



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

# Pilgrim

Volume 15 Issue 12

December 2015



## Merry Christmas

2015 Motto

**'Fear God, and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone.'**

ദൈവത്തെ ഭയപ്പെട്ടു അവന്റെ കല്പനകളെ പ്രമാണിച്ചുകൊൾക;  
അതാകുന്നു സകല മനുഷ്യർക്കും വേണ്ടുന്നതു

*Ecclesiastes 12:13*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Achen's message.... 3
- Bible Portions..... 4, 5
- Church News ..... 7
- Celebrations..... 8
- Area Carols ..... 9
- Missions.....10
- X'mas Shoebox..... 11
- Sunday School..... 12

**Christmas Carol Service**  
**December 12, 5 PM**

**Family Sunday &  
Sunday School Anniversary**  
**December 27, 11 AM**





# Pilgrim

**DECEMBER 2015**

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

**Chief Editor**

Rev. George Jacob

**Editor**

Samuel Anselm Samuel

**Publication Team**

Shini Samuel  
Suja Sarah Koshy  
Akshay Koshy  
Chris George

**Address**

CSI Parsonage  
1311 Kipling Avenue  
Etobicoke M9B 3N7 ON  
(416) 231- 1717

Articles/ Feedback

May be sent to  
pilgrimcsi.to@gmail.com

*Editorial .....*

*The Best Gift Ever.....*

How often have you longed for Christmas to come? Are you usually excited during Christmastide? Is it a season for giving and getting gifts? Christmas induces mixed feelings on people. Some people look forward to spending time in the best possible way. Some like to take part in caroling. Yet, there are a few who don't feel the necessity of celebrating Christmas. To others, it is just a year ending ritual. Christmas lost its flavour, and has now been reduced to a holiday season when people just like to hear Santa's 'Ho! Ho! Ho!'.

Tune in to the Heavenly FM to listen to the good news – *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a saviour who is Christ the Lord.* (Luke 2:11)

Most of the people don't believe in the make-believe story of Santa's visit. Traditions and cultures have gone a long way in bringing Santa to life. As the celebrations are in full swing, and people try to multi-focus, the sweet smile of the real Star of Bethlehem is drowned. Though many people might have seen this gracious smile gleaming through the celebrations, it doesn't seem to gain prominence in their lives – it is just another Christmas! Some try to avoid looking at the babe, based on the argument that Christ was not born on December 25.

Confused? Why bother about different beliefs? Christmas opens the doors of heaven, and the great, eternal God is ready to come down as Immanuel. We need to have the eyes to behold this magnificent reality rather than the adorable, virtual image of celebration. The Prince of Peace can come in if we open the doors of our heart. If the hearth of our hearts can feel the warmth of His unfathomable love this season, then the joy of Christmas is ours forever. Simeon and Anna longed to see the salvation of the Lord, and were satisfied and filled with ineffable joy. Let our hearts be prepared to meet this humble and lowly babe, who is the Redeemer, Wonderful Counsellor and Mighty God.

Let the joy of Christ be yours this Christmas. Let the love of God lead you to a blessed New Year.

Merry Christmas!

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Editor

## Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ ,

I am pleased to greet each one of you in the name of Immanuel, who is with us!

Time has flown and here we are at the last month of the year with the preparation for the Advent. Advent is the beginning of the ecclesial calendar (almanac), and it is the time for searching our hearts whether we are up to the mark. The Advent marks the prayerful and patient waiting of the bride (church) for the Bridegroom (Christ Jesus). The thoughts - readiness, alertness, preparedness, awaiting, repentance and forsaking sins totally are pertinent during the season. Let us search our hearts and rise to the expectations of our Lord and Master in this season of Advent.

The second Sunday in Advent is the Bible Sunday, which reminds us the importance of the WORD. Now the Word is available to us through various means, but still we lack the interest to learn and meditate on it and to make it a part of our lives. We need to grow in this aspect and be thankful to God for revealing His ways through the Bible.

Christmas is on our way! The message of Christmas is peace, which is "fear not". Peace cannot be imposed but it needs to be inculcated in our innermost being. Our relationship with our Lord and our fellowship with Him enable us to have peace. Growing in relationship with Christ is central to our faith. More than the commercial compulsions, it should be our genuine and true love for our Saviour that empowers us to celebrate our Saviour's birth. It is not a season to be "jolly" but a season to make ourselves holier in our journey of faith. We, as a congregation, will observe Christmas through a Carol Service on Saturday, December 12. The Christmas Day Holy Communion Service will be at 10 am on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Kindly participate in these services faithfully, timely, prayerfully and with commitment. The blessing will be ours for sure!

The Christmas Shoe Box collection went off well with the generous contribution from our members and friends. The Missions Committee, Sunday School and Youth Fellowship worked out the plans and they made it a success. Our sincere thanks goes to Mr. John Mathew (Missions Coordinator), Mrs. Diani Mathai (Sunday School Director), Mr. Sanju Cherian (Youth Fellowship Director) all families who contributed and all who worked sincerely in different phases of the collection. We submitted more than 130 boxes. Thank you one and all.

We observed the Sunday School Sunday significantly. Thanks to everyone who actively participated in the lay ministry and the presentation of the song. Thanks to the Sunday School Director for co-ordinating the Sunday.

Rev. Fr. Dr. P. K. Mathews, who was a friend of our congregation went to be with the Lord last month. Our heartfelt condolences to dear Kochamma, children and the Congregation. Achen was quite ecumenical in his relationship, a very learned teacher and a servant of God in the eastern tradition in his calling.

One more year is bidding farewell to us. "Time and tide waits for none!" How much have we grown in relationship to our Master? - is a fitting query for our preparation to greet the New Year. Our stock in our lives should be examined and we should appropriately fix our lives in accordance with God's plan for our

*(Continued on page 4)*



*(Continued from page 3)*

lives. Let us fill the vacuums in life with His love and scrape out the rust caused by our hard – heartedness towards the loving Heavenly Father. May the restoration of relationship with our Redeemer ensue in our life. May our Lord enable each of us to face the New Year with abounding peace and joy in our hearts!

May the almighty God bless us and strengthen us for a more meaningful life!

Yours in His service,

Siby Achen.

	Inspired to Inspire		
<p><b>December 06</b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent</p> <p><b>Bible Sunday</b></p>	Old Testament	1 Kings 19 : 1 - 21	English Service
	Psalm	119 : 33 - 40	Read by
	Epistle	Revelation 10 : 1 - 11	Abraham P. George & Family
	Gospel	Luke 1 : 39 - 45	
	Deliverance from the Bondage of Sin		
<p><b>December 13</b></p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent</p>	Old Testament	Exodus 14 : 1 - 14	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	37: 1 - 12	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 8 : 1 - 11	Ajoy Lional & Family
	Gospel	John 8 : 31 - 38	

<p><b>December 20</b></p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</p>	Mar-ana-tha - O Lord Come		
	Old Testament	Deuteronomy 18 : 15 - 22	<b>English Service</b>
	Psalm	28	Read by
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 16 : 13 - 24	Christopher Gajraj & Family
	Gospel	John 1 : 1 - 14	
<p><b>December 25</b></p> <p><b>Christmas</b></p>	Christmas: A New Dawn		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 9 : 1 - 7	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	98	Read by
	Epistle	Galatians 4 : 1 - 7	Jophy Philip & Family
	Gospel	Luke 2 : 1 - 14	
<p><b>December 27</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas</p> <p><b>Family Sunday</b></p>	Family as a Healing Space		
	Old Testament	Genesis 33 : 1 - 11	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	91	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 6 : 1 - 9	Samuel Anselm Samuel & Family
	Gospel	Luke 15 : 11 - 24	
<p><b>December 31 &amp; January 01</b></p> <p><b>Covenant Service</b></p>	Living Prayer that Prevails		
	Old Testament	1 Chronicles 4 : 9 - 10	<b>English Service</b>
	Psalm	77	Read by
	Epistle	Philippians 4 : 4 - 7	Executive Committee Members
	Gospel	Matthew 6 : 5 - 15	





WHERE? CSI Church, Toronto

WHEN? December 12, 2015 at 5:00 PM

LOCATION? 1315 Kipling Ave, Toronto, M9B 3N7

PHONE 416 231 1717



[www.csichurchtoronto.org](http://www.csichurchtoronto.org)



### **Monthly Fasting prayer**

Our Monthly fasting prayer will be held on December 5 at 9.30 AM. All are invited.

### **Church Christmas Carol Service. at 5.00 PM**

Our Church Carol Service will be held at 5.00 PM on Saturday, December 12, 2015. The seating for the service will start at 4.30 PM. Rev. Douglas Michael, Rector of All Saint's Anglican Church, Collingwood will be our Guest Speaker. Please invite your friends and relatives for this musical event. Offertory will be taken during the service.

### **Christmas day service at 10.00 AM**

There will be a special Christmas day service on December 25 starting at 10.00 AM. Please note this time change for the service. All are invited.

### **Sunday School Examination**

The Sunday School Examination will be held on December 20. Parents of the Sunday school children are requested to prepare their children for the examination.

### **Family Sunday/ Sunday School Anniversary**

Sunday School Anniversary and talent show will be held on Family Sunday, December 27. All are invited. Talent show will be an opportunity for the children to present their God-given talent. For more information, please contact the Sunday School Director.

### **Watch Night Service**

The Watch Night Service starts with the Praise and worship service at 10.30 PM on December 31, 2015 followed by the New Year 2016 service. Holy Communion service is at 12.00 AM. All are invited for the special worship service.

### **Church Dues**

Our Church financial year is ending on December 31 2015. Those who haven't paid the membership fees and the Harvest festival dues are requested to settle the accounts as early as possible.

### **Church Members Photo Directory for 2016**

The Executive committee decided to publish a Photo Directory for 2016. Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel will coordinate the picture taking at the Church on Sundays till December 20, 2015. We need all our members' cooperation for this project. So please make sure that you are available for the picture taking before the deadline December 20, 2015.

### **Area Caroling**

We have completed this year's Area Caroling on November 29 at the Parsonage. I take this opportunity to thank all our members for their cooperation and participation. Special thanks to our Siby Achen and Area Prayer Group leaders Mr. Abraham P. George, Mr. Joseph Thomas and Mrs. Elizabeth Mathai for coordinating this Ministry.





**BIRTHDAYS**

01	Rebecca Thomas	12	Joana Grace Varguise
01	Sajin Mathew Alexander	12	Navin Abraham
01	Ruby Mariam Mathew	20	Elizabeth Shirley Abraham
02	Sanju Cherian	21	George Philip
04	Sheeba Levison Ghosh	24	Rhea Grace Varguise
05	Maria Gajraj	28	Daniel Koshy
06	Anaya Sara Cherian	29	Rennie Philip Joseph
07	Daniel Thomas	30	Sandhra Elizabeth Eapen
09	Toms Jacob	31	P. Matthew Verghis
11	Vinu Jacob		

**ANNIVERSARIES**

14	Jiby Jacob & Jain Daniel
17	Abhilash Raj & Smitha Titus
18	Reji Johnston & Milly Johnston
29	Samuel Anselm Samuel & Shini Samuel
29	Balaji I. Kuruvilla & Rebecca Thomas
30	Alex Oommen & Susan Alex

# Pilgrim

## Area Carols



## Operation Christmas Child -Shoe box collection

*John Mathew*

This year, we started our Shoe box collection immediately after Children's Sunday. The intention was to involve the Children in the project to create an awareness among them about the need to share what they have with the other children, who have little or nothing during the Christmas season. The boxes were ordered & handed over to the Sunday School Team, which took over the task of buying & packing the shoe boxes.

The missions committee coordinated the collection of money, distribution of the boxes & handing over the packed boxes at the collection center, with the active participation of the Youth. Some members started donating cash towards the purchase of the items & some members began distributing boxes among their colleagues by the first week of Nov 2015. The boxes were all packed by Sunday School and youth on Nov 8, 2015. By the Grace of God, we had a dedication of the same on Nov 15, 2015. Other friends also contributed to this worthy cause. The co-operation from everyone was overwhelming. What is done in our Lord's name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

***The following should sum up the final result of this undertaking:***

Rev George Jacob: It was definitely God's plan and purpose that everything went on smoothly beyond our plans and ideas.

Missions: It was with a grateful heart we went to the Humbervale Park Baptist Church collection center with over 135 shoe boxes on Nov 17, 2015. We were met by the volunteers at the Church who helped unload the boxes & we posed for a few pictures. I thank the Lord God almighty for making this possible.

Let us pray that these boxes are a blessing to the Children whose names have been written on the boxes the moment they were packed.

May the Good Lord bless these boxes as they start the journey to the destinations.



**Committee**



**The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto**

President	Rev. George Jacob	Men's Fellowship Director	Mr. Joseph Thomas
Vice-President / Rector's Warden	Mr. Abraham P. George	Women's Fellowship Director	Mrs. Susan Joseph
Secretary / People's Warden	Mr. Christy Abraham	Youth Fellowship Director	Mr. Sanju Cherian
Joint Secretary	Mr. Varghese V. John	Choir Director	Mr. Daniel Thomas
Treasurer	Mr. Ajoy Lional	Social & Recreational Director	Mr. Benjamin Chacko
Joint Treasurer	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel	Trustees	Mrs. Annie Koshy
Sunday School Director	Mrs. Diani Mathai		Mr. Joy Chemmanoor



For Private Circulation Only

Published by CSI Church, Toronto, 1315 Kipling Avenue M9B 3N7, ON. All rights reserved