



THE OTTAWA MAR THOMA CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2013

INTRODUCTION:

Another eventful year filled with joy and sorrows around the world and amongst us had passed us. Let us be thankful to God Almighty for keeping us in good health and good spirits throughout the year, even in the midst of personal difficulties and ailments that some of our church members have faced this year.

WORSHIP SERVICES AND PRAYER MEETINGS:

During the reporting year there were six Holy Communion services generally held on the second Sunday of alternate months. At this time we extend our sincere thanks to Rev. C.M Varghese (Ret'd) for officiating the Holy Qurbana and delivering an inspiring sermon during the service held on April 14, 2013. During his visit, Achen also conducted the baptism of his grandchild Adarsh Varghese and attended the prayer meeting at John & Susha Zachariah's residence. There were three family prayer meetings this year. There were no episcopal visits or pulpit exchanges.

We express our deepest gratitude to our Vicar Rev. Varghese K. Abraham for promptly coming to Ottawa for every service even in the midst of various family difficulties Achen and family had faced in the past year. Congregation is extremely grateful to the commitment that Achen showed to the affairs of this Church throughout the year. Special thanks to all the families who graciously hosted Achen and family during their visits to Ottawa as well.

Congregation would like to thank our lay-leaders Dr. Anil Varghese & Mr. John Kompithra for their dedicated service during 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.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING:

Annual General Body meeting was held on February 10, 2013, 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 Mathew presented the annual accounts for the year 2012 and the budget for the year 2013. Report and accounts were unanimously approved.

A General body meeting held on October 13, 2013 elected the following members as the office bearers for the year 2014, with unanimous approval.

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

Mrs. Leela Varki and Mrs. Susan Kuruvilla volunteered to be the Refreshment coordinators.

Mrs. Susha Zachariah was elected 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.

BAPTISM

This year a baby boy was baptized and brought to the fellowship of the Church. Congratulations to Dr. Anil Varghese and Mrs. Chandrima Varghese for bringing their second child Adarsh Varghese in to the faith and teachings of the word of God through Holy Baptism on Sunday April 14, 2013. The Baptism was officiated by (child's grandfather) Rev. C. M Varghese (Ret'd) in the presence of parish Vicar Rev. Varghese K. Abraham.

ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROL PROGRAM:

The 11th Annual Ecumenical Christmas program was held on Sunday December 14, 2013, at St. Mark's Anglican Church. With the wholehearted support of members of the St. Thomas Orthodox Church and the Ottawa Malayali Catholic Community, an audience of more than 225 people enjoyed an evening of fellowship & Carol songs. Our sincere thanks to, Mr. Shaiju Cheruvathur, Mr. Anto John, Mr. George Kallumkal and the members of both churches for their continued support to make these events a success.

The evening ended with a catered Christmas Dinner. The congregation acknowledges the tremendous amount of effort that goes in to the organization of the Christmas Dinner, provided by Mrs. Aleyamma Samuel, Mrs. Leela Varki and Mrs. Suzy John and we thank them for their service. I want to also extend our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Sushmita Pothen, Mr. Mathew Pothen, Mrs. Chris Varghese, and Mrs. Suja Mani and the many others who helped to organize the Mar Thoma church Adult & Children's choir. Finally our thanks to all the volunteers who made valuable contributions and the committee for their continued guidance and support to coordinate the event.

Through an online registration process followed by special offertory collected during the program, guests contributed \$2409.99 towards dinner & catering expense. After a total expense of \$2194.29, the remaining balance of \$215.00 from the Ecumenical program was contributed to the local charity, The Ottawa Mission.

FINANCE:

With an opening balance of \$8,401.99 and total revenue of \$16,184.52, we closed the accounts of the reporting year with a balance of \$10,706.33 carried over to 2014.

DONATIONS:

This year a portion of the total revenue was distributed as charitable donations. Agencies that received our assistance include Carmel Mandiram, Ayroor, and St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Vashi. We extend our sincere gratitude to all those who supported these organizations and also for your generous cooperation during the special collections made this year.

CONCLUSION:

Let us pause for a moment to remember the year behind us and while we thank God for all the blessings that we have enjoyed, let's pray that the New Year brings us continued peace and help us continue as a Church community that is "Lighted to Lighten", in this beautiful city.

Mr. Reji Alex

Secretary.

Feb 09, 2014