

**33RD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
Sunday, February 1, 1998 following Church Service**

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Verification of Eligible Voters
3. Lunch & Voting
4. 32nd Parish Assembly Minutes
 - a) Session I
 - b) Session II
5. Pastor's Report
6. Calendar of Events
7. Parish Council & Diocesan Reports
8. Financial Summary
9. Approval of Proposed Budget for 1998
10. Audit Report (will be inserted February 1, 1998)
11. Old Business
12. New Business
13. Church Grounds-Landscaping
14. ACEF Fund
15. Caspar M. Kasparian Memorial Fund
16. Vahan Barsamian Memorial Fund
17. George Shahinian Memorial Fund
18. Martin "Sonny" Tashjian Memorial Fund
19. Peter Ajemian Memorial Fund
20. Organization Reports
 - a) ACYOA Jrs.
 - b) Avak Society
 - c) Choir
 - d) Christian Education (Sunday School)
 - e) Family Auxiliary of St. Thomas
 - f) Kirikian Armenian School
 - g) Mens Club
 - h) Women's Guild
21. Announcement of Election Results
22. Closing Prayer/Adjournment

ST THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
32nd PARISH ASSEMBLY
SESSION I-SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 1997

Before opening the meeting, Chairman Leon Nigohosian asked Grace Hagopian to determine the existence of a quorum (minimum of 50 paid in full members). It was determined that more than 50 paid in full members were present and the meeting was opened with a prayer by V. Rev. Fr. Papken Dz. V. Anoushian.

Chairman Nigohosian announced the officers of this year's assembly, V. Rev. Fr. Papken Dz. V. Anoushian, President, himself, Chairman and Martha Saraydarian, Secretary. He thanked Secretary Madlen Setian for her excellent job in preparing last year's minutes of the Parish Assembly.

Chairman Nigohosian stated that one Parish Assembly Annual Report per family is for distribution and that said reports should be brought back for the second session on February 2 as duplicates will not be given. He further stated that the Parish Assembly meeting would be conducted in accordance with the By-Laws of the Eastern Diocese and guided by Roberts Rule of Order. He gave instructions on how to be recognized if intending to address the Assembly.

Sylva Torosian made a motion to adopt the agenda of the meeting as they appear in the report. Richard Saraydarian seconded, motion carried.

Andy Ouzoonian made a motion to suspend the reading of the 1st Parish Assembly (1996) minutes until February 2. Grace Hagopian seconded and the motion was carried.

Nominating Committee Chairlady, Lucy Piligian, presented the following candidates for PARISH COUNCIL: Gregory Amerkanian, Dink Bozian, Mari Camcikian, Lucy Ezgilioğlu, Leon Nigohosian, Label Pashayan, Irma Saganda, Harry Sanossian, Richard Saraydarian, Madlen Setian, Jack Torosian, and Joseph Zokian. There were no nominations from the floor for Parish Council. For NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Maral Bezjian, Manoog Camcikian, Natalie Capan, Viken Ezgilioğlu, Zivart Gulian, Krikor Kucukyan, Elsie Nigohosian, Mary Sanossian, Bertha Yigitkurt, and Sirarpi Yildiz. Samuel Demirjian nominated Henry Hagopian from the floor. Mr. Hagopian accepted the nomination; For AUDITING COMMITTEE: Diana Bozian, Manoog Camcikian, Arpi Cankar and Viken Ezgilioğlu. There were no nominations from the floor. For PARISH ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN: Leon Nigohosian and Antranig Ouzoonian; For SECRETARY: Martha Saraydarian. There were no nominations from the floor for Assembly Chairman or Secretary. Chairman Nigohosian asked all candidates to come forward and be recognized and instructed Parish Council candidates to see Aram Setian at the conclusion of the meeting for the purpose of having their pictures taken. He thanked Lucy Piligian and her committee for their efforts.

Chairman Leon Nigohosian announced that a list of paid members eligible to vote is available for review if so desired. Ara Babigian asked what the total number is from said list. Hayr Soorp responded that there are 331 paid members eligible to vote with an additional 18 members who paid late and 5 new members. Mr. Babigian then presented Secretary Martha Saraydarian with a copy of one page from the 1994 Voting List and asked that a complete 1997 Voting List be presented to him. Chairman Nigohosian stated that his request would be taken under consideration. The format of the list Mr. Babigian requested would include the amount each person has pledged and paid to the church and would, therefore, be subject to public knowledge. Chairman Nigohosian further stated that Mr. Babigian is entitled to examine the voting list, not receive a copy, and that he is free to do so as he has done in the past.

Dr. Bedros Yavu-Sakuk made a motion to begin the second session of the Parish Assembly on February 2, 1997 at 12:30 p.m. Samuel Demirjian seconded and motion carried.

Dr. Levon Capan made a motion that voting begin right after the second session convenes (approximately 12:35-12:40p.m.) and close at 2:00 p.m. Mary Sanossian seconded and the motion carried.

Lucy Piligian made a motion that the second session reconvene at 2:15 p.m. It was seconded by Richard Saraydarian and carried.

Richard Saraydarian made a motion and Sylva Torosian seconded that the proposed agenda for the second session be adopted. The motion carried.

Chairman Nigohosian reiterated that the second session would open at 12:30 p.m., voting would begin shortly thereafter during which time lunch will be served, and the meeting would reconvene at 2:15p.m.

Dr. Bedros Yavu-Sakuk made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Madlen Setian and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. with a closing prayer delivered by Fr. Papken

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Saraydarian
Secretary 1997
Parish Assembly

Leon Nigohosian
Chairman 1997
Parish Assembly

V. Rev. Fr. Papken
Dz. V. Anoushian
Pastor and President
1997 Parish Assembly

Martha Saraydarian

Leon Nigohosian

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
32nd PARISH ASSEMBLY
SESSION II, FEBRUARY 2, 1997

Chairman Nigohosian opened the meeting and appointed Arpi Cankar and George Mekenian to be counters for the day. He asked all those eligible to vote to raise their hands in order to establish a quorum. Ms. Cankar and Mr. Mekenian verified that there is a quorum present

Fr. Papken delivered the opening prayer.

Dr. Levon Capan made a motion to close all nominations. Arpi Capan seconded and motion carried.

Chairman Nigohosian announced that the meeting would be conducted according to the Diocesan By-Laws and Roberts Rules of Order. He stated that questions must be addressed to the chair. He further stated that if a question has already been asked and answered, he would not accept the question again. The procedure for speaking is to hold up blue cards and when recognized give your name and membership number.

Mr. Nigohosian announced that the voting list is available for inspection during voting and at any other time during the year.

Madlen Setian made a motion to recess until 2:15p.m. It was seconded by Sylva Torosian and the motion carried

The meeting was reconvened at 2:20 p.m. by Chairman Nigohosian. He announced that as a quorum was established at the opening, there was no need to do so again.

For purposes of clarity, Chairman Nigohosian explained the differences between membership lists and voting lists. As some of the titles have caused confusion, he recommended that the Parish Council give thought to changing the titles so that they will be distinguishable from each other. The CHURCH MEMBERSHIP LIST is available to everyone and anyone to examine or to receive to take with them. It includes a member's pledge number, his/her name, address, phone number. It does not contain any financial information or indicate whether he/she is eligible to vote.

The VOTING MEMBERSHIP LIST (or Member Voting List): contains all the information found in the Church Membership List plus information as to whether an individual has the right to vote in the elections as well as during The Parish Assembly.

The Third List contains all the information contained in the two lists described above and also includes financial information of members, both those who are fully paid and those who are in arrears.

Under established policy, continued Chairman Nigohosian, anyone may receive a Membership List. The Third List, which includes membership information as well as financial information is available for inspection in the church office during business hours or by special appointment, and is available now for anyone wishing to review it during this meeting. This is in accordance with two directives from the Diocese, one of which says that anyone inspecting that list must sign a statement that they will not use that information for any gainful or commercial purposes.

Chairman Nigohosian stated that the New Jersey statute compels that we allow inspection of the list containing financial information but are not obligated to provide lists to be taken off the premises. There are many parishoners, continued the Chairman, who do not wish their pledges (which may be much higher than the minimum dues) nor what portion of said pledges have been paid to become public knowledge, which may occur if this type of list is distributed.

Mr. John Bashian asked if this Third List is yearly or cumulative to which Chairman Nigohosian answered that the list is updated yearly and is not cumulative.

Mr. Ara Babigian stated that the list he saw and requested only recorded pledge money and not other donations. Chairman Nigohosian responded that the format of the list Mr. Babigian had previously requested contained all the information as to how much a member pledged and how much they paid. He further stated that he did not know where Mr. Babigian obtained a copy of one page of said list dated 1994 as the church never gave out the voting list with financial information but had simply made it available to him for inspection on the church premises.

Mr. Babigian asked for the status of the request he made at the first session of the Parish Assembly (1/26/97) that he be given a copy of the voting list which contains financial information. Chairman Nigohosian responded that Mr. Babigian had received a copy of a letter which had been immediately sent to Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and the Honorable Vincent Gurahian, Diocesan Council Chairman. He proceeded to read the letter in its entirety to the Assembly. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

When Mr. Babigian asked what takes precedence, a New Jersey statute or a Diocesan ruling, Chairman Nigohosian stated that the New Jersey statutes speak in terms of access, inspection and extracts, they do not talk in terms of providing copies. Therefore, St. Thomas Church has fully adhered to all New Jersey statutes on the topic.

Dr. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk made a motion to close the polls. It was seconded by Mary Sanossian. Motion carried by 2/3 plus. The Chair thanked the lunch committee for a job well done.

Chairman Nigohosian entertained a motion to dispense with the reading of last year's Parish Assembly minutes unless there were corrections, additions or deletions. Mr. Zaven Halajian made a motion to dispense with the reading of the 1996 Parish Assembly Minutes sessions I and II. Ann Ajemian seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Albert Victoria, referring to page 6A, third paragraph from the bottom, asked if the \$5000 was in the Board of Trustees Fund or the Building Fund. Parish Council Chairman, Dr. Capan, responded that the money was donated to the Building Fund but went into the Board of Trustees Fund.

The Chairman invited V. Rev. Fr. Papken Dz. V. Anoushian to give his report. Fr. Anoushian stated that as everyone had the written copy he would not read it but would be happy to answer any questions. He thanked the Altar Guild for their care of the St. Thomas Altar, Mrs. Laureen Karanfilian, CPA for preparing the St. Thomas payroll taxes and Mr. Hovhanness Baitaian for his services to the Armenian School.

Chairman Nigohosian invited Parish Council Chairman, Dr. Levon Capan to give his report. Dr. Capan expressed his delight with the surplus fund which is almost \$100,000. He expressed his appreciation for Fr. Papken and stated his pride in the fact that Fr. Papken had been chosen staff bearer when Patriarch Torkoom Manoogian visited the United States. He profusely thanked the entire congregation for the huge success of St. Thomas's events and further expressed appreciation toward all those who use church funds in the most economic ways possible.

Dr. Capan recognized Mrs. Mari Tashjian's efforts towards hall rentals and went on to thank and introduce the following Parish Council Members:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Leon Nigohosian | Vice Chairman |
| Grace Hagopian | Treasurer |
| Madlen Setian | Assistant Treasurer |
| Virginia Victoria | Recording Secretary |
| Susan Shamamian | Corresponding Secretary |
| Richard Saraydarian | |
| Mari Camcikyan | |
| Arpi Arslanian | |
| Jack Torosian | |
| Ann Ajemian | |

Dr. Capan apologized for his error in naming The Avak Society's Chairman. It is Mr. Charles Sarajian.

Mr. Ara Babigian asked if there is a Parish Council person in charge of membership. Dr. Capan replied that although there is no one Parish Council member in charge of membership, Mrs. Ani Capan had been appointed recently.

Mrs. Mary Ann Saraydarian asked which member of the Parish Council was completing their six year term of office to which Dr. Capan replied, Mrs. Virginia Victoria.

Chairman Nigohosian called upon Grace Hagopian to give the financial summary. He complimented Mrs. Hagopian on the extraordinary job she has done as treasurer.

Beginning with the Income Statement, Mrs. Hagopian responded to Mr. Victoria's question that the \$5000 which had been withdrawn from The Board of Trustees Fund and placed in a non St. Thomas ACEF Fund had been recovered and was part of general Miscellaneous Income and not specifically identified.

Before accepting questions for the 1997 budget, Mrs. Hagopian profusely thanked assistant treasurer Madlen Setian for all her help throughout the year. She commended the Women's Guild for exceeding their pledge and credited Women's Guild chairperson, Violet Ouzoonian, for her leadership.

Mrs. Hagopian explained that the New Year's Eve celebration had in fact derived a net profit of \$18,051 but that this is not reflected in 1996 because the bulk of the monies were deposited in 1997.

Mr. Albert Victoria suggested looking into short term treasury bills or notes as these would yield a higher interest rate. Mrs. Hagopian responded that it would be looked into.

Mrs. Hagopian clarified that net income from hall rentals is \$42,123 and net income from the bookstore is \$4003. She explained that Miscellaneous Donations were very high due to a \$5000 donation from Dr. and Mrs. Capan when they won the car raffle.

Moving on to the Expense Statement, Mrs. Sonia Tashjian questioned the insurance settlement. It was explained that the monies came from the damages incurred last winter (1995/96).

Mrs. Hagopian announced that under Church Building Expenses the 1997 proposed for Repairs, Church & Halls, the figure should be \$8,100 instead of \$6,500. Therefore, the subtotal for Church Building Expenses (page 12) should read \$103,100 and Total Expenses (page 12) should read \$311,100.

As there were no further questions, Chairman Nigohosian proceeded to the 1997 budget.

Dr. Capan proposed to accept the 1997 budget of \$311,100 subject to a plus or minus 5% adjustment. Dr. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk seconded.

Mrs. Ani Capan asked where the new roof expenses were recorded. Mrs. Hagopian responded that this expense is listed under The Architectural & Facilities Management report as the monies are being deducted from that fund.

Mr. Victoria asked what mechanics are in place in case of an emergency that requires more than the allowed 5% expenditure over the budget. He proposed that the motion be amended so that a 2/3 majority of the Parish Council will be able to immediately attend to any extraordinary emergency situation and not be restrained by the limitation of the budget or the 5% adjustment. Dr. Capan accepted the amendment and Dr. Yavru-Sakuk seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Capan asked for the floor to append his Parish Council report comments. He apologized for omitting to state that St. Thomas Church had received \$30,000 from the estate of the late Mr. Harry Bostanjian. Parish Council will display a plaque in his honor. He further clarified the actual amount of the surplus. While \$81,000 of it had come from our insurance claim, \$36,000 had already been paid toward the new roof. So the figure at this point is \$100,00 plus \$36,000 less \$81,000.

Dr. Capan went on to thank Mr. Antranig Ouzoonian, coordinator, Mr. Haroutun Diratzouian, and Mr. Jack Torosian for undertaking and conscientiously working on the roof project. He invited Mr. Ouzoonian forward to give an overview of the project.

Mr. Ouzoonian explained that the roof over Saddler Hall, Mekhjian Atrium, the kitchen and classrooms was a rubber roof, which was popular at one time but has proven to be very problematic. The roof at the rear of the church (the back classrooms and lavatories) also needed replacement. They decided to go for a total replacement (rather than patches) at a contract price of \$73,000. While removing the old roof, large areas of rotted wood were detected and needed replacement. As work progressed, several areas were found to be open and needed to be patched. Rusted air conditioning ducts were detected and changed and insulation was added where needed. With all the additional work done, the cost rose to approximately \$100,000. We have a 20 year, no dollar limit, guarantee on labor and material with the contractor performing all the labor the first 3 years and GAF (manufacturer of the roofing materials) taking over thereafter. GAF has inspected all the work done.

Chairman Nigohosian called upon the auditing committee chairperson Sirvart Demirjian. Mrs. Demirjian stated that the auditing committee examined all financial records of all church organizations including the St. Thomas Church balance sheet and found no discrepancies. The written report was submitted and signed by herself, Talin Kupelian and Hovsep Taktajian.

Under Old Business, Yz. Violet Kasparian commended Dr. Capan on the concise Diocesan Assembly Report he had written and pointed out that it should be signed Dr. Levon Capan, Delegate.

Under New Business, Mr. Victoria made a motion that we allow \$15,000 in the budget to hire people to do the catch-up work on maintenance and repairs that are being neglected now because we have not budgeted for them. Antranig Ouzoonian seconded. Madlen Setian commented that the budget already includes monies for several repairs. Mr. Victoria responded that there are many repairs needed which are not included in those categories, i.e., refinishing furniture, the entrance doors etc. Dr. Capan countered that \$2,000 is put aside each month toward building maintenance. Mr. Victoria responded that the purpose of the \$2,000 per month is not intended for general repairs. Dr. Capan stated that the Parish Council is aware of what needs to be done and is completing the work on a priority basis. Hayr Soorp explained that the Parish Council is inspecting the entire complex and that \$15,000 in the budget might limit the Parish Council's ability to make needed repairs. The motion was defeated.

Mr. Ouzoonian made a motion that prior to future elections, biographies of auditing committee nominees be included in the same manner as Parish Council nominees. Richard Saraydarian seconded and the motion carried.

Yz. Violet Kasparian suggested a committee be appointed to inventory church equipment and make sure they are in working order. Dr. Capan responded that the church has an inventory list of all our equipment that is updated every year and that any piece of equipment can break just prior to use.

There were no questions on Architectural & Facilities Management Committee (Albert Victoria commented that it is in effect non-existent), Building Maintenance, Church Grounds-Landscaping, ACEF Fund, Caspar M. Kasparian Memorial Fund, The Vahan Barsamian Memorial Fund, The George Shahinian Memorial Fund, the Martin "Sonny" Tashjian Memorial Fund or the Peter Ajemian Memorial Fund.

Mrs. Sonia Tashjian pointed out that on page 14 Exhibit C-Fund Balances, The Martin "Sonny" Tashjian Memorial Fund was not listed. Mrs. Hagopian apologized for the oversight.

There were no questions concerning the ACYOA Jrs., Avak Society, Sunday School or Family Auxiliary of St. Thomas.

On The Kirikian Armenian School report, Mary Ann Saraydarian added thanks to Mr. Hovhannes Baltaian for teaching chess after school and to Dr. Levon Capan for instructing the students on the music of our Badarak.

There were no questions about The Women's Guild, nor The Men's Club.

Chairman Nigohosian called for a motion specifying next year's Parish Assembly meetings. Shake Shahinian made a motion that the 1998 Parish Assembly meeting first session be held on the last Sunday in January and that the second session be held on the first Sunday in February. The motion was seconded by Richard Saraydarian and it carried.

Susan Shamamian commented that when our church was first established, it was called The Armenian Church of Bergen County and renamed St. Thomas several years later. This explains why next year's Parish Assembly is referred to as the 33rd Annual Parish Assembly.

Mrs. Virginia Victoria asked that the council reconsider replacing the accordion room dividers in the back classrooms as they are in deplorable condition.

Chairman Nigohosian invited Mr. Hovsep Taktajian to announce the results of the election. He stated that 137 ballots were cast. The winners are: For Parish Council: Onnig Bozian, Mari Camcikyan, Leon Nigohosian, Richard Saraydarian, Madlen Setian, Jack Torosian, Alternate Gregory Amerikanian. For Nominating Committee: Maral Bezjian, Zivart Gulian, Krikor Kucukyan, Bertha Yigitkurt, Sirarpi Yildiz, Alternate Henry Hagopian. For Auditing Committee: Diana Bozian, Arpi Cankar, Alternate Manoog Camcikyan. For Parish Assembly Chairman: Leon Nigohosian. For Secretary: Martha Saraydarian.

Chairman Nigohosian congratulated the winners and thanked the Nominating Committee.

Dr. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Madlen Setian. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. with a closing prayer said by V. Rev. Fr. Dz. V. Anoushian.

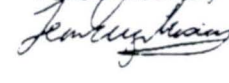
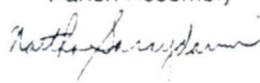
Respectfully submitted,



Martha Saraydarian
Secretary 1997
Parish Assembly

Leon Nigohosian
Chairman 1997
Parish Assembly

V. Rev. Fr. Papken
Dz. V. Anoushian
Pastor and President
1997 Parish Assembly



PASTOR'S REPORT

It is with a great sense of pride and accomplishment that I report to you today that our spiritual and financial aspects at St. Thomas Armenian Church are indeed very strong.

Undoubtedly it has been a pleasure and privilege for me to have served as Pastor of St. Thomas Armenian Church for more than six and a half years now. Ours is one of the largest parishes in the Diocese, with a multitude of programs and endeavors. As your shepherd, I have welcomed the tremendous challenge presented by such a growing and diversified flock, and thank God for the strength He has given me to carry out my pastoral and leadership duties. Undoubtedly, we owe a great debt of a gratitude to Dr. Levon Capan, Parish Council Chairman, and to our very capable Parish Council members for all their dedicated and effective efforts.

My heartfelt thanks go to our Parish Council Chairman, Dr. Levon Capan, the Parish Council members and Diocesan Delegates, as well as to all our organizations and event chair-people for their devoted service to St. Thomas this past year. Also, I wish to express deep appreciation to the countless volunteers who assisted in all areas and made such a special contribution to our success.

Listed below are highlights of the activities, projects and efforts in which I was involved in 1997.

WORSHIP SERVICES: The Divine Liturgy was conducted regularly every Sunday, according to the traditions and canons of the Armenian Church. I am pleased to report that our Deacons, stole-bearers, altar servers and choir also participated weekly with me in Morning Services prior to the Holy Liturgy and have steadily been increasing their knowledge of church rituals. In addition, I am conducting a Deacons' Program.

SACRAMENTAL SERVICES: All sacramental services were performed in accordance with the rites, rituals and canons of the Armenian Church. During the past year, 24 baptisms, 10 marriages and 15 funerals took place.

SPECIAL SERVICES: Special services and feast days for the Nativity and Revelation of Christ and Lord (Armenian Christmas Eve and Day), Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter Eve and Day, Transfiguration, Assumption of St. Mary, the Mother of God, and Exaltation of the Holy Cross were all properly and conscientiously conducted as per our Church Calendar. On December 24, a special service was held on the occasion of the feast of St. Stepanos dedicated to all the Deacons of the Church, in addition to the traditional Christmas Eve services in English. On this occasion as on Easter Sunday, the services were attended by overflow crowds. I am delighted that the congregation filled the church on all the other feast days as well.

HOSPITAL & OLD AGE/NURSING HOME VISITATIONS: Hospital visitations to the sick were done regularly, whenever we had knowledge that someone was ill. I also visited the sick and elderly at the Emerson Old Age/Nursing Home at least once a month. Services were held and Holy Communion was given there on Armenian Christmas and Holy Thursday.

PUBLICATIONS: The NOR TAR, our monthly St. Thomas publication, has been well received and contains parish news as well as educational and cultural material. Many thanks to all our writers for their contributions, and special appreciation to my capable Editorial Board: Madlen E. Setian, Managing Editor, and Seta Yavru-Sakuk, Graphic Arts/Illustrator. This year we realized approximated \$ 1455 dollars in income from the solicitation of advertisements in the NOR TAR, through the efforts of Seta Yavru-Sakuk. This income has partially offset its publication cost since 1992. My heartfelt thanks to her for her dedicated service to our church newspaper.

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN has been published weekly to inform our faithful of important events, scriptures and liturgical information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our Sunday School continues to thrive under the leadership of Mrs. Shnorig Bashian, Director, and her dedicated staff of teachers. Their time and effort are truly appreciated. During their scholastic year I attended and supported all their events.

KIRIKIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL: The Armenian School also continues to flourish under the leadership of Mrs. Ani Capan, Superintendent, and her excellent faculty members. Their time and effort are truly appreciated. During their scholastic year, I supported and attended all their programs.

HOME BLESSINGS: I have personally blessed many homes, thus getting to know my wonderful, good and pious parishioners and their families.

COUNSELLING, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & BIBLE STUDY: My pastoral activities this year have included family counselling and religious education. I am always eager and available to be of assistance to all members of our flock in times of personal need or misfortune.

CHURCH CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS: All our church clubs and organizations are very important to St. Thomas. They have my unequivocal support, and I have attended their special functions. The Women's Guild, Men's Club, Family Auxiliary of St. Thomas, ACYOA, Avak Society, Choir, Sunday School and Kirikian Armenian School are the

pillars of our parish, and they are the key to uniting us all into one family. I applaud them and all their wonderful members.

YOUTH PROGRAMS: I am especially grateful for the sincere and hardworking young people we have in our parish. Our Sunday School and Armenian School students and ACYOA members are our future church leaders, so it is imperative that we provide them with the best possible Christian-Armenian training and foundation at St. Thomas. During the past year our youth have been a true credit to us, serving on the altar, assisting at important parish events such as the Anniversary Dinner, Memorial Day Picnic and Bazaar, participating in religious services at Easter and Christmas, and enthusiastically 'pitching in' whenever called upon. How inspiring it was to see young people of all ages and from all our church groups participating together on December 24th, when we celebrated American Christmas Eve with a special all-English church service! I have made it a priority to support and encourage them in every way possible and truly appreciate the enthusiasm with which they have responded. I am committed to promoting and expanding our youth programs in the future, both religious and recreational.

In conclusion, my past year at St. Thomas has been most gratifying. And I believe that there is tremendous potential here, as evidenced by the record-breaking crowds that have been present at our religious services and events the past year.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: This year has been an especially successful year for St. Thomas Armenian Church both spiritually, morally and financially.

FALL DINNER-DANCE: The Fall Dinner-Dance that took place in October was a very successful fundraiser for St. Thomas. My heartfelt thanks to chairpersons, Mr. & Mrs. Jack & Sylva Torosian, and their committee, for all their efforts.

NEW YEAR'S EVE: 1997 came to a grand finale with a gala New Year's Eve Dinner-Dance on December 31st that glowed with fellowship and good cheer. What a magnificent occasion it was for our church family to usher in the New Year! Heartfelt thanks to Co-Chairmen, Mrs. Ani Capan and Mrs. Seta Yavru-Sakuk and their committee members.

PALM SUNDAY ANNIVERSARY DINNER/MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC &

CAR RAFFLE/FALL BAZAAR: I am glad to report that all annual events have been maintained and successfully continued during 1997. My heartfelt thanks to Dr. & Mrs. Bedros & Seta Yavru for chairing the 32nd Anniversary Palm Sunday Dinner, to Dr. & Mrs. Harout & Shake Mekhjian for underwriting the entire expense of the Memorial Day Picnic, to Mr. & Mrs. Nerses & Sirvart Demirjian for chairing the Memorial Day Picnic, to Mr. and Mrs. Jack & Sylva Torosian for chairing the Car Raffle, and to the members of the Bazaar Committee. God Bless them all!

CAKE SALE: Sincere thanks to Dr & Mrs. Harout & Shake Mekhjian for chairing the St. Thomas Palm Sunday/Anniversary Cake Sale, and Dr. & Mrs. Levon & Ani Capan for chairing the Bazaar Cake Sale.

THE BOOKSTORE OF ST. THOMAS: I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Sirvart Demirjian for her unselfish dedication and service in upgrading and maintaining the bookstore in a financially stable and organized condition.

CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE: During the past year the Cultural Arts Committee chaired by Mrs. Lucy Piligian and Mrs. Seta Yavru-Sakuk planned and carried out a number of events, all of which were very successful and drew large crowds. Special thanks to Mrs. Lucy Piligian and Mrs. Seta Yavru-Sakuk, Co-chairs, for their wonderful work.

FR. PAPKEN SPECIAL PROJECT/CHURCH ARTIFACTS PROGRAM: The Fr. Papken Special Project/Church Artifacts program involves obtaining donations from the faithful in our parish to be used toward the maintenance and replacement of worn vestments and altar cloths, or obtaining artifacts and other items which the church has lacked in its sacristy and other activities, projects and objectives. I encourage our parishioners to contribute toward this program since there

CHESS CLASSES: I would like to thank Mr. Ohannes Baltayan, who for two years has been giving Chess Instructions to our parish children.

SHUSHI DANCE ENSEMBLE: I would like to express my appreciation to Mrs. Seta Kantarjian, Artistic Director, and Seta Yavru-Sakuk, Public Relations, for contributing their time in giving our youth the love of our wonderful Armenian Culture.

SPECIAL THANKS: I would like to sincerely thank Dr. Levon Capan, Chairman of the Parish Council, for all of his help, guidance, experience, and steadfast support to me during this past year. His exemplary faith and dedication towards the Armenian Church and the Armenian Nation has strengthened me in my calling. Special thanks also to Deacon Bedros Sarkissian, Stole-bearer Levon Altiparmakian, Stole-bearer Dr. Levon Capan, Stole-bearer Dr. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk, Stole-bearer Andrew Martaian and Altar Servers Tavit Cakirdas, Vicken Demirjian and Chris Bezjian, who voluntarily came to serve upon the Holy Altar on Sundays and other occasions. Moreover, heartfelt thanks to Manuk Camcikyan, Aram Setian, Andy Ouzoonian and all those volunteers whose names have not been mentioned here, for their sincere dedication to St. Thomas.

I also would like to extend my thanks to Laureen Karanfilian, CPA, for the preparation of the St. Thomas payroll form, and to Michael Halajian, CPA, for his help in the accounting of St. Thomas.

Completing their terms of office on Parish Council this year are Dr. Levon Capan - Chairman, Mrs. Arpie Arslanian - Recording Secretary, Mrs. Grace Hagopian - Treasurer and Sunday School Liaison, Ms. Susan Shamamian - Correspondence, Recording Secretary and Choir Liaison. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of them for their dedication, support, diligence and harmonious service while serving on the Parish Council all these years.

I especially wish to thank, once again, Dr. Capan for his exemplary leadership, keen wisdom and Christian Integrity as PC Chairman, Mrs. Hagopian for her excellent and meticulous work in keeping our St. Thomas books as Treasurer, Ms. Susan Shamamian for so competently conducting our PC correspondence and recording our minutes, Mrs. Arpie Arslanian for her valuable help as Recording Secretary and reliable support. throughout.

Prayerfully,
Very Rev. Fr. Papken Dz.V. Anoushian, Esq.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 1997

January	5	Scripture Reading by Children. Armenian Christmas Eve Service
	6	Armenian Christmas Services
		Armenian Christmas Luncheon sponsored by Kirikian School
	7	Badarak & Christmas Services at Armenian Home for the Aged
	26	Parish Assembly I Session
February	2	Parish Assembly II Session
March	11-4/29	Adult Armenian Conversation Classes
	23	Palm Sunday Anniversary Dinner
	27	Great & Holy Thursday-Vodun Luvah-Washing of the Feet Services Khavaroom
	28	Great & Holy Friday-Taghoom-Burial Services
	29	Scripture Readings by Children. Easter Eve Services
	30	Easter Service-Zadeeg
April	2-6/4	Armenian Dance Instructions-Circle Dance
	12	40th Annual Cotillion & Ball sponsored by Women's Guild
	29	Discussion of Peter Balakian's book "Black Dog of Fate" May
	21	Guided Tour of "KYKUIT" (Rockefeller Estate) sponsored by Women's Guild
	26	Memorial Day Picnic & Car Raffle
June	1	Sunday School Graduation & Reception
	8	Women's Guild Special Requiem Service for deceased members Kirkian Armenian School Hantes
	20	Women's Guild & Men's Club Bar-B-Que & Meeting
July	16	Women's Guild Blood Drive
August	17	Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God-Blessing of Grapes
September	6	Kirkian Armenian School Opening Day & Registration
	9-28	Adult Armenian Conversation Classes
	14	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross-Khatchveratz Sunday School Opening Day & Registration
	24-12/20	Catechism Competition Classes
October	1	Seniors Trip to Trump World Fair Casino
	25	Fall Kef Night
	26	ACYOA Bake Sale
	31	ACYOA Juniors Halloween Dance
November	7	ACYOA Juniors Social Night Church Women United World Community Day
	15 & 16	Fall Bazaar
	21	"Black Dog of Fate" Book Discussion by Peter Balakian ACYOA Juniors Spaghetti Dinner
	29 & 30	Art Exhibit by Rafael Petrossian, presented by St. Thomas Cultural Committee

December	3	Women's Guild Blood Drive
	4	Women's Guild Christmas Luncheon
	5	"The Armenian & Byzantium" lecture & slide presentation by Prof. Lucy Der Manuelian sponsored by St. Thomas Cultural Committee & A&A N.J. Chapter
	14	Sunday School Christmas Dinner & Program
	24	St. Stepanos & American Christmas Eve Service
	26	Youth Dance-Knights of Vartan
	31	New Year's Eve Celebration, Auxilliary of St. Thomas

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

I am pleased to report that this year again we had a successful year at the Saint Thomas Armenian Church. We closed 1997 with a surplus of approximately \$86,600, and we are entering 1998 with a total fund of approximately \$419,000 (\$83,000 restricted and \$336,000 unrestricted). Our annual surplus increased gradually over the last several years: \$23,308 in 1992, \$37,775 in 1993, \$53,842 in 1994, \$62,477 in 1995, \$99,264 in 1996, and \$86,605 this year. As I have been stating for the past several years, our success is a direct result of the genuine interest, dedication and hard work of the members who do not spare any effort to come forward with their invaluable help. The Parish Council once again expresses its sincere and immense gratitude and appreciation to all those who helped the church last year. Here, at the end of my sixth year and third term in the Council, I also would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to each Parish Council member, and to the members of all church committees for their help that, without a doubt, was a result of substantial sacrifices. During my years as a chairman, they made my work as painless as possible. God Bless them all. This year again the Parish Council would like to express its special thanks to the Pastor, Very Rev. Fr. Papken Dz. V. Anoushian, whose strong faith in Christianity, honest and straightforward character, brave personality, sincere love for the Armenian nation, and countless efforts to preserve the Armenian church tradition, have been a great influence and inspiration to us. Thank you, Hayr Sourp, for being an excellent guiding light for us. With all your fine qualities, you continue to exemplify the model Armenian clergyman.

I have the privilege to announce the recent sizeable donation of Mr. and Mrs. Harry and Mary Sanossian toward the purchase of a new organ for the Sanctuary. As many of us know the existing organ, donated in memory of Alan Attarian, who passed away at an early age, by his parents Monroe and Rose Attarian, is about 30 years old and lacks the capabilities of currently available modern instruments. The Sanossians, noticing this fact, donated in excess of \$25,000 toward the purchase and all related expenses of the new organ in memory of their beloved parents. Mr. Berj Zamkochian, world renowned Armenian concert organist, has been consulted, and with his help the specifications of the new organ completed. The organ has already been ordered and is expected to be installed within the next few months, followed by a consecration. Thanks to the Sanossians; God bless them and the souls of their parents. Thanks also to Maestro Zamkochian for his invaluable help in this regard.

The repair of the roof of the halls and classrooms was completed shortly after the last assembly and the balance is paid to the roofer. Although some minor leaks from a few areas occurred after the repair, the company managed to stop them promptly. As we have been expecting, the roof of the Sanctuary, which is almost 30 years old, showed some leakage and requires repair. The Parish Council recently asked for an estimate.

REPORT OF FUNCTIONS

Anniversary Dinner: The traditional Anniversary Dinner was held on Palm Sunday. This year the recipients of the Saint Thomas Award were Mr. and Mrs. Hagop and Sylva Torosian. As we all know the Torosian couple have been exemplary parishioners and have consistently helped our church. They have organized many "Kef Nights" and "Bazaars" with major successes. Hagop is also the force in our great success of the "Car Raffle." In addition Hagop, as a Parish Council member, is an important factor in the management of building related issues. Sylva's speech during the dinner was very inspiring and reflected the traditional values of the Armenian woman and the family. God give them health and happiness. Like in the past several years, the affair was superbly organized by Dr. and Mrs. Bedros and Seta Yavru-Sakuk. As usual, the A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors worked as servers; their enthusiastic efforts were deeply appreciated by everyone. The Cake Sale for this event was organized by Dr. and Mrs. Harout and Shake Mekhjian. The total profit was \$12,046. Thanks to Seta, Bedros, Shake and Harout, and everyone on their committees.

Memorial Day Picnic: This year again Mr. and Mrs. Nerses and Sirvart Demirjian chaired the annual picnic. As always it was a very successful and enjoyable event owing to the concerted effort and hard work of the chairmen

and members of the Picnic Committee. The total profit was \$12,400. Thanks to the Demirjians and all those who helped them. Also, special thanks to Dr. & Mrs. Harout Mekhjian, who once again donated all the funds to underwrite the picnic expenses.

Car Raffle: As in the past several years Mr. and Mrs. Hagop and Sylva Torosian again organized the Car Raffle. Hagop's hard work again showed its impressive result. People from St. Thomas and other parishes supported the project for the raffle of a JEEP Cherokee. This year Mr. and Mrs. Haig Varjian were the winners. We wish them safe, happy and healthy usage of the car. The net profit from the car raffle was more than \$23,000. Thanks to Hagop and Sylva.

Kef Night: This year "Kef Night" was organized by Sylva and Hagop Torosian. The profit was \$8052. Our heartfelt thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hagop Torosian.

Bazaar: Owing to the tremendous support of parishioners, friends and the public, this year again, the Bazaar was a success. Hayr Sourp organized the Bazaar this year. The Cake Sale for this event was undertaken by Ani and myself. The yield from the Bazaar was more than \$30,000. Thank you so much Hayr Sourp and the Bazaar Committee members.

New Year's Eve: This year again the two sisters, Ani and Seta, were the chairladies of the New Year's Eve celebration. Despite of the fact that many local Armenian churches organized similar affairs, more than 200 people were at Saint Thomas. The guests had a very pleasant and happy evening at this successful affair. The net profit for the church was \$9,200. Much thanks to Ani and Seta.

Administrative Events:

Personnel: A new custodian was hired in the beginning of the year. During subsequent months, the work, especially that involving nights, increased necessitating the hiring of a second, part time, custodian. We have hired another custodian in late summer to balance the workload and manpower. Currently we have two custodians. Of course, the total number of hours these custodians work is more than what it used to be with one, but it has not doubled. The church secretary has left in the summer. Two new secretaries were hired; they also left, each after working for a short period of time.

Hall Rentals: The gross annual rental income was \$ 102,000 this year, with a net income of more than \$80,000. Corresponding numbers for last year were \$55,000 and \$35,000. This doubling effect is in no small part due to Mrs. Mari Tashjian's devoted work. Considering the intensity of the work the Parish Council voted to give a 10% commission to Mrs. Tashjian, effective January 1997. We have also made some expenses toward the beautification of the halls: installation of vertical blinds in the classrooms, directing stanchions for the hall entrance. China and silverware also have been ordered for replacing lost, broken, or damaged items. Many thanks to Mrs. Mari Camcikyan for arranging not only the purchase of these items, but also for managing building related needs of the church on a daily basis; the help that Mari Camcikyan quietly gives to this church is invaluable.

As it has been established by the PC, a 20% discount is provided for Hall Rentals to those who have been dues-paying members for the last 2 consecutive years.

Building Insurance: Compensation in the amount of \$22,000 has been received as the final part of the payment for various damages caused by the severe winters of the past few years.

Purchase Of A Printer: The office needed a printer because the existing device broke down. A laser printer was purchased. Mr. Aram Setian, who very generously donates his time and effort in managing computer related problems in the office, shopped around and bought us an excellent and relatively inexpensive printer. Thank you so much, Aram. Here we also would like to extend our thanks to Madlen Setian who not only informs her husband about the technological needs of the church, but also utilizes these devices at maximum efficiency to prepare the Nor Tar with Seta, to perfect our computerized accounting system, and to help in the secretarial work of the Parish Council. The latter work is also shared by Mrs. Grace Hagopian and Mr. Leon Nigohosian. Our heartfelt thanks to them too.

Donation Of A Flagpole: The Church was in need of a second flagpole so that the Armenian and American flags could each be flown separately. Our special thanks and gratitude are extended to the Kevork Seferian family, who generously donated a second flagpole so that the flag of our independent Armenia could be flown properly.

Armenian Language Classes: Through the initiative of Mr. Sam Demirjian, about three years ago, an Armenian Language Class was started. Later, Mrs. Eileen Barsamian offered her help in organizing this class. With the combined efforts of Mr. Demirjian and Mrs. Barsamian, and the help of accumulated money from the Barsamian Fund, the class turned out to be a great success. This is the third active year of this class. We are confident that the demand for the continuation of these classes will continue for many years to come. Thank you, Sam and Eileen.

Bookstore: Last year, the annual profit of the bookstore increased from \$700 to over \$4000. This year, our profit was almost \$5000, with annual gross sales of \$12,118. Sirvart Demirjian, whose help to the church is not only limited to the bookstore, is responsible for this excellent result. Sirvart, in addition to her hard and responsible work as an accountant, has always worked hard and effectively for the church. Of course, Nerses and Vicken also bring their help to Sirvart. Thank you so much Nerses Demirjian family and God bless you.

Charity: This past year the PC continued to sponsor three children in Armenia under the Children of Armenia Sponsorship program (CASP).

With God's help and your generosity, 1997 was a very good year. Once again we, the members of the Parish Council, would like to thank you, and wish that 1998 brings each one of you health, happiness and success.

Respectfully,
Levon M. Capan, M.D.,
Parish Council Chairman

Parish Council Members:

V.Rev.Father Papken Dz.V. Anoushian	-	Pastor and President
Levon M. Capan, M.D.	-	Chairman
Mari Camcikyan	-	Vice Chairman, Recording Secretary
Grace Hagopian	-	Treasurer
Madlen Setian	-	Assistant Treasurer, Recording Secretary
Arpie Arslanian	-	Recording Secretary
Susan Shamamian	-	Corresponding and Recording Secretary
Richard Saraydarian	-	Member
Leon Nigohosian, Esq.	-	Member
Onnig Bozian	-	Member
Jack Torosian	-	Member
Ann Ajemian	-	Member

Liaisons to Committees and Organizations:

V. Rev. Fr. Papken Dz. V. Anoushian	-	A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors
Grace Hagopian	-	Sunday School
Ann Ajemian	-	Women's Guild
Susan Shamamian	-	Choir
Richard Saraydarian	-	Men's Club
Mari Camcikyan	-	Avak Society
Madlen Setian	-	Kirikian Armenian School and A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors
Jack Torosian	-	Architectural and Facilities Management Committee
Mari Camcikyan	-	Family Auxilliary of St. Thomas

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Organizations for their efforts, service, leadership and fund raising for the benefit of Saint Thomas church in 1997:

- ACYOA Jrs. - Gareen Hamalian and Kim Karagosian, Jan. - August 1997
- Tamar Kherlopian and Vicken Demirjian, Sept. 1997 - Present
- Architectural and Facilities Management Committee - Mr. Al Victoria
- Kirikian Armenian School - Ani Capan, Superintendent; Martha Saraydarian, Chairman - Executive Committee
- Avak Society - Charles Sarajian, Chairman
- Basketball Coaches - Douglas and Andrew Martaian
- Book Store - Sirvart and Nerses Demirjian
- Choir Director and Organist - Susan Shamamian
- Choir Chairman - Marie Zokian
- Family Auxilliary of St. Thomas - Ani Capan, Sylva Torosian and Mari Camcikyan
- Women's Guild - Mrs. Violet Ouzoonian, (Coordinator)
- Men's Club - Mr. Matthew Keshishian, Esq.
- Sunday School - Mrs. Shnorig Bashian, Superintendent
- Anniversary Dinner - Dr. and Mrs. Bedros and Seta Yavru-Sakuk.
- Anniversary Dinner Cake Sale - Dr. and Mrs. Harout and Shake Mekhjian
- Picnic - Mr. and Mrs. Nerses and Sirvart Demirjian
- Car Raffle - Hagop Torosian
- Kef Night - Sylva and Hagop Torosian
- Bazaar - Very Rev. Father Papken Anoushian

- Bazaar Cake Sale- Dr. and Mrs. Levon and Ani Capan
- New Year's Eve - Ani Capan and Seta Yavru-Sakuk
- Nor Tar - Madlen Setian and Seta Yavru-Sakuk
- Roof Project - Mr. Andy Ouzoonian, Mr. Hagop Torosian, Mr. Haroutioun Diratzouian
- Cultural Committee - Mrs. Lucy Piligian
- Shushi Dance Ensemble of Saint Thomas- Mrs. Seta Kantardjian (Artistic Director) and Seta Yavru-Sakuk
- Adult Armenian Conversation Class - Mrs. Eileen Barsamian, Mr. and Mrs. Sam and Alicia Demirjian
- Building Maintenance- Hagop Torosian and Mari Camcikyan
- Building Repairs - Manuk Camcikyan

95TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY MEETING

This year the Diocesan Assembly was hosted by the Saint Gregory of Narek Armenian Church of Cleveland, Ohio, between May 1 and 4, 1997. The Diocese has proclaimed 1997 "The Year of Mission and Outreach." Consequently several discussions and panel presentations focused on this issue.

A report from the clergy conference was given by Deacon Devedjian. The subjects were:

- 1) The letter of His Holiness Karekin Catholicos, mentioning building of churches in Armenia in preparation for the 1700th Anniversary of Armenians' accepting Christianity.
- 2) Realization that, although there is now an increased number of Armenian communities, there is a decrease in the number of dues paying members.
- 3) Extensive presentation by Father Nerses Jebejian about the growing number of mission parishes.
- 4) The sudden death of Reverend Father Krikor Hairabedian was announced. Father Hairabedian was the pastor of Holy Martyrs Armenian Church of Bayside, Queens, for several years and had made many contributions to the Diocese and the Armenian Church.

A report of the Fund for Armenian Relief (F.A.R.) was given by Mr. Simon Balian. He stated that the changing situation in Armenia is now moving F.A.R. to change its direction in helping Armenia, so that the emphasis is given more toward creating jobs and improving industrial developments.

The department of social services has been abolished and put under the auspices of F.A.R. To the question of what is the future of social services and how will we provide local social services, the Primate answered saying that nothing has been changed in the activities of social services. If people coming from abroad need guidance or help, they can still call for help.

The ACEF report by Col. Arzoomanian stated that the present assets of ACEF are over \$ 35 million. In 1996, there was more than \$ 1.8 million donated by 806 donors. The fund returned 7% to the parishes, last year.

The auditing committee report stated that the quarterly revenue and expenditure report, sent to the delegates, with analysis and the report accounting for the funds associated with the visit of His Holiness Karekin I, begins the process of communicating Diocesan financial problems to the delegates on a regular basis. The report emphasized that a significant number of restricted fund expenditures were used for purposes that did not appear to be consistent with the donor's intent. The debt to ACEF, restricted and custodial funds, exceeds \$3.6 million. The report suggested that efforts be made to repay this debt. Regarding parish dues, on April 21, 1997, 15 out of 43 parishes owed dues for periods prior to January 1, 1997. This represented 62% of the total accounts receivable of \$ 204,000.

During his address, the Primate stated that during the next several years the Armenian Church will reach three milestones: 1) the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese. Each of our Parishes will hold an observance, and the Worcester, Massachusetts parish, as the first Armenian Church in America will hold a celebration. 2) 1700th Anniversary of the entrance of Armenians into Christianity, and 3) 2000th Anniversary of the birth of Christ. The Primate stated that an overview regarding the observance of these events has been designed by the Diocese. Central to this plan are four goals: 1) To teach the word of God and good news of salvation; 2) To actualize the word of Gospel; 3) To bring the awareness of liturgical importance to the faithful; 4) To renew faith and increase membership in the Armenian Church. The Primate said that, "today the character of the Armenian community is much more complex than before" and he mentioned various understandings of church members about the church. He emphasized that there should be one understanding and unification of all Armenians.

Several panel discussions were attended by groups of delegates describing Diocesan activities, addressing their progress, and their existing, and potential difficulties. These panels were on Religious Education, A.C.Y.O.A., Diocesan finance, Armenian Language, Mission Parishes, CASP, and Choir Association. The panel on A.C.Y.O.A. was organized and co-chaired by Donna Barsamian, a young and promising member of our own Parish who emphasized the importance of support to A.C.Y.O.A.

This year, two by-law amendments and seven proposals were submitted.

Both by-law amendments were defeated. The first was about Diocesan By-law # 70, giving the Diocesan Council power to utilize the principal of bequests and devises, with approval by the Diocesan Assembly by a 2/3 majority vote. The second was about article 61-E, eliminating the majority vote for the election of the Diocesan Auditing Committee.

Proposal #1, was about recording years of service alongside each clergyman's name, in the Eastern Diocese annual Parish Directory. It passed.

Proposal #2, was about the Diocese assuming responsibility for paying the clergy longevity increments. It was defeated.

Proposals #3 and #5 were about a 1% Youth Ministry assessment. The proposal submitted by the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was to rescind the assessment of all Parishes in the Diocese, and add the Department of Youth Ministry to the Annual Operating Budget of the Diocese. The proposal from the Diocesan Council was that the Diocesan Assembly make the Youth Ministry Assessment a regular part of the Parish Assessment so that it not be a special, or separate assessment. Both proposals were amended, and all Parishes will be responsible for 1% of their assessment to go toward Youth Ministry through 1997. The proposals passed as amended.

Proposal #4 was about the Diocese receiving 33% of the net proceeds of the host parish of the Diocesan Assembly, to apply toward the operating expenses of the Diocese. The proposal was defeated.

Proposal #6 was from Saint Mesrob Armenian Church, Racine, Wisconsin. This proposal wanted all Diocesan Annual Reports, and Annual Minutes to be printed for distribution in English, only, and furthermore it proposed that the Armenian translation be available for distribution when requested from the Diocese. However, one copy of the Armenian minutes could be sent to each parish. Currently Diocesan Assembly minutes are distributed to all delegates in both Armenian and English. This proposal received a very strong opposition primarily from the Saint Thomas delegation. It was emphasized that a systematic elimination of the Armenian language from every possible activity of the Eastern Diocese Armenian Church during the past several years, is the most damaging blow to the Armenian Church. The Assyrians were given as an example: once a great nation, they are now a silent and a lost entity, mostly because they lost the ability to use their language. It was also emphasized that the Diocesan Assembly meetings used to be conducted in Armenian up until a few decades ago. Within the last 20-30 years, not only not using the language, but not even tolerating the distribution of minutes in Armenian does not promise much to the preservation of our identity. And the more the Church departs from its traditions, the faster the decline of its membership.

This proposal was defeated.

Proposal #7, from the Saint James Armenian Church, Watertown, Massachusetts, was about dissolving the New England Region and its organizational structure as mandated by the 82nd Diocesan Assembly. This proposal was tabled.

Elections for various committees took place. Unfortunately I could not record all the names of the elected individuals. Thus, I apologize for an incomplete, and perhaps a slightly inaccurate, list.

Nominating Committee: James Simonian, Arthur Tavitian

Proposals Committee: Rev. Father Arshen Ayzazian, Lillian Chapien, George Devletian, Edward Jamie, John Nercessian

Unity Committee: Baret Yeretzian

Auditing Committee: Karen Derderian, Dean Shahinian

Diocesan Council: Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian, John Amboian, George Papalian.

Submitted by

Levon Capan, M.D.,
Parish Council Chairman

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
December 31, 1997

ASSETS:

Current Assets (Exhibit A)	<u>418,698</u>
Total Assets:	<u>418,698</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES:

Current Liabilities (Exhibit B)	8,507
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FUND BALANCES

Fund Balances (Exhibit C)	<u>412,865</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>421,372</u>
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We would like to gratefully thank and acknowledge
Michael Halajian, CPA,
for his professional assistance in the accounting of
St. Thomas Armenian Church.
Special thanks are also extended to
Lauren Karanfilian, CPA,
for the preparation of the St. Thomas Payroll Tax Forms.

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES & FUND BALANCES YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997

INCOME:

Income From Operations (Exhibit D)	76,692
Sacraments (Exhibit E)	19,486
Auxiliary Organization (Exhibit F)	51,751
Church Affairs (Exhibit G)	56,117
Donations (Exhibit H)	11,023
Other Income (Exhibit I)	190,279
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>405,348</u>

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Salaries & Benefits (Exhibit J)	128,780
Operating Expenses (Exhibit K)	50,906
Assessments (Exhibit L)	40,753
Educational & Good Works (Exhibit M)	1,100
Church Building Expense (Exhibit N)	90,709
Other Expenses (Exhibit P)	6,495
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>318,743</u>

NET INCOME

86,605

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE AS OF 1/1/97	314,653
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE	98,213
ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF 12/31/97	<u>412,866</u>

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH

EXHIBITS

December 31, 1997

Exhibit A - Current Assets

Cash in Bank - Operating	121,911
Cash in Investment -CD Smith Barney	220,000
Cash in Investments - Gov't Funds - Smith Barney	54,509
Cash in Investments - Money Fund - Smith Barney	22,278
Other Assets	0
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>418,698</u>

Exhibit B - Current Liabilities

Rental Security	8,000
Diocesan Dues Payable	0
Payroll Taxes	507
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>8,507</u>

Exhibit C - Fund Balances

Church Fund Balance	338,599
Reserve - Ajemian Fund	631
Reserve - Caspar Kasparian Fund	0
Reserve - Architectural Maintenance Fund	19,356
Reserve - Religious Articles	8,474
Reserve - Capan Roof	7,680
Reserve - Saddler Memorial	1,000
Reserve - Shushi Cultural Group	3,081
Reserve - Shahinian	2,655
Reserve - Sabounjian	0
Reserve - Barsamian	954
Reserve - Cultural Affairs	51
Reserve - Markarian	650
Reserve - Kasparian Library	1,296
Reserve - Ground Beautification	1,100
Reserve - Tashjian	589
Reserve - Organ Memorial	24,900
Reserve - Organ Expense	1,850
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>412,866</u>

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
EXHIBITS - (Continued)
December 31, 1997

EXHIBIT D

INCOME

Pledges	51,925
Plate	8,625
Candles	4,461
Prayers	5,356
Yughakin - Christmas	3,610
Yughakin - Easter	<u>2,715</u>
TOTAL	<u>76,692</u>

EXHIBIT E

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms	5,450
Weddings	2,525
Funerals	2,100
Requiems	9,411
TOTAL	<u>19,486</u>

EXHIBIT F

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

Women's Guild (\$5,000 + \$9500 = \$14,500 (\$2,500 for '98)	9,500
Avak Society (\$500 + \$600 to Bazaar Cake Sale = \$1,100)	500
Men's Club (Funds given for Basketball Teams)	3,600
ACYOA Juniors	1,000
Family Auxiliary of St. Thomas:	
Kef Night	8,052
New Year's Eve (rec'd in '98 \$375 inc., \$511 exp. = \$9224)	9,361
New Year' Eve (1996 rec'd in 1997)	19,738
TOTAL	<u>51,751</u>

EXHIBIT G

CHURCH AFFAIRS

Bazaar	31,639
Memorial Day Picnic	12,431
Palm Sunday Dinner	5,046
Palm Sunday Cake Sale	7,000
TOTAL	<u>56,116</u>

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH EXHIBITS (Continued) December 31, 1997
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EXHIBIT H

DONATIONS

In Lieu of Flowers	8,935
Altar Flowers	1,270
Holiday Flowers	818
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>11,023</u>

EXHIBIT I

OTHER INCOME

Bookstore	12,118
Car Raffle	22,828
Hall Rentals	103,668
Nor Tar (\$400 rec'd in '98 = \$1455)	1,055
Investment Interest (Smith Barney Money Fund)	12,566
Interest - St. Thomas ACEF	1,537
Interest on Checking Account	562
Interest on Savings+A451 (Smith Barney Gov. Fund)	110
Dance Class	35
Insurance Settlement	22,022
Other Donations	11,876
Misc. Income	1,902
Income From Cultural Activities	
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>190,279</u>

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
EXHIBITS (Continued)
December 31, 1997

EXHIBIT J

OPERATING EXPENSES

SALARIES & BENEFITS

Clergy Salary	50,000
Clergy Benefits - FICA	3,750
Clergy Benefits -IRA	2,000
Parsonage Repairs & Maintenance	435
Parsonage Water	139
Parsonage Telephone	1,000
Parsonage Gas & Electric	1,957
Clergy Auto Expenses	3,793
Clergy Auto Lease	3,905
Clergy Auto Insurance	1,546
Clergy Health Insurance	5,886
Salaries - Custodial	20,881
Cleaning Service	385
Salaries - Secretarial	16,586
Salaries - Christian Education	5,000
Salaries - Choir Director & Organist	5,000
Payroll Taxes	3,947
Workman's Compensation	1,870
Visiting Clergy	700
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>128,780</u>

EXHIBIT K

OPERATING EXPENSES

Telephone	4,830
Office Supplies	2,180
Candle Making Equipment	1,325
Candles	615
Flowers	964
Computer Equipment	388
Computer Supplies	184
Men's Club Sports Program	3,600
Print Nor Tar	4,400
Print Other	316
Print. Misc. (Pledge Env.)	-
Postage Office	411
Postage General mailing	1,107
Postage Nor Tar	1,271
Bookstore Expense	7,625
Hospitality	554
Supplies Copy Machine	2,148
Rental Expense	8,761
Rental Coordinator	8,244
Beautification of Halls	1,638
Hall Rental Advertising	345
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>50,906</u>

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
EXHIBITS (Continued)
December 31, 1997

EXHIBIT L

ASSESSMENTS

Diocesan Dues	29,244
Louma Etchmiadzin	1,062
Youth Ministry (Actual 1997 includes 1994,1995,1996,1997)	10,447
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>40,753</u>

EXHIBIT M

EDUCATIONAL AND GOOD WORKS

Sunday School	500
Charity	600
<u>SUBTOTAL</u>	<u>1,100</u>

EXHIBIT N

CHURCH BUILDING EXPENSES

Architectural Maintenance Reserve	24,000
Utilities, Gas and Electric	27,377
Utilities, Water	695
Insurance - Building	8,617
Repairs, Church and Halls	3,405
Repairs, Electric and Plumbing	5,404
Repairs Air Conditioning and Heating	4,634
Repairs Building	2,160
Maintenance, Lawn and Grounds	4,585
Maintenance, Pest Control, A/C	1,261
Maintenance, Snow Plowing	390
Maintenance - Ground Beautification	479
Maintenance - Furniture Expense	819
Maintenance, Building	790
Supplies - Garden and Grounds	382
Supplies - Building	2,856
Small Electrical Appliances	589
Supplies - Kitchen	1,602
Supplies - Church	664
Memorial Window	-
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>90,709</u>

EXHIBIT P

Other Expenses

Diocesan Assembly - Delegates	422
Contingencies	-
Miscellaneous	4,087
Parish Assembly Expense	859
Classified Advertising	1,127
Cultural Activity Expense	
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>6,495</u>

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
EXHIBITS (Continued)
December 31, 1997

EXHIBIT Q
RESERVE - CULTURAL COMMITTEE

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Balance on Hand January 1, 1997			1,500
Income 1/6/97 (Nine Armenians Play)	135		
Income 5/97	103		
Income (Lucy Der Manuelian / Byzantine Lecture)	190		
Donation from artist (Rafael Petrossian)	400		
<u>Total Income</u>			<u>828</u>
			<u>2,328</u>
Lighting Expense		994	
Lecturer Honorarium & Expense (Der Manuelian & Sarafian)		471	
Art work molding & installation		677	
Misc. expense for lecture and art show		135	
<u>Total Expense</u>			<u>2,277</u>
<u>Balance on Hand December 31, 1997</u>			<u><u>51</u></u>

Additional 1997 income of \$115 was received in 1998

St. Thomas Armenian Church financial reports are

Respectfully submitted by,

Grace Hagopian, Treasurer
 Madlen Setian, Assistant Treasurer

St. Thomas Armenian Church
1998 Budget
Income

	1998 - Proposed	1997 - Actual	1997 - Proposed
<i>Income from Operations</i>			
Pledges	55,000	51,925	50,000
Plate	8,500	8,625	7,200
Candles	4,000	4,461	3,000
Yughakin Christmas	3,500	3,610	2,500
Yughakin - Easter	2,450	2,715	1,500
Prayers	5,500	5,356	6,500
Subtotal	78,950	76,692	70,700
<i>Sacraments</i>			
Baptisms	5,000	5,450	7,500
Weddings	2,500	2,525	2,000
Funerals	1,000	2,100	1,000
Requiems	7,500	9,411	5,000
Subtotal	16,000	19,486	15,500
<i>Auxiliary Organizations</i>			
Women's Guild \$5,000 received in 1996 toward 1997 pledge + \$9,500 received in 1997 Total \$ 14,500 (\$2,500 is towards 1998 pledge)	10,000	9,500	12,000
Avak Society - (\$600 given to Bazaar Cake Sale=\$1,100 total)	1,000	500	1,000
Men's Club (Sports Program - Funds are earmarked for basketball teams)	4,000	3,600	4,000
ACYOA Juniors	1,000	1,000	1,000
Family Auxilliary:		-	700
Kef Night	9,000	8,052	10,000
New Year's Eve - Actual '97 reflects 1996, rec'd in 1997		19,738	-
New Year's Eve - Actual '97 Additional receipts \$375 Additional expense \$511 Net Profit \$ 9,224	12,000	9,361	15,000
Subtotal	37,000	51,751	43,700
<i>Church Affairs</i>			
Bazaar	31,000	31,640	35,000
Memorial Day Picnic	12,000	12,431	12,000
Palm Sunday Dinner	5,000	5,046	4,500
Palm Sunday Cake Sale	8,000	7,000	7,000
Parish Council Special Events	500	-	1,000
Other Affairs			1,000
Subtotal	56,500	56,117	60,500

	<u>1998 - Proposed</u>	<u>1997 - Actual</u>	<u>1997 - Proposed</u>
<i>Donations</i>			
In Lieu of Flowers	8,000	8,935	9,000
Altar Flowers	1,000	1,270	1,000
Memorial Donors	500	-	500
Holiday Flowers	500	818	500
Christmas Greetings	300	-	300
Subtotal	10,300	11,023	11,300
<i>Other Income</i>			
Bookstore	12,000	12,118	10,000
Car Raffle	22,000	22,828	20,000
Hall Rentals	71,000	103,668	60,000
Nor Tar (Additional \$ 400 for 1997 received in 1998. Total is \$1400)	1,000	1,055	3,000
Investment Interest	12,000	12,566	1,800
Interest St. Thomas ACEF	1,200	1,537	1,200
Interest on Checking Account	500	562	700
Interest on Savings (All interest is shown in Investment Interest)	-	110	8,200
Insurance Settlement	-	22,022	-
Dance Class	-	35	-
Misc. Donations	4,500	11,876	2,500
Misc. Income	2,000	1,902	2,000
Income from Cultural Activities (For actual 1997 Cultural Activity see reserve, exhibit Q)	1,000	-	-
Subtotal	127,200	190,279	109,400
Total Income	325,950	405,348	311,100
<i>Expenses</i>			
<i>Salaries and Benefits</i>			
Clergy Salary	55,000	50,000	50,000
Clergy Benefits FICA	4,250	3,750	3,750
Clergy Benefits IRA	2,000	2,000	2,000
Parsonage Repairs	1,000	435	1,000
Parsonage Water	200	139	200
Parsonage Telephone	1,000	1,000	1,000
Parsonage Gas and Electric	2,000	1,957	2,000
Clergy Auto Expenses	3,500	3,793	3,000
Clergy Auto Lease	4,250	3,905	3,900
Clergy Auto Insurance	1,600	1,546	1,600
Clergy Health Insurance	6,000	5,886	5,000
Salaries - Custodian	25,000	20,881	20,000
Cleaning Services	-	385	-
Salaries - Secretary	18,000	16,586	22,500
Salaries - Christian Education	5,000	5,000	5,000
Salaries - Choir Director and Organist	5,000	5,000	5,000
Payroll Taxes	4,500	3,947	3,200
Workman's Compensation	1,800	1,870	1,400
Visiting Clergy	1,000	700	1,500
Subtotal	141,100	128,780	132,050

	1998 - Proposed	1997 - Actual	1997 - Proposed
<u>Operating Expenses</u>			
Telephone	4,800	4,830	4,500
Office Supplies	2,000	2,180	2,000
Candle Making Equipment	-	1,325	-
Candles	1,200	615	1,200
Flowers	900	964	750
Computer Equipment	300	388	500
Computer Supplies and Maintenance	200	184	1,000
Men's Club Sports Program	4,000	3,600	4,000
Print Nor Tar	5,500	4,400	5,500
Print Misc. (Pledge Env.)	250	-	
Print Other	400	316	400
Print Office Stationery	250	-	250
Postage - Affairs - Office	500	411	500
Postage - General Mailing	1,000	1,107	500
Postage - Nor Tar	1,500	1,271	1,500
Bookstore Expenses	7,000	7,625	7,000
Hospitality and Other	750	554	250
Supplies Copy Machine	2,500	2,148	2,500
Rental Expenses	8,500	8,761	5,000
Rental Coordinator	8,000	8,244	-
Beautification of Halls	500	1,638	-
Hall Renting Advertising	3,000	345	3,000
Subtotal	53,050	50,906	40,350
<u>Assessments</u>			
Diocesan Dues	31,000	29,244	31,000
Louma Etchmiadzin	1,100	1,062	1,000
Youth Ministry (Actual 1997 includes 1994,1995,1996,1997)	1,800	10,447	-
Subtotal	33,900	40,753	32,000
<u>Educational and Good Works</u>			
Sunday School	500	500	500
Charity	600	600	400
Subtotal	1,100	1,100	900
<u>Church Building Expenses</u>			
Architectural Maintenance Reserve	24,000	24,000	24,000
Utilities, Gas and Electric	27,500	27,377	27,500
Utilities, Water	700	695	600
Insurance - Building	12,000	8,617	22,000
Repairs, Church and Halls	4,000	3,405	6,500
Repairs, Electric and Plumbing	3,000	5,404	3,000
Repairs Air Conditioning and Heating	4,000	4,634	4,000
Repairs Buildings & Grounds	2,000	2,160	1,600
Maintenance, Lawn	3,500	4,585	3,700
Maintenance, Pest Control, A/C	1,000	1,261	1,500
Maintenance, Snow Plowing	750	390	1,500
Maintenance - Ground Beautification	1,000	479	1,000
Maintenance - Furniture Expense	1,000	819	250

	1998 - Proposed	1997 - Actual	1997 - Proposed
Maintenance, Building	600	790	1,000
Supplies - Garden and Grounds	400	382	250
Supplies - Building	2,500	2,856	1,500
Small Electrical Appliances	500	589	-
Supplies - Kitchen	2,000	1,602	2,500
Supplies - Church	600	664	500
Memorial Window	400	-	200
Subtotal	91,450	90,709	103,100
<i>Other Expenses</i>			
Diocesan Assembly	100	422	100
Contingencies	500	-	
Miscellaneous	2,000	4,087	2,000
Parish Assembly Expense	750	859	600
Classified Advertising	1,000	1,127	-
Cultural Activity Expense	1,000		
Subtotal	5,350	6,495	2,700
Total Expenses	325,950	318,743	311,100
Net Income		86,605	
Total Gross Income		405,348	

CHURCH GROUNDS - LANDSCAPING

Ground and landscaping maintenance has continued with the services of Lubrano Landscaping who has also done our snow removal.

The ravages of the past few harsh winters have been substantially attended to by replacement and repair. We continue to color with flowers whenever possible to create a sense of beauty and interest. Our objective is to enhance the attractiveness of our grounds which we will do as budgets allow or designated contributions permit. There is much work yet to be done to make our grounds a park-like atmosphere. We work to keep our property neat, tidy and of good appearance to continue to be thought of as welcome neighbors in the community.

A.C.E.F. FUND, DECEMBER 31, 1997

Ajemian, Peter & Ann Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Barsamian, Vahan Memorial Fund	6,000.00
Bashian, Edward & Family Fund	2,000.00
Ganan, Serge & Vickie Memorial Fund	1,745.00
Goshgarian, Zakar & Vartoohe Memorial	1,100.00
Kasparian, Fr. Arnak & Yeretsgin Fund	5,000.00
Kasparian, Caspar Memorial Fund	61,434.51
Kavazanjian/Kassabian, Anoush Memorial	1,035.00
Mekhjian, Dr. Haroutune & Shake Fund	5,000.00
Otchy, Arthur & Dorothy Fund	1,200.00
Saddler, Rupen Fund	6,500.00
St. Thomas Armenian Church ACEF	2,875.00
Shahinian, George Memorial Fund	20,586.00
Tashjian, Martin(Sonny)Memorial Fund	8,635.00
Tekirian, Ardashes & Siranoush Fund	<u>2,595.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$130,705.51</u>

**CASPAR KASPARIAN MEMORIAL FUND
1997 ANNUAL REPORT**

The St. Thomas Armenian Church Caspar M. Kasparian Memorial Fund was established in 1979. The Charter approved by the Annual Parish Assembly stated that the purpose of this fund is "To provide Full or partial scholarships to primarily further the religious education for the youth of St. Thomas, and in exceptional cases full time seminary student of the Diocese of the Armenian Church or youth of Holy Cross Parish of New York and St. Mary parish of Washington, D.C. In addition, the Fund also provides financial assistance to the St. Thomas Christian Education Department, sponsors retreats for Sunday School teachers and provides full or partial scholarships for children to attend the Diocesan St. Vartan Summer Camp and St. Nersess Summer Programs.

This year the Board of Directors voted to provide financial assistance to St. Mary Armenian church in Washington, D.C., for a Vacation Bible School for students ages 6 to 15, from June 16 through June 29. The program met with great success.

Through activities and projects such as St. Vartan Camp. St. Nersess Seminars, support of Seminarians and the Sunday School, the Fund seeks to encourage the religious education of young people and encourage them to grow in the Armenian Christian Faith.

The current members of the Board of Directors are:

- V.Rev. Fr. Papken Dz.V. Anoushian - President
- Lillian Kasparian Chapian - Chairperson
- Dr. Levon Capan - Vice-Chairperson
- Henry Hagopian - Treasurer
- Leon Nigohosian - Secretary
- Michael Kasparian
- David Kasparian

CASPAR M. KASPARIAN MEMORIAL FUND

January 1, 1997 Opening Balance	\$ 9,656.13
<u>INCOME:</u>	
A.C.E.F Income	<u>4,300.42</u>
	<u>\$13,956.55</u>
<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>	
St. Mary's Armenian Church, Washington, D.C.	
Summer Youth Program	\$1,000
Armenian Reporter International	
Catechism Competition Ad (1/2 of expenses)385	
December 31, 1997 - Closing Balance	<u>\$12,571.55</u>

VAHAN BARSAMIAN MEMORIAL FUND

The Vahan Barsamian Memorial Fund was established in 1986 as an endowment fund with the ACEF of our Diocese. At present there is \$6,000 in the Fund with more than \$4,000 of interest having been received by St. Thomas Church to date.

The fund seeks to encourage the advancement of the art of Armenian conversation for adults sincerely interested in learning to speak our unique language. The Board of Directors of the Fund are comprised of the members of the Barsamian Family and the Parish Council Appointees.

This is the third year that the interest from this Fund has been used to underwrite the expenses of the St. Thomas Adult Armenian Conversation Classes at St. Thomas. Two sessions were held every Tuesday evening for eight weeks each Spring Session from March 11 through April 29, from 7:45 p.m. -9:15 p.m. and Fall Session from September 9 through October 28, from 8:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

These classes require five teachers for a total of 77 students for the year. They were taught at five levels from basic to advanced conversation. The teachers who participated are Mrs. Armine Aksay, Mrs. Araxie Diratzouian, Mr. Haroutioun Diratzouian, Mrs. Rosine Hovespian, Mrs. Seta Jebejian, Mrs. Mary Tashjian, Mrs. Anjel Torosian and Mrs. Arpi Vartivarian. Due to the enthusiastic response by students and teachers, the Fund will continue to support the Spring and Fall Sessions in 1998.

Committee members who administer these conversation classes are Sam and Alicia Demirjian and Eileen Barsamian. The program is free to all students, but there is a \$20.00 registration fee for each 8-week session.

VAHAN BARSAMIAN MEMORIAL FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Principal at ACEF			\$6,000
Balance on hand, Jan. 1, 1997	\$834.00		
<u>Donation:</u> Mr. Stephen Nigohosian	20.00		
Student Registration			
(\$20/student each session)	1,540.00		
Conversation tapes	55.00		
Teachers' Salaries		\$1,620.00	
Expenses(Books,teaching materials, Xeroxing, etc.		296.00	
ACEF Interest in 1997	<u>420.00</u>		
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1997	<u>\$2,869.00</u>	<u>\$1,916.00</u>	<u>\$953.00</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Barsamian

GEORGE SHAHINIAN MEMORIAL FUND

The St. Thomas Armenian Church George Shahinian Memorial Fund was established in 1980 with the sum of \$20,586.00. The charter states that the purpose of this fund is: to provide full or partial scholarships and other funding to primarily further the cultural education of the youth of St. Thomas and, in exceptional cases, youth of St. James Armenian Church Parish of Watertown, MA; to provide funding for cultural and educational projects of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America; and to provide funding for the Camp Nubar of the AGBU of America, Inc.

Since the inception of the George Shahinian Memorial Fund it has generated an income of \$21,932.20.

The current members of the Board of Directors are:

- The Very Rev. Fr. Papken Anoushian - President
- Dr. Levon Capan - Chairman of Parish Council
- Shakae Shahinian

Sandra Shahinian Leitner
Andrew Shahinian

GEORGE SHAHINIAN MEMORIAL FUND FINANCIAL REPORT - 1997

Principal at A.C.E.F.	\$20,586.00
Balance on hand 12/31/97	\$ 2,105.04
A.C.E.F. Interest, November 1997	<u>\$ 1,441.02</u>
TOTAL	\$ 3,546.06

Disbursements:

Kirikian Armenian School	\$ 500.00
CASP	<u>400.00</u>
	900.00
Balance of hand 12/13/97	\$2,646.06
	=====

Respectfully submitted
Shakae Shahinian

MARTIN "SONNY" TASHJIAN MEMORIAL FUND

The Martin Sonny Memorial Fund was established on December 29, 1982 with the Armenian Church Endowment Fund of the Diocese. The fund started with the sum of \$5,624.00. As of December 1997 the principal amount is \$8,935.00.

The purpose of the fund is to provide funding for sports activities and towards the needs of the youth at St. Thomas Armenian Church.

For the past ten years, the interest accrued has been given to the St. Thomas basketball team to pay for the rental of our hall for their annual sports dance. Since the inception of the fund in 1981 through December 31, 1997, St. Thomas has received \$7,445.72 in interest accrued from this fund.

The Board of Directors of the fund is composed of the members of the Tashjian family and Parish Council appointees.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Sonia Tashjian

PETER AJEMIAN MEMORIAL FUND

The Peter Ajemian Memorial Fund of \$5,000.00 was established and deposited in the Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF) after the demise of Peter Ajemian, Sr. on January 1, 1993.

The purpose of the Peter Ajemian Memorial is for a Scholastic Scholarship to be given to the son, daughter or grandchild of a St. Thomas current dues paying member who is currently attending a College or University in pursuit of an undergraduate or graduate degree as full time student, has scholastic ability, and is active in Community activities, and in need of financial assistance.

The First Peter Ajemian Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$450.00 (interest accrued from fund of this program) was presented to Miss Siranoush Dervoghormiyacyian of Cliffside Park, N.J., on Sunday, June 10, 1996 by Hayr Sourp Papken Anoushian and Mrs. Ann Ajemian.

The Directors of the Peter Ajemian Scholarship Committee are comprised of the following:

V. Rev. Fr. Papken Anoushian	-	President Ex-Officio
Mrs. Ann Ajemian	-	Chair Person
Dr. Levon Capan	-	P.C. Chairman
Dr. Peter J. Ajemian		
Mrs. Deborah Greenip		
Mr. Jack Berberian		
Mr. Henry Hagopian		

A stained-Glass Memorial window (St. Peter) donated by Ann Ajemian and her family in memory of the late Peter Ajemian Sr. designed by Seta Yavru-Sakuk was installed, over the center door of the St. Thomas sanctuary entrance and blessed during church services by Very Rev. Fr. Papken Anoushian on Sunday March 17, 1996, in the presence of family and friends.

PETER AJEMIAN SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Principal at ACEF			\$5,081.25
1994 ACEF interest	\$337.50		
1995 " "	321.50		
1996 " "	350.00		
Total Interest Accrued			1,009.00
Total			6,090.25
June 1996 Scholarship		450.00	
1997 Scholarship (no request)		-	
Balance on Hand 12/31/97			5,640.25

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Ajemian

ACYOA JUNIORS

The ACYOA Juniors of St. Thomas Armenian Church have held meetings on the third Friday of the month and some by announcement in the church complex.

We discuss upcoming events and activities. The Sports Weekend in Philadelphia was a big success; this year we had our own minibus and a chaperon, organized by our PC Liaison Mrs. Madlen Setian. The Halloween Dance, held on October 31, was super. One Friday evening, Fr. Papken Anoushian talked with us about the meaning of the Armenian Apostolic Church, which gave us the courage and the strength to protect our church, heritage and culture. His final words were "You are the future of our Church."

We have also held a couple of Bake Sales and one Car Wash, which were all very profitable.

We are here to help as much as we can. Over the course of the year we participated in the Palm Sunday Dinner, Memorial Day Picnic, annual Bazaar, Sunday School Christmas Dinner and Program, and many other events. Our aim is to be informed of our Armenian heritage and identity, so that we can help and support any Armenian cause in any way possible.

The current officers are Tamar Kherlopian and Vicken Demirjian - Co-Chairmen,
Loris Allaverdian - Treasurer, Aline Markarian - Membership Coordinator, Lara Setrakian and Melik Markarian - Secretaries, Saro Tovmasian - Publicity.

ACYOA JRS - CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1997-1998

January		Ari's Restaurant Outing
February		Net's Basketball Outing
		Visit to Old Age Home
March/April		Spring Dance
	31	Palm Sunday Dinner Donation & Serving
		Genocide Banner
May		Sports Weekend in Watertown, Mass.
June		Election Meeting
August		Meeting With Fr. Papken & PC Liaison
September	14	Board Meeting
	21	Icebreaker Meeting
	28	Bake Sale
October	5	Board Meeting
	10-13	Philadelphia Sports Weekend
	12	Car Wash
	26	Bake Sale (after Church)
	31	Halloween Dance
November	7	ACYOA Social Nite
	15-16	Bazaar ACYOA Booth
	29	Movie Night at Tamar's with St. Leon's
December	20	NYC trip With/Leon's (All-Star Cafe & Broadway Show)
	24	Christmas Eve Singing in Church

ACYOA JRS. TREASURER'S REPORT - 1997

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Balance on Hand			\$2,911.60
Nets Basketball Game	\$ 438.00	\$ 310.00	
Bake Sales	199.26	112.37	
Palm Sunday Donation to St. Thomas		1,000.00	
Spring Dance	950.00	363.16	
Mailings-Stamps/Supplies		79.38	
Sports Weekend-Bus & Chaperon Exp.	450.00	835.61	
Halloween Dance	1,429.00	482.85	
Car Wash	273.00		
Bazaar	53.00		
Total	<u>\$3,792.26</u>	<u>\$3,183.37</u>	
1997 Surplus	\$ 608.89		
Balance on Hand - 12/31/97			<u>\$3,520.49</u>

AVAK SOCIETY - SENIOR CITIZENS TREASURER'S REPORT - 1997

OFFICERS:

Charles Sarajian	-	Chairman
Arax Berberian	-	Secretary
Charles Sarajian	-	Treasurer
Zephre Bandazian	-	Asst. Treasurer

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
12/18/96 Opening Balance Oritani			\$2,941.15
Membership	\$ 120.00		
Atlantic City Bus Ride	75.00		
Weekly Dues	2,588.80		
Misc. Income	49.35		
Refreshments		\$1,485.95	
Pd to St. Thomas		<u>\$1,100.00</u>	
Balance:12/19/97 Checking Acct Oritani	<u>\$2,833.15</u>	<u>\$2,585.95</u>	<u>\$3,188.35</u>
Donations of Refreshments during 1997:			
Violet Ouzoonian, Martha Saraydarian, Mrs. Coloian			

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CHOIR REPORT - 1997

Chairwoman	Marie Zokian
Vice-Chairman	Ara Martaian
Treasurer	Andrew Martaian
Recording Secretary	Mary Sanossian
Corresponding Secretary	Araxie Diratzouian
Advisors	Jeanie Amerkanian
	Susan Shamamian (Parish Council Liaison)
Choir Director/Organist	Susan Shamamian

The St. Thomas Choir once again enjoyed an active and fulfilling year, with extensive participation in the Divine Liturgy and numerous other church services in our parish.

Susan Shamamian, our Director/Organist, continued to hold rehearsals regularly, teach us additional hymns

and special services, and enthusiastically lead us every Sunday in singing the Morning Service and Divine Liturgy. Our increased proficiency in presenting the numerous, extremely difficult "sharagans" that comprise the lengthy Holy Week services was a special source of satisfaction for all who, in addition to attending regular rehearsals, devoted extra time to mastering this most challenging "Avak Shapat" music. Bravo!

Our conscientious Choir Chairwoman, Marie Zokian, and her dedicated Executive Board set a fine example with their excellent attendance record at services and rehearsals. We are, indeed, fortunate, to have many members who not only sing and come to practice cheerfully, but are always ready and willing to lend their voices at wedding, wakes and funerals upon request. Participation in such sacraments has resulted in gracious donations from the families involved and augmented our treasury.

During Lent, Araxie Diratzouian and Shnorig Minassian of our organization sponsored a Tahini Bread Sale to raise money to donate a special item for the altar in the name of the St. Thomas Choir. We thank them for their hard work and are grateful to the many parishioners who supported this endeavor.

Many thanks to Dr. Levon Capan for giving of his limited time to coach our altar servers on uniform and correct singing of the Deacons' parts in the Badarak. Also, sincere gratitude to the very gracious Osanna Soukiasian for her cheerful assistance with choir telephone communications year-round. And once again, special credit goes to our beloved Mary & Harry Sanossian, whose perfect attendance at choir rehearsals, Morning Service and Badarak deserves a huge round of applause.

It has been a long-time tradition at St. Thomas for our Choir members to accompany our Pastor in his Armenian Christmas and Easter visits to the Armenian Home for the Aged in Emerson, NJ, and this year was no exception. With tears in our eyes, we sang the Badarak and brightened the day of the many appreciative residents there. Also, we annually contribute part of the proceeds from our Easter Sunday Plate Collection to the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America (AACCA) to assist with its many worthwhile programs. St. Thomas is one of the largest donors to this annual appeal by the AACCA.

Our major fundraising effort directed toward the eventual purchase of a painting for the Votive Candle area in the rear of our church progressed substantially in 1997 and will continue in 1998. We hope to reach our goal in the near future so that we may formally commission the renowned artist Levon Mnazakanian for a painting of St. Gregory of Narek to complement his two other masterpieces that currently grace the sanctuary of St. Thomas Church.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH CHOIR - 1997 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>DISBURSEMENT</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Balance 12/31/96			\$3,047.95
Easter Sunday Choir Plate Collection	\$306.00		
Barikyan Wedding Donation	250.00		
Donation from Dr. & Mrs. Harout & Shake Mekhjian	100.00		
Karadenizli Wedding Donation	250.00		
AACCA '97 Assembly Booklet Ad		\$ 50.00	
1997 Choir Day Plate Offering for AACCA		150.00	
Akcaedel Wedding Donation	250.00		
Gezdir Funeral Donation	200.00		
Gocmen Funeral Donation	200.00		
Balance 12/31/97			\$4,403.95*

*Earmarked for acquisition of painting of St. Gregory of Narek for votive Candle area in church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The mission of St. Thomas Sunday School is to teach the children and youth of this parish to love God; to worship Him; and to live for Him.

This is accomplished by teaching them about our Christian faith, the Badarak (which includes attending the Divine Liturgy for worship, prayer, Holy Communion, and learning from the homilies of our Parish Priest, the Very Rev. Fr. Papken Dz. Vartabed Anoushian), the Holy Bible, our Saints, and how to live the Christian life on a daily basis. To accomplish this we use the Holy Bible and the curriculum textbooks published by the Diocesan Department of Religious Education.

The devoted teaching staff are: Kim Karagosian, Gareen Hamalian, Jean Karagosian, Diane Bairamian, Diane

Markarian, Christine Badach, Douglas Martaian, Sandra Alpino, Sona Aris, John Bashian, and Shnorig Bashian. Our treasurer is Lisa Stepanian.

Additional special activities include Crop Walk for Hunger, "Trick or Treat" for UNICEF, St. Thomas Church Bazaar booth (this past year we made \$2,500 for the church), Christmas Dinner and Program, Poon Paregentan Pizza Party, Easter Communion breakfast with the Kirikian Armenian School, Year-End Pizza Party, a visit to the Emerson Old Age Home with the Kirikian Armenian School, and our Graduation reception.

All the students partake of Holy Communion once a month. During other Sundays we attend Badarak at different parts in order to experience the whole Badarak.

We thank God for giving us another year to serve Him. We also thank our beloved Hayr Soorp for this spiritual guidance and advice. We also thank our devoted Parish Council members, the Caspar Kasparian Memorial Fund committee, and the parents of our Sunday School students for their support and cooperation. We would like to especially thank Virginia Victoria for her past service to us as our liaison to the Parish Council and we would like to acknowledge and welcome Grace Hagopian as our new liaison.

A special thanks goes to our devoted teachers for their faithfulness in coming regularly to Sunday School in order to teach our students about their Christian faith and church.

Last but not least, a special thank you to our precious students who give us the pleasure of serving them by coming to Sunday School on a regular basis.

In the words of our Lord Jesus: "Let the children come unto me." Indeed, through the Sunday School, St. Thomas Church is helping our children come to Him. We give Him all the honor, glory, and praise.

Submitted by Shnorig Bashian
 Sunday School Superintendent

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TREASURER'S REPORT - 1997

	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>INCOME</u>
Registration		\$1,310.00
Sunday School Offerings		407.00
Donation/Fund Raising	\$ 100.00	753.50
Christmas Dinner	1,268.21	1,773.00
Bibles	333.34	132.00
Supplies	133.52	
Textbooks	1,305.86	
Telephone	98.40	
Postage	160.00	
Graduation	368.27	
Gifts & Misc. Parties	2,214.86	820.00
Snacks	<u>170.80</u>	
Total	\$6,152.66	<u>\$5,195.50</u>
Bank Charges: Less	<u>30.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$6,122.00	

FAMILY AUXILIARY OF ST. THOMAS

The Family Auxiliary of St. Thomas was founded in May, 1994. It is an organization where every member of the family is welcome. The main objective is to regularly bring together all household members in a family atmosphere and at the same time to assist St. Thomas Armenian Church whenever help is needed. The spirit of friendship and belonging to St. Thomas is fostered on these occasions as the whole family is involved.

The Family Auxiliary held the following activities during 1997:

The October Fall Kef Night and December 31, New Year's Eve celebration were both a financial and social success. Members of the Family Auxiliary also participated in the Palm Sunday Dinner, the Memorial Day Picnic and the Annual Bazaar.

The proceeds from Kef Night were **\$8052**.

The proceeds from the New Years Eve Dinner Dance were **\$9224**.

The organization is open to all parishioners. Everyone is welcome to attend. The officers are: Ani Capan-Chairperson, Sylva Torosian-Co-Chairperson, Mari Camcikyan-Treasurer, Ani Barsamian-Secretary, Mari Kucukyan-Publicity, Ayda Kilerciyan and Irma Saganda-Advisors.

Since 1992 to the present time, the Family Auxiliary of St. Thomas has raised over \$153,000, a span of six

years, through Kef Night and New Year's Eve Celebrations.

FAMILY AUXILIARY OF ST. THOMAS - FINANCIAL REPORT - 1996

	<u>NET INCOME</u>	<u>DISBURSEMENT</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Opening Balance			257.77
Fall Dinner Dance	8,052.00		
New Year's Eve Party	9,224.00		
Turned over to St. Thomas		17,276.00	
	<u>17,276.00</u>		
BALANCE ON HAND			<u>\$257.77</u>

KIRIKIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL

Language is the ingredient which connects time past with time present and future. The knowledge of language is a vital link to keeping a proud and noble culture alive for generations to come. Toward that end, the Kirikian Armenian School strives to instill its students a love and pride of knowledge in their ethnic heritage.

We are proud to announce that the number of students has reached the high number of 99 this year. Classes range from nursery to seventh grade. Due to a growing need, starting at the second grade, there are two sections in each grade, one for students coming from Armenian speaking parents and another for students coming from English speaking parents. The curriculum is the same in both sections; however, the non-Armenian section teacher has the added responsibility to teach conversation, while the others have to dwell on their reading. Both classes come together for religion, folk dance and music. We also have a special class for older students who have just started to learn Armenian. Although this system adds an additional expenditure to the school, no expense is spared so that every student can benefit from the program.

In addition to language, religion, folk dance and music, Armenian history, literature and geography of Armenia is also taught in our school. Last year instruction in the Holy Armenian Badarak was added to the curriculum for children in grades 4 to 7. This class is taught by Dr. Levon Capan. We are also very happy that our students also benefit from the chess instruction lessons taught by Mr. Ohannes Baltayan, on Saturdays at 1:30 PM. We thank both Dr. Capan and Mr. Baltayan for voluntarily devoting their precious time to educate our Armenian children.

Also we are very proud to report that two of our students participated in the Esayan Getronagan Alumni Association's Poetry contest and one of them won the first place by receiving the highest score among the students of all the Saturday Schools as well as Day School students.

All students must take a standardized test to go on to the next level. These tests are prepared and corrected by the Language Lab and Resource Center of the Diocese of the Armenian Church. The seventh graders also have to have answered at least 75% of a 100 question history test in addition to a comprehensive 3 hour test in order to qualify for a diploma.

The following awards are given at the Annual Hantes and Graduation in June: George Shahinian Perfect Attendance Award, Edward Bashian Armenian History Award, Rupen Saddler Armenian Reading Award and Dr. Harout and Shake Mekhjian Spelling Award.

Special events of the past year included: Teacher's Assembly of teachers of all Saturday Schools in the area at the Language Lab of the Diocese of the Armenian Church, opening of the school, celebration of Soorpotz Tarkmantchatz at the Diocese, Trip to the United Nations, Trip to the Ellis Island, Hokehankisd and Fellowship commemorating the anniversary of the earthquake in Armenia, participation during Christmas Eve Services, Armenian Christmas Dinner on January 6, celebration of St. Vartanantz and Poon Paregentan in February, participation during Easter Week Services, Easter Communion, Students with Hayr Soorp and Communion Breakfast, Commemoration of Martyrs Day, Year-End Hantes.

The Kirikian Armenian School has a paid faculty and other expenses are as noted in our financial report. Funds are raised entirely by the School. Most of these monies are derived through tuition. However, the Mother's Committee augments income through the Bazaar Booth, Annual Armenian Christmas Dinner, Luncheons, End-of-the-year Hantes, catalog sales for fund raising, raffles, the publications of our cookbook (750 cookbooks have already been printed with a 3rd printing ordered), and many other events. We are also deeply grateful for the help our benefactors continually give us.

Executive Committee members are: V. Rev. Fr. Papken Anoushian, Martha Saraydarian, Mary Ann Saraydarian, Seta Yavru, Ardemis Arslanian, Ani Capan. In 1997 two parents also joined the committee: Madlen Setian and Maral Hajjar.

Faculty: Ani Capan, Hourig Broukian, Mari Kuruzian, Ani Kecoglu, Queenie Tashjian, Seta Yavru-Sakuk, Sossi

Salbashian, Marie Zokian, Maro Hajakian, Siranus Gulbenk, Nazik Sesian, Mari Camcikyan, Araxie Diratzouian, Sirvart Demirjian, Mary Tashjian, Shnorig Bashian, Nina Terzian, Dr. Levon Capan., Mr. Ohannes Baltayan.

**KIRIKIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 1996-1997**

	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Balance as of 8/96			\$9,481.62
SALARY: 18 Teachers x 35 Weeks	\$23,695.00		
TUITION:		\$15,900.00	
TUITION: Refund	150.00		
Taranto Bus	2,346.00	2,555.00	
Books (St. Vartan St. Thomas Books Stores)	2,218.00		
Postage	389.83		
3 J Fund Raising Sale	2,189.39	4,591.50	
School Supplies	195.88		
Bazaar		1,651.40	
Armenian Christmas Lunch	244.94	1,392.00	
Children's Christmas Party	140.00		
Paregentan Party	141.50		
Armenian Reporter	40.00		
DONATIONS: Mekhjian/Shahinian			850.00
In-Lieu of Flowers Donations		205.00	
ALLARC Sc	68.00	90.00	
Photo Developing	42.29		
Class Pictures		316.00	
May Dance (Canceled) Raffle	2,490.25	7,297.00	
Hantes & Trophies	408.36	1,410.00	
Cap & Gown	264.15	235.00	
Bank Charges/Repayment	7.00	7.00	
	<u>\$35,030.59</u>	<u>\$36,499.90</u>	<u>\$10,950.93</u>
Final Balance 8/97 - \$10,950.93			

MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL REPORT

We began 1997 with the election of officers and designation of committee heads. They are:

V. Rev. Fr. Papken Dz.V. Anoushian,- President
 Matthew M. Keshishian - Chairman
 Dick Keurajian - Vice-Chairman
 Vahan Parseghian - Recording Secretary
 Arman Ajamian - Corresponding Secretary
 Jack Ekizian - Treasurer

Committee Heads:

Paul Kahaumjian - Cooking
 Ohon Melikian - Entertainment
 Art Azarik - Membership
 Charles Sarajian - Sunshine
 Zaven Poosikian - Fruit Sale
 Jack Ekizian - Christmas Party
 Paul Kahaumjian - Basketball Dinner
 Zaven Poosikian - Belmar Outings
 Matthew Keshishian - Super Bowl Party
 Arman Kazanjian - Picnic
 Dick Donigian
 Greg Sahajian

During the year we had 10 meetings which consisted of dinners, followed by a guest speaker and a general membership meeting. The majority of our meetings are held in the Church Hall, however, some are held at restaurants.

Highlighting some of our meetings: March is our annual corn beef and cabbage dinner under the leadership of Ara Pekmezian.

April's meeting is our annual dinner for the members and coaches and officials of the Church Basketball leagues. The dinner was headed by Paul Kahaumjian.

In May we had an outing in Belmar, New Jersey. The chairman of the event was Zaven Poosikian.

In June we had our annual Shish Kebab dinner with the Women's Guild, which concluded our activities for the first half of the year.

In September, we had another weekend outing at Belmar under the leadership of Zaven Poosikian.

Once again George Movsesian and Zaven Poosikian conducted our annual fruit sale which proved its usual success.

We concluded our year with a Christmas Party at Gadsby Restaurant under the leadership of Ohon Melikian and Vahan Parseghian.

MEN'S CLUB TREASURER'S REPORT - 1997

Balance on Hand			\$3,395.28
	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Membership Dues	\$ 615.00		
Postage		\$ 128.00	
Dinner Meetings	2,374.00	1,690.00	
Fruit Sale	6,710.00	4,108.75	
Super Bowl	1,110.00		
Cotillion Ad		125.00	
Awards to Players & Coaches		573.65	
Turned Over to Parish Council		4,000.00	
Joyce Shenloogian Fund		100.00	
	<u>\$10,809.00</u>	<u>\$10,725.40</u>	
Balance on Hand			<u>\$3,478.88</u>

Less Reserve for Basketball gym Rentals that will be turned over to the Parish Council to pay those bills.
The 1997, 1998 gym rental bills will come in March or April.

WOMEN'S GUILD 1997 ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 1997 - June 30, 1997

Very Rev. Fr. Papken Dz. V. Anoushian, President

EXECUTIVE BOARD (ELECTED):

Chairwoman	-	Violet K. Ouzoonian
Vice Chairwomen	-	Irene Khorozian & Hersik Allaverdian
Corr. Secretary	-	Sylva Asadourian
Recording Secretary	-	Rotating Basis
Treasurer	-	Seta Izmirly
Church Women United	-	Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian
Advisor	-	Shnorig Minassian & Sylva Torosian
Advisor	-	Mary Ann Saraydarian
Nominating Committee	-	Olympia Jebejian & Vesna Markarian

STANDING COMMITTEES (APPROVED)

CASP	-	Sona Damergy
CWU	-	Yeg.V. Kasparian
Cotillion	-	Ann Ajemian & Shake Torigian
Debs & Escorts	-	Shoghig Kherlopian
Historian	-	Mary Varteresian
Hospitality	-	Elizabeth DeLuca
Mahs	-	Araxie Diratzouian
Membership	-	Sona Doudoukjian
Parliamentarian	-	Rose Mekenian
Photographer	-	Adrin Kucukyantiryan
Phone Squad	-	Joan Bogosian & Marion Kahaumjian
Publicity	-	Mary Ann Saraydarian
Social Services	-	
Blood Drive	-	Queenie Tashjian & Mari Camcikyan

Emerson Home	-	Queenie Tashjian, Betty Zoraian, Arax Parseghian
Sunshine	-	Celia Martaian (Elise Poosikian Alternate)
Ways & Means	-	Martha Saraydarian
Parish Council Liaison	-	Ann Ajemian
WGCC Liaison	-	Nivart Marashlian

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

January	7	Emerson Home for the Aged, Services & Communion Breakfast
	17	Blood Drive ran by Mari Camcikyan. Pot Luck Dinner with Men's Club followed by General Meeting. Marion Babigian, Reservations & Shnorik Minassian, Setup.
	19	40th Cotillion Tea at Artemis Arslanian's Home.
	24	CWU Annual Meeting hosted by our Guild.
	27	Birthday Celebration at Emerson Home for the Aged.
packaging	27 & 28	Guild members assisted Yeg. V. Kasparian at St. Leon's with WGCC project for the of 1000 Book Bags distributed to the children in Armenian.
February	6	Visit to Tenafly Nursing Home with Betty Zoraian.
	21	Lenten Dinner chaired by Martha Saraydarian, General Meeting followed.
March	8	Members from our Guild attended Saints Day, hosted by St. Mary's in Livingston.
	11	Meetings regarding Cotillion.
	21	General meeting scheduled, but concern was on tragedy of Executive Board Member Irene Khorozian as son Shant and brother John Shenloogian were in fatal automobile accident. young men are also June Kashishian's nephew and brother.
These	27	Holy Thursday annual visit to Emerson Home for the Aged. Father Anoushian held a service at 10:00 a.m. New time for Guild at 2:00 p.m.
religious		
April	5	First Cotillion Rehearsal at church.
	9	Rehearsal at Tamcrest with parents.
	12	Cotillion.
	18	General Meeting and program by Dr. S. Khorenian, Dermatologist.
May	1-4	W.G. General Assembly in Cleveland, Ohio.
	9	CWU Luncheon, Mt. Carmel Church.
	15	Visit to Emerson Convalescence Center with Betty Zoraian.
	16	Elections at our General meeting.
	21	Trip to Kykuit (Rockefeller Estate) followed by delightful luncheon on the river. Many thanks to Grace Hagopian for her efforts in making this trip so successful.
	22	Executive Board Meeting at church to decide Guild executive positions.
June	8	Requiem Service
	20	W.G. & Men's Club Bar-B-Que followed by General Meeting.

We are continuing to sponsor a girl and boy under the CASP program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The mahs we receive each Sunday throughout the year is made under the capable hands of Araxie Diratzouian and her Committee. Z. Baydar, A. Bozian, S. Minassian, and B. Zoraian. Thank you ladies.

We are starting our 18th year of cooperative volunteering at the Home for the Armenian Aged in Emerson. Betty Zoraian, Queenie Tashjian, and Arax Parseghian capably handle these endeavors.

The responsibility for the Blood Drive is Queenie Tashjian and Mari Camcikyan. Thanks to these ladies, we are able to hold two blood drives during the year. This is a very important, very healthy way of sharing yourself with others. But, also, should you need blood, it is there. Remember, when you call the Blood Center in Paramus at 444-3900, be sure you say you are from St. Thomas.

To present a Lenten Dinner is truly hard work and involved. However, this never stops Martha Saraydarian who was at the helm, nor our chefs, Araxie Diratzouian, Mari Barikyan and Shake Torigian. Much appreciation to these ladies and to the following who served on their committee. M. Babigian, Z. Baydar, S. Izmirly, L. Khatchadourian, I. Khorozian, S. Nazar, H. Nishanian, B. Poosikian, M. Setian, O. Soukiasian, H. Yacoubian, and B. Zoraian. As they say, the proof is in the eating.

Please continue to remember the needy during these winter months. There is a box available next to the book store waiting to collect your canned goods, etc. Virginia and Al Victoria are always willing to take the food to the shelter and for this, we say thank you.

The Mother & Daughter Tea for the 40th Annual Cotillion was just splendid. Artemis Arslanian was most gracious in opening her home for this occasion. The Executive Board and Standing Committee members were very generous in providing a lovely table. On behalf of our Guild, Irene Khorozian had obtained a lovely centerpiece of

fresh flowers for Artemis' table. Irene and June Kashishian were handling decorations for the Cotillion. We were all on top of the world and so elated. Chairwomen Ann Ajemian and Shake Torigian were busy, as was Shoghig Kherlopian, our deb & escort chairwoman. Thanks to Ellen Turnamian and Sona Damergy the grand march was in order. Shakae Shahinian and Dikris Malool took special care to order the correct color to coordinate the invitations with ruby for the 40th Anniversary, even the ink on the envelopes was considered. Lorraine Khatchadourian had helped compile a list of post debts and escorts. Adrin Kucukyantiryan was in charge of mailing out the photo time slots for everyone. Martha Saraydarian had the publicity organized. Mary Ann Saraydarian and Artemis Arslanian worked on the booklet diligently, resulting with what proved to be impressive. Reservations were handled by Vivian Stepanian, Seta Izmirly was our treasurer, Susan A. Stoneson used her expertise and prepared the layouts, etc. for our booklet and the dear Saraydarian brothers willingly and ably helped us out again.

Because of the tragedy, cancellation of Cotillion was strongly being considered. The first rehearsal and party was canceled. A decision was made by the Khorozian Family that the 40th annual Cotillion of St. Thomas would be held as planned. We thank the family for this very hard decision. Was it worth it? I know it was. There were many highlights during the evening. It was a beautiful, small, elegant, intimate party with much love, joy, sorrow and compassion. It was very touching to see our current debts and escorts present their parent(s). Another highlight of the evening was when our debts and escorts formed large circles, placed their arms around each other's shoulders, savoring the moment by embracing each other and dancing their final dance for the evening. It was a most touching, loving gesture. Again, we sincerely appreciate what the Khorozian Family did for us all. Let's hope no one will ever have to make such a decision again.

Father Papken Anoushian conducted a heart warming Requiem Service in June for our deceased members once again this year. Arax Palakian and Shake Torigian were hostesses, assisted by Ann Ajemian, for the reception which followed church services in homage to the families of our deceased members. It has been decided our next Requiem Service will be held in the fall.

May God shine upon us and keep us safe forever and ever.

Most respectfully,
Violet K. Ouzoonian,
Chairwoman, Women's Guild

WOMEN'S GUILD ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 1997 - December 31, 1997

President V. Rev. Fr. Papken Dz.V. Anoushian

EXECUTIVE BOARD (ELECTED)

Chairwomen on Rotating Basis:	September - Yeg. V. Kasparian,	October - Shnorik Minassian
	November - Lorraine Khatchadourian,	December - Sylva Torosian
Recording Secretary	Yeg. Violet Kasparian	
Corresponding Secretary	Lorraine Khatchadourian	
Treasurer	Hasmig Nishanian	
Mailings	Hersik Allaverdian	
Advisor & Formation of S.C.	Violet K. Ouzoonian	
Nominating Committee	Mari Camcikyan, Grace Hagopian, & Alyce Leiby	

STANDING COMMITTEES (APPOINTED)

CASP	Sona Damergy
CWU	Yeg.V. Kasparian
Cotillion	Ann Ajemian & Shake Torigian
Debts & Escorts	Shoghig Kherlopian
Historian	Mary Varteresian
Hospitality	Martha Saraydarian and Arax Palakian
Mahs	Araxie Diratzouian
Membership	Sona Doudoukjian
Parliamentarian	Rose Mekenian
Photographer & P.C.L.	Ann Ajemian
Phone Squad	Margaret Hartunian
Program	Virginia Victoria
Publicity	Mary Ann Saraydarian
Social Services	
Blood Drive	Queenie Tashjian & Mari Camcikyan
Emerson Home	Queenie Tashjian, Betty Zoraian, & Adrin Kucukyantiryan

Sunshine
WGCC Liaison

Celia Martaian (Elise Poosikian, Alternate)
Ann Devejian

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, JULY - DECEMBER

July	16, 1997	Blood Drive conducted by Queenie Tashjian. Those who were unable to attend, may go directly to Paramus.
Sept.	9,	Betty Zoraian and Shakee Kapakjian visited the Tenafly Nursing Home.
	19,	Executive Board & Standing Committee Meeting at church.
Oct.	8,	Yeg. V. Kasparian conducted W.G. meeting as Chairwoman on rotating basis.
	15,	Tenafly Nursing Home visitation with Betty Zoraian.
Nov.	7,	Membership Tea 40th Anniversary of our Guild.
	11-16,	CWU at Presbyterian Church, Yeg. Violet, Liaison; Peggy Peterson, Reader;
	21,	Bazaar
		G.M. led by Lorraine Khatchadourian, Chairwoman of the month. Program:
		"Black Dog of Fate," by Peter Balakian, V. Victoria, Program Chairwoman.
Dec.	3,	Blood Drive conducted by Mari Camcikyan.
	4,	Christmas Luncheon, Sylva Torosian Chairwoman on rotating basis.
	11,	Executive Board & Standing Committee Meeting at church.
	12,	Condolence Call: Celia Martaian, Alicia Demirjian, Adele Jibilian.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS JULY - DECEMBER

It was decided by the Executive Board, that the position of Chairwoman would be on a rotating basis for the first six months of this year.

We continue to give financial support to a girl and boy under the CASP program.

Please contact Betty, Queenie or Adrin and join them for visitations to our shut-in members.

The Membership Tea was successful thanks to Shnorik Minassian who was our Chairwoman for the month of October, Betty Zoraian who assisted her, and our Executive Board and Standing Committees. The delicious, special 40th Anniversary cake was made by Shnorik, but decorated by her daughter-in-law, Baizar Minassian. It truly was a work of art. The fall leaves were so perfect one would never have guessed that they were edible. Father Papken Anoushian welcomed one new member, Ani Barsamian into our Guild. Rose Mekenian conducted our program for the afternoon, and believe me everyone was remembered. Rose honored our Guild members, especially our chairwomen by presenting them with a ruby rose. Adrienne Tashjian, our first chairwoman, who is deceased naturally receiver extra recognition, which she deservedly earned. It was truly heartwarming to see her two daughters, Barbara and Christine in attendance. Ann Devejian, Liaison for the WGCC presented our Guild with a signed certificate by His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, to commemorate 40 years of our Guilds existence.

The Bazaar people who did a great job at the White Elephant Booth were Chairwomen Ovsanna Soukiassian, Mary Boyajian and their committee. Of course, we must acknowledge those of you who brought all of your treasures. The Boutique Booth was assisted by Adrin Kucukyantiryan, Arax Palakian and an efficient committee. Some of the new gifts from the Membership Teas were great and therefore we did not have to buy additional ones. The raffle went extremely well as we were able to give excellent value to the consumer.

Virginia Victoria is our Program Chairwoman and if an evening with Peter Balakian is any indication of her talents, we are in business. Of course, I knew this. She will be the first to admit, Peter has truly made us proud. What a powerful evening! To think his dear little grandmother sued a government before it was even acceptable. What Peter has done for us as American-Armenians is truly beyond words. We thank all of you who donated the cheese and who carried out Virginia's idea to bake only cheoreg.

Much appreciation to Mari Camcikyan for running the Blood Drive again. Go directly to Paramus if you were unable to attend.

Chairwoman on a rotating basis who efficiently expedited the Christmas Luncheon was Sylva Torosian and her committee. To save the Guild money, Sylva carried the candles and baskets all the way back from California. Maral Hajjar was in charge of decorations. The newly, completely renovated Rockleigh Country Club was beautiful; the food and service were excellent. We ladies did sing melodiously thanks to Rose Mekenian, who was head of entertainment. Reservations were made by calling Celia Martaian. Adrin Kucukyantiryan photographed every table. Mary Ann Saraydarian served as our publicity agent. It was truly a lovely afternoon. Those who attended were still singing Christmas carols on their way home.

We thank Fr. Papken Anoushian for his support and encouragement. We appreciate his religious mini-series at our Women's Guild meeting and look forward to this continuation.

We wish everyone all good things and must remember: Lorraine Khatchadourian for her proofing; Sona Doudoukjian for hanging in there with us, Maral Hajjar for supplying us with a new Membership List and helping with

the Requiem Service List; and to my husband for his patience.

Respectfully submitted,
Violet K. Ouzoonian,
Advisor Women's Guild

WOMEN'S GUILD TREASURER'S REPORT - 1997

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Balance on Hand 1/1/97			\$3,335.19
Dues	\$1,470.00		
Interest	73.86		
Cotillion - Booklet	8,510.00		
Cotillion	15,880.00	17,570.34	
Postage		458.38	
Refreshments		61.84	
In-Lieu-of-Flower/Flowers		30.30	
St. Thomas Pledge (1997)		7,000.00	
St. Thomas Pledge (Prepayment 1998)		2,500.00	
Membership Tea	640.00	306.17	
Christmas Lunch '97	3,785.00	2,710.29	
Women's Saints Day-Lenten Lunch	1,597.00	287.86	
Trip	1,800.00	1,486.11	
Emerson Home	108.51	10.00	
Hokehankist	560.00		
CASP-Children Fund	662.00	400.00	
Sunshine		168.15	
Dues-Women's Guild Central Council		280.00	
Women's Guild-Delegates Fees		36.00	
Christmas Lunch '96	35.00		
Raffle/Jan. Meeting	53.00		
Donations	83.00		
Peter Balakian-Book Sale	2,312.00	1,353.50	
Peter Balakian-GoodWill Offering	578.00		
Gift-V.O.		95.00	
Bank Charges:Bounced Checks & Others	29.00	18.00	
Miscellaneous	18.00		
Church Women United		100.00	
	<u>\$38,194.37</u>	<u>(34,871.94)</u>	<u>\$3,322.43 (surplus)</u>

Income 1997	\$38,194.37
Balance on Hand 1/1/97	<u>3,335.19</u>
	\$41,529.56
Expenses 1997	<u>\$34,871.94</u>
Balance 12/31/97	<u>\$ 6,657.62</u>

CORRECTED VERSION
ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
EXHIBITS
December 31, 1997

Exhibit A - Current Assets

Cash in Bank - Operating	121,911
Cash in Investment -CD Smith Barney	220,000
Cash in Investments - Gov't Funds - Smith Barney	54,509
Cash in Investments - Money Fund - Smith Barney	22,278
Other Assets	2,675
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>421,373</u>

Exhibit B - Current Liabilities

Rental Security	8,000
Diocesan Dues Payable	0
Payroll Taxes	507
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>8,507</u>

Exhibit C - Fund Balances

Church Fund Balance	338,599
Reserve - Ajemian Fund	631
Reserve - Caspar Kasparian Fund	0
Reserve - Architectural Maintenance Fund	19,356
Reserve - Religious Articles	8,474
Reserve - Capan Roof	7,680
Reserve - Saddler Memorial	1,000
Reserve - Shushi Cultural Group	3,081
Reserve - Shahinian	2,655
Reserve - Sabounjian	0
Reserve - Barsamian	954
Reserve - Cultural Affairs	51
Reserve - Markarian	650
Reserve - Kasparian Library	1,296
Reserve - Ground Beautification	1,100
Reserve - Tashjian	589
Reserve - Organ Memorial	24,900
Reserve - Organ Expense	1,850
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>412,866</u>

CORRECTED VERSION
ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
December 31, 1997

ASSETS:

Current Assets (Exhibit A)	<u>421,373</u>
Total Assets:	<u>421,373</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES:

Current Liabilities (Exhibit B)	8,507
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FUND BALANCES

Fund Balances (Exhibit C)	<u>412,866</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>421,373</u>
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We would like to gratefully thank and acknowledge
Michael Halajian, CPA,
for his professional assistance in the accounting of
St. Thomas Armenian Church.
Special thanks are also extended to
Lauren Karanflian, CPA,
for the preparation of the St. Thomas Payroll Tax Forms.


ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 1, 1998
33RD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

We have examined the financial records of all the church's organizations, including the balance sheet of the St. Thomas Armenian Church, as of December 31st, 1997, and the related statement of revenues, expense, and changes in fund balances for the year then ended, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Based on our review, no material discrepancies were found. In our opinion, the financial statements as of December 31st, 1997, fairly present the assets, liabilities and fund balances of the St. Thomas Armenian Church in a manner consistent with that of the preceding year.

Respectfully submitted,


Chairperson
Sirvart Demirjian


Arpi Cankar


Diana Bozian

February 1, 1998

