

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
(CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA)

NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2018



(For Private Circulation Only)

Almanac and Lectionary: November 2018

Date	Theme & Readings	Liturgical colour
<p>Sunday, 4 November 2018 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost Theme: The great commandment. O.T. : Micah 6:2-8 Psalm : Psalm 24:1-6 Epistle : I John 4:16b-21 Gospel : Mark 12:28-34</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 196</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Sunday, 11 November 2018 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost Theme: A generous spirit. O.T. : Exodus 35:20-29 Psalm : Psalm 50:1,7-10,14-15 Epistle : II Corinthians 8:1-9 Gospel : Mark 12:38-44</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 199</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Sunday, 18 November 2018 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost Theme: The partnership of women and men. O.T. : Proverbs 31:10-16,23-29 Psalm : Psalm 8:1,3-9 Epistle : Romans 16:1-7,12-13,15-16 Gospel : Mark 14:3-9</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 202</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Sunday, 25 November 2018 Holy Communion Service: Harvest Festival 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Harvest Festival Theme: Thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth. O.T. : Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Psalm : Psalm 147:1,5-9 Epistle : II Corinthians 9:6-15 Gospel : John 6:25-35</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Sunday, 2 December 2018 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p>	<p>4 Sunday before Christmas (Advent 1) Theme: Watching for Christ in patience and hope. O.T. : Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm : Psalm 75:1-7 Epistle : II Peter 3:8-15a Gospel : Mark 12:32-40</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 1</p>	<p>Violet</p>

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Integrity

Am I true to myself?

(Edgar Guest)

I have to live with myself, and so
I want to be fit for myself to know,
I want to be able, as days go by,
Always to look myself straight in the eye;
I don't want to stand, with the setting sun,
And hate myself for things I have done.
I don't want to keep on a closet shelf
A lot of secrets about myself,
And fool myself, as I come and go,
Into thinking that nobody else will know
The kind of man I really am;
I don't want to dress up myself in sham.
I want to go out with my head erect,
I want to deserve all men's respect;
But here in the struggle for pain and pelf
I want to be able to like myself.
I don't want to look at myself and know
That I'm bluster and bluff and empty show.
I can never hide myself from me;
I see what others may never see;
I know what others may never know,
I never can fool myself, and so,
Whatever happens, I want to be
Self-respecting and conscience free.

Recently, it was widely reported that the top two officers of the nation's premier investigative agency are investigating each other on allegations of corruption, putting a question mark on the credibility of the institution itself. The lack of credibility of institutions, including the church, can be traced back to the level of integrity of the individuals within those institutions. The dictionary definition of integrity is: "the quality or state of being complete or undivided." Synonyms include honesty, probity, righteousness, morality, virtue, sincerity, and truthfulness. John Maxwell says, "A person with integrity does not have divided loyalties (that's duplicity), nor is he or she merely pretending (that's hypocrisy). People with integrity are 'whole' people; they can be identified by their single-mindedness. People with integrity have nothing to hide and nothing to fear. Their lives are open books." Tragically, integrity is a rare commodity today when most people seem to be self-centred.

Psychiatrist and author Ross Campbell says, "Integrity is a part of our character and is best known by three behaviours: Telling the truth; Keeping one's promises; Taking responsibility for one's behaviour." Today, what we see in politics and every other walk of life is that truth is the first casualty. And, generally, there is mistrust between people. But Bible instructs us to have the three behaviours that Campbell says will reflect our integrity. Apostle Paul urges us, for example, in Ephesians 4:15 to live in a truthful and loving manner. Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, "Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'" (Matthew 5:37). When it comes to taking responsibility for our behaviour, sadly, we are often like Adam and Eve who blamed others for their disobedience.

**In His Grace,
Thomas Jacob**

NEWS & NOTES

PC Meeting: The monthly PC meeting was held on 28 October 2018.

Weekly Bible Study: Members meet every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in the PHCC for a time of fellowship, singing and interactive Bible study. There will be no Bible Study on 15 & 22 November.

WFCS: The WFCS members visited the All Saints Home, Dockyard Road on 2 October and had a meaningful time with the residents. The programme included singing and games. Special lunch for arranged for the residents.

Youth Fellowship: The YF members led the singing during the 6 p.m. service on 14 October.

Membership: We are happy to welcome and introduce our new members:

- (1) Ms.Sonali Suryakant Sangrulkar and her daughter (Full Membership)
- (2) Mr. Saeed Rallia Ram (Associate Membership)

Senior Citizens: We pray for all the senior citizens of our Church that our merciful God will give them good health and strength.

Sick & home bound: Let us continue to pray for the following sick and homebound, namely, David C. Mathew, Prakash Naik, Olga Nazareth, Loolu Thomas, Lizzy Kurian, Padmini Abraham, Anita Thakur, Nancy Razdan, Thankam Venkatraman & Joyce Nichols. Pray that they are protected and healed, and that God's hands be upon them.

Sushill Augustine
Hon. Secretary

HEARD FROM THE PULPIT

7 October 2018 ~ 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: 'The spiritual danger of trusting in wealth.'

The people of God in the Old Testament were warned not to forget the Lord who brought them out of Egyptian bondage, when they enter the promised land that was prosperous (Deut.8:10-14). Today, we run the same risk. As God blesses us with wealth, we may forget him. But, is it possible that we will forget God? We may say we would not forget God. We remember him and even pray to him. But that is not what is meant here. Deut.8:11 - "Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees..." So we may remember God in the sense of praying to him. But when everything is going well with us, and as our standard of living is going up, it is quite possible that we will not bother about keeping God's commandments. We begin to trust in our own abilities and our resources rather than in God who is the source of our abilities and riches. Here, we must remember Deut.8:18 - "But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth."

Some of the dangers of trusting in wealth are: (1) Money can become the centre and focus of our lives. Money can become an idol. (2) Money can become an obsession. Those who have much constantly want more. Those who don't have enough constantly want more too. (3) Money can cause worry. When you are wealthy, you worry about losing your wealth. When we don't have money we may worry about how to get and pay for all that we need and want. (4) Money can change our attitudes. Wealth causes many to become suspicious and stingy. On the other hand, lack of wealth can cause jealousy and resentment of the wealthy. (5) Money can change our priorities.

14 October 2018 ~ 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: 'Faith is the beginning of a pilgrimage.'

The concept of pilgrimage is tremendously important to the Christian. It shapes the Christian's view of life and values. The pilgrim concept is especially important today, when our emphasis is far too much on the good life here and now, and not enough on the promised joys of heaven. Many who profess Christ as Saviour live with their minds on the things on earth, rather than setting their minds on the things above (Colossians 3:1-4). They are motivated more by collecting treasures on earth than by storing up treasures in heaven. Often our focus is on what Christ can do for us here and now. The life of faith is the life of a stranger, an exile, a pilgrim (cf. Genesis 23:4; 47:9; Psalm 39:12; Philippians 3:20; I Peter 2:11). Those who have put their faith in God, will be restless until they receive the promise of God. In his work *Confessions*, St. Augustine wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." The concept of pilgrimage reminds us of the transitory nature of this life. As Hebrews 11:14 says: "Here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come." However, we must recognize that while we are pilgrims here on earth, we live here with a variety of responsibilities as citizens of this world. Someone said, "If our minds are properly occupied with heaven, we can't help but do earthly good." So, Christians, while recognizing that life is transient, get involved in society. They are the light in this dark world.

21 October 2018 ~ 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: 'The true temple of God.'

In Jeremiah 7, we have what some commentators call 'a temple sermon'. This was a sermon that the Lord asked prophet Jeremiah to deliver at the gate of the Jerusalem Temple. This is a form of what is likely the same sermon which is recorded in chapter 26. Jeremiah calls the people to repent, saying that they are in grave danger, but that they can avoid the judgment of God falling upon them if they would repent and amend their ways. Jeremiah's message would have shocked the people. The people placed their confidence in the temple. They knew that it represented God's presence among them. But, they wrongly assumed that by coming to the temple and offering up their sacrifices, God would be pleased with them. Jeremiah tells them that merely coming to the temple, to the very house of God didn't make them faithful. What did the people have to do? Jeremiah told them to reform their ways and their doings.

They participated in the rituals and sacrifices, but their devotion to God was limited to the temple, and did not reflect in their everyday living. The message of Jeremiah is relevant even today. Many Christians place their confidence in church attendance, holding positions in church, reading the Bible, giving to the church and the poor, regularly taking part in the Lord's Supper, and other good things. Going to the temple in Jerusalem and offering sacrifices were good. The problem with the people of Judah was that there was a disconnect between their religious life and their day to day living. The same may be true of us who profess to be Christians. We might be doing a lot of good things, which we must not stop. But if we are placing our hope and confidence in them, then we are mistaken. We cannot think of God and seek to honour him only during certain time of the day, or the week or the year. God is looking at our whole life.

28 October 2018 ~ Reformation Sunday
Theme: 'Sola Scriptura – Scripture alone.'

Five doctrines that had been partly lost/abandoned over the centuries were revived and sharpened by the reformers in an attempt to align the church's teachings with the actual teachings of the Scripture. These are called the five Solas (*Sola* means *alone* or *only*). The five Solas, the five Latin phrases that were popularized during the Reformation, are:

1. *Sola scriptura* ("Scripture alone"): Bible has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
2. *Sola fide* ("faith alone"): We are saved through faith in Jesus Christ alone.
3. *Sola gratia* ("grace alone"): We are saved by the grace of God alone.
4. *Solus Christus* ("Christ alone"): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Saviour, and King.
5. *Soli Deo gloria* ("to the glory of God alone"): We live for the glory of God alone.

Sola scriptura (Scripture alone) was the foundational doctrine of the Protestant Reformation. It dismissed the church traditions and stated as fact that only the Bible was inspired; that it was accessible to all; that it was self-interpreting; and that it was all that anyone needed for salvation. When it comes to faith (what we believe) and conduct (how we live) Scripture must have the final say. If human reason, church traditions, and religious experiences contradict the teachings of the Scripture, we go by the Scripture. One of the significant contributions of the Reformers was to make the Bible available to the common people in the language that they spoke. Today, we have Bible easily available and in our own languages. But, what is the place of Scripture in our lives?

GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE

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

YEAR	NAME	YEAR	NAME
	POLEN BLACKWELL	1929	LANGLEY WILLIAM
1891	ALICE MARY	1934	BURBY IDA MAY
1899	BROOKS JOSHUA	1956	HORTON WILLIAM GEORGE
1900	HALE ELIZEBETH MARTILDA	1969	DAVID PRAKASH
1904	NUSROO MARIE LOUISA	1969	BARNETT MONA
1905	WEBB MARY	1969	MICHAEL CELIL ARTHUR
1907	MILLER THOMAS CONARDS	1981	HAMILTON SATYAVARTA
1910	ROBERT NORMAN DOUGLAS	1983	PONNAIYA LESLIE DAVID
1910	KREIES HENRICH	1992	THEOPHILUS PREM
1911	GROBERTH EDITH WINIFRED	2004	AMAR P. BISWAS
1912	WILLONGBBY MAUNDER	2006	WINSTON IVOR C.
1917	GAINSFORD FREDERICK	2008	JACOB ZHYA DAVID
1922	BIRD EVON	2012	LEENA JOHNSTONE
1926	WATTS MOLLY	2015	IRENE WHITTAM
1927	MENESSE MARY ANN		

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Worship Services on Sundays: Holy Communion (Said): 7 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Holy Communion (Sung): 9 a.m.

Activity	Venue	Day & Time	Contact Person	Phone No.
Pastorate Committee Meeting	Parsonage	18 November 10.45 a.m.	Sushill Augustine	9820657433
Sunday School	PHCC	Sundays 9 a.m.	Beulah Anand	9967170867
Bible Study	PHCC	Thursdays 7.30 p.m. No Bible Study on 15 & 22 Nov	Rev. Thomas Jacob	9820736359
QCCCS: Day Care Centre & Study Centre	PHCC	Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Kumary Koshy	9820217524

Church Office: Saguna Doshi (Monday to Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)	26423955
Rev. Thomas Jacob , Presbyterian-in-charge	9820736359 / 26428803 presbyter@stephenschurch-bandra.com
Sushill Augustine , Hon. Secretary	9820657433
K.P. George , Hon. Treasurer	9821074653
P.K. Kurian , Hon. Jt. Secretary	9820525567
Sabina Solomon , Hon. Jt. Treasurer	9820080456

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