

St Andrew's Cathedral

NEXTGEN



NEWSLETTER

GRACE TO YOU!

Welcome to NextGen's 1st newsletter of the year! We've started 2024 with a bang and there's just so much we would like to share with you about what God has been doing in our ministry. We hope this newsletter will be an encouragement to you and that you'll also come alongside us in prayer and other forms of support as we sow into the next generation of Cathedral!

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To find out more, please visit our website

<https://cathedral.org.sg/nextgen>

CHILDREN MINISTRY



WE WELCOME MELINDA!

Melinda joined us as the pastoral staff for children ministry on 1 January 2024. Let's get to know her!

"Hello everyone, my name is Melinda. I received Christ and joined SAC in 2014. Throughout various seasons in my life, God has demonstrated His faithfulness, encouraging me to remain steadfast in my faith journey.

Subsequently, I felt the calling to serve in the children's ministry. In January of 2024, I left my occupation as an interpreter and translator to join the SAC staff team as a full-time pastoral staff for the children ministry.

While there are challenges, it has been a privilege to serve alongside a team of volunteers who are devoted to God and committed to fulfilling His purpose for our children. My prayer is that the ministry will continue to faithfully carry out God's mission and diligently sow the seeds of faith in the hearts of the children entrusted to us, being guided by our ministry's vision."

EASTER EVENT

112 children turned up for our Easter event to celebrate Christ's resurrection! This year's theme was "Invincible Jesus." Knowing that Jesus is the ultimate victor who has triumphed over death and claimed victory in the battle against Satan. The children were invited to team up with Jesus in all circumstances throughout their life's journey. Apart from the sharing by Revd Daniel, activities such as designing of team flags, tug of war and egg rolling relay, helped to unpack the theme. The children also designed their own coaster which symbolised the rolled-away stone of Jesus' tomb and His victory.

We also thank God for the 42 volunteers who came to help. This event not only celebrated the significant and momentous day, it also strengthened the children's connection with one another through their shared faith and joyful activities.





TRAINING FOR CHILDREN MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers attended a worship training session conducted by Kidmin at Wesley Methodist Church on the 13 of April 2024. The focus was on how to create a conducive environment for children to participate in worship and the significance of teamwork between the worship team and the volunteers in fostering corporate worship experiences. We walked away with a new perspective on how each volunteer is a worship leader in their own right on any given weekend when they are with the children.

The session also featured an insightful sharing by Bishop Kuan concerning the pivotal role of both parents and the children ministry in nurturing the children in their spiritual growth and inspiring them to serve the Lord from an early age.



YOUTH MINISTRY

METAMORPHOSIS

Metamorphosis resumed in January with 17 new Sec 1s, adding to the current batch of 17 Sec 2s this year. In February, we had Chinese New Year celebration where we discovered how the Chinese word for blessing, “福”, speaks of God’s providence. We also had Lou Hei and held an orange peeling contest. While we had a hard time cleaning up the mess, we had lots of fun and laughter!

From February to March, we went through a series called Christianity Explored, where we looked deep into the Gospel of Mark. We learned about the significance of Jesus in our lives and how He had paid the price of our sins. To wrap up the series, the youths were invited to accept Jesus into their lives. Amazingly, 5 youths accepted Christ and 4 recommitted their lives to Him. We also held a separate run for an older youth and she too accepted Christ! We thank God for their faith and trust in Jesus Christ our Lord!



NAVE AND BELL TOUR

With the re-opening of the nave, we got the help of the docent and bell-ringing ministries to organise for our youths a nave and bell tour on 24 March. The youths were really excited to try ringing some bells themselves (silently, as it was still during Lent). They also got to learn more about our church's history and the rich theological symbolism in the nave that reflects our Anglican expression of worship. It was truly a meaningful experience for all of us!



EASTER SERVICE - DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST (DAR⁺)

Cathedral Youth's theme for Easter this year was "Death & Resurrection of Christ," where we wanted to ponder intently on the meaning behind Jesus' death and resurrection and the impact it has on our lives. As such, throughout the season of Lent, we challenged one another to observe some form of Lenten fast and also gathered every Wednesday night over Zoom for Evening Prayer, where we slowed down to reflect on the cross. All these culminated in the Easter Celebration on 31 March, where Revd Aaron Cheng (Diocesan Youth Board Chairman) shared with us strong evidence for the resurrection and had us ponder hard on how that might change our lives. Indeed, praise God that Christ is risen!



YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Following out fruitful youth mission trip last year, Cathedral Youth will be sending another team to Mae Sot, Thailand, this June! We thank God for the 7 youths who have decided to heed the Great Commission and go forth to bring God's love to the nations. Together with the pastoral team, they will be spending 10 days in Thailand, reaching out to the Karen people along the Thailand-Myanmar border. Much of this trip will be spent ministering to the local church youth leaders. We hope that this will pave the way for future partnerships. Some of you will probably be receiving personal newsletters from the youths seeking your prayer and financial support. We ask for you to prayerfully consider coming alongside us to advance God's kingdom in Thailand.

You may also write to nextgen@cathedral.org.sg if you'd like to support our mission trip financially.



LEADERSHIP UPDATES

We would also like to share with you some leadership updates within the youth ministry. With effect from 1 January, Serene Wee has joined the youth core leadership team and has taken over Amanda Goh as our new Head of Hospitality Team. We thank God for Amanda's faithful service over the past 2 years and for playing such an important role in starting the hospitality team for the youth service.

On the staff front, Joshua Koh, our youth pastoral staff, has been appointed as the Head of the Youth Ministry, with effect from 1 April 2024.

Justin Peng has also joined the youth pastoral staff team since 1 January and we'd love for you to get to know him!



HERE ARE A FEW WORDS HE'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU

Hello! I am Justin Peng and I'm honoured to be serving the youths in Cathedral as a pastoral staff.

I started attending SAC 10 years ago in 2014, joining the youth ministry called Linking Youths and Christ (LYnC). Throughout the years, I had meaningful opportunities to go on mission trips, lead cell groups and serve in the worship ministry. Growing up in the youth ministry taught me how to love and serve the Lord.

Before joining SAC as a staff member, I spent 5 years at CITY Community Services working with vulnerable children and youths. While I never had a particular interest in children, God transformed my heart as I saw the heart that God has for these young people.

Now that I am older, my passion is to help the next generation navigate the world of darkness that we live in. My hope for them is to have a deep relationship with God, to walk in the paths of righteousness and to be the salt and light of this world.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

In John 7:38, Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" This is a great promise concerning Jesus the Living Water who not only refreshes us but through us refreshment that can truly satisfy others as well. This is the kind of refreshment that can truly satisfy young adults today who are living a hectic and fast-paced life. We hope that through our gatherings, we may encourage our young adults to focus on having their hearts filled with the Living Water till it overflows.



BOARD GAMES & PIZZA NIGHT

Our first social event of the year was a Board Games & Pizza Night and young adults from different services gathered in small groups to eat, talk and play together! Some were intensely focused on playing, especially the group that played "The Journey of Paul". Some decided to spend most of the time talking and getting to know each other better. We also had a few who were busy eating pizzas! Overall, we had a relaxing and fun evening together.



SATURDAY LIFE: OUR SAFE PLACE

Our first talk of the year brought us back to the presence of our Heavenly Father. What is our impression of God the Father? Is He an angry Judge who is eager to punish those who disobey? Do we feel safe with the One who we acknowledge as our Father in Heaven? We thank God for Mr Kenny Tan, a full-time missionary and itinerant speaker based in Singapore, who came to address these questions and helped us rediscover how the glorious love of our Heavenly Father is meant to be our safe place.



In Kenny's sharing on the Father Heart of God in early March, he spoke about how God brought him through a journey to unlearn the correlation he has made between his performance and his identity, and to experience the conviction of how he's intrinsically loved and valued in marvelling that our God is a Father whom we can relate to daily, if we create space to enjoy Him for Him. He also shared the difference between "Lord I serve you because I love you" and "Lord I love You out of the overflow of my heart," reminding me that when we know and experience God, the way we minister to people changes. There is a God who loves and cares for us. Friend, when was the last time you relate to God as a child to a Father?

-Anne-Marie (SAC Young Adult)

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PRAYER REQUESTS

CHILDREN MINISTRY



1. Pray for unity, understanding, and good communication among the volunteers and staff in the ministry
2. Pray for our teachers and teacher aides to be committed and guided by the Spirit in nurturing the spiritual growth of the children.
3. Pray for good health for all the volunteers and God's protection over their families.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



1. Pray for our young adults to grow in their relationship with God and in their commitment to the spiritual community here at SAC despite their busyness.
2. Pray for the subsequent talks and fellowship programmes to be well attended and effective in strengthening faith-life and integration and fostering friendship among the young adults in SAC

YOUTH MINISTRY



1. Youth Mission Trip to Mae Sot, Thailand
 - a. Pray for God's protection over the team and preparation of their hearts as they embark on this mission.
 - b. Pray for unity within the team, that others might see the love of Christ being displayed through our love for each other.
2. Youth Leaders
 - a. Pray for wisdom and anointing as they lead the youths under their care.
 - b. Pray for God to increase their capacity to love and sow into their youths so that they might grow into greater spiritual maturity.
 - c. Pray for God to call and raise new leaders amongst our youth to sow into the lives of others.

