



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

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AUGUST 2016



2016 Motto

'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.'

Philippians 4:6

ഒന്നിനെക്കുറിച്ചും വിചാരപ്പെടരുത്; എല്ലാറ്റിലും പ്രാർത്ഥനയാലും അപേക്ഷയാലും നിങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ സ്നേഹത്തോടെ ദൈവത്തോടു അറിയിക്കുകയത്രേ വേണ്ടതു.

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Mens's Sunday - August 7

**Church Annual Picnic - August 13
@Christie Lake Conservation Area**

Vacation Bible School- August 25 - 27

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Editorial

The Ultimate Remedy

Everyone goes through ups and downs in life. Some people consider success to be a means of celebration, and failure to be a devastation. But a few are lucky to strike a balance between them. They are able to look at them with the same equanimity. Sometimes, it gets to the point of affecting the mood of the person, and he / she gets lured into depression. According to Statistics Canada 2012 CCHS (Canadian Community Health Survey) on mental health, 5.4% of the population aged 15 years and over reported symptoms that meet the criteria for a mood disorder. Can this be prevented?

The fact that proper medical treatment is available for this disorder, is not a matter of contention. There are also numerous enlightening proposals that claim to prevent this situation. At this juncture, it is recommended that we read the words of David in Psalm 42:5. "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God." This is the right answer to all the problems of depression. It is easier said than done. It takes courage to endure the crisis, and to enjoy an air of calm and serenity. David's faith in the unchanging God helps him to reason with his fears. His hope on the providence helps him to argue with his sorrows.

It takes a little effort on our part to cast all our burdens on the one who cares for us. The infinite, free grace of God shall be our stronghold that subdues the floods of fear and sorrow. This can become a reality if we've gained the privilege of calling the eternal father as "my God and my salvation". If only everyone knows about and experiences this magical hope!

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

May this letter find all of you in peace and health!

We are journeying through the season of Pentecost. The expectation placed by the Almanac is that the life of each congregation needs to be revitalized in its own context. The themes are relevant to the life of the Church. As we are aware of, the Mission of the Church is twofold: (a) to worship God and to provide spiritual support through mutual fellowship to the family of God's people and (b) to proclaim the love of God that is lavished upon each and everyone we meet in our daily life through our words, actions and example in life.

Hence we need to think of worship as an expression of our faith with understanding. It involves emotions, thoughts and intellect. It needs to be balanced with an attitude of submission, offering ourselves before the Lord of all creation – the Sovereign. The center of our faith is expressed through the celebration of the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of our Saviour and Master – the Celebration of the Eucharist. It is an occasion of remembrance, thanksgiving, cleansing and empowerment. So when we live in a community, we need to understand, exercise and share our faith to our fellow beings, which is highlighted in the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:16-20). Our experiences with the Lord and the faith that is handed over to us need to be passed on to the generations and to those whom we meet in our daily life. We need to share the Gospel with an attitude of peace unlike Christian crusades which left a black mark in the history of the journey of Christian faith through the centuries. The Gospel is love and is about love. Hence the sharing needs to be out of the love of God within us, not with a spirit of competition. Let us grow in the love of God (agape) and may that love compel, empower and enable us to live and share the Gospel.

The North American CSI Family and Youth Conference and the Council went well. We were able to have our representation in the Council and Conference as a Congregation. Let me express heartfelt gratitude to all members who made themselves available for the Council and Conference.

The Young Families' and Young Individual's Fellowship had its gathering in July. Thanks to each and everyone who participated in the gathering. Also I thank Siby Jacob, Ancy Jacob, Joseph P Mathews and Sonia Mathews for organizing the fellowship meeting. More and more venues need to be there for our young families and young individuals so that they could have a time of sharing, learning and growing and thus merge to the life of the congregation as potential leaders and participants.

May God almighty bless you and keep all of you in His abundant mercy and grace.

Yours in His service,

Siby Achen.



BIRTHDAYS

01	Michael Gajraj	13	Sam Daniel. P
01	Surya Joseph	15	Saurabh Itty
03	Suby Mathews	15	Jinoj Titus
07	Jacob Mathew Chemparathimoottil	18	Nibu Varguise
07	Trisha Cherian	23	Jubin Varghese George
08	Jonathan J. Verghis	27	Susan George (Kochamma)
09	Benjamin Chacko	28	Mathew Joseph
09	Annamma Skariah	29	Jophy Philip
10	Ajay Joseph		

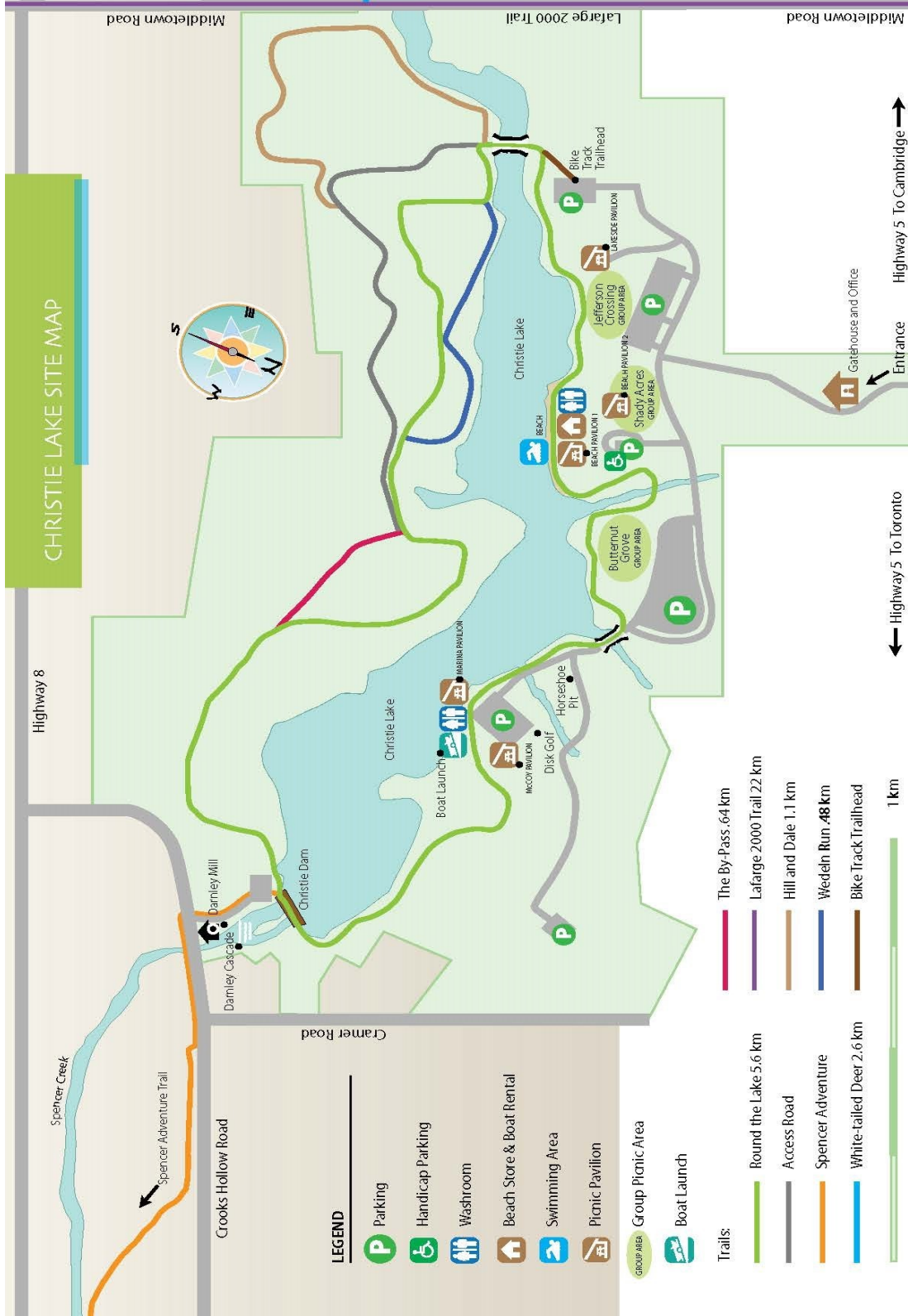
ANNIVERSARIES

08	P. Mathew & Elizabeth Verghis
18	Jacob Cherian & Biby Esther Abraham
26	Benjamin Chacko & Ani Chacko
29	K.P. Alexander & Mary Alexander
31	Ajay Joseph & Surya Joseph

August 07 12th Sunday after Pentecost	Worship with Understanding		
	Old Testament	Genesis 22: 1 - 19	English Service
	Psalm	51	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 12: 1 - 8	Men's Fellowship
	Gospel	Luke 9: 23 - 26	
August 14 13th Sunday after Pentecost	Sacrament of Holy Communion		
	Old Testament	Exodus 12: 1 - 14	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	42	Read by
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 10: 14 - 22	Abhilash Raj & Family
	Gospel	Luke 22: 7 - 20	
August 21 14th Sunday after Pentecost	God and People of All Faiths		
	Old Testament	Amos 9: 1 - 12	English Service
	Psalm	66	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 2: 17 - 29	Joy Chemmanoor & Family
	Gospel	John 10: 14 - 18	
August 28 15th Sunday after Pentecost	Peace in the Context of Violence		
	Old Testament	1 Samuel 24: 1 - 12	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	52	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 12: 14 - 21	T. Mathew Chacko & Family
	Gospel	Matthew 5: 38 - 48	

Christie Lake Conservation Area- Site Map

Picnic



For more information, please visit <https://conservationhamilton.ca/conservation-areas-2/christie-lake/>



Monthly Fasting Prayer

Our Monthly Fasting Prayer will be held on August 6 at 10.00 AM. All are invited.

Men's Fellowship Sunday

We will be observing Men's Sunday on August 7. Men's fellowship members will be taking an active part in the worship service. All are invited.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Our Church VBS will be held from August 25 to 27. We are closing the VBS program on Saturday. I encourage the parents of the Sunday School Children to send their children for VBS. Please pray for this ministry.

We need volunteers, and sponsors for snacks and lunches for VBS. If you are interested to sponsor snacks and lunches, please contact the Sunday School Director, Mr. Phil Z. Mathai.

Cottage Prayer

Cottage Prayer for Jordan Group will be held on August 20 at Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Mathews residence at 6.30 PM. All Jordan Group members are invited

Cottage Prayer for Gilead Group will be held on August 26 at Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Chacko's residence at 7.30 PM. All Gilead group members are invited.

Church Annual Picnic

Our Church Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 13 at **Christie Lake Conservation Area**, 1000, HWY 5 West, Dundas, Ontario. Our picnic site is "**Lakeview**"

Picnic fee \$25 per family

Single \$15

All are invited to come and enjoy the day at the park and have fellowship. Entertainment Committee is arranging sports, games and swimming in the lake. You can arrange for fishing or boating in the lake. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Mr. Joshua Moothedam. Picnic starts at 10.00 AM

If more than 3 members are attending the picnic, please give your name to Mr. Joshua Moothedam, so that we can purchase discounted parking coupons from the park. The coupon price is \$15.00 per vehicle; otherwise you will be paying more for the parking.

WHAT IS FAITH?

Mary Alexander

It wasn't until I was struck by an illness that I realized the impact of faith.

During this time, I learned two important facts about faith.

1. You cannot work up your faith or cultivate it. But you can become stronger in faith as you exercise faith.
2. Faith does not become faith until you put it into action.

In exercising faith, one needs to understand where faith comes from, what faith is and how one should seek faith.

Faith is believing the outcome which you do not see or comprehend.

The outcome might be good or bad and you can accept it or reject it. Only when you trust fully in an all-knowing, all-sufficient, all-possible God, in whom there is only 'good', and no 'evil' that you can accept the outcome of your faith. Your acceptance of the outcome, whether negative or favorable, depends on your intimacy and trust in the Lord.

Faith is a gift from God.

I was amazed at the measure of faith instilled in me at the time of my illness. Sometimes the road-blocks are so strong that you don't know what to believe or not believe. The sudden out-pouring of the faith made me believe that it wasn't from anyone else, but God. There was no seeking or struggling and it was as though I was being covered by a blanket of faith quite suddenly which led me to believe that God was very close to me during the trial. All my fears were suddenly replaced by an overwhelming sense of calmness and peace.

As I was praying one morning, I was prompted by the Lord to go to a meeting about 100 km away from home and I went. The message I heard that day, I believed, was meant just for me. (2 Chron. 20). Two weeks later I heard the same message through a radio broadcast which gave me confirmation that the Lord was speaking to me through the Word. All doubts and fears vanished, and I began to apply the living Word from the messages in my situation and waited for God to fulfill His promises. I believed that the peace and calmness God displayed through me resulted in exercising my faith in action. Through my actions God gave me the courage to encourage others who were concerned about me. I wanted them to know I was healed by God who sent me His Word and gave me enough faith to trust Him for the outcome. I was conducting a Bible study prior to the illness and God strengthened me to continue the Bible study I was leading. "God's Word never returns void. (Is.55:11). God's Word will fulfill its purpose for which it is sent.

Faith is a gift from God, but fear and doubt are forces from the enemy.

When we entertain fear, we are giving room for the enemy to prevail. The more we give into our fears, the more will be the damage. If the enemy is allowed to conquer us, then the fear will gradually dimin-

ish our faith in the Almighty God in whom there is only good and no evil. Therefore, to remain in faith we must use our spiritual weapons of warfare. Jesus overcame the enemy by the Word of God. Our weapon must be the same.

“Resist the devil, he will flee from you; draw nigh unto God and He will draw nigh unto you.” (James 4:7-8)

I don't believe in fighting with the devil all day; therefore, I turn to God, draw closed to Him where the enemy cannot touch me.

The Lord has promised to hide me in His shadow and cover me in the hollow of His mighty hand. I believe that the tools which we use to draw closer to God are the tools we must use to resist the enemy. Our weapons are, Prayer, Praise and Worship, meditation in the Word of God, and obedient and faithful Christian living.

To live by faith, and grow in faith we must surrender all our desires, beliefs and actions at the foot of the cross daily, and “bring all our thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ”, thus bringing everything under His subjection. (2Cor.10:5)

One preacher defined faith as follows.

F-Forsaking A-All I-I T- Take H- Him. (FAITH)

Faith is, “Forsaking All I Take Him.”

Some of us may have to try too hard to do that, but **we can do it together** and conquer fear.

Ecumenical St. Thomas Day



Farewell- Bishop

Farewell to Bishop Poole June 12, 2016

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30th CSI Family & Youth Conference of North America



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