



# THE OTTAWA MAR THOMA CHURCH

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2012

### **INTRODUCTION:**

As a parish we had the great fortune to have had another peaceful year, against a global backdrop of natural disasters, political unrest and economic uncertainty. Let us praise God for the peace and tranquility that we enjoyed this year and for His continued guidance to worship and carry out our humble tasks in this quiet city.

### **WORSHIP SERVICES AND PRAYER MEETINGS:**

During the reporting year there were six Holy Communion services on the second Sunday of alternate months. Rev. Varghese K. Abraham conducted all the services at the St. Mark Anglican Church. Three family prayer meetings were also conducted on Saturdays during Achen's visit. There were no episcopal visits or pulpit exchanges this year. We express our deep gratitude to Achen and family for their service to this Parish.

Congregation would like to thank our lay-leaders Mr. John Kompithra & Mr. Anil Varghese for their support in the worship services & our refreshment coordinators Mrs. Suzy John & Mrs. Leela Varki for organizing the after service receptions. Our thanks to St. Mark's Anglican Church for allowing us to use their Sanctuary and other facilities for conducting worship services and other programs throughout the year.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

This year, the General body held on Feb 12, 2012 recognized that as a Parish we are required to maintain an Official Church registry in order to issue official documents such as Baptism certificates, Marriage certificates etc., to members. Therefore, the Executive committee was directed to work with a special sub-committee consisting of Mr. Mathew Thomas, Mr. George John & Dr. John Zachariah, to create a Church Registry. Using information that was available at the time, a baseline list of members, past and present, was established. The committee reviewed the list, corrections were made and all members in the updated list were informed by email about the intent to establish the Church registry. Members were reminded to update their current information and were also reminded to confirm their membership status. As per Achen's direction, Secretary later contacted individuals by phone to update their information. The extended committee then reviewed the updates and a final version of the Church Registry was approved.

The updated registry now lists 25 families which include members who are in town as well as those who have moved out of town and those who have deceased. This registry will remain in the possession of the Vicar from now on and the Vicar will be responsible for making any further changes to the information.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING:**

Annual General Body meeting was held on February 12, 2012, at St. Mark's Anglican Church. Rev. Varghese K. Abraham presided over the meeting. Secretary Mr. Reji Alex presented the Annual Report. Treasurer Mrs. Sobha Koshy presented the annual accounts for the year 2011 and the budget for the year 2012. Report and accounts were unanimously approved.

A General body meeting held on October 14, 2012 elected the following members as the office bearers for the year 2013, with unanimous approval.

❖ Vice-President	: Mrs. Aleyamma Samuel
❖ Secretary	: Mr. Reji Alex
❖ Treasurer	: Ms. Susan Thomas
❖ Accountant	: Mrs. Susha Zachariah
❖ Lay-leader(s)	: Mr. Anil Varghese, Mr. John Kompithra
❖ Auditors	: Dr. John Samuel, Mr. K. Varghese

Mrs. Suzy John and Mrs. Leela Varki agreed to continue as the Refreshment coordinators.

Dr. John Zachariah will continue as the Diocesan Assembly member. Congregation would like to extend their sincere thanks to all those who serve the Church in various positions, for their continued commitment and service.

### **ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROL PROGRAM:**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ecumenical Christmas program was held on Sunday December 09, 2012, at St. Mark's Anglican Church. As usual, members of the St. Thomas Orthodox Church and the Ottawa Malayali Catholic Community provided tremendous support. Their participation in both program content and in the logistical details made the event a huge success. Our sincere thanks to, Mr. Shaiju Cheruvathur, Mr. Anto John, Mr. George Kallumkal & Mr. Beenu Rajan for all their help in organizing the event.

The Carol program and the Christmas dinner that followed was attended by close to 200 people. Special thanks to Mrs. Aleyamma Samuel and refreshment coordinators for cost-effectively coordinating the sumptuous Christmas dinner this year. Congregation also wishes to acknowledge the support of the Executive committee members and the many committed volunteers who made valuable contributions to make the event a success.

A web based registration process was introduced this year for dinner registration. The online registration in combination with our established method of the Special offertory during the Carol program proved to be an effective method to collect the individual contributions for the dinner expenses. After all our expenses, a small balance that was collected over and above the dinner expense was donated to a local charity, Shepherds of Good Hope, to close that account.

**FINANCE:**

With an opening balance of \$7,354.52 and total revenue of \$13,989.99, we closed the accounts of the reporting year with a balance of \$8,401.99 carried over to 2013.

**DONATIONS:**

This year approximately 24% of the total revenue was distributed as charitable donations. Agencies that received our assistance include Carmel Mandiram, Ayroor, Bethel MarThoma Church, Mundakayam and a medial assistance fund to Rev. Biju J. Abraham, Jerusalem MarThoma Church. We extend our sincere gratitude to all those who made contributions to facilitate these supports.

**CONCLUSION:**

As we leave behind 2012 and enter in to the New Year, let us pause for a moment to remember the 20 innocent children and other victims who were perished in the hands of an evil force at SandyHook Elementary school, Newtown, CT. As we live through such tragic news, let us find solace in the scripture that says *“Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Do not worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.”(Psalm 37:7)*

Let’s pray that the New Year brings us more serene news, nourish us to continue our life in tranquility and help us to fulfill our humble role as a community of worshippers who were “Lighted to Lighten”, in this quiet city.

Mr. Reji Alex

Secretary.

Feb 10, 2013