



St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

N E W S L E T T E R

JAN 2023

"EQUIPPING CONGREGATION IN GOD'S MISSION"



Possibility

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From the Presbyterian's Desk

Possibility

"Which commandment is the first of all?"

(St. Mark 12:28)

Every New Year we make new beginnings, start afresh and renew our hopes. The tradition of making resolutions has been tried and tested and continues to be tried. As we begin this year 2023, we may be thinking about goals, values and ideas that will drive us through the year. I have not been very successful with resolutions and think of a word or an idea that will help me stay focused through the year. This year one of the words that has come back to me is the word *"Possibility"*. It helps me to perceive to celebrate hope and to look beyond the hurdles and the challenges which are realities of our lives. The English language dictionary has developed a tradition of looking some key words that captures people and events in that particular year. The Collins dictionary's short-listed *'Permacrisis'* as one of the most important words of 2022. The word *"Permacrisis"* is a term that perfectly embodies the dizzying sense of lurching from one unprecedented event to another, as we wonder bleakly what new horrors might be around the corner.

The thought of an unknown author helps me to draw a new meaning to the word *possibility*, *"Life begins at the end of your comfort zone"*.

The stories of the Bible are the stories of *possibilities* and the ministry of Jesus illustrates this vividly, in one of the most prominent and pointed conversations of religion that Jesus had in the New Testament. In the Gospel according to *St. Mark 12:28-34*, the scribe, a religious leader and authority of the Law, asks Jesus to reinterpret the Law that he knows and has grown up with - *'Which commandment is the first of all?'* The intention of the scribe is probably to ensure that the possibility for living is governed and determined by the rules for living, but Jesus reinterprets the Law and is willing to go out of the boundaries of religion and gives a new rule or norm for living, where love is a possibility in our relationships with God and in each other. Love is a possibility because it has got the power and the ability to transcend artificially created ideas, boundaries and borders.

Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these" *St. Mark 12:29-31*. In other words, the celebration and exploration of the word *possibility* is richly illustrated by Jesus, which has got the capacity to give us hope, courage and a new direction in this New Year. Think of these words of

Jesus again and again in *St. Luke 18:27*, “*What is impossible for mortals is possible for God*”

We thank God for a meaningful Season of Advent and specially appreciate the leadership provided in every ministry and I am particularly happy that you also had a strong element of social engagement which continues to share the legacy of compassion and care in our church. We thank each one of you for your participation and prayerful support for very program and event that brought back the joy of the season. Your sacrificial contribution during the time of *Carol Rounds* is ear-marked for the enrichment of *Digital Resources* and *urgent maintenance of the rear side of the church*. We look forward to the *Confirmation Service* and please continue to uphold the candidates and their families, and all the spiritual formation and enrichment they have received during this time of preparation.

May God Bless you richly through the coming year.

Your Presbyter

Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben

Reports of Activities by the Wings & Ministries

CHRISTMAS CAROL 2022



From 28th November to 18th December, a group of 20-25 Carolers and on weekends 2 groups of 20 Carolers, set out from Church every evening bringing the joy of the birth of Christ to the homes of our congregation members. I am deeply grateful to all those who came regularly and especially the musicians! Despite the rains and cold weather, we never lost the Christmas spirit, singing joyful songs in the vans and singing joyful songs at all the homes, bringing joy to the families.

This year we visited around 350 homes, and I thank all of you for inviting us into your homes this Christmas Season.

I pray that this coming year we are able to come and spread the joy in all of your homes!

Mr. Kenneth Franklyn,
Convener

CARE FOR THE ELDERLY



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

Care For The Elderly and the *Young Couples' Fellowship* had organized *Christmas Program* on Sunday, 4th of December 2022, for our Elders. The speaker was our Presbyter, *Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben*, who addressed the gathering with an inspiring message.

The program started with the youth, young couples and elders leading us in the Praise and Worship with Carols.

There was a short activity on connecting with one another. Our Presbyter brought out the message of love speaking on the love which Joseph and Mary had for each other accompanied with Trust. This was addressed to the young couples. He spoke to the elders on how to stay close to the Lord when alone. There was a short *Choreography* by our *Youth*. This was followed by a *Fellowship Lunch*.

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

Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri
Convener

YOUNG COUPLES' FELLOWSHIP



The Month of Advent brought joy to all the YCF members with lots of fun and laughter along with our families, and St. Andrew's family at large. From Caroling, to enjoying all the events from different wings of the church, was a festive extravaganza for all of us.

YCF had a blessed Christmas celebration along with the members of the *Care For The Elderly* on the 4th of December 2022, after the morning Service. With all the members participating heartily in this special program, we had a wonderful fellowship. Our *Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben*, with his usual aura, brought the crowd to their feet with a wonderful Game.

Our heartfelt thanks to St. Andrew's family for all their love and support showered upon us during the busiest time of the year. As we gear up for different programs planned during the coming year, we request your continued support and prayers. Do reach out to us.

Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj
Convener

SUNDAY SCHOOL





"Oh what a Glorious Night"

What a wonderful way to end this year 2022 with our children exhibiting their talents on *Sunday, the 18th of December 2022* for the *Sunday School Christmas Program*.

The evening began with our very own young adults hosting the program, beautiful display of *Nativity Scene* by our tiny buddies of *Beginners and Primary* along with a *Choreography*; the *Seniors* leading with melodious *Christmas Hymns and Carols*; the *Inters* with a *Skit*, and the *Juniors* with a beautiful *Choreography*, which highlighted the Theme, *"Oh what a Glorious Night"*.

The children of *Kannada Sunday School* recited *memory verses*, a *Choreography*, and a *Skit* based on the *Twelve Voices of Christmas*, which was remarkable.

The evening ended with the beautiful *Traditional Hymn, Silent Night, Holy Night* with candles burning in the darkness, bringing in the warmth of Christmas

celebration of our dear Saviour's Birth. We thank our Presbyter, *Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben* for gracing the occasion, our guest, *Rev. Lorna Murray* from Scotland, the *Pastorate Committee* for their leadership, our *Sunday School teachers and volunteers* for all their efforts in training and guiding our children, our *dear parents* for their encouragement and support, the *office and maintenance staff* for the continuous cooperation and coordination for a grand successful program.

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2023

Mrs. Sushma Sadananda

Sunday School Superintendent

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



"For with God nothing will be impossible". Luke 1:37

Greetings from the Women's Fellowship of our church!

On 26th November 2022, our Women's Fellowship celebrated *Christmas* by having a wonderful and fun-filled evening.

The Program began with Prayer and Praise and Worship, the vibrant Singing and Worship filled the air with a mood of celebration. Our Presbyter, *Rev. Dexter S. Maben*, graciously delivered the message. He highlighted the unique points "*As a women we have a gift of hope, gift of blessing and gift of community*".

Games, Gifts, Refreshments, and lots of fun were a unique experience for each one of us present.

On 21st December, our *Committee Members* visited "*Love in Action Children's Home*" at Banasvadi, and distributed dresses and snacks for the children and spent some time with them.

With immense gratitude, we thank all the women of St. Andrew's family for your generous support and prayers for the various activities conducted by our Women's Fellowship. We are truly grateful and pray God's blessing to be showered on each one of you.

"Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year"

Mrs. Daisy Richard

Vice President/Secretary SAWF

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL, SIDDAPURA



On 26th November 2022, at St. Andrews School, Siddapura, a *one-day Workshop on the Topic, 'Towards Holistic Education'*, was conducted. Staff and Students of standard 7, around 40 of them, participated.

The Resource Personnel were:

Mr. Sudarshan, Professor of Chemistry, St. Joseph's College;

Mrs. Suma, Professor of Chemistry, Reva College;

Mrs. H. Nalini Lawrence, Retired Vice Principal, Clarence High School, ISC faculty; and the *Guest of Honour* was Mr. Sadgopan, Industrialist. DZ Officer, Lions Club, Bengaluru.

The students were first addressed on *Career Guidance* and *Vocational Skills*. Demonstration on *Mental Math* was held, had fun games, anecdotes that made them roar with laughter. The importance of learning *Science and Math* was also mentioned. The staff had an in-depth orientation on *Teaching Methodologies* in *Science and Math* with slide presentations. *NEP policies* were presented on slides, and the 5 easy principles to implement features were discussed, and there was a *Brain Storming Session* throughout wherein a time of interaction both between *students* and *Resource Personnel*, and similarly with the *Staff*, made the orientation stimulating and interesting.

Three trophies were awarded to the *toppers* who wrote the *best essay* on '*Kannadada Mahatva*', as an activity conducted to commemorate *Rajyaotsava* in the school. The *Lions* sponsored the *Trophies* and the *Model of the Heart* to the school. We are truly grateful to God Almighty, our *Presbyter*, the *Convener*, *Head Mistress* and the *Staff*.

Our *School Ministry* has been serving this community for 43 years, offering free education to the children at *St. Andrew's School, Siddapura*.



Each year the children put up a fantastic program and this year was no different. The children enthralled us with their *Christmas Songs* sung in both *Kannada* and *English*. Two of the students presented a very elegant classical dance for the tune, 'O Come all ye faithful.' The children presented dances, songs, recited Bible verses and enacted the Nativity Play to mark this year's *Christmas Celebration*. Our School Ministry runs completely with the support of our congregation and its very encouraging to see how far we have come along. We express our heartfelt gratitude for your prayers and constant support. We hope you will continue to generously support us in our work.

"We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year"

Mr. Neil George Anchan

Convener, St. Andrew's School, Siddapura

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

2022 Christmas Clothing Initiative - by Men's Fellowship

A visit to Calvary Chapel, Home of Hope for Special Children



Educational and Professional Networking Committee (EPNC)

St. Andrew's Church Career Hub continued its activities during the month of December. *Career Hub Team* was available every Sunday after the English Worship Service for *placement assistance* and *career counseling*. Career Hub Team plans to continue its activities during 2023.

St. Andrew's Church Career Hub has been organizing a *series of motivational talks* for the benefit of professionals and the entire congregation. The topic for the fourth talk on November 26th was "*Are you managing your time*". Speaker was *Mr. Paul Abraham*, Senior Scientist, Hewlett Packard. Mr. Paul Abraham highlighted the importance and value of time management with practical suggestions which can be implemented in our day to day lives and especially in the corporate world.

The topic for fifth talk on December 17th was '*Power of Productivity*'. Speaker was *Mr. Jayakar Rao*, corporate leader, and motivational speaker. Mr. Jayakar Rao highlighted the importance of productivity in the corporate world with practical examples and suggestions.

Both the Sessions were appreciated by the attendees. Sessions have been uploaded to the church YouTube channel for the benefit of the congregation members. The Career Hub Team plans to organize more *Sessions*.

Mr. Vijay Palanna

Convener, EPNC

MISSION & EVANGELISM



This December on the 11th, the *Mission and Evangelism Team* and a few members of the congregation traveled to *Tubegere* along with our *Presbyter*, to be a part of and to celebrate with them the time of *Advent*.

We had a meaningful time of prayer and worship, after which our *Presbyter*, *Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben*, preached to the congregation, bringing the good news of Jesus' birth to them. After the members received the Word of God, they partook in the *Sacrament of Holy Communion*.

After the Service, we had *Fellowship Lunch* with the members of the congregation, and had a meeting with the *Leadership Team of 7 members*, which was formed in October.

We ask as we enter the *New Year* that you keep the leaders in your prayers, and that you will be strengthen in the Lord and be equipped to do His will for the congregation at Tubegere.

Mr. Kenneth Franklyn
Convener

PROUD ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Flemingson Lazarus, who's passion has led him earn the distinction of being the only Indian to have successfully completed the event *IRONMAN 70.3 Egypt* on the 18th of November 2022.

IRONMAN is a title awarded by World Triathlon Corporation to a triathlete who completes the event within the stipulated cut-off timing.



At the *Egypt* event, there were 355 *participants* from across the globe and he finished in 209th position clocking a time of 7 hours, 31 minutes and 33 seconds.

In *Egypt*, the competition included 1.9 kms swimming in the sea, followed by 90 kms of cycling and finishing off with a 21.1 kms run without any break. The clock starts with the first event and stops only after the last.

Incidentally, the *Egypt* event was his third such event after having done *IRONMAN 140.6* in Malaysia in 2019 and then in 2022 he did *IRONMAN 70.3* in Finland.

Congratulations Dr. Flemingson! May God bless you and we wish you many more laurels.



SEEKER'S NOOK



January 2023

Welcome 2023! Here's wishing our readers a blessed and happy year ahead. A brand new year is a great time to set new goals, to become a better version of ourselves. Having said that, we invite you to try this quiz featuring the word "new" as it appears in Biblical context. Go for it!

QUIZ

1. What wise man in the Bible once penned these words; "...there is no new thing under the sun."? Ecclesiastes 1
2. In the Book of Daniel, Daniel's friends Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah were given "new" names and are better known as whom?
3. In Exodus 1:8 (KJV) it is said that some time after the death of Joseph, a "new" king who hadn't heard of Joseph took over Egypt. What did this king do to the Israelites?
4. What was the 'new command' which Jesus gave to His disciples in John 13:34 (NIV)?
5. Although things looked really hopeless at the time, God told the prophet Isaiah to forget the past and see what new thing He was doing! According to Isaiah 43:19 (NIV), where was God making a new path and new streams?
6. In Revelation 2, Jesus promised those who overcome something new when speaking to the church at Pergamos. What was that new thing?
7. In Mark 1, what had Jesus done to cause people to believe that a "new" doctrine was being introduced to them?
8. Paul was a testimony of a life turned around by Christ. According to Paul, in 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV), if any man be in Christ, he becomes what new thing?
9. When Joseph of Arimathea asked for the body of Jesus, and buried him in his own new tomb, whose prophecy of the Messiah was fulfilled? Isaiah 53:9
10. In the Book of Revelation, John relates his vision of Jesus' return to earth and the final judgement of mankind. In Chapter 21:1, he tells of seeing what new things as he stands before the throne of God?

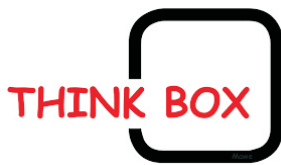
Correct answers will be published in next month's newsletter along with answer keys. Send your **printed** answers to **the Church Whatsapp number 9741401874** by **25th January 2023**, in the following format:

Name

Serial number – Answer

Epiphany

A Christmas crib is incomplete without the three Magi offering their gifts to baby Jesus, but do we know the actual facts? Here are few Epiphany facts worth knowing.



Epiphany is a special part of Christmas and the story of Jesus' birth. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek epiphaneia, meaning “reveal” ,“appearance” or “manifestation,” and refers to the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world.

In Western Christianity, the feast commemorates Jesus' physical manifestation to the Three Kings, thus the revelation of God incarnate as Messiah. Eastern Christians, on the other hand, see the baptism of Christ as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God, and this is what they celebrate on January 19th (since they observe the Julian calendar).

The Gospel of Matthew is the only Gospel that mentions the three Magi, or the (three) wise men or (three) kings. Matthew chapter 2 describes them as the men who came “from the east” to pay respect to the “King of the Jews.” Matthew 2:11 states “And when they came into the **house**, they saw the **young child** with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.”

The Magi visited Jesus bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gifts were very symbolic: gold stood for the royal nature of Jesus and his kingship on earth. The incense was a symbol of his divinity, and myrrh, which was customarily used as embalming oil, heralded Jesus' sacrificial death. However, all three gifts were known as typical offerings to a king.

Answer keys to December 2022 Quiz

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Caroling | 10. Saviour |
| 2. Star | 11. Jesus |
| 3. Rudolph | 12. Ornaments |
| 4. Santa | 13. Christmas |
| 5. Shepherd | 14. Sleigh |
| 6. Manger | 15. Snowman |
| 7. Angel | 16. Wreath |
| 8. Mistletoe | 17. Stocking |
| 9. Nativity | 18. Presents |

Winners!! to December 2022 Quiz

1. A. N Indiradevi
2. Deepan Elbert Pramodan
3. Annie Felix
4. Felicia Manoraj
5. Tania Whitson



HAPPENINGS DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2022

INFANT BAPTISM



Jeremiah Erashmas Sumitra

Son of Mr. Calvin Immanuel Sumitra and
Mrs. Candida Anthonette Sumitra
on 20th of December 2022

Weddings



Ms. Niloyasia Lobo

Daughter of Mr. Dominic Lobo & Mrs. Rosy Lobo
with

Mr. Rodney Arun Kumar

Son of Late Jacob Gnanakan & Mrs. Roselind Geetha
on the 10th of December 2022

Ms. Giselle Carvalho

Daughter of Mr. Rudolf Anthony Rosario Joseph Carvalho & Mrs. Josephine Mary
Estrocio
with

Mr. Ajith Lloyd Heri

Son of Mr. Santhosh Kumar Athanasius Heri & Mrs. Joyce Christobel Heri
on the 12th of December 2022

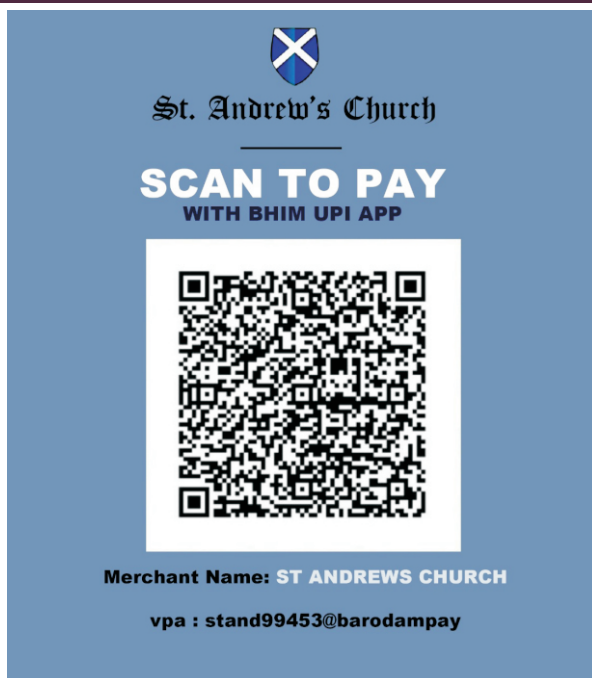
Ms. Steffi Alisha Rodrigues

Daughter of Mr. Marcel Raymond Peter Rodrigues & Mrs. Asha Maria Rodrigues
with

Mr. Rohit Jayaprakash

Son of Mr. Jayaprakash N & Mrs. Elizabeth Shashikala
on the 29th of December 2022

BANK OF BARODA ONLINE PAYMENT DETAILS



After transaction, please send a message on WhatsApp -919741401874
Or 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

CALENDAR FOR 1ST WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2023

Calendar for the First Week of February 2023			
*5th February Sunday	9th Sunday Before Easter		
	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	Mr. Reginald Sanjay Lazarus	
Gospel	St. Mark 2: 23- 28	Mrs. Sabitha Simon (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		6.15 p.m

Calendar for the Month of January 2023				
*1st January 1st Sunday	New Year - Covenant Day Theme: God's Continuing Covenant with All			
	Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben Preacher: Rev. Lorna Murray		*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m
	Old Testament Genesis 9:8-17		Mrs. Neha George	
	Epistle Galatians 4:21-31		Mr. Wilson Pratap	
	Gospel St. Luke 22:14-23		Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj (K)	
*8th January 2nd Sunday	Confirmation Sunday 2nd Sunday after Christmas Theme: Blessed and Fruitful Life			
	Celebrant & Preacher Rt. Rev. Dr. P. K. Samuel		*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m
	Old Testament Jeremiah 31: 31-34		Miss Rachel Nelson	
	Epistle Galatians 5:22-26		Miss Tara Leah Mark	
	Gospel St. Matthew 16:13-20		Miss Samantha Ellena S (K)	
*15th January 3rd Sunday	2nd Sunday after Epiphany Theme: Called to unity			
	Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben Preacher: Rev. Dr. Allan Palanna		*Kannada Holy Communion	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Allan Palanna		English	9.30 a.m
	Old Testament Ezekiel 37:15-23		Mrs. Sujatha Kishore (K) Mr. Vinod Paul Karodi	
	Epistle Ephesians 4:1-6		Mr. Nishanth Kunder (K) Ms. Sarah Niveditha P	
	Gospel St. John 15:1-12		Mrs. Mary Sukumari (K) Mr. Noah Zach Nirmal	
	Evening Service		Holy Communion Service Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Silpa Rani	
22nd January 4th Sunday	Ecumenical Sunday (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity) 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Theme: Unity in Faith and Action			
	Preacher: Rev. Fr. Anil Joel Prasad		Kannada	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Fr. Dr. Victor Lobo		English	9.30 a.m
	Old Testament Joshua 3: 9- 17		Mr. C.P. Lawrence (K) Mrs. Rosebell Prabhakar	
	Epistle Acts 9: 20 -25		Mrs. Christabel Soumya Salins (K) Mr. Billy Graham	
	Gospel St. Mark 1: 21- 34		Mr. Eric Paul (K) Mrs. Jean Rachel Rao	
	Evening Service		Conducted by Youth Fellowship	
26th January Thursday	Republic Day Theme: Participation in Nation Building			
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben		Combined Worship Service	8:00 a.m
29th January 5th Sunday	4th Sunday after Epiphany Theme: True Piety			
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben		Kannada	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Sudhakar Joshua P		English	9.30 a.m
	Old Testament Micah 6: 1- 8		Mrs. Celestine Ashwal (K) Miss Vivian Evangaline Shiri	
	Epistle James 1: 19 – 27		Mr. Anoop Justin (K) Mr. David Jayaprakash Soans	
	Gospel St. Matthew 6: 1-8		Miss Sanjana Simran Peter (K) Mrs. Jeu Sneha D	
	Evening Service		Stuti Sange	

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