

# ST. HAGOP ARMENIAN CHURCH MINISTRIES

St. Hagop parishioners and friends of the church commit in many ways to serve our Lord. Though seasons in life can affect our commitment to church service, Armenian Christians remain mindful of their responsibility to offer-proportionate to their means-their time, treasure, and talents to God. As you contemplate your commitment to St. Hagop, we encourage you to reflect and pray about your service to our church and how you may lend your time in support of its ministries. A brief description of St. Hagop's 10 primary ministries follows below in alphabetical order. Of course, service is not limited to these ministries. We invite you to present to members of St. Hagop's parish council any personal church service objectives you may hold.

## EVENTS COMMITTEE

In concert with its mission to serve as the bedrock of Armenian Christian religion and culture in southwest Florida, St. Hagop sponsors a range of events. These events have included lectures by scholars of Armenian religion and history, music performances, dinner dances, and viewings of Armenian culture documentaries. Less esoteric events have included talent shows, Armenian specialty cooking contests, and a number of performances by our youth. The events committee reports to the Parish Council, plans an events schedule, and tends to details inclusive of budgeting, catering, and event hosting. **Contact: Jean Shahnasarian**

## GREETERS MINISTRY

Both members of the parish council and congregation serve as greeters prior to, during, and after Sunday mass. Duties include readying the church for worship services, welcoming and orienting church attendees, counting attendees, and participating in the liturgy by receiving and spreading the kiss of peace, assisting parishioners who partake in Holy Communion, and distributing the collection plate. Parish council members count, document, and prepare for deposit collection receipts and other contributions. **Contact: Rita Keshishian**

## MAINTENANCE/FACILITIES ENHANCEMENT

Our church and church hall – along with outdoor pavilion, walkways and genocide monument, parking areas, and grounds – require year-round maintenance and care. The maintenance/facilities enhancement committee ensures our property is maintained well, and attractive to parishioners, neighbors, and members of our community who may choose to lease our facilities. **Contact: John Arsenault**

## MISSION ARMENIA

St. Hagop has always had a mission to assist in the building up of our Armenian homeland and deepening our Christian fellowship with our ethnic kin. Over the years, we have carried out this mission by supporting several established programs, along with more direct and personal support through pilgrimages to Armenia and resulting partnerships. The goal of the Mission Armenia committee is to advise St. Hagop in a transition from anonymous aid to Armenia through well-established non-profits, to smaller projects with minimal overhead, direct beneficiary contact and potential for longer-term partnerships. **Contact: Yn. Anna Demerjian**

## OUTREACH MINISTRY

St. Hagop has served a variety of humanitarian causes – non-secular and secular -outside its parish. These efforts have included providing funds for Syrian Christian relief, Armenian orphans, and the Fund for Armenian Relief. The parish has also been active in hands-on efforts inclusive of preparing and serving food to indigent people in Pinellas County, and participating in roadside cleanup projects. Elderly, disabled, and otherwise disenfranchised people in need are of special interest to this ministry. **Contact: Grace Austin**

## PARISH COUNCIL

The parish council is composed of members elected by St. Hagop's parishioners; they serve two-year terms and participate in the church's governance. Parish council members attend monthly meetings and – both during and between meetings – tend to governance issues confronting the church. Also, parish council members serve as greeters during church services, and manage plate collections. **Contact: Rita Keshishian**

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Bible teaches us that all we are given is from God, and we are temporary stewards of His gifts. The stewardship committee plans and administers stewardship activities intended to inspire parishioners to commit their monetary, time, and talent resources to our ministries, proportionate to their means. A related group, the auditing committee, is elected by the church to ensure transparency and best practices in financial accounting. **Contact: Michael Shahnasarian**

## WOMEN'S GUILD

St. Hagop's Women's Guild is the backbone of our church's hospitality initiatives. Members prepare and serve meals – ranging from light snacks after Sunday worship, to full, celebratory meals for formal events and Armenian specialty dishes during bake sales and festivals - and tend to parishioners' special needs, such as during times of infirmity, grieving, or other taxing life events. Additionally, the Women's Guild events help to raise funds necessary to maintain and procure resources necessary to ensure St. Hagop's facilities remain in good order. **Contact: Karen Minassian**

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

There are many opportunities for lay and ordained men and women alike to be active participants in the worship life of St. Hagop Armenian Church. Our altar servers and choir members lead the church in worship on Sundays and in sacraments throughout the year. Our lectors read God's word to the people on Sundays. Our altar guild prepares the altar for services and decorates the church with appropriate flower arrangements to glorify God. All are part of our worship ministry, and all are welcome to participate as fits their interest and ability. **Contact: Louise Yardumian**

## YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Hagop attempts to engage all age groups in the life of the church. From baptism to four years old, the church keeps in touch with young families. Children from 5-12 years old are brought into our Sunday school program, which aims to familiarize children with our Armenian Christian faith. Teenagers are invited to local and national youth group activities (ACYOA Jrs) and 18 to 35 year olds are served by their own group (ACYOA Srs). Group activities focus on worship, education, witness, service and fellowship in Christ. They include Diocesan camps, St. Nersess Conferences, pilgrimages to Armenia & Jerusalem and periodic retreats. **Contact: Fr. Hovnan Demerjian**

# SPECIFIC WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

## EVENTS COMMITTEE

- Chair committee
- Serve on committee
- Chair an event (e.g., Annual Bazaar, Advent by Candlelight, Genocide Memorial, etc.)
- Actively serve on events the committee sponsors

## GREETER MINISTRY

- Serve as a weekly greeter
- Assist with pre/post-Badarak church preparation/clean-up

## MAINTENANCE/FACILITIES ENHANCEMENT

- Chair committee
- Participate in committee preventive maintenance planning and active maintenance projects (including assessing needs, obtaining estimates for work, and negotiating and overseeing maintenance projects)
- Participate in hands-on church property maintenance work

## MISSION ARMENIA

- Serve on committee
- Offer professional skills to service of Armenia through St. Hagop's 'Mission to Armenia'
- Visit Armenia with an eye toward fostering long-term partnerships with St. Hagop

## OUTREACH MINISTRY

- Chair committee
- Serve on committee
- Participate in visits to homebound parishioners
- Participate in communications with homebound parishioners (e.g., calls, cards, preparing gifts)

## PARISH COUNCIL

- Serve as an officer
- Serve on the council
- Assist in parish council administrative activities

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

- Chair committee
- Serve as a committee member
- Assist in committee logistics (e.g., communications and tracking of relevant information)

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

- Participate in the choir
- Serve on the altar (i.e., deacon, sub-deacon, acolyte)
- Serve as a lector (reader) during Badarak or other service
- Assist with preparing the altar and flowers for weekly and special services
- Assist with periodic maintenance of church relics & objects, including those on the altar, robes, etc.
- Donate flowers for a Badarak mass or other church event

## WOMEN'S GUILD

- Chair Women's Guild
- Serve on Women's Guild
- Assist in fellowship food preparation, food service, clean-up, etc.
- Sponsor a fellowship function

## YOUTH MINISTRY

- Chair committee
- Serve on Sunday School committee (includes designing curricula and planning events)
- Teach Sunday School (one or more classes)
- Coordinate information from the Diocese to St. Hagop, and facilitate participation in youth events
- Organize local events
- Participate in ACYOA events