1986

	Proposed <u>1988</u>	Actual <u>1987</u>	Budget <u>1987</u>	Actual <u>1986</u>	Budget <u>1986</u>
Salaries, Fees & Benefits					
1. Clergy Salary	\$27,140	26,088	26,100	25,800	25,800
2. Parsonage Expenses	3,300	2,497	3,400	3,313	3,400
3. Clergy Car Expenses	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300
4. Clergy Insurance	4,000	3,984	4,000	3,845	3,700
5. Custodian Salary	15,000	13,070	13,700	14,150	13,700
6. Office Staff	7,500	2,240	3,500	3,567	3,500
7. Complex Administrator	20,000		20,000	4,048	10,000
8. Adm. Pastoral Assist.	16,500	4,754			
9. Dir. of Chr. Ed.	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
10. Choirmaster	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,220	1,200
11. Organist	1,100	1,098	1,100	1,100	1,100
12. Payroll Taxes	5,000	3,529	7,000	3,779	5,000
13. Employee Benefits	2,500	1,700	2,500	2,460	2,200
14. Visiting Clergy	800		800		800
Operating Expenses					
1. Telephone	2,000	2,267	2,787	2,741	1,500
2. Supp/Post/Printing	7,000	7,183	9,087	9,104	7,000
3. Candles & Flowers	1,000	1,013	1,200	1,154	1,600
4. Bookstore	500	490	500	390	1,000
5. Paperware & Supplies	1,500	1,405	2,000	1,286	2,500
6. Activities	2,000	2,523	2,800	3,800	2,000
Assessments					
1. Diocesan Dues	24,000	25,267	20,000	17,733	20,000
Educational					
1. Sunday School	2,000	2,256	1,500	1,377	2,000
2. Armenian School	1,000		1,000		1,000
3. St. Nersess Seminary	1,000		1,000	1,000	2,500
4. World Wide Charity	1,000	200	1,000		
Church Building Expenses					
1. Mortgage Payment	40,000	30,000	34,000		50,000
2. Gas And Electric	22,000	21,428	29,000	28,399	35,000
3. Water	300	249	300	145	400
4. Insurance	12,000	11,325	9,000	12,171	15,000
5. Repairs & Maint	5,000	2,463	10,000	1,732	15,000
6. Snow Removal & lawn	1,500	1,260	1,926	300	1,000
7. Memorial	500	335	1,500	26,623	
8. Loan and Exchange					
9. Miscellaneous	3,000	6,815	2,700	4,483	2,600
10. A.C.E.F.				3,600	
11. China, Copy Mach. Etc.	_____	16,466	10,000	12,100	_____
<b>Total</b>	<u>238,140</u>	<u>199,909</u>	<u>231,400</u>	<u>198,220</u>	<u>237,300</u>

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH - BOARD OF TRUSTEES - 1987

Chairman: Edward Bashian

Members: Peter Ajemian, Michel Izmirly, George Mekenian, Garbis Kirikian, Haroutune Mekhjian, Vahan Najarian, Nazar Nazarian, Antranig Ouzoonian, Rupen Saddler, Richard Turnamian, and Albert Victoria.

Honorary Members: Antranig Shahinian and Haig Tashjian.

In December 1987, the Board of Trustees Reserve Fund had \$94,000.00 in Certificate of Deposit.

During 1987, the Board met twice; one of which was a joint meeting with the Parish Council.

The Trustees, being substantially members of the Building Committee, continued to support the efforts to close out the construction contract with the family/estate of our deceased contractor.

St. Thomas Armenian Church  
Trustees Financial Statement  
December 31, 1987

Balance December 31, 1986	\$ 53,143.33
Investment to June 1988	<u>52,318.06</u>
Balance	825.27
Interest Income 1987	1,318.06
Received from Parish Council, Dec 87	<u>40,000.00</u>
Balance Available for Investment	42,143.37
Investment to June 1988	<u>42,000.00</u>
Balance in checking account	<u>143.33</u>
Investment	
Certificate of Deposit due 6-22-88	\$ 52,318.06
Certificate of Deposit due 6-22-88	<u>42,000.00</u>
Total Investment	<u>94,318.06</u>

St. Thomas Armenian Church  
A.C.E.F. Fund  
December 31, 1987

Barsamian, Vahan Memorial	\$ 5,260.00
Bashian, Edward Family Fund	2,000.00
Kasabian, Kavazanjian, Anoush Memorial	1,035.00
Kasparian, Caspar Memorial	14,000.00
Mekhjian, Dr. Haroutune & Shake	5,000.00
Otchy, Arthur & Dorothy	1,700.00
Shahinian, George Memorial Fund	20,486.00
Tashjian (Sonny) Martin Memorial Fund	6,385.00
St. Thomas Armenian Church A.C.E.F.	2,875.00

Total 58,741.00

The above mentioned names and amounts received from Victor Afzoomanian, Executive Director of A.C.E.F. Fund.

St. Thomas Armenian Church  
Memorial Donors  
December 31, 1987

Donor Name	Earmarked For	Amount
Mr. & Mrs. Aram Kratljan	Eternal lamp over Main Altar	\$500.00
St. Thomas Choir	Lobby Stain Glass Window	600.00
Araxie Pachigian	Front Main Door	500.00
Frank A. Patti, Kenneth Mikitarian	Lobby Window	1,000.00
Michael Fuhrmann	Memorial	1,000.00
Total		3,600.00

The Memorial Committee is comprised of the following:  
 Chairman: Edward Bashian  
 Secretary & Treasurer: Michel Izmirly  
 Members: Vahan Najarian, Peter Ajemian and Frank Stoneson.

## WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT - 1987

### EXECUTIVE BOARD (elected)

Chairman: Mary Ann Saraydarian  
Vice-Chrmn/Program: Pauline Pekmezian  
Rec. Secy: Alin Papazian  
Corr. Secy: Paula Keosayian  
Treasurer: Margaret Varbedian  
Mailings: Adrienne Tenbekjian  
Members: Artemis Arslanian, Beverley Hajinlian, Joanne Torigian

### STANDING COMMITTEE (Appointed)

Membership: Sona Doudoukjian  
Hospitality: Alicia Demirjian, Anna Maksian.  
Sunday Coffee: Margaret Minassian  
Publicity: Martha Saraydarian  
Devotionals: Marion Babigian  
Sunshin/Visitations: Celia Martaian  
Social Services: Queenie Tashjian  
CWU: Shakae Shahinian  
Historian: Dikris Malool  
Photographer: Alyce Parseghian  
Emerson Home, Mahs: Violet Ouzoonian

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marion Babigian, Alicia Demirjian, Artemis Nazarian.

Parish Council Liaison: Joanne Torigian.

### Activities for the Year Included:

- JANUARY 6 - Armenian Christmas at Emerson Home for the Aged.  
- Fellowship Table.  
16 - Regular Meeting/Doll making demonstration and collection.  
FEBRUARY 20 - Meeting and panel presentation "2001: The Armenian Future"  
28 - FABULOUS FIFTIES DANCE - Pauline Pekmezian  
MARCH 20 - Annual Fish and Chips Dinner - Sona Doudoukjian/Marion Kahaumjian  
27 - Regular Meeting and special dinner at PEKING DUCK restaurant.  
28 - Guild Members prepared and served lunch at Spiritual Renewal Conference.  
APRIL 1 - Mid-Lenten Luncheon and Sew and Show. A highly successful afternoon chaired by Ann Ajemian, with Alice Goulazian as fashion advisor.  
10 - Regular Meeting and address by Joseph Kalemkerian.

- May 8 - Yeretzgin, Rose Mekenian, Alyce Parseghian and Mary Ann Saraydarian represent Guild at Diocesan Assembly in Springfield.
- 9 - 30th ANNUAL COTILLION AND DANCE - Chaired by Celia Martaian. A social and financial success!
- 29 - A first! St. Thomas hosts St. Vartanantz Men's and Women's Guilds. A full course dinner followed by speaker Marjorie Housepian.
- 31 - Memorial Services for Departed Members and Communion plus Breakfast.
- June 19 - Members enjoyed a catered Armenian Dinner. Installation of new board members and a preview of the Cotillion video.
- August Executive Board and Standing Committee members gathering and thank you hosted by Mary Ann Saraydarian and Pauline Pekmezian. Plans discussed for coming year.
- September 18- Pot Luck Supper followed by general meeting and Armenian Folk Dance Program by Sosie Kadian and her group.
- 24 - Another first! Guild members prepare and serve a wonderful lunch for our Avaks.
- October 14 - 30th Anniversary Membership Tea. Over 90 women attended this gala afternoon. Sona Doudoukjian, membership chairman. Rose Mekenian - Special Program coordinator and general chairman of the afternoon. Special guests - Dorothy Otchy and Lillian Chapien (WGCC).
- November 6 - Church Women United World Community Day hosted by our Guild.
- 20 - Regular meeting and panel discussion.
- December 9 - Christmas Luncheon at Knickerbocker Country Club, ably chaired by Martha Saraydarian.

The Guild also participated in Pre-Bazaar cooking and as workers during the November 14/15 Bazaar. Yeretzgin Violet chaired the annual Fruit and Nut Sale. Thanks to Margaret Minassian for serving the coffee every Sunday after Services. The Guild prepared pastries for the dessert table at the Memorial Day Picnic. They were very well represented at all CWU function throughout the year.

The St. Thomas Women's Guild, with all this activity and hard work, managed to fulfill its pledge of \$12,000.00 to the Parish.

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S GUILD 1987 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>DISBURSEMENT</u>	
Funds on hand, December 31, 1986			\$4,198.54
Cotillion	\$15,500.00		
St. Thomas 1987 Pledge		\$12,000.00	
Postage		216.70	
Dues/Membership Tea	1,580.00	432.33	
Meeting Refreshments		163.75	
Sunday Coffee		58.61	
In Lieu of flowers: Gavejian, Kalfaian, Chakmakian, Coloyan, Seferian, Vaniskhian, Mekhjian		175.00	
Saint's Day	185.00	185.00	
1989 Cotillion Deposit, Tammy Brook Country Club		500.00	
Diocesan Delegates (4)		277.00	
Church Women United		107.51	
Sunshine/visits		70.49	
Fruit & Nut Sale	5,041.90	3,048.20	
Film & Prints		39.00	
Emerson	149.50	56.25	
Fish'n Chips	1,390.17	821.82	
Christmas Luncheon	2,400.00	1,954.36	
50's Dance	1,879.50	865.66	
Sew'n Show	7,491.00	2,945.53	
Women's Guild Central Council		299.00	
Meeting Dinners/Speakers	896.00	758.44	
Bazaar	45.00	45.00	
Decorator's Showcase	240.00	192.00	
Donation for Coffee Pot	100.00	84.77	
Interest, Checking Account	455.21		
Interest, Tfr. from Money Market	212.37		
Transfer from Money Market	2,000.00		
Avak Luncheon		237.48	
Money Market Deposit		10,911.23	
Communion Breakfast		45.00	
Tickets for Women's Guild Theatre Party		780.00	
Armenian School Party		67.54	
Vehapar's Banquet		100.00	
St. Tarkmantchatz		100.00	
Printing & Misc. Expenses		130.41	
	<u>\$39,565.65</u>	<u>\$37,668.08</u>	
Net, Income and Disbursements			<u>1,897.57</u>
Funds on Hand December 31, 1987			<u>6,096.11</u>
 INSURED MONEY MARKET			
Balance, December 31, 1986			\$ 3,688.76
Net Transfers			11,940.03
Interest (583.58 earned less 212.37 Tfr.to checking)			371.21
Balance, December 31, 1987			<u>\$16,000.00</u>

ST. THOMAS MEN'S CLUB REPORT - 1987

Chairman: Paul Pinajian  
 Vice Chairman: Steve Jarahian  
 Recording Secretary: Arthur Azarik  
 Treasurer: Jack Ekizian  
 Publicity: Matthew Keshishian  
 Corr. Secy: Arman Ajamian

1987 was another busy and productive year for the Men's Club. Our members were involved with the Raffle Booklet Chairman to sell booklets for the St. Thomas Annual Bazaar. We also asked for donations for the Wheel of Chance prize booth, and finally a donation Bar was set up and tended by our members.

Activities, Programs, Special Events and Accomplishments - 1987

Our club provided the chairperson for the St. Thomas Annual Memorial Day Picnic and annual Car Raffle - 1987 325I BMW. Women's Guild Cotillion booklet donation, Atlantic City bus trip, men's bowling league, Men's Club family picnic, sponsorship of all church youth sports activities, 50-50 raffle, guest speakers, enjoyable Christmas Dinner Party, trips to local sporting events, rebuilding of "Bridge Over The River Hye" was donated, and finally our monthly meetings with cooking and cleaning.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand, January 1st, 1987			\$ 4,417.44
	Income	Expenses	
Membership Dues	310.00		
Postage		159.38	
Dinner Meetings	497.00	481.00	
Atlantic City Bus Trip	625.00	450.00	
Men's Club Raffle	2,200.00	161.00	
St. Vartanantz Dinner	1,608.00	1,869.76	
Donation Future Unity Dinner	150.00		
Men's Club Picnic	56.50	141.02	
Bergen County Parks	40.00	60.00	
Women's Guild Cotillion Ad		100.00	
Christmas 1986		30.00	
Sponsorship of ACYOA			
Registration Fees		1,080.00	
Uniforms		661.50	
Christmas Dinner Party	2,030.00	2,216.25	
Lumber "Bridge Over The River Hye"		771.54	
Toll Der Hayr Over The Bridge	1.00		
Advance Tickets Layout		725.00	
	7,517.00	8,906.45	
Balance on hand, December 31, 1987			\$ 3,028.49
CAR RAFFLE			
Sale of Tickets	37,500.00		
Interest in Savings Account	123.00		
Purchase of the Car		19,945.00	
License for Raffle		225.00	
Printing of Tickets		116.00	
Turned Over to St. Thomas		17,000.00	
Balance in Savings Account as of June 19th 1987		337.00	
	37,623.00	37,623.00	



## KIRIKIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL

The enrollment for the 1987-88 school year is a record 90 students. All children have to take a reading and spelling test at the end of the year. The 7th graders have to pass a 3 hour test to graduate, and an optional Armenian History test of 100 questions to get the award.

### NEW:

- 1) We opened another Conversation class for this year's 2nd graders.
- 2) We established the Khrimian Lyceum. This is a 3 year post graduate program to prepare future Armenian School teacher. We offer a series of intense courses in Armenian history literature, religion, music, reading and dance. In addition to these, they do an internship to teach.
- b) Special reading exercises for 4th and 5th grades.
- 4) School newspaper by Seta Yavru.
- 5) Through the benevolence of Garbis and Alice Kirikian the school has acquired a Television and VCR for videos.

### Regular Program

- 1) Celebrating and practicing Armenian traditions like name days (Soorp Sarkis), Tarkmantchatz, Vartanantz, Soorp Paregentan, Dyar-unt-haratch, Meecheenk, Hampartzum.
- 2) Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas & Easter parties.
- 3) Attending the Primate's Christmas Party.
- 4) Participating in the Mamigonian parade at the Diocese at Vartanantz with a nice performance.
- 5) Establishment of Dr. Harout and Shake Mekhjian Armenian Spelling Award.
- 6) Performing at our Christmas Dinner and at the Anniversary Dinner of our church.
- 7) Commemoration of the Armenian Martyrs on April 24.
- 8) Graduates will be taken to our Diocesan Assembly this year (Khrimian Lyceum).
- 9) Hantes
- 10) Annual picnic with Sunday School children.

Executive Committee: Ani Capan, Martha Saraydarian, Seta Yavru, Marion Babigian, Artemis Arslanian, Mary Ann Saraydarian.

### Faculty:

Nursery: Hermine Chalian  
Pre Kindergarten: Sosi Bomchajekian  
Kindergarten: Ani Nahabedian  
1st Grade: Queenie Tashjian  
2nd Grade: Ani Mardirossian  
Conversation -2: Lisa Soylemezian, Hilda Hallajian  
3rd Grade: Mari Zokian  
4th Grade: Dikran Bomchajekian  
5th Grade: Seta Jebejian  
Conversation 4-5: Hourig Mangassarian  
6th Grade: Sirvart Demirjian  
7th Grade: Mari Tashjian  
Adult Special Reading: Seta Yavru  
Religion: Shnorhig Bashian  
Dance: Jenia Kazanjian  
Piano: Artemis Arslanian  
Armenian Newspaper Reading: Araxie Diratzuian  
Substitute Teacher: Hermine Babayan

ALUMNI AIDS

Guest Lecturers for Khrimian Lyceum  
 Armenian History: Olympia Jebejian  
 Armenian Literature Prose: Vehanoush Tekian  
 Music Gomidas: Raffi Sevajian  
 Armenia, Armenian Question: Hagop Vartivarian  
 Armenian Tradition: Shnorhig Bashian  
 Five Daghavars: Shnorhig Bashian  
 Armenian Dance Workshop: Arsen Anoushian

KIRIKIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL TREASURER'S REPORT - 1987

Balance from 12/31/86		\$1,411.57
INCOME - 1987		
Memorial Donations	3,920.00	
Kirikian Donations	5,000.00	
Mekhjian Fund	459.75	
Shahinian Fund	500.00	
Bazaar	765.00	
Tuition (90 students x \$125.00)	11,250.00	
Hantes	703.09	
Armenian Christmas Dinner	2,947.00	
		25,544.84
EXPENSES - 1987		
Salaries (15 teachers x 32 weeks x \$30.00)	14,400.00	
St. Tarkmantchatz Luncheon	310.41	
Diocesan Bookstore	1,778.24	
Diocesan Assembly (Springfield)	215.00	
Holiday Parties for students	594.27	
School Supplies	383.15	
Taranto Bus to Diocese (3 times)	525.00	
Hantes	703.09	
Trophies	1,372.00	
Gifts and Memorial Donations	124.00	
St. Thomas Building Fund	2,000.00	
St. Thomas Church (Donations)	126.00	
Church Sch/Arm Sch Picnic	32.00	
Armenian Christmas Dinner	2,621.00	
Bank Charges	20.00	
VCR/TV	716.00	
		(25,880.65)
BALANCE 12/31/87		1,075.76

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH CHOIR REPORT - 1987

Chairman:	Eileen Barsamian	Rec. Secy:	Bertha Vaniskhian
Vice Chmn:	Jeanie Amerkanian	Advisor :	Peter Kalemkerian
Corr. Secy:	Armen Basmajian		Ara Martaian
Treasurer:	Gregory Doudoukjian	Spec.Advisor:	Rose Mekenian
	Choirmaster:	Edward Daghlian	
	Organist:	Susan Shamamian	

St. Thomas Choir currently has 38 members, including 4 new members who joined in September; we are always happy to welcome more singers! Our choirmaster, Edward Daghlian, and our organist, Susan Shamamian, faithfully perform their duties with enthusiasm, for which we are grateful. For the first half of this year, our choirmaster had scheduled rehearsals on the first Sunday of every month immediately after church services. This past fall, he has held rehearsals during the week, periodically. Anyone interested in joining the choir is invited to do so.

Serving on the altar during the year were: Deacon Joseph Kalemkerian, Sub-deacon Armen Basmajian, and altar servers Gregory Doudoukjian, Henry Hagopian, Stephen Mekenian and Thomas Kasparian. Also joining them this past fall were Deacon Hagop Rustemian and St. Nersess Seminarian Robert Boyajian. In addition, we have 3 new altar servers trained by Deacon Kalemkerian: Peter Babigian, Levon Altiparmakian, and Ara Hallajian. We thank all of them for their efforts.

We are always delighted to welcome the Junior Choir (consisting of 25 members) into our midst, ably led by one of our dedicated members, Rose Mekenian. On several occasions they sang with us during Badarak.

On Theophany and Maundy Thursday, a representative group of choir members went with Der Hayr to the Armenian Home for the Aged to celebrate Badarak and, jointly with the Women's Guild, provided Armenian delicacies for the residents. The Home and its Armenian members look forward to our visits during the holy days, and we, in turn come away with the warm feeling of knowing we have brought the church service and communion to our Senior Citizens.

On April 5th, the Parish Council held "Choir Appreciation Sunday" honoring past and present choir members for dedicated service to our church. Special presentations were made to Edward Daghlian, Susan Shamamian and Junior Choir Director Rose Mekenian. The choir held requiem services for deceased members and donated Altar flowers in their memory. We wish to express special thanks for the buffet luncheon and to all those who made this special day possible.

On Mother's Day, May 11th, our choir did it again - - we broke all records for our biggest and best bake sale ever! Thanks to the congregation's support for this type of fundraiser, we were able to make our last payment (as of January 1988) on the stained glass window which we were so happy to donate to the Church.

In June, a large group of our choir members attended the Choir Association's 40th Anniversary Banquet of the mid-Atlantic area held at the Diocese, honoring Archbishop Torkom Manogian as the pioneer of the Choir Association. Rose Mekenian served on the Anniversary Committee.

Our Choir Advisor, Peter Kalemkerian, represented us at a one-day Choir Training Workshop at St. Nersess Seminary on September 12th, featuring "The Choral Experience Yours To Take", sponsored by the Choir Association. The guest instructor was Dr. Allen Lannom, Director of Choir Activities of the Boston Conservatory of Music.

The Annual Choir Assembly was hosted by the Komitas Choir of St. John's Church, Detroit, Michigan, the weekend of November 13th. We were pleased to send Gregory Doudoukjian as our delegate, and the Parish Council for subsidizing a portion of his trip. We are also grateful to the Parish Council for enabling us to have our traditional Choir Association collection after Easter services.

has anyone noticed lately that our choir veils no longer occasionally slip off our ladies' heads during Badarak? Wee, as soon as we saw Susan Shamamian's shorter and lighter design, we put our two super seamstresses, Jeanie Amerkanian and Rose Ann Arzoomanian, to work on our 20 choir veils...now we are all streamlined!

The executive board has met a number of times throughout the year and has held membership meetings when necessary. We are always looking for new ways to improve the choir. Each members has received a copy of General Etiquette for Choir Members, along with the Primate's Annual Message to all members of the Choir Association.

Eileen Barsamian  
Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand Jan 1, 1987 \$ 532.35

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Easter Plate Collection	\$ 373.00		
Bake Sale	222.00		
Gift Donations	30.00		
			625.00
In lieu of flowers		\$ 80.00	
Hokehankisd for Deceased Members		50.00	
AACCA Dues		150.00	
AACCA Raffle Ticket (41st Choir Assembly)		100.00	
Choir Photograph for Anniversary Booklet		7.00	
Stipend for Delegate at Assembly		50.00	
Payment for Church Stained Glass Window		200.00	
Misc.		<u>65.56</u>	
			<u>702.56</u>
Balance on Hand December 31, 1987			<u>\$454.79</u>

## ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT - 1987

### A. CHURCH SCHOOL

The Church School began its academic year on September 13, with an enrollment of 97 students (compared to 107 last year). A number of new families joined the Church School. The students are divided into 11 classes, plus Nursery. Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 12:15. The program was expanded this year to two hours. The students' courses of study are prescribed by the Diocesan Department of Religious Education. This year brand new textbooks published by the Diocese are in use in the Church School, which convey the faith and teachings of the Armenian Church.

One of the goals of the Church School is to help its young people develop into worshiping members of the Armenian Church. To further this goal, the students have been attending Divine Liturgy every week for at least 45 minutes as part of the regular Sunday morning schedule. An important benefit of this is that children have begun to feel part of the worshiping community. Assembly programs conducted by Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian include opportunities for learning the hymns and songs of the Badarak, as well as learning about the performance of the rituals themselves. Students of the eighth, ninth, and eleventh grades again read the Scripture lessons during Christmas Eve and Easter Eve Services.

The Junior Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Rose Mekenian, met regularly during the first six months of the year, and learned liturgical as well as folk songs. They sang the Badarak at St. Vartan Cathedral for Poon Paregentan, at church services, and at the Anniversary Dinner.

Five young people received their Diocesan graduation diplomas in June, upon completion of all the requirements for graduation, including a year of service to the parish.

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. It is heartwarming that several Church School "alumni" are members of the teaching staff. The staff meets periodically for meetings and training sessions.

For fourteen consecutive years, the students have been buying gifts and foodstuffs for needy families at Christmas. This project is coordinated by Lorraine Kapakjian of the Division of Youth and Family Services of the State of New Jersey. The children also raised money through "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" in October. Non-perishable foodstuffs were collected at Thanksgiving for the Center for Food Action in Englewood. A sizeable Lenten Offering was divided between a national hunger agency and a local one.

The Church School children participated in the special Divine Liturgy and Youth Day program at St. Vartan Cathedral on the occasion of the visit of His Holiness Catholicos Vazken I, on October 24. The students of the seventh and eighth grades participated in the special procession and commemoration of Martyrs Day, April 26.

A trip to the Emerson Home for the Armenian Aged took place in March, allowing the children to meet with some of the residents. The students sang some Badarak songs, prayed and worshiped with the residents, and then socialized with them before returning to St. Thomas.

Annual events of the Church School include: Armenian Christmas Eve Supper, Easter Communion Breakfast, Pot Luck Supper, Christmas Dinner and Program, bus trip to St. Vartan Cathedral for Poon Paregentan, joint Sunday School-Armenian School picnic, and graduation reception. We are thankful for the support and cooperation of the entire parish family which ensures the success of these events.

#### B. ADULT EDUCATION

A series of three adult education forums on the Future of the Armenian Church and community in America, entitled "2001" The Armenian Future" were held in February- March- April. A program and discussion on the topic of "Adolescent Suicide" was held in April. All four were very well received.

A monthly periodical, AVEDIS, published by the Diocesan Department of Religious Education, was distributed to all Church School families and other interested parishioners throughout the year.

The monthly newsletter, DAY BY DAY, which resumed publication in September, is mailed to all Parish families.

Eight adults and young people participated in the CROP Walk for Hunger on October 18, along with Christians from all the communities around Tenafly. St. Thomas is the first and only Orthodox congregation that has ever participated in the northern NJ CROP Walk, and our parishioners raise \$1,082.50 through pledges and donations for the cause!

The Narek Prayer group organized in May 1986, continues to meet monthly to read Scripture and pray together for persons and concerns brought to its attention. A locked box marked "prayer requests" has been placed in the narthex to receive such petitions.

#### CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF

Superintendent	Louise Kalemkerian
Nursery	Diane Markarian
Kindergarten	Susan and Mary Yazidjian
First Grade	Vicky Menegigian
Second Grade	Ardis Kasparian
Third Grade	Marilou Pinajian, Laura Ekizian
Fourth Grade	Gregory Hourdajian
Fifth Grade	Douglas Martaian
Sixth Grade	Stephen Jarahian
Seventh Grade	Gregory Tenbekjian
Eighth Grade	Suzanne Daghlian
Ninth Grade	Thomas Merjanian
Tenth Grade/Advisor	Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian
Eleventh Grade	Lori Kalemkerian
Treasurer	Jeanette Ekizian
Records	Jean Karagosian
Parent's Committee	Adrienne Tenbekjian

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH - 1987 Report of the A.C.Y.O.A. Jr's

OFFICERS - September 1987 to June 1988  
Co-Chairpersons - Gregory Amerkanian & Peter Babigian  
Vice chairperson - Arpi Mekhjian  
Secretary - Serda Arslanyan  
Treasurer - Claudine Bogosian  
Advisor - Douglas Martaian

The group has been active with meetings at St. Thomas, membership participation at ACYOA Jr's Sport Weekends and activities at other churches. The highlights are outlined below. The membership increased in 1987 from 44 to 52 members.

Calendar of Activities

February	Progressive Dinner.
April	Pizza making demonstration conducted by Greg Doudoukjian, followed by discussion program with Der Hayr and Louise Kalemkerian.
May	Spring Dance.
June	Elections and Swim party, hosted by Mekhjian family.
August	Picnic at St. James Church, Harrison, NY
September	Picnic and softball game with St. Leon's ACYOA at Van Saun Park.
October	CROP Walk to raise money to feed hungry people in which several members participated. Meeting and social at Friendly's Trip to see Catholicos Vazken at St. Vartan Cathedral.
November	Bazaar participation, selling of calendar chances and creation of innovative Game Room for younger children.
December	Field Trip to Emerson Home for Aged and Christmas caroling, followed by social at Amerkanian's home. Christmas Eve Services led by ACYOA Jrs. Our thanks to Miss Susan Shamamian for the time she gave to rehearse with us and encourage us. The plate collection from this service went to aid needy children in Lebanon. The Jrs. also provided the refreshments served to the congregation after the services.

The ACYOA Jrs. wish to thank Der Hayr, Mrs. Kalemkerian, the Parish Council and our liaison, Mrs. Grace Hagopian, for their support and encouragement. A word of thanks is also extended to our parents and many parishioners who have made most of our activities possible this year.

ACYOA Srs./Northern New Jersey

1987 Officers

Lisa Ohanesian - Chairperson (St. Thomas)  
Marjie Ajamian - Vice Chairperson (St. Leon)  
Anne Toufayan - Corres. Secretary (St. Leon)  
Craig Tashjian - Treasurer (St. Thomas)  
Stephen Mekenian - St. Thomas parish representative  
Susan Chaghbanian - St. Leon parish representative  
Lori Kalemkerian - Delegate

The membership of the ACYOA Srs. is 40. Events of 1987 are listed below:

December 31, 1986 -  
January 1, 1987

New Year's Eve Dance

February	Membership Drive and meeting
Summer	Picnic and Softball game
Aug/Sept	Sports Weekend participation, Detroit, MI
September	Booth at One World Festival
Oct/Nov	St. Leon & St. Thomas Bazaar participation
November	Road Rally
November	College Night Dinner

The ACYOA Srs. have recently held elections and elected a new executive board. Future plans include: participation in the Regional Meeting, participation in the cultural Weekend in February, the Leadership Program in Hartford in March, a ski weekend, and efforts to increase membership. All young adults are invited to join the ACYOA Srs.

THE AVAK SOCIETY

We are a group of seniors that meet every Thursday at the church, we are now in existence for 16 years, and were the first club to be formed.

We have many activities, trips to the Catskills, shows, etc. We are always ready to help any time we are needed.

Our executive committee for 1987 was:

Nish Ohanesian	Chairman
Betty Papazian	Refreshments and advisor
Rachel Hogrogian	Refreshments and advisor
Zareh Darakjian	Advisor
Dianne Nakashian	Refreshments
Anne Stepanian	Secretary

We also want to thank Helen Avedisian who took over as treasurer, Bertha Poosikian, Naomi Halejian, Sona Darakjian who are always willing to help when needed.



ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH - CASPAR KASPARIAN MEMORIAL FUND

The purpose of this fund, which was established in 1979 is to provide scholarship assistance to the youth of the St. Thomas Parish to attend religious study conferences, retreats, and other educational activities in the church.

During the summer of 1987, 18 youngsters were awarded scholarship assistance by the Board of Directors to attend the St. Nersess Summer Study Program in New Rochelle, NY. Some of the youngsters were attending for the first time. During the program the participants had the opportunity of learning more about their church while at the same time sharing their experiences with youngsters from other Armenian communities. During the past eight years the fund has assisted 128 youngsters from our parish in this manner.

Each year during the fall a retreat for Junior High age youngsters has been held. During 1987, due to a lack of space at St. Nersess we were unable to schedule the retreat. Instead it has been rescheduled for a weekend in January 1988.

Through activities such as the Summer Study Program and the Retreat, the Fund seeks to expand the religious education experience of St. Thomas youngsters and encourage them to grow in the Armenian Christian faith.

Members of the Board of Directors are: Fr. Arnak Kasparian, President Ex-Officio; Lillian Chapian, Deacon Joseph Kalemkerian and George Mekenian.

Kasparian Fund Financial Report

A. <u>1987 Activities</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	
Interest	\$ 1,287.30		
Donations	280.00		
1987 St. Nersess Scholarship		860.00	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Totals	1,567.30	860.00	
Net			707.30
B. Assets			
1. On December 31, 1986			
Armenian Church Endowment Fund	14,000.00		
Checking Account (1st Fidelity)	2,992.93		
Less outstanding check #206	(50.00)		
		<hr/>	16,942.93
2. On December 31, 1987			
Armenian Church Endowment Fund	14,000.00		
Checking Account	3,650.23		
		<hr/>	17,650.23
3. Change in Assets - 1987			
Principal Funds	280.00		
Operating Funds	427.30		
	<hr/>		707.30

## GEORGE SHAHINIAN MEMORIAL FUND

The George Shahinian Memorial Fund underwrote the cost of having sewn 9 Junior Choir robes and 3 Deacon's robes. It also sponsored a series of adult education programs in the spring entitled "2001: The Armenian Future". and three adult education programs in the fall, a film and discussion on the Shroud of Turin, "The Silent Witness", a panel entitled "Has the Christian Faith Been Detrimental to the Armenian National Existence?" and an open forum on "Is there Life After Sunday School?"

The Fund also sponsored two events for college students to encourage their ties with St. Thomas Church. A dinner was held to which all Armenian college students in the metropolitan NY area were invited, and a brunch welcoming home St. Thomas students at Christmas time.

## NJ ARMENIAN SINGLES

Chairman: Arthur Sarkisian  
Secretary: Alice Davoudian  
Treasurer: Mary Kabasakalian  
Publicity: Haig Dorian

The New Jersey Armenian Singles were established in 1981 primarily as a support group for recently widowed and divorced individuals in the community. We have grown and evolved into a social and friendship organization for divorced, widowed and mature single people. During 1987 we gathered monthly at St. Thomas on the third Sunday of the month for socials, lectures and trips. We heard speakers such as Dr. Knarig Khatchadourian (nutrition), Charles Arakelian (wills), Fred Karagosian (Investments), Vahan Soukiassian (Armenia), and Shake Topalian (the genocide). Several marriages have resulted from our social encounters. We have donated \$300.00 annually to St. Thomas Church.

## AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT - 1987

We, the Auditing Committee, will give an oral report during the Parish Assembly, February 7, 1988.

Artemis Nazarian  
Ardis Kasparian  
Gregory Tenbekjian

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT - 1987

Chairman:	Nazar Nazarian	Trustee's Chairman:	Edward Bashian
Co-Chairman:	Vahan Najarian	Parish Council Chmn:	Peter Ajemian
Counsel:	Ronald Kenderian	Treasurer:	Michel Izmirly
Secretary:	Mary Ann Saraydarian	Fund Raising:	Richard Turnamian

Technical Committee: Moses Kazanjian, George Mekenian, Antranig Ouzoonian, Albert Victoria.  
Jerry Kosayian - HVAC

Advisors: Dr. Haroutune Mekhjian, Rupen Saddler

- Even though the project may seem outwardly complete, there were still many unsettled matters which were accomplished during the 1987 year.
- Due to the death of John Kiseli (our contractor), before settlement of the project, there is on-going negotiation between the Technical Committee and the Kiseli Estate regarding loose ends and payments.
- Ed Luders (our architect) was given his final payment. Owed \$8,000.00 he was paid \$7,000.00 with \$1,000.00 being paid as an accoustical consultation fee to another firm.
- The Church footbridge was rebuilt by Jerry Keosayian and his son Paul for under 1,000.00 . The job was done quickly and competently and saved the church at last \$1,5000.00
- The back area was graded and paved with additional parking allotted. The Parish driveway's front circle was repaved with handicapped parking provided according to Tenafly ordinance.
- Four column speakers were installed in the Atrium in March .
- Thanks to Al Victoria, trees in the back area were trimmed, cut and removed at a great savings to St. Thomas. Lawncutting maintenance was established. Landscaping at a cost of approximately \$30-40,000.00 will continue in the spring. It must be mentioned that many costs are determined by State mandates.
- A letter was sent in October to all who have pledge, thanking them if they had completed payment, or asking them to if they had not.
- Stage curtains are currently being tailored, with full installation due shortly. Also, verticals have been ordered for Der Hayr's office to obscure the office equipment from view from the outside.
- Future projects we must deal with have also been discussed and will be acted upon in 1988:
  1. Disrepair of the Parish House
  2. Additional storage space
  3. Repair of area surrounding Church dome
  4. Construction of a Church library facility.
- Most importantly, by advice of the Building Committee and Trustees, the Parish Council has agreed to assume a mortgage on outstanding debt of the Project.

St. Thomas Armenian Church, Tenafly, New Jersey  
 Building Committee Cash Report  
 November 1982 to December 31, 1987

Checks Received

Pledges	\$ 985,030.66	
Loan from First Fidelity Bank	225,000.00	
Loan from Trustees	135,000.00	
Interest from Investment	27,693.65	
Parish Council Payment for Interest	30,000.00	
Affairs	17,355.22	
Jokes	49.41	
Profit Sharing	100.00	
Cake Sales	6,842.00	
Exchanges	<u>1,912.01</u>	
Total Deposits		1,428,982.95

Disbursement

Expansion Contract	929,763.16	
Kitchen equipment	37,428.15	
Water Retention	16,196.20	
Tiles for Atrium and Carpeting	49,219.92	
Telephone System and Paging	9,138.52	
Interest Expense	45,020.90	
Prof Luders, Avakian, Ziegler, Hurban, Lyon	76,635.00	
Permits	2,508.98	
Security System	2,760.00	
Wood Stain and Painting and Acoustics	12,865.02	
Awning and Landscaping	36,105.77	
Stationery and Postage	754.07	
Affairs	16,486.91	
Heating systems	33,017.21	
Railing and Store room	11,682.00	
Ladies Room	7,789.13	
Repairs	1,380.40	
Exchange	<u>4,273.01</u>	

Total Disbursement 1,293,024.35

Cash Balance after Disbursement 135,958.60

Investment 100,011.63

Bank Balance 35,946.97

Pledges	1,019,105.00
Received	<u>985,031.00</u>

Balance to be received 34,074.00

1ST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
PARISHIONER RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
December 21, 1987

This Committee was formed by vote of the Annual Parish Assembly-1987. Its purpose was to "hear and act upon" the "Concerns" of parishioners; to address them in a comprehensive, constructive, and unbiased manner.

The Parish Council assigned the task of forming a functional committee to a small group headed by Joanne Torigian, now its Chairperson. Other members include: Sam Demirjian, Joseph Kalemkerian, Leon Nigohosian Esq., Richard Papazian, Ara Pekmezian and Dr. Puzant Torigian.

The Committee "hears" concerns of our parishioners and based on its findings makes recommendations to appropriate groups of the church for their action.

The Committee has set up the procedure for presentation of "Concerns" and the committee's guidelines for their resolution.

The Committee is independent of any person or groups and functions in full CONFIDENTIALITY acting as a Committee, not as individuals. All "Concerns" are presented in writing directly to the Chairperson - mailed to her home: Joanne Torigian, 2 Horizon Road, Fort Lee, NJ 07024.

If a parishioner requests confidentiality, from all but the Chairperson, the written "Concern" will be presented to the rest of the Committee--anonymously. If confidentiality is not requested the parishioner will be invited to make a personal presentation to the Committee. All parishioner "concerns" will be acknowledged by the Chairperson and a specific appointment will be arranged for the parishioner to make their presentation personally, if they so desire.

For "Concern" form please contact Joanne Torigian (201) 585-8832.

The Committee has held numerous meetings throughout the year, addressing various "Concerns" brought forth by parishioners.

One such "Concern" (after much consideration by the Committee) has resulted in the initiation of a "Good Samaritan Fund". Our Committee members have already made pledge for monies to seed this essential fund. This confidentially administered Fund will act as a last resort source of emergency financial assistance to a parishioner who is in dire need. The Fund is to be managed by our Pastor, the Committee chairperson, and one other member of the committee. It is further planned that a 'network of assistance' will be assembled for parishioners who find themselves in financial, medical, legal, emotional etc. difficulty.

This 'Samaritan Network' will act as ombudsmen seeking the special resources of other parishioners to help resolve a difficulty that has not been overcome through the usual sources.

The Committee hopes that the entire parish membership will support this effort by offering financial and/or professional assistance to the 'Network' and the Committee requests that the membership assembly vote today, to implement this "Good Samaritan Fund and Network".

Joanne Torigian, Chairperson 1987

