



Sunday School

We thank our Sunday School children for helping our Lord provide the money collected for UNICEF to the less fortunate children that don't get what they need. Our Lord provides for all of us.

We thank Lisa for explaining to our children how important it is that we help our Father. They came through and collected money doing chores, for changes and other things.

Thank you, God, for our wonderful children. Also, we are grateful for Jim Surmeian, who faithfully teaches the Jr. High School class .

Sunday School Superintendents
Lisa Khojikian
Chris Ashkarian

UNICEF Boxes

We would like to thank all the wonderful Sunday School children and their parents for collecting for UNICEF on Halloween, Ari, Hrag, Narod, Alexis, Kate, Mia, Eric, Tyler, Aline, Kayla, Kaliana, Nataly, Jano

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Sunday School News

What joy the Sunday School children experienced as they rehearsed for the Christmas program. Lena coordinated the script, the songs, and the rehearsals - directing the students from the piano. We thank each student for sharing their talents and we thank each family for bringing the children each Sunday to worship at IACC.

The program was presented during the worship service on December 18, 2011. The children reminded the IACC church family that the greatest gift of all is the birth of Jesus, our Savior, giver of love, truth, grace, mercy and peace. It is up to us to receive these gifts each moment of our lives...and to bring God's good to each of our daily activities.

A few years back there was the book, "Simple Abundance" by Sara Ban Breathnach and the title seemed to be a contradiction. So in this New Year when each day seems to present more challenges than the previous day, abundant living is available when we seek the Lord and His wisdom. Psalm 19:7, *"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."*

With grateful hearts the Sunday School acknowledges the generosity of Anna Sykes Thomas for presenting the Christmas Story along with providing a gifts for the children which included the meaning of the wreath, poinsettia, candy canes and a Christmas "Rubik's cube". The Sunday

School also thanks Chris Ashkarian for providing the Sunday School lessons and for donating new microphones for the Christmas Program.

Sunday School Superintendents
Lisa Khojikian
Chris Ashkarian



Board of Trustees

We will continue with our efforts to keep IACC's buildings and grounds looking their best. Our Lord and our congregation deserve it as do our visitors who come and praise Him with joy.

To maintain the grounds and to beautify our Lord's house the following items have been taken care of to date:

1. Repaired a leak that was in the Ladies' Restroom by the solarium.
2. Repaired a leak in the Social Hall.
3. Sidewalk between the social hall and the Heritage Room has been repaired and the yellow caution line has been repainted.
4. Two patches of grass between the Heritage and Children's room were seeded.

Please keep an eye on your surroundings and contact the office to let them know if you see any needed repairs. Thank you.

Art Carpenter

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Remembering, *Appreciating* and Honoring

Thanksgiving Sunday at IACC was a beautiful day complete with a full house in the sanctuary and rain outside. Blessings abound.

Between the Armenian Sermon charging all members of the community of faith to help bring others to the Lord's presence by Badveli Vatche Ekmekjian, and the English Sermon "In Everything . . . with Thanksgiving" by Badveli Vartkes Kassouni, the Sunday School children delighted all with their songs of gratitude and praise.



Marcy Sahagian, on behalf of her Morkour, Lillian Harootunian, accepted a beautiful plaque from Baghdo Khojikian, Church Moderator, for her many years of faithful devotion in keeping the church alive spiritually and financially even though she has been unable to attend. Marcy thanked the congregation remembering how her late mother would come home from church each week and telephone her sister, Lillian, to tell her all about the messages

delivered and about the activities of the Church. Lillian delighted in hearing about the Church family she sorely missed. Since Lillian is legally blind, Marcy said it will be her pleasure to read the beautiful inscription when she delivers the plaque to her aunt. Her tribute was moving and heartfelt.

Immediately following the church service that filled our bodies spiritually, a delicious traditional turkey Thanksgiving luncheon was served in the social hall to nearly one hundred attendees after Rev. Jirar Sogomian gave the Invocation.

A Thanksgiving thought was offered by Anahid Terjimanian by the recitation of an article her late husband, Hagop, wrote and illustrated a few years ago about the grateful hearts of Christian Armenians. By his own admission, Mr. Terjimanian felt tremendous warmth and spirituality from the Immanuel family and frequently delivered messages of hope. Anahid's presentation of his work was timely and poignant; reinforcing in each of us the importance to always have a thankful heart.

The Luncheon Program centered on honoring the many years of devoted service to Immanuel Church by Vartkes Ketenjian. According to his son, Hagop, the Luncheon Keynote Speaker, service to the church was always encouraged. There never was a question as to what the family would be doing each

and every Sunday. Church was the destination and Immanuel Church was the family's choice since their move to California in 1963. Musical selections by his grandchildren, accompanied on the piano by his daughter, Ruth, framed the presentation of a plaque and wristwatch presented to Vartkes by Moderator Baghdo Khojikian following remarks by Vahe Ashkarian.



The audience was invited to participate in the musical selections and copies of the song lyrics were provided at each table, making the afternoon one of fellowship and praise. Our program was meant to honor Vartkes' many years of service and dedication, yet we were the recipients of blessings through the musical program performed by 7 members of the Ketenjian family. A truly musically gifted and talented family!

The Program continued with Badveli Vatche Ekmekjian's expressed gratitude for all who participated in this wonderful day and with an admonition that nothing comes from grace except from God. He wanted the church to always be vital in the ministry of appreciation.

The family of Araxi Baghdikian sponsored the dessert for the Thanksgiving luncheon in loving

memory of the one year anniversary of her passing. Badveli Ekmekjian blessed her memory and prayed in appreciation for the family's continual support of the church.

The program ended with participation of the Hayr Mer and we were dismissed to our respective homes by the benediction. The culmination of a wonderful Sunday morning and Thanksgiving luncheon included a drive home without rain. Could we have been more blessed?

Respectfully
Rosemary Saatjian

Men's Fellowship

Saturday November 19th was the date of the first Immanuel Men's Breakfast held in the Immanuel Church Hall. The event was well attended and was led by our lead breakfast chef Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian. After Badveli opened our fellowship with a prayer, the delicious food was served; the main dish was full (fava beans in a delicious soup) with all of the side trimmings of garlic, cumin, peppers, etc.... There was a long period of socializing, laughing, and everyone shared a good time with one another.

The main event of a fellowship was a film called "Validation" starring TJ Thyne (for those of you who watch the TV show "Bones", you would know him as Dr. Jack Hodgins) in which an individual (Thyne)

takes parking validation to a whole new level by validating not simply their parking, but validating their life, and validating their positive virtues. In performing these validating acts, he was able to perform tasks no one in the world could do, including bringing peace to the Middle East, getting disagreeable people to agree, etc. There was a moment during the film in which the 'Validator' lost the ability to validate others as a result of meeting a woman who was completely inconsolable, and in the journey he made to rediscover the ability to validate others, he helped the woman out of her inconsolable nature by validating others in a different way, and through this new effort he was able to bring a smile even to her face.

After the video, there was a lot of lively discussion led by Badveli as to how God is able to so effectively validate each of us in our lives. While the time we spent together was short chronologically, we were able to relax, enjoy each other's company, and promise we would do this event again very soon. Thank you so much to Badveli for putting all of this together for us.

By Jim Surmeian

"For I know the plans I have for you, "declares de Lord", plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

THE DREAM

'Joshua, I had a dream about the Teacher last night. It was not pleasant; I am so afraid for his life.'

"Samuel...be calm...it was only a bad dream, my friend. Just look at the crowds on the road hoping to see him And listen how they chant and cheer. No...there is nothing to fear."

'But Joshua...in my dream, there was a Roman cohort and a Roman cross and I heard jeers And saw so many tears.'

"I told you it was only a bad dream...oh look here he comes. It is such a glorious day. The children are placing palm leaves on his way. I do hope the clouds go away."

'Joshua...dreams do sometimes come true.'

"But not this time, I promise you. He's the Messiah, The Chosen One..."

His Father would send legions of angels... He would not allow anyone to harm his Son. Now come let us hurry to greet him At the Shepherds' Gate before it is too late."

'Yes Joshua no more debate...you are right...let us go quickly To see the Teacher Before it is too late.'

By Peter Vetrano

IACC Regional Bible Study Groups...



Attendees of the Regional Bible Study

The group is meeting every second and third Thursdays of the month in two geographical regions. The first group members are coming from Montebello, Whittier and Fullerton areas and the second group's members are coming from Covina, Arcadia, Pasadena and Glendale.

Badveli Ekmekjian is leading the studies which has the general theme "Fellowship in Christ" based on the book of First Letter of John.

If you would like to attend a meeting around your area, please call the church office for more information at (562) 862-7012, or e-mail us at office@iacc.org.

Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian

Christmas Outreach Ministry

"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."
Matthew 10:42

Our church family provided several needy families with the following:

- A. A new Christmas tree with full ornaments and gifts to a widow and her two sons.
- B. Food (various kinds) to a needy family whose father is jobless and the mother works three hours per day. They received this loving contribution on the father's birthday.
- C. Food for a family whose father is a victim of cancer.
- D. Provided canned food for a needy family of six.
- E. Food donated to the Downey Food Bank for the needy in this area.

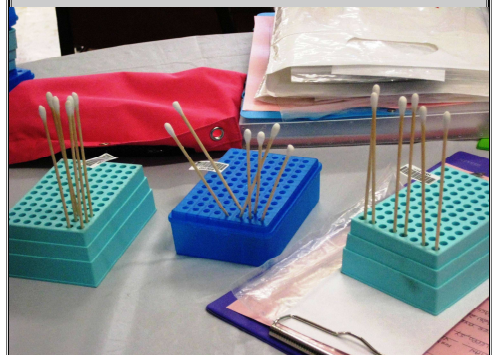
Truly, Christmas is sharing. God loved us so much that He gave His only Son to us. We were able to share because God's love is in us and compels us to give and share our blessings. May God bless all the donors that so generously donated for His Glory.

Be the Armenian Match !

On Sunday October 30th, IACC hosted Mrs. Caroline Rosdoomian of Armenian Bone Marrow Registry (ABMR) to give an orientation about the services of the program.

The Registry whose main headquarters are located in Yerevan, Armenia has offices all around the world to register potential donors for any future bone marrow transplants that might be needed for any Armenian (who is most likely to find a match from a person who carries genes peculiar to the same ethnic makeup).

After the presentation 7 members signed into the registry and gave cheek cell samples as a way to provide preliminary data about their DNA.



Kit to obtain cell samples

I pray that the Lord might crown this year with His goodness and in the coming one give you a hallowed dare-devil spirit in lifting the biting sword of Truth, consuming you with a passion that is called by the cultured citizen of Christendom 'fanaticism', but known to God as that saintly madness that led His Son through bloody sweat and hot tears to agony on a rude Cross---and Glory!

Jim Elliot
[Brief Biography](#)

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

Edith Lovejoy Pierce



*"You Will Fill
Me With
JOY
In Your Presence"
Psalm 16:11*

**Women's Spiritual Fellowship
IACC, Downey**

Women's Spiritual Fellowship

Another blissful gathering of twenty-five women took place on December 10th in the social hall at 10:00 am. First, we all shared a nutritious breakfast hosted by our sister in Christ Anna Sykes, followed by Christmas caroling and then the Bible study of the day: "Expecting to See Jesus."



Mrs. Tamar Sevadjian

Our Guest speaker, Tamar Sevadjian, led us into discussion and contemplation.

We were challenged to think about Jesus' second coming and its impact for our lives today. While we prepare ourselves and minister to others, she said we need to walk faithfully with God, listen and obey his instructions, and lead others to Him.

Tamar also humbly shared her personal experiences and how the Lord worked and accomplished His plan in her life.

At the end, we were ready to go into our daily lives and be a channel of blessing!

Lena Ekmekjian

The New Year is a time to learn to rely more heavily on the grace of God.

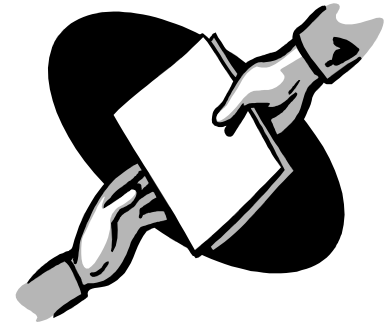
Now I've met a few self-made men and women and so have you, but so often these people seem proud, self-centered and driven.

There is another way: beginning to trust in God's help. One secret from the Apostle Paul: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength," he said. (Phil 4:13, NIV) And God's strength saw him through pain, joy, and accomplishment.

Anonymous

Whatsoever I thankfully receive, as a token of God's love to me, I part with contentedly as a token of my love to Him.

Theophilus Gale



Donations

To strengthen the ministry of our church and to help nurture faith, stewardship and a deep sense of mission, we welcome the following gifts with thanks:

**In Loving Memory of Parents
Haig and Faye Stepanian**
Mrs. Lorraine Agajanian

**In Loving Memory of
Margaret Arzoian to the
Missions Endowment Fund**
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Makhianian

**In Loving Memory of Beloved
Parents Apkar & Eprakce
Avakian and Max &
Brenda Elmendorf**
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Elmendorf

**In Loving Memory of Mother
Araxi Baghdikian
Donation for the New
Projector Screen**
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Hekimian

**In Loving Memory of Aunt
Marian Bogosian**
Mrs. Mary Arzoian

**In Loving Memory of
Marian Bogosian**
Allen and Toni & Susie Antoyan
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Bagramian
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Sherman

**In Loving Memory of
Virginia Matossian**

Mrs. Mary Arzoian

**In Loving Memory of
Andrew W. Dodd and
Hagop Terjimanian**

Mrs. Dicky Dodd

**In Loving Memory of
Janet (Jan) Mooshagian**

Mrs. Flora Sakalian
Mrs. Lucy Schlauch

**In Loving Memory of
Beloved father Semon
Kasparoff, Uncle Vresh
Kasparoff and
Aunt Helen Tindel**

Ms. Patricia Kasparoff

**In Loving Memory of
Parents Helen & Jimmie
Tindel, How very much we
miss you; Grandparents
John & Zabel Kazarian,
Aunt and Uncle Peggy &
Aslan Turoonian, Uncles
George, Harry & Bobby
Kazarian, Semon & Vresh
Kasparoff and in Joyful
Celebration of Aunt Rose
Kasparoff's 90th Birthday**

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Memory of Johnnie
(John) Gasparian**

Mr. & Mrs. Melik Kumjian

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**Christmas Donation in
Loving Memory of Beloved
Father Semon Kasparoff,
Uncle Vresh Kasparoff and
Aunt Helen Tindel**

Ms. Patricia M. Kasparoff

Thanksgiving Donations

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Mr. & Mrs. Sam Sherman
Mrs. Anna Sykes Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Vetrano

**To Church Ministry and to
Honor and Welcome**

Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Andonian
Mrs. Astrid Ashkarian
Mr. & Mrs. Baghdo Khojikian
Ms. Sona Minakian

To Church Ministry

Mrs. Maggie Anderson
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Mr. & Mrs. Baghdo Khojikian
Mrs. Margaret Sherman
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Sherman
Mrs. Margaret Whalen

For Church Maintenance

Mr. & Mrs. Levon Birebirian
Mr. & Mrs. Art Carpenter

The Christian faith is meant to be lived moment by moment. It isn't some broad, general outline--it's a long walk with a real Person.

Details count: passing thoughts, small sacrifices, a few encouraging words, little acts of kindness, brief victories over nagging sins.

Joni Eareckson Tada
[Joni and Friends](#)

Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church
 9516 Downey Avenue
 Downey, California 90240

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New address notification requested

Dated Material

JANUARY 22, 2012
 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SAVE THE DATE!!
 FEBRUARY 11, 2012, IACC
 VALENTINES COUPLE'S PARTY



Calendar of Events

- Jan. 1 - First Sunday after Christmas.
- Jan. 3, 7:30 pm - Church Council
- Jan. 6 - Armenian Christmas Epiphany
- Jan. 7, 7:00 pm - Joint Armenian Christmas at COA Church
- Jan. 8 - Epiphany and Armenian Christmas. Communion Service
- Jan. 14, 10:00 am - Women's Spiritual Fellowship
- Jan.22 - Annual Congregational Meeting
- Feb. 7 - 7:30 PM - Church Council
- Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day Presidents' Day
- April 1 - Palm Sunday



New Address

Bob and Lil Babajian
 1676 Tyler Dr.
 Fullerton, CA 92835-2145

Andreea Araxi Sarchisian
 (Include in her address - Apt. # 5)

Ms. Rose Avakian
 10035 Haledon Ave. Unit 3
 Downey, CA 90240-3569

The Armenian-American Citizens' Leagues

The Armenian-American Citizens' League scholarship application for the 2012-2013 college school year is now available to download at aaclca.org.

The deadline for submitting the application and related documents is March 1st, 2012.

IMMANUEL

The bi-monthly publication of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church.

The 2011 editorial staff includes: Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, Rosemary Saatjian and Rosa Diaz.

For additional information or article submissions, please write to Immanuel Church at 9516 Downey Avenue, Downey California 90240 or Phone: (562)862-7012 or Fax: (562)862-4748 or E-mail: office@immanuelacc.org

“What if tomorrow, you wake up with only what you thanked God today?”

Anonymous