

**If undeliverable please return to:**

Dr. Joemon T Varughese  
9 Glover Rd.  
Miltown, NJ 08850



# **FAMILY RETREAT**

**May 25th - 27th**  
**Memorial Day**  
**Weekend**

*Black Rock Retreat*  
A Christian Retreat Center & Summer Camp

Quarryville, PA

[www.blackrockretreat.com](http://www.blackrockretreat.com)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2007

<b>Vicar &amp; President</b>	Rev. Thomas Paul <i>revthomaspaul@yahoo.com</i>	(732) 602-9444
<b>Vice-President</b>	Dr. Samuel Thomas	(973) 538-1192
<b>Secretary</b>	Dr. Joemon T Varughese <i>jobi95@hotmail.com</i>	(732) 422-7128
<b>Joint Secretary</b>	Jose Cherian	(908) 851-0603
<b>Treasurer</b>	Varghese Varghese	(732) 577-0728
<b>Accountant</b>	Thomas Oommen	(732) 906-8830
<b>Lay Leaders</b>	John Varughese Sunil Kurien	(973) 808-1799 (732) 677-2507
<b>Prayer Group Representatives:</b>		
Prayer Group # 1	Mathew Cherukara	(908) 686-1061
Prayer Group # 2	Ragy Thomas	(732) 632-8892
Prayer Group # 3	Anil Mathew	(732) 258-8997
Prayer Group # 4	Thomas John	(732) 651-8867
Sunday School Supdt.	Pappen Varghese	(908) 281-2188
Choir Coordinator	Earlin George	(732) 207-1330
Youth Fellowship Sec.	Joshua John	(908)-907-7758
Sevika Sanghom Sec.	Annamma John	(732) 752-5033
Edavaka Mission	Sam Jacob	(732) 549-8925
Sabha Mandalam Rep.	Daniel Varghese	(908) 688-2830
Diocesan Assembly Rep.	Thomas Mathew	(973) 285-4373
Building Committee	Andrew Pappachen	(973) 808-2077
Auditors	John Thomas Philip Prasad	(908) 470-1343 (732) 967-9272

## **PRAYER GROUPS by Area**

**Listing of all the towns in your prayer group**

### PRAYER GROUP # 1

Basking Ridge  
Belleville  
Bloomfield  
Caldwell  
Danbury, CT  
East Stroudsburg, PA  
Garfield  
Green Brook  
Henryville, P.A.  
Jersey City  
Livingston  
Long Valley  
Montville  
Morris Plains  
Parsippany  
Stewartsville  
Union  
Warren  
West Orange  
Westfield

### PRAYER GROUP # 2

Clark  
Edison  
Elizabeth  
Fords  
Hoboken  
Iselin  
Linden  
Metuchen  
Roselle Park  
S. Plainfield  
Scotch Plains  
Staten Island  
Woodbridge

### PRAYER GROUP # 3

Bellemead  
Branchburg  
Bridgewater  
Dayton  
Forks, PA  
Hillsborough  
North Brunswick  
Piscataway  
Plainsboro  
Robbinsville  
Skillman  
Somerset  
West Chester, PA

### PRAYER GROUP # 4

Colts Neck  
East Brunswick  
Eatontown  
Freehold  
Helmetta  
Keyport  
Manalapan  
Marlboro  
Milltown  
Monore  
Old Bridge  
Parlin  
Plainsboro  
Sayreville  
Tinton Falls  
Toms River



# BIBLE QUIZ

Please email your answers to  
[quiz@ststephensmtc.com](mailto:quiz@ststephensmtc.com)  
*At the end of the year, your earned points will  
be totaled and the top scorers will get prizes!!*

## BIBLICAL GARMENTS

- 1) This man's nakedness brought about a curse on his son.  
A - Joab, B - Solomon, C - Noah, D - Adam
- 2) A woman touched the hem of Jesus garment, and was healed of this problem.  
A - Leprosy, B - Issue of blood, C - Palsy, D - Blindness
- 3) This man was clothed in camel's hair.  
A - John the Baptist, B - Jesus, C - Paul, D - Peter
- 4) This man gave his son a richly ornamented robe.  
A - Israel, B - Isaac, C - Noah, D - David
- 5) Soldiers cast lots over this man's garment.  
A - Saul of Tarsus, B - Stephen, C - Simon Peter, D - Jesus
- 6) This man left his garment behind, as he fled a seductive woman.  
A - Samson, B - Adonijah, C - Joseph, D - Laban
- 7) This man sewed fig leaves together to cover himself.  
A - Mark, B - Adam, C - Noah, D - Joseph
- 8) This man 'borrowed' his brother's garment to try and impersonate him.  
A - Benjamin, B - Andrew, C - Cain, D - Jacob
- 9) The armies that follow the Faithful and True are clothed in this.  
A - The sun and the moon, B - White linen, C - The light of purity, D - Purple garments
- 10) In Revelation 12 a woman is clothed with this:  
A - The Sun, B - Purple garments, C - Scarlet garments, D - Sackcloth
- 11) This man's garments couldn't compare to the lilies of the field.  
A - Christ, B - David, C - Nebuchadnezzar, D - Solomon
- 12) This child was wrapped in swaddling clothes at his birth:  
A - Samuel, B - Abel, C - Moses, D - Jesus

# ST. STEPHEN'S MARTHOA CHURCH



**HOY AVE & HAMILTON STREET  
FORDS, NEW JERSEY 08863**

**Vicar's Address  
Rev. Thomas Paul  
209 Michael Ct.,  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095**

# MARON

**2007  
Volume VIII  
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# ACHEN'S MESSAGE!



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

During the Lent our meditation is centered on the theme of renewal and transformation of God's creation. Knowingly or unknowingly we are all affected by the fast changes happening in the world. We see God intervening in the history of human and the world whenever the world gets corrupted because of human sin. Abraham begins his journey, trusting God, to become a father of a nation, a people of faith. When God called he responded positively. Today God, in Jesus, expects a Christian response from us in today's world where values turn upside down.

Do we have a time of silence in our life? God speaks to us through the Scripture. The Scripture is God's fatherly Word to us. We've to seek the Word diligently to be strong in life. Our life is filled with struggles and temptations. We should learn to hold on to God's grace in order to win over these. We see people like Moses facing great obstacles with God. Faith is seeing the renewing presence of God with us. He opens up new paths in the deserts and seas.

Today everything is commercialized in this world. Our body gradually loses its mind and soul content. God can renew both humans and nature. The Gospel writers witness to Jesus renewing the body, mind and soul of many. In Genesis we see God purifying a sin-polluted world through water during Noah's time. So during this time of Lent, let's see the renewing God, the calling God and the God who needs our involvement as He transforms the world.

I take this opportunity to appreciate the office bearers, Ex-committee and Project committee members and the office bearers of all the organizations of St. Stephen's for their committed service for the smooth and improved functioning of the parish in the year 2006. Let's sincerely pray for the fruitful service of the new office-bearers and committee members for the glory of God.

God Bless You and Keep You,

*Thomas Paul Achen*

22 Shibi Abraham	s/o A. Abraham	(732) 252-6226
22 Pushpa Varghese	w/o John Varughese	(973) 808-1799
22 Sarah Abraham	d/o Benjamin Abraham	(732) 617-2005
24 Aleyamma Panicker	w/o Jacob Panicker	(908) 994-0428
24 Nebu Alexander		(973) 808-1799
26 K.G. Mathew Kutty		(732) 855-1719
27 Mammen T. Thomas		(732) 422-0707
27 Simon Mathews		(908) 889-8179
29 Elizabeth Jacob	w/o Jacob Chacko	(732) 249-7318
30 Kiran Thomas	s/o Sunil M. Thomas	(732) 750-5993
31 Anita Mathews	d/o John Mathews	(732) 356-6192

## *Wedding Anniversaries in March!!*

12th Mrs. & Mr. Vinoj and Mini Mathew (732) 726-1714

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### *Amazing Grace* (Continued.....)

He decided to become a minister and applied to the Archbishop of York for ordination. The Archbishop refused his request, but Newton persisted in his goal, and he was subsequently ordained by the Bishop of Lincoln and accepted the curacy of Olney, Buckinghamshire. Newton's church became so crowded during services that it had to be enlarged. He preached not only in Olney but in other parts of the country. In 1767 the poet William Cowper settled at Olney, and he and Newton became friends.

The origin of the melody is unknown. Most hymnals attribute it to an early American folk melody. The Bill Moyers special on "Amazing Grace" speculated that it may have originated as the tune of a song the slaves sang.

In 1780 Newton left Olney to become rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, St. Mary Woolchurch, in London. There he drew large congregations and influenced many, among them William Wilberforce, who would one day become a leader in the campaign for the abolition of slavery. Newton continued to preach until the last year of life, although he was blind by that time. He died in London December 21, 1807. Infidel and libertine turned minister in the Church of England, he was secure in his faith that amazing grace would lead him home.

# Birthdays in March!!

3	Mathew Johnson	(732) 432-6444
3	Dilip Abraham	b/o Saju Abraham (732) 605-9888
4	Philip Steaphen	s/o Dilip Steaphen (973) 324-2205
4	Danielle Mathew	d/o Pramod Mathew (732) 605-0370
5	Sherry Varghese	d/o Daniel Varghese (908) 688-2830
5	Jennifer Kurien	d/o Thomas Kurien (732) 845-0031
6	Tara Thomas	d/o John Thomas (908) 470-1343
6	Sunil Thomas	s/o Iype Thomas (570) 620-0226
6	Jonathan Mathew	s/o Cecil Mathews (732) 548-2248
6	Jacob K. Sam	(732) 980-9154
7	Becky Joseph	s/o Joseph V. Joseph (610) 438-1688
8	Neha Thomas	d/o George Thomas (908) 668-9676
9	Sujit John	s/o John K Varghese (973) 808-1799
10	Baji Thomas	(973) 743-3452
11	Ravi Varghese	s/o Varghese Varghese (732) 577-0728
12	Aleyamma Abraham	w/o Abraham Pulimoottil (732) 283-4855
12	George Yohannan	(718) 317-2548
13	Philip Cherukara	(732) 381-3633
15	Chacko Poovakunnel	(908) 964-0735
18	Pappen Varghese	(908) 281-2188
18	Sunil Kurian Cherian	
18	Jeremy George	s/o George Edukala (732) 389-8482
18	Rohan Varkey	s/o Thomas Varkey (908) 301-0084
21	Annamma John	w/o Joseph N John (732) 752-5033

# ANNOUNCEMENTS!



## PRAYER MEETING

There will be a Edavaka Mission meeting on Friday March 9th at 7:30pm at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas (Soman & Santha) 42 Carlisle Rd, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 Tel. 908-470-1343

There will be a prayer meeting on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 6:30pm at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Papachen, 2 Arthur Pl., Montville, NJ 07045. Tel. 973-808-2077

## SEVIKA SANGOM PRAYER MEETING

There will be a Sevika Sangom prayer meeting on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 10am at the residence of Mrs. Annamma John, 1417 Glenwood drive, Piscataway, NJ 08854. Tel. 732-752-5033

## NEW BORN

Saju C Abraham and Sheeja Abraham are blessed with a baby boy, Joel Dilip Cherian on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2007. Congratulations to the proud parents!

## BEREAVEMENT

Beloved sister of Mrs. Shantha Thomas was called to eternity on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2007. She was 65 years old. Funeral was held at Maramon. We, the St. Stephen's family express our deepest condolence to the bereaved family.

## NEW MEMBERS

Following Family have taken membership with St. Stephen's MTC: Mr. Jacob Kettenkeril Verghese and his wife Annie George. Their address: 55 Gill Lane, Apt#57, Iselin, NJ 08830, Tel: 732-527-0428

## YOUTH

**Youth Meeting** - March 16 - Cheryl and Rebecca's house, 7:30 pm.

**Youth Events** - March 30 - Rutger's ICF Coffehouse - March 31 - PCC Basketball Tournament in Philly, both boys and girls teams are playing

**Unspoken Secrets, the Regional One-Day Conference held at our Parish** - Saturday April 7 (day after Good Friday) is the date; prayer chains are in effect and it is encouraged that everyone please pray and support the youth in this effort. Flyer's will be handed out soon and for more information about this or any other youth activities please contact Josh John or Cheryl Varghese.

# Hymn Review

*“Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound...”*

So begins one of the most beloved hymns of all times, a staple in the hymnals of many denominations, New Britain or “45 on the top” in Sacred Harp. The author of the words was John Newton, the self-proclaimed wretch who once was lost but then was found, saved by amazing grace.

Newton was born in London July 24, 1725, the son of a commander of a merchant ship which sailed the Mediterranean. When John was eleven, he went to sea with his father and made six voyages with him before the elder Newton retired. In 1744 John was impressed into service on a man-of-war, the H. M. S. Harwich. Finding conditions on board intolerable, he deserted but was soon recaptured and publicly flogged and demoted from midshipman to common seaman.

Finally at his own request he was exchanged into service on a slave ship, which took him to the coast of Sierra Leone. He then became the servant of a slave trader and was brutally abused. Early in 1748 he was rescued by a sea captain who had known John's father. John Newton ultimately became captain of his own ship, one which plied the slave trade.

Although he had had some early religious instruction from his mother, who had died when he was a child, he had long since given up any religious convictions. However, on a homeward voyage, while he was attempting to steer the ship through a violent storm, he experienced what he was to refer to later as his “great deliverance.” He recorded in his journal that when all seemed lost and the ship would surely sink, he exclaimed, “Lord, have mercy upon us.” Later in his cabin he reflected on what he had said and began to believe that God had addressed him through the storm and that grace had begun to work for him.

For the rest of his life he observed the anniversary of May 10, 1748 as the day of his conversion, a day of humiliation in which he subjected his will to a higher power. “Thro’ many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; ‘tis grace has bro’t me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.” He continued in the slave trade for a time after his conversion; however, he saw to it that the slaves under his care were treated humanely.

In 1750 he married Mary Catlett, with whom he had been in love for many years. By 1755, after a serious illness, he had given up seafaring forever. During his days as a sailor he had begun to educate himself, teaching himself Latin, among other subjects. From 1755 to 1760 Newton was surveyor of tides at Liverpool, where he came to know George Whitefield, deacon in the Church of England, evangelistic preacher, and leader of the Calvinistic Methodist Church. Newton became Whitefield’s enthusiastic disciple. During this period Newton also met and came to admire John Wesley, founder of Methodism. Newton’s self-education continued, and he learned Greek and Hebrew.

*Continued...*

Date	Time	Celebrant	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Epistle	Gospel	Sunday School
<b>Fellowship which Leads to Goodness (3rd Sunday in Lent) / Pulpit Change</b>							
4 Mar	10:45 AM	Rev. A C Kurien (English)	1 Samuel 18: 1-20	Acts 15:22-34	Philemon 8-22	Mark 2:1-12	No Sunday School
<b>Faith which Transcends Hurdles (4th Sunday in Lent)</b>							
11 Mar	10:45 AM	Rev. Thomas Paul (Malayalam)	Isaiah 45:1-13	1 Thess. 1:1-9	Acts 12:44-52	Matthew 15:21-28	After Offertory
<b>God's Love towards the Marginalized (5th Sunday in Lent)</b>							
18 Mar	10:45 AM	Rev. Thomas Paul (English)	Isaiah 59:14-21	Romans 8:31-39	Ephesians 6:10-20	Luke 13:10-17	After Communion
<b>Faith that Overcome Darkness Annunciation to Virgin Mary (36th Sunday)</b>							
25 Mar	10:45 AM	Rev. Thomas Paul (Malayalam)	Isaiah 42:1-9	Acts 12:1-19	2 Corin. 11:18-28	Mark 10:46-52	After Offertory