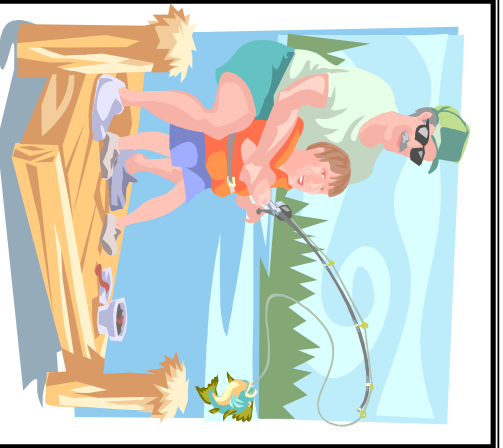


**If undeliverable please return to:**  
Dr. Joemon T Varughese  
9 Glover Rd.  
Milltown, NJ 08850

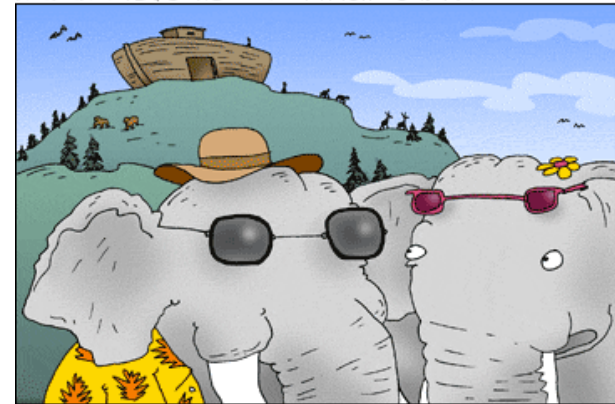


**Happy Father's Day!**

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2007

<b>Vicar &amp; President</b>	Rev. Abraham Cherian	(732) 602-9444 <i>revacherian@hotmail.com</i>
<b>Vice-President</b>	Dr. Samuel Thomas	(973) 538-1192
<b>Secretary</b>	Dr. Joemon T Varughese	(732) 422-7128 <i>jobi95@hotmail.com</i>
<b>Joint Secretary</b>	Jose Cherian	(908) 851-0603
<b>Treasurer</b>		
<b>Accountant</b>	Thomas Oommen	(732) 906-8830
<b>Lay Leaders</b>	John Varughese	(973) 808-1799
	Sunil Kurien	(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	(908) 470-1343
	Philip Prasad	(732) 967-9272

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Thanks to Pam Winn (See Genesis 6-8)

05-07-2007

YES DEAR, IT WAS A FINE CRUISE, BUT I'M NOT KEEN ON DOING IT AGAIN

## Our Father's Love

From ODB, November 12, 2005

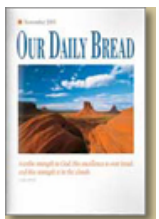
A young Christian dad took his parenting role seriously. When his son was an infant, he protected him. As the boy grew, his dad played ball with him, encouraged him, and tried to teach him about God and life. But in his teen years, the boy went too far and too fast in his move toward independence.

Like the prodigal son in Luke 15, he rejected his father's values. He made foolish decisions and got into trouble. The father was deeply disappointed, but he never gave up on him. "No matter what he's done," he said, "he's still my son. I'll never stop loving him. He'll always be welcome in my house." The joyful day finally came when father and son were reunited.

The people in Hosea's day followed a similar pattern. Although God had rescued them from Egypt and nourished them, they turned their backs on Him. They insulted His name by worshiping the gods of the Canaanites. But still God loved them and longed for their return (Hosea 11:8).

Do you fear that you may have strayed too far from God to be restored? He who saved and cares for you longs for your return. His arms are open in forgiveness and acceptance. He will never drive you away.

**How glad we can be for our Father's love!**  
—David C. Egner





# 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!!*

## IN THE BEGINNING...

- 1) The land which Abraham was born in.  
A - Egypt, B - Ur, C - Oz, D - Israel
- 2) The son born to Sarah when she was old.  
A - Ishmael, B - Jacob, C - Haggai, D - Isaac
- 3) Twins born to Rebekah  
A - Esau and Jacob, B - Cain and Abel, C - James and John, D - Methuselah and Enoch
- 4) This son of Isaac was red and hairy.  
A - Esau, B - Jacob, C - Ishmael, D - Joseph
- 5) Jacob's wives had the same father, what was his name?  
A - Jedidiah, B - Abraham, C - Laban, D - Lamech
- 6) This son of Isaac held the heel of his brother (at birth).  
A - Gad, B - Esau, C - Naphtali, D - Jacob
- 7) The oldest of Jacob's wives.  
A - Rachel, B - Zilpah, C - Jezebel, D - Leah
- 8) Jacob was renamed by God to this name.  
A - Jake, B - Israel, C - Oholiab, D - Jordan
- 9) The name of the mount on which Isaac was to be sacrificed.  
A - Moriah, B - Sinai, C - Nebo, D - Gerizim
- 10) Abraham gave this priest 10% of what he owned.  
A - Ahaziah, B - Ezekiel, C - Melchizedek, D - Zacheriah

# 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

## June

**2007  
Volume VIII  
No.6**

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

A copy of this bulletin is available online

# ACHEN'S MESSAGE!



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

You all know we reached here on 3<sup>rd</sup> May '07. Let me thank all of you for your prayerful support and presence at the time of our arrival. I also take this opportunity to thank Paul Achen and family for their meritorious service rendered to the parish in the last three years. May Almighty God enable them to continue in the ministry of the Lord.

Our family retreat was held on 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> of May at Black Rock Retreat Center, Lancaster, Pa. It became a grand success by the grace of God and prayerful support of our office bearers and families. We had a pleasant time there in which we are equipped physically, mentally, and spiritually. May God help us to "Rejoice in the Lord Always".

The first weekend of June, we will have the youth retreat at Hewitt, NJ. The youth of our church is really a blessed group with many talents. Let us uphold them in our prayers, so that they may be a blessing to us and others.

As a church we will be studying of the theme "The work of the Holy Spirit" for the month of June. Our worship, life and witness should be according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit sanctify us and guide us in all our efforts as a parish.

We as a family, beseech your prayerful support for all the activities of the parish in the coming years. "Lord in your grace, transform us."

With Love and Prayer

Toji Achen

## Wedding Anniversaries in June!!

5	Mrs. & Mr. Joseph V. Joseph	(610) 438-1688
6	Mrs. & Mr. Sunny John	(732) 845-9250
13	Mrs. & Mr. Abraham Varghese	(732) 283-2777
17	Mrs. & Mr. Sunil M. Thomas	(732) 750-5993
25	Mrs. & Mr. Manoj Mathew	(732) 855-1719
29	Mrs. & Mr. Mathew M. Thomas	(732) 549-1437

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### *It is well* (Continued.....)

Pointing to the chart, the captain told him that they were just passing the spot where the Ville de Havre had gone down. As Horatio walked the deck in his sorrow, his faith was all that sustained him. But he was overtaken by a feeling of peacefulness as he realized that he would see his daughters again in heaven. As he watched the waves rolling on the ocean he recalled the words of Isaiah 66:12, "For thus says the Lord, I will extend peace to her like a river..." and penned the words that have come down to us as one of our most enduring hymns:

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows, like sea-billows, roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, *Chorus*  
It is well, it is well with my soul!  
It is well with my soul,  
It is well, it is well with my soul!

After their return to Chicago and the birth of two more daughters, the events of the preceding years led Anna and Horatio to reexamine the course of their lives. They decided to move their family to Jerusalem to get closer to Jesus, and along with several other families who accompanied them from Chicago, they moved into a house in the Old Quarter, between Herod's Gate and the Damascus Gate, and dedicated themselves to a life of helping the poor of Jerusalem. This settlement became known as "the American Colony" and grew over the years. Several excellent books chronicle the growth and faith of the Colony, including "Our Jerusalem" by their daughter Bertha, and the Nobel Prize-winning historical novel "Jerusalem" by Swedish author Selma Lagerlof, which chronicled the lives of a group of her countrymen that joined the Spaffords and the American Colony to do the Lord's work. Even today the original house in the Old Quarter of Jerusalem is the Spafford Children's Center, still caring for the poor of Jerusalem, and run by Anna Lind, a direct descendant of Horatio and Anna Spafford.

# Birthdays in June!!

1	Georgie Varughese		(732) 355-0830
2	James Varghese		(732) 568-1695
3	Sanjini John	w/o Earlin George	(732) 494-5088
6	Rajiv John	s/o Joseph N. John	(732) 752-5033
7	Mariam Thomas	w/o C. Thomas	(908) 925-9476
7	Sisily Jacob	w/o Mohan G. Jacob	(973) 992-0138
9	Noel Varughese	s/o Sunil Varughese	(609) 275-9334
11	Thomas Abraham		(718) 967-7178
13	Neha John	G.d/o Joseph N. John	(732) 752-5033
17	Maegan thomas	d/o Robie Thomas	(732) 707-0984
20	Leelamma Philipose	m/o Joseph Philip	(732) 662-5813
21	Thomas Mathew		(973) 285-4373
21	Riya Varkey	d/o Thomas Varkey	(908) 301-0084
22	Celine Varghese	w/o George Varghese	(570) 476-6055
22	Shirley M. Thomas	w/o Philip M. Thomas	(732) 382-0033
22	Namita Thomas	d/o Regi Thomas	(732) 568-1754
23	Annamma Mathews	w/o Simon Mathews	(908) 889-8179
26	Benjamin Abraham		(732) 617-2005
28	Tony M. Cherukara		(908) 397-2621
29	Mathew J. Thomas	s/o Jos Thomas	(732) 356-8975
29	Betsy Mathew	d/o Mathew M. Thomas	(732) 549-1437
30	Jacks George	s/o George Edukala	(732) 389-8482
30	Nancy Joseph	w/o Joseph Philip	(732) 662-5813

# ANNOUNCEMENTS!



## **PRAYER MEETINGS:**

Edavaka Mission Prayer meetings will be conducted on 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Please contact Edavaka Mission Secretary Sam Jacob for further details 732-549-8925.

Sevika Sanghom Prayer Meetings will be conducted at members homes during the week days. Please contact Sevika Sanghom Secretary Annamma John for further details 732-752-5033.

Youth Fellowship meetings will be conducted on 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. Please contact the Youth Fellowship Secretary Joshua John for further details 732-845-9250.

Please contact Achen, Church Secretary or your Prayer Group Rep. if you would like to conduct Prayer Meeting at your home.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Mar Thoma Junior/Senior Conference will be held at Ramapo College, Mahwah, New Jersey from July 26-29, 2007. The theme is "Young and Respected" (1 Timothy 4:12). The leaders for this conference are Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Corilos, Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos and Mr. Rajan Mathews

The teachers will be sending a short survey home with the students. Your input will help identify how the Sunday School is performing in key areas, as well as help prioritize areas where the Sunday School can be improved. I encourage you to complete the survey and return it to the Superintendent at your earliest possible convenience.

## **FAMILY CONFERENCE**

The 25th Mar Thoma Family Conference of the Diocese of North America and Europe will be held on July 5-8, 2007 at Hilton Suites, Toronto, Canada and is hosted by The Canadian Mar Thoma Church Toronto. The theme of the conference is "Ministers of Reconciliation". For details visit: [www.marthomaconference2007.ca](http://www.marthomaconference2007.ca)

## **GRADUATES**

Please give your name and detailed information to Church Secretary by June 30th 2007.

# Hymn Review

*It is well, with my soul...*

This is a tale of a Chicago businessman named Horatio Spafford. Horatio had a successful law practice, had invested wisely in downtown Chicago real estate, and was a prominent church leader. He was a friend of Dwight Moody (founder of Moody Bible Institute), and a man who truly lived his faith. But in 1870, things started to go wrong. The Spaffords' only son was killed by scarlet fever at the age of four. A year later, it was fire rather than fever that struck. Horatio had invested heavily in real estate on the shores of Lake Michigan. In 1871, every one of these holdings was wiped out by the great Chicago Fire. Despite the loss of great deal of his own investments and the recent death of their son, Spafford and his Norwegian-born wife, Anna, dedicated themselves to helping those who had been impoverished by the devastation of their city. After years of laboring in the Lord's vineyards, they were exhausted and decided to join Moody and Ira Sankey in one of their campaigns in Great Britain and to take a well-earned vacation in Europe.

The Spaffords and their four daughters booked passage on the steamship Ville de Havre sailing from New York. Spafford was delayed in Chicago by business, but told his wife and daughters to go ahead and planned to join them later. For some reason that he was unable to explain, at the last moment he changed their stateroom from amidships to near the bow of the vessel.

On November 2nd 1873, the 'Ville de Havre' had collided with 'The Lochearn', an English vessel that collided with their amidships. It sank in only 12 minutes, claiming the lives of 226 people. Had they been on the amidships, they would have all died. Anna Spafford had stood bravely on the deck, with her daughters Annie, Maggie, Bessie and Tanetta clinging desperately to her. Her last memory had been of her daughters being torn violently from her arms by the force of the waters. Anna was only saved from the fate of her daughters by a plank which floated beneath her unconscious body and propped her up. When the survivors of the wreck had been rescued, Mrs. Spafford's first reaction was one of complete despair. Then she heard a voice speak to her, "You were spared for a purpose." And she immediately recalled the words of a friend, "It's easy to be grateful and good when you have so much, but take care that you are not a fair-weather friend to God."

Back in Chicago, Spafford received a heart-rending telegram of only two words: "Saved Alone". He immediately sailed for Europe. As he was enroute, the captain of the ship he was sailing on called him to the bridge.

*Continued...*

Date	Time	Celebrant	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Epistle	Gospel	Sunday School
<b>EVERY SUNDAY HOLY QURBANA AT 10:45 AM</b>							
<b>Holy Spirit who empowers to witness (1st Sunday after Pentecost) Clergy Medical Aid</b>							
<b>3-Jun</b>	10:45 AM	Public Worship (Malayalam)	Joel 2: 18-32	Acts 1:1-11	Galatians 5: 16-24	Matthew 28:16-20	No Sunday School
<b>Trinity Sunday (2nd Sunday after Pentecost)</b>							
<b>10-Jun</b>	10:45 AM	Rev. Abraham Cherian (Malayalam)	Genesis 18: 1-15	Ephesians 2: 11-22	1 John 5: 1-12	Matthew 3: 13-17	After Offertory
<b>Life in the Spirit (3rd Sunday after Pentecost) HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!</b>							
<b>17-Jun</b>	10:45 AM	Rev. Abraham Cherian (English)	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Romans 8: 1-17	Romans 13: 8-14	John 14: 15-27	Last Class
<b>Witnessing through Suffering (4th Sunday after Pentecost)</b>							
<b>24-Jun</b>	10:45 AM	Rev. Abraham Cherian (Malayalam)	Malachi 3:1-6	2 Cornith 5:11-15	1 Peter 2:19-25	Mark 6: 14-29	No Sunday School