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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.
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THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



June 2014



MESSAGE FROM VICAR



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the Loving name of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ

We have come to the close of the Academic Year. Several of our Youths are graduating from Colleges and High Schools at the month of May and June. I am indeed glad to notice that most of them came with good grade. I pray God that they may get admission in good Colleges and for good courses, especially in professional courses as they wish and desire. And also I pray for our students who are studying comparatively difficult courses, that God will enlighten their intelligence to complete their courses successfully.

8th of June Mar Thoma Church is celebrating as ENVIRONMENT SUNDAY. God gave man the Garden of Eden for his living. In Genesis :2:15," The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work in it and take care of it." It is the responsibility of every man to keep the Earth by caring the Nature. Man can enjoy the produce of nature for his living. So we need a habit of cultivation in our backyards. We should have a Kitchen Garden. Planting trees around our houses and Church is necessary not only for beauty and also for health.

The Feast of Pentecost is on 8th June. The theme for the day is "come Holy Spirit, Transform the Creation." The role of the Holy Spirit in creation is first seen in Genesis:1:2, Where the Spirit of God hovers over the vast formless creation of matter in the universe. " By the Word of Lord the heavens made. And all the starry host of them by the breath of His mouth".Psalm:33:6, In John:1:1-3, The Word (Jesus) made all things. Here the Spirit and the Word are unified in creation. "You send forth your Spirit, they are created and You renew the face of the Earth".

The Spirit of God the Holy Spirit dwelling inside us is transforming us day by day in to the image of the Son. In the process of transformation is where we have a role, when we are transformed, our influence and interference will enable to transform the creation to order from disorder and as we pray God"s will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Let us work with Holy Spirit to recreate the Earth to the original form When it was created.

Wish you all God"s Blessings.

Rev.O.C.Kurian.

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Lectionary/ Worship Information

Sunday, June 1, 2014 Students Sunday- Wisdom and Knowledge; gifts of God (Clergy Sunday Offertory)	
Lesson 1: Prov.1:1-12	Epistle: 2 Pet.1:1-11
Lesson 2: Jam.3:13-18	Gospel: Luke.2:41-52
Sunday, June 8, 2014 The Feast of Pentecost, Come Holy Spirit-Transform the Creation- Environment Sunday (50th Day after Easter)	
Lesson 1: Ezek.36:24-36	Epistle: Acts 11:19-26
Lesson 2: Acts 2:1-13	Gospel: John 20:19-23
Sunday, June 15, 2014 Trinity Sunday-We believe in the Triune God" (1st Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: Eze. 1:4-28	Lesson 3: 2 Cor.13:11-14
Lesson 2: 1 John 5:1-12	Gospel: Mat. 28:16-20
Sunday, June 22, 2014 Worship: Celebration of Faith (2nd Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: Isa. 6:1-8	Lesson 4: 1 Thess. 5:12-22
Lesson 2: Rev. 4:1-11	Gospel: John 4:16-26
Sunday, June 29, 2014 End of the Fast of the Apostles- St. Peter's and St. Paul's Day Discipleship as Witness' (3rd Sunday after Pentecost)	
Lesson 1: 2 Kings.2:1-15	Lesson 4: Tit. 2:1-15
Lesson 2: Acts 2:37-47	Gospel: John 3:22-30

Organizational Activities

Church
None

Sevika Sangham
None

Sunday School
None

Youth Fellowship

June 1-6: Bible Camp and Vacation Bible School at Broken Bow, OK

Yuvajana Sakhyam
None

Prayer

TBD.

Patrick !

പുഞ്ചിരിയാർന്നധരങ്ങൾ മാർദ്ദവ ഭാഷണം.
ശാന്തശീലനാം നിരന്തര സഹായി
എളിമയെ തൻ ജീവിതസഖിയാക്കി
സ്വയത്തിനായ് ജീവിക്കാൻ മരണല്ലോ മകനെ നീ !
കുറഞ്ഞൊരു നാളുകൾ കൊണ്ടൊരു നൂറ്റാണ്ടിൻ
വേലകൾ ചെയ്തല്ലോ എളിയതാം ജീവിതം.
ജാതിമതഭേദമെന്യേ ഏവർക്കുമെപ്പോഴും
താങ്ങും തണലുമായ് നിരന്തരം പ്രയത്നിച്ചു !
സംഗീതകലയേ നീ അധികമായ് സ്നേഹിച്ചു
ഗിറ്റാറിൻ കമ്പികളാൽ തഴമ്പിച്ചു കൈവിരലും
പ്രാർത്ഥന ജീവിതത്തിൻ ഭാഗമായ് മാറ്റി നീ
തറയുടെ കാഠിന്യം മുട്ടിനും തഴമ്പായി !
ദാനശീലത്തിൻ ഉടമയാം പൈതലേ
ലഭിച്ചതാം വേതനം ദാനമായ് നൽകി നീ
ഓതുവാനേറെയോ നാവുകൾക്കാവില്ല
ഉടയവൻ ചേർത്തല്ലോ കൂട്ടിനായ് നിന്നേയും !
ക്രിസ്തുവിൻ ആദർശം കൈമുതലാക്കിയ ജീവിതം
പ്രവർത്തികൾ കൊണ്ടവ പ്രാവർത്തികമാക്കിയ ജീവിതം
ആബാലവൃദ്ധ ഹൃദയങ്ങൾ കവർന്നോരു ജീവിതം
എന്നേക്കുമായ് പൊലിഞ്ഞല്ലോ പാരിതിൽ നിന്നുമേ !
ഒരു വർഷം കഴിഞ്ഞല്ലോ മകനേ നീ മരണിട്ട്
മറയാത്ത ഓർമ്മകൾ മാത്രമായ് ഞങ്ങൾക്ക്
സ്വർഗ്ഗമാം ഭവനത്തിൽ ഇരുന്നിന്നു നോക്കുന്നു
ഭൂമിയിൽ ചെയ്ത നിൻ ഓർമ്മകൾ പുതുക്കുന്നു
കണ്ടിടാം ഒരുനാളിൽ എത്തുമേ ഞങ്ങളും
ദൈവം താൻ നിർമ്മിച്ച സ്വർഗ്ഗമാം ഭവനത്തിൽ

-Lizy Philip

Dare To Take Your Place
-By Mariam Chacko

When we read Titus 3:4, 6-7, it says: “But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,... Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

The covenant grace is a relationship of favor which gives us an access to someone else's power, which is through Jesus Christ.

This Grace shows us God's willingness to enter into a Blood covenant with us. Jesus took our sins to give us righteousness. He took our sickness to give us good health. He took our poverty in order to meet all our needs according to His Riches in Glory. When God wants us to do something for His sake, He will provide everything to carry out that task.

The Great Jehovah, God of Heaven and Earth is our Father God. If we are under a Blood covenant then we have been made a covenant child of God; which is the most powerful being in this universe. We can be sure, the Lord has set apart the Godly for Himself. God will answer, when we call to Him (Ps. 4:3).

When we are dealing with fear, call Ps. 34:7.
When we need security, call Ps. 121:3.

Let us look on that cross on which Jesus died and continue our Life's Journey.

Ambassador for Christ
-By Mariam Chacko

If we accept Jesus as our personal savior and Lord of our lives, then we have been sent as Ambassadors (Representatives) for Christ in this world. Nations sent Ambassadors to other countries to represent their interests. In the same way, God kept us in this world to represent him and look after the interest of the Kingdom of God.

Think about that wherever we go, we are the one representing our savior and his kingdom. It is a high honor. God has equipped us with his name, word and Holy Spirit who lives within us. Our body is a living temple of God, so we have to keep our body holy. Jesus said, because he is holy we should be holy. God has given us the ability to hear and obey the directions of the Holy Spirit. In the book of Joel (2:28-29) we see how God is pouring spirit on people and they act and talk like God. This is no time to be half consecrated and half-dedicated. This is the time to go all the way to God and give our whole life to Jesus. He shed his precious blood for our salvation, and re-mission of our sins. We have been redeemed by his blood. If we give our lives Christ, he will give back to us such an anointing, power and such glory and goodness that we will shine for him. When we shine for Jesus as in Philippians 2:15 says, as light in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

Think about yourself today not as just another ordinary man or woman but as an ambassador of the Almighty God. Let the interest of his kingdom be foremost in our mind and heart. Let us submit ourselves to our savior and say, Lord show me how to be your representative in everything we do and wherever we go.

When we are in Christ, his ways are wiser than ours, his strength remains when ours is gone. We must not doubt nor question why. He sends the answers by and by and this I know, within my hear all darkness fades and shadows part and sometimes, somehow, somewhere God hears and answers every prayer big and small.

Diocesan Assembly
(Member, Mr. Joseph Koshy)

On April 4-5, the Diocese Assembly meeting was held at Philadelphia Mar Thoma Church. In attendance, Rev. O.C. Kurian and Mr. Joseph Koshy representing St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church. The meeting included the election of the Diocesan Council for 2014-2017, the passing of the Annual Report & Budget and various propositions with regards to the development of the Diocese. It was a very productive meeting with the focus on growth, sustainability and ownership of the Church for the next generation.

BIRTHDAYS

1-Jun	John Thomas(Kunju)	Ebenezer	10-Jun	Oommen Koshy	Manna
1-Jun	Varghese A. Varghese	Agape	10-Jun	Thomas Abraham	Manna
2-Jun	Jacob C.C	Agape	13-Jun	Michelle Mathai	Ebenezer
2-Jun	Susan SaumiChacko	Agape	17-Jun	Shilu Varghese	Emmanuel
4-Jun	Bassy Philip	Emmanuel	19-Jun	Abigail Lilly Mammen	Emmanuel
4-Jun	Sosamma Varghese	Agape	20-Jun	Joice Phil Mathew	Manna
4-Jun	Jeevan Simon	Agape	21-Jun	Fregi Ansa Varghese	Shalom
4-Jun	Anna Maria Johnkutty	Shalom	24-Jun	Jiji S. Mathai	Shalom
5-Jun	Amita Elizabeth Edison	Manna	25-Jun	Thomas Philip	Agape
5-Jun	Kunjamma Thomas	Agape	26-Jun	Sherril Ann Raju	Manna
8-Jun	Ashish Mathai	Ebenezer	30-Jun	Annamma Thomas	Emmanuel
8-Jun	Jenny Mammen	Emmanuel			
8-Jun	Lincy George	Emmanuel			
8-Jun	Subin John	Ebenezer			
9-Jun	Joseph Koshy	Emmanuel			
09-Jun	Lysamma George	Agape			
09-Jun	Nathan Abraham Koshy	Shalom			
10-Jun	Keren Cherian	Manna			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. Reji Philip Thomas	Agape
6-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. John K . Mathew	Ebenezer
7-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. Beji Pappachan	Ebenezer
8-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. Jonathan Jones Mathew	Manna
9-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. Abey Kuruvilla	Emmanuel
12-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. Anish Mathew Thomas	Agape
12-Jun	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Abraham	Agape
14-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. Juby Joseph	Agape
17-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. Bincent Jacob	Agape
18-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. Vinu Ipe	Emmanuel
19-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. Abraham Koshy	Shalom
20-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. Zachariah Thomas	Manna
20-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. George Mammen	Emmanuel
26-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. Alex Koshy	Agape
30-Jun	Mr.& Mrs. Thomas George	Emmanuel

Youth Chaplain's Message

Teamwork core to Spiritual Formation

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. Romans 12:3

Leadership is more different nowadays and we might see different type of leadership models in our lives. We tend to look for role models of leadership in people who are successful management Consultants, CEOs, Politian's and due to our wrong affiliation many a times we are victims of those who lead us. The problem is our sophisticated Culture that rules us to keep our spiritual life separate from our secular lives. The most important work of a leader is to have a vision and I believe that everything rises and falls on type of leadership pattern one follows. The problem of a failure leadership is failing to understand the people or nation he/she is going to lead.

Leaders with corrupt mind and contempt of god can lead people astray

In the book of Genesis we do see a different type of leader who leads and guides people after a political revolt to formulate his own kingdom and keep them under the hegemony of religion by satisfying their religious needs through wrong religious teaching and interpretations and the historians say that he is none other than Nimrod grandson of Ham, the son of Noah (The Jewish-Roman historian Flavius Josephus, in his Antiquities of the Jews states about political tyranny) and this gave way to Babel Tower

They were built on false aspirations.

Provided them with false sense of victory

Forced personal Goal rather than team building

Developed new form of symbols and rituals

Building their own empire

The core of any leadership is to evaluate is to share and tell the team that they are valued than anything

They help them to progress in their work

Teach them about the way of life and its comparisons

Teach them and train them in process of growth

They value inputs from their team

“അമ്മ” (Mother’s Day)

When they fail they are taught to stand up

No matter if its home or organization we need to keep in mind that no books come up than better strategy of leadership that we see in Jesus Christ. The twelve that was selected had its own flaws of understanding the leader. They did take time to understand the mission. But the great thing about Jesus was to get them stand for the cause in right conviction.

Leadership is about leaving a lasting Legacy-True legacy that does not include people has no eternal value. No matter what so ever we may come up with and has no transformational character can create ripples for short period but may fade away with time. **As Thomas Jefferson Stated “In matters of Fashion, swim with the current. In matters of Conscience, stand like a rock ,”**

Just like Jesus valued people than structures, pain more than gain, person than the trade, He was and is one of the leaders who valued investing in his team (THE TWELVE) and taught them real meaning of love, and sacrifice, to develop a mind to forgive and accept, and when rejected he still pursued them.

Hope so that we may put on the mind of Christ when we write off people as expensive and think what legacy we will pass on as a leader.

Rev. George Jacob

Graduates

We want to congratulate the following of their graduation:

- Ms. Ancil Mathew - Doctor of Optometry (OD)
- Ms. Jini Abraham - High School
- Ms. Anne George - High School
- Mr. Kevin John - High School
- Mr. Jamie Mathew - High School

പുസ്തകം പോലെ പഠി പഠനങ്ങൾ പണ്ടങ്ങോ നടന്നതും പെൺകുട്ടി കൗമാരപ്രായമോ പിന്നിട്ടതിനെത്തുടർന്ന് പിന്നെയോ സ്ത്രീ എന്ന വാക്കിനുമുമ്പായി സ്ത്രീയുടെ ജീവിതം ധന്യമായ തീരുവാൻ അമ്മയായ തീരണം ജീവിതത്തോണിയിൽ അക്ഷരം രണ്ടാകിലും അർത്ഥമോ ഏറെയല്ലോ അളക്കുവാനാവില്ല അമ്മ തൻ ജീവിതം അമ്മയായ തീരുമ്പോൾ മാത്രമാണറിയുക എങ്ങനെ വർണ്ണിക്കും അമ്മ തൻ സ്നേഹത്തെ ഏറിയ ഭാരങ്ങൾ പേറുന്ന മനസ്സുമായ് നില്ക്കാതെ ചലിക്കുന്ന യന്ത്രമാണമ്മ അലിയുന്ന മനസ്സിന്റെ ഉടമയാണമ്മ ജാഗ്രതയേറിയ കാവൽക്കാരിയാണമ്മ അമ്മ തൻ ഉള്ളിലും ജ്വലിക്കുമേ കോപം പെട്ടന്നങ്ങണയും അഗ്നിമേൽ മാറി പോൽ മക്കളോ മരന്നിടും അമ്മ തൻ കോപത്തെ മാറോടണച്ചൊരു ചുംബനമേകുമ്പോൾ മക്കളെ വളർത്തുവാൻ ഏറെ കൊതിച്ചു വർത്തനങ്ങളുടെ ജീവിതം പലപ്പോഴും മറക്കുന്നു മക്കളോ തന്നോളമാകുമ്പോഴുമേക്കോ ജീവിതം ധന്യമായെന്നൊരു തോന്നലും മനസ്സിനു വേദന ഏറുമ്പോഴെല്ലാം മുട്ടിന്മേൽ നിന്നങ്ങു രഹസ്യമായ് കേഴുന്നു പരസ്യമായ് പങ്കിടുവാനാവാത്ത വേദന ദൈവത്തിൻ കരങ്ങളിലർപ്പിക്കുമമ്മമാർ മക്കൾക്കായ് കണ്ണുനീർ തുടയുമ്പോഴെല്ലാം ദൈവത്തിൻ ഹൃദയമോ കനിവാൽ നിറഞ്ഞിടും നൽകിടും ഫലമേറും മക്കളെ അമ്മയ്ക്ക് ജീവിതത്തോണിയിൽ ഓളങ്ങളേറുമ്പോൾ പ്രാർത്ഥന പങ്കായമാക്കിടും അമ്മമാർ അമരത്തിരിക്കും ദൈവത്തിൻ സ്നേഹമോ മുങ്ങാതെ എത്തിക്കും തോണിയെ അക്കരെ സ്ത്രീയുടെ ജീവിതം ധന്യമായ തീരുവാൻ അമ്മയായ തീരണം ജീവിതത്തോണിയിൽ

-Lizy Philip

****Please note that this poem was published with errors in the May newsletter. This is the corrected version. We apologize for this error.