



St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

N E W S L E T T E R

JULY 2023

"EQUIPPING CONGREGATION IN GOD'S MISSION"



Prioritizing and Empowering Justice

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From the Presbyterian's Desk

Prioritizing and Empowering Justice

"But Strive first for the Kingdom of God..."

Matthew 6:33

Priority about priorities is a matter of priority. We have to constantly set and reset our priorities based on our convictions, experiences and plans. Jesus as a creative and radical Teacher whose teaching in the Gospel of Matthew with its five discourses, including the Sermon on the Mount, forms the core of Christian and Theological Education. This month we prepare to focus on the teaching, training and formation of Pastors and Christian teachers or in other words, on *Theological Education* and *Ministerial Formation*. We are covering several images and aspects of ministry. We are also focussing on couples and family life.

Our Lord said, *"But strive first for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* (Matthew 6:33). *Righteousness* can also be translated as *Justice*. Probably, as in many places in the New Testament, *Justice* would have been more appropriate and better received in our context. Today, what is probably missing is the *"Consciousness of Justice,"* in our *Theological Education*. The Church of South India Almanac indicates the theme as *'Equipping the People of God.'* But we need a shift from *Equipping* to *Empowering*, because *prioritizing Justice* is all about *empowering Justice*.

In a related passage in *Matthew 10:40-42*, in v.41 it is pointed, *"Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous"* (Matt. 10: 41). So, the *reward* of *Righteousness* or *Justice* cannot be *received* but needs to be *shared and celebrated*.

Theological Education cannot remain an abstract, elite intellectual exercise, but must result from the articulation from the margins and in the transformation of margins. The reference to the *"little ones"* (Matthew 10: 42) is a reference to the consciousness of the people in the margins. The

teaching and discipleship of Jesus is radical because it did not begin with institutional support, political patronage or social status, and the result was that the Apostles went into the world as vulnerable strangers and messengers without earthly power, but in the power of the Holy Spirit. The task of Theological Education is to prioritize Justice, which would mean engagement with institutional power, social hierarchy and political patronage. Visions of empowerment are not realized because we are constantly failing to prioritize and engage with Justice in our thinking, formation, and action. Theological Education is a work that requires partnership between formal centers of Theological Education and the Church, which would help discover together patterns and pathways in prioritizing and empowering Justice. Glad that we are blessed with the ministry and engagement of Theological Educators and Students in our local church ministry.

Along with the focus on Theological Education, the *Young Couples Fellowship* (YCF) is planning for a major program to invite and help couples to renew and revitalize their family lives. In addition, they will be assisting in *pre-marital sessions* at the church. Even as our families are under pressure, it is our hope that YCF will provide adequate spaces for families to flourish with God's love.

Our work to support students with *general scholarships* has been a great sign of encouragement and we hope that your giving to support this initiative during the month of July will be rewarding.

We are happy to welcome *Mrs. Sudha* as the new *Headmistress* of our St. Andrew's School, and we thank *Mrs. Saraswathi* for her services and the leadership provided at a challenging time during the pandemic.

As we sip our Coffee every Sunday, I am sure we miss *Mr. Krishna* who served as *Sexton*. He had to seek voluntary retirement due to personal and medical reasons. We miss him and the fellowship with the family on the campus and sincerely remember him for his services.

Your Presbyter

Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben

Reports of Activities by the Wings & Ministries of the Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Our Sunday School resumed on the 11th of June 2023, with the total strength of 110 children and 15 teachers.

This year, our children are being introduced to the *Books of the Bible* along with the regular Sunday School Curriculum.

For the very first time, a *Talent Show* was organised on *Saturday, the 24th of June*. A total of 38 children took part, and it was an amazing experience to see our children performing so well in *singing, playing instruments, storytelling* and *reciting memory verses*. We would like to thank the parents for encouraging us, as well as their children.

Our *Sunday School Team* has planned to hold such events for our children on every 4th *Saturday of the month*, and as a *Team*, we would like to encourage and support every single child with the talents they have been blessed with.

Mrs. Sujatha Kishore

Sunday School Superintendent

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

'May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.' 2 Corinthians 13:14

Our Women's Fellowship met on *Saturday, the 3rd of June* for their monthly *Bible Study*. The Bible Study was conducted by *Mrs. Veneetha Sunita*.

We looked at the 3 important events, the *Resurrection and the Ascension of our Lord Jesus, and the Gift of the Holy Spirit*. As we worked our way to the first 5 Books of the New Testament, we tried to understand the significance of these 3 stages.

We focused on certain aspects of these historical events. Why did Jesus choose to appear before some individuals? How did that change them? What did Jesus do during the *40 days* from *Resurrection* to *Ascension*, was another significant part of the Study. What was the purpose of asking the disciples to stay together and remain in Jerusalem?

Visualizing the *Ascension* as described in *Mark 16: 19, Luke 24: 50-51, Acts 1:9-11*, and then analyzing the multiple roles and powers that were bestowed on Christ Jesus as accounted in the Epistles, helped us understand how *Jesus seated at the right hand of the Father* is our advocate constantly interceding for us personally, calling us by name with love and understanding.

What did the disciples do during the *10 days* between *Ascension* and *Pentecost*? We also used the following Biblical references from *Acts 2:1-4, 4:27-31, 8:15 - 17, 10:44, 11:15,16, and Acts 19:6*, to see for ourselves that the pouring in of the *Holy Spirit* was essentially when the disciples and believers were together in fellowship.

Why should we celebrate *Ascension* with fervour? Are we in a state of preparedness for the *Second Coming of our Lord Jesus*? Do we seek for opportunities to be in fellowship with fellow believers? Each one of us was challenged to reflect on these and the many questions that the *Holy Spirit* brings to mind as we meditate on the *Word of God*.



On the 17th of June, Candle Making Session was conducted by Mrs. Mirium Sadhu, where we learnt to make beautiful candles. It was a wonderful time of learning this beautiful art. We are grateful to God for all these experiences and opportunities He is giving to all of us.

Mrs. Daisy Richard

Vice President/ Secretary, SAWF

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

'Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.' 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Our Men's Fellowship aims to encourage and help you:

- Grow spiritually
- Serve the ministries of the church
- Strengthen personal relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We have organized two very important Zoom Sessions:

I. Bible Study on the Book of Revelation led by our Pastor,

Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben

II. Contribution of Missionaries by Rev. Dr. Allan Palanna

Bible Study on the Book of Revelation:

Bible Study has been one of the core initiatives of the Men's Fellowship. 'The Parables' from the Gospel according to St. Luke, and 'The Seven Churches' from the Book of Revelation were conducted by our own Pastor, Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben and many members journeyed through these studies.

In continuation, currently we are doing a study titled "Reconciliation and Transformation", which is a ten-part study series that is being led by our beloved Pastor. The focus of the Study is the 'Seven Seals' in the Book of Revelation.

Through these *Sessions*, our Pastor is helping us explore the *symbolism* and *significance* of the 'Seven Seals', uncovering its deep spiritual meaning for our lives today. Through this *Bible Study*, we are gaining a deeper understanding of God's plan for reconciliation and transformation. It has been a time of *reflection* and *inspiration* as we consider how these principles could shape our personal journeys of faith.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Pastor for leading us through this Bible Study, and delivering enriching Sessions.

We encourage all members to join this Bible Study and benefit out of it. The participants can attend these Sessions through Zoom as well, every 2nd Saturday of the month, at 4. 30 pm. All are most welcome!

Contribution of Missionaries:

Caring of the Mission has been one of the key objectives of the *Men's Fellowship*. Having completed a small *Group Study* on *Missionary Biographies* to bring the burden of *Mission* to wider members, we have started a new *online session series*.

Contribution of Missionaries is a *Series on Zoom*, every 4th Saturday of the month at 4. 30 pm, arranged by Men's Fellowship, to bring out the life-stories of missionaries and the impact they created on our societies. As the introductory session on Saturday, the 24th of June, we had the privilege of having Rev. Dr. Allan Palanna leading an inspiring and thought-provoking *Session*. He shared valuable insights into the incredible contributions made by missionaries in shaping the spiritual landscape of our nation.

Through engaging storytelling and historical anecdotes, Rev. Dr. Palanna highlighted the sacrifices and unwavering faith of missionaries who dedicated their lives to spreading the *Gospel* in India. He emphasized the importance of recognizing and honouring their legacy, as their efforts paved the way for the growth and establishment of churches across the country.

The *Session* sparked lively discussions and deep reflection among the attendees, prompting us to appreciate the profound impact of missionary work. It was a reminder of our responsibility to carry forward the torch of faith and

continue the work of reaching out to those who have yet to encounter the transformative love of Christ.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to *Rev. Dr. Allan Palanna* for his insightful teaching and the powerful way he shared the stories of these dedicated missionaries. May we be inspired by their example and emulate their passion for spreading the Gospel in our own lives.

We encourage all members to join this *online Session Series*. The participants can attend these Sessions through Zoom every 4th Saturday of the month, at 4.30 pm. The Zoom Meeting invites for both the Sessions are being shared through the CARE Group-WhatsApp. All are most welcome!

Mr. Wilson Prathap S

Convener, Men's Fellowship

CARE FOR THE ELDERLY



The Battle belongs to the Lord

We thank God Almighty and our Lord Jesus Christ for giving us yet another opportunity to Praise and Worship Him.

The *Care For The Elderly Ministry* organized this month's program on *Saturday, the 24th of June*, at the Rev. Stewart Wright Hall. The speaker was *Dr. Stafford Cripps*. He gave an inspiring message on the topic, "*The Battle belongs to the Lord*", from *Exodus 14:13, 14*.

The program started with a time of *Praise and Worship* by singing four beautiful *Hymns* led by the *Youth*.

Dr. Cripps' message based on the above topic, spoke about Moses - his first 40 years as a prince, the next 40 years in the wilderness, and then the final 40 years as a leader, and how after the 10th plague the LORD inflicted on the Egyptians, Pharaoh had to humble himself and let the Israelites go. The LORD fought the battle for them and delivered His people from the enemy. (Exodus 14: 14). Dr. Cripps also enumerated in detail, the wonderful way by which the LORD led them across the Red Sea and through the Wilderness.

Dr. Cripps next spoke about Jesus being the sole person who can deliver us from all struggles. We must love one another and forgive each other, and by doing so, we set ourselves free.

There was a time of activity, mainly to get to know each other better, and a game where each member had to 'laugh out loud' to feel better!

In conclusion, we thank all who came together in helping us organize this program, the *Youth, master Jousha Mohanraj* and *Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj*, the Convener of the Young Couples Fellowship.

We specially thank *Dr. Cripps*, and all the elders who attended the meeting.

Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri
Convener, Care for the Elderly

MUSIC MINISTRY

Greetings from the Music Ministry of St. Andrew's Church!

On *Sunday, the 4th of June*, our church hosted a *Concert of Sacred Music*, and the *special guests* who performed were the *Samuel Brothers*, a *trio*, along with *Dr. Ravi Santhosham*, both who came from *Chennai*, bringing beautiful harmonies and meaningful songs to us.

Next, we had *Vihan Damaris*, a young songwriter and YouTuber, who serves God through singing and captivating skits on her Channel.

We also had a message about being the *Salt in the World*, and we listened to the wonderful rendition on the *Pan Flute* by *Benny Prasad* who is no stranger to our church. We were also favoured by a few pieces from our very own *St. Andrew's Church Choir*.

The *Concert* was well attended and appreciated by music lovers across the city, and many had also travelled from far to attend this Concert.

We thank God for yet another opportunity such as this to listen to *Sacred Songs of Praise and Worship* brought in unique ways, bringing glory to God.

We look forward to many such *Concerts* in the future, and invite you to join us.

Mrs. Neha George

Convener, Music Ministry

YOUNG COUPLES' FELLOWSHIP



"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Romans 12:10

The *Young Couples' Fellowship* had a great time of sharing and understanding a special theme for this month, "*Marriage - A Real Life Case Study*," meticulously planned by *Mrs. Anupama Caroline* and *Mr. Winfred Joshua*, putting together years of their experience.

5 *Case Studies* brought out various key points highlighted below. Every couple shared their perspective and understanding:

- A clear *communication* between the couples to be married is a must and crucial part before the big day! It's always good to talk and sort out little or trivial matters before committing.
- After marriage, the communication is a totally different ball game altogether! *Adapting* to it is the key to a happy marriage.



- Getting help from able *Counselors* anytime when either of the spouses requires assistance in marriage is a must. There is a taboo associated with Mental Health, and yes, we need to accept things and find solution to it instead of brooding over it; just like the way we go to the doctors for our physical health checks!
- A simple theory of *leave and cleave* highlighted in *Genesis 2:24*, was shared. This is a trivial matter where one/both spouses are unable/unaware of prioritizing their spouse over their parents. It's magic in the family when both spouses *understand* this concept and *both treat each other's parents with love and respect!*
- Handling *children's psychological wellbeing* especially during conflicts between the spouses is a very crucial part of a family life.
- *Forgive just like Christ.*
- A family could run smoothly only if there is a dedicated *Family Altar-time*, which is just like cherry on top of the cake in a *Christ-centered* family!

Please do not miss registering for the *Couples Daylong Retreat* planned for couples of all ages on Sunday the 30th of July from 11:30AM in the Church premises.

Thank you, St. Andrew's Family, for your continued prayers and support for YCF. Do pray that God's Spirit guides, leads and protects each person involved in planning and executing this *Retreat*, and that it may go on smoothly touching each and every couple and their families thus glorifying *God's Name*.

Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj
Convener, Young Couples' Fellowship



SEEKER'S NOOK



July 2023

It is July, the second half of the year has begun! Did you know that Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great and Nelson Mandela were born in the month of July? Just as these figures have shaped modern history, Prophets too played an important role in the Biblical narrative, being chosen to speak on God's behalf to the people. Can you name the Prophet mentioned in each clue? Try this Crossword now!

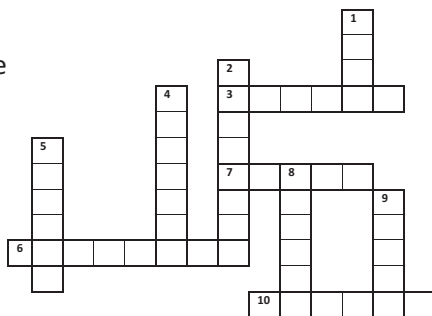
Clues:

Across

3. Ravens fed me. Who am I?
6. Remained in Jerusalem when many people where captured by Babylon
7. Led Israel for forty years
10. His bones brought a dead body back to life

Down

1. She saw baby Jesus in the temple and was glad
2. Cup bearer for King Artaxerxes
4. Wrote the last book of the old testament
5. He interpreted the writing on the wall
8. Anointed the first 2 Kings of Israel
9. He spent 3 days and 3 nights inside a fish



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

Name

Serial number – Answer

June Quiz Answers

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Other Gods | 6. In the beauty of holiness |
| 2. King Solomon | 7. Hannah |
| 3. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego | 8. Judah |
| 4. In Spirit and Truth | 9. After disciples celebrated Passover with Jesus at the Last Supper |
| 5. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. | 10. Paul and Silas |

THINK BOX



STEWARDSHIP

From the very beginning of Creation, God instructed humans to have dominion (charge) over Creation. As followers of Jesus, we have authority and responsibility to lovingly rule over Creation's affairs, much like the overseer of a household.

Stewardship is a way of life. Rooted in scripture and flowing from discipleship, stewardship allows us to recognize that we, as individuals, are not owners of our lives but rather are stewards or managers. Stewardship, quite simply, is recognizing that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God and being generous with those gifts.

Through our stewardship, let us reflect God's image and care toward all of Creation and fulfil our roles as caretakers and stewards.

Follow link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lexjUqXYcts>

or scan QR code for a video on Christian Stewardship.



Well done June Winners

1. Deepan Elbert Pramodan
2. Rosabelle Prabhakar
3. Gitanjali Lazarus
4. Reena Anoop



5. Felicia Manoraj
6. Esther Suguna Simeon
7. A. N. Indira Devi
8. Annie Felix

ENVIRONMENT SUNDAY



Environment Sunday was celebrated on the 11th of June 2023 during both the *Kannada and English Worship Services*. The *Theme* was '*Creation Groans for Liberation*'.

After the *Worship Services*, *World Environment Day* was observed.

Our *Presbyter*, *Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben* planted a *Sapling*. Popular *fruit and flower bearing saplings* were distributed to our congregation members and visitors who worshipped with us.

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 & this number 9741401874 written behind it. Do share the details to church office number

HAPPENINGS DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2023

Weddings



Ms. Epratha Raguel Choutipalle
 Daughter of Mr. Raguel Choutipalle &
 Mrs. Mary Margaret Swarna Latha Gona
 with
Mr. Stanley Jaichand
 Son of Mr. Andrew Steven Jaichand &
 Mrs. Elizabeth Premalatha Jaichand
 on the 16th of June 2023

INFANT BAPTISM



Lian Ozias Kotian
 Son of Mr. Abishek Ebenezer Kotian and
 Mrs. Alexandrina Namratha Kotian
 on 11th of June 2023

OBITUARY



Mr. S. Chandrakanthan
 (aged 77 years)
 husband of Dr. (Mrs.) Vijayalakshmi Chandrakanthan
 father of Mr. Gnana Desigan Chandrakanthan
 slept in the Lord on 13th June 2023

Calendar for the First Week of August 2023

*6th August Sunday	Mission Sunday		
	10th Sunday after Pentecost		
	Theme: Mission - Good News to All		
	Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m
Old Testament	Isaiah 55: 1-6	Mr. Kenneth Franklyn	
Epistle	Acts 10: 34 - 43	Mr. Wilson Prathap	
Gospel	St. Matthew 4: 17-25	Mrs. Sujatha Kishore (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		6.15 p.m

Calendar for the Month of July 2023					
*2nd July 1st Sunday	Stewardship Sunday				
	5th Sunday after Pentecost				
	Theme: Stewardship - Responsible Resource Management				
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben		*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service		
Old Testament	Exodus 18: 13-27	Mr. Joshi Mark Premnath		9:00 a.m	
Epistle	2 Corinthians 8: 1-15	Mrs. Leena Jayakumari			
Gospel	St. Matthew 25: 14-30	Mr. Vijay Kumar Palanna (K)			
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra			6.15 p.m	
9th July 2nd Sunday	Theological Education Sunday				
	6th Sunday after Pentecost				
	Theme: Equipping the People of God				
	Preacher: Rev. Dinesh V		Kannada		8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Allan Palanna		English		9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Deuteronomy 6: 1-17		Mr. Naveen Rangayya (K)		
			Mr. Billy Graham		
Epistle	Ephesians 4: 7-16		Mrs. Annie Solomon (K)		
			Mrs. Arpana Palavi Palanna		
Gospel	St. Matthew 7: 24-29		Mrs. Usha Somashekar (K)		
			Dr. Stafford Cripps		
Evening Service	Conducted by Youth Fellowship			6.15 p.m	
*16th July 3rd Sunday	7th Sunday after Pentecost				
	Theme: People of God- Ambassadors of Christ				
	Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben		*Kannada Holy Communion		8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Rohan Gideon		English		9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Joshua 1: 1-9		Ms. Magdalene Preetha (K)		
			Mrs. Beverly Pearl Rozario		
Epistle	2 Corinthians 5:16 - 6:10		Mr. Anoop Justin (K)		
			Mr. Andrew Panchikal		
Gospel	St. Mark 6: 7-13		Mrs. Vimalakshi Soans (K)		
			Mrs. Doreen Snehalatha Soans		
Evening Service	Holy Communion Service - Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben			6.15 p.m	
23rd July 4th Sunday	8th Sunday after Pentecost				
	Theme: Ordained Ministry - Transformed to Transform				
	Preacher: Rev. S. Raju		Kannada		8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben		English		9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Ezekiel 33: 1-9		Mrs. Reema Raj (K)		
			Mr. Heinzstein Raj Peter		
Epistle	1 Timothy 3: 1 – 13		Mr. Samuel David Amanna (K)		
			Mrs. Madhu John		
Gospel	St. John 21: 15-19		Mrs. Sabitha Simon (K)		
			Mrs. Anzita Brimble Solomon		
Evening Service	Concert: The Glorious			6.00 p.m	
30th July 5th Sunday	9th Sunday after Pentecost				
	Marriage: Celebration of Covenant/ Sacrament				
	Theme: Stronger Together				
	Preacher: Mrs. Anupama Caroline		Kannada		8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Mrs. Sheeba Thomas & Mr. Biju Thomas		English		9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Genesis 2: 18-25		Mrs. & Mr. Praveen Anchan (K)		
			Mrs. & Mr. I. Samson Praisly		
Epistle	Hebrews 13: 1-6		Mrs. & Dr. Shakeel Peters (K)		
			Mrs. & Mr. John Prem Rabindranath		
Gospel	St. Matthew 19: 3-6		Mrs. & Mr. Christopher Herbert (K)		
			Mrs. & Mr. Stanley Jaichand		
Evening Service	Conducted by Young Couple Fellowship: Mrs. Kumuda Sujay & Rev. Samuel Sujay			6.00 p.m	

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