



St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

N E W S L E T T E R

JAN 2024

"EQUIPPING CONGREGATION IN GOD'S MISSION"



Intentionally New

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

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From the Presbyterian's Desk

Intentionally New

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert” (Isaiah 43: 18 - 19)

The story is told of a traveller travelling across a desert and had to go without food for over two days. Finally, he reached an oasis where travellers before him had halted. He rummaged through the garbage they left behind hoping to find some food. He found a bag and in a hurry opened it hoping to lay his hands on some food. But the bag was full of precious pearls. Though he had suddenly become a millionaire, he was dying of hunger.

The story of the Bible is the vision and reality of God's provision and design making everything *'Intentionally New.'* The above story probably helps us to imagine the story of not just one individual, but peoples who experienced *Exodus* from bondage and are now journeying through the desert with the hope to experience freedom, and hope in a land of promise provided by God.

In the few verses in *Isaiah 43:18-19*, the prophet captures the idea that God will do a *'new thing.'* In our spiritual life, we want to believe that we can experience something new, but our social, psychological and cultural influences pin us down with our past. We are caught up with memories of the past that are painful and miss the reality that is before us that can be joyful and hopeful. *God will provide in God's own time in God's way*, which Isaiah describes that *God 'will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert' (Isa43:19)*, which he elaborates earlier (*Isa 11:15-16*). I like Don Moen's song, *'God will make a way'*, and the opening lines reads, *“God will make a way where there seems to be no way; He works in ways we cannot see, He will make a way for me.”*

In *Exodus 15:22-17*, the people set out from the *Red Sea*, and go to the wilderness of *Shur*, and find no water. They do find water in *Marah*, but it is *bitter*. What was required, is that they listen carefully to the voice of God and do what is right in God's sight (*Exodus 15:26*). The people are not stranded in *Marah*, but God leads them to *Elim*, where there were *twelve springs of water* and *seventy palm trees*, and they camped by the water (*Exodus 15:27*).

God makes everything intentionally new and journeys along with us, and calls us to discover that which is new for us in this New Year; and God will enable us to let go of the past and its prejudices and pain. May 2024 be another new year to celebrate God's presence and God's promises.

We thank God for a wonderful *Season of Advent* and thank the leadership of the *Pastorate Committee* with the prayerful support of everyone along with the *Staff Team*.

Wishing you all a promising and blessed New Year!

Your Presbyter

Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben

Reports of Activities by the Wings & Ministries

CHRISTMAS CAROL 2023



From 26th November to 22nd 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 at the homes, bringing joy to the families.

This year we visited around 300 homes, and I thank all of you for inviting us into your homes this Christmas Season.

YOUNG COUPLES FELLOWSHIP



"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15

The Young Couple Fellowship and Care For Elderly had a blessed Christmas Celebration. It was a blessing for the couples to interact with the elderly. We are grateful to Dr. Stafford Cripps for giving us a lively Christmas message. We thank all the members for actively participating in all the games conducted and bringing good cheer. Thanking Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben for his continued support and prayers.

We were blessed to share and witness the Good News of our Saviour in the form of various programs by various committees of our church and the Christmas Caroling. Thanking the Andrew's Family for helping us experience the spirit of Christmas throughout this month.

Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj
Convener

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

"Happy indeed is she who believed that the promise which she received from the Lord would be fulfilled" Luke 1:45

Season's greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

On Saturday the 2nd of December, we had the Christmas Celebration for the members of our Women Fellowship at St. Andrew's Church.



Singing Christmas Carols with great zeal and joy, prayerfully we started our program. *Rev. Dr. Dexter Maben*, our *Presbyter*, rendered a heart touching and inspiring message, uplifting and making each one present to realize our worth as 'WOMEN' of the Highest King - Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He urged us to go ahead and be vessels of greater blessing to the women whom we come in contact our day to day life.

This was followed by warm greetings by our president *Mrs. Sangeetha Maben*, who appraised us about the works our Women's Fellowship is doing and expressed gratitude to all the members for their continued support.

Fun-time commenced with the Games, Snacks, Gifts, and Photo-shoot was enjoyed by one and all.

On Saturday the 16th of December, we visited the *Bethany Ashram* in *Channapatna*, and spent quality time with the elderly members, singing Christmas Carols, listening to their achievements in their life and sharing our thoughts too. *Blankets and Bed Sheet with Pillow Case, Bath Towels and Hand Towels, and Christmas Goodies* were given to all of them. This was followed with a wonderful *Fellowship Lunch*.

Our Women's Fellowship members have also provided *groceries* to the *Infant Jesus Children Home* where the Nuns are taking care of 110 children who are HIV Positive.

"Home of faith" a *Charitable Trust*, which houses 53 *Orphan Children* also received *groceries*, which they are in need of. We praise and thank God Almighty for all his favours and blessings.

Mrs. Daisy Richard

Vice President /Secretary SAWF

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



*"Hopeful Hearts Christmas Celebrations
Unite Communities at St. Andrew's Church"*

The spirit of Christmas resonated through the Halls of St. Andrew's Church as the Men's Fellowship organized the *"Hopeful Hearts Christmas Celebrations"* on Saturday, December 9th, 2023. The event saw an overwhelming turnout with over 120 individuals from the Manipuri Community, alongside our Congregation and Pastorate Committee Members.

The Festive agenda unfolded with a warm welcome from Fredrick, setting the tone for an evening filled with joy and reflection. Brother Ivan led the gathering in an Opening Prayer, invoking blessings for the occasion. Fredrick extended a heartfelt welcome, and the congregation united in an Opening Song, setting the stage for a meaningful celebration.

The program continued with Bible Reading from Matthew 2:19-23, grounding the event in the essence of the Christmas Story. St. Andrew's Church Youth, added to the festive atmosphere with soulful carols, which brought much joy to the entire participants.

The event took a poignant turn as Ms. Joyce Pramila shed light on the challenges faced by displaced Manipuri families. The audience was captivated by a Solo performance from George Kipten, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Manipuri community. A Group Song, themed *"Strangers in Our Own Land,"* resonated deeply, bringing attention to the struggles faced by the community.

Rev. Dr. Dexter Maben delivered a powerful message, drawing parallels between the biblical narrative of Jesus' journey to Egypt and subsequent return to Israel, and the hopeful return of the displaced Manipuri community to Manipur. St. Andrew's Church's commitment to supporting the rebuilding of a church in Manipur reflected the spirit of Christmas - a time for compassion and hope.

Wg Cdr Immanuel Dayanand Soans, the Secretary of St. Andrew's Church Pastorate Committee, provided a warm *Welcome Message*, offering insights into the church's mission and values. The evening concluded with a *Closing Song* and a *Vote of Thanks*. Pastor Lun Mang of the Manipuri Church led the *Closing Prayer* and *Benediction*, marking the end of the spiritual gathering.

The *Fellowship* extended beyond the spiritual realm as attendees enjoyed a delightful *North East Cuisine* during the *Fellowship Lunch*. In a generous gesture, *groceries worth Rs 1000 were distributed to approximately 100 Manipuri families*, spreading joy and support during the Festive Season. *Career Counseling* and *Job Assistance* for the participants were also facilitated by Men's Fellowship members in association with *Career Hub Team* of St. Andrew's Church.

The "*Hopeful Hearts Christmas Celebrations*" at St. Andrew's Church transcended cultural boundaries, fostering unity, compassion, and a shared commitment to making a positive impact. The event truly encapsulated the spirit of Christmas, bringing hope and joy to all in attendance.

Mr. Wilson Pratap

Convener, Men's Fellowship



SEEKER'S NOOK



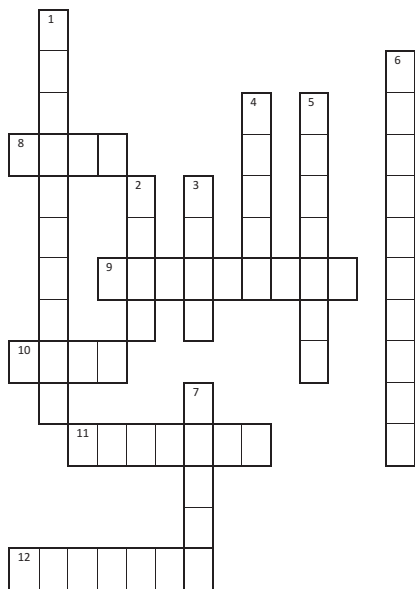
January 2024



The holiday cheer is waning, a brand New Year beckons. May we embrace it cheerfully, for we are assured in Jeremiah 29:11 – 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

Crossword time is here to remind us of God's unfailing promises recorded in Scriptures. Enjoy finding them in your Bible.

CROSSWORD



DOWN

1. Isaiah 41:10 (10)
2. Psalm 34:17 (4)
3. Exodus 54:10 (4)
4. Exodus 14:14 (5)
5. Psalm 23:4 (7)
6. Luke 11:13 (10)
7. Philippians 4:6-7 (5)

ACROSS

8. Isaiah 41:13 (4)
9. Romans 10:9-10 (9)
10. Matthew 6:31-33 (4)
11. Deuteronomy 31:8 (7)
12. I John 1:9 (7)

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 January 2024**, in the following format:

Name

Serial number – Answer



HIS UNFAILING PRESENCE

Another year I enter
Its history unknown;
Oh, how my feet would tremble
To tread its paths alone!
But I have heard a whisper,
I know I shall be blest;
"My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest."

What will the New Year bring me?
I may not, must not know;
Will it be love and rapture,
Or loneliness and woe?
Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper;
I surely shall be blest;
"My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest."

December Carol Opposites Answers

1. Frosty the Snowman
2. Rudolph the red nosed reindeer
3. Santa Claus is coming to town
4. Silent Night
5. O little town of Bethlehem

6. The first Noel
7. We three kings of orient are
8. Oh Holy night
9. I'll be home for Christmas
10. Deck the halls with boughs of holly



26th
JANUARY

**HAPPY
REPUBLIC DAY**

HAPPENINGS DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023

Weddings



Miss Suzana P. Joel

Daughter of Mr. Joel Abraham & Mrs. Lily J. Abraham
with

Mr. Dominic Maben

Son of Late Gladson Maben & Late Vandana Maben
on the 15th of December 2023

INFANT BAPTISM



Austin Johnson Varghese

Son of Mr. Johnson Varghese and
Mrs. Diana
on 3rd of December 2023

Keyleth Karkada

Daughter of Mr. Roshan Clifford Karkada and
Mrs. Swarna Roja Kotakonda
on 10th of December 2023

Advika Gianna Soans

Daughter of Mr. Sunil Christopher Soans and
Mrs. Athena Margaret Soans
on 17th of December 2023

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 2024

Calendar for the First Week of February 2024

*4th February Sunday	8th Sunday Before Easter		
	Theme: The Fallen-ness of Creation		
	Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m
	Old Testament Genesis 3: 1 - 10	Mr. Wilson Pratap	
Epistle	Romans 3: 21 - 26	Mrs. Leena Jayakumari	
Gospel	St. Matthew 18: 23 - 35	Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		6.15 p.m

Calendar for the Month of January 2024				
*1st January Monday	New Year - Covenant Day			
	Theme: Fullness of Time and Graceful Action			
	Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service		8:00 a.m
	Old Testament	Zephaniah 3: 14 - 20	Mrs. Neha Soans George	
Epistle	Romans 5: 1 - 11	Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj		
Gospel	St. Luke 17: 11 - 19	Mr. Vijay Kumar Palanna (K)		
*7th January 1st Sunday	Confirmation Sunday			
	1st Sunday after Epiphany			
	Celebrant & Preacher The Rt. Rev. Martin C. Borgai	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service		9:00 a.m
	Old Testament	Ezekeil 36: 26 - 28	Miss Ana Johanna Flemingson	
Epistle	Romans 8: 12 - 17	Mr. Ryan Jason Justin		
Gospel	St. John 14: 15 - 17	Mr. Shreyas Steve N. D (K)		
14th January 2nd Sunday	Youth Sunday			
	2nd Sunday after Epiphany			
	Theme: Spirituality of the Youth in the Contemporary World			
	Preacher: Mr. Enosh S	Kannada		8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Mr. Vinod Shemron	English		9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Genesis 41: 37 - 43	Miss Sanjana Simran Peter (K)		
		Miss Vivian Evangeline Shiri		
Epistle	Philippians 3: 1 - 16	Miss Maria Priya (K)		
		Mr. Prajwal Jacob		
Gospel	St. Matthew 19: 16 - 22	Mrs. Annie Solomon (K)		
		Mrs. Rebecca Monisha Rajeeva		
Evening Service	Conducted By Youth Fellowship			6.15 p.m
*21st January 3rd Sunday	Ecumenical Sunday			
	3rd Sunday after Epiphany			
	Theme: "you shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself..."			
	Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben Preacher: Fr. Lawrance	*Kannada Holy Communion		8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado	English		9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Psalms 103: 13 - 18	Mr. C. P. Lawrence (K)		
		Mrs. Jean Rachel Rao		
Epistle	Romans 14: 5 - 10	Mrs. Christhabel Soumya Salins (K)		
		Mr. Billy Graham		
Gospel	St. Luke 10: 25 - 37	Mr. Arjun Christopher (K)		
		Miss Tara Leah Mark		
Evening Service	Holy Communion Service Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben			6.15 p.m
26th January Friday	Republic Day			
	Theme: Responsible Citizenship			
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	Combined Worship Service		8:00 a.m
28th January 4th Sunday	9th Sunday Before Easter			
	Theme: The Goodness of Creation			
	Preacher: Rev. Moses Prabhakar	Kannada		8.15 a.m
		Preacher: Rev. Moses Prabhakar	English	
Old Testament	Genesis 1: 24 - 31	Mrs. Vimalakshi Soans (K)		
		Mrs. Rashmi Ranjitha		
Epistle	Ephesians 1: 3 - 14	Mrs. Reena Anoop (K)		
		Mr. David Jayaprakash Soans		
Gospel	St. Matthew 6: 9 - 13	Mr. Emmanuel Krishthasharan (K)		
		Mrs. Jeu Sneha D		
Evening Service	Stuthi Sange			5.30 p.m

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