



St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

N E W S L E T T E R

APR 2023

"EQUIPPING CONGREGATION IN GOD'S MISSION"



Saying "Yes" to Hope

Presbyter-in-charge: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben

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From the Presbyterian's Desk

*“For in him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.” For this reason it is through him that we say the “Amen,”
to the glory of God 2 Corinthians 1:20*

Preparations are complemented by symbols, rituals and gestures, and our preparations to move into the *Holy Week* beginning with *Palm Sunday* through *Maundy Thursday*, *Good Friday* and *Easter* is probably no different. We have often heard the refrain and used it many times in our own lives, *“Hope for Light at the End of the Tunnel.”*

Our reflections during the *Holy Week* and the joy of celebrating *Easter* are probably a close parallel of hope at the end of the tunnel. On train journeys, the excitement of passing through tunnels is great and the excitement is loud, but if the train passes through longer tunnels, the excitement is greater and the shouts louder. This is simply because we always do not want to live amidst injustice, bondage and oppressions, it is suffocating and is a negation of the promise of celebrating *life is abundance (John 10:10)*.

We live in cultures, where we are confused with a culture of 'Yes,' and a culture of 'No.' Paul while writing to the Church in Corinth, talks about this culture (*2 Corinthians 1:15-22*). He talks about his experience with the *Risen Christ* and the joy of proclaiming the *Son of God, Jesus Christ (2 Cor 1:19)*. For Paul, there is no choice with the response or the proclamation, but *“in him it is always Yes” (2 Cor 1:19)*. Therefore, Paul invites us to utter our *Amen to God* for his glory (*2 Cor 1:20*).

The word *“Amen,”* which we utter so often after every prayer, in the original means, *“to confirm”* or *“so be it.”* To confirm our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and to live a life in the spirit, is to live a life of guarantee, as Paul observes later in the letter, *“He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee” (2 Corinthians 5:5)*. Saying *Yes in Christ* is a celebration of the *Hope* we have in the *Risen Christ*, and our celebration of *Easter* is a *celebration of hope*.

The narrations in the gospels about the resurrection of our Lord only convey this (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20:1-18*). The frightened women were in a dilemma of saying 'Yes' or 'No,' but eventually overcame fear and said 'Yes,'

which gave way to proclamation. They overcame fear with courage, trauma with healing, and anxiety with amazement.

Easter is about a *choice*, the choice to *hope* and never to give up. *Easter* is a moment of *triumph of Life, Justice and Joy*. Let us continue to celebrate it.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Your Presbyter

Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben

Reports of Activities by the Wings & Ministries of the Church

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Our church youth took part in *Troika 2023*, a *Youth Fest* hosted by the *Holy Trinity Church*, held on the *18th and 19th of February*. *Troika* consisted of many events. Our church took part in '*CSI has got Talent*', *Poster Making*, *Bible Quiz and Singing*. In singing, we participated in *Western Solo* as *Janita* gave an amazing performance of "*On my knees*", while the youth collectively performed a beautiful rendition of "*He will carry you*" for *Western Group* category.

Our church youth also participated in *Fireball*, a *Youth Sporting Event*, held on the *26th of January 2023*, organised by *St John's Church*. *Fireball* consisted of *Basketball* - men and women, and *Throwball* for girls. We took part in all of the matches, and the *Women's Basketball Team* took *third place* in their category.

It was a fun experience - practicing, rehearsing, participating, and praising God together. We are grateful to the Lord for this great opportunity.

Mr. Kenneth Franklyn

Convener

YOUNG COUPLES FELLOWSHIP

*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5:8*

The above verse reflects *Agape Love*. It was a perfect timing for YCF to reflect on *Agape Love* during the *Lenten Season* and apply the same in our marriage.



Agape love in marriage is certainly not easy. Loving our spouse with Agape love means not always getting our way. It means requiring us to act in the best interest of the other.

Thanking our Counselor-couples *Mrs. Anupama Caroline* and *Mr. Winfred Joshua* for conducting the Interactive Session on Agape Love with great enthusiasm. Our gratitude to *Mrs. Dedeepya Ajith John* and *Mr. Ajith John* for their anchoring of the Session, and *Rev. Samuel Sujay Kumar* for his Pastoral touch on the topic was a blessing. Thanking *Mr. Biju Thomas* and *Mrs. Sheeba Thomas* for their valuable insights.

We also had our Presbyter *Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben*, praying for and blessing *Mrs. Alexandrina Kotian* and *Mr. Abhishek Kotian* as they are preparing to welcome their little child.

Requesting St. Andrew's family for your continued prayer and support as we continue in this mission, and for all the activities planned during the coming months ahead.

Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj
Convener

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

“But David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear and with a javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.”

1 Samuel 17: 45

Greetings from the Women's Fellowship of our church!

On the 3rd of March, “*WORLD DAY OF PRAYER*” was held at *St. Mark's Cathedral*. The *Theme* this year was, “*I have heard about your faith*”. Ladies from our Women's Fellowship took part in the Service. The speaker for the occasion was *Prof. Esther Samuel*, President of KCD CSI Women's Fellowship.

Bible Study on the 4th of March was a great journey of growing together in the WORD. *Mrs. Veentha Sunitha* conducted this very interesting *Bible Study*, which we all enjoyed. Though a very familiar story of *David and Goliath*, the study was with a different perspective; our learning in fact has been tremendous through this study.

It was decided on the 18th of March, that each member of the Women's Fellowship will make different kinds of items like jewelry boxes, scented candles, soaps, book marks, cards, candles, crochet of small items etc. and handover the same to the Women's Fellowship before *Palm Sunday*.

These beautiful items and the work of their hands will be highly appreciated and sold on Palm Sunday.

Mrs. Daisy Richard

Vice President / Secretary, SAWF

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING COMMITTEE - EPNC

Career Hub Team would like to share few testimonials to thank God for the wonderful way in which He has led the Team in its efforts to support the congregation members with *Career Counseling* and *Placement Assistance*:

Testimonial 1

“I would like to talk about the positive experience and also appreciate the benefits of working with the Career Hub team when you plan to start looking for the next switch in your professional career!

I was one of the first few people who were a part of the Pilot program that the Career Hub started towards the end of 2021 when I was working as a recruiter in a company. Once I expressed my interest in exploring new opportunities for the next switch with them, the Career Hub team approached me, took a quick exploratory interview to understand my profile and work experience and they started the entire process of getting me placed!

After our initial interaction, I was given advice about the different options I could possibly have with the experience I have acquired over the years. The Career Hub team proactively started mapping out relevant opportunities for my experience right away and in weeks' time, I was already in a few interview processes with the opportunities they had lined up for me.

Although I eventually ended up taking up another opportunity as a recruiter in a multi-national company, I greatly appreciate the amount of additional support and confidence which the Career Hub team instilled in me. They were the reason I took that leap of faith, which led to me getting an unexpected and great opportunity.

I want to express my gratitude to the entire Career Hub team for their continuous support throughout the entire process, and for their valuable feedback.”

Testimonial 2

“Dear Career Hub Team, congrats on the wonderful work you are all doing. To mention a few things - first of all thank you for helping in placing one family member for internship which was very helpful for the family member to grow his confidence and improve his skills. Secondly, thanking you again for encouraging a non-member for counseling and also helping him to get a job in his interested field about which he was very passionate.

Continue to keep the good work and also to mention that you are approachable, and for guiding and helping the many who are in need of jobs. God bless your ministry.”

Testimonial 3

“It was my first Service at St. Andrew's Church on Sunday, the 5th of February, 2023. During the announcement, I was also so much delighted to know that St. Andrew's Church's Career Hub provides career guidance. I approached the Career Hub after the Service, regarding my son who aspires to start his career as AI/ML Engineer in the IT field. I met Career Hub team at the Church Office Conference Room, who made me feel comfortable and conversed with me so much patiently providing valuable guidance, approach, contact and importantly, confidence. This is the first time I have ever experienced such a wonderful collaboration, hospitality and an actionable meeting. In the same week of 6th February, my son received call for interview for a Data Analyst position at a reputed multi-national company. Career Hub team was in constant touch to know the progress of the interviews.

This was such an awesome and a memorable experience to know that the Career Hub is so much active and helping not just the Congregation members, but a new comer. Last but not the least, it was so much of an inspiration and a learning experience for me from my first visit to St. Andrew's Church.”

Career Hub Team would like to thank our Presbyter, Pastorate Committee members and the entire Congregation for the support and guidance.

Mr. Vijay Palanna
Convener

CARE FOR THE ELDERLY



CARE FOR THE ELDERLY



“Inner Beauty At All Times”

We would like to thank God Almighty and our Lord Jesus Christ for giving us the time to Praise and Worship Him.

This month's program was organised on *Saturday, the 18th of March, 2023* at *Rev. Stewart Wright Hall*. The speaker was *Rev. Vasudevan*. The program started with the youth and the elders Praising and Worshiping the Lord with four beautiful Hymns.

Rev. Vasudevan gave an inspiring message on the topic, *“Inner Beauty at All Times”*, with the Bible reference from *1 Peter 3:1 to 7*. He spoke about Jesus being the sole person who can deliver us from all struggles. When we are happy on the inside, we will be happy on the outside as well. We must love and forgive one another; by forgiving others we set ourselves free.

Q & A Session followed. There was a short time of activity after the message.

We would like to thank you all who came forward to help us organize this program, and all the elders who participated.

Mr. Praveen Shiri

Convener



SEEKER'S NOOK



April 2023

It's April! There's so much happening this month - Palm Sunday followed by Good Friday and Easter, and of course VBS, which children eagerly await. Not to forget, it's the school summer break for children. In case you need a break too, we have a Scripture Hunt just for you. Locate each of the following items/ events in the **Bible** and tell us where they are mentioned.

SCRIPTURE HUNT : Find verses that **first** mention the following.

1. Talking Donkey
2. Colourful Coat
3. Pillar of Salt
4. Dewy Fleece
5. Man-gobbling Fish
6. Widow's Mite
7. Budding Rod/Staff
8. Seven Seals
9. Lion's Den
10. Prison Earthquake

Correct answers will be published in next month's newsletter along with answer keys. Send your **printed** answers to **the Church Whatsapp number 9741401874** by **25th April 2023**, in the following format:

Name

Serial number – Answer



Come April and children look forward to Vacation Bible School or VBS, in short. VBS offers an ideal setting for fun and making new friends through its engaging program centred on a Biblical theme. During VBS children learn new songs, craft, games, Bible stories and take home life lessons that influence them for a long time to come. Did you ever wonder how VBS started in India? Read on!

“Much blessing has followed in the lives of many children from the time VBS began in India. The beginning, however, was very humble. Mrs. Mary E. Hamilton came to India and joined as a staff of South India Bible Institute (now the South India Biblical Seminary-SIBS). Mary Hamilton had a deep concern for the children on the streets in the hot summer and she thought of reaching them for the Lord. And so, she endeavoured to do something for these children. Some gifted young people like P. Samuel, Sam Kamaleson, Theodore Williams, Fred Gokavi, Ms Edith Morgan and few others from

South India Biblical Institute galvanized her concern into action and organized a program for 75 children at Kovilpatti (a village in Tamil Nadu) and taught them stories from the Bible. Thus, the first VBS was born in 1952. Steadily but surely, it became very popular among Churches in Tamil Nadu.

Watching the impact of VBS on Children, the South India Bible Institute gave cognizance to this movement, by making it a part of their applied activities, and making it into a branch of their programs. Mrs. Mary Hamilton gave shape and features to this moment. She produced the first syllabus, trained the SIBS students and formed teams in different parts of India, besides involving herself in VBS training in different States.”

Scan QR code to know more about VBS ministries or visit <https://www.vbsministries.org/>



March 2023 Crossword answers

Across

1. Job
3. Thomas
5. Abraham
7. Nicodemus
10. Herod
11. Nathanael

Down

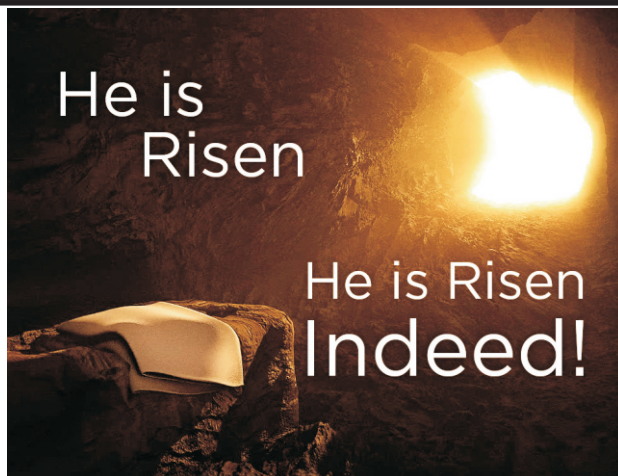
2. Joshua
4. Cain
6. Samuel
8. David
9. Martha
12. Peter

Marvellous March Champs

1. Felicia Manoraj
2. Deepan Elbert Pramodan
3. A. N. Indira Devi
4. Esther Suguna Simeon
5. Rosabelle Prabhakar



6. Annie Felix
7. Gitanjali Lazarus
8. Narga Nair
9. Tania Whitson
10. Deepa Elizabeth



| DATE & TIME | THEME | SCRIPTURE LESSON | PREACHER |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| Monday 3rd April 2023 6:30 pm | HOLY WEEK <i>A Journey to the Cross: Crucified</i> | Galatians 5: 22-26 | Rev. Dr. A. Israel David |
| Tuesday 4th April 2023 6:30 pm | HOLY WEEK <i>A Journey from the Cross: New Creation</i> | II Corinthians 5: 16-21 | Rev. Dr. A. Israel David |
| Wednesday 5th April 2023 6:30 pm | HOLY WEEK <i>A Journey with the Cross: Companion</i> | St. Mark 8: 31-34 | Rev. Dr. A. Israel David |
| Thursday* 6th April 2023 6:30 pm | MAUNDY THURSDAY (Holy Communion)* <i>Christ: The Life-Giving Bread</i> | Exodus 12: 12-20 1 Corinthians 11: 23- 29 St. John 6: 47 – 58 (K) | Rev. Dr. Allan Palanna |

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

| DATE & TIME | THEME | SCRIPTURE LESSON | PREACHER |
|---|---|--|--------------------------|
| Friday 7th April 2023 9:00 am | GOOD FRIDAY Cross: Self Giving Love | Isaiah 52: 13 – 53: 12 1 Peter 2: 21 – 25 St. Mark 15: 22 - 41 (K) | Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben |
| Friday 7th April 2023 11:30 am to 3:00 pm | GOOD FRIDAY | | |
| | 1st Word | St. Luke 23: 34 | Rev. Dr. R. Sahayadhas |
| | 2nd Word | St. Luke 23: 43 | Rev. I. J. W Ambler |
| | 3rd Word | St. John 19: 26 - 27 | Rev. Silpa Rani |
| | 4th Word | St. Matthew 27: 46 | Dr. Stafford Cripps |
| | 5th Word | St. John 19: 28 | Rev. Donald Grant |
| | 6th Word | St. John 19: 30 | Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben |
| | 7th Word | St. Luke 23: 46 | Rev. Dr. Allan Palanna |

Calendar for the Month of May 2023

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|----------|
| *7th May 1st Sunday | 4th Sunday after Easter | | |
| | Theme: Believing in Christ: The Way | | |
| | Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben | *Combined Holy Communion Worship Service | |
| Old Testament | Exodus 14: 10-20 | Mr. Wilson Pratap | |
| Epistle | Acts 16: 19 - 34 | Mr. Kenneth Franklyn | |
| Gospel | St. John 14: 1- 7 | Mrs. Leena Jayakumari (K) | |
| Evening Service | Preacher: Mr. James Muthalageri | | 9:00 a.m |
| | | | 6.15 p.m |

Calendar for the Month of April 2023

| Calendar for the Month of April 2023 | | | | |
|---|--|---|-----------------|--|
| *2nd April Sunday | Palm Sunday | | | |
| | Sunday before Easter | | | |
| | Theme - Christ: The King of Peace | | | |
| | Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben Preacher: Rev. Dr. Rohan Gideon | *Combined Holy Communion Worship Service | 9:00 a.m | |
| Old Testament | Zechariah 9:1-12 | Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri | | |
| Epistle | Ephesians 2: 11 – 22 | Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj | | |
| Gospel | St. Mark 11: 1-11 | Mrs. Sujatha Kishore (K) | | |
| Evening Service | Concert of Passion & Easter Music | | 6.00 p.m | |
| *9th April 2nd Sunday | Easter Sunday | | | |
| | Theme: Abiding and Celebrating Life in Jesus | | | |
| Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben | Play by the Youth Fellowship *Combined Holy Communion Worship Service | Sunrise Service at 5:00 a.m | | |
| Old Testament | 1 King 17:17-24 | Mrs. Neha Salome George | Easter | |
| New Testament | 1 Corinthians 15: 42-58 | Mr. Joshi Mark Premnath | Service at | |
| Gospel | St. Luke 24: 1-12 | Mr. Vijay Palanna (K) | 9:00 a.m | |
| *16th April 3rd Sunday | 1st Sunday after Easter | | | |
| | Theme: Affirmation of Christ as Lord and God | | | |
| | Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben | *Kannada Holy Communion | 8.15 a.m | |
| | Preacher: Rev. Krupanand | English | 9.30 a.m | |
| Old Testament | Exodus 3: 13-17 | Mr. Paul David (K) Ms. Vinisha Halli | | |
| Epistle | Colossians 1: 15-23 | Mrs. Jyothsna Prasheeth (K) Mr. John Prem Rabindranath | | |
| Gospel | St. John 20: 24-29 | Mrs. Vimalakshi Soans (K) Mrs. Architha Mahil | | |
| Evening Service | Holy Communion Service Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben | | 6.15 p.m | |
| 23rd April 4th Sunday | Vacation Bible School (VBS) Sunday | Kannada | 8.15 a.m | |
| | | English | 9.30 a.m | |
| Evening Service | Conducted by Youth Fellowship | | 6.15 p.m | |
| 30th April 5th Sunday | 3rd Sunday after Easter | | | |
| | Theme: Communion with the Risen Christ in Daily Life | | | |
| | Preacher: Rev. Samuel Sujay Kumar | Kannada | 8.15 a.m | |
| | Preacher: Rev. Samuel Sujay Kumar | English | 9.30 a.m | |
| Old Testament | Exodus 40: 34-38 | Mrs. Surekha Johnas (K) Mrs. Padmini Sudhikiran | | |
| Epistle | Phillippines 3: 8-16 | Mr. Samuel David Amanna (K) Mr. Kenneth John | | |
| Gospel | St. Luke 24: 13-33 | Mrs. Sabitha Simon (K) Mrs. Annie Deepika Anchan | | |
| Evening Service | Rev. Silpa Rani | | 6.15 p.m | |

Note: Kindly keep the Church Office informed in advance about your inability to be present for the Scripture reading as scheduled.