



THE MAR THOMA CHURCH OTTAWA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2016

INTRODUCTION:

On behalf of our Vicar Rev. Mathew Baby, members of the 2016 executive Committee and all the members of the Mar Thoma Church Ottawa, we are thankful to God for the blessings He had bestowed upon us throughout this reporting year. This year we enjoyed the pleasure of an Episcopal visit by Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos Bishop and we also witnessed two baptisms as well as a wedding of one of our Church member.

A brief summary of the activities of the calendar year 2016 is given below.

WORSHIP SERVICES AND PRAYER MEETINGS:

During the reporting year we had six Holy Communion services and two evening Prayer meetings. Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos Bishop offered the service in October and our vicar Rev. Mathew Baby conducted the remaining five services as well as the prayer meetings. There were no pulpit exchanges this year.

Our sincere thanks to the Vicar and President of the Parish Rev. Mathew Baby and his family for their service and commitment to this Parish. We express our sincere appreciation to Achen for making all the necessary arrangements to ensure his presence here for all of our Church activities this year. Special thanks to the families who graciously hosted Achen and family during their visits to Ottawa.

We also extend our gratitude to our refreshment coordinators Mrs. Susan Kuruvilla, Mrs. Annie George Madhu as well as all Mrs. Leela Varki and other church members who participated in arranging the after service receptions.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING:

Annual General Body meeting was held on February 21, 2016, at St. Mark's Anglican Church. Meeting was presided over by Rev. Mathew Baby.

Secretary Mr. Reji Alex presented the Annual Report. Accountant Dr. John Zachariah presented the annual accounts for the year 2015 on behalf of the Treasurer Ms. Susan Thomas and the budget for the year 2016. Report and accounts were unanimously approved.

A General body meeting held on October 16, 2016 elected the following members as the office bearers for the year 2017, with unanimous approval.

❖ Vice-President	: Mrs. Aleyamma Samuel
❖ Secretary	: Mr. Reji Alex
❖ Treasurer	: Mr. Mathew Thomas
❖ Accountant	: Dr. John Zachariah
❖ Lay-leader(s)	: Mr. Thomas George, Mr. Binoy John
❖ Auditor	: Mr. George John

Mrs. Leela Varki & Mrs. Susan Kuruvilla offered their service as the Refreshment coordinators. Mrs. Susha Zachariah served the parish as the Diocesan Assembly member until the end of the year 2016. At a later date, the General body unanimously elected Mr. Tiju Jacob Mylanilkunnathil as the representative to the Diocesan Assembly of North-America and Europe Diocese for a three year term starting in 2017.

The parish extends our sincere thanks to all those who served the Church in various positions, for their continued commitment and service.

EPISCOPAL VISIT & FIRST COMMUNION:

This year, Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos Episcopa, Diocesan Bishop of the Kottarakara Mar Thoma Diocese visited the Parish on October 16, 2016. Thirumeni offered Holy Communion service, assisted by our Vicar at St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church.

Thirumeni administered First Communion Service to Ms. Krista Koshy during the Qurbana on Sunday, October 16, 2016. Thirumeni welcomed Krista to the Church family with blessings to lead a life worthy of the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that she experienced through the Holy Communion. Thirumeni also gave her a Holy Bible as a welcome gift.

Coorilos Thirumeni served the North American Diocese from 2001-2008. This was Thirumeni's first visit to North America after he left North America. We extend our sincere thanks to Thirumeni for choosing our Ottawa Parish for the Sunday service during his brief visit to Canada. Vice President Mrs. Aleyamma Samuel welcomed Thirumeni during a short meeting held after the service. A light dinner was also served after the Church service.

BAPTISM, WEDDING & BABY ANNOUNCEMENTS

This year, two babies were baptized and brought to the fellowship of the Church. Lara Susy John, daughter of Benson and Sanjna John and Naveena Sara Stephen, daughter of Viney and Seeba Stephen were both baptized by Rev. Mathew Baby on April 24, 2016 and August 21, 2016, respectively.

Let us pray for these children to grow up and be blessed with God's grace and guidance.

Congratulations to Mr. Binoy John and Anuja on the birth of a baby boy, Joshua, their second child born on Sept 16, 2016.

Congratulations to Ms. Susan Thomas, daughter of Mr. Mathew Thomas and late Mrs. Mariamma Thomas on entering in to married life with Mr. Stephen Anthony Little, on August 20, 2016. Rev. Stephen Clifton and Rev. Mathew Baby jointly officiated the ceremony.

ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROL PROGRAM:

The 14th Annual Ecumenical Christmas program was held on Saturday December 10, 2016 at St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church. The members of the St. Thomas Orthodox Church and the Ottawa Malayali Catholic Community along with the Mar Thoma Church members once again enthusiastically participated in the event. The Children's choirs and the Nativity scene added extra allure to an evening of melody and enjoyment.

Mrs. Susha Zachariah delivered the felicitation speech followed by a Christmas message by our vicar Rev. Mathew Baby. Our sincere thanks to Secretaries and the members of both churches for their continued support to make these events a success. Thanks to Mr. Regi Roy for capturing the video of the programs and to Mr. Thomas George for arranging a superb audio system. Our special thanks to Mrs. Susmitha Pothen and Mrs. Suja Mani for their exceptional effort in organizing the MarThoma adult choir and Children's choir.

Coconut Lagoon catered the Christmas Dinner after the program. The amount of effort that was extended by Mrs. Leela Varki, Mrs. Susan Kuruvilla, Mrs. Aleyamma Samuel, Mr. George Thomas, Mr. Libu Mathew and all the other volunteers who assisted in the Dinner arrangement and table setting is noteworthy and the congregation extends our sincere appreciation to all of them for their service.

FINANCE:

With an opening balance of \$13,966.53 and total revenue of \$36,752.17, we closed the accounts of the reporting year with a balance of \$13,790.17 carried forward to 2017.

DONATIONS:

A portion of the total revenue was donated for various charitable missions. Donations were sent to Carmel Mandiram and to support mission activities by Kottarakara Mar Thoma Church Diocese. We also provided financial support to Manju, a mother with a 2-year-old child who was widowed by the tragic loss of her husband, and to Rev. Joy N. George, a retired Vicar in Kerala.

CONCLUSION:

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to St. Mark's Anglican Church and the St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican church for allowing us to use their Sanctuary and other facilities for conducting Worship services and all of our other programs throughout the year.

2016 was generally a peaceful year for all of our members. Let us pray that the new year will be just as peaceful and blessed for all of us and those all around the world. We are in the dawn of an era where nations are craving for change. Let us pray that in the coming years we will be able to witness changes that are based on mutual respect and inclusiveness instead of fear and isolationism. Let us pray that our leaders turn to God for the wisdom and guidance that they need to bring prosperity and peace for humanity at home and abroad.

May God continue to keep us all in good health and enrich our Parish as the shining example of a lamp "Lighted to Lighten" in this beautiful city.

Reji Alex

Sd/-
Secretary.

Feb 19, 2017