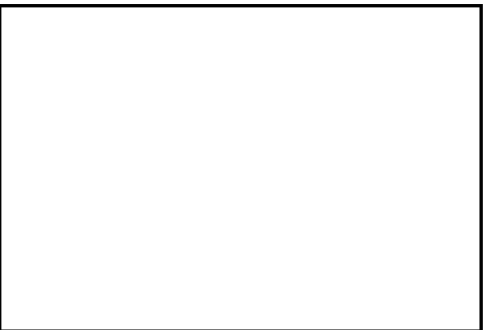


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Choir Coordinator	Earlin George	(732) 207-1330
Youth Fellowship	Geethu Abraham	(732) 617-2005
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The Abundant Life (continued...)

The abundant life that John 10:10 speaks of is not necessarily a long life, though it may be, but it certainly is a full one. Medical science will seek to add years to our lives, but only Jesus can add life to our years. Having been both an unbeliever and a believer, having been someone who was under the devil's plan for my life and then discovering the Lord's plan for my life, there is no question that living the life that God wants me to live is the best life.

If somehow the Bible read differently and there was no promise of heaven and no afterlife, if we simply stopped existing when we die, but everything else about the Christian life remained the same, I still would be a Christian on that basis alone. To have Christ in my life, to have His leading, to have His guidance, to have His blessing, to have these standards to live by and to guide my life by . . . I would be a Christian for these things alone. If neither heaven nor God's plan to live eternally were promised to me, it has been worth it just having the Lord in my life. But the good news, friend, is there is a heaven. There is an afterlife. There is the hope that every Christian has: life-and that more abundantly.

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Thanks to Corey Adams (See Romans 6:23)

04-19-2005

I'LL GET THIS ONE



If you are not receiving regular emails regarding the activities of the church, join our email list. Just send an email to addme@ststephensmtc.com

Also, if you are a youth member and not receiving regular email updates, join the youth email list. Just send an email to addmeyouth@ststephensmtc.com



BIBLE QUIZ

Please send your answers to Jose Cherian,
E-mail: Jose_newjersey@hotmail.com.

At the end of the year, your earned points will be totaled and the top scorers will get prizes!!

PAUL

- 1) Paul's Jewish name was:
A - Jeremiah; B - Gideon; C - Saul; D - Absalom
- 2) Paul was born outside of Israel in this city:
A - Rome; B - Antioch; C - Athens; D - Tarsus
- 3) Paul was a citizen of:
A - Greece; B - Palestine; C - Rome; D - Damascus
- 4) Paul was present when this man was killed:
A - Judas; B - Barrabas; C - Ananias; D - Stephen
- 5) Paul's first role in early Christianity was that of a:
A - Persecutor; B - Martyr; C - Writer; D - Preacher
- 6) On the road at noon Paul met:
A - Herod; B - Jesus; C - Peter; D - Pilate
- 7) How long did Paul spend at Judas' house without eating or drinking?
A - 1 day; B - 3 days; C - 1 week; D - 1 weekend
- 8) God sent this man to cure Paul:
A - Ananias; B - James; C - Apollos; D - John Mark
- 9) Paul was sent to preach to these people:
A - Jews; B - Romans; C - Muslims; D - Gentiles
- 10) Paul's companion on his early missionary trips was:
A - Timothy; B - Cornelius; C - Luke; D - Barnabas

ST. STEPHEN'S MARTHOMA CHURCH



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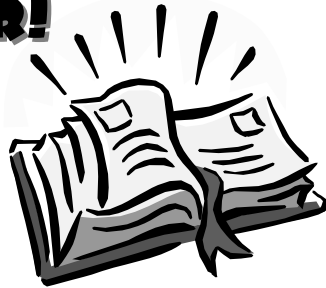
MARCH
2006

Volume VII
No.3

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A copy of this bulletin is available online

ACHEN'S CORNER!



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Once again we take special time, during the Lent, to concentrate on Christ and His cross and to learn how can we develop within us an attitude of Christ and His cross in our given situations. A heart without love is a dangerous bomb.

In Jesus, the world learns new lessons of love, sacrifice and accommodation. A Christian is a person with a reformed heart, Christ's heart. Let's pray that Lent observation becomes a renewing experience for us.

One of the greatest dreams and prayers of St. Stephen's family is fulfilled when we acquire a church building of our own. Though we do not have elaborate facilities in the new church, what we've got is very precious. Let's experience God's guidance in all these. Differences of opinions are usual in a parish when important decisions are made. But once they are made we should entertain the furtherance of unity and fellowship. I appreciate the way many of you handled things in the midst of crises.

Let's continue to pray for God's abundant grace in all our needs. May God enrich you with His Spirit and Word during this time of Lent.

Yours in the Love of the Lord Jesus,

Thomas Paul Achen.

18	Jeremy George	s/o George Edukala	(732) 389-8482
21	Annamma John	w/o Joseph N. John	(732) 752-5033
22	Rev.Shibi Abraham	s/o A.Abraham	(732) 252-6226
22	Pushpa J. Varughese	w/o John Varughese	(973) 736-0604
22	Sara Abraham	d/o Benjamin Abraham	(732) 617-2005
24	Aleyamma Panicker	w/o Jacob Panicker	(908) 994-0428
24	Dr. Nebu T. Alexander		(973) 736-0604
26	K. G. Mathewkutty		(732) 855-1719
27	Mammen T. Thomas		(732) 422-0701
27	Simon Mathews		(908) 889-8179
29	Elizabeth Jacob	w/o Jacob Chacko	(732) 249-7318
30	Kiron I. Thomas	s/o Sunil M. Thomas	(732) 750-5993
31	Anita Matthews	d/o John Matthews	(732) 356-6192

*Wedding Anniversaries in
March!!*



Mar 12 Vinoj Mathew & Mini Vinoj

(732) 726-1714

*The St. Stephen's Family wishes you
a Happy Anniversary!*



Birthdays in March!!

*The St. Stephen's Family wishes you a
Blessed New Year!*

1	Aleyamma Abraham	w/o A. Abraham	(732) 252-6226
1	Shibu A. Abraham		(908) 213-0087
3	Johnson Mathew		(732) 432-6444
4	Philip T. Stephen	s/o Dilip Stephen	(973) 324-2205
5	Sherry Varghese	d/o Daniel Varghese	(908) 688-2830
5	Jennifer Kurien	d/o Thomas Kurien	
6	Tara E. Thomas	d/o John Thomas	(908) 470-1343
6	Sunil M. Thomas		(732) 750-5993
6	Jacob K. Sam		(732) 980-9154
6	Jonathan B. Mathew	s/o Dr. Cecil Mathew	(732) 548-2248
7	Becky Joseph	d/o Joseph V. Joseph	(610) 438-1688
9	Sujit John	s/o John Varughese	(973) 736-0604
11	Revi G. Varghese		
12	Aleyamma Abraham	w/o Abraham Pulimoottil	(732) 283-4855
12	George Yohanan		(718) 317-2548
13	Alexander Cherukara		(732) 381-3633
15	Chacko Poovakunnel		(908) 964-0735
18	Pappen Varghese		(908) 281-2188
18	Rohen Varkey	s/o Thomas Varkey	(908) 301-0084
18	Sunil K. Cherian		(609) 936-9364



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Diocesan Sunday: The Diocesan Sunday will be celebrated on March 5, 2006. Rev. T. P. Zachariah will be celebrating the Holy Communion.

World Day of Prayer: World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on Friday, March 3, 2006. It is a worldwide movement of Christians of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

Diocesan Clergy Conference: The Diocesan Clergy Conference will be held on March 23rd - March 24th, 2006 at the Epiphany Mar Thoma Church, Ozone Park, NY.

YOUTH

Southeast Regional Spring Conference is scheduled for April 15th at Mar Thoma Church of Philadelphia.

Basketball Tournament is coming!! Practices every Sunday. To sign up and For more information contact Benson or Geethu

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school schedule for February:

3/5: No Sunday School

3/12: Sunday school after offertory

3/19: Sunday school after Communion
& Assembly (in Sanctuary)

3/26: Sunday school after offertory



For more information regarding the SS, visit our website.
<http://www.ststephensmtc.com/suns>

The Abundant Life

Greg Laurie
<http://www.crosswalk.com>



The story is told of an artist who sculpted a beautiful angel and wanted the master artist, Michelangelo, to inspect it and offer his opinion. So Michelangelo was called in. The master artist carefully looked at the sculpture from every angle. Finally, he said, "Well, it lacks only one thing." Then he turned around and walked out. The artist didn't know what it lacked, and he was embarrassed to go and ask Michelangelo. So he sent a friend to Michelangelo's studio to try and find out what his statue lacked. The great artist replied, "It lacks only life."

The same could be said of a lot of people today. They have the house, the car, the husband or wife, and the kids. They have the career. They have money in the bank. They have everything going the way that things ought to go to supposedly live life to its fullest. But there is that is something still lacking. They are still lacking life.

Jesus has something to say about that, and in John's Gospel, He tells us what our lives ought to be about: "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10 NKJV). Jesus was contrasting what He offers with what the devil offers. The thief mentioned here speaks of the enemy of our soul, Satan. He comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. But Christ has come that we might have life and that we might have it more abundantly. And there we have a choice.

Campus Crusade for Christ International's tract, *The Four Spiritual Laws*, opens with the statement, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." And that is true. On the other hand, Satan hates you and has a horrible plan for your life. Now, he doesn't really broadcast this, because he doesn't want you to know. But what he ultimately wants to do is to steal, to kill, and destroy.

In contrast, Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." The context of John 10 is that of a shepherd and his sheep, where Jesus is the Shepherd, while we are the sheep. But we are reminded that Jesus is not just our Shepherd; He is the good shepherd. It is important to know that the word used here for "good" doesn't just mean morally good, though it includes that. It also could be translated "beautiful" or "winsome" or "lovely," even "attractive." Jesus is the beautiful, attractive, winsome Shepherd, and the Shepherd's plan for His flock—more specifically, the Lord's plan for you—is that your life would flourish. It is His absolute joy to bless you.

Sometimes we have a false concept of God in which we see Him as One who is stingy with His blessings. But nothing could be further from the truth. The fact is that God wants to bless you even more than you want to be blessed.

Continued on last page...

DATE	TIME	CELEBRANT	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Epistle	Gospel	Sunday School
5 Mar	10.45 A.M	Rev. T. P. Zachariah (English)	2 Kings 5:1-16	James 2:1-10	Acts. 5:12-16	Luke 5:12-16	No Classes
12 Mar	10.45 A.M	Rev. Thomas Paul (Malayalam)	Isaiah 1:1-20	I John 1:5-2:6	Hebrews 9:23-28	Mark 2:1-12	After Offertory
19 Mar	10.45 A.M	Rev. Thomas Paul (English)	Isaiah 45:1-8	Acts. 16:6-15	Galatians 2:11-21	Mathew 15:21-22	After Communion
26 Mar	10.45 A.M	Rev. Thomas Paul (Malayalam)	Isaiah 59:9-21	Romans 8:31-39	Ephesians 6:10-20	Luke 13:10-17	After Offertory