

# Hermon Marthoma Church

## MIDLANDS

January 2009

Volume 2, Issue 9

[www.marthomamidlands.co.uk](http://www.marthomamidlands.co.uk)



### Next Service:

10 Jan 09 -Holy Communion

24 Jan 09 -Holy Communion

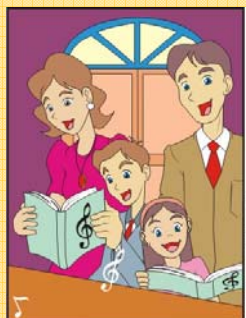
From 4 – 6pm

At

St. James Hill Church  
Mere Green Road  
Four Oaks, West Midlands  
B75 5DD

### Highlights

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## From Achen's desk

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.- **2 Corinthians 5:17**

### A New Year's Poem for Christians

Instead of making a New Year's resolution  
Consider committing to a biblical solution  
Your promises are easily broken  
Empty words, though earnestly spoken  
But God's Word transforms the soul  
By His Holy Spirit making you whole  
As you spend time alone with Him  
He will change you from within  
-- Mary Fairchild<sup>1</sup>

The start of the New Year is a time for reflection and a time of great expectations. We reflect on the previous year about the things that we enjoyed and we make resolutions to change the things that displease us. We have great expectations that the New Year will be different, because we think that we can change things to make it better. We hope that by changing external things we will be happy.

But the Bible teaches us that it is God who plans and directs us. It is God who has the power to change us from within, so that we can change our environment for the better. It is trust and faith in God that will give us true happiness and peace that no one can take away.

We often pray that there will be no problems or difficulties in our lives. But it is through problems and difficulties that we truly realize the power of God and our own inadequacies. It is through problems that we grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Remember even though Jesus the Christ was the 'Only Begotten Son of God', he suffered so much on this world. Even though he only did what was good and right, he still suffered greatly. He even told his disciples that '...Servants are not



greater than their master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you,...'( John 15:20.) If we are true servants of Jesus, then we will suffer in this world. A person once said, 'Jesus did not come to make your life easy. He came to make your life great.' Being a servant of Jesus is not easy, but it is a great privilege and responsibility.

This near year, let us rededicate ourselves to the Lord. Let us spend time meditating on His Word, and let us worship Him through loving, serving, and forgiving all those around us. My wish is not that you have a Happy New Year, but that you have a Great Christian Year.

May you have enough happiness to keep you happy.

Enough trials to keep you strong.

Enough sorrow to keep you human.

Enough hope to keep you thoughtful.

Enough failure to keep you humble.

Enough success to keep you eager.

Enough friends to give you comfort.

Enough faith and courage in yourself to banish depression.

Enough wealth to meet your daily needs.

Enough determination to make each day a better day than yesterday.

Yours in His Service,  
**Rev. Shibi Abraham**

**Hermon Marthoma Church-  
Office bearers for the Year  
2008-2009**

**Vice President:** Dr. Jacob Samuel  
**Trustee :** Dr Simon Idiculla  
**Trustee (Accounts):** Sam Thomas  
**Secretary:** Thomas K Mathew  
**Lay Leaders:** Thomas Koshy & Sanu Varghese  
**Editor:** Elizabeth Thomas  
**Diocese Member :** Dr Sunny Thomas  
**Auditors:** Varghese Philip & Dr. Mathew Patteril

Organisation Representatives:

**Choir:** Jinu Varghese  
**Sevika Sangham:** Marykutty Thomas  
**Sunday School:** Susan Abraham

Area Representatives:

**Leicester:** Shaji Thomas  
**Coventry-** Sherry Mathews V  
**Walsall-** Thomas Oonnooni

**Birmingham-** Mathew Samuel  
**Burton upon-Trent & Derby,**  
**Wolverhampton-** Dr Susy Jacob  
**Solihull:** Dr Reji John  
**Stafford:** Anil K Mathew.

**Notice of Edavaka Sangam  
meeting**

An Edavaka Sangham of Hermon Marthoma Church –Birmingham will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in the Church Hall, presided over by our Vicar Rev. Shibi Abraham. The Agenda of the meeting is:

❖To elect the following Office bearers:

- a) Vice President
- b) Trustee
- c) Trustee (Accounts)
- d) Secretary
- e) lay leaders- 2 (maximum)
- f) Auditors-2 (maximum)

❖To approve the list of Area prayer group representatives and representatives of other organisations of the church for the year 2009-2010. If the list of members is not provided, then these members (Kaisthana Samithi) will be elected from the floor on the meeting day.

❖To fix the date of the Annual General Body meeting of the church to be held in May 2009.

❖Any other Business

For and on behalf of the Managing Committee

**The Hon Secretary**

\*\*\*\*\*

**A message – from our Secretary, Thomas Mathew**

"Our Church conducted the Caroling round by visiting members, singing Christmas Songs along with Santa Claus. Everybody enjoyed the same. Unfortunately we could not cover all the house visits as things did not go according to the plan, due to the geographical position of our member houses. This was our first experience. If God Willing, I assure you all that the same will be rectified next year and we will see that no house is left unturned. Kindly accept our apologies for our inability to visit all the members. We raised approximately £3500/-. Thank you one and all for your kind donation which is greatly appreciated.

We also conducted the Carol service at our church on 13th December. Rev. Shibi Abraham presided over the function. Rev. Varghese John of Birmingham Orthodox Church gave a thought provoking Christmas message. Rev Bill Moore and Grace also attended the carol programme. Our since thanks to all those who supported our cause."



## Bible Study

1. Who else struggled with reading and understanding the Book of Isaiah? (Acts 8:26-34)

ANSWER: The Eunuch, the Treasurer of Ethiopia.

2. What happened that allowed him to understand the book?

ANSWER: God sent Philip to explain it to him.

3. What did he ask in Acts 8:31?

ANSWER: "How can I understand it unless someone explains it to me?"

First, the Bible is difficult to understand. Second, even well-educated people like the Treasurer of Ethiopia could not understand it. Third, our understanding comes from God. And, finally, when God calls us to go with little or no explanation as to why, we should faithfully follow His command, so that He can use us to help others in their understanding

4. What does God Himself tell us about His Word in Isaiah 55:11?

ANSWER: That His word does return to Him empty, but accomplishes the purpose He intended.

5. Considering Romans 10:17, from what does faith come?

ANSWER: By hearing the Word of God.

6. God again shows us something important in Proverbs 2:1-6. What do we need to do, according to this passage, is to seek Him like we were looking for silver, or hidden treasure; and where does our understanding come from if we do?

ANSWER: From the Lord: "for the Lord gives wisdom".

Today, we're surrounded by almost limitless resources to assist in our study -- whether you use the internet, or books, spread all over your study area when you study, we have no lack of information. However, none of these will impart wisdom and understanding -- that will only come from God if we earnestly seek Him.

7. What did Jesus tell us to do in Matthew 7:7?

ANSWER: We are to Ask, Seek, and Knock.

## The Purpose of Christmas

Just one week before Christmas  
Once prayers had been heard,  
The people were scurrying  
To get out God's Word.

The hymns were being sung  
To Holy God above,  
In thanks for Him sending,  
Jesus Christ and His love.

Christmas brings remembrance  
Of family and friends,  
And the importance of our sharing  
A love without end.

Our blessings are too numerous,  
Our hearts filled with joy,  
Yet our eyes have often drifted  
Away from our Lord!

The Christmas season brings forth  
The best in most souls,  
To help those less fortunate  
And lighten their load.

Salvation was offered  
For all to receive,  
If only each person  
Would listen, heed and believe.

So if you don't know Him  
Down deep in your heart,  
Ask Him to save you now  
You'll be changed on the spot.

A poem by Anon

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Thanks to Anthony Moore

09-12-2006

IN AN EFFORT TO REACH THE MORE  
"TECHNOLOGICALLY INCLINED" WE WILL  
BE TEXT-MESSAGING SERMON NOTES



### **Useful contacts**

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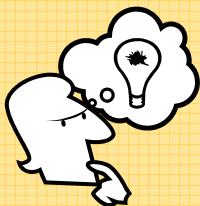
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## **Special Greetings this month**

### **Birthday greetings to**

Akshay John, Shyji Joseph, Anthea Susy Abraham, Thomas K Thomas, and Marykutty Thomas

### **Congratulations on the Wedding Anniversaries of**

Alex Kochora Joy & Neetha Alex, Shiju J Mathew & Annu Mathew, Thomaskutty Oonnoony & Shyni Thomas, Sabu George & Ancy Sabu

## **Sunday school**

At 3:30pm every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at the Church.



## **Other announcements**

### **Forthcoming Events:**

**Edavaka Sangam meeting** : **14<sup>th</sup> Feb 09**  
**Diocesan Metropolitan's Visit** : **To be advised**

Watch out for additional services during the Easter period.

**Good Friday** : **10<sup>th</sup> April 09**  
**Easter** : **12<sup>th</sup> April 09**

A church is a sacred place, set apart from all unhallowed and secular uses, for the worship of God. As worship is prayer, the house of God is a place set apart for worship. It is no common place; it is where God dwells, where He meets with His people.

Prayer is always in place in the house of God. When prayer is a stranger there, then it ceases to be God's house at all. Our Lord put peculiar emphasis upon what the Church was when He cast out the buyers and sellers in the Temple, repeating the words from Isaiah, "It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer." He makes prayer pre-eminent, that which stands out above all else in the house of God.

### **DINNER BELL**

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

- LUKE 14:17 NIV

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