



St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

N E W S L E T T E R

FEB 2023

"EQUIPPING CONGREGATION IN GOD'S MISSION"



Abiding and Bearing Fruit

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

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From the Presbyterian's Desk

Abiding and Bearing Fruit

"...Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit..."
(John 15:5)

Lent is a season of *reflection, repentance, reconciliation* and *renewal*. It is a time of new beginnings and new relationships with God, neighbour and self, *in and through Jesus Christ*. Our reflections each year invites us to focus on a *theme, idea* or *metaphor*, helping us to draw closer in our relationship with Christ. This year, let us begin and continue our journey with one of the most profound and unique themes in the New Testament, "*Abiding and Bearing Fruit*," as illustrated in *John 15:1-11*. The *metaphor* of the *Vine and the branches* are beautifully illustrated in the *Gospel of John*.

Vine is a common metaphor for Israel in the Hebrew Bible, with God in the role as the *vinedresser* disappointed with the *fruit* (*Psalm 80:8-16; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 2:21*).

Thinking of a story from, *Stories for All Seasons* by Gerard Fuller:

A missionary in Africa lived in his central mission which had a small electric plant to supply current for his church and small rectory. Some natives from an outlying mission came to visit the Padre. They noticed the electric light hanging from the ceiling of his living room. They watched wide-eyed as he turned the little switch and the light came on. One of the visitors asked if he could have one of those bulbs. The priest, thinking he wanted it for a sort of trinket or bauble, gave him a burned-out bulb. On his next visit to the outlying mission, the priest stopped at the hut of the man who had asked for the bulb. Imagine the priest's surprise when he saw the bulb hanging from an ordinary string. He had to explain that one had to have electricity and a wire to bring the current to the bulb.

One of the greatest teachings of Jesus, taught, demonstrated and lived out, is the story of *Discipleship*. For John, to abide in Christ, is the starting point of all other experiences in Christ and is a call to discipleship. We are called to *abide in Jesus, the Vine*. In Greek, the meaning of "*abide*," is a *command*. It is also an *ongoing process* and the command to "*abide*," which is not fulfilled in a single act. Discipleship is an *ongoing process* and abiding is a *moment-by-moment decision to follow Christ*. The result is that a disciple will bear '*more fruit*' (15:2)

and '*much fruit*' (15:8), and by *abiding* and *bearing fruit*, will become *Disciples of Christ* (15:8).

Our theme this year invites us to reflect on the different aspects of Christ, but let us begin this season by abiding in Christ and set goals of bearing fruit. The Apostle Paul echoes similar ideas in *Galatians 5:22-23*, of the "*Fruit of the Spirit*," and explains the *nine fruits of the Spirit*.

We look forward to a *meaningful time of Lent*, even as the ministries begin to slowly get back to the regular programmes, fellowship and study.

As announced, the work of providing additional facilities on St. Andrews's Church Parish Hall and Resource Centre, up-gradation on the Diocesan website and PA system, are in progress.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support.

May God bless you, and may you have a meaningful Season of Lent.

Your Presbyter

Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben

Confirmation Sunday

*"If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.
So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord" Romans 14:8*

26 young men and women declared their commitment on January 8, 2023 in St. Andrew's Church. The parents, relatives and the entire congregation in addition to all well-wishers who were participating in the Worship Service would have been also reminded of their own commitments made years ago.

The *Rt. Rev. Dr. P. K. Samuel*, Bishop, Karnataka Central Diocese, confirmed and blessed the candidates. He had also met the Candidates for a brief interaction before the Confirmation Service. The candidates carried the Bible for the procession, and read the Scriptures as is the tradition at St. Andrew's. The Bishop's Sermon on this special Sunday was based on the theme '*Blessed and Fruitful Life*'. The Confirmation Service also included the *Holy Eucharist Service*, and the candidates along with their parents were the first to participate in the Holy Communion.



The young men and women had been prepared for this commitment for more than three months by our Presbyter, *Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben*. The students used to meet every Saturday for classes, which included foundational themes of *Faith, Doctrine and Life*.

In addition to the classes, they also took up *Projects* as small groups on specific topics in the Bible, and presented it to an audience consisting of the parents and a few senior members. The Themes revolved around the Old Testament themes, Life of Jesus Christ, and History of the Church. The amount of preparation done by the students and the depth they had gone into was evident in the presentations, which were very well appreciated by those who attended the presentations. The Parents participated in all the Sessions enthusiastically and cooperated in all the preparations. The final presentation was followed by the *Preparatory Time for the Worship Service*, including the rehearsal. A day-long *Retreat* had been organized at *Visthar Convention Center* where the resource persons *Rev. Dr. David Selvaraj* and *Rev. Dr. Rohan Gideon* guided the Confirmation Students and prepared them with commitment to Christ.

We thank God for the grace we received in conducting the Confirmation Service and thank everyone who made it possible.

Wg Cdr I. D Soans
Secretary

CARE FOR THE ELDERLY



“HE came to His own, but they welcomed HIM not”

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

*The Care For The Elderly Ministry organized the New Year Program on Saturday, 21st January 2023 for our Elders at Rev. Stewart Wright Hall. The Program started with the youth and the elders leading us in the Praise and Worship with three beautiful Hymns. The speaker was Dr. Stafford Cripps, who addressed the gathering with an inspiring message on the celebration of Christmas, the Theme being, “Celebrating CHRISTMAS or x-mas”, with the Bible reference from St. John 1:11. He spoke about having Jesus Christ as the centre of our life and celebrating HIM in our lives. He gave examples of a boy's birthday being celebrated without him being there. He stressed on the message of celebrating Jesus in our lives and having HIM as the centerpiece, and continuing the spirit of Christmas. He also spoke about the *Second Coming of Jesus Christ* and the *Rapture*. This was followed by a Q & A Session.*

There was a short activity after the message organized for the elders to get to know each other.

In conclusion, we would like to thank all who came together in helping us organize this program, and all who helped gather the elders to attend this Program.

Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri
Convener, CFE

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Praise God for the beginning of another New Year 2023! Sunday school resumed after Christmas holidays on Sunday, January 15th.

We congratulate the participants and the consolation prize winner *Keerthan Ivan Kunder* of Sub-Juniors, who participated in the 40th Annual Bible Contest held on the 30th of October 2022, at East Parade Church, Bangalore.

Congratulations to *Aaradh* for winning the 3rd place in *Story Telling* in the *Intersun Competition* held at UTC.

The Sunday school children rendered a beautiful song, "I sing the mighty power of God" on Sunday, the 29th January 2023, during the *English Worship Service*.

The *Kannada Sunday School* was specially invited by the President and Cabinet members of the *Rotary Club Cantonment Region Bengaluru*, to present *Christmas Carols and Message* to the *Senior Citizens of the Club*, on the 28th of December, 2022. Their presentation and message was highly appreciated.

Mrs. Sushma Sadananda
Sunday School Superintendent

STUTHI SANJE 29 JANUARY 2023

It was an evening when the music loving audience did not know how nearly 150 Minutes had passed! It was a special Stuthi Sanje, a *Thanksgiving Service* for the 12 years of the *Ministry of Stuthi@StAndrews*.



There were beautiful Kannada Worship Songs rendered by the famed choir “JANADHAARE” led by *Dr. Vincent*, which has been ministering through Kannada devotional songs and cultural action since last 40 years. There were lovely songs also from *Christha Prabhalaya Church, Yelahanka*, and the young choir of *CSI Kannada Church Electronic City*, Pastored now by *Rev. Prem Mitra*. *Stuthi@StAndrews* also rendered two special numbers. These Special Songs were interwoven with the meaningful *Congregational Songs*.

The journey of *Stuthi@StAndrews* in its formative years, and also since turning a new leaf with its first album in 2010, was recounted. We had a poignant time of remembrance of the yeoman service of the dear departed - not only the seven members of *Stuthi@StAndrews*, but also those who had served while *Stuthi* was in formative stage. *Stuthi* also specially acknowledged those who were a blessing to *Stuthi* and honoured those present with *Stuthi Badge*, beautifully designed by *Mr. Joshi Mark*.

Rev. Prem Mitra, with whose encouragement when he was our Presbyter, *Stuthi* shaped up at *St. Andrews*. He brought an appropriate message starting with the Keerthane ‘Aasareyannu Kande’. Our Presbyter, *Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben*, was a source of encouragement throughout while anchoring the *Musical Worship Service*.

Wg Cdr I. D Soans
Secretary

REPUBLIC DAY 2023

The 74th Republic Day was celebrated with fervor. We met in the church at 8 am for a short *Worship Service* to pray for our Nation and Leaders, led by our Presbyter, *Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben*. His message was based on *1 Peter 2: 13 - 17*. He also reminded us of our Constitution by reading the *Preamble*, and stressed on our responsibilities to our Nation.

The *Chief Guest* this year was our own *Mr. R. Richardson Asir*, who unfurled the National Flag, and addressed the gathering. Mr. Richardson Asir belongs to the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE), a Post graduate in Structural Engineering and specifically trained in Bridge Technology in the USA as a United Nation Fellow. He is actively involved in our Nation building activities, especially in the Infrastructure Sector. At present, he is working as an Advisor to Bangalore Metro in the construction of Civil Engineering Works. After the function, we had Fellowship over Breakfast.



SEEKER'S NOOK



February 2023

The shortest month is here! February comes from “februa,” a Latin word meaning “to cleanse,” and was named after a month-long Roman purification festival held this time of the year. Did you know that the probability of February 29 birthdays is 1 in 1,461 and people born on that day are called “Leapers”? Speaking of special days, here is a quiz based on The Sabbath, the day set apart by God as holy. Bible references: Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5, Mark 2 and Acts 13-18

QUIZ

1. What day of the week did Paul enter the synagogue in Acts 13?
2. Who gathered to hear Paul teach on the next Sabbath in Acts 13?
3. Where did Paul meet with a group of women on the Sabbath in Acts 16?
4. How many Sabbaths did Paul discuss the Scriptures in the synagogue? Acts 17:2
5. In which city did Paul do this?
6. What had been taught in the synagogue every Sabbath since ancient times? Acts 15
7. When Paul reached Corinth, what did he do each Sabbath? Acts 18
8. Who did Jesus say the Sabbath was made for? Mark 2
9. What did God tell His people to keep holy? Exodus 20
10. What does God tell His people to do on the Sabbath?

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 February 2023**, in the following format:

Name

Serial number – Answer



As per our church calendar, Sunday, 12th February 2023 will be observed as Healing Ministry Sunday with the theme Compassionate Love and Healing. While medication helps cure the illness, it is often wished that the prescription also includes compassion, deep listening and connection from the Caregiver. Listed below are 12 helpful hints from Alzheimer Scotland, on communicating with someone who has Dementia:

- Be calm and patient.
- Face the person, speak clearly and slowly.
- Make sure that you have their attention by saying their name.
- Use short, simple sentences and say exactly what you mean.
- Try to get one idea across at a time.
- Allow plenty of time for the person to take in what you say and to reply.
- Try not to confuse or embarrass the person by correcting them bluntly.
- Use questions which ask for a simple answer.
- Don't ask questions which test their memory e.g. What did you do yesterday?
- Talk about familiar people, places and ideas.
- Use the names of the people you are talking about instead of "he" or "she".
- It will remind the person who you are talking about.
- Use facial expressions and hand gestures to make yourself understood.

Answer Keys to January 2023 Quiz

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Solomon | 6. A new name written in a white stone and hidden manna |
| 2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego | 7. He had cast out a demonic spirit |
| 3. He enslaved them | 8. A new creation |
| 4. To love one another | 9. Isaiah |
| 5. In the wilderness and wastelands | 10. A new heaven and earth |

January Champs

1. Felicia Manoraj
2. Deepan Elbert Pramodan
3. A. N Indiradevi



4. Annie Felix
5. Gitanjali Lazarus

HAPPENINGS DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2023

NEW MEMBERS

1. Mr. Ramesh P & Family
2. Mrs. Romola Maben & Family

Weddings



Ms. Shireen Sumana Kumar

Daughter of Mr. Solomon Sampath Kumar & Mrs. Sujatha S. Kumar
with

Mr. Anthony Robert

Son of Mr. Sagai Kumar & Mrs. Mary Usha
on the 26th of January 2023

INFANT BAPTISM



Katelyn S

Daughter of Mr. Samuel Derick and Mrs. Sukanya Jaleti
on 22nd of January 2023



OBITUARY



Mr. Maxwell Sumitra

(aged 67 years)

husband of Mrs. Laila Sumitra, father of Mrs. Steffi Alva and
brother of Mr. Erashmas Sumitra and Mrs. Salome Cardoza
slept in the Lord on 3rd January 2023



Mr. Arvind Biswas

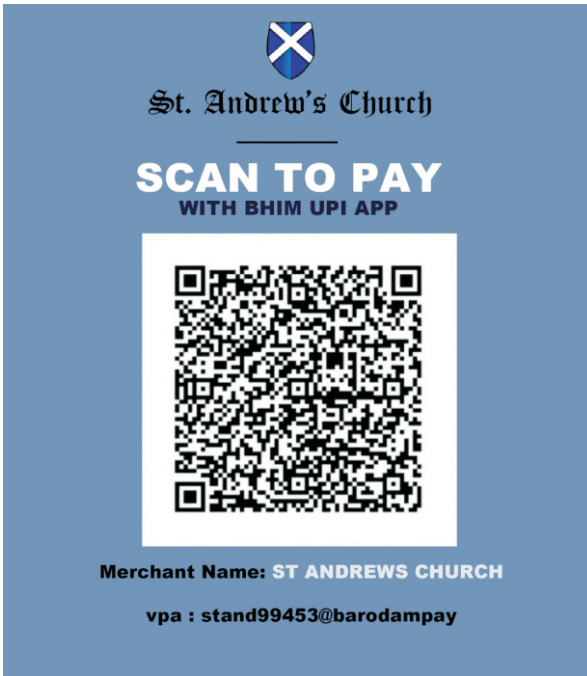
(aged 30 years)

son of Mr. Ashish Biswas and Mrs. Mousumi Biswas
slept in the Lord on 18th January 2023

Calendar for the First Week of March 2023

Calendar for the First Week of March 2023			
3rd March Friday	Lenten Service		6:00 p.m
	Combined Worship Service		
*5th March Sunday	5th Sunday before Easter 2nd Sunday in Lent Theme: The Forgiving Christ		
	Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	
Old Testament	Genesis 4: 8- 16	Mr. Wilson Pratap	9:00 a.m
Epistle	Romans 5: 6-11	Mr. Kenneth Franklyn	
Gospel	St. Mark 2: 1- 12	Mrs. Usha Somashekar (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		6.15 p.m

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH ONLINE PAYMENT DETAILS



PLEASE NOTE

After transaction, please send a message on WhatsApp - 919741401874 Or send an email to andrewschurchblore@gmail.com the breakup of which ministries you are contributing to, along with your Full Name.

Example:

Name: Full Name

Transferred amount: Rs. 1100

Rs. 450 for Youth Fellowship,
Rs. 650 for M&E

ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL ONLINE PAYMENT DETAILS

St. Andrews Social and Economic Development Society

For St. Andrews School, Please use the below account details.

ACCOUNT NAME: ST ANDREWS CHURCH

BANK NAME: CANARA BANK

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 04062010030023

IFSC CODE: CNRB0001168

MICR CODE: 560015025

BRANCH NAME: Infantry Road Branch, Bangalore 560001

Kindly note you can also post a cheque in favour of “**St. Andrews Church**” at any Canara Bank Branch with the account number and church office number (9741401874) written behind it.

Calendar for the Month of February 2023

9th Sunday before Easter			
*5th February 1st Sunday	Theme: Sabbath as the Culmination of Creation		
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m
Old Testament	Isaiah 65: 17- 25	Dr. (Mrs.) Anitha Noel	
Epistle	Hebrews 4: 2- 13	Miss Andrea Sahana Lazarus	
Gospel	St. Mark 2: 23- 28	Mr. Emmanuel Krishthasharan Theodore (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		6.15 p.m
Healing Ministry Sunday			
8th Sunday before Easter			
12th February 2nd Sunday	Theme: Being to Wellbeing		
	Preacher: Dr. Shantha Sundaramani	Kannada	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Dr. Angeline Job	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	1 Samuel 25: 2- 6	Mr. Praveen Johnas (K) Dr. Sheila Peter	
Epistle	3 John 1: 1- 5	Mr. Stephen Pradeep Kotian (K) Dr. Joann Pauline George	
Gospel	St. Luke 9: 37- 43	Mrs. Leah Rangayya (K) Mr. Samuel David	
Evening Service	Conducted by Youth Fellowship		
7th Sunday before Easter			
Theme: Lent - A time of Transformation			
*19th February 3rd Sunday	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Kannada Holy Communion	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Isaiah 44: 21- 28	Miss Maria Priya S (K) Mr. Prashant Arawatigi	
Epistle	Romans 11: 13-24	Mrs. Chithra S. Herbert (K) Mrs. Divya Jane Karodi	
Gospel	St. John 2: 1-11	Mrs. Lucy Kumar (K) Mr. J. A. Prakash	
Evening Service	Holy Communion Service Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben		
Ash Wednesday			
Theme: Abiding and Bearing Fruit			
22nd February Wednesday	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	Combined Worship Service	6:00 p.m
Old Testament	Isaiah 5:1-10	Mrs. Renita Wilson	
Epistle	Colossians 3:1-11	Mrs. J. Jeen Magdalene	
Gospel	St. John 15:1-11	Mr. Santhosh Hans (K)	
6th Sunday before Easter 1st Sunday in Lent			
Theme: The Cleansing Christ			
26th February 4th Sunday	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Allan Palanna	Kannada	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Allan Palanna	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Zechariah 13: 1-9	Miss Riya Kotian (K) Mr. Nigel Ronak Watsa	
Epistle	1 John 1: 5-10	Mr. Stalin Sandesh Kumar (K) Mr. Rodney Benjamin Rozario	
Gospel	St. Mark 1: 40- 45	Miss Venita Cheryl Anchan (K) Mrs. Celina Jaikumar	
Evening Service	Preacher: Rev. Silpa Rani		

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