

St. Andrew's Church, Kolkata
Roster for September, 2017.

3/09/17. 13th Sunday after Pentecost: No sacrifice is too great for those who seek the Kingdom of God

Conductor and Preacher : Revd. Dr. Swarup Bar
Genesis 12:1-7 : Mr. Jonathan Nyss
Matthew 13:44-52 : Mr. Rajan Joy

10/09/17. 14th Sunday after Pentecost: Education Sunday

Conductor : Revd. Dr. Sunil M.Caleb
Preacher : Rev. Dr. Arun Sarkar
Titus 2:1-8 : La Martiniere for Boys
Matthew 7:24-29 : Mrs. Zeena Mondal

17/09/17. 15th Sunday after Pentecost: In the storms of life the Lord is near at hand to save

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant and Preacher : Revd. Dr. Sunil Caleb
1 Kings 19:1-13 : Mr. Ashok Pasricha
James 1:2-8 : Dr. G. Hart
Matthew 14:22-33 : Revd. Dr. Sunil Caleb

24/09/17. 16th Sunday after Pentecost The reward of persevering in faith

Conductor and Preacher : Revd. Dr. Swarup Bar
Hebrews 11:1-6 : Ms. Sakhi Arora
Matthew 15:21-28 : Ms. Jolly Joy

The St. Andrew's Football team participated in the Independence Day Football tournament held at St. Paul's Cathedral on the 15th of August, 2017. As a team they had put up a good fight and showed true sportsmanship.
Best Wishes!



St. Andrew's Church Newsletter



August 2017

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESBYTER-IN-CHARGE



CHRISTIAN PARTICIPATION IN INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

In the occasion of the 70th Independence day celebrations held across India on 15th of August, 2017, it is worthwhile once again to look briefly at the approaches and contribution of some Christians towards the Independence struggle. There is a general myth prevalent that Christians of that era were totally indifferent or were against the independence movement. This is a misrepresentation of the complex relationship that Christianity had in colonial India with respect to the Indian freedom struggle. It is to be noted that Christians had quite a prominent contribution to the Indian freedom struggle, though there were also those who were in a dilemma about how to respond to the situation. Christian participation in India's Independence is an issue that ought to be highlighted in the present context of majoritarian ideology that is allowed to hold sway in our country.

Participation Through Forming Associations

The Christian contribution to India's freedom struggle can be traced from the formation of various associations in Bengal like the *Bengal Christian Association* (1878) and the *Calcutta Christo Samaj* where prominent leaders like Rev. Kali Charan Banerji and Joy Govind Shome espoused nationalism. These were followed by similar associations in the South of India. On the other hand Y.M.C.As established in various (p.3)



Dr. Don Schweitzer, Prof. of Theology, from St. Andrew's College, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, visited us by the invitation of Rev. Dr. Sunil Caleb. He delivered the message on 6th of August, 2017.

Published by the Rev. Dr. Swarup Bar, Presbyter-in-Charge, on behalf of the St. Andrew's Church, CNI, 15, B.B.D. Bag, Kolkata 700 001, Ph. 2230 1994, 2252 3973, 9073624412.
E-mail: standrewschurch.kolkata@gmail.com; swarup.bar20@yahoo.com.
Please visit our newly updated website : <http://standrewschurchkolkata.in/>



The Women's Guild of St. Andrew's Church conducted the Women's Guild service on the 30th of July, 2017. The Service was participated by all women through readings and prayers. The Guest Speaker was the Principal of Welland Gouldsmith School, Patuli, Mrs. Esther D. Rozario. Here she is felicitated by Mrs. Sonali Bar on behalf of the church.



The Women's Guild Service was well attended with many Bishop's College student freshers participating. Mrs. Rozario gave an inspiring message on how to be bold in God's service and ministry. During the service the Women's Guild sang a special song (pic. above). After the service all joined in for special refreshment, fellowship and interaction.



Christian Participation in India's Independence (contd.)

regions of India helped leaders like K.T.Paul, V.S.Azariah and S.K.Datta get involved in nationalism. The nationalistic fervor was also evident in the theology of leaders who were involved in the Madras *Rethinking Christianity* group. Some of them were Pandipeddi Chenchiah, Vengal Chakkarai, and others. The *All India Congress of Indian Christians* was founded in 1914 at Calcutta which encouraged healthy political discussions and participation in political movements by Christians. Through the establishment of the NCCI (National Christian Council of India) formed in 1923, and through the emphasis of V.S.Azariah, Christians were encouraged to 'share the national aspirations of their countrymen'. It is reported that through the years from 1888-1891, the sessions of the *Indian National Congress* (INC) were well represented by Christians, like Kali Charan Banerji, C.G.Nath, Peter Paul Pillai, including women like Pandita Ramabai. However, it has to be noted that Christian missionaries were divided in their opinion about supporting the Indian national movement. C.F.Andrews was one who supported India's struggle for freedom right till the end, although there were other missionaries who were reluctant to support the *swadeshi* and civil disobedience movement.

Prominent Indian Christians and their Nationalistic Contributions:

Rev. Kali Charan Banerji (1847-1902): He was a Bengali Christian who became a prominent member of the Indian National Congress. He defended the Indian nationality and wrote that embracing Christianity does not mean that one has rejected one's nationality. He claimed that Christians are intensely national as are other citizens of India.

K.T.Paul (1876-1931): A Tamil Christian, who took a positive approach and encouraged all Christians to actively participate in the national movement for freedom. He attended the Second Round Table Conference in London in 1931 on behalf of Indian Christians.

Brahmabandhav Upadhyaya(1861-1907): A converted Bengali Christian, he was the first of the national leaders who suggested complete freedom for India. He actively participated in the *Swadeshi*/boycott movement.

Bishop V.S.Azariah(1874-1945): Born in Madras, he founded the National Missionary Society which stressed on mission with Indian administration, Indian resources and Indian money. He stood for the unity of the country and rejected separate electorate on the basis of religion.

(Sources : Atula Imsong, 'Christians and Indian National Movement: A Historical Perspective'; M.M.Thomas, P.T.Thomas, *Towards an Indian Christian Theology*)