

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Calendar Year 1982

1982 was an eventful year in several respects. We went through twelve months in our expanded facilities, wondering at times how we ever managed without the added space. We commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Women's Guild, and began planning for one of their dreams, namely an expanded and better-equipped kitchen. The Bazaar was a huge success, and we broke new ground with a highly successful rug sale.

All the news isn't positive, however. We are still without a permanent choir director. Our junior ACYO needs help. Communications among individuals and organizations occasionally leave something to be desired, leading at times to misunderstandings and a cluttered calendar of activities. The church newsletter appears irregularly. The sanctuary is now a 20-year old building, and various repair needs have begun to appear. The parish is growing, which is a positive development, but growth also has its problems. None of this is meant to dismay, but only to call attention to areas where improvement and assistance are needed. Details on some of the year's activities follow.

The finishing work required on the new building and the maintenance needs of the original building occupied a large portion of the council's time. We are particularly grateful to Berj Koukeyan who spent many hours, including some days off from work, securing estimates and contractors for the various repairs and improvements that were undertaken. Repairs to the roof of the new building were completed; panelling was installed, as were an inter-com system and smoke alarms. The heating system for the church building was repaired and estimates were secured for a new heating and cooling system. The front and back windows of the sanctuary were cleaned, the wood braces cleaned and stained, and a pigeon repellent was applied to these surfaces. Caulking was applied to the exterior of all the other windows in the sanctuary. Efforts were made to secure a replacement for our outdoor sign which was vandalized during a neighborhood disturbance in October. A commercial vacuum cleaner, which had long been needed, was purchased early in the year. During the fourth quarter, we secured on a temporary basis the part-time services of a handy man to take care of a number of minor repairs around the church.

Various repairs and improvements were made also at the parish house. In late December, following its approval by a special parish assembly, work began on the addition of a room to the house.

Plans for the renovation of the hall and kitchen were developed during the year, and were presented for parishioner comment at a special assembly in December. We expect the plans to be finalized by early spring, after which bids will be sought from contractors.

Various social and cultural activities were undertaken during the year, including a madagh and program on Martyrs Day, a lecture series, two successful picnics, two art exhibits, and a Dinner-Dance commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Women's Guild. As usual, the major parish activity was the bazaar, which was a tremendous success. We are once again deeply indebted to the women of our parish whose dedication, combined with their culinary, artistic, and promotional talents, made it all possible.

The council and Diocesan Delegates met in late June with Frank Stoneson, Executive Director of the Diocese, and Victor Arzoomanian, Director of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund, to discuss parish and Diocesan issues. At this meeting, Mr. Stoneson raised the possibility of a rug sale as a fund-raiser for our parish. With his assistance, a sale was held in mid-October which produced a substantial return. Later in the year, a regional meeting with Diocesan leaders was held in our church.

Administratively, some steps were taken toward the development of an organizational and operating manual. A formal rental policy was approved, as was a new schedule of fees for sacraments. Charters were adopted for a charitable fund and for the operation of the book store. Consideration was given also to our need for computer capability, but a thorough review must be made before a decision can be reached.

Financially, we had a surplus in our operating budget. The Bazaar helped us cover a large portion of such expenses, and the rug sale put us over the top. The addition to our contingency reserve is particularly welcome since the church roof will have to be replaced within the next 2-3 years at a cost in excess of \$20,000.

Our operating expenses rose by \$6,000 in 1982 to nearly \$61,000, with the increase distributed among several cost items. Pledge income reached a new high of \$23,000, but our receipts in this area remain far short of what is needed to eliminate our annual reliance on the bazaar and special events to meet operating expenses. With our costs constantly rising, we must expand our revenue sources and secure more volunteer help in order to provide the services expected of us.

In closing, we wish to note with gratitude that several parishioners were ready and willing throughout the year to assist us in the performance of our duties. A special word of thanks is offered to Jerry Hekimian, Souny Kodjanian, and Al Manian who came to our rescue on numerous occasions; to Gary Avedikian, who managed our parking lot and book store; and to Ann Kavookian, who handled reservations for the church hall. To all parishioners, we express our appreciation for your support in all its forms. Hopefully, it will be continued and expanded in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Onanian
Edward Onanian, Chairman