The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 13 Issue 12

DECEMBER 2013

2013 Motto

We live by faith, not by sight

കാഴ്ചയാൽ അല്ല, വിശ്വാസത്താലത്രേ ഞങ്ങൾ നടക്കുന്നത് *2 Corinthians 5:7*

Episcopal Visit: December 8, 11 AM

CSI Church, Toronto extends a warm and cordial welcome to

His Lordship
Rt.Rev. Philip M. Poole,
The Suffragan Bishop of
The Diocese of Toronto

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Achen's message ……3
Celebrations ……4
Bible Portions ……..5, 6
Church News ……. ..7
Carol Service ……8

Pilgrim

DECEMBER 2013

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Editorial …..

The king is coming! Prepare your hearts…….

Christmas is at hand. Carols, joy and laughter work towards the commemoration of the greatest event in human history – the birth of Jesus, the son of God. Christmas trees, decorations, and gifts become part of the festivities. People are so fully occupied that sometimes they miss the main event – the birth of Jesus in their lives. The inns were so crowded that the creator didn't have a place to be born. Moreover, no inn keeper could boast that he'd arranged a special suite for the King of Kings. It was purely the grace of God that chose a manger*! 'And she gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*' Luke 2:7

The subway cars can generally be crowded during peak times. Sometimes there wouldn't be space for people to squeeze in. One day, as the train stopped at a platform, some passengers alighted. The doors were closing when a person got on his feet shouting 'Oh my God, this is my station'. He tried to find his way out, but too late. He didn't stop cursing himself till the next station. Sometimes we're preoccupied with many things, and miss the right moment. Our minds are sometimes like the crowded inns of Bethlehem. Are our minds so full that Jesus doesn't have a place to be born this Christmas?

The good news was first given to the common folk, the shepherds. What a privilege! God has chosen the lowly to shame the wise. The shepherds were in the midst of their duties when the angels proclaimed the good news. They were eager to see the Redeemer. So they left their sheep to the care of the creator, and went all the way to worship Jesus. When our minds conform to the minds of shepherds, and take the most insignificant position, God sends His angels to herald the good news of hope, joy and redemption.

Let this yuletide help us to prepare a manger in our hearts, keeping aside all the busy concerns. May our unworthiness be enriched and transformed by the presence of this divine baby.

Merry Christmas! God Bless You!!

Samuel Anselm Samuel
Editor

Achen's Message

Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

As the church enters the Advent, we prepare our lives for the coming of Jesus the Saviour. Fear, frustration and grief are increasing in today's world. People turn everywhere for counseling. But they are not absolutely satisfied with the advice. Jesus is coming! That is the good news of Christmas. He is the counselor and Emmanuel. He knows everybody's hearts and problems. He has the remedy. Let us receive Him by being obedient to Him, and he'll give a new start in our lives.

As we all know, the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese is celebrating the 200th year of the missionary advent into the land of God's own country, Kerala. Thomas Norton was the first missionary who came to Alappuzha in 1816 to begin a great movement inspired by the gospel of Christ. Following him, a good number of dedicated co-workers of God came to Kerala as missionaries. They sacrificed their whole lives there for the social, spiritual, educational and cultural uplift of the people. The Diocese was also formed as a result of the missionary works.

As part of the celebrations, Diocese is envisioning several projects worth 25crores ($5,000,000). Home for the homeless, scholarship for 200 poor students, special economic aid for the financially weaker sections, agriculture projects, group farming, co-operative societies, health insurance for the needy, counseling centers, 1200 biogas plants, group insurance for all the presbyters and church workers of our diocese, development of village churches, renovation of mission bungalows etc. are a few among the intended projects. Memorial for Rev. Thomas Norton, Bicentenary stamp and a book that elaborates the work of missionaries will be released as part of Bicentenary Celebrations. Moreover, by 2016, we should be able to send 200 missionaries and start 10 new mission fields.

Bicentenary Celebration is envisioned to be a five-year long celebration concluding in 2016. CSIMKD diaspora community has always been keen to support each and every program of our diocese. As a parish affiliated to MKD, we have the responsibility to stretch out the hands of support for the accomplishment of these projects. Our good Lord has blessed you and your generations in a unique way. I ask all of you to kindly uphold this program in your prayers and do support as much as you can.

Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Philip M. Poole will visit our church on Sunday, 8th December. We will be blessed and honoured as the Bishop is going to celebrate the worship with us.

Bishop Poole is so affectionate to our parish. Moreover, he is the godly channel of divine accomplishment between us and the Diocese of Toronto. He, of course, plays an important role in helping the life and ministry of our church here. I request all our dear members to kindly come on 8th December to welcome the Bishop, and to be nourished by our worship together.

Christmas Carol service will be held on 14th of this month. I request all the members to join together for this service of lessons and carols lead by our choir.

I thank the team of singers partaking in the ministry of the house to house caroling this year. May God bless us to share the joy of Christmas with our dear ones throughout the yuletide.

Let us be grateful to the Almighty God for His faithfulness showered upon us for the last whole year.

May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ

Shajiachen

BIRTHDAYS

01	Rebecca Thomas	12	Joana Grace Varguise
01	Sajin Mathew Alexander	12	Navin Abraham
01	Ruby Mariam Mathew	17	Noel Chungath
02	Sanju Cherian	20	Elizabeth Shirley Abraham
03	Aaron Chungath	21	George Philip
04	Sangeeth Shaji	24	Rhea Grace Varguise
05	Maria Gajraj	28	Daniel Koshy
06	Anaya Sara Cherian	29	Rennie Philip Joseph
07	Daniel Thomas	31	P. Mathew Verghis

ANNIVERSARIES

17	Abhilash Raj & Smitha
18	Reji Johnson & Milly
29	Samuel Anselm Samuel & Shini
29	Balaji Kuruvilla & Rebecca Thomas
30	Alex Oommen & Susan Alex

Pilgrim

Bible Portions

December 01 1st Sunday in Advent 4th Sunday before Christmas	The Gospel of the Kingdom		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 5: 8 - 16	English Service
	Psalm	68: 11 - 20	Read by
	Epistle	Philippians 1: 12 - 26	Mr. Regie Koshy & family
	Gospel	Matthew 4: 12 - 17	
December 08 **Bible Sunday** 2nd Sunday in Advent	The Word of God: Hope for the World		
	Old Testament	Deuteronomy 18: 9 - 22	English Service
	Psalm	119: 105 - 112	Read by
	Epistle	1 Peter 1: 10 - 12	Committee Members
	Gospel	John1: 14 - 34	
December 15 3rd Sunday in Advent	The Lord among us: Realized Kingdom		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 11: 1 - 9	English Service
	Psalm	24	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 1: 1 - 7	Mr. V. Idiculla Kurien & family
	Gospel	Matthew 1: 18 – 23	
December 22 4th Sunday in Advent	Joy of Christ's coming		
	Old Testament	Micah 4: 1 - 5	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	126	Read by
	Epistle	1 John 4: 7 - 21	Mr. Suby Mathews & family
	Gospel	John 4: 21 - 37	
December 25 Christmas	Rejoice and worship the Prince of Peace		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 9: 1-7	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	98	Read by
	Epistle	Hebrews 1: 1 - 12	Mr. Santhosh Cherian & family
	Gospel	Luke 2: 15 - 20	

December 29 1st Sunday after Christmas Family Sunday	Affection and togetherness in the family		
	Old Testament	Joshua 24: 1 - 17	Matins Service
	Psalm	128	Read by
	Epistle	1 John 2: 7 - 17	Youth fellowship members
	Gospel	Matthew 12: 46 - 50	
December 31 Watch night Service	The Lord is our Rock and Shelter		
	Old Testament	Numbers 6: 22 - 26	English Service
	Psalm	27	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 1: 16 - 21	Mr. Benjamin Chacko & family
	Gospel	Luke 24: 28 - 30	
January 01, 2014 New Year Day Day of the covenant	"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit"		
	Old Testament	Zachariah 4: 1 - 14	English Service
	Psalm	33: 11 - 22	Read by
	Epistle	1 Timothy 1: 6 - 14	Mr. Abraham P. George & family
	Gospel	John 15: 1 - 8	

Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

Calvin Coolidge

Episcopal Visit on December 8 at 11:00 AM

We are happy to welcome the Toronto Anglican Diocese Suffragan Bishop The Right Reverend Philip M. Poole, Area Bishop York Credit Valley, to our Church on December 8. The Bishop will lead our worship service starting at 11:00 AM. All are invited to attend this special service.

Church Christmas Carol service on December 14, at 6:00 PM

Our Church carol service will be on Saturday, December 14, at 6:00 PM. The seating for the service will be at 5.30 PM. Please invite your friends and relatives for the musical event. Offertory will be taken during the service.

Christmas day service

There will be special Christmas day service on Wednesday, December 25 at 11:30 AM. All are invited.

House to House Carol Singing

This year's House to House Carol singing is progressing well. On December 1, Sunday after the service we will be visiting the members house in Markham and Toronto area proclaiming the Birth of Jesus Christ. We will be closing the program on Sunday, December 15 after the service.

All Praise and glory to the Lord Almighty for making the house to house carolling a blessed and successful event for our church.

Watch night service

The watch night service will start with the Praise and worship service at 10:30 PM on December 31, 2013. After the watch night service there will be the 2014 New Year Communion Service at 12:00 AM. All are invited.

Church Dues

Our Church financial year is ending on December 31, 2013. Those who haven't paid the membership fee and Harvest festival amount please settle the account as soon as possible.

Obituary

With deep sorrow we inform the sad demise of Mrs. Mariamma Mathew (85) mother of Mr. P. Matthew Verghis. was called to her eternal home last month. She was a member in Elamkulam CSI Church, Elamkulam. Funeral service was held in Kerala. Please remember Verghis, Elzy, Marilyn, Emily, Jonathan and all family members in your prayers. May God comfort and console all the dear ones.

The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto

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Sunday School Director	Mrs. Raimole Joseph		Mr. Benjamin Chacko

Carol Service
December 14, 6 PM

www.csichurchtoronto.org

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