

Hermon Marthoma Church

MIDLANDS

May 2008

www.marthomamidlands.co.uk

Volume 2, Issue 1



Next Service:

10 May 08 (Holy Communion)
4pm to 6pm followed by
General Body & election of
office bearers for 2008/09

24 May 08 (Holy Communion)
4pm to 6pm

At

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

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Reminder to all

Please confirm your memberships with Achen.

From Achen's desk

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In the month of May we celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost was originally an Old Testament festival, beginning on the fiftieth day after the beginning of Passover. It was originally an agricultural festival celebrating the "first fruits" of the early spring harvest (Lev. 23, Exodus. 23, 34). Soon it became associated with the celebration of God's creation of His people and their religious history. Pentecost is considered by the Jewish people as the day God gave His gracious gift of the Torah (the "Law") on Mount Sinai. The Jews consider the Torah as God's instruction to His people, the means by which they become His witness to the world.

Christians celebrate Pentecost (the word "Pentecost" means "fiftieth day") as the day the Holy Spirit was given to dwell with the early disciples in Acts 2. Luke associated the events of Acts 2 with Pentecost, and relates it to the prophecies of Joel 2 and promises of Jesus (Acts 1:8). In both passages, the emphasis is on an empowerment through the Holy Spirit to enable the people of God to witness to Jesus the Christ.



For both Jews and Christians, Pentecost represents God's gracious and enabling presence actively at work among His people. It is a day to celebrate God calling and enabling us to live in dynamic ways as His people.

For Christians, Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate hope, a hope evoked by the knowledge that God through His Holy Spirit is at work among His people. It is a celebration of newness, of recreation, of renewal of purpose, mission, and calling as God's people. It is a celebration of God's ongoing work in the world. Yet, it is also a recognition that His work is done through His people as He pours out His presence upon them.

May the Holy Spirit come upon all of us as it came upon the early Christians, to enable us to be dynamic witnesses of God in the world.
Yours in Christ's Service,

Rev Shibi Abraham

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Verses for the month of May



"The Bible has been hid away"

Date	Title	Verses
01/05/2008	Ascension of our Lord: Power and Glory to Christ - -May Day	Dan 7:9-14 Acts 1:1-17 Eph 4:1-10 St.:Luke 24:44-53
04/05/2008	Concern to the needy - Metropolitan's Fund-Home for the homeless	2 Kings. 4:1-7 Jam. 1:19-27 2 Cor 8:1-10 St.Luke 3:1-14 Ps. 43 St.Mat 25:31-46
11/05/2008	Pentecost Sunday - Worship in the Spirit	Joel 2:28-32 Acts 2:1-13 Eph 4:17-24 St.John. 16:7- 15 Ps 42 St.John 16:7-17
18/05/2008	Trinity Sunday	Gen. 18:1-15 Eph. 2:11-22 1 John. 5:1-12 St.Mat 3:13- 17 2 Cor. 13:1-14 St.Mat 28:18-20
25/05/2008	Sacred Music Sunday - Sing Praise to the Lord	Exod 15:1-18 Rev 7:9-17 Col 3:12-17 St.Luke 1:46-55 Ps 115 Rev 5:1-14

"What is Trinity Sunday?"

Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost to honor the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Trinity, although the word does not appear in Scripture, is taught in Matthew 28:18-20 and 2 Corinthians 13:14 (and many of Biblical passages). It can never be understood or rationalized, but can only be accepted by faith. Faith comes through the work of the Holy Spirit and therefore it is appropriate that this mystery is celebrated the first Sunday after the Pentecost where the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit first occurred.

The Christian Church ponders with joy and thanksgiving what the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have done to accomplish the salvation of sinful humanity. It is brought to remembrance how Christians should respond to the love God has shown us, praising Him and giving Him glory. We remember the Father as our Creator, the Son as our Savior and the Holy Spirit as our comforter. Scriptural readings for the Trinity Sunday ceremony may include Psalm 8, beginning and ending with, "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name is all the earth." 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 appealing to believers to aim for perfection, live in peace ending with the prayer that the grace of Christ Jesus, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all. Including again the commission Jesus left for believers in Matthew 28:16-20.

The Trinity, three persons in one God, is the basic mystery of our faith far beyond human understanding. Today, Trinity Sunday is to explain, to the best of man's ability, the clues written in Scripture for us to guide us to a fuller understanding. The Father is God from the beginning (John 1:1); Jesus revealed Himself as equal to the Father in John 10:30, "I and the Father are one." Together they sent the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). "For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one" (1 John 5:7-11).

"For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear." - 2 Timothy 4:3

Obedience: No Small Thing

"But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great." (Luke 6:49)

Do you ever have seasons in your life when it seems like every time you go to church and every time you spend time in prayer and every time you open the Bible, you receive a revelation from God? I do. Spiritually, everything will be going great. I'll be higher than a Georgia pine. Then, suddenly, something starts to happen. I start drying up in spiritual things.

It seems like it doesn't make any difference what I pray or how much I read the Word, I can't get anywhere spiritually. I'm so dry my spirit's creaking!

That used to baffle me. I didn't know what the cause was. I didn't have any sin in my life. I'd taken care of that. I was still praying, still meditating, still acting on and confessing the Word. But instead of getting results, I was getting nowhere. I'd stand in front of my mirror and confess faith over and over again and the only thing that happened was that my voice got tired!

If that's ever happened to you, may I make a suggestion? Backtrack and find the last thing God told you to do that you didn't do-- and do it!

It's probably nothing big, just a seemingly small thing. But, believe me, those minor disobediences will dry up the flow of the Spirit just like the major ones will.

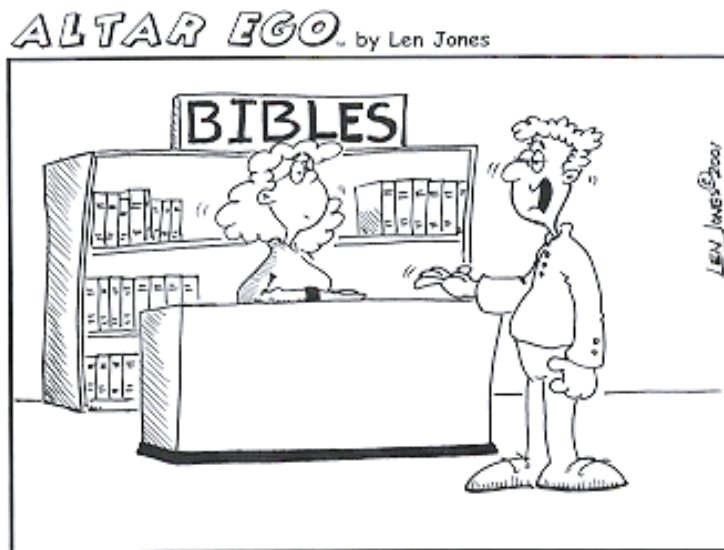
Most of us don't realize that. We'll get on our knees and say, "Oh Lord, I want to go to China for You. I'll go to Africa. I'll go to Russia." But when God says, "Go next door," we just shrug it off.

"I can't do that," we'll say. "That guy next door doesn't like me. Besides, I want to be like Brother Schambach and get a big tent."

Pick up where you left off and do what God directed. And from now on, remember, no matter how insignificant God's instructions may seem obeying them is no small thing!

It's those simple acts of obedience that will make your spiritual house stand. All the small things combined become the direction of our lives.

Scripture Study: Luke 16:1-10



"What I really need is a translation that won't leave me feeling guilty, convicted, or in need of making some kind of decision."



Special Greetings this month

Birthday greetings to

Ancy George, Kevin Mathew, Ciju Thomas, Viji George, Anvy Mary Thomas, Mathew Varghese (Manu), San P Thomas, Sabu George, Thomaskutty Oonnooney, Jessy Mathew, Mathew V Patteril, Shiju J Mathew, Alex Kochora Joy, Neetha Alex

Congratulations on the Wedding Anniversaries of

Shibu Thannimootil George & Annie Alex, Shaji Thomas & Anu Shaji, Raji Simon & Gowry Simon, Mathew P Daniel & Lijo Jose

Useful contacts

Rev: Shibi Abraham:
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Sunday school
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Sunday school

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



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Thanks to Alex Arguelles

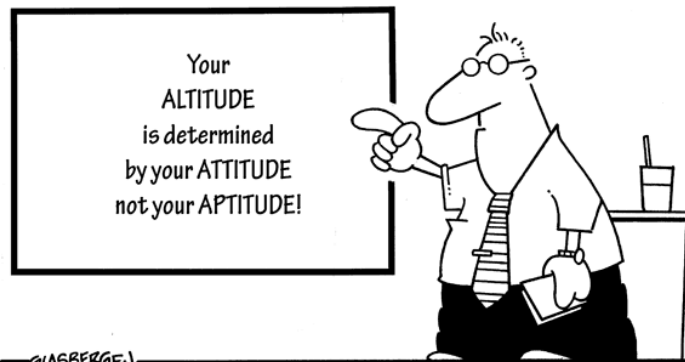
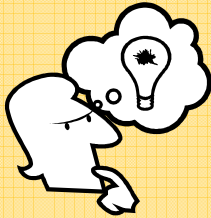
01-14-2008

"I'VE FINISHED SURVEYING THE WONDROUS CROSS", THOUGHT WILEY ... "NOW WHERE THE HECK DO I SEND THE INVOICE?"

Other announcements

Office Bearers for 2008/09

Hermon Marthoma Church has completed its one year of existence. It is time for a change. New faces mean new ideas. There are only 21 official members and it is hoped that 2008/09 will help to double the membership. Please do assist by giving your time to be an office bearer, participate in the service, contribute generously and help in strengthening the Church.



No one will ever forget that fateful day when the motivation coach spoke to the young student pilots.