When you meet someone for the first time, what do you usually remember? Bet that for most of us, upon having met Bill Bohigian for the first time, it was his handshake. After that extraordinary grip, the next most memorable thing was his charm and smile.

Bill was a piece of the St. Paul Puzzle for all of his 94 years. His parents, John and Servart Bohigian, moved to America early in their married lives because of the Genocide. Their first son, Zorab was born in 1925, and Bill was born in 1926. His strong faith was greatly influenced by his mom, Servart's, devotion to God.

Bill was raised in Fresno, and met the love of his life, Barbara Isakoolian, in high school at Fresno Technical High School. They not only went to school together but became further acquainted through their membership in the St. Paul church choir. Along with their families they also worked at the St. Paul Annual Bazaar held at the Memorial Auditorium.



Bill graduated in June of 1944, and the next few years would be pivotal in the life of such a young man. While corresponding with Barbara back home in Fresno, Bill began Second World War Army infantry training at Camp Roberts, and then served in the war's Pacific Theater. He shipped out for combat in April of 1945, going ashore in Manila to fight the last of Japan's occupying army in the Philippine Islands. After Japan's defeat, Bill served in the Occupation Force and showed strong leadership qualities. He was quickly promoted to Sergeant in September of 1945, and again to Staff Sergeant in January of 1946. Part of the mission of Bill's unit was to bring captives down from the mountains and surrounding areas. Bill was often the "lead scout" and set the tone



for treating the captives humanly and with dignity. When asked by his commanding officer why he would give prisoners breaks during work detail, he replied "reports of American decency towards working men will get back to their families and contribute to future peace." When asked the same question by another superior, he stated "I treat prisoners with respect with the hope that it might help prevent my future children from fighting Japan one day." At the young age of 19, he was already living his life exemplifying strong Christian character to all he encountered.

Bill returned home from the war in 1946, and he married Barbara in August of 1947 in the St. Paul Parish. Their union was blessed with three sons, Gary, Ron, and Tom. Bill and Barbara raised their children with love and respect, and that has carried on through the next generations in their family. They remained devoted to each other and their family for the next 72 years of married life.

Attending St. Paul each Sunday, even as a young boy, was always a high priority. Bill would continue Sunday worship throughout his entire life, always bringing Mahs home for family members who were unable to attend. Being part of the St. Paul Parish community and worshiping with friends and family was always important to him. He led by example and instilled the same values of faith he learned from his mother into the lives of his own children and grandchildren.

Bill was a member of our church for 94 years, until his passing in January of 2021. He served our church as a member of the Parish Council, the Men's Forum, and the Church Choir. He also had a legendary handshake.

Thank you, Bill, for being an amazing piece of the St. Paul Puzzle. You are greatly missed but not forgotten.

# News from our parish

## Parish Council

Sunday, August 8 was our Annual Grape Blessing. This was our first parish-wide event in 18 months. Although the venue was changed from the California Armenian Home to the church on very short notice and we were unable to have the traditional picnic after the blessing of the grapes, it turned out to be a good day. We were pleasantly surprised at the large turnout and sold out of food by 1:30 p.m.! Congratulations, also, to our raffle prize winners (Harry Gaykian, Paul Kalinian, and Franklin Antoyan). Thank you to all of the parishioners who worked so hard with all of the preparations and assisting on the day of the activities, especially considering the change of location. Also, thank you to the numerous businesses and individuals who provided support with financial sponsorships or donations of grapes, produce and various other items. Your support and generosity helped to make for such a great day at St. Paul.

# Please note a few important dates to mark on your calendar:

Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> — Saturday School Registration Day Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> — Beginning of Sunday School Year Friday, October 1st — Drive Thru & Delivery Lunch

The Ladies Society and Men's Forum will also begin to resume their monthly activities as the summer break nears an end and the pandemic restrictions have eased. Please see more information on all of the above listed activities in the Dajar.

After five years of overseeing the daily operations of the Church as parish administrator, 
Vartush Mesropyan is leaving St. Paul to pursue other career opportunities. We wish Vartush the best in her future endeavors, and can't thank her enough for her work on behalf of the church. 
She will certainly be missed for all of the duties she managed in the office and support she provided to the various church organizations, however, as a St. Paul parishioner, she will continue to be active in parish activities. Next time you call or stop by the church office, please be sure to welcome Sossy Wairdian, our new parish administrator.

# Annual Grape Blessing

# Thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors

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Yost and Webb Funeral Home





# Ladies Society

September is here and the Ladies Society is gearing up for their first dinner-meeting which will be held on September 8 at 6:30 p.m., in the church minor hall. A delicious dinner will be served and cost is \$15.

A program will be presented by Nelsene DeRanian about her visit to The Lighthouse in Armenia, which is a non-profit refuge for women, and her visit to Dzovinar, our Sister City in Armenia.

For reservations, please contact Annette Moushigian at 559-906-2114.



If you haven't made your reservations for the Sister Church Luncheon on September 18 (this year to be hosted by the Ladies Society at St. Gregory, Fowler), the deadline for making reservations is September 8. Please contact Annette Moushigian, for all your reservations.

Lastly for now, mark your calendars for our annual Burgers and Bingo Event, Friday October 15, at 6:00 p.m. All of our information flyers are posted in the Dajar and our E-Blast.

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN-PERSON

We would like to invite all of our parishioners to attend church on Sundays and join the Divine Liturgy starting at 10 a.m. Let's come together, share our prayers, and enjoy all the Sunday services.

Keep in contact with "St. Paul Armenian Church" by liking our Facebook page (St. Paul Fresno) and subscribing to our YouTube channel (St. Paul Armenian Church).

# A Home Blessing Service

is one of the most important traditions in the Armenian Orthodox Church.

The Priest visits the home and spreads good news of Christ's birth. He conducts a meaningful religious service by saying a prayer and blessing the bread, water, and salt.

To request a traditional Home Blessing, contact the church office at 559-226-6343.

You can also call the Church office to schedule a hospital visitation, graveside funeral or Sunday hokehankisd.



# Men's Forum

Although the traditional venue for the Annual St. Paul Grape Blessing Ceremony and Picnic was changed from the California Armenian Home to the St. Paul Church sanctuary, courtyard, and main hall, several Forum members contributed their time and efforts to accommodate both the many dine-in and drive-thru customers. Considering current health risks associated with large group gatherings, in addition to limited use of Armenian Home facilities, it was in the best interests for everyone, participating and attending, to utilize our own accommodations. It was gratifying to see long-time Forum members, Franklin Antoyan and Ed Kaye, in attendance. Franklin currently lives at the California Armenian Home and Ed is now residing at The Windham. We also thank 'Picnic Chairman' Jeff Markarian for his efforts to coordinate through the late change in venue. Hopefully next year will allow us to return to the shady picnic grounds to which we are so accustomed.

It was hoped that this month (September) would be our first regular dinner-meeting since the start of the pandemic restrictions in early 2020. However, due to recommendations in response to the current COVID-19 Delta variant, our Executive Committee has decided to wait until October before scheduling the next dinner-meeting. This is presuming, or course, that restrictions on social dinner gatherings has eased by that time.

It is also hoped that Men's Forum, along with other church organizations, will be able to once again host Sunday Fellowships in the weeks ahead.

Until then, we hope and pray for everyone's good health until our normal activities are resumed.

## Junior ACYO

"Where God guides, He provides." ~ Isaiah 58:11

During the month of August, the Jr. ACYO held elections and welcomed a new board, along with new members to its group! The former board would like to thank Der Hayr and the church members for their support in growing their youth, and they are so excited for this next chapter.

Junior ACYO encourages anyone from ages 12-17 to join the group! If you are interested in joining ACYO, please contact Natalie Agazarian at (559) 392-5106 or acyojuniors@gmail.com!

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Instagram: st.paul\_acyo & Facebook: Fresno Acyo

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I have for you,

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and not to harm you

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS
WELCOME BACK BELOVED STUDENTS



St. Paul Armenian Church 1st day of *Sunday School* is Sunday, September 12

We will forward to seeing all our Sunday school students, parents, and families!

# REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN

St. Paul Armenian Church Registration Day for <u>Saturday School</u> is Saturday, September 11 at 10:00 AM

**NEW STUDENTS ARE WELCOME** 

READ, WRITE, SING, AND LEARN ARMENIAN





# Sunday School

The first day for the 2021/2022 Sunday School year will be Sunday, September 12.

It will be a great day to see our students, parents, and teachers together once again! The day will begin with registration and just "hanging-out" together between 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (no formal assembly). While additional people register, everyone will have an opportunity to meet and greet the fellow students, parents and teachers and learn about the Western Diocese Christian Education Council's forthcoming curriculum for Sunday School. Also, we will have more activities for younger kids and more young adults coming together with spiritual messages as part of our time together. This will be a little different from past times for 6-12th grades where our kids get to hang-out more together. We will then go into church together and take communion if it is offered. We also plan to hopefully have more events and activities in cooperation with Junior ACYO and even Senior ACYO to form bonding of alumni and current Sunday School students as well as to reach out to Saturday School families to have activities together.

Our Superintendent will be Anton Kismetian. The teachers for the 2021/22 school year are as follows:

Pre-k, K,  $1^{st}$  &  $2^{nd}$  Grades: Marina Chardukian  $3^{rd}$ ,  $4^{th}$  &  $5^{th}$  Grades: Marina Chardukian and Assistant Teacher Natalie Agazarian

Zar Der Mugrdechian is still one of our beloved Sunday School teachers, but will be limited to once-a-month visits to see all our wonderful kids

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades: Darlene Chardukian 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grades: Anton Kismetian

Following are Sunday School events for the month of September:

Sunday, September 12 - Sunday School Registration and the Meet & Greet followed by Communion Sunday and Church Attendance together with Sunday School family

Sunday, September 19 - Fun "Hang-out" time and Spiritual Message along with Class Activites/Dsicussions Sunday, September 26 - Fun "Hang-out" time and Spiritual Message along with Class Activites/Dsicussions

#### **CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION**



Adam is the son of John and Lisa Garabedian, the grandson of Margaret and the late Greg Gregory, as well as the grandson of Charles and the late Eleanor Garabedian. In elementary school, Adam began his scouting career with Cub Scouts, bridging over into a Boy Scout Troop, and just last year received his Eagle Scout award. Some of his best memories were in his five year participation in the National Youth Leadership

Training Program (NYLT). In his last year as a youth in NYLT, he was selected as the Senior Patrol Leader.

Adam plans to continue volunteering in NYLT to give back to a program that gave him so much. Adam graduated from Clovis West High School, was a four-year member of the Clovis West Marching Band (section leader for two of the years) and a four-year member of Wind Symphony. He was also a two-year member of the National Honor Society, and a life member of the California Scholarship Federation. With his involvement and achievements, Adam will be attending Fresno State in the Lyles College of Engineering Honors Program to pursue Computer Engineering.

### LET'S ALWAYS PRAY AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE TOGETHER

We pray for all the parishioners who are sick and recovering from being ill.

May the Lord watch over you and strengthen you.

If you know anyone that needs a prayer, contact the church office and provide their full name.



"We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you."

Colossians 1:3

Pastor and Parish Council gratefully acknowledge the following donations.

May God bless
you and your families.

### **Air Conditioning Project**

Seta Cholakian
James Haron
Allan and Rosemary Jendian
Edward Kashian
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Marguerite Thomassian

#### **Sound System Project**

(In Memory of Bill and Barbara Bohigian) Bohigian Family Ronald and Megan Bohigian Thomas Bohigian Mark Bohigian Gary Bohigian

#### **General Donation**

Salpy and Steve Adams
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Jack and Alberta Bedoian
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**In Memory of Michael Devejian** Beatrice Sinanian

**In Memory of Pauline Basmagian** St.Paul Ladies Society

In Memory of Nubar and Anahid Tokatian

Briske Barsamian

In Memory of Aram Darakjian Shenora and George Adishian Briske Barsamian Vahan and Anoush Chamlian Zaven and Berjouhie Devejian Nancy McCombs Melene and Jack Ouzounian Lisa and Aram Tokatian

In Memory of Nubar and Anna Tokatian

Lisa and Aram Tokatian Briske Barsamian **In memory of Harry Robert Boyajian** Sam's Party Rental

**In Memory of Suzie Agazarian**Bob and Sara Der Matoian

**In Memory of Karnig Torosian** Beverly Achki

In Memory of Khrizanta Boyajian Hagop Karamanlian - H.B. Employees Hagop Karamanlian

**In Memory of Virginia Garabedian** Shenora and George Adishian

**In Memory Bill and Barbara Bohigian** Rachel and Terrance Moore

**In Memory of Joseph Garabedian** Harry Gaykian

**In Memory of Rosalie Garabedian** Harry Gaykian

**In Memory of Sonia Tutelian** Harry Gaykian

Thank you to
Ishkhan Bayrakdarian and
family for donating new
sofas for Der Hayr, Deacon,
and Choir rooms in the
church.



# St. Paul Parish extends its sincere sympathy

**June 11** - *Hrant Baghramyan* survived by his wife Efrida Sahakyan; son Martik Baghramyan; daughter Marieta Baghramyan; grandsons Narek Agadzhanyan and Hrant Baghramyan; granddaughters Marieta Baghramyan, Ani Baghramyan, Lusine Agadzhayan, and Mane Agadzhanyan

**June 27** - *Khrizanta Boyajyan* survived by her sons Suren and wife Marika Boyajyan, Harutyun and wife Lusine Boyajyan; daughters Viktoria Boyajyan, Karine and husband Vahram Semerdzhyan, Hripsime Boyajyan, and Angela and husband Samvel Gasparyan; grandchildren Karen, Hayk, Daniel, Taguhi, Marianna, Hakop, Artur, Vardan, Lilia, Hakop, Davit, Mher and Helen

**July 14** - *Ripsime Shokhkomyan* survived by her sons Voskan and Souren Keshishyan; grandchildren Serpouhie and Hripsime; relatives Artemis, Anahid, Hasmik, and Misha; Shishikyan, Keshishyan and Yaboujian families

August 26 - Lusin Tashchyan survived by her children Hovhannes, Makush and Anahit; brother Nersik; sisters Nvart and Angele; grandchildren Marine, Aram, Lusine, Angela, Hakop, Marine and Lusine





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St. Paul Armenian Church Ladies Society
Presents

# Bingo and Burgers

Friday, October 15, 2021 Haig Berberian Hall

Come join us for food, fun and fellowship. Cash prizes, popcorn, candy, great friends





## Menu:

Lulu Burgers, Pilaf, Salad, Dessert, Coffee and IceTea \$16.00

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. with Bingo to follow Guests are most welcome!

Reservation Deadline: Friday, October 8th						
• • •	No late reservations or walk in's.					
Due to Covid-19 restrictions we are limiting the number of						
attendees to 180.						
Name: Phone:						
Please reserve	Dinners at \$16.00 each. Total \$					
For more information	call Isabel 434-8308 or Tanda 940-0200					
Mail to:	Alberta Bedoian					
	1523 Lyon Ave.					
	Sanger CA 93657					



Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship and fun as we resume the annual...

# Sister Churches Luncheon

hosted by

St. Gregory Ladies Society

Saturday, September 18, 2021

Social: 11:30 AM Lunch: 12:00 Noon

Donation: \$25 per person

St. Gregory Armenian Church Markarian Hall • 220 S. Third Street • Fowler

# Keynote Speaker: Malia Mooradian

Make check payable to your ladies' organization and mail to your representative by Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. (Limited seating)

First Armenian Presbyterian Church ~ Grace Chavoor 5278 E. Townsend Fresno, CA 93727

Holy Cross Armenian Church, Turlock ~ Patricia Aydenian 4183 St. George Place Turlock, CA 95382

Holy Trinity Armenian Church ~ Evelyn Hamamjian 2903 W. Decatur Fresno, CA 93711

Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church ~ Donna Robinson 2864 W. Wellington Lane Fresno, CA 93711

St. Mary Armenian Church, Yettem ~ Linda Farsakian-Wall 1445 S. Silvervale Street Visalia, CA 93277

St. Paul Armenian Church ~ Annette Moushigian 9036 N. Recreation Fresno, CA 93720

St. Gregory Armenian Church ~ St. Gregory Ladies Society Attn: Janice Hendrix P.O. Box 246 Fowler, CA 93625

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