

C.S.I. St. Mary's English Church

North Kerala Diocese



SEPTEMBER 2014

"That they all may be one" (John 17:21)

Dear in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The month of September is important for us because we are celebrating 150 years of Divine Providence in our church. The whole CSI celebrates her birthday on 27th September. On 28th September we are conducting the Valedictory Function of our year long celebrations. For us these are the days of thanksgiving. We proclaim our unity and oneness in Christ. The unity and oneness of the believers is important for the growth and wellbeing of the church.

Bible explains about two kinds of unity. They are Babel experience of unity and the Pentecostal experience of unity. The first one we see in Genesis 11:1-9. In the Babel incident, people had gathered together to build a city and a tower with its top in heavens. The main objective behind these plans was well expressed in the statement "Let us make a name for ourselves." Their wish was to have one culture, one language and one kingdom. There was unity, but their plan and work was against the will of God. So God intervened into it and destroyed their unity.

Second one is the Pentecostal experience of unity that happened on the day of Pentecost. This unity is exactly against the Babel unity. The gathering of disciples at Jerusalem did not have the intension to enforce any kind of power over others. The disciples were powerless, poor and lonely. They were people of humble origins, recognizing others as God's

own children. Here the unity is a unity in diversity, thereby creating an inclusive community.

There was a poultry farmer who had created various fences and colored the chicks in red, yellow, green, blue, and orange and separated them from one another. These chicks wanted to play with one another, but they couldn't because the boundary made by the farmer was a hindrance to meet each other. One fine day God heard their cry and sent a mighty wind, which broke the fence and all the chicks met each other and lived happily. We too have many invisible boundaries, such as prejudices, stigma, norms, rigidity, hatred and pride which prevent us from being united with others.

Church is a place where we come together to worship our creator. We need a right attitude towards others. God is not pleased in the divisions and disunity within the church. For unity there should be absolute faith in Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone. Love, forgiveness and fellowship are to be fostered for true and real unity. The great fellowship and communion at the Lord's Table is the embodiment of the divine unity. For experiencing this, we need to break the man made barriers in our fellowship. Though we live in the midst of several divisive forces, Jesus Christ unites us together. The unity, happiness and fellowship will have to be the visible expression of the community of believers. Let us trust in the Lord and believe that we can transcend all the barriers in our faith journey.

For us many celebrations are there in September. Let us join our hands with a clear vision in our mission and may the God Almighty help us to proclaim that WE ARE ONE IN CHRIST.

Yours in Christ

Rev. N. K. Prasad
Ph. 9495415791

NEWS AND NOTES

1. Friday Prayer Fellowship: We will have prayer meeting at the church on all Fridays from 10am to 12pm. This is mainly for intercession and Bible study. Presence and prayer requests are invited. Let us come together, sing together and pray together.

2. Golden Age Fellowship: The half day retreat of the Golden Age Fellowship will be held on 20th September 2014 (Saturday) from 10 am to 1 pm. All senior members are invited.

3. Youth Fellowship: Meeting will be there after the Malayalam service on all first Sundays.

5. Women's Fellowship: Meeting will be there after the Malayalam service on all third Sundays.

6. Fellowship Meeting: Fellowship meeting will be held on all Thursdays at 5.30 pm. All are invited.

7. 150th Anniversary Celebrations: As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations we will have a special gathering after the combined service on Sunday at 10.30am. on 14th September, 2014. **Rev. Dr. C. I. David Joy, Professor of New Testament, UTC Bangalore** will lead the session. All are invited.

8. Thanks Giving Sunday: 21st September 2014 will be observed as Thanks Giving Sunday. We will have only one combined service in the morning at 8.30am. All members are requested to participate in this Thanks Giving Service without fail.

8. 150th Anniversary Valedictory function : The Valedictory function of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of our Church will be held on the 28th of September 2014 at our Parish Hall. We will start the programme at 5pm. The closing ceremony will be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Sri. Oommen Chandy in the presence of Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, Deputy Moderator, Church of South India and presided over by our Diocesan Bishop Rt.

Rev. Baker Ninan Fenn. Please remember in your prayers and participate in it with your relatives and friends.

9. Cottage Prayer: We will have a cottage prayer meeting at the residence of Mr. Andrew W. John, Walliaveetil, Chevarambalam, Calicut on 21st September 2014 at 5 pm. All are invited.

10. Youth Committee: The following youth members are selected as the Youth Committee members.

President: Rev. N. K. Prasad

Secretary: Mr. Aswin Alex Seth

Joint Secretary: Ms. Sharon Ann Shaji

Treasurer: Mr. Stallion John Jacob

Committee members:

Mr. Yitzak George Kurian

Mr. Froebel Charles Issac

Ms. Thara K. Joseph

Ms. Yameema Paul

Mr. Steve John

Senior Friend: Mr. Sumesh John P.V.

Please uphold them in your prayers and render all support for Youth Fellowship activities.

11. Women's Fellowship: The following WF members are selected as the Women's Fellowship committee members.

President: Mrs Shiney Prasad

Vice President: Mrs. Rita Abraham

Secretary: Mrs. Ammukutty Johns

Joint Secretary: Mrs. Bindu Mathew

Treasurer: Mrs. Diana Baldwin

12. Choir Sunday: 05th October 2014 will be celebrated as Choir Sunday. Please remember in your prayers.

13. Demise: Our member Mrs. Elizabeth Jacob (77) w/o Late Mr. Jacob Peter, 'Kripa' near Civil station, Calicut passed away on 03rd August 2014. The funeral took place on 04th August 2014 at our cemetery. Please remember the sorrowing family members in your prayers.

Divine Services and Bible Readings – September 2014

07-09-2014 - 17th After Pentecost : Witnessing by the People of God

7.30am Holy Communion English	Daniel 3:12-30
9.30am Holy Communion Malayalam	Acts 18:24-28
	Psalm 15
	Luke 10:1-20

14-09-2014 - 18th After Pentecost : Differently Abled: Sanctity of Life

8.30am Combined Service (Rev. Dr. C. I. David Joy)	Genesis 27:1-30 Acts 3:1-10 Psalm 127 Luke 9:37-43
---	---

Anniversary Talk : Rev. Dr. C. I. David Joy

21-09-2014 - THANKS GIVING SUNDAY: "Forget not all His Blessings"

8.30am Combined Service	Deut. 6:4-17 Ephesians 3:14-21 Psalm 103 Luke 17:11-19
-------------------------	---

28-09-2014 - Anniversary Day : Unity in Witnessing

7.30am Holy Communion English	Ezekiel 37:15-22
8.30am Holy Communion Malayalam (Rt. Rev. B. N. Fenn, Bishop)	Ephesians 4:1-6 Psalm 122 John 17:20-26

05-10-2014 - CHOIR SUNDAY: Worship and Sing unto the Lord

7.30am Holy Communion English	Exodus 15:1-21
9.30am Holy Communion Malayalam	Revelation 19:1-16 Psalm 148 Luke 19:36-40

***Everyone thinks of changing the world,
but no one thinks of changing himself.***

(Leo Tolstoy)

Just to Laugh

Husband invited few of his friends for dinner. At the table he told his young daughter to say grace.

Little girl : "I wouldn't know what to say."

Father : "Just say what you heard from mummy"

Little girl : "Lord, why on earth my husband invited all these people for dinner"

Birthdays – September 2014

Date	Name
1	Miss. Remya G. Rajan
2	Mr. Jashim Richards
	Mr. Joy Vijay Kumar G.
3	Mr. Arun P. Gilbert
	Mrs. Santha Manoharan
	Mr. Joy Prasad Pulikkal
	Master. Ashwin Henry
4	Master. Nihal Jacob John
	Dr. Mrs. N.S. Valsala Kumari
5	Mr. Kennel Prakash
	Mr. Andrew Manuel
6	Kumari. Aneena. T.
	Mrs. Rajeena Vasanthi
7	Miss. Liz Josephine George
	Mr. Royee Fredric Abraham Soans
8	Mrs. Reena Chandy
	Mr. Benjamin Nambi
	Mr. Osmond Jones
	Kumari. Freya Eliza Philip
	Master. Hashim Wilson
9	Mr. Christopher Vijayakumar

10	Mrs. Santhamma Lancelot
	Mrs. Fency Francis Kottoly
	Mrs. Leelamma Jacob
11	Kumari. Alaniya Suzanna Sunny
	Mr. Samuel V.L.
12	Mr. Reuben George Kurian
	Master. Shane S. John
13	Mrs. Susan Shine
	Mrs. Valsa Mable Oommen
	Mrs. Jency S. Thabitha
14	Mrs. Mary Rachel Stanly
	Mr. Bipin A. George
16	Mr. Ronald Nishanth
	Mrs. Giji Elizabeth Varghese
17	Mrs. Premalatha Stephen
	Mr. Mathew John
	Master. Aaron Albert George
	Master. Ephraim Zodi Zachariah
18	Mr. Shaju John
	Mr. T.M. Israel
	Miss. Mavis Rowena Valson
	Mr. Benjamin Jacob N.J
	Mr. J.S. Raju
19	Mr. Mathew G. Kurian
	Mrs. Stella Thankam Baptist
	Miss. Kunoojamma
	Mr. T.K. Godfrey
20	Mrs. Mary Andrew
	Miss. Sharon Joy Prasad
	Mrs. K.J. Das
21	Mrs. Betsy Reji
22	Mr. James Joseph

	Master. Mithun Mathew
	Master. Alen James
23	Master. Nitin Bivin
24	Kumari. Anjana Maria Saviour
	Mrs. Syndika Juwana
25	Kumari. Evangaline Lissyamma Johnson
26	Mr. P.G. Georgekutty
	Kumari. Ronia Shanthini
	Kumari. Adline Jean Vaz
27	Mr. Ebey Balan
	Mrs. Anita Jaison
28	Mr. Joy Tennyson
	Mr. A.L. Stanley
29	Mr. Valson George P.
	Mr. Rohan Eldo J. Panakkal
30	Mrs. Mercy P.S.
	Mr. Geebo Blesson

*“How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and
call on the name of the Lord.”*

(Psalm. 116: 12, 13.)

Wedding Anniversaries –September 2014

Date	Name
4	Mr. Philip John & Mrs. Christeenamma T. Jacob
	Mr. Prathap Johnson Joseph & Mrs. Jaicy Prathap
6	Mr. Simon Joseph & Mrs. Santha Simon
	Mr. Neil Douglas & Mrs. Megha Neil
9	Mr. Raj Kumar P.S & Mrs. Sherine Rajkumar
	Mr. Lancelot Vincent & Mrs. Santhamma Lancelot
	Mr. Bob Henry & Mrs. Kamala Henry

10	Mr. Jacob John. P & Mrs. Reena Jacob
	Prof.Edward Augustus & Mrs. Prasanna Augustus
11	Adv.Saviour George & Mrs. Reena Saviour
	Mr. Sajan Jacob Kurien & Dr. Mrs. Jis Thomas
	Mr. Remesh M. Caleb & Mrs. Pushpa Remesh Caleb
	Mr. Jiju Jacob & Mrs. Minimol Mathai
14	Mr. Kennel Prakash & Mrs. Rageena Joice
	Mr. Nibu T. Kuriyan & Mrs. Annie Kuriyan
	Mr. Sabu K. Mathew & Mrs. Bindu Mathew
15	Mr. Renny Jacob Samuel & Mrs. Sumitha Jacob
16	Dr. Jose C & Dr.Mrs.Valsa Jose
17	Mr. Roy Daniel N.V & Mrs. Sheeba Roy
	Mr. Frederick George & Mrs. Lovely Simla Violet
21	Mr. Roy Abraham & Mrs. Sheena Roy
	Mr. Godfrey Vijay Abraham & Mrs. Anita Vijay Abraham
	Mr. Varghese B.K. & Mrs. Sheela Varghese
24	Mr. Anil Ipe & Mrs. Molly Anil
	Mr. Wilson P.G. & Mrs. Sonia Wilson
25	Mr. Benjamin Jacob N.J. & Mrs. Beena Benjamin
27	Dr.Ige Abraham George & Dr.Mrs.Preeta Laura Abraham

*“But for me and my house hold, we will serve the Lord.”
(Joshua. 24.15b)*

Congratulations!

The St. Mary’s English Church congregation and the Pastorate committee heartily congratulate Rev. N. K. Prasad on achieving Masters Degree in Theology in New Testament with First class. Achen completed M.Th. from Federated Faculty for Research in Religion and Culture (FFRRC), Kottayam and the research was on *“Theology of Healing Signs in John’s Gospel and its implications for the Ministry of the Church.”* Congratulations on this pleasant occasion.

Sumesh John P.V (Secretary, Pastorate Committee)

Let Us Celebrate God's Faithfulness

I greet you with the joy of the Lord. Great is Thy faithfulness! We are privileged to be a part of the most historic celebration of this unique congregation. Let us thankfully remember all those who have worked for the establishment, endowment, maintenance and upkeep of the Church and its activities during the past 150 years. From the humble beginnings of worship to this present moment, truly the Lord has been with St. Mary's Church every step of the way.

When we began to plan for the sesquicentennial celebration over a year ago, we received a great deal of ideas and suggestions from the congregation. We were able to materialise many of our ideas as well as the vision of our church leadership. The task of planning and executing our activities could not have been accomplished without the effort of the Anniversary Committee, all of whom spent countless hours in meetings and strategy sessions. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your diligent and steadfast work.

Starting with the inauguration of sesquicentennial celebration, it was a year of reflecting our past, celebrating present, and charting the course for future generations.

Celebration is a season of joy, happiness and enthusiasm. It is a time for reconciliation and rededication too. Reconciliation with God and with others will bring celebration in heaven. Peace, unity and joy should be the outcome of our celebration. Rededication will bring joy in our hearts and lives. God remind us to reconcile with each other unconditionally for the growth and unity of our congregation. *From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.* Eph 4:16.

Celebration is an opportunity for sharing and caring others too. Let our lives bring real joy and blessing to others also. Celebration is a season of affirmation and proclamation of our faith and mission. Christ, who redeemed, transformed

and guided us and our forefathers should be the reason of our celebration. And God expect us to take an active role in His Mission and to make a difference in our society.

As St. Mary's family, let us thankfully remember God's Faithfulness and Care for the past 150 years. Let us be a part of this historic celebration.

Sumesh John P.V.
Secretary, Pastorate Committee

Sesquicentennial Celebrations

The Pastorate committee decides to hold the Sesquicentennial celebrations that falls in the years 2013-2014. A Church Assembly was called. At the assembly the committee recommended the names of all past church committee members and Diocesan Council members as constituting the Anniversary Committee, under the chairmanship of Rev. Thomas P. Korah. The committee met nearly once every month, look its decisions and informed the congregation periodically through the church announcements.

On 22-09-13 an inaugural function was held to mark the year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary. Bishop Rt. Rev. B. N. Fenn inaugurated the celebrations by unveiling a plaque. 32 children were confirmed.

On 10-09-13 a retreat was planned for the anniversary committee members. Rt. Rev. Thomas Samuel, former Bishop of Central Kerala was invited to conduct the retreat. Sad to say, Mr. K. N. John, an active and valuable member, passed away the same evening. The retreat has to be cancelled.

13-10-13 was celebrated as anniversary Sunday. All available past pastors were invited. Some could not come. Three pastors were asked to speak on Reconciliation, Restoration, and Renewal. All past pastors and church workers were honoured. Three trees have been planted by them. A sponsored lunch was served. About 200 people took part,

had a good fellowship with the pastors who had led them in the past. A Christmas programme was conducted where all organizations of the church participated. A logo competition was conducted and Mr. N.A. Abraham was declared winner. An essay competition is being held on the subject "50 years from now, what will this church look like; how will this congregation be?"

CSI Care: A counselling centre for students and couples is launched – will take some more time to be operational. Building of two more rooms in upstairs for the parsonage (as envisaged in the original plan) is also undertaken – considering the poor living facilities afforded to our parish priests. Renovating the Parish hall and repairing the Cemetery Chappel were undertaken and completed. A souvenir is being planned. There is a souvenir committee under the leadership of Dr. S. Devasahayam. Souvenir will come out after the closing ceremony, so that highlights of the closing ceremony can also be included.

21-09-2014 will be observed as Thanksgiving Sunday. On this day, a few representative members will share their experience of God in this church with other God's people. 28-09-2014 is the closing ceremony. At the inception itself it was decided that, outreach and connecting with local neighbours was essential for being a Christian church. An anniversary is an opportunity to share the celebrations with the broader community. The guest list for the ceremony will bear out these thoughts.

For the thanksgiving Sunday service you can bring in your personal prayers for the church and congregation written concisely and put into open envelopes - and put them in the special vessel kept for them in the church. Your prayers will be prayed for.

Let us together envisage a spirit filled, Christ centered, Bible based church where all are invited in the love of Christ.

Dr. George Itty
General Convenor
(Sesquicentennial celebrations committee)

FROM THE CHOIR STALLS

SONG OF THE MONTH

O FOR A CLOSER WALK WITH GOD

William Cowper/J. B. Dykes

Soprano
O for a clos - er walk with God, A calm and heav'n - ly frame,
Tenor
So shall my walk be close with God, Calm and se - rene my frame;

8
A light to shine up - on the road That leads me to the Lamb.
So pur - er light shall mark the road That leads me to the Lamb.

2. Where is the blessedness I knew When first I saw the Lord?
Where is the soul refreshing view Of Jesus and His word.
3. Return, O holy Dove, return, Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn And drove me from
Thy breast.
4. The dearest idol I have known, What e'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from Thy throne And worship only Thee.
5. So shall my walk be close with God, Calm and serene my
frame;
So purer light shall mark the road That leads me to the
Lamb.

Author – William Cowper, 1731 – 1800

Composer – John B. Dykes, 1823 – 1876

Tune Name – “Beatitudo”

Scripture Reference – Genesis 5: 24

The author, William Cowper (pronounced “koo-per”), son of the Chaplain to King George II, was born on 15 November, 1731, at Great Berkhamstead, England. During the earlier years, he attempted to study and practice law and eventually shifted his residence to the village of Olney. Here he developed a close relationship with John Newton, Pastor of the Olney Anglican Parish Church. The combined effort of the two gave birth to the famous *Olney Hymns Hymnal* in 1799. Of the 349 hymns, 67 were authored by Cowper. Even though he wrote a large volume of devotional material, he was afflicted by chronic melancholia and despondency. In 1773, he even attempted suicide by drowning. He was also troubled by a lack of assurance of his own salvation.

At Olney, Cowper stayed with a Mrs. Unwin who remained his devoted friend and guardian until her death. Cowper and Newton used to sit together in the garden there and work on their projects. December 1769 saw Mrs. Unwin down with a serious illness. He wrote: “she is the chief blessing I have met with in my journey since the Lord was pleased to call me...”. On December 9, he began composing the hymn before daybreak and he fell asleep after writing the first two stanzas. Eventually he woke up and the remaining verses were whispered to his heart.

John Bacchus Dykes, a leading church musician of England of the nineteenth century, was born on 10 March, 1823, at Kingston-upon-Hull, England and he is credited with the composition of 300 hymn tunes which are very familiar like, “Lead, Kindly Light”, “Holy, Holy, Holy”, “Jesus, the very thought of Thee”, etc.

“God often visits us, but most of the time we are not at home”.

Have a closer walk with God!

(Courtesy: 101 More Hymn Stories – Kenneth W. Osbeck)