

If undeliverable please return to:
Anil Mathew
1235 Huron Rd.
North Brunswick, NJ 08902



**Easter
Sunday**

March 23rd

2008 OFFICE BEARERS

Vicar & President	Rev. Abraham Cherian	(732) 602-9444 <i>revacherian@hotmail.com</i>
Vice-President	John Mathews	(732) 356-6192
Secretary	Anil Mathew	(732) 552-8053 <i>anilmathew74@yahoo.com</i>
Treasurer	Joseph Abraham	(732) 331-4076
Accountant	Reji K. Thomas	(732) 568-1754
Lay Leaders	John Varughese	(973) 808-1799
	Blessen Joseph	(732) 841-0814
<u>Prayer Group Representatives to Executive Committee</u>		
Group # 1	Mathew Cherukara	(908) 686-1061
Group # 2	Mathew M. Thomas	(908) 247-2960
Group # 3	Philip Mathews	(908) 625-7500
Group # 4	Koshy Philip	(732) 604-5200
<u>Organization's Representatives to Executive Committee</u>		
Sunday School	Jacob Chacko	(732) 249-7318
Choir	Earlin George	(732) 207-1330
Youth Fellowship (Sec)	Becky Joseph	(732) 672-6747
Sevika Sanghom (Sec)	Suja Abraham	(732) 418-8840
Edavaka Mission (Sec)	Dr. Joemon Varghese	(848) 248-5862
<u>Sabha Mandalam & Diocesan Assembly Members</u>		
Sabha Mandalam	Andrew Pappachen	(973) 808-2077
Diocesan Assembly	Dr. Samuel Thomas	(973) 722-0154
<u>Other Contacts</u>		
Building Committee	Andrew Pappachen	(973) 808-2077
Sunday School Supdt.	Saju Thomas	(609) 466-1474
Choir Secretary	Sunita Varkey	(908) 301-0084
Auditors	Byju Abraham	
	Mathew Keecheril	

7) Hiram of Tyre, worked on the temple with which material?

- A - Cedar
- B - Bronze
- C - Silver
- D - Gold

8) Joseph (Mary's husband) was involved in this trade:

- A - Shepherding
- B - Farming
- C - Carpentry
- D - Fishing

9) Why were there no 'blacksmiths' in Israel in the days of king Saul?

- A - No need for them
- B - Weren't allowed
- C - No craftsmen
- D - No metal available

10) This borrowed tool fell into the water and Elisha miraculously recovered it.

- A - Axhead
- B - Hammer head
- C - Grinding wheel
- D - Saw

11) With which of the following do we associate Dorcas?

- A - Selling purple cloth
- B - Tent making
- C - Cooking for others
- D - Seamstress

12) King David started out his life in this occupation:

- A - Shepherd
- B - Warrior
- C - Musician
- D - Carpenter

13) What was the occupation of Demetrius?

- A - Tentmaker
- B - Soothsayer
- C - Silversmith
- D - Fisherman

14) In the country of the Gadarenes, where Legion was, there were kept...

- A - Fruit orchards
- B - Sheep
- C - Cattle
- D - Pigs



WORKERS & TOOLS QUIZ

Please email your answers to
quiz@ststephensmtc.com

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

1) Which of the following prophets speaks of beating plowshares into swords?

- A - Ezekiel
- B - Jeremiah
- C - Joel
- D - Malachi

2) Which man was plowing when he was called to be a prophet of God?

- A - Peter
- B - Elijah
- C - Elisha
- D - Ezekiel

3) What trade related task were James and John working on when Jesus called them?

- A - Repairing a plough
- B - Mending a fishing net
- C - Sharpening a saw
- D - Mending a wheel

4) What does Joel foretell will be done to pruning hooks?

- A - Used no more
- B - Sharpened
- C - Beaten into spears
- D - Hung on the wall

5) What tool-of-trade did David perfect the use of in his early years?

- A - Bow and arrow
- B - Spear
- C - Fishing net
- D - Slingshot

6) Which woman used a 'workman's hammer' to put a tent peg into a most unusual spot?

- A - Jael
- B - Deborah
- C - Hannah
- D - Rebekah

ST. STEPHEN'S MARTHOA CHURCH



HOY AVE & HAMILTON STREET

FORDS, NEW JERSEY 08863

Vicar's Address
Rev. Abraham Cherian
209 Michael Ct.,
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

March

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ACHEN'S MESSAGE!



Dearly Beloved in Christ ,

We are marching into yet another month of '08 in which we are celebrating the Palm Sunday, remembering the life and work of Jesus Christ through the services of Passion week. As St. Paul reminds us " May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ , through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world." [Gal.6.14] In the first century the cross was offensive on several counts. It was a humiliation, a punishment for the underprivileged; its a reminder that we are sinful, unacceptable to god. The cross assaults our human pride with a clear statement that we cannot solve sin on our own. When Christ died on the cross- "a tree"- not only was that the sign of someone who was cursed (Deu.21.23; GAL.3:13) but more than that it was a sign that Christ received God's punishment for our sin. So let us also boast in the cross of Christ, which is the way of salvation. I urge all of you to attend the services more meaningfully and may God help each one of us to share our talents more sacrificially for the glory of God. "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." May the transforming God enlighten us .

yours in Christ

Toji Achen

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
21	David Mathew Abraham	s/o Rev. Shibi Abraham	(732) 252-6226
22	Rev. 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
23	Gracekutty K. Varkey	w/o Shibu Varghese	(973) 743-3374
24	Aleyamma Panicker	w/o Jacob Panicker	(908) 994-0428
24	Issac John		(732)762-4538
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!!

7	Mr. & Mrs. George Thomas & Reene Thomas	732-321-4171
12	Mr. & Mrs. Vinoj Mathew and Mini Mathew	732-726-1714
31	Mr. & Mrs. Joemon K. Thomas & Saro Ann Thomas	617-959-5312



Birthdays in March!!

1	Aleyamma Abraham	w/o A. Abraham	(732) 252-6226
1	Shibu Abraham		(908) 213-0087
1	Jojo K. Abraham		(732) 218-7483
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	d/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
11	Jini S. John	w/o Jojo K. Abraham	(732) 218-7483
12	Aleyamma Abraham	w/o Abraham Pulimoottil	(732) 283-4855
12	George Yohannan		(718) 317-2548
12	Binsu Elza Abraham	d/o Abraham Mathew	(203) 205-0764
13	Philip Cherukara		(732) 381-3633
13	Lizan Simon	w/o Ashby Simon	(732) 943-2103

ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Passion Week:

Passion Week is from 17th to 22nd, please see the detailed service schedule on the next page and attend the services promptly with prayers.

Edavaka Mission:

We will have our Edavaka Mission meetings (Praise & worship, Bible Study) every Wednesday at 7:30pm (except for Passion Week) in our church. All families should try to attend this meeting for your spiritual growth.

Prayer Meetings:

All Prayer groups are encouraged to hold the prayer meetings every Saturday at 7:00pm. Interested families please contact your Area Representatives.

Youth League Meeting:

There will be youth league meetings on 2nd and 4th Fridays at 7:00pm.

First Communion:

Parents - First communicant's classes are progressing. If you have not already enrolled your child who is 14 years and older, please see our Sunday School Superintendent Mr. Saju Thomas or Achen.

Building Project update:

The Somerset Township Board of Adjustments has adjourned our variance hearing to April 3rd and our hearing is agenda # 1. The Board meets from 7:30pm to 10:30pm. All members who would like to see a Church of our own should attend this meeting and it's very important that we show our solidarity towards our church. Please keep this in your daily prayers for a favorable outcome.

Events Calendar 2008

ANNOUNCEMENT (Continued...)

Refreshments:

Families are encouraged to sponsor/provide refreshments on Sundays. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary.

Church Premise Cleaning:

Prayer group 3 members will be responsible for cleaning the Church premise after Sunday's church service for this month. Members please volunteer.

New Born:

Mr. Baji Thomas Kunjumon & Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas Varghese were blessed with a baby boy Beno Beji Thomas on 12th February 2008.

Condolences:

Rev. C. P. Wilson, Vicar of The Mar Thoma Church Philadelphia was called to eternity on Friday, January 25th at 12.30pm. Achen is survived by Pracey (Wife), Pavana & Praveena (Daughters).

We, the St. Stephen's family express our deepest condolence to the bereaved family.

Thank you:

Thanks to all families who participated in the fund raiser (C.P. Wilson achen).

Donations:

The following organization(s) are looking for your kind donation(s)/ contribution(s), please give your check(s) to the trustee/accountant.

1. The Malabar Mar Thoma Syrian Christian Evangelistic Association.
2. Hoskote Mission & Medical Centre

Date		Time	AM PM	Day
July				
	Junior-Senior conference?			
7/10/2008	VBS			
7/11/2008	VBS			
7/12/2008	VBS			
7/13/2008	VBS			
August				
8/9/2008	Picnic - Echo Lake Recreation Center	9:00	Am	Saturday
September				
9/7/2008	New School Year (Children's) Dedication	11:00	AM	Sunday
9/13/2008	Apple Picking	10:00	AM	Saturday
9/20/2008	Sunday School Competition	10:00	AM	Saturday
9/26/2008	Convention day 1	7:30	PM	Friday
9/27/2008	Convention day 2	7:30	PM	Saturday
9/28/2008	Convention day 3	11:00	AM	Sunday
October				
	Sunday School Regional Competition?			
	Sunday School Anniversary?			
10/18/2008	Youth Shine Night	6:00	PM	Saturday
November				
11/23/2008	Thanksgiving Service & Auction	11:00	AM	Sunday
11/29/2008	X'Mas House to House Carol	10:00	AM	Saturday
11/30/2008	X'Mas House to House Carol	3:00	PM	Sunday
12/6/2008	X'Mas House to House Carol	10:00	AM	Saturday
12/7/2008	X'Mas House to House Carol	3:00	PM	Sunday
December				
12/13/2008	X'Mas House to House Carol	10:00	AM	Saturday
12/14/2008	X'Mas House to House Carol	3:00	PM	Sunday
12/20/2008	Christmas Carol	6:30	PM	Saturday
12/25/2008	Christmas Service	7:00	AM	Thursday
12/31/2008	New Year's/Watch Night Service	10:00	PM	Wed

Events Calendar 2008

Date	Events	Time	AM PM	Day
March				
3/17/2008	Passion week	7:30	PM	Monday
3/18/2008	Passion week	7:30	PM	Tuesday
3/19/2008	Passover	7:30	PM	Wednesday
3/20/2008	Passover	7:30	PM	Thursday
3/21/2008	Good Friday	9:30	AM	Friday
3/23/2008	Easter Sunday	7:00	AM	Sunday
April				
4/12/2008	Sunday School teacher's potluck dinner			
4/17/2008	Executive Committee meets with Thirumeni	7:30	PM	Thursday
4/18/2007	Sevika Sanghom Meets with Thirumeni	10:30	AM	Friday
	Youth Meets with Thirumeni	7:30	PM	Friday
4/19/2008	Sunday School meets with Thirumeni	10:00	AM	Saturday
	First Communicants Meets with Thirumeni	5:00	PM	Saturday
	Church meets with Thirumeni	6:00	PM	Saturday
4/20/2008	Parish Day/First Communicants	11:00	AM	Sunday
	Sunday School Fair			
May				
5/11/2008	Mother's Day	11:00	AM	Sunday
5/11/2008	Diocesan Exams	12:00	AM	Sunday
5/18/2008	Sunday School Fair	1:30	AM	Sunday
5/24/2008	Family Retreat?			
5/25/2008	Family Retreat?			
June				
6/7/2008	Youth Retreat?			
6/8/2008	Youth Retreat?			
6/15/2008	Father's Day	11:00	AM	Sunday
6/29/2008	Graduation Appreciation day	11:00	AM	Sunday

Date	Time	Celebrant	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Epistle	Gospel	Sunday School	Refreshment
2 Mar	11 am	Rev. Dr.K.V Thomas (English)	Judges 4:4- 16	Acts 17:22- 31	Gal 3:1-29	St. Luke. 13:10-17	No Sunday School	Mrs & Mr George Thomas
			1 Pet 4:1- 11	2 Cor. 4:1- 12	St.Mark.10:46 -52	After Offertory	Mrs & Mr Joseph V. Joseph	
9 Mar	11 am	Rev. Abraham Cherian (Malayalam)	Isa. 40:1-11	Heb 5:1- 10	Phil. 2:5-11	St. Mark. 11:1 -10	After Commu- ion	Mrs & Mr Vinoj Mathew
			Zech. 9:9-17	Cor 15:12- 28	1 Cor. 15:42-58	No Sunday School	Sevika Sanghom	
16 Mar	11 am	Rev. Abraham Cherian (English)	2 Kings 4:27 -37	1 Kings 19:10- 18	1 Tim 2:1-7	St.John.20:1-8	No Sunday School	Ms. Sherry Varghese
			Exo 3:1-15	2 Pet 1:12- 21	St. John. 20:19-29	After Offertory		
23 Mar	7 am	Rev. Abraham Cherian (Malayalam)	2 Kings 4:27 -37	1 Kings 19:10- 18	1 Tim 2:1-7	St.John.20:1-8	No Sunday School	Sevika Sanghom
			Exo 3:1-15	2 Pet 1:12- 21	St. John. 20:19-29	After Offertory		
30 Mar	11 am	Rev. Abraham Cherian (Malayalam)	Exo 3:1-15	2 Pet 1:12- 21	St. John. 20:19-29	St.John.20:1-8	No Sunday School	Sevika Sanghom
			Exo 3:1-15	2 Pet 1:12- 21	St. John. 20:19-29	After Offertory		

Passion Week Service Details & Schedule

Date	DAY	Time	Event	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Gospel
17-Mar	Monday	7:30 PM	Passion Week	Lev. 2:1-16	Acts. 13:26-43	St.Mat.21:23-46
18-Mar	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Passion Week	Isa. 52:1-15	Acts. 13:44-52	St.Mat.22:34-23:12
19-Mar	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Passover Wednesday	Isa.28:14-29	Col. 1:9-22	St. Mat. 24:29-51
20-Mar	Thursday	7:30 PM	Passover Thursday	Ex. 12:1-28	Heb.9:1-15	St.Mat.26:1-16
21-Mar	Friday/ Good Friday	9:30 AM	First Service	Isa. 53:1-12	1 Pet. 1:1-25	St.Mat. 26:47-75
			Second Service	Zech. 13:1-9	Gal.3:1-22	St.Mat. 27:1-44
			Third Service	Num.21:1-9	Heb.3:1-19	St.Mat. 27:45-56

His Ascension and Our Access

From My Utmost for His highest (May 2007)

It came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven —Luke 24:51

We have no experiences in our lives that correspond to the events in our Lord's life after the transfiguration. From that moment forward His life was altogether substitutionary. Up to the time of the transfiguration, He had exhibited the normal, perfect life of a man. But from the transfiguration forward— Gethsemane, the Cross, the resurrection— everything is unfamiliar to us. His Cross is the door by which every member of the human race can enter into the life of God; by His resurrection He has the right to give eternal life to anyone, and by His ascension our Lord entered heaven, keeping the door open for humanity.



The transfiguration was completed on the Mount of Ascension. If Jesus had gone to heaven directly from the Mount of Transfiguration, He would have gone alone. He would have been nothing more to us than a glorious Figure. But He turned His back on the glory, and came down from the mountain to identify Himself with fallen humanity.

The ascension is the complete fulfillment of the transfiguration. Our Lord returned to His original glory, but not simply as the Son of God— He returned to His father as the *Son of Man* as well. There is now freedom of access for anyone straight to the very throne of God because of the ascension of the Son of Man. As the Son of Man, Jesus Christ deliberately limited His omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience. But now they are His in absolute, full power. As the Son of Man, Jesus Christ now has all the power at the throne of God. From His ascension forward He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.