

Armenian Evangelical Church
of New York

Monthly Bulletin

The Rev. Haig Kherlopian, Pastor



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Founded in 1896, the AECNY, a Congregational Church affiliated with the United Church of Christ, is dedicated to serving the spiritual needs of the Armenian-American community, friends and neighbors in the metropolitan New York City area and around the world.

We aim to provide a variety of ministries in Christian education, music, outreach and fellowship.

All articles submitted for publication are subject to acceptance, rejection and editing by the Publication Committee with no obligations to return the unpublished articles to their authors.

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The Beginning and End of Wisdom

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ... And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.”

(Jesus, Matthew 7:24, 26)

Biblical scholars group books of the Bible into sections according to genre; “wisdom literature” is comprised of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. We are right to turn to these particular works to discover how to live well. And yet, it would be appropriate for us as believers to think of the entire Bible as wisdom literature, for the Bible points us to the ultimate reality of God’s being and God’s requirements.

Growing up, I was encouraged by my mother to read a chapter of Proverbs a day. There are thirty-one Proverbs, making it easy to cycle through the book in a month or—if there are gaps in one’s devotions—to pick back up and simply read “the Proverb of the day.”

An oft-quoted teaching of Proverbs is that the “fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (9:10a; see also Psalm 111:10). What does wisdom mean? And what is the fear of the LORD?

There are numerous ways to approach the concept of wisdom and its antonym, folly. For example, there is a very close link between wisdom and justice or right judgment (see, for example, 1 Kings 3). The one element of wisdom on which I would like to alight here is the notion of future consequence. Quite simply, being wise means keeping an eye to the future. It means measuring how you live today by the state you want to find yourself in tomorrow. Perhaps that means exercising discipline or moderation—however unsatisfying or difficult that is—in order to reap good rewards down the line. The wise person is cognizant of the watchful eye of God the Judge, but the fool forgets the future and lives as if he will never have to pay his bill.

My working definition of fearing the LORD is *caring* about the LORD’s judgment. Fearing God may mean much more than that, it may incorporate awe and even terror, but

minimally it entails valuing what the LORD thinks about our actions, words, and inward states. When you fear the LORD, you honor His righteousness—He is right in all His judgments—and acknowledge His power—He is mighty to secure justice.

So if the *beginning* of wisdom is the fear of the LORD, what is the *end* of wisdom? Let us consider “bookending” the teaching of Psalms and Proverbs with Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 7. There, Jesus employs a parable to illustrate the difference between hearing and obeying His words:

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Even the fool *hears* Jesus! Action is the difference between the fool and the wise person in this story. Listening to (or knowing) Christ's teachings is not sufficient to constitute being wise (or surviving hardship). Being wise requires living in a certain way, namely, carrying out what Jesus commands. Thus, what begins as an attitude or disposition ends in action. The external proceeds from the internal. In other words, I start by caring about the LORD's judgment and progress to perform godly deeds in the world.

Church, let us be wise, not only individually but collectively, as Christ's body. In doing so, we may point others to the "rich variety" of God's wisdom (Ephesians 3:10). Let us praise Jesus, who "became for us wisdom from God" (1 Corinthians 1:30). Let us seek wisdom from the Holy Spirit, who will "guide us into all truth" (John 16:13a; see also James 1:5). And let us uphold the Father who, in His wisdom, both distinguishes the beginning from the end and declares the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10).

-Heather C. Ohaneson

EASTER FLOWERS



I wish to donate lilies to beautify
the altar for the Easter Sunday.



In loving memory of _____

by _____

In honor of _____

by _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (*Any amount over \$20.00*)

Name _____

Address _____

Please mail to the church by mail as soon as possible

Armenian Evangelical Church of NY

152 E. 34th Street

New York, New York 10016

GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED WITH GRATITUDE

We wish to thank the following for their generous donation towards our gas line project:

Anahid Iskian



Job Opportunity: Office Administrator

The Office Administrator is responsible for the flourishing of the day to day activities at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York. The position is part-time. Hours can be flexible. For additional information please contact: info@aecnyc.org

Job Duties:

1. Answer phone and welcome visitors during office hours.
2. Compose weekly bulletin for church service.
3. Compose monthly *Tertig* publication of the church
4. Upload content and update the church website and Facebook page
5. Send letters and contact members for upcoming events and meetings at the church
6. Record offertory income, deposit cash/checks at the bank and input data into Church database
8. Help pastor with tasks that will benefit the health of the Church
9. Coordinate with and assist the Trustees with Church building upkeep

Job Skills

1. Excellent oral and written communication skills
2. Detail oriented and work with a high degree of accuracy
3. Highly organized and flexible
4. Proficiency in English and Armenian
5. Tech savvy and willingness to learn
6. Love for the Church and the its mission

CHANCEL FLOWERS PRESENTED

January 17 - In loving memory of Ponogiotis Vazeos, the best father, husband, and grandfather, in our hearts always, by Pearl Raina, Steve, and Sage.

February 14 - In loving memory of Nazaret Cherkezian, on the 20th year of his passing, by his wife Margaret, children Michael, Donna, Deborah, and Larry, grandchildren Megan, David, and Stephanie, great grandchildren Lena and David III, and sister RoseMarie.

February 21 - In loving memory of dear sister, Vicky, for her birthday on February 22nd, from Anoush Haig.

Altar Flowers may be dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one, for a holiday, birthday, graduation, or another special occasion.

Please sign up for a Sunday of your choice by calling the church office at 212-685-3177.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

We want to express our gratitude to the following for their generous contribution towards Fellowship Hour in the month of January and February:

Kat Tharp

Jon Brothers

Ruby Kherlopian

Adrinee

Vanouhi Ahad

Dolly Tharp

Karine Tonyan



UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Join us for:

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 AM

Bible Study - Tuesdays at 7:00 PM

Mar 20 Palm Sunday Service (John 12:12-19)

The Whole World Goes After Him

Mar 24 Maundy Thursday Service (7:00 pm)

Join us for our communion service around the dinner table remembering our Lord's sacrifice

Mar 27 Easter Sunday Service (John 20:19-29)

My Lord and My God

Apr 3 Sunday Worship Service (1st Cor. 7)

Love and Marriage vs. Living Single

Apr 10 Sunday Worship Service (1st Cor. 8)

Love Builds Up

Apr 17 Sunday Worship Service (1st Cor. 9:1-18)

Work and Ministry

Apr 24 Sunday Worship Service (1st Cor. 9:19-27)

Running The Race

For more information, please contact our church office:

Phone: 212-685-3177

Email: info@aecnyc.org

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