

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - 1974

During 1974 the Parish Council held 26 meetings and one Special Parish Assembly.

We record with sorrow the loss of six members and one benefactor.

Several visiting clergymen celebrated the Divine Liturgy or preached in our church, including our former pastor, His Grace Bishop Karekin Kazanjian, the Rt. Rev. Bishop James Mathews, Commander Eli Takesian, Chaplain, U. S. Navy, and Rev. Tom Torosian.

The Assyrian community in Washington used our church when their bishop visited Washington. He celebrated the Divine Liturgy and performed two baptisms.

Also members of the Ethiopian Embassy held a wedding ceremony and reception in our church.

In January His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the Primate, visited our church and met with the Parish Council and members of the Diocesan Legate Council.

Delegate to the Diocesan Assembly

When our membership reached 126, a second delegate, in the person of Mr. Abraham Bodurian, was confirmed by the Diocese and was duly seated at the 72nd Annual Assembly of the Diocese in May.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

The Parish Council resolved that frequent cultural programs be given to our parishioners. Accordingly the following events were held:

An art exhibition presenting the paintings of Kristine Saleri of Istanbul, a special program for the commemoration of Martyrs' Day, a CBS film marking the eighth centenary of St. Nersess Shnorhali, a dinner theatre by the ACYO, an Amateur Artists' Show will be held next week.

In addition, the church was host to an art exhibition of Leo Sarkisian, sponsored by the Knights of Vartan.

All these events were enthusiastically received and well attended.

Installation of Book Stall

This was an innovation. The Book Stall served a much needed purpose helping to disseminate our cultural values by making available Armenian books and records to members and guests.

Special Events

Special activities included our annual Father's Day picnic in June; our annual bazaar, headed by Mr. Jerry Hekimian; a banquet on June 15th celebrating the tenth anniversary of our church, presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. His Eminence remained in Washington for three days, when he met with the executive members of all the subordinate bodies to hear their progress reports or suggestions, and he presented them with crosses. His Eminence also met with members of the Diocesan Legate's Council.

A dinner was tendered to His Grace Bishop Karekin Kazanjian, in July.

Building Improvements

A closet in the Baptistry for vestments, a linen closet in the kitchen, a new canopy over the 42nd St. entrance, were built. The sanctuary, auditorium, and adjacent rooms were repainted, the three stairwells were carpeted, the nursery was redecorated. The broken stained-glass window in the Baptistry is now in the course of repair.

Estimates were taken to build a wall around the church grounds, which ranged from \$4,350 to \$10,281, but the cost was considered too high and it was, therefore, tentatively decided to plant shrubs instead, possibly in the Spring.

For reasons of economy, the telephone extensions were removed from the Parish Council room, the Babigan residence; the pay phone from the hall was also removed.

Membership

Church membership has increased somewhat over last year. As of today, January 15, 1975, we have

106 members, fully paid up for 1974
24 regular members, not yet fully paid up for 1974
130

plus 12 members who are enrolled but have paid only small sums.

ACYO

The ACYO has made significant progress in increased activities, church attendance, and membership.

Sunday School

The Sunday School needs our support most urgently. An imperative need is adequate space for classrooms and privacy. This can only be obtained by building an Annex to the existing church hall.

New Pastor

Correspondence was exchanged with the Diocese concerning the assignment of a new pastor to St. Mary's. The matter is still pending.

Diocesan Dues and St. Vartan Stewards

The Diocese has raised our annual assessment to \$3,875.00 for fiscal 1975. This sum is reduced by \$100.00 for each St. Vartan steward. In 1974 we were credited with \$1,000.00 for ten stewards.

Cyprus

As directed by the Diocese, the pastor and Parish Council members cooperated with the Greek community to aid in their efforts in behalf of the victims of the Cyprus invasion.

Baltimore Community

As directed by the Primate, plans are under way to hold periodic services in an Episcopal church in Baltimore for the benefit of the growing Armenian community there.

Photographs

For the first time in years the Parish Council and Choir had official photographs taken by Mr. Harry Naltchayan, who kindly donated them.

Listing of Gifts

The Pastor and Chairman undertook the task of identifying all non-monetary gifts to the church, which the chairman is recording in a card file, later to be entered, in chronological order, in a permanent book.

Bus on Church Parking Lot

The Heights Catholic School for Boys rented some of our parking space and paid \$250.00 in advance for six months' rent.

Parking Lot of Bank

Neighbors having opposed the construction of a parking lot by the bank across the street, the work was halted. We were invited to a hearing. We testified in favor of the parking lot, the work was resumed and is now almost completed. The Bank informed us that we may use this parking lot on Sundays.

Metro

The Transit Authority notified us of hearings in connection with the projected Metro station at Tenley Circle and a Metro route through Yuma Street. The Yuma Street residents had instituted a suit and halted construction. Therefore, hearings were held to discuss alternative routes, one of which would be along Fessenden Street to Wisconsin Avenue, with vents and air-conditioning stations located near our church. This was of serious concern to our church.

We attended two hearings in order, if necessary, to be prepared to defend the interests of our church.

Finally, the Board ruled in favor of the Tenley Circle station and a metro route along Yuma Street. This is how the matter stands now, pending a new suit by the Yuma Street residents.

Acknowledgments

The Parish Council wishes to acknowledge with thanks the cooperation of the subordinate bodies of the church, all parishioners, and friends, who helped us in our endeavors.

/ Respectfully submitted,

S. A. Essefian, Chairman
Parish Council

Report completed
January 15, 1975

Enclosed are all reports listed on the agenda, except

- Item 1 - Proposed Budget for 1975
- " 4 - Auditing Committee Report
- " 6 - Treasurer's Report
- " 7 - Women's Guild Reports