

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



**Mother's Day**

**May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Vajana**

**Ghoshanam**

**Dr. George**

**Cherian**

**May**

**15,16,17,18**

## 2008 OFFICE BEARERS

<b>Vicar &amp; President</b>	Rev. Abraham Cherian	(732) 602-9444 <i>revacherian@hotmail.com</i>
<b>Vice-President</b>	John Mathews	(732) 356-6192
<b>Secretary</b>	Anil Mathew	(732) 552-8053 <i>anilmathew74@yahoo.com</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joseph Abraham	(732) 331-4076
<b>Accountant</b>	Reji K. Thomas	(732) 568-1754
<b>Lay Leaders</b>	John Varughese	(973) 808-1799
	Blessen Joseph	(732) 841-0814

### Prayer Group Representatives to Executive Committee

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

### Organization's Representatives to Executive Committee

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

### Sabha Mandalam & Diocesan Assembly Members

Sabha Mandalam	Andrew Pappachen	(973) 808-2077
Diocesan Assembly	Dr. Samuel Thomas	(973) 722-0154

### Other Contacts

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	

8) Who proposed that Jonah be thrown overboard?

- A - The captain of the ship
- B - The crew
- C - God through a vision
- D - Jonah

9) What happened to them once Jonah was thrown overboard?

- A - The ship sank
- B - The storm stopped
- C - They reached land
- D - They were struck dead

10) How long was Jonah in the belly of the fish?

- A - 1 day
- B - 3 days
- C - 7 days
- D - 12 days

11) How big was the city that Jonah was sent to?

- A - 3 days journey wide
- B - 3 miles wide
- C - 3 stadia wide
- D - 3 thousand cubits

12) How long were the inhabitants of that city give to repent?

- A - 3 days
- B - 12 days
- C - 40 days
- D - 70 days

13) How did the inhabitants of the city react to Jonah's warning?

- A - They mocked it
- B - They ignored it
- C - They didn't believe
- D - They repented

14) What was Jonah's reaction to the way the people reacted?

- A - He rejoiced
- B - He was sorrowful
- C - He was angry
- D - He was uncaring

15) As a result of this feeling, Jonah asks God to do what?

- A - Kill him
- B - Destroy the city
- C - Send him to Jerusalem
- D - Protect him



## JONAH 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) Jonah was sent to which city?  
A - Joppa  
B - Nineveh  
C - Tarshish  
D - Samaria
  
- 2) Jonah decided to go to which city instead?  
A - Joppa  
B - Nineveh  
C - Tarshish  
D - Samaria
  
- 3) What was Jonah doing during the storm which the ship was in?  
A - Sleeping  
B - Praying  
C - Eating  
D - Reading
  
- 4) Who was Jonah's father?  
A - Mahalael  
B - Amittai  
C - Tirzah  
D - Obed
  
- 5) What did the ship's crew do to improve their chances of survival?  
A - Sailed toward land  
B - Took down the sails  
C - Dropped anchor  
D - Threw their cargo overboard
  
- 6) How did the ship's crew find out that Jonah was the cause of the storm?  
A - They drew lots  
B - Jonah confessed  
C - They guessed  
D - They saw a vision
  
- 7) What was the crew's reaction when they heard that Jonah was fleeing from the living God?  
A - They mocked him  
B - They were angry  
C - They were scared  
D - They didn't care

# ST. STEPHEN'S MARTHA THOMA CHURCH



HOY AVE & HAMILTON STREET  
FORDS, NEW JERSEY 08863

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

# May

2008  
Volume IX  
No. 5

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

A copy of this bulletin is available online

# ACHEN'S MESSAGE!



Dearly beloved in Christ,

The month of May is of great importance in the Christendom. May 1st celebrates as the day of the Ascension of our Lord. The glory and power are always for the Lord. The first Sunday we are remembering the homeless people around the community. Our church has become a role model in the project and still working on the same. As a parish, we are looking forward to reach out the needy and homeless with the help of our youth and Sunday school workers. 11th Sunday, we are remembering the Day of Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the church. This is the 50th day after the resurrection of the Lord. The 3rd Sunday is the Trinity Sunday. On 25th we do celebrate the DSM&C day and we remind ourselves the importance of music and liturgy in the church worship. Let us thank God for the choir members and the immeasurable effort for the liveliness of our worship.

Mother's Day is again coming to our mind which helps us to remember the toil and labor they have suffered for our families. Mary the mother of Jesus, as a role model for everyone who wants to be a responsible mother. It wasn't what she didn't do which made her sinless and beautiful but what she did. It was the marvelous harmony of her nature which made her so sensitive, so caring, so other-oriented. The woman beside the cross of Calvary is an unforgettable model of love and fidelity. Let us admire & recognize the role of our mothers. They do deserve it.

May God help us all to glorify his name through our fellowship and work.

With love and prayers  
Toji Achen

## 'The Big Sissy!'

From Our Daily Bread — February 20, 2002



Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. --2 Corinthians 12:8

One night during a thunderstorm, a mother was tucking her young son into bed. She was about to turn the light off when he asked in a trembling voice, "Mommy, will you stay with me all night?" The mother gave him a warm, reassuring hug and said tenderly, "I can't, Dear. I have to sleep in Daddy's room." After a brief pause, the boy replied, "The big sissy!"

Let's look beyond the humor of that story for a moment and think about the child's reaction. His fearful plea was understandable. Yet his mother wanted him to learn to trust her even when she wasn't by his side. She loved him, but he misunderstood, for he couldn't see beyond his own fears.

That's the way we often respond to God. We ask for something specific, but He seems to say, "No, I won't do that." Rather than accepting it in faith, we misinterpret His ultimate intention—that we will learn to live through periods of darkness, trusting His Word and not some special sign. Like the apostle Paul, we must realize that we are secure in the promise of His provision, without demanding something more (2 Corinthians 12:9).

As we grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, we will learn that the best answer to some of our prayers is His gracious no. —DJD — Dennis J. De Haan

God does not always answer yes  
To every prayer I pray;  
Sometimes He answers, "No, My child,  
I have a better way." —Sherbert

When God says no to our request,  
we can be sure it's for the best.

## Birthdays in May!!

29	Sumy Philip Cherukara	w/o Philip Cherukara	732-381-3633
29	Molly Mariam Sajan	w/o Chacko Poovakunnel	908-964-0735
29	Geetha Varughese	w/o Georgie Varughese	732-355-0830
30	Ragy Thomas		732-632-8892
31	Arun Cherian	s/o Annie Cherian	732-393-9371
31	Dale Oommen	s/o Samuel Oommen	973-320-0412
31	Mathai M. Cherian		732-561-2181
31	Sherly Shaji	w/o Shaji Varghese	201-675-8068

## Wedding Anniversaries in May!!

7	Mr. & Mrs. Simon & Annamma Mathews	(908) 889-8179
9	Mr. & Mrs. Aleyamma manelal & Sam Jacob	(732) 549-8925
9	Mr. & Mrs. Arun & Priya Cherian	(908) 720-8543
15	Mr. & Mrs. Shafii & Jaisamma C. Varghese	(973) 337-5132
20	Mr. & Mrs. A. Abraham & Aleyamma Abraham	(732) 252-6226
20	Mr. & Mrs. Saju & Sosa Thomas	(609) 466-1474
21	Mr. & Mrs. Shaiju K. & Mini V. Cheriyan	(732) 593-8032
22	Drs. Nebu Alexander and Sunitha John	(973) 736-0604
23	Mrs. & Mr. Daniel & Sosamma Varghese	(973) 729-9863
28	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew & Saramma Pappachen	(973) 808-2077
28	Mr. & Mrs. K.C. Abraham & Estheramma Abraham	(732) 605-9888
28	Mr. & Mrs. Bobby & Anna Thomas	(732) 873-7580

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!



### General Body Decision:

Our general body held on 3/30/08 has unanimously decided to collect subscription pledges from each family. Please complete and return your 'Subscription Pledge Form' in the enclosed pre-paid envelop. The pledge form and the official letter are on its way to you.

The general body also decided, if the total pledged amount by our families does not match our total line item expense, then a monthly minimum of \$100 (\$1200 annual) for a family or \$50 (\$600 annual) for a single member family will be set.

### Family Retreat:

Our family retreat this year will be held at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, from July 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. Please register your family for the retreat. We are also reserving the seats for the show "In the Beginning".

### Vajana Ghoshanam:

We will have Vajana Ghoshanam — special meetings on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> in our church. Speaker — Dr. George Cherian (Missions India). Please attend this meeting with your family.

### Edavaka Mission:

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

### Special Prayer Meeting:

There will be a special prayer meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> at the residence of Mrs. & Mr. Joseph V. Joseph at 6:30pm. Please join this special prayer meeting with your family. Their Address is 2485 Bruen Lane, Forks, PA 18040. Phone: 610-438-1688.

Area Prayer Meeting:

Area # 4 will have their prayer meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> at the residence of Mrs. & Dr. Joemon Varughese at 6:00pm. All area 4 members are requested to join the meeting with your family. Their address is 9 Glover Road, Millstone, NJ 08850. Phone: 732-422-7128

All Prayer groups are encouraged to hold the area 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.

Building Project update:

The Somerset Township Board of Adjustments heard our variance hearing on **April 17<sup>th</sup>**. Due to time constraint, the Board only heard our engineering testimony. They would again take our application for hearing on **June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**. All members who love our church 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.

Thank you.

I would take this time to thank all of our members who came for the township hearing and waited **until 12:30 am**. I am expecting to see all of our members on June 5th hearing.

Refreshments:

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

Church Premise Cleaning:

Prayer group 1 members will be responsible for cleaning the Church premise after Sunday's church service for this month. Members please volunteer.

15	Alan S Cheriyan	s/o Shaiju K Cheriyan	732-593-8032
16	Jincy A Varughese	d/o Varughese Abraham	732-251-1728
16	Sheeja Saju Abraham	w/o Saju Abraham	732-605-9888
16	Pramod R. Mathew		732-605-0370
17	Andrew Pappachen		973-808-2077
17	Leena Sunoj Mathew	w/o Sunoj Mathew	732-8551719
18	Lizy Mathew Thomas	w/o Mathew M. Thomas	732-549-1437
19	Mini Varghese	w/o Jacob Varghese	732-257-0094
19	R.K. Mathew		732-605-0370
20	Annie Cherian		732-393-9371
20	Tina Varghese	d/o Jacob Varghese	732-257-0094
22	Susan Matthews	w/o John Matthews	732-356-6192
23	Ryan Thomas	s/o Davis C.Thomas	732-918-1171
23	Shaffi C. Varghese		973-337-5132
24	Susan John	w/o Sunny John	732-752-9250
25	Joseph P. Prasad		732-845-0703
25	Sherbin Abraham	s/o Abraham Varghese	732-283-2777
25	Susamma Samuel	w/o Samuel Oommen	973-320-0412
25	Valsamma Mathew	w/o Mathai Cherian	732-561-2181
26	Soji Thomas	s/o Abraham M. Thomas	908-241-0638
26	Joseph Philip		732-662-5813
26	Shibu Varghese (Bloomfield)		973-743-3374
27	Benoy Thomas		732-993-1120
27	Joseph John	s/o John Joseph	732-253-7020
28	Amal Abraham	s/o Byju Abraham	908-647-5362
28	Ria Grace Varughese	d/o Georgie Varughese	732-355-0830
28	Suman R. John	w/o Reji John	732-613-0623



# Birthdays in May!!

1	Michelle Simon	d/o Ashby Simon	732-943-2103
1	Mathew P. Keecheril		732-418-1548
1	Jaisamma S. Varghese	w/o Shaffi C. Varghese	973-337-5132
2	Subin V. Abraham	s/o Abraham Varghese	732-283-2777
5	Annamma S. Abraham	w/o Varughese Abraham	732-251-1728
5	Sohmie R. Steele	G.d/o Joseph N.John	732-752-5033
5	Shaji Varghese		201-675-8068
7	Anila A. Abraham	d/o Abraham Kurien	732-840-2350
7	Annie Thomas	w/o lype Thomas	570-620-0226
7	Aleyamma K. Kuruvilla		973-324-2205
8	Vincy Kurien	w/o Thomas Kurien	908-216-5933
10	Pramod R. Mathew		732-605-0370
11	Samuel Thomas		973-538-1192
11	Shibu Varghese (Edison)		732-494-4199
12	Toby Prasad	s/o Philip Prasad	732-967-9272
12	Thomas Mathen		616-604-6563
13	Ashih P Mathew	s/o Mathai Cherian	732-561-2181
13	Nidhin Johnson	s/o Mathew Johnson	732-432-6444
13	Thomas Kurien		908-216-5933
14	Philip Prasad		732-967-9272
14	Roshan Panicker	s/o Jacob Panicker	908-994-0428
14	Neelu Paul	w/o Ragy Thomas	732-632-8892
15	Annamma Shibu	w/o Shibu Varghese	732-494-4199
15	Ranni Thomas	w/o Sunil Thomas	732-750-5993
15	Saramma Pappachen	w/o Andrew Pappachen	973-808-2077

Date	Time	Celebrant	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Epistle	Gospel	Sunday School	Refreshment	
4 May	11 am	Rev. Abraham Cherian (English)	<b>Concern to the needy - Metropolitan's Fund:</b>						Mrs. & Mr. Simon Mathews
			2 Kings. 4:1-7	Jam. 1:19-27	2 Cor 8:1-10	St. Luke 3:1-14	No Sunday School		
11 May	11 am	Rev. Abraham Cherian (Malayalam)	<b>Pentecost Sunday - Worship in the Spirit</b>						Mrs. & Mr. Andrew Pappachan
			Joel 2:28-32	Acts 2:1-13	Eph 4:17-24	St. John. 16:7-15	After Offertory Diocesan exam		
18 May	11 am	Rev. Abraham Cherian (English)	<b>Trinity Sunday (1st Sunday after Pentecost)</b>						Sunday School Fair Outside BBQ
			Gen. 18:1-15	Eph. 2:11-22	1 John. 5:1-12	St. Mat 3:13-17	After Communion Last day		
25 May	11 am	Rev. Abraham Cherian (Malayalam)	<b>Sacred Music Sunday - Sing Praise to the Lord</b>						Mrs. & Mr. lype Thomas
			Exod 15:1-18	Rev 7:9-17	Col 3:12-17	St. Luke 1:46-55	No Sunday School		

# Events Calendar 2008

Date	Events	Time		Day
<b>May</b>				
5/11/2008	Mother's Day (Celebrating on 18th)			
5/11/2008	Diocesan Exams	12:00	AM	Sunday
5/15/2008	Bible Study - Dr. George Cherian	7:30	PM	Friday
5/16/2008	Bible Study - Dr. George Cherian	7:30	PM	Friday
5/17/2008	Bible Study - Dr. George Cherian	7:30	PM	Saturday
5/18/2008	Sunday School Fair & Mother's Day Celebration	1:30	PM	Sunday
<b>June</b>				
6/6/2008	Youth Retreat - EddyFarm Retreat Center			Friday
6/7/2008	Youth Retreat - EddyFarm Retreat Center			Saturday
6/8/2008	Youth Retreat - EddyFarm Retreat Center			Sunday
6/15/2008	Father's Day	11:00	AM	Sunday
6/26/2008	Vacation Bible School (VBS)	7:00	PM	Thursday
6/27/2008	Vacation Bible School (VBS)	7:00	PM	Friday
6/27/2008	Vacation Bible School (VBS)	10:00	AM	Saturday
6/29/2008	VBS Final & Graduation Appreciation day	11:00	AM	Sunday
<b>July</b>				
7/4/2008	Family Retreat. Lancaster PA.	9:00	AM	Friday
7/5/2008	Family Retreat. Lancaster PA.			Saturday
7/6/2008	Family Retreat. Lancaster PA.			Sunday
7/10/2008	Junior-Senior conference			Thursday
7/11/2008	Junior-Senior conference			Friday
7/12/2008	Junior-Senior conference			Saturday
7/13/2008	Junior-Senior conference			Sunday
7/24/2008	Diocesan Family Conference, Santa Clara, CA			Thursday
7/25/2008	Diocesan Family Conference, Santa Clara, CA			Friday
7/26/2008	Diocesan Family Conference, Santa Clara, CA			Saturday
7/27/2008	Diocesan Family Conference, Santa Clara, CA			Sunday

# Events Calendar 2008

Date	Events	Time		Day
<b>August</b>				
8/2/2008	Picnic - Echo Lake Recreation Center	9:00	AM	Saturday
<b>September</b>				
9/7/2008	New School Year (Children's) Dedication	11:00	AM	Sunday
9/13/2008	Volleyball Tournament - Duke Island Park.	9:00	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	Apple Picking	10:00	AM	Friday
	Convention day 2	7:30	PM	Saturday
9/28/2008	Convention day 3	11:00	AM	Sunday
<b>October</b>				
10/18/2008	Youth Shine Night	6:00	PM	Saturday
	Sunday School Regional Competition?			
	Sunday School Anniversary?			
<b>November</b>				
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
<b>December</b>				
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	Wednesday