



St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

N E W S L E T T E R

FEB 2025

"Equipping and Empowering Congregation in God's Mission"



Conscious Living

'What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?' (Psalm 8:4)

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

Presbyter's contact details:

Email: andrewschurchpastor@gmail.com, Mobile - 9632202617, Home - 080 25581110

Church Office: (Weekdays: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, Sundays: till 12:00 noon)

No.27, Cubbon Road, Bangalore 560 001, Office - +919741401874

Email - andrewschurchblor@gmail.com Website - www.standrewschurch.org.in



From the Presbyterian's Desk

Conscious Living

*'What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?'*

(Psalm 8:4)

There is an old Jewish legend which says that, after God had created the world, He called the angels to Him and asked them what they thought of it; and one of them said, *"One thing is lacking: the sound of praise to the Creator."* So, God created *music*, and it was heard in the whisper of the wind, and in the song of the birds; and to man also was given the gift of song. And all down the ages, this gift of song has indeed proved a blessing to multitudes of souls.

Psalm 8 is one of the original poems celebrating God's creation and the privileged place of human beings in the created order. The Psalm is a gentle reminder of the preciousness of life, and the place of human life in the midst of incredible creation and the stunning purpose embedded in the creation. The poem celebrates the fine balance of the *Sovereignty of God* and the reality of human dominion with the words: *'what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?'* (*Psalm 8:4*). This has ramifications for our understanding and stance towards the various forms of human rule and authority. It helps us to pause and ponder about the egotistical ambition and pride of humans and calls us to *'conscious living,'* both for ourselves and in living together with others. Conscious living is an invitation by the Psalmist to look at the vast universe and yet be in awe of the Creator God who is attentive to one small element in the universe, humans, who have been entrusted of exercising authority of the three dominions of sky, earth and sea (*8:3-8*).

The Psalmist sketches the vastness of the cosmos that we encounter in more detail in *Genesis Ch. 1* as the background for his exploration of the crowing events of *verses 26-28*, the grand narrative which explains the creation and role of humankind. The Psalmist helps us to see and celebrate the majesty and handiwork in creation, the elevated place given to humanity, which is truly remarkable. The Psalmist takes us back to the two poles in the creation narrative, *order and chaos*, which was part of God's purpose in creation and continues to be the everyday reality in our lives and communities. In the midst of that *'Conscious living,'* is living our lives recognizing that *life is gift from God*, as much as wisdom is. One of the ways to understand *Wisdom*, is in *sense of consciousness*. Wisdom calls us to re-imagine our knowledge about God, especially our relationship with God and each other.

We prepare to reflect on these themes and especially to focus on the *Ministry of Healing and well-being*. Healing today is not simply clinical or medical healing, but conscious living, a better life, good mental health and conscious lifestyles. We need to be conscious about what we eat, how much we sleep, and to manage stress.

C. S. Lewis, in the classic, *Mere Christianity*, makes two points: *"First that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way."* (Harper Collins, 2017, p.8).

We are grateful to God and to each one of you for your prayers and words of encouragement for each one of the new initiatives planned by the Pastorate Committee in consultation with a wide leadership in the Sub-committees, as part of

our commemoration of 160 years of God's love and faithfulness. It is our hope that the *Parish Hall Annex*, as part of the 'Harvest Projects,' to be blessed on Sunday, February the 2nd, will continue to be a space of thanksgiving and joy for all. Thanks to the creative hearts and minds working tirelessly to make this happen in a short time.

May God bless you all!

Your Presbyter

Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben

Reports of Activities by the Wings & Ministries

Republic Day Celebrations at St. Andrew's School, Siddapura



Our St. Andrew's School at Siddapura, commemorated the *Nation's 76th Republic Day* with the *Unfurling of the National Flag*, *Cultural Programs*, and special *Prayers* for the country's well-being and progress.

Mrs. Mangala, our retired teacher, *unfurled the National Flag* at 9:00 am, followed by the singing of the *National Anthem*, reading of the *Preamble of the Constitution*, honouring the spirit of unity, freedom, justice for all, and patriotism. The ceremony featured an impressive cultural performance and patriotic speeches by our students.

The celebration concluded with the distribution of sweets!

Mr. Wilson Prathap

Convener, St. Andrew's School, Siddapura

76th Republic Day Celebration

The *76th Republic Day* of our Nation was commemorated in our church on the 26th with great enthusiasm and reverence. Congregation members gathered in front of the church, facing the *Flag Post*, to participate in the celebration.

Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben, our Presbyter, began the ceremony by reading the *Preamble of the Indian Constitution*. Members of the Defence Services, along with children, stood beside our Presbyter near the *Flag Post*. The Chief Guest, *Col Immanuel Rajkumar*, a distinguished member of our congregation, who has served the country in the *Indian Army*, had the honour of *Unfurling the National Flag*. As the Flag was unfurled, flower petals showered from above, and the congregation joined in singing the *National Anthem* with heartfelt devotion.



Following the Flag-unfurling Ceremony, the *English Service* was held in the church. During the Service, our Presbyter Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben, prayed for our Nation and Leaders, highlighting how Biblical principles influenced the framing of the Constitution, which was adopted in 1949 and came into effect on *January 26, 1950*. In his Sermon, Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben, emphasized the values of equality and justice for all, inspiring the congregation to uphold these principles in their lives.

It was a meaningful and a memorable celebration, reminding us of our duty to the Nation and to one another.

Mr. Joshi Mark Premnath
Convener, Worship Committee

Sunday School & Young Couples' Fellowship

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
 To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen."
 2 Peter 3:18*



Sunday School:

After a short holiday break, our Sunday School resumed on the *12th of January* with children excited to listen to new stories from their teachers, learn new songs from Akkas' and Annas', and have loads of fun with their friends.

Teachers discussed on two important aspects: a *Retreat* for the children and the *Planning for VBS* in the month of *April*. We plan to have a Retreat for our children on *Saturday the 8th of February 2025*.

Our children continue to glorify God's Name by singing melodious songs. *Kannada Sunday School children* sang a Special Song, ಅಪ್ಪಾ ನಿನ್ ಕರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು, on Sunday, January 12th 2025, during the *Kannada Service*. The *English Sunday School children* rendered 2 well-known Songs: 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and 'I'm In The Lord's Army,' on Sunday, January 26, our Republic Day, during the *English Service*.

Children are getting ready by brushing up on all the lessons done last year, with teachers assessing them with tests and rewarding them. This is to ensure that the children remember what they have learnt throughout the previous year and apply life skills from the Bible in their lives. Requesting parents to encourage the children with their Bible lessons, as we work together towards nurturing their spiritual lives.

Requesting Andrew's Family to remember in your prayers our 2 important events: Retreat on the 8th of February, and VBS scheduled during the month of April.

Young Couples Fellowship (YCF):

YCF presents 'Couple Goals', a Session for Couples on Sunday, the 2nd of February, at 11:30 am in the Stewart Wright Hall. Do remember this Session in your prayers.

Grateful to God for the wonderful Team of Sunday School and YCF.

Thanking you all for your continued prayers, encouragement and support.

Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohan Raj

Sunday School Superintendent & YCF Coordinator

Women's Fellowship



Greetings to all of you in the Precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In continuation of our celebrations during the month of December, we the *St. Andrew's Women's Fellowship Committee Members* decided to purchase Groceries for *Madhu Mansion Charitable Trust* an orphanage with 45 children (boys and girls) living in the Home. Some of our committee members and friends handed over the same to the Children's Home on the 21st of December. They had a blessed time singing Carols with the children, reading from the Holy Bible and praying with them. It was very much appreciated by the Caregivers. Our members said goodbye to the children with happy and joyful memories.

We as a Fellowship also managed to support another *Orphanage* that takes care of *10 girls* for the second time, with dresses for Christmas. We thank God for enabling us to help them enjoy the festive season and share the love of our Lord.

On the *third Saturday 18th of January 2025*, members of our Women's Fellowship met for a time of *Reflection* as we start the New Year. We had a time of *Prayer, Praise and Worship*, and *Rev. Jessie Ranjan* gracefully led us into a time of Reflection. She shared the true meaning of Christmas in order to refresh our memories about the events that occurred at the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. So many important and inspiring details about the birth of Jesus was discussed among the members.

We Praise and thank God Almighty for all the favours and blessings He has bestowed on us.

Mrs. Daisy Richard
Secretary, SAWF

Care For The Elderly



We thank our *LORD ALMIGHTY* for showering *HIS BLESSINGS* upon us. We are grateful for *HIS PRESENCE* in leading us thus far and giving us another opportunity to celebrate the birth of our *LORD JESUS CHRIST*, and our role in doing *HIS WILL*.

We had *Dr. Naveen Thomas*, a Senior Surgeon from *Bangalore Baptist Hospital*, address us on the topic '*The Second Half of Life and its Purpose*.' He quoted multiple verses from the *Scriptures* telling us on the significance of serving The *LORD* and doing *HIS WILL*. His message was to focus on the Elders' needs and how they should help others in need. Trusting *HIS WILL* and serving *HIM* should be the most important aspect in our lives. He gave an example of *Jacob*, how he tried to do things on his own, but had to come to the point of *Submission* when he met the angel and received his blessing. We need to submit ourselves completely and *TRUST* in *HIS WAYS* for their lives. When the *LORD* blesses us, *HE* truly blesses us with much more than we can imagine. *HIS BLESSINGS ARE FOR GENERATIONS*.

The meeting came to a close with an *Activity* for the Elders, followed by *Fellowship Lunch*.

Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri
Convener, CFE



SEEKER'S NOOK



February 2025

Shining the spotlight on the Book of Genesis, we present a line-up of activities and trivia. Through its 50 chapters, Genesis establishes God as the Creator of all things, while narrating the account of God's people, their origins, journeys and covenants with God. Let us make time to dig deep into this fascinating Book of Beginnings.

QUIZ

1. Where did Cain settle after God exiled him?
2. Who was known as the father of all who play stringed instruments and pipes?
3. Which of Noah's sons was the ancestor of the Philistines?
4. Who brought wine and bread and blessed Abraham after the battle against Kedorlaomer?
5. Who was the father of the Moabites and Ammonites?
6. What did Abraham purchase from the Hittites for 400 shekels of silver?
7. What did Jacob name the place where he wrestled with God?
8. Name Joseph's sons who were born before the years of famine.
9. In which part of Egypt did Jacob and his family settle after reuniting with Joseph?
10. Who were buried in the cave of Machpelah prior to Jacob?

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 February 2025** in the following format:

Name
Serial number – Answer



REFLECTION

The opening verse of the HOLY BIBLE encapsulates the when, who, how and what of all things in ten short words.

- In the beginning (when)
- God (who)
- Created (how)
- The heavens and the earth what)

KEY THEMES OF GENESIS

- God's good character and provision of life and safety amidst chaos
- Humanity's choice to partner with God or reject his instruction
- The complex and fractured relationship between humans, creation, and God
- The consistency of God's promise to rescue and restore


KEY EVENTS OF GENESIS

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Creation of man | 9. Giving of the Abrahamic Covenant |
| 2. Institution of marriage | 10. Institution of circumcision |
| 3. Fall of man | 11. Offering up of Isaac |
| 4. Birth of Cain and Abel | 12. Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah |
| 5. Enoch | 13. Birth of Esau and Jacob |
| 6. Universal flood | 14. Marriage of Jacob to Leah and Rachel |
| 7. Tower of Babel | 15. Elevation of Joseph in Egypt |
| 8. Call of Abraham | 16. Jacob and his family's move from Canaan to Egypt |

ACTIVITY

God Made a Promise to Abraham

WORD SEARCH



Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

I	T	N	H	J	A	T	B	H	E	S	I	S
T	I	O	C	A	N	A	A	N	A	T	V	E
L	A	I	Q	U	N	O	R	E	W	A	R	D
O	F	F	S	P	R	I	N	G	L	R	Q	B
Z	R	I	T	E	U	F	G	F	I	S	V	E
C	A	O	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	T	E	L
S	O	M	E	N	D	R	E	T	A	T	V	I
L	I	V	I	T	L	L	A	H	A	C	I	E
U	N	T	E	L	I	A	T	E	E	R	I	V
L	O	R	E	N	S	S	A	R	A	H	T	E
N	U	L	L	A	A	C	O	E	Q	U	I	D
N	O	N	S	E	Q	N	I	S	L	L	A	N
G	R	E	A	T	L	E	T	E	R	I	U	R

ABRAHAM FATHER BELIEVED GREAT
 CANAAN REWARD COVENANT SARAH
 OFFSPRING STARS

Quiz Answers for the Month of January

1. He enslaved them
2. A new name written in a white stone and hidden manna
3. Being buried and raised like Jesus
4. He had cast out a demonic spirit
5. Abide beautifully dressed for her husband
6. A new creature
7. The Lord has done marvellous things
8. Isaiah 53:9
9. To be like God in true righteousness and holiness
10. Steadfast

We regret that the names of January winners have not been published, as the quiz answers were inadvertently included on the same page. We apologize for the oversight.

HAPPENINGS DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. D. Peter Soundarajan
 Mr. Nanjesh Jason & family
 Mr. Robin Philip David & family
 Mrs. Mary Kumuda Sujaya Kumar & family
 Mr. A. J. Francis

Weddings



Ms. Suneeva Sharon Samuel
 Daughter of Rev. Sanjay Samuel Ayer & Mrs. Evelyn Sumana
 with
Mr. Jeremiah Joseph
 Son of Mr. Jayachandram Joseph & Mrs. Nalinaxi
 on the 25th of January 2025

INFANT BAPTISM



Miss Yanaa Steve
 daughter of Mr. Sunny Steve & Mrs. Meghana H. N
 on 12th of January 2025

OBITUARY



Mr. Raymond Rozario
 aged 70 years; husband of Mrs. Beverley,
 father of Rachel and Rodney,
 Slept in the Lord on Saturday, 18th January 2025



Mr. Ravindra Kumar
 aged 79 years; husband of Mrs. Sarala Devi,
 father of Mr. Kiran Kumar. R & Ms. Anita Margaret,
 Slept in the Lord on Thursday, 23rd January 2025

Calendar for the First Week of March 2025

Calendar for the First Week of March 2025			
*2nd March Sunday	7th Sunday before Easter		
	Theme: Lent - A time of Redemption		
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m
Old Testament	Isaiah 58: 1 - 14	Mr. Joshi Mark Premnath	
Epistle	Romans 2: 1 - 13	Miss Vivian Evangeline Shiri	
Gospel	St. John 5: 1 - 9	Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri (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 2025

4th Sunday after Epiphany			
Theme: Praise the Lord (Worship)			
*2nd February 1st Sunday	Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben Preacher: Rev. Solomon P. Benjamin	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	
Old Testament	Exodus 9: 1 - 7	Mr. Wilson Prathap	9:00 a.m
Epistle	Revelation 5: 1 - 14	Mrs. Asha Franklyn	
Gospel	St. John 2: 13 - 22	Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumithra		6.15 p.m
Healing Ministry Sunday			
9th February 2nd Sunday	Preacher: Dr. Anitha Noel	Kannada	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Dr. Abhishek Bhasme	English	9.30 a.m
Evening Service	Conducted by Youth Fellowship		6.15 p.m
9th Sunday Before Easter			
Theme: The Inter-dependence in Creation			
16th February 3rd Sunday	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Kannada Holy Communion	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Genesis 2: 1 - 15	Mrs. Lucy Kumar (K)	
		Mrs. Sharon Singh	
Epistle	Colossians 2: 16 - 23	Mr. Nikhil Gowtham D (K)	
		Mr. Ryan Jason Justin	
Gospel	St. Matthew 13: 1 - 9	Mrs. Sushma Sadananda (K)	
		Mr. Nigel Ronak Watsa	
*Evening Service	Holy Communion Service Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben		6.15 p.m
8th Sunday Before Easter			
Youth Sunday			
23rd February 4th Sunday	Kannada		8:15 a.m
	English		9.30 am
Evening Service	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.