



St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

N E W S L E T T E R

NOV 2023

"EQUIPPING CONGREGATION IN GOD'S MISSION"



St. Andrew's Day
Sunday, 26th November 2023



The Power of Sensitivity

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

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From the Presbyterian's Desk

The Power of Sensitivity

"We wish to see Jesus"

(St. John 12:21)

One of the most discussed ideas is that of the 'self,' and the 'other.' The story of the *Christian Faith* is shaped by this discourse and by the interactions of people in the formation of the Christian Faith. In the midst of the history that we share and the contemporary issues that we encounter, we constantly seek the '*Power of Sensitivity.*' *Andrew, the first Apostle*, called to follow Jesus, comes across as a *sensitive* Apostle and invites us to celebrate the '*Power of Sensitivity.*'

We are preparing to commemorate *St. Andrew's Day*, a day that may be synonymous with an *Anniversary* or a *Feast Day*, but is celebrated all over the world to remember the life and little known work of our *Patron Saint, St. Andrew*. Andrew, literally in the original means, '*Manly*,' which is related to *courage*.

One of the legacies that is striking is that *Andrew* being sensitive to his fellow apostles, and to the peoples and cultures around him. It maybe strange that Andrew is mentioned only twelve times, four of them in lists of apostles (*Mark 3:18; Matt 10:2; Luke 6:14; Acts 1:13*).

In one of the fascinating and unique texts involving Andrew in the Gospel of *John 12:20-26*, the *Greeks* who came to a religious festival of the Jews, came to Philip, and said, "*Sir, we wish to see Jesus*" (*John 12:21*). And Philip goes to Andrew and both of them together go to Jesus. In Greek, the word to 'see,' has got extended figurative meanings: *perceive, recognize, experience, visit, consider*. Andrew understands the need of the Greeks who are visiting in the context of the *Passover Festival*, have been oriented to another religious and social orientation, yet have heard and now wish to see Jesus. *Andrew discovers that the understanding and exercising faith begins with access to faith and access to faith is possible by being sensitive to the faith of the other. Being sensitive to the faith of the other is the awareness of being grounded in one's own faith and yet recognizing the radical gift of Jesus' self-denying power made real in the power of sensitivity.* Jesus gives the example of a grain of wheat that falls to the earth and dies, and in dying, it bears much fruit (*John 12:24*). Andrew, by allowing the Greeks to meet Jesus, helped them to understand that there is power in being and becoming sensitive.

Andrew continues to invite us to the experience of the Power of Sensitivity in our life and witness together as a community of faith.

Worship Services

We are glad that our Worship Services in *English* and *Kannada* along with the *Concerts* are connecting with people both in the church and through online transmission. Efforts are being made to follow and adapt most *Special Services* according to the *CSI Almanac*. We are glad that our *online* Worship Services are reaching people in different parts of our country and the world! We thank all the *Presbyters* who regularly help in the *Pastoral Team*, and value their time and effort. We are deeply grateful for everyone who work tirelessly week after week.

Annual Harvest and Thanksgiving

Our *Annual Harvest and Thanksgiving* this year was celebrated on the 8th of *October 2023* with the theme, '***Faith Forward***.' The participation, joy and warmth were evident in every part of the Thanksgiving, with increased participation. We received many visitors and for the new members, it was a first experience. We thank all of you for your prayers and generous support, which will go on to support the urgently required *repair and painting of the interior and exterior of our church*.

Community at Tubagere

The *Mission and Evangelism (M & E) Team* organized the *Harvest and Thanksgiving Festival* at Tubagere on *Sunday, October 29*. We thank God for the work of our full time *evangelist* and the *M & E Team*. To help and enhance worship, several gifts like a *Keyboard* have been shared at Tubagere. Preparations are underway to start *Skills Training Programme* and we hope to inaugurate it during the Christmas Celebrations in December.

St. Andrew's School, Siddapura

Our work of *Education and Empowerment* continues with the work of *St. Andrew's School* at Siddapura. We thank God for the services of *Mrs. Saraswathi*, and wish *Mrs. Myriam Sudha* who has taken over as *Headmistress* of the School. It is our prayer that the work of education will continue to help and empower the children in the margins.

Women's Fellowship: ATHALIA

The Women's Fellowship of our church in a first, organized *ATHALIA*, an *Inter-church Festival* with the theme *Shake Salt and Shine Light* based on *Matthew 5:13-16*. '*Athalia*' means, '*The Lord is Exalted*'. The events were: *Flower Arrangement, Collage, Walk the Bible, Bible Quiz, Cooking without Fire, and Group Singing*. Participants from about 34 churches, and around 330 women participated. We thank the *leadership and every member of the Women's Fellowship* for organizing such an event at a short notice. It was very well organized and was very much appreciated.

St. Andrew's Day

We look forward each year to the celebration of *St. Andrew's Day*, commemorating and remembering our *Patron Saint, St. Andrew*. We will be *honouring our elders*, and recognizing our *children with Merit Scholarships*. *It is our hope that we will have time for fellowship and social interactions.*

In closing, some more words on the Apostle St. Andrew:

Andrew also became popular in the West. In 1204, Crusaders stole Andrew's relics from Constantinople and took them to Amalfi, Italy. According to ancient Celtic tradition, St. Regulus (4th century) took the apostle's arm to St. Andrews, Scotland, and thus Andrew became known as the Patron Saint of Scotland. There is a scholarly consensus about the tradition that Andrew died at Patrae in Achaia. A story developed that he was martyred on an X-shaped cross (a "decussate" or "saltire" cross), which has become known as St. Andrew's cross. St. Andrew's cross has been and is an iconic representation of our church. On the Calendar of Saints of the Roman and Greek churches, Andrew's date is set as November 30, which is St. Andrew's Feast Day.

We will be celebrating St. Andrew's Day on Sunday, the 26th of this month, at a Joint Holy Communion Worship Service, beginning at 9 am.

May God bless you all

Your Presbyter

Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben

Reports of Activities by the Wings & Ministries of the Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Greetings to everyone in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

During the month of October, the *Team* of our Sunday School along with the children took active part in the *Harvest Thanksgiving Celebrations* on *Sunday, the 8th of October, 2023.*

Our children and teachers are preparing for *Bangalore Civil Area Sunday School Championship 2023.* We request the congregation members and the Pastorate Committee to pray for us.

Mrs. Sujatha Kishore

Sunday School Superintendent

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

*The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
Shall flourish in the courts of our God.
They shall still bear fruit in old age;
They shall be fresh and flourishing,
To declare that the Lord is upright;
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him
Psalm 92: 12 - 15*

Greetings to one and all in the mighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Sunday the 8th of October 2023 was celebrated as the Harvest Thanksgiving by the members of St. Andrews Church. The members of our Women's Fellowship enthusiastically took part and helped in organizing the Food Stall with a huge variety of food items and monetary contributions.

We praise and thank God Almighty for this guidance, presence and tender mercies.

Our sincere thanks to one and all for making it a grand success.

Mrs. Daisy Richard

Vice President / Secretary, SAWF

CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

We thank our Heavenly Father through our Lord Jesus Christ for giving us the time to Praise and Glorify His Name.

The *Care for the Elderly Ministry* organized the monthly Fellowship on *Saturday, the 21st of October 2023*, at the *Rev. Stewart Wright Hall*. The speaker for this session was *Dr. Vijaya Prabha*, a senior doctor from the *Department of Geriatrics* at the *Bangalore Baptist Hospital*. Dr. Vijaya Prabha spoke on the topic '*Staying Fresh and Green*' from *Psalms 92:12 - 15*.

Dr. Prabha spoke on four main points on the Palm Tree and the Cedar of Lebanon, how they grow, how their roots grow deep and bear much fruit when they are planted in the Lord.

We thank our Lord Almighty through our Lord Jesus Christ for being in our presence and in helping us organize the Fellowship to glorify His Name.

Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri

Convener, Care For Elderly Ministry

YOUNG COUPLES FELLOWSHIP

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17



It has been a very fruitful month for YCF with God's grace and our *Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben's* guidance and support. Thanking Andrew's family for their continued prayers and support without which we would not be able to achieve our goals in this family ministry.

Mrs. Dedeepya and Mr. Ajith John shared their family's powerful testimonies and God's guidance in their marriage during our special session, *"Watching God's Faithfulness In Action."* Sharing one of their testimonies as shared by *Mrs. Dedeepya Ajith John*:

"We testify to God's faithfulness and a Miracle first hand in our lives. During our 17th week of second pregnancy in 2015, we were informed of the double marker test that came positive. Further, higher order tests of Triple and Quadruple markers indicated higher probability of having a Down's syndrome child.

We were faced with three choices that our gynaecologist placed in front us:

1. *Abort: As per Indian Law it is legal to abort the child within 20 weeks of pregnancy, based on Triple marker and Quadruple marker test results that we had got.*
2. *Confirm and Decide: Test amniotic sac fluid (Amniocentesis) by a minor risk procedure which punctures the amniotic sac for a confirmation.*
3. *Accept what God has given to us.*

We also sought out additional opinions from other doctors, hoping to hear soothing and encouraging words. Rather, we encountered statements borne out of concern such as “Managing a Down's child is difficult. It's not a joke... What if it's a girl child, managing a Down's girl child is even more difficult, as sexual abuse of such children is on the rise”. While all these seem to be true in the natural, it did not factor in faith and were probably the wrong sources to seek solace.

We chose to Trust God to be with us no matter what happens. That ruled out that option 1 and option 2 did not make sense to pursue as we would accept irrespective of the outcome. Once I chose to put our faith only in Lord Jesus alone, I was more at peace, more confident of our decision and happier!

My parents, in-laws and siblings were supportive of our decision and that mattered to us the most! We were also blessed with a God-fearing Dr. Susan Sodder, and Holy Spirit Hospital Team at Mumbai, who stood by us. Our church members incessantly prayed and so did quite a few churches in Mumbai as well, who prayed for me and the baby all through the rest of the pregnancy time. They were the prayer warriors for this baby. Not to forget our 4-year-old daughter Amelia, who prayed without fail every day for a normal baby.

Ajith also warned me, as from the life of Job, that once the devil tries to test you, it would be ongoing and hence I should expect more hiccups on our way till the end. True to his word, the 7th month Sonography showcased a possible hole in the baby's heart, and 9th month Sonography showed 3.5 weeks of growth retardation in the baby. The Sonography report even a day prior to delivery still showed no nasal cavity (which is a reasonable indicative of Down 's syndrome) and 3 weeks growth retardation (IUGR).

On May 23rd afternoon, the baby arrived. Dr. Sodder exclaimed “Congratulations! Ajith and Dedeepya, it's a baby boy! He doesn't look a bit like an IUGR baby!”

After an hour of check-up, the Head Paediatrician went to Ajith and said “YOU HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH A PERFECTLY NORMAL HEALTHY CHILD! IT'S A MIRACLE!”

Today, the Daniel Ajith John that you see in the church is a LIVING TESTIMONY of GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AND MIRACLE! This Journey was not easy for me,

though I had taken my stand early enough. Anxiety always followed me throughout every Sonography and test, yet praying helped me to be grounded and reaffirm my faith in the Lord.”

2. Participating, sharing and bonding during the *Harvest Festival*.

3. *Pre-marital Counselling*: We as a Team were delighted to start and successfully complete these Sessions timed an hour each. *We had four Sessions conducted*:

- Introductory ice breaker Session
- Intimacy in Christ Centered Marriage
- Communication in Christ Centered Marriage
- Financial Management in Christ Centered Marriage.

Mrs. Rashmi Mohanraj

Convener, Young Couples Fellowship



SEEKER'S NOOK



November 2023

Welcome! As we celebrate Children's Day on November 14th, this edition is dedicated to our buzzing children. God has so much love for children that He highlights what adults can learn from them to come to God (Matthew 18:15). Because children display humility and complete dependence when they trust someone, God honours their hearts. Children, here is a simple Bible quiz just for you. Do try it!

QUIZ

1. Where would you find the Lord's Prayer in the Bible?
2. Which is the only book in the Bible that doesn't mention God's name?
3. Which is Jesus' first miracle, where did it take place?
4. What did God change Jacob's name to?
5. Whose mother brought him a coat every year when he served in the temple?
6. This child became king of Judah when he was only eight years old.
7. Who once caught 300 foxes, tied them together in pairs with torches between their tails, and sent them into the enemy's fields to set their crops on fire?
8. Who was with Paul in prison when there was a great earthquake?
9. Who is the only woman whose age is mentioned in the Bible?
10. I was sold off by my brothers for 20 pieces of silver. Who am I?

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 **20th November 2023**, in the following format:

Name

Serial number – Answer



Footprints for Children

The Lord will always walk with you
Along life's blessed beach.
His footprints there beside your own,
Always within reach.
Two sets of footprints, side by side,
From dawn to setting sun.

Yet there may come a day, my child,
When you'll see only one.
But do not think the Lord has left you -
Nothing could be more wrong.
It's just that He has picked you up,
To carry you along.

Happy Children's Day to our young readers.

October Quiz Answers

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Holy convocations | 6. Blowing |
| 2. Solemn, dwellings | 7. Abib |
| 3. Fourteenth | 8. Winter |
| 4. Egypt | 9. Unleavened Bread |
| 5. Firstfruits | 10. Passover |

October Winners

- Felicia Manoraj
- A N Indiradevi
- Lynette Natasha Karkada
- Deepan Elbert Pramodan
- Gitanjali Lazarus
- Joshua Aiden Mohan Raj
- Annie Felix
- Esther Suguna Simeon
- Rosabelle Prabhakar
- Epratha Stanley



ONLINE PAYMENT DETAILS

Church



School



PLEASE NOTE

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 the First Week of December 2023				
*3rd December 1st Sunday	Advent Season			
	1st Sunday in Advent			
	Theme: Joyful Expectation of Christ's Coming			
	Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m	
Old Testament	Jeremiah 33: 10 - 16	Mrs. Neha Soans George		
Epistle	1 Thessalonians 3: 6 - 13	Mr. Wilson Prathap		
Gospel	St. Luke 1: 39 - 45	Mrs. Sujata Kishore (K)		
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumithra			6.15 p.m

Calendar for the Month of November 2023

*5th November 1st Sunday	Unity Sunday		
	23rd Sunday after Pentecost		
	Theme: Treasures in Clay Jars		
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m
	Old Testament Micah 6: 1 - 8	Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj	
Epistle	2 Corinthians 4: 7 - 15	Mr. Vijay Kumar Palanna	
Gospel	St. Mark 4: 26 - 29	Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumithra		6.15 p.m
12th November 2nd Sunday	World Sunday School Day		
	24th Sunday after Pentecost		
	Theme: Nurturing in Faith		
	Preacher: Rev. Thabitha	Kannada	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Salome Joshua	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Proverbs 23: 15 - 26	Miss Reya Bangera (K)	
		Mr. Deshawn Maben	
Epistle	Ephesians 6: 10 - 18	Master Nischal Joy J (K)	
		Mr. Roshan Kalirajan	
Gospel	St. Matthew 18: 1 - 6	Master Shane Kevin Karkada (K)	
		Mr. Abhishek Jason singh	
Evening Service	Conducted by Youth Fellowship		6.15 p.m
*19th November 3rd Sunday	Sunday for the Girl Child		
	25th Sunday after Pentecost		
	Theme: Assuring Future for the Girl Child		
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Dr. Allan Palanna	*Kannada Holy Communion	8.15 a.m.
	Preacher: Rev. Lorna Murray	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	2 Kings 5: 1 - 5	Mrs. Chitra Herbert (K)	
		Dr. P. Sumitha Hemavathy	
Epistle	Acts 12: 11 - 17	Miss Maria Priya (K)	
		Mrs. Lynette Natasha Karkada	
Gospel	St. Mark 5: 21 - 24, 35 - 43	Mrs. Jyotsna Prasheeth (K)	
		Mrs. Renita Wilson	
*Evening Service	Holy Communion Service - Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. B. Silpa Rani		6.15 p.m
*26th November 4th Sunday	St. Andrew's Day		
	26th Sunday after Pentecost		
	Theme: Andrew the Apostle - The Power of Sensitivity		
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m
	Old Testament Amos 7: 10 - 15	Mrs. Leena Jayakumari	
Epistle	Philippians 1: 3 - 11	Mr. Joshi Mark Premnath	
Gospel	St. John 12: 20 - 26	Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj (K)	

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