



The Guided Light



A Monthly News Bulletin

Vol № 9 (Issue 11) July 2023

Celebrating 126 years of Church Anniversary



Matthew 16:18

**On this rock I will build my church, and the
gates of Hades will not prevail against it**

St. Andrew's Church Hubli

The Church's 126th Anniversary was celebrated on 5th of June



Rt. Rev. Ravikumar J Niranjana



Rt. Rev. Ravikumar and Rev. Mrs. Hanna being felicitated

(Below) Pastors were felicitated during celebration of Church Anniversary



Rev. Prabhakar



Rev. Stanley Tatapati



Rev. Rajan Maliger



Women presenting a special Hymn



Youth presenting a special Hymn

From In-Charge Ink...

In the ecclesiastical theology, the 21st century churches have a greater role and clergies must play an important role in the sustenance of the churches. The clergymen must break the barriers and be opened themselves to the new avenues in the field of missiology. There is no other go but to do away with traditional way of approaching. They should have grown in maturity which would be in Christ's fullness. Meanwhile, the clergymen should also can analyze social issues they should be well-versed with the Bible to in which way they connect God with the present-day crisis in society. There have always been issues relating to the lives of people, ecology and societal. So, the churches must plan a proper mission field to address these problems.

The most important thing here is 'doing theology.' Theological education is being imparted to make people handle the situations of our time and relevance of the Gospel. Basically, it is making the church to look at the issues of societal concerns through the eyes of Biblical faith.

Theology helps clergymen or pastors prepare well for the sermon. Theology has no place on the pulpit because we cannot talk about theology for common people. As we see, theology can be a lecture, but preaching is different from it and it helps people to renew their commitments with God. With the knowledge on theology preachers can help the congregations to understand God in better way. The role of theology in church is that like Bible it has no canonical authority, but can be changed

as and when need arises i.e., it is circumstantial. Theology also helps the church to affirm or re-affirm its faith.

"Theology is a human theoretical response. It has in it an element of play, or at least a tentative probing of faith life and church life. Hence, one need not become up-right so quickly from a deviant theology as from a wrong confession. It also means that one should be able much more easily to change his theology than his confession."

Theology is commonly understood as it will distinguish between the gospel and the present cultural context where we are living; and gospel and the context in which occasion it was proclaimed. Hence the real task of the theology is to contextualizing the gospel for the good of the people of God. So, theology helps us to make the gospel apt for the context. More than the scientific theology, theology of cultural context plays a vital role in the lives of people. We should see theology in different perspectives, including liberation theology. This would help us to understand the gospel, church, and the congregation well. Many times, we ignore people around us and encourage all sorts of injustices in the lives of poor and neglected people. So, in this context liberation theology helps us to come to the rescue of people who are in dire need of justice.

"Everyone understands that the mere habit of church-going is not of itself a sign of ecclesiastical vigor. At certain periods in its history when everybody went to church, the Church was probably never less alive. Grant that 50 or 100

years ago more people proportionately attended church than attend today, this is of itself would not prove that the church of a century ago was far in advance of the church today.”

So, we cannot say that earlier, people had enough gadgets to reach out people. Though there were no gadgets, people used to throng churches because the way they used to handle the gospel and theology was amazing. This does not mean that they were not raising questions or doubts. However, they used to be strong and thorough in theology and the Word of God as well. But nowadays we have everything, but still, we fail to help people understand the need of gospel and God as well.

This is a tech-savvy generation and they want everything instantly. In a hurry to address the problems, we are sending wrong signals on God and theology. Christians, particularly clergymen and pastors, should be well-versed in the biblical knowledge. Moreover, we are much concerned about increase in number of memberships in the church. The growth of the church is measured by the yardstick of membership you have instead of the spirituality of the congregation members.

“When people’s experiences exceed their expectations, they perceive it as adding value to their lives. With expectations so low for the Church today, we can introduce and involve people in church experiences that exceed those expectations and add value to their lives.”

So, we must value our church services. By understanding theology and the church properly we can go ahead in our mission activities. Through this congregation members not only get a

position in Christ but also person in Christ.

Theology and church are the two sides of the same coin in Christianity. Without theology there is no church and vice-versa. The foundation of the church is theology in different perspectives. Church’s strength and weaknesses are based on its theology. If there is no theology it is like physically fit and spiritually dead that is to say ‘brain dead.’

Most of the time church and its congregation do give more importance to attract people by means of materialistic way. In a bid to attract people, church conducts various programs sans work of Holy Spirit. The focus is mainly on increasing the strength of the congregation instead of giving a serious thought to the spiritual growth of the church. We think that pastoral job is performing once in a week. If we are not committed, I mean to say without the deeper understanding of theology, it is not at all possible to take the church in a right path. Nowadays, many churches have been failing to deliver the goods because the pastors have been thinking that if we finish doing liturgy our job is done.

Meanwhile, we are not engaging our congregation members in ‘Love your neighbor’ theology. We are all using it for selfish gains. Let us think are we bold enough to rescue people from the clutches of capitalists? Are we ready to raise our voice against injustice? As a church what is our responsibility? Church and theology not only deal with spirituality but also welfare of people around us. So having deep-rooted understanding on theology is a must for a

clergyman or pastor. Without this how can we engage in ecclesiastical theology?

Dom Helder Camara once said that “When I give food to the poor, I am called a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, I am called communist.” So likewise, most of the time we silently do our work without asking question. We should inculcate the habit of the raising questions right from the Bible. We are always confined to four walls of the church, but for the real mission of the church is outside the church.

[1]“During the third and fourth centuries the major problem in Christian theology was to safeguard the humanity of him by whom the revelation came in its fullness. Even so, if subsequent centuries have erred in what they have said about the central actor in the drama, it has been to err on the side of downgrading the humanity rather than the divinity of Jesus of Nazareth, whom men call the Christ.”

As of now this issue of theology is being addressed. Theological understanding for the growth of the church and its formulations is need of the hour. Theology is not only Christology but also it has its beginning and inspiration from the Christological understanding. Many a time, we tend to misuse the theology. Literally, theology is the Word of God. This Word of God should be used in a proper way and effective way.

Churches should stop indulging in sheep stealing and increasing the number of the congregation members. Instead, they should concentrate in witnessing. They should be a role model to the churches and this can be achieved only through theology. St Francis of Assisi had shared the vision of Christ that

‘Rebuild my church which is in ruins.’ Of course, nowadays churches are on the verge of losing their importance because we are not responding to the societal problems. Hence, there is a dire need to take church and theology together

Rev Sunil Kumar
Presbyter-in-Charge

End Notes

The Nature of the Church and the Role of Theology, The World Council of Churches and the Reformed Ecumenical Synod, 1976, Geneva

Joseph Coleson, Ed, *The Church Jesus Builds – A Dialogue on the Church in the 21st Century*, Wesleyan Publishing House, Indiana, 2007

Rev Raymond Calkins, *The Christian Church in the Modern World*, the Macmillan Company, 1924, New York

Edward Leroy Long Jr and Robert T Handy, Ed, *Theology and Church in Times of Change*, The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1952

[1] LL Edward, Jr, Handy, T. Robert, Ed, *Theology and Church in Times of Change*, The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1952, p16

Preserve the rich tradition of Church

This Month we have interviewed Mrs. Auriene Nelthropp, who was born and baptized in St. Andrew's Church. Excerpts...

Aunty, tell us something about yourself?

I was born in Hubli in the year 1944 and was baptised here in St. Andrews' church. In fact, all my family members were baptised in St. Andrews' Church. My Parents were from Pune. Both were Anglicans. My mother was a trained Nurse and my father was working in Railways, they met and got married in Pune in 1942 and got transferred to Hubli. I was working as Stenographer for 40 years. Now from the time I have retired my hobbies are gardening, reading books, listening to music.



I have an elder brother (Peter) who was born in 1943. He too was baptised in St. Andrews' Church. And at that time the foreign Bishop used to come from Bangalore. Bishop Sergeant, Bishop Haleywell, Bishop Jatt used to come here for special occasions like Baptism, Confirmation, etc. I was baptised by Bishop Haleywell. At that time Rev. Andres was in charge. He served for many years. The olden days Clergies used to visit members house on Bicycle. Rev. Andres used to visit our house very often.

We knew many Pastors like Rev. Andres, Rev. Rubdi, Rev. Sadmal, Rev. Hegde and Rev. Christine Thomas to name a few. Rev. Christine Thomas was from Sri Lanka. He had studied his theology in Sri Lanka and posted to Hubli St. Andrews' Church for a short period. He was a very tall (6'5"), young and energetic pastor. He used often visit our house and have dinner with us because he was struggling to find his home country taste food. He used to go to Castle Rock Church with your uncle in the Diesel Loco Motive whenever uncle's turn was there as driver.

Did Pastor Thomas used to wear his Cassock though he was travelling through the train ?

Yes. Black or white he used to wear. All the pastors used to wear their Cassocks while visiting the house. Whether they travel by Bicycle or Luna they used to always wear.

What was your Parents Name?

My father's name was Mr. William Charles Soggee and my mother's name was Euid Soggee.

How many siblings do you have?

We are total Seven or Eight Brothers and sisters. Eldest Brother is Peter Soggee, second is me Auriene Nelthrop, 3rd Margret, 4th David Soggee (he was given for adoption to my aunt since my aunt did not have any children. Now he lives in UK), 5th Robert Soggee, 6th Henry Soggee (was a Principal of an Anglican School in Pune, now stays in Hubli), 7th Dorothy and last one Hollace (worked in Air India as an Air Hostess, passed away in 2012). All of us were born in Hubli.

Where was your Wedding Solemnised?

It was solemnised at St. Joseph's Church (because my husband is Catholic) and in St. Andrews church by Rev. Christine Thomas.

St. Andrew's Church was part of Bombay Diocese?

Yes, it was at that time but all the Clergies were stationed in Bangalore so they used to come from Bangalore.

Where did your Confirmation happen?

Me, my brother and one of my sisters were studying in Anglican Boarding School at Nilgiris, Ooty. So, our Confirmation was done at the school itself. And we completed our studies there itself. Other brothers and sisters finished their studies from Convent and Boys school, Hubli.

How many children's do you have?

I have two girls and one boy. One girl and boy are in Australia and one daughter is Bangalore. All are married and settled.

Do have any good memories about Church when you joined our Church?

Yes. At that time there was a water tank with nice beautiful water lilies it was near the other gate which is at present used for Andrews School as entrance gate. There was Tennis Court. Every evening there used to be lots of activities like Tennis, Badminton, etc. The Church was open for anyone at any time. There was also a small library at the entrance of the Church. The garden was big with lovely flowers, big trees keeping the premises nice shady and cool throughout the year. All the functions used to take place there.

The library had theological books and archives about Anglican churches and their history?

Maybe yes. There were benches to sit and read. The books were kept there. You could go and sit at either right or left side benches. It was near the Marble Baptism Pond. Everyone used to gather around the Marble Pond for any baptism ceremony.

The baptism Ceremony used to take place before or after the church service?

The Baptism used to take place before the Church service used to begin. And during those days most of the members used to keep the baptism ceremony during week days not before Sunday service. It used to be a very private ceremony with only family, few close friends, and the pastor.

Did you attend Women's fellowship during those days or been part of any other activity?

No. But I was in church choir for some time. Clement Chelli was also there in the choir. He was very young at that time. There were two choir stalls (benches) near the Alter. The Organist used to sit behind. The Church was not over crowded at that time so there was no need of putting extra chairs.

Do you remember any organist?

Yes. We had very good Organists. Some old Anglican Organists were:

Mrs. Sterling & Mrs. Maynce Rapson. There were many more I can not recall their names.

Do you have any memory of the Sunday school?

Yes. Lot of children used to attend Sunday school. And each kid who attended used to get a special stamp with a Bible Verse on it. And I also remember the offertory song we used to sing in Sunday school – “dropping, dropping, dropping, dropping, hear the annas (coins)” fall everyone for Jesus, He shall have them all. We used to get Annas (Coins) during those days.

Do you remember anything about our Church service?

Yes. We used to have even song service on Sunday evenings. It was for mainly people who could not attend morning service. The even service was not a Holy Communion service. It used to be for a short period of half an hour with just songs and prayers. When Rev. Sadmali and Rev. Thomas were in-charge the candle light service was started and the carol singing was started. They used to hire a lorry to go for carol singing. They used to keep chairs in the lorry for people to sit. And we used to carry Lanterns in the lorry because no lights. The roads were bad so we could not visit individual houses but we used to sing on the main roads. It was a nice experience.

During the research we found that Anglican churches started here in the year 1888. Till then it was part of Basel Mission. Is it true?

The Anglican and SPG belong to Anglican diocese, Bombay. But Basel mission is not a part of Anglican. It was started by Mr. Kittle. That time KND was not started yet so the bishops were based in Bangalore.

Was Burning the incense part of the Anglican Church?

Yes, We had the stand [thurifer] for that. There was a small red incense holder hanging near the Alter. Now it is observed only in Holy Name Cathedral and they also had altar boys with special cassocks to assist the pastor. Some Cathedrals still follow that system. But it is not there in our church. I think we should start that here too. The old Anglican culture should be carried on.

What are the changes that you see in our Church?

I see a lot of changes in our Church. The previous Alter was made of Wood but not

covered with cloth. Now it is covered with cloth. There was a wooden piece covering the Alter. Once open that wooden cover inside there is place to keep the cross. "Praise the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness" written above the Alter Arch was written in Roman letters by a very good artist, which so beautiful and then it was repainted with ordinary letters which took out the whole beauty of the Arch. It should not have been changed. We never had Praise and Worship during service. It was purely Church service which was only for an hour including Communion. And then this Praise and Worship was introduced which goes on for almost 20 mins. There were old people left alone (like my mother and mother-in-law) in the house, ladies must rush back to take care of them and cook so we could not attend the full service. So, you can say that is the main reason for my absence in the Church. And I remember Rev. Sadmal was very strict. He never allowed any photographers inside the Church. So, during those days photographers were not allowed inside the Church during sermon, during communion, etc. There was Christmas tree and treat, no gifts, etc. it was only candle light service during Christmas. We all were members of Anglican Association so the functions were organised there. St. Andrews' day was celebrated at the parish hall. All the functions used to take place in Parish Hall. The flowers grown in the garden was kept at the Altar vase. Members never donated towards the same.

Who used to carry the Elements for The Eucharist?

They were already kept at the Altar. Nobody carried them to the Altar. This was started later.

Do you see any changes in the Order of Worship?

Yes. Lot of Prayers has been removed now. The Book of Common worship is modified and made simpler now.

Do you remember any vestments that the Clergies used to wear during those days?

Yes. Shiny White with red for special occasions, Green for Easter, and Purple for Holy Service. They were like a cape [*Tapestry Cope*] with cross at the back. And the Bishop use to wear a cap [*Mitre*] with a brass sceptre in his hand.

Any changes you like to suggest?

It is going on very well. Too many people should not get involved in the church activities. It should be handled only by Pastor and Elders. Pastorate Committee should only follow what Pastor tells.



The winner of Kids Corner for the month of June is Baby Anvika Bangera

Kids Corner



Note: The first sunday-school child to fill this and submit it to Pastor will be rewarded.

Hi, children this month you must answer the questions and fill them in the box given below.

1. Which is the Holy City of the Holy land ?

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2. Who is the famous Queen in the Bible?

--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Who is the born Prophet in the Bible?

--	--	--	--	--	--

4. What God created in the Beginning?

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

5. Which enemy did Jesus defeat?

--	--	--	--	--

Now put all the first alphabets of your answers in the box given below

--	--	--	--	--

You will be surprised to know who is the super person connected to the questions.

Who do you think Jesus is ?

--	--

--	--

--	--	--

--	--	--

--	--

--	--	--

By Mrs. Champa Desai

Andrew's News in a Nutshell

- Mrs. Pushpa Gokavi has returned from USA.
- Music class will begin from July on every Sunday evening at 5.
- Youths of our Church took part in the Youth retreat and career guidance at Dandeli on June 29.
- Miss Upasana and Miss Aaradhana became new members of the Church.
- Mr. Sunil Kumar and family, staff worker of Campus Crusade became new members of the Church.
- Mrs. Elizabeth Mary became the Pastoral care member of our Church.
- Sunday school re-opened on June 4th. Once in a month children will take part in the Holy Communion Service and rest of the month, Children will attend Sunday School from 7.30 AM.

Pilgrim from Scotland...

My full name is Donald Andrew Allan. My birthday is 30th November which is St Andrew's Day, and I was born in Scotland....the Patron Saint of Scotland is St Andrew so to come to St Andrew's Church is very fitting. My father's family originally come from Chennai and my father was born there in 1913. He was one of nine children, however only four survived to adulthood. Frederick, Irene, Mabel, and George (my Dad).



My Chennai family are Anglo-Indian and the men mostly worked on the railways. My Aunt Mabel married Edwin Pansy and they moved to Hubli in the mid to late 1920s. My Dad came to Hubli around the same time to undertake an apprenticeship as a railway fireman. This is him in Hubli aged about 18...

My Aunt Mabel/Uncle Edwin had a baby boy in Hubli in September 1930 and he was baptised in St Andrew's Church by Herbert Young. The baby was also called Edwin. My Uncle Edwin was the Assistant Station Master at Hubli Station. I assume all my family lived together in the railway colony.

Very sadly, baby Edwin became seriously ill and died just a few months old. The service was led by Rev Tate, and Edwin



was buried in what is now St Peter's graveyard on Gadag Road.

Edwin's baptism certificate (below)



Uncle Edwin (with tie and braces) Auntie Mabel with two of her other children, Elsie on left and Cyril on right. Pic taken in Hubli. (below)



My Dad left Hubli in 1934 when he joined the army and moved to Mhow to start his training. He served in all over India and Burma before moving to Europe in the 1940s. He returned to India at least twice whilst in the army and became a Sergeant in The Royal Artillery. He served in both The Indian Army and The British Army. Whilst in The British Army and working in The UK in 1947/48 he was stationed in Scotland. One weekend whilst on leave, he went to a dance in a hall near my Mum's home town and he met my Mum. He stayed in the army for a few more months then left and moved to Scotland permanently, married my Mum in 1951 and had two sons...my brother in 1954, and myself in 1959.

During Covid I spent many, many hours researching my family history and discovered many relatives across the world and am in direct contact with a lot of them. They live in Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales, Canada, New Zealand, Australia....oh yes, in India too! They already know of my successful trip to St Andrew's Church and the help, kindness, and support that Rev Sunil has given me, and are eagerly awaiting photographs from my meeting with the congregation. This trip is about finding my family's roots in India and gaining a deeper understanding of my family history and heritage. Hubli is central to that, and being able to come here is a privilege and a joy.

Almanac

Date	Service & Theme	Scripture Readings	Readers	Preacher/ Celebrant
02-07-2023, Sunday	Stewardship: Responsible Resource Management	Exodus 18: 13- 27 2 Corinthians 8: 1-15 Ps. 147:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	Mr. Noel Chelli Mr. Suchit Koti Mrs. Sujana Martin	Rev. Prabhakar
03-07-2023, Monday	Thomas, Apostle of India	Isaiah 52: 7-15 II Timothy 3:10-17	Ps. 29 John 20:24-29	—
09-07- 2023, Sunday	Equipping the People of God Theological Education Sunday	Deuteronomy 6: 1-17 Ephesians 4:7-16 Ps. 119:89-104 Matthew 7:24-29	Mr. Nirmal S Mrs. Sunitha Prakash Mr. Samson R James	Rev. Sunil Kumar
16 -07- 2023, Sunday	People of God- Ambassadors of Christ	Joshua 1:1-9 2 Corinthians 5: 16 - 6: 10 Ps. 18:1-6,20-30 Mark 6:7-13	Mr. Thomas V Thomas Mrs. Auriene Nelthropp Mrs. Selma J. Bhasme	Rev. Sunil Kumar
22-07- 2023, Saturday	Mary Magdalene	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Zephaniah 3:14-20	Ps.116:1-6 John 20:11-18	—
23-07- 2023, Sunday	Ordained Ministry: Transformed to Transform	Ezekiel 33:1-9 1 Timothy 3: 1 – 13 Ps. 99 John 21:15-19	Mrs. Regina Gnanarajan Mrs. Mamata Sadmal Mr. Morison Dara	Rev. Sunil Kumar
25-07- 2023, Tuesday	James, Apostle and Martyr	Jeremiah 26:10-15 Acts 11:27-12:3	Ps. 16 Mark 10:35-45	—
29-07- 2023, Saturday	Martha, Mary and Lazarus of Bethany: Companions of our Lord	Luke 10:38-42 John 11:1-27	—	—
30-07-2023, Sunday	Marriage: Celebration of Covenant/ Sacrament	Genesis 2:18-25 Hebrews 13: 1- 6 Ps. 127 Mathew 19: 3- 6	Dr. Shailesh Gokavi Mrs Jensy M Sunil Mr. Harsha G	Rev. Sunil Kumar

BIRTHDAY

1 Mrs. Beryl R. Chelli	20 Mrs. Auriene Nelthropp
2 Mr. Solomon Alice	20 Mrs. Selma J. Bhasme
3 Master Derrick S. Koti	21 Master Isaac Karl Lawrence
4 Miss Mamatha Eikos	22 Mrs. Regina Gnanarajan
5 Miss. Aaradhana	22 Mr. John G. George
8 Mr. Harvey Wilfred	23 Mrs. Mamatha S.
10 Mrs. J.J. Elizabeth	23 Baby Daness Mia
11 Mrs. Rachel Enochbabu Billa	26 Mr. Abishai Wilhelm Joseph
12 Mrs. Sujana Martin	27 Mr. J.D. Hanagal
16 Miss Rupa Caroline Swaminathan	28 Dr. Shailesh Gokavi
17 Master Anphyolousz Clyde Alstyne	28 Master Arnon Harsha
17 Mrs. Shakuntala N. Pink	28 Mrs. Jency Mary Sunil
19 Mr. Thomas V. Thomas	28 Derrick Ezekiel Franklin
19 Baby Anvika Abigail P. Bangera	29 Master Kartavya Samuel
19 Miss Vanitha Nancy Ramarao	

A wish for you on your birthday, whatever you ask may you receive, whatever you seek may you find, what ever you wish may it be fulfilled on your birthday and always
Happy Birthday

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

1 Mr. Sai Sudhanraj & Mrs. Smitha tatpati	10 Mr. Samson R. James & Mrs . Rehana James
9 Mr. Y. Jaya Jyothi Prakash & Mrs. Sunitha Prakash	14 Mr. Mariyadas Dara & Mrs. Victoria Dara

The sound of the sea and the echo of love share a few characteristics in common:
they are both constant and eternal
Happy Anniversary

Floral Arrangements

2 Mr. Martin Tatpati & Family	23 Mr. Wilson Joseph & Family
9 Ms. Caroline Rupa S	30 Dr. Shailesh Gokavi & Family
16 Mr. Mariyadas Dara & Family	



*Mr. Richard Lawrence
welcoming Mr. Andrew Allan*



Our Church Altar on the occasion of Environment day



Women of Our Church on the occasion of Environment day



Sunday School Children celebrating World Environment Day



Re-opening of Sunday school



CSI Anglican 'A' Area youth retreat

