

AVEDIS

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St. Hagop Armenian Church

The Good News | October/November/December 2013

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& Courtney!

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Season of The Cross—Ս. Խաչի Տօներ





Discover the Cross—Learn to Fly

Fall is the season of the cross in the Armenian Church, in which we have 5 holidays dedicated to finding the cross in one form or another. Why five times? Why every year? Isn't once enough? If the cross were just a thing—yes. This month's feast of the discovery of the cross (Oct. 27th) originated with Constantine's mother Helena tearing up all of Jerusalem to look for Christ's cross. Her discovery of the cross which Christ was crucified on reminds us that Jesus was a real man from a specific time, who said radical things and was crucified for them.

The life of Jesus and his words are historical facts, but they aren't just that. Whether or not Helena found a piece of the actual cross used to crucify Jesus, we would still need to celebrate the discovery of the cross....because the cross is not just a thing, but a way of life. The discovery of the cross is a personal and always present choice for every Christian based on our Lord's words "If any will

come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23

Discovering the cross is necessary 5 times a year every year, because the cross is a way of life which has God as its first priority. And we humans are so tragically prone to forgetting to put first things first.

Victor Borge told a story about a couple going on vacation, standing in line waiting to check their bags at the airline counter. The husband said to the wife, "I wish we had brought the piano." The wife said, "Why? We've got sixteen bags already!" The husband said, "Yes, I know-- but the tickets are on the piano!"

It is truly amazing what we will remember to drag with us through the journey of our lives, weighing ourselves down with 16 suitcases full of unnecessary stuff. We remember all the "stuff" which is supposedly ours, but forget where we came from and where we're going. We have it precisely backwards. We must forget (deny) ourselves and all we believe is ours, our Lord says, in order to remember where we are going.

Forget all your stuff, you can't take it with you. As our chairman often says, "I don't know about you, but I have never seen a hearse with a luggage rack!" Forget the gossip that you hear before you can repeat it. Forget each critical comment, each jealous sneer, whenever you may meet it. Even forget each praise you've won, each kindness you've done as soon as you have done it. As our Lord advises when doing good deeds, "do not even let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." (Mat. 6:13) Forget it- you were only doing your duty.

Forget all of these things, they seem important in the moment, but are only so much baggage that will drag us down. Remember the one thing necessary—rediscover the cross—the tickets to fly, the daily acts of humility, goodness and sacrifice which result from following Our Lord.

Let us remember to take up our cross daily, to bear the burden of following Him, which in the end will be no burden at all. For as Samuel Rutherford famously said, "Christ's cross is such a burden as sails are to a ship or wings to a bird," so let's take up our cross today, our tickets to fly and live a life that, through age and youth, will be found blessed, now and always and unto the ages of ages amen.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT by Stepan Serpekian

Fr. Hovnan Demerjian: Our beloved Fr. is enjoying the true meaning of being a father by watching Narek's daily growth. Fr. Hovnan enjoyed his session once again at St Nersess Seminary. As you all know he is very busy with his pastoral responsibilities as our community's growth continues. We extend our gratitude to him and Yn Anna.



Parish Council: We have been working very hard towards creating an event per month so that our Parishioners can have an opportunity to meet each other and celebrate. The Father's Day and the ACYOA chapter workshop sponsored by Mallory Maslar and the Maslar family was very well attended. It was nice to see all these young future leaders of our church in action. Blessing of the grapes in August was well attended considering the normal decline in the summer days of our community. Gratitude goes to Dr George and the youth of our community who were willing and upfront to assist. Our property insurance has been updated making sure that our assets are protected properly. We are looking forward to welcoming our snowbirds as we say farewell to our summer months. Our finances are in line thanks to your generous donations and the diligent work of our treasurer. Let's build the bridge that will connect our youth to our elderly. Our Armenian professionals of 20 - 50 years of age are needed to help build that bridge. Your talent and support will lead St Hagop to the future. "Wherever is the Armenian nation, there is the church. Wherever the church is, there is a school. Wherever there is the school, there is the language. Wherever there is the language, there is literature and the Armenian community of St. Hagop" –Der Vahan Vartabed Pasdanyants.

Sunday School: Our new sessions just started and we are looking forward to utilizing the electronic media and educate our future leaders of St Hagop. Lead by example, so if you see a youngster in church, teach them the ethics of respecting our holy home and guide them in the proper ethics.

Fund Raising Events: The Sixth Anniversary Dinner Dance on October 19, 2013 will be a fun-filled family gathering. Food is provided by the Hilton at the Carillon Park, music by Jaq Hagopian, and we have our I-Pad and 50/50 raffle tickets available. Support our booklet contributors and join them with your own ad. Come and join all your friends at this memorable occasion.

Choir: As we approach the Fall our membership will grow. Thank you for your kind words and support. Join us, even if you are in doubt that you can contribute to the remaining team. The beautiful Hymns will inspire your life.

The Future: Thanks to all of you who came forward with their pledges and contributions. Chuck Sarkisian is leading the church hall fund raising campaign and calling on all of us to participate. By now you should have received our campaign letters with the pledge cards in them. Take a moment and be part of this juncture of St Hagop's growth. If you know anyone who hasn't done their share freely, remind them of the great sacrifices of our ancestors just to keep our heritage alive to this day.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who are keeping the oil burning in the sanctuary so that the light of St Hagop remains lit for all who need it. It is the spiritual hospital that is healing our broken souls. May the true joy of giving plant your seed in this life.

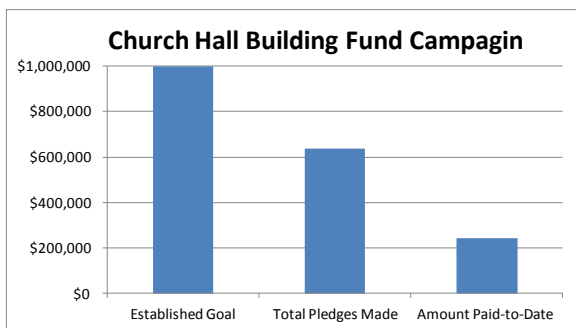
CHURCH HALL BUILDING REPORT by Chuck Sarkisian

With Faith We Shall Build | Հաւատքով Պիտի Կառուցենք

The Church Hall fund raising got reenergized after the hot summer months with our mailing campaign to our parishioners. Every St. Hagop Armenian Church household should have received a mailing with a letter and an insert explaining our effort along with a donation pledge card. A complete copy of the mailing is shown on the following pages.

Where are we today?

At the time of our mailing campaign we were stuck at a total combined amount of \$577,000 in pledges and funds raised from various activities. I am delighted to report that within the first two weeks of our campaign, the total amount increased to over \$636,000 due to pledges of 14 new donors. In addition, the total amount deposited in the Church Hall Building Fund restricted account is slightly over \$240,000 as payments against the pledges are received.





How can you help?

Our goal is to reach our \$1million through participation of all of our parishioners and to break ground on Armenian Christmas Day, January 6, 2015. We are at 64% of our goal but need your help to close the remaining gap of \$364,000. Here is how you can help:

1. If you have not done so, please return your pledge card. Every donation, regardless of the amount, brings us closer together financially and spiritually
2. Be engaged, get informed, learn about matching contributions and encourage others to participate. You can do so by volunteering to make follow-up calls to our mailing campaign. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering.
3. Give thanks to God for the blessings of our generous donors to date and continue your prayers for the success of our mission

Next Steps

Our next step is to follow-up on our mailing campaign by contacting households who have not returned their pledge cards to encourage them to do so and answer any questions they may have. Our stated goal is to expand our current 65 donors to 100% participation. With God's help all things are possible.

		St. Hagop Church Hall - Building Fund Campaign			
<i>With Faith We Shall Build Հաւատքով Պիտի Կառուցենք</i>					
7020 90th Ave. N. • Pinellas Park, FL 33782 • Ph. 727-545-0380 www.sthagoparmenianchurch.org					
I pledge \$ _____ towards the building of St. Hagop Armenian Church Hall					
My pledge will be paid:					
___ In full ___ Installments (please check one): <input type="checkbox"/> monthly <input type="checkbox"/> quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> semi-annually <input type="checkbox"/> annually					
My pledge will be completely paid by December 31, 2014					
Make checks payable to St. Hagop Armenian Church • Check memo: Church Hall Building Fund Account All donations are tax deductible					
Name: _____		Address: _____			
Phone: _____		Email: _____			
Signature: _____		Date: _____			

WITH FAITH WE SHALL BUILD | ՀԱՒԱՏՔՈՎ ՊԻՏԻ ԿԱՌՈՒՑԵՆՔ

August 30, 2013

Dear Parishioner,

I am pleased to announce that the Parish Council of St. Hagop Armenian Church has kicked-off the church hall building fund campaign in February and, as of today, we have raised 58% of our targeted \$1 million goal! Faith inspired 51 donors/families (only 9% of our parishioner base) to pledge \$537,000 with an additional \$40,000 raised from various activities. Now we are reaching out to *you* to help us close the gap and reach our goal. With Faith We Shall Build | Հաւատքով Պիտի Կառուցենք!

While St. Hagop desperately needs a hall, we committed to defer construction until all monies have been raised, so full participation from each of our 570 community households is vital to our success! Your pledge of support will help provide a place:

1. To educate our children, youth and adults to be faithful, knowledgeable and active Armenian Christians through Sunday school classes, ACYOA retreats, Bible studies, etc.
2. To assemble Armenians throughout the country for fellowship, service and outreach
3. To preserve our Armenian heritage and culture through lectures/seminars and celebratory events such as weddings, baptisms, feast days, dances, etc., and
4. To live the Gospel daily by serving our church and surrounding community

Our small Narthex and sanctuary cannot adequately accommodate us; further space constraints restrict us from pursuing ministries we can and must pursue. We envision a church hall with a functional multi-purpose space and kitchen, classrooms, a conference room, and administrative offices (please refer to the attached floor plan.)

Only \$423,000 separates us from our goal and we need your participation - regardless of the amount you can contribute. Why? The church hall will belong to all of us. Your formal commitment, which we encourage to be proportional to your means, is more than a monetary contribution: It signifies your faithful commitment to St. Hagop and belief that our Armenian heritage must be perpetual. "***Give and it will be given to you...For in the same measure you use it will be measured back to you***" - Luke 6:38. If you have not already made your pledge, please use the enclosed pledge form or go online to our website, stgoparmenianchurch.org, and select Church Hall under "Make a Donation" and follow instructions. All pledges may be fulfilled in installments.

A St. Hagop parishioner will be contacting you soon to answer any questions you may have. Please join us and make our dream a reality! Thank you.

Prayerfully,



Charles D. Sarkisian
St. Hagop Armenian Church
Church Hall Building Fund Chair

St. Hagop Church Hall Building Fund Campaign

7020 90th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, FL 33782

With Faith We Shall Build | Հաւատքով Պիտի Կառուցենք



Image To Left:

Church Hall Rendering

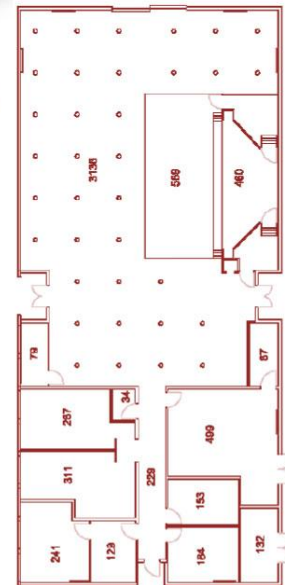
Image Below:

Church Hall Internal Design (ft²)

Donation to Date Statistics

We have already received the pledges below allocated for construction. More than half of these pledges have been paid and held in a special account used for construction only. It is a long journey to reach our goal but we believe that, with God, all things are possible.

Church Hall Pledges Made to Date		
Pledge Amounts	# of Donors	Total Pledged
\$100-\$199	8	\$825
\$200-\$299	5	\$1,175
\$500-\$999	18	\$9,000
\$1,000-\$1,999	8	\$8,800
\$3,000-\$4,999	3	\$11,150
\$5,000-\$9,999	3	\$17,000
\$10,000-\$49,999	2	\$38,250
\$50,000-\$99,999	1	\$50,000
\$100,000-\$199,999	2	\$200,750
\$200,000	1	\$200,000
Total Donors: 51		Grand Total: \$536,950



Parish Hall Naming Rights

What better way to honor loved ones or leave your permanent legacy visible for future generations, than by securing a naming opportunity on our new Parish Hall. Listed below is the opportunity to name the entire Parish Hall building or specific internal sections of it.

Naming Opportunities		
Section	Amount	Description
Main Building	\$200,000	The right to name the hall is already secured by the generous pledge of the Shahnasarian family.
Seating Area (Dining and Dance)	\$150,000	The right to name the dining room
Kitchen (499 Sq. Ft + Equipment)	\$125,000	The right to name the kitchen
Stage (460 Sq. Ft)	\$100,000	The right to name the stage
Pastor's Office (241 Sq. Ft)	\$50,000	The right to name the Pastor's office
Conference Room (184 Sq. Ft)	\$25,000	The right to name the conference room
Class Room (153 Sq. Ft)	\$25,000	The right to name the class room
Secretary's Office (129 Sq. Ft)	\$15,000	The right to name Secretary's office
Walkway from church to hall	\$10,000	The right to name connecting walkway
Total potential naming collection: \$700,000		

*naming right request must be submitted in writing with donation and confirmed by parish council

THE WOMEN'S GUILD
&
THE ACYOA

OF ST. HAGOP ARMENIAN CHURCH
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

SILVER HIGH TEA

&

"DOWNTON ABBEY"
INSPIRED VINTAGE FASHIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2014
Two o'clock pm.

PASADENA YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB
6000 GULFPORT BOULEVARD, GULFPORT, FLORIDA

DONATION \$40.00

TO BENEFIT THE ST. HAGOP CULTURAL CENTER

SEATING LIMITED

R.S.V.P. EARLY
Tobe at 727-954-8025



Take advantage of this year's innovative church school program and give your kids the opportunity to make lifetime friends & grow as Armenian Christians!



Ms. Mallory Maslar is leading the **5-12 year olds** with a very practical and interactive new curriculum. Mallory has shared curriculum and scheduling with all parents and will be in touch regularly throughout the year. So far 16 children have registered! Please contact Mallory with questions or to register your children. It's never too late to join!

The program for the **13-17 year olds** this year has two components. The first is that **Ms. Alex Oganosova & Yn. Anna** will direct the **ACYOA youth group**, where our teens

will gather in a more informal setting for fellowship, service projects, retreats & special events. All events are chosen by youth themselves with the guidance of advisors.



The second exciting component for the 13-17 year old group is special training on **Worship in the Armenian Church**. Leading this group is professional choir director and long-time choir director of St. Hagop, **Mrs. Louise Yardoumian**. Louise will meet with youth for choir instruction on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of every month. All youth will learn to worship, sing, and use basic church Armenian-don't miss this amazing opportunity!



In addition there will be an innovative "flipped classroom" approach, where youth will stay connected via social media and practice what they learn at their own pace on our online lab, while applying it in church on Sundays!

And don't forget that every 1st Sunday of the month is children's Sunday, where **Fr. Hovnan** gives a special sermon directed to our youth and establishes a direct connection with our children that carries on for a lifetime!



**If you can't bring the kids every week, commit to bring them twice a month.
Let's make it a top priority to raise our children in the life of the church!**

CELEBRATING THE 6TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSECRATION BY
HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II

ST. HAGOP ARMENIAN CHURCH PRESENTS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2013

Jaq JQ Hagopian

PERFORMING LIVE AT THE HILTON ST PETERSBURG CARILLON PARK



DINNER AND DANCE

DINNER 7:00PM – 8:30PM
DANCE 8:30PM – 12:00AM

TICKETS

ADULTS
\$65.00

CHILDREN (6-12)
\$20.00
CHILDREN UNDER 6 FREE

HILTON ST. PETERSBURG CARILLON PARK
950 LAKE CARILLON DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716 727-540-0050
WWW.HiltonHotelStPete.com

Sleeping Rooms are available for a discounted rate of \$119.00 Plus 12% taxes and fees

Raffle Tickets for I-pad and 50/50 \$20.00 each or 5/\$100.00

Sponsorship opportunities

Booklet Contributions Full Page \$200.00, Half Page \$100.00, Business Card \$50.00

FOR INFORMATION AND TICKETS, RAFFLES, BOOKLET SALES CALL
STEPAN H SERPEKIAN (813)817-3757

TICKET SALES DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 29, 2013
Due To Hotel Setting



AN EVENING WITH DR. RICHARD HOVANISSIAN

“The Destruction of Smyrna (Izmir) by the Turks in 1922”

When: Saturday, December 7th at 7 PM

Where: St. Hagop Armenian Church

We are incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to host Dr. Richard Hovannisian for a very special evening as he returns to share Armenian history with our community. Dr. Hovannisian is the Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Armenian Studies at UCLA and has dedicated his entire life to educating several generations of Armenians about their history.

His presentation in December will focus upon the destruction of the city of Smyrna (now known as Izmir), Turkey at the hands of the Ottoman Turks in 1922. The victims of this crime included both Greeks and Armenians.

Come and share a special evening with one of the greatest Armenian history scholars of our time.

We hope to see you there!

ST. HAGOP ARMENIAN CHURCH

WINTER BAZAAR

Armenian Food & Music
Shopping, Handcrafts, Local Vendors
Bounce House, Kids Games



Saturday & Sunday
Feb. 15-16

7020 90th Ave. N.
Pinellas Park, FL 33782



JOIN ST. HAGOP IN HELPING SYRIAN ARMENIANS

Following last winter's successful campaign, the St. Hagop Parish Council is again reaching out to help Syrian Armenians struggling daily for their safety, food and essential supplies. All monies raised will go directly from SHAC to selected needy families. If you know of any Syrian Armenian families in need, please contact Chuck Sarkisian. Your tax deductible contributions to this effort are most appreciated. Please mark any donation clearly as for "Syrian Armenian Relief." We pray for peace and safety for all.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

REMINDER-STAY CURRENT ON YOUR DUES

For your convenience, we have provided a list of all those whose dues are paid for 2013, current as of September 22, 2013. If your name is not on this list, please send in a check to the church office with “membership dues” in the memo at your earliest convenience.

Membership dues for the year 2013 are \$125 for general membership and \$80 for full-time students.

St. Hagop Armenian Church 2013 Dues Paid Members as of *September 22, 2013*:

George	Agnacian	David	Mooradian
Kevork	Arakelian	Nancy	Mooradian
Aram	Avakian	Krikor Greg	Mouradian
Avak	Avakian	Robert	Papazian
Aram	Avakian (Jr.)	Bernard	Przegendza
Jean-Jacques	Demerjian	Ayda	Sarafian
Fred	Dikranian	Sirun	Sarafian
Karissa	Dikranian	Dr. Vahak	Sarkis
Leilani	Doty	Leon	Sarkisian
Darwin	Jamgochian	Sharon	Sarkisian
Richard	Kachadurian	Chuck	Sarkisian
Christina	Kachadurian	Kathy	Sarkisian
David	Kazarian	Vicken	Serpekian
Nancy	Kazarian	Courtney	Serpekian
Tigran	Kesayan	Roubina	Shaldjian
Harry	Keshishian	Norair	Shaldjian
Lori	Keshishian	Maro	Shaldjian
Naomi	Manoogian	Freij	Tashian
Hagop	Mashikian	Robina	Tashian
Tobe	Mashikian	Allan	Tossoonian
Vahe	Mekhitarian	Vahe	Tuysuzian
Ida	Merakyan	Nouchik	Tuysuzian
John	Messerlian	Arda	Unjian

Thank you for becoming a voting member of the St. Hagop Community!

Florida Armenians Professional Network



TAMPA, FL

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday November 16

Congratulations Vicken & Courtney On The Blessing Of Your Engagement!



Office Hours: 9:30am-5:30pm

Worship Hours: Sunday 10:30am

Contact Information

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Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian, Stepan Serpekian, Chuck Sarkisian a
Chris Sassouni and Teresa Haidarian, (photos)

Avedis Newsletter is a publication of St. Hagop Church in Pinellas
Park, Florida.

Submissions are welcomed and should be sent to the church office.
All text should be electronic format, preferably Word. Editorial board
reserves the right to modify or reject any submissions. All material
must be received no later than the published deadlines below:

Issue	Submission
January/February/March 2014	December 10th
April/May/June 2014	May 10th

With our new digital format, it still costs over \$500 to print and send
each issue of Avedis. We would like to communicate as often as
possible with our parishioners. Will you help defray some of the
costs? Please send your check memo: Avedis Newsletter 1/2 issue
(\$250); 1/4 issue (\$125) or other (\$) amount.

The *Avedis* is grateful to accept business ads which help us pay for
our newsletter and help you reach your customers. Please notify Carla
Megerian at cmegerian@gmail.com if you are interested. Make checks
payable to St. Hagop Armenian Church.

Rates are per issue:

\$50 for a business card,
\$150 for a half page and
\$300 for a full page.

Parish Council

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fr.hovnan@gmail.com

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StHagopSundaySchool@gmail.com

Women's Guild

Rudi Kimatian and Karen Minassian
karen@homeserviceinteriors.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****Divine Liturgy & fellowship take place every Sunday from 10:30-12:30 unless otherwise noted below****

Sun Oct. 6	Divine Liturgy- Children's Sunday	10:30 AM
Sun Oct. 13	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
Tue Oct. 15	Parish Council Meeting	6 PM
Sat Oct. 19	6 th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Hagop Dinner & Dance w/JAQ Hagopian At the Carillon Park Hilton, St. Pete	7PM-12 Midnight
Sun Oct. 20	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
Sun Oct. 27	Divine Liturgy—Discovery of the Cross	10:30 AM
Sun Nov. 3	Divine Liturgy-Children's Sunday	10:30 AM
Sun Nov. 10	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
Tue Nov. 12	Parish Council Meeting	6 PM
Sat Nov. 16	FL Armenians Young Professionals Meeting	TBA
Sun Nov. 17	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
Sun Nov. 24	Divine Liturgy-First Sunday of Advent	10:30 AM
Sun Dec. 1	Divine Liturgy- Children's Sunday	10:30 AM
Fri Dec. 6	Dr. Richard Hovannisian Talk—USF	2 PM
Sat. Dec. 7	Dr. Richard Hovannisian Talk—St. Hagop	7-9 PM
Sun Dec. 8	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
Tue Dec. 10	Parish Council Meeting	6 PM
Sun Dec. 15	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
Sun Dec. 22	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
Sat Dec. 28	Christmas Concert	TBA
Sun Dec. 29	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
Tue Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Dance/Party-Location TBA	TBA
Sat Jan. 18	High Tea & Fashion Show Pasadena Yacht & Country Club	2 PM

St. Hagop Armenian Church
Parish of the Gulf Coast of Florida

7020 90th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Florida 33782

727-545-0380 Fax 727-549-0500

The Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian, Pastor

www.sainthagoparmenianchurch.org

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