

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA

NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2022



(For Private Circulation Only)

Almanac and Lectionary: September 2022

Date	Theme & Readings	Liturgical colour
<p>Sunday, 4 September 2022 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Theme: “The watchfulness that is required in the Church’s pastors.” O.T. : Ezekiel 3:16-21 Psalm : Psalm 125 Epistle : Acts 20:28-32 Gospel : Luke 12:41-48</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 168</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Sunday, 11 September 2022 Holy Communion Service: 9 a.m.</p>	<p>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Theme: “God has called us to be free.” O.T. : Numbers 14:1-10a Psalm : Psalm 106:24-27,41-44 Epistle : Galatians 4:8-11 Gospel : Luke 13:10-17</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 171</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Sunday, 18 September 2022 Holy Communion Service: 9 a.m.</p>	<p>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Theme: “Our response to the call of God.” O.T. : I Samuel 15:10-12a,17-23 Psalm : Psalm 18:25-30 Epistle : Acts 13:44-50 Gospel : Luke 14:15-24</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 173</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Sunday, 25 September 2022 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Theme: “The right attitude to possessions.” O.T. : Joshua 24:14-24 Psalm : Psalm 34:11-16,18-19 Epistle : I Thessalonians 3:1-8 Gospel : Luke 14:25-33</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 176</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Sunday, 2 October 2022 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Theme: “God does not abandon his people when they go astray.” O.T. : Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm : Psalm 90:1-2,13-17 Epistle : Philemon 7-20 Gospel : Luke 15:1-10</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 180</p>	<p>Green</p>

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

LITTLE ACTS OF KINDNESS

Mother Teresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things, but all of us can do small things with great love." She exemplified this truth in her own life.

Kindness is underrated. Often, we don't realize how our simple acts of kindness, or a word of encouragement and appreciation impact someone's life. Jesus says in Luke 6:35, "Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked." As children of the Most High God, we must radiate God's love. We can choose to reflect God's love and kindness through our words and actions. Apostle Paul says in I Corinthians 13:13, "... these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

Years ago, two students of Stanford University (USA) realized that their funds were worryingly low, and that they would therefore not be able to continue with their studies. However, they found a way out. They decided to engage the pianist Ignacy Paderewski for a piano recital. They would use the money raised for their boarding and tuition.

The pianist's manager asked them for a guarantee of \$2,000. Though it was a huge sum, the boys agreed and started promoting the event. They worked hard for over a month. However, the youngsters could collect only \$1,600. At the end of the concert, they gave the pianist the entire money, along with a promissory note, saying that they would earn the amount at the earliest and send it to him, though they knew this would end their college dream forever!

When Paderewski came to know of their predicament, he took the note and tore it in two; he also returned the entire amount to them and told them: "Take out of this \$1,600 all of your expenses, and keep for each of you 10% of the balance for your work. The rest you can give me!"

Years rolled by. Paderewski had by then become the Prime Minister of Poland. A famine-like situation prevailed in Poland, and the new Premier had to arrange for food to feed thousands of hungry people. He found out that the only person who can help him was Herbert Hoover, who was in charge of the US Food and Relief Bureau. Paderewski went to meet him. Hoover responded positively by sending thousands of tons of food material to Poland.

When the situation was under control, Paderewski travelled to Paris to thank Hoover for the timely help. "That's all right, Mr. Paderewski. That was just the little I could do to help you," Hoover quickly responded. "Besides," Hoover continued, "though you don't remember it now, you had helped me once when I was a college student and was in trouble!" Paderewski's small act of kindness had helped him in a big way when he needed it most.

One never knows how our little acts of kindness will get paid off! Whether they pay off or not, our thoughtfulness will go a long way in making a big difference in the lives of the people around us.

**In His Grace,
Thomas Jacob**

NEWS & NOTES

AGM: The Annual General Meeting of our Church was held on Sunday 21 August 2022. The meeting was well attended by the members. This was held offline after a gap of 2 years. Various issues raised in the interest of the Church by the floor members were discussed.

Office bearers: The following members were elected as office-bearers for the year 2022-23:

K. P. George - Hon.Secretary
Sabina Solomon - Hon.Treasurer
Shalini Outram - Hon.Jt.Secretary
Smriti Rekha Vijay - Hon.Jt.Treasurer

Sunday School: The Sunday School which has since restarted offline gave a presentation in church during the 9 am service on the 7 August 2022. Besides doing the scripture readings, the Sunday School children also sang beautifully a group song titled "There were twelve disciples Jesus called to help him..."

Independence Day: A short worship service followed by the flag hoisting ceremony were held on 15 August. The Study Centre (QCCCS) children put up a special programme on the occasion.

Mid-Week Prayer Service: The midweek prayer service continues to be held on Zoom on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. The meditation currently is on the book of Isaiah.

Sick & Home bound: Let us continue to pray for the sick and elderly, especially Prakash Naik, Olga Nazareth, Loolu Thomas, Lizzy Kurian, Padmini Abraham, Joyce Nichols, Vijaya Rajaratnam, Shalini Dongre, Rt.Rev.S.B.Joshua, Dipak Seal, Purnima Seal, Anita Philips, Vimla Ganapathy, Gloria Tata, and the Pratap family. Pray that they are protected and healed and that God's hand be upon them.

Shalini Outram
Hon. Jt. Secretary

HEARD FROM THE PULPIT

07 August 2022 ~ 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Galatians 4:1-20

Paul contrasts a person's condition under the law (4:1-3) with his/her position in Christ (4:4-7). He wants his readers to see that depending on human efforts is a return to slavery. Whether we are trying to follow the commandments of the true God or performing rituals to a false god, our inclination is to make everything about our religious performance. Paul was saying to the Gentile Christians in Galatia, 'If you are turning to the law of Moses in order to be right with God, then you are just going back to the very slavery you knew when you were worshipping false gods.' We are made right before God not by our efforts but by his grace. Why would we then go back to making efforts to please God? When we turn to our efforts, it either leads to a sense of pride or condemnation. Either we will think 'I am good enough to be accepted by God,' or 'I am not good enough to be accepted by God.' Now the first statement is never true, and the second statement is always true, but should never be used to define our acceptance by God. Yes, we are not good enough, but our acceptance is not based on our goodness, on what we do. It's based on what Jesus did. John Stott says: "What a Christian life is not, is a bondage to the law, as if our salvation hung in the balance and depended on our meticulous and slavish obedience to the letter of the law."

In 4: 12 Paul says, "Become like me, for I became like you." Paul was a zealous Jew who assumed to be righteous because of his sincere attempts to keep the law. But, when he encountered Christ, he understood the gospel of love and grace. Even though he despised the Gentiles at one time, he now put aside his Jewishness and the Law in order to win them over to faith in Christ. As he was freed from the bondage of the law, Paul wants the Galatians too to enjoy the freedom in Christ.

14 August 2022 ~ 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Galatians 4:21-31

"Under the law it is what you do for God that makes you right before him. Under the grace of God, it is what God has done for us in Jesus Christ that makes us right before him. Under the law the focus is on my performance. Under the grace of God, the focus is on who Jesus is and what he has done." (David Guzik)

Paul says in 4:21, "Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says?" In order to counter the argument of those who desired to be under the law, Paul draws their attention to the law itself. In verses 22 & 23, Paul reminds his readers that Abraham had two sons, one of a slave woman and the other of a free woman. In verses 24-27, Paul argues that these two sons with their mothers represent two religions, a religion of bondage, and a religion of freedom. In verses 28-31, he says that 'As Christians, we don't identify with Ishmael. We identify with Isaac, as children of a promise that was received by faith.'

The Galatian Christians were being deceived into thinking the law would bring them blessing. Paul points out to them that Ishmael, Hagar's son, represents those seeking righteousness through good works. Isaac, Sarah's son, represents those seeking righteousness through faith. We must be like Isaac seeking righteousness through faith. We must put our trust in God through Jesus Christ. For only in Christ can we inherit the promises, receive the grace and enjoy the freedom. We become God's children by grace, not by efforts of the flesh. We must not trade God's way for human way. We must not trade freedom for bondage. We must crucify the flesh. We must live by faith and by the power of the Spirit.

21 August 2022 ~ 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Galatians 5:1-12

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery” (5:1). Paul is saying that if you are a follower of Christ, then you are set free. That Christian life is a life of freedom. Usually, when we say that Christ has set us free, we mean that we are freed from sin and from the penalty of sin because of Jesus Christ’s substitutionary death on the cross. However, the freedom that Paul talks about here is freedom from the oppression of the law. As John Stott says, “freedom... from the dreadful struggle to keep the law, with a view of winning the favour of God.” The second part of verse 1 says, “Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Yoke is, usually, a picture of forced labour; of someone else controlling your life. The farmer would use a yoke to control and guide his oxen. When the Galatian Christians turned to Christ, they were freed from the yoke of slavery. And they took upon the yoke of Christ, which is easy.

Paul comes to the specific issue of circumcision in verses 2-6. Paul says that if they choose to be circumcised, then, they would be under the compulsion to obey the whole law. It would also mean that they will be alienating themselves from Christ and the benefits of his grace (5:2,4). When we put our confidence in something other than God’s grace, we will be alienating ourselves from Christ. When we try to be counted as righteous on the basis of our efforts, then, we will lose out on the benefits of God’s grace. Paul wants the Galatians to realize that neither circumcision nor uncircumcision can improve our standing before God. What is important is to exercise faith, and to depend on the Spirit. “To preach circumcision is to tell sinners that they can save themselves by their own good works; to preach Christ crucified is to tell them that they cannot and that only Christ can save them through the cross” (John Stott).

28 August 2022 ~ 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Galatians 5:13-26

John Stott writes that Christian freedom has three implications:

1. Christian freedom is not freedom to indulge in the flesh (v.13).

We must not use our freedom as an excuse or license for sin because Christian freedom is freedom *from* sin, not freedom *to* sin.

2. Christian freedom is freedom to serve one another (v.13).

The flesh (our sinful nature) is essentially selfish. When we give in to the flesh, we use others for our selfish interests. And, when we don’t use our freedom to indulge in the flesh, we are free to serve one another humbly in love. Paul says in verse 17 that the Spirit and the flesh are in conflict. The Spirit and the flesh pull in opposite directions. So, when we serve others with love, we are saying ‘no’ to the pull of our sinful nature. When we indulge in the flesh, it shows our selfishness. On the other hand, when we walk by the Spirit, we will not gratify the sinful desires, rather we would serve one another in love. As John Stott says, “Christian liberty is service not selfishness.” This is a remarkable paradox. We must not be slaves and yet be slaves. We must not be slaves to sin, and yet Christian freedom is about being a slave (about serving others).

3. Christian freedom is not freedom to disregard the law (v.14).

We cannot earn the acceptance of God by keeping the law. But once we are accepted by God because of what Christ did for us, we must keep the law out of our love for him.

GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE

We thank God for the lives and faithful service of all those who passed away in the month of September of earlier years.



YEAR	NAME
1906	PIKU BRIAN BEVIS
1906	BRUDERVE SUSETTE
1908	GUSTREING DAVID EBENZER
1910	HAWES CHARLES WILLIAM
1911	BULLOCK WILLIAM
1917	RICE DOREEN BURNETT
1925	SPURGEEN MARGARET GOLDEN
1938	MICHAEL LEWIS WILLIAM
1938	ORE PHILIP ALFRED
1945	PALMER GILLIAN
1947	TRAVERS KENNETH
1954	DILLEN NARAIN SWAMI STEPHEN
1980	DEV DOSS JOEL VICTOR
1985	MILLICANS DAVID
1988	ALBERT SINHA
1990	KURUVILLA PETER
1991	LEWIS STELLA
1996	LUTHER VERA GLADYS
1998	DOW DOROTHY EMILY
2000	SOANS DENNIS
2002	GEORGE (SUNNY) THOMAS
2004	RAWSON DAVID A.
2016	DARA AJIT
2018	SANTINEER CHRISTIE
2018	RALIA-RAM JUDITH
2021	REUBEN JAGDHANE
2021	MALCOLM MICHIGAN

BANK DETAILS

Account Name: **ST STEPHENS CHURCH**

Bank Name: **SOUTH INDIAN BANK**

Branch Name: **HILL ROAD, BANDRA**

Savings Bank A/c no: **0389053000037362**

IFS Code: **SIBL0000389**

* When you do a bank transfer, please drop an email giving the details, including UTR number, to:

church@stephenschurch-bandra.com

OR

sscbandra@gmail.com

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Activity	Venue	Day & Time	Contact Person	Phone No.
Sunday School	PHCC	9 am on Sundays	Preethy Dhanaraj Raj	9920723235
QCCCS: Day Care Centre & Study Centre	PHCC	Monday to Friday 9 a.m.to 7 p.m. Saturday 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Maria Kumary Koshy	9820217524

Church Office: Charmaine Rego Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	9820738735
Rev. Thomas Jacob , Presbyter-in-charge	9820736359
K. P. George , Hon. Secretary	9821074653
Sabina Solomon , Hon. Treasurer	9820080456
Shalini Outram , Hon. Jt. Secretary	7738429332
Smriti Rekha Vijay , Hon. Jt. Treasurer	9821292089

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