



St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

N E W S L E T T E R

FEB 2024

"EQUIPPING CONGREGATION IN GOD'S MISSION"



Brokenness and Healing

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From the Presbyterian's Desk

Brokenness and Healing

"He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds"
(Psalm 147:3)

Every Season provides us a new reason to pause and ponder, and Seasons in the Church Calendar are no different. We are fast approaching another *Season of Lent*, and wish to prayerfully introduce the theme, *"Brokenness and Healing,"* which we will be meditating this year, as we prepare for the Season of Lent.

We are living in a broken world but believing in a God, whose understanding is beyond measure. There is beauty in brokenness, because in our brokenness we experience the power of healing. Lent is a time, when we take time as a person and community, to reflect on our own brokenness. The Psalmist in *Psalm 147* shares in the brokenness of the community of faith, who have experienced pain and hardship, and are praying for restoration. While the experiences of the people were a reality, it is the same God that governs the stars. On the one hand we live in a world that is vast, impersonal and does not necessarily believe in belonging, but the sovereignty of God is at work in the world, in the process of saving, caring and belonging. We are reminded of the words of Jesus to his disciples, *"Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them"* (Luke 12:24). The Psalmist provides a glimpse of this beautiful contrast, which is not simply words of magic, but words of mystery that shapes our faith, brings *Faith* and *Science* and *Brokenness and Healing* together, *"He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names."* (Psalm 147:3-4). God has the power to restore our lives, because God understands our brokenness and identifies with our brokenness. The crucified Christ only fulfills this idea that runs through the Old Testament and especially in the Psalms. We need the transformative power of God's grace as we recognize and experience brokenness and believe in the power of being made whole in Jesus Christ.

As we prepare for Lent, we are also preparing to celebrate *Healing Ministry Sunday* as we thank God for Doctors, Nurses and all Healthcare Professionals who strive to help us experience the reality of healing and as they sacrifice their own time and lives to help us in our brokenness.

Let us continue to pray and think on the theme of *"Brokenness and Healing,"* in our own personal meditations and as a community of faith. Let this Season of Lent add more meaning to our lives in prayer and faith.

Like to close with the first verse one of my favourite songs by Graham Kendrick, *God of the Poor* (Beauty for Brokenness):

*Beauty for brokenness Hope for despair
Lord, in your suffering this is our prayer
Bread for the children Justice, joy, peace
Sunrise to sunset Your kingdom increase!*

Your Presbyter

Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben

Confirmation Sunday

*"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" 1 Corinthians 11:26*

25 Candidates were confirmed on *Sunday, January 7, 2024* in St. Andrew's Church, of which 14 were young men 11 young women. 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.

Moderator's Commissary *Bishop Martin C. Borgai* of Karnataka Northern Diocese (who currently holds charge of the KCD till a new Bishop is appointed by the Synod), confirmed and blessed the Candidates. He had also met the Candidates for an 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 *'Come to Christ for Cleansing'*. 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. Edward Anil Kumar* guided the Confirmation Students and prepared them for 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

Ecumenical Sunday

Ecumenical Sunday was celebrated on 21st of January 2024. Both the Kannada and English Services brought out the true meaning of Ecumenism, which is a movement toward worldwide Christian Unity or Cooperation. Preacher in the Kannada Service was *Fr. Lawrence* and English Service was the *Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado, Metropolitan Archbishop of Bangalore*.



Both the Sermons brought out many common aspects, especially faith, hope, mercy, compassion and charity.

Fr. Martin and Fr. Pradeep, Fr. Jerome and Rev. Dr. Rohan Gideon were also part of the Worship Service.

Mr. Joshi Mark Premnath
Convener, Worship Committee

Republic Day 2024



75th Republic Day was celebrated at our church the morning of 26th January 2024. A short *Worship Service* was led by our *Presbyter Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben*, wherein he stressed on the importance of the *Indian Constitution*. Thereafter the *National Flag* was unfurled by veteran *Wg Cdr I. D. Soans* who also shared a few words about the *Constituent Assembly of India*. This was followed by fellowship Breakfast in the Parish Hall.

Reports of Activities by the Wings & Ministries of the Church

Youth Fellowship

January 2024 was an energetic month for the youth. On January 14, 2024 St. Andrew's Youth conducted the Youth Sunday Service at 9.30 am and the Evening Service at 6.15 pm.

On the same day, the youth participated in "*Legatum*" hosted by All Saints Church. Our youth took part in two events - *Photography* and *Western Group Singing*, and won prizes for both.

"*Fireball*", an Inter-church sporting event hosted by St. John's Church was conducted on the 26th of January, 2024. Our youth participated and enjoyed the game of *Throwball* and *Table Tennis*.

As we enter this New Year, we are grateful for all the blessings our GOD has showered upon us, and we pray that HE continues to guide us throughout.

Mr. Kenneth Franklyn
Convenor, Youth Fellowship

STUTHI SANJE

Stuthi Sanje is the Concert of Kannada Songs conducted by St. Andrews Church periodically. It is an occasion of praising God for Stuthi@StAndrews with other Kannada Choirs and singers in Bengaluru and nearby. The latest celebration of Kannada Songs was on Sunday, 28 January 2024. The evening was also marked by remembering and thanking God for the lives of two composers who slept in the Lord recently - Rev. Prabhakar of Chintamani, Rev. Stanley Vinayakumar, and also honouring Rev. Moses Prabhakar. Stuthi@StAndrews has rendered numerous compositions of the latter two, and also one of the first, over the last 13 years.

We are indeed grateful for the wonderful time, and rendering a variety of Worship Music by the Church Choirs - CSI Shaffer Memorial Church, CSI Sawday Memorial Church, St Theresa's Church (of our Roman Catholic Brethren) all from Bengaluru.



We specially appreciate CSI Wesley Church, Tumakuru and CSI Wesley Church, Hassan who came all the way. The icing on the cake was the duet by Mrs. & Rev. Moses Prabhakar, along with the Orchestra of Stuthi@StAndrews, who had come all the way from Udupi. Rev. Moses Prabhakar also delivered the message for the evening. Stuthi rendered one song each of Rev. Stanley V. Kumar and Rev. Moses Prabhakar.

It was heartening to watch our Organist and Church Choir Director Mr. Andrew Bhagyanathan, patiently explain about the celebrated Pipe Organ of our church to the eager young choristers from the visiting choirs! We are always thankful to our music loving Presbyterian-in-charge, Rev Dr Dexter S. Maben for his help in coordinating with the churches and his steadfast support.

Wg Cdr I. D Soans
Secretary

Young Couples Fellowship

"Be devoted to one another in love.

Honour one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10

The YCF Team is happy to share that by God's unfailing grace, we successfully completed 4 Sessions each of *Premarital Counseling* for two couples. We are so excited to share that the couples were able to give their valuable feedback on the same, which helps us to continuously work through different challenges every couple face.

The following Sessions were conducted:

- Introductory Session
- Communication in Christ-Centered marriage by *Mrs. Kumuda Sujay*
- Financial Management in Christ-Centered marriage by *Mrs. Sheeba and Mr. Biju Thomas*.
- Intimacy in Christ-Centered Marriage by *Mrs. Anupama and Mr. Winfred Joshua*.

Thanking our *Presbyter Rev. Dr Dexter S. Maben*, for his guidance and prayer support for this ministry. We are grateful to St. Andrew's family for their continued support, encouragement and prayers. Kindly remember this ministry in your prayers as we plan different events in this New Year.

Mrs. Rashmi Mohanraj
Convener

St. Andrew's School, Siddapura



On December 16th, the festive spirit of Christmas filled the air as St. Andrew's Kannada Higher Primary School joyously celebrated its Christmas Program. St. Andrew's Church *Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben*, graced the occasion, accompanied by the members of our church.

From Nursery to grade 7, students actively participated in a variety of programs, showcasing their talents in carol singing, dance, skits, and even reciting Bible verses from memory.



The dedicated efforts of the teachers in training the students for these diverse performances were truly commendable.

Adding to the festive cheer, School Bags were given as gifts to all students, while also distributing cakes. It was indeed a splendid Christmas program. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for making it a memorable and joyous occasion.



Republic Day Program

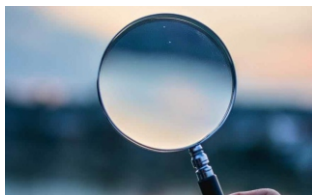
We had the *unfurling of our National Flag* in the morning at 8:30 am along with teachers and students who had assembled, and the *March Past* by the 1st and 2nd Std. students.

The *Preamble of the Constitution* was read by a 5th Std. girl student, who also led the assembly in taking the *Oath*.

We had speeches in Kannada and English by the students, singing of patriotic songs, and an amazing dance performance.

We are grateful to *Mrs. Mangala*, our retired teacher, who donated sweets to all the students on this special occasion.

Mr. Neil George Anchan
Convener



SEEKER'S NOOK



February 2024

Hello friends. February marks the onset of spring, as flowers bloom, fresh leaves appear and bird-songs fill the air. Birds are often mentioned in the Bible, each one for their unique significance and relevance. Discover more through this Quiz featuring our feathered friends.

QUIZ

1. What birds did God provide for the children of Israel to eat during their exodus from Egypt?
2. What type of bird did Solomon import once every three years (KJV)?
3. Proverbs says that anyone who mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will have his eyes picked out by which type of bird?
4. Who had a vision of a lion with the wings of an eagle?
5. What two birds did Abram sacrifice to God?
6. Who had a vision of two women with stork wings?
7. Song of Solomon refers to which bird's song as a sign of spring?
8. According to Job, which bird lays its eggs on the ground, left to be warmed by the sun?
9. The face of which bird appeared in Ezekiel's vision of the creatures with four faces?
10. Which old testament King described his situation as "like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove"?

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 February 2024**, in the following format:

Name

Serial number – Answer



SPRINGTIME OF LENT

The word *Lent* is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word *lengthen* or *lencten* meaning "spring." The season of Lent coincides with spring, calling to mind new life and growth, as well as the hope and change it brings. Just as nature renews itself every spring, so we are encouraged to begin anew during Lent. Spring is the most important season for a farmer; for it determines what crops he will plant. Once decided, he prepares the soil thoroughly and plants the seed carefully, hoping that the seed buried deep in the soil will produce an abundant crop.

On Palm Sunday, the very threshold of his death and Resurrection, Our Lord assured his followers that "unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. The man who loves his life loses it, while the man who hates his life in this world preserves it to life eternal. If anyone would serve me, let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be." (John 12: 24-26) **Let us renew our faith during this Lenten spring, joyfully dying to self in order to become that fruitful grain of wheat.**

January Crossword Answers

Sincere apologies to our readers for an error in last month's Crossword. The Bible reference for **3 Down** was Isaiah 54:10, it was incorrectly mentioned as Exodus 54:10.

Answer Keys to January 2024 Quiz

DOWN

1. Strengthen
2. Hear
3. Love
4. Fight
5. Comfort
6. Holy Spirit
7. Peace

ACROSS

8. Help
9. Salvation
10. Seek/Need
11. Not fear/Himself
12. Forgive/Cleanse

January Champs

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



4. Annie Felix
5. Gitanjali Lazarus
6. Rosabelle Prabhakar

HAPPENINGS DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024

NEW MEMBERS

1. Rev. Jessie Ranjan
2. Rev. Abraham George & Family
3. Col Emmanuel Raj Kumar & Family
4. Mr. Ramesh Babu & Family
5. Ms. Veronica Fernandes & Ms. Violet Fernandes
6. Mr. Daniel Arthur Taylor & Family

Weddings

Ms. Karishma Jayapaul

Daughter of Mr. Jayapaul D & Mrs. Serene Jayapaul
with

Mr. Sandeep Nital David

Son of Mr. Dinesh Frank David & Mrs. Teena David
on the 13th of January 2024



Ms. Sherin Grace Chandy

Daughter of Late Vijay S. Chandy & Mrs. Collette Chandy
with

Mr. Manoj Kumar Gopalakrishna

Son of Mr. N. Gopalakrishna & Mrs. Bhavani S
on the 24th of January 2024

INFANT BAPTISM

Zivah Niriksha Theodore

Daughter of Mr. Emmanuel Krithasharan Theodore and
Mrs. Sowmya Theodore
on 14th of January 2024



Calendar for the First Week of March 2023

Calendar for the First Week of March 2023			
*3rd March Sunday	4th Sunday before Easter, 3rd Sunday in Lent		
	Theme: Persistence in Prayer		
	Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m
Old Testament	2 Kings 20: 1 - 11	Mr. Joshi Mark Premnath	
Epistle	1 Thessalonians 5: 12 - 22	Mrs. Neha Soans George	
Gospel	St. Mark 7: 24 - 30	Mr. Rashmi S. Mohanraj (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		6.15 p.m

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH ONLINE PAYMENT DETAILS



St. Andrew's Church

SCAN TO PAY
WITH BHIM UPI APP



Merchant Name: ST ANDREWS CHURCH

vpa : stand99453@barodampay

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. Andrew's Church

Account:

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL

Siddapura

SCAN TO PAY

With BHIM UPI APP

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH



216999549030023@cnrb

Merchant Name:

ST ANDREWS CHURCH

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 2024			
*4th February 1st 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	
Epistle	Romans 3: 21 - 26	Mr. Kenneth Frenklyn	
Gospel	St. Matthew 18: 23 - 35	Mr.Praveen Oscar Shiri (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		6.15 p.m
11th February 2nd Sunday	Healing Ministry Sunday		
	7th Sunday Before Easter		
	Theme: Perfect Peace		
	Preacher: Dr. Vijaya Prabha	Kannada	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Dr. Anil Manohar	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Isaiah 26: 1 - 4	Mrs. Leah Rangayya (K)	
		Mr. Stephen Pradeep Kotian	
Epistle	Ephesians 2: 14 - 18	Dr. Joanna Pauline George (K)	
		Dr. Abhishek Bhasme	
Gospel	St. John 14: 27 - 30	Mr. Christopher Herbert (K)	
		Mr. Samuel David	
Evening Service	Conducted by Youth Fellowship		6.15 p.m
14th February Wednesday	Ash Wednesday		
	Theme: Brokenness and Healing		
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	Combined Worship Service	6:30 p.m
Old Testament	Joel 2: 12 - 20	Mrs. Jeen Magdalene	
Epistle	Galatians 2: 15 - 21	Mr. Rohan Jeruel Singh	
Gospel	St. Luke 9: 23 - 27	Mrs. Ruhita Vivian (K)	
*18th February 3rd Sunday	6th Sunday before Easter, 1st Sunday in Lent		
	Theme: Brokenness and Healing among the Outcasts		
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Kannada Holy Communion	8.15 a.m
		Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	English
Old Testament	2 Kings 5: 1 - 10	Mr. Kiran Sandesh Kotian (K)	
		Mr. Godfrey Aiyadorai	
Epistle	Hebrews 13: 8 - 17	Mrs. Chithra S. Herbert (K)	
		Mr. Vinod Paul Karodi	
Gospel	St. Mark 1: 40 - 45	Mrs. Lucy Kumar (K)	
		Dr. Mamatha T	
Evening Service	Holy Communion Service Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben		6.15 p.m
23rd February Friday	Lenten Service		6.30 p.m
25th February 4th Sunday	5th Sunday before Easter, 2nd Sunday in Lent		
	Theme: Brokenness and Healing among the Faithful		
	Preacher: Rev. Jessie Ranjan	Kannada	8.15 a.m
		Preacher: Rev. Jessie Ranjan	English
Old Testament	2 Kings 4: 1 - 7	Miss Riya Kotian (K)	
		Mr. Nigel Ronak Watsa	
Epistle	Acts 5: 12 - 16	Mr. Surekha Johnas (K)	
		Mr. Rodney Benjamin Rozario	
Gospel	St. Mark 2: 1 - 12	Miss Venita Cheryl Anchan (K)	
		Mrs. Celina Jaikumar	
Evening Service	Preacher: Rev. B. Silpa Rani		6.15 p.m

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