

ALL  
THE

**LEGACY**

**CHURCH HISTORIES**

ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



# **MISSION STATEMENT**

## **OF THE ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE**

*The Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists exists to promote the sharing of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ ethnically [TA ETHNAE - to all people groups] within its assigned territory through Christ centered leadership and responsible resource management.*

# HISTORY OF ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE

## *ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE*

1967-1988

Allegheny Conference, began in the rear of a bookstore near Howard University, was reorganized in 1966, (effective January 1, 1967) to form Allegheny East and Allegheny West. In 1982, the two conferences represented one third the total membership of Columbia Union. In less than fifteen years, Allegheny East Conference has added enough members to bring its total to the 1967 pre-division figure.

The conference includes parts of Pennsylvania, all of New Jersey, all of Delaware, most of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and eastern Virginia. With offices at Pine Forge, Pennsylvania, the organization continues its operation in most major cities of the original Allegheny Conference. In 1982, membership was 15,276; there were sixty-nine congregations with forty-four ministers and eleven Bible Instructors. Tithe reported for 1981 was \$4,976,152, and there were 966 baptisms.

Pine Forge, the conference academy, began two years after office quarters were established, has an enrollment of 135, with seventeen faculty and staff members. Facilities of the institution are used for annual Pathfinder and youth camps as well as for summer camp meetings.

Meade C. Van Putten, Conference President at the time, is the son of an Adventist minister whose career was spent largely in Barbados and the Virgin Islands. Van Putten is a graduate of Andrews University, having acquired his early education in Caribbean Island schools. He served as treasurer of Lake Region Conference and Allegheny East Conference before his election to the presidency. The Conference Secretary is Paul Cantrell, Jr. and the Treasurer is Bennie W. Mann. Departmental leaders include Ulysses L. Willis, Sabbath School; Alfred R. Jones, Personal Ministries; Daniel L. Davis, Youth; Robert Booker, Education; Noah Beasley, Publishing; Harold Lee, Stewardship and Roland Newman, Trust Services.

The administration at Pine Forge began with John H. Wagner as president and James L. Moran as Secretary-Treasurer. Associated with him was a staff of departmental leaders, all new to their jobs, but all eager to establish records in their respective fields. The Publishing Department under Howard D. Warner took to the streets with such zest that shortly its sales amounted to more than all the other conferences in the Columbia Union combined.

Other departmental leaders were William R. Robinson, Director of Lay Activities and Sabbath School; Jacob Justiss, Education and Youth; and Gertrude Jones, Book and Bible House. William L. Cheatham followed as president of Allegheny; he was the one who recommended the division of the conference. W. Albert Thompson was the first president of the new Allegheny East, succeeded by Edward Dorsey, Luther R. Palmer, Jr., and Meade C. Van Putten.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRESIDENTIAL LISTING AND YEARS OF SERVICE</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BALTIMORE AND EXTENDED AREAS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>BAY AREA</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>DELAWARE VALLEY AREA</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>NORTH JERSEY AREA</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA AREAS</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>WASHINGTON, DC METROPOLITAN AREA</b>	<b>245</b>

## ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE

WILLIAM A. THOMPSON

JANUARY 1, 1967 - JUNE 28, 1970

EDWARD DORSEY

JUNE 28, 1970 - APRIL 20, 1975

LUTHER R. PALMER, JR.

APRIL 20, 1975 - APRIL 26, 1981

MEADE C. VAN PUTTEN

APRIL 26, 1981 - DECEMBER 31, 1988

ALVIN KIBBLE

JANUARY 1, 1989 - SEPTEMBER 10, 2000

CHARLES CHEATHAM

SEPTEMBER 10, 2000 - OCTOBER 14, 2012

HENRY J. FORDHAM, III

OCTOBER 14, 2012 TO THE PRESENT



# BALTIMORE AND EXTENDED AREAS

## CHURCH

## CITY

<b>Baltimore Adventist Hebrew Congregation</b>	Baltimore, MD	<b>7</b>
<b>Berea Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Baltimore, MD	<b>8</b>
<b>Crown of Life</b>	Edgewood, MD	<b>14</b>
<b>Edmondson Heights SDA Church</b>	Baltimore, MD	<b>15</b>
<b>Emanuel Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Mt. Ranier, MD	<b>17</b>
<b>Henderson Spanish SDA Church</b>	Henderson, MD	<b>18</b>
<b>Hillside Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Harrisburg, PA	<b>19</b>
<b>Liberty Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Baltimore, MD	<b>21</b>
<b>Living Springs Adventist Church</b>	Glen Burnie, MD	<b>23</b>
<b>Miracle City Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Baltimore, MD	<b>24</b>
<b>New Beginnings Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Baltimore, MD	<b>26</b>
<b>Re-Creation Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Baltimore, MD	<b>28</b>
<b>Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Baltimore, MD	<b>30</b>
<b>Templeville Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Marydel, MD	<b>32</b>
<b>Truth Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	York, Pennsylvania	<b>35</b>
<b>United in Christ Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Baltimore, MD	<b>37</b>

**BALTIMORE ADVENTIST HEBREW CONGREGATION***1900 Madison Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217-3802*

Baltimore Adventist Hebrew Congregation "hereafter known as BHAC" was established to reflect Jewish cultural practices within the Seventh-day Adventist Family. BHAC was established to discern and promote a Jewish cultural identity of faith. BHAC, along with other Hebrew/Jewish Adventist congregations, believe in Yeshua "Jesus" as the true Messiah for the Jewish community. Thus, BHAC is committed to equipping, evangelizing and maintaining the Jewish cultural setting on a Biblical basis. The congregation is open to both Gentiles as well as the Jewish community, yet the main emphasis has always been bringing the Three Angels' Message to the Jewish world in a Jewish context. Furthermore, Ellen G. White has written that Jewish evangelism is very important within the Adventist community. It is clear that the Jews will be the last group to consider the claim of Yeshua "Jesus) in this end time.

BHAC officially had its first service on Shabbat evening, May 11, 2012. The congregation worships in the Fellowship Hall of Berea Temple Seventh-day Adventist Congregation, usually on the last Friday night of the month. At each service, the Messiahship of Yeshua "Jesus" is lifted up in Hebrew songs, prayer, and varied topic discussions. BHAC is a member of the Shalom Learning Center (SLC), which is a Jewish ministry under the auspices of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. It is hoped that with the growth of this type of ministry, the Jewish community will have an ample opportunity to consider the Messiahship of Yeshua "Jesus) in a clearer Jewish context.

BHAC is led by Rabbi Yehuda Mordechai "also known as Rabbi Mark". The Rabbi himself accepted Yeshua "Jesus" as the Jewish Messiah in August 1978 at age 18. Later on, the Rabbi entered the Adventist family through the Capital Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Congregation in Washington, DC. Having attended several Shalom Learning Center Training Seminars, he is equipped to help bring the Three Angels' Message to the Jewish community in these last days. Together, as Jews and Gentiles, we work to bring into the faith, the Jewish Community to whom the Messiah first ministered.

**BEREA TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE THIRD SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH)

*1901 Madison Avenue., Baltimore, MD 21217-3803*

Sometime between 1907-1909, a small group of ardent and sincere Adventist believers held continual weekly religious meetings in a room over a livery stable in the Druid Heights area, a white and middle-class black neighborhood in Northwest Baltimore. In 1910, racial strife arose in the Druid Heights area of the city because a colored man purchased a house at 1836 N. McCulloh Street, an all-white block. Fallout from this move resulted in Baltimore city government enacting the nation's first Residential Segregation Ordinance which banned coloreds from moving into neighborhoods with a white majority or vice-versa. This group of believers prayed for revival and growth, and God answered their prayers. In 1911, this meeting of the twelve grew to become the beginning of the Colored Seventh-day Adventist Church in Baltimore, later known as The Third Seventh-day Adventist Church. Elder Frederick H. Seeney of Delaware came to the city to pastor this small group of believers. He was warmly received by the church, and it appeared to him that each of the members was consumed with a burning zeal to bring other members into its fellowship.

Three years later, in 1915, Elder Peter Gustavus Rogers, a young aggressive leader, was sent to replace Elder Seeney in ministry. Under his leadership, the group added souls continually into its membership. Open-air meetings, then new to Baltimore's church-minded, also drew many into its church fellowship. Cramped services were relieved when the congregation conscientiously rallied to save enough money to pay the down payment on the purchase of the old Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone building located on the Northeast corner of Druid Hill Avenue at Robert Street. There were no racial incidences with the purchase of this building because years before their choice of place of worship God had intervened in their favor by integrating the whole of Druid Hill Avenue.

This large building was renovated to accommodate 250 members. Elder Rogers was a very ingenious pastor who utilized the auditorium not only for church services but also for a school. He skillfully crafted removable desktops that could be fitted to the pews when church services were over. This enabled the church to operate both the church and a school in one building. Many neighborhood residents soon came to recognize these Adventist believers for their Saturday morning church attendance and their carrying of personal Bibles to church for worship, which was another new and strange practice for Baltimore's Protestant Christians. As time passed, Elder Rogers continued to preach "The Third Angel's Message," a message of hope, not only on Sabbaths, but also during



## BEREA TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE THIRD SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH)

*1901 Madison Avenue., Baltimore, MD 21217-3803*

---

summer tent meetings held on the Pennsylvania Avenue lot occupied by the "Ice House" and "The Strand and Royal Theatre." These were happy times for our zealous members who would always be very alert to greet strangers and guests who visited their meetings.

Though the congregation never experienced a sudden growth spurt, the membership steadily increased to the point that the Druid Hill Avenue building, The Third Seventh-day Adventist Church, was no longer adequate to handle its larger congregation. It was necessary for the congregation to find larger quarters for themselves. In 1918, Elder Matthew C. Strachan was sent to pastor this church. He remained there until 1924. Elder Michael F. Banfield followed Elder Strachan in ministry. Evangelism was the focus of Elder Banfield's ministry. It was during the year 1932 that a property search team from the Adventist church found the Carmelite Church building located at 850 Harlem Avenue and the corner of Dolphin Street. This church building was owned and occupied by the Roman Catholic Order of Carmelite. Although this church seemed adequate and to their liking, racial segregation presented itself and there were repeated racial obstacles from the neighbors being that the Carmelite congregation and the surrounding neighbors were white. The Carmelite congregation favored selling their church to Seventh-day Adventists over any other religious congregation. Amid outside threats and warnings, the church believed that God was leading and directing them to possess this gray stone edifice of modern and rich architecture to be used to His glory. In 1931, the members lead by Elder Banfield purchased the Carmelite church building and moved its 265-member congregation and the entire school body of 150. It was at this new location that the church's name was changed from The Third Seventh-day Adventist Church to Berea Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the academy's name was changed from the Baltimore Church School to Baltimore Academy.

In 1932, the gospel moved steadily onward under the dynamic and experienced leadership of Elder Fred C. Phipps. Baltimoreans were astonished by his electrifying preaching style which was evidenced by the masses of laity and clergy that came to hear the sermons he preached. The work grew immensely, and Elder Phipps was called to serve in another field in early 1939.

In the latter part of 1939, Elder John H. Wagner, a young, aggressive, capable and widely experienced pastor, who not only was talented, but also possessed a magnetic personality that rang true to pastoral leadership, came to minister in Baltimore. His approach to ministry had taken on new bright dimensions and his leadership promised to be of great benefit in expanding the kingdom of God in Baltimore. Elder Wagner's pastoral experience included being secretary of the Negro Department of the Columbia Union Conference, member of the Columbia Union and General Conference Committee for The Negro Work. Additionally, he ministered to churches in Paducah, Kentucky, Memphis, Tennessee and Newark, New Jersey. After a relatively short ministry to Berea Temple's congregation of 485 members, Elder Wagner received a call in 1945 to become the president of the newly formed Allegheny Conference in Pine Forge, Pennsylvania.

## BEREA TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE THIRD SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH)

*1901 Madison Avenue., Baltimore, MD 21217-3803*

---

Elder Louis H. Bland was sent to Berea Temple in 1941 to replace Elder Wagner who accepted the presidency. Elder Bland was a faithful and diligent steward during his four years of ministry at Berea Temple from 1941 to 1945. He was able, by God's grace, to burn the mortgage on the 850 Harlem Avenue church property before accepting a call to do ministry in another part of God's vineyard. Then, Elder William L. Cheatham was called to pastor the Berea Temple Church in 1945. He made a quick assessment of the church's facility and noticed that the congregation had overgrown its capacity to be safe. Elder Cheatham set out to find a church that was large enough to accommodate his large congregation. With a team of faithful and persistent members, Elder Cheatham found a Jewish Synagogue at 1901 Madison Avenue in the Madison Park Community, that would be able to accommodate his congregation of approximately 800 members. In 1950, Elder Cheatham and the congregation purchased the Madison Avenue Jewish Synagogue, which is one of the only buildings of pure Byzantine architecture of its kind in the United States. This synagogue's auditorium and balcony had a total seating capacity of well over 1400 which was more than adequate for the present congregation and for growth. Elder Cheatham remained at Berea Temple until 1954 when he left to fill the position of President of the Allegheny Conference.

Elder William R. Robinson was sent by the conference to pastor Berea Temple in 1954. He remained at Berea Temple until 1956. He was credited for doing very active evangelism which added many to the fold of God and for burning the church's mortgage two to three years before its due date. When Elder Robinson accepted a call to do evangelism in Africa, Elder William A. Thompson was sent to fill the vacancy left by his move. Elder Thompson ministered to Berea Temple Church from 1956-1959. He too, like some of his predecessors, left Berea Temple to accept the position as president of the Allegheny Conference. The Allegheny Conference sent Elder Wilmot Fordham to Berea Temple to replace Elder Thompson in 1959. Elder Fordham had a passion for youth ministry. He was credited as being the first pastor of Berea Temple to start a youth church. The youth of Berea Temple gained some valuable skills from Elder Fordham that enabled them to do more effective work in the church. Elder Fordham left Berea Temple in 1964, accepting the call to another field of labor.

In 1964, Berea Temple was sent Elder Leon G. Cox, a gifted and powerful preacher of righteousness, to evangelize the neighborhoods around Berea Temple Church. Elder Leon G. Cox's signal accomplishment during his ministry was the painting and beautification of the entire sanctuary of Berea Temple, which was faded. With the approval of the members and the Restoration Committee, Cox initiated the painting of the sanctuary and the placement of four Christian murals on its four support columns. Another highlight of the sanctuary was its ornate gold altar trimming. Since the cost of redoing the gold altar trim on this 73-year-old structure was cost prohibitive, Calvin McCleary, a Restoration Committee member, volunteered to re-do the gold trim around the altar facade free of charge. Calvin started the project and later engaged his brother Ralph to help in the process. Together, they spent many hours restoring 90% of the gold trim on the facade and canopy of the

## BEREA TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE THIRD SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH)

*1901 Madison Avenue., Baltimore, MD 21217-3803*

---

marble altar. Elder Cox accepted a call to do ministry at the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church in New York and left Berea Temple in 1969. Elder John C. Smith was sent to pastor Berea Temple in 1969 and ministered in Baltimore until 1971 when he accepted a call to do ministry elsewhere. Also, in 1969, Elder Alvin M. Kibble served as the assistant pastor from August to October.

Elder William C. Scales, Jr. a soft-spoken evangelist, with exceptionally mild mannerisms, accepted the call to pastor Berea Temple in 1971. His outreach ministry style and skill, when dealing with young and old alike, was manifested when he encouraged the faithful young men of the church to serve as elders, all of which became ordained elders of Berea Temple. Additionally, he is credited for both creating and using The Real Truth Bible Lessons to win many souls to Christ. It has been said that he is the only one of a few pastors, during his tenure at Berea Temple, who extended a personal invitation to every member to come to his home for dinner and fellowship. Elder William Hall served as the assistant pastor under Elder Scales from June to December of 1975. Elder Scales' humble spirit and skill in ministry prompted the General Conference to extend a call to him to do ministry for them in 1977. Elder William L. Ervin followed Elder Scales in ministry at Berea Temple. Allegheny East Conference sent Elder Colin Braithwaite to Berea Temple for one full year to assist Elder Ervin in the fulfillment of his pastoral duties. Under William Ervin, Pastor Colin Braithwaite served as Assistant Pastor from January 1st, 1978 to December 31st, 1978. Elder Ervin took another assignment and left Berea Temple in 1981.

Dr. Edward L. Richardson was sent by the conference in 1981 to fill the vacancy. Pastor Richardson was a master teacher and preacher that was well known for his skill, shown in the teaching of the Bible and the Revelation series. He also was credited with welcoming Dr. W. Duncan McCleary, Berea Temple's only medical doctor, to minister along with him "as the medical right hand of the gospel" as mentioned by Ellen G. White in her writings. Success followed Richardson's ministry, and many souls were added to the church. As Richardson ended his ministry in Baltimore in 1986 to become the president of the Bermuda Conference, Elder Henry J. Fordham, III, who was known as "the people's pastor" began his ministry at Berea Temple in June 1986. Elder Fordham was sympathetic to the needs of his congregation and the Allegheny Conference saw the need to aid him in his pastorate with one assistant pastor, Elder Earl Blackwell from Washington Adventist University. Pastor Earl Blackwell served as Assistant Pastor from 1989 – 1992. Fordham ministered to members but also set-out on a mission to clean and beautify and restore the whole exterior of the Berea Temple edifice. He received the approval of the church members and the Restoration Committee, which was then chaired by Milton "Mickey" Thomas. Charles Breese, a former member of Berea Temple, was selected to be the community fundraiser for this project which was estimated to cost approximately \$3.5 million. Unfortunately, the community did not subscribe to the restoration project that Breese suggested, and the membership raised the money necessary to complete this project. This project alone was one of the signal accomplishments for Pastor Fordham. "Please note that in October of 2012, Elder Henry J. Fordham, III became the fourth pastor selected from the ranks of Berea Temple to be the president of the Allegheny East Conference.)

## BEREA TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE THIRD SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH)

*1901 Madison Avenue., Baltimore, MD 21217-3803*

---

In 1993, Dr. Jonathan Thompson was sent to the Allegheny East Conference and to Berea Temple from another conference. Thompson served with distinction and preached the unadulterated truth at church and in two large gospel crusades held in the Park Heights area of Baltimore City. Under Jonathan Thompson, the Assistant Pastor was Patrick Green. The conference sent Elder Patrick Green to Berea Temple to be the Associate Pastor, assisting in the regular church ministries and evangelistic efforts. The two evangelistic efforts were successful, and God blessed their labor with many souls, both adults and children. Pastor Thompson noticed that most of the youth and younger converts needed wholesome activity, something external that would hold their interest in Christ and His church. His prayer was answered when he found and encouraged from within Berea Temple, a Christian martial arts teacher, Grand Master Theodore Gwynn, to teach a class in Tae Kwon Do. Gwynn accepted the challenge and created a school of martial arts, "Kicking for Christ," which is now national. During this time, Pastor Green completed his term of service, having served at Berea Temple from 1992-1995. Three years later, Thompson ended his ministry at Berea Temple when he accepted a call in 1998 to pastor DuPont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Washington, D.C.

Again, the Berea congregation was left without a pastor, so Elder Gerald Wells accepted a call in November 1998 to pastor Berea Temple. Throughout his ministry, Wells preached revival and reformation. Pastor Wells has two notable successes to add to his list of accomplishments during his pastorate at Berea Temple. The first was the initiation of the "tribe concept." This concept required each church member to be placed in a tribe according to the first letter of his/her last name for evangelism, fund raising and fellowship. The second was the installation of central air conditioning throughout the whole church, which was a masterful undertaking spearheaded by Elder Wells, approved and sanctioned by the membership and the Renovation Committee. This move alone caused an increase in church member attendance at Divine Worship services, especially during the hot summer months. Pastor Wells retired from ministry in December 2003. The conference administrators sent two pastors in 2004 to minister to the needs of the congregation, Elders Jimmy Ferguson and Ronald L. Edmonds. This dual ministry concept continued for years with the assistance of Pastor Orville Brisett as a volunteer minister, until Elder Ferguson, one of the two, accepted the call in January 2009 to pastor at the DuPont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church and later pastored in the Bermuda Conference. It was at this time that the conference saw an opportunity to establish an Adventist church in the Park Heights community of Baltimore, a densely populated Black area of the city. Additionally, the conference leadership felt that Pastor Edmonds was experienced and well capable of continuing the church plant in this area because Park Heights had been the previous site of two very large evangelistic meetings. In 2009, Edmonds was sent with a few charter members from Berea Temple and other Baltimore area Adventist churches to this effort. This group used the gymnasium of Baltimore Junior Academy, also situated in the same area of the city, as a temporary worship center until a church building could be established. This newly formed company was named Garden of Prayer. Elder Edmonds remained with this company until 2014 when he retired from pastoral ministry which ended 35 years of combined service in the Allegheny East Conference.

## BEREA TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE THIRD SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH)

*1901 Madison Avenue., Baltimore, MD 21217-3803*

---

With all the pastoral moves that took place during 2009, Berea Temple was left without a pastor, so Dr. Marcellus Robinson, the Ministerial Director for Allegheny East Conference at the time, stepped in as the interim pastor in February 2009. A month later in March 2009, the conference sent a new pastor, Elder David B. Franklin, to Berea Temple as an Assistant Pastor, a position he retained while under the guidance of the conference's Ministerial Director. In 2010, Elder Maurice N. Taylor was sent to be the Senior Pastor of Berea Temple. He then became Elder Franklin's mentor in ministry while Franklin's time was divided between Berea Temple and Hope Channel's program "Let's Pray." Pastors Taylor and Franklin ministered together until 2015 when Franklin accepted the call to be the lead pastor of Miracle Temple Worship Center, now Miracle City Church.

Currently Pastor Taylor serves as the Area Leader for The Baltimore & Extended Area Ministerium. Also, he finds the time between sermons to physically upgrade God's church. He is credited with repainting the sanctuary, completely renovating and painting the lower auditorium of the church, installing new hardwood flooring and safety railings throughout the interior, particularly the lower level of the building. Pastor Taylor's strong preaching and work ethic has been seen throughout his ministry. Pastor Taylor's cardinal achievement was that of leading the entire church to accept God's method of selecting officers to serve in His church, using their spiritual gifts, and eliminating the traditional nominating committee. God's method alone can bring true success. Additionally, Pastor Taylor has brought unity into the Berea Temple church family through the weekly fellowship meals prepared and served each Sabbath by one of the different ministry teams. Under Pastor Taylor's leadership, the Lord has been adding to the church daily such as should be saved. In January 2017, the conference sent Dr. Beverley L. Miles to be Taylor's Assistant Pastor and share in the labor of the Lord's work in the Baltimore Area. Under Pastor Maurice Taylor, the Associate Pastor was Pastor Beverley L. Miles, who served from Jan. 21st, 2017 to February 3rd, 2018. Elder Miles has been warmly received by the officers and members of Berea Temple. Both Taylor and Miles enjoy ministry together in the Baltimore area and expect God to bless them with a large harvest of souls for the years to come.

Also, Pastor Gary Adams served as the Associate Pastor from October 22nd, 2018 to June 22nd, 2019.

**CROWN OF LIFE***1980 Trimble Road, Edgewood, MD 21040-3115*

Crown of Life Seventh-day Adventist Mission initially began with four men and one woman – Tony Adams, **Dena Reeves**, Robert Burley, Ronald Reeves, Mitchell Smith and Rose Smith. Their first services were held at the Holy Temple Jesus Christ Church in Edgewood, Maryland.

In the summer of 2010, this fledgling group moved to Cross Point Community Church at 1980 Trimble Road in Edgewood, Maryland.

Crown of Life came about because five dedicated saints wanted to worship together, and they organized themselves into a functioning church organization and chose the name Crown of Life. Mitchell Smith was selected as the First Elder, Tony Adams and Robert Burley were additional Elders and Rose Smith served as the Church Clerk, Church Treasurer and Deaconess.

This group is not only worshipping together but they are participating in community services by providing breakfasts for the community.

The future plans for Crown of Life is the development of small groups so the church will continue to spread the gospel in this part of God's vineyard.

Per the statistical records of Allegheny East Conference, the original group of five has grown to a membership of 36. All of the original charter members are still attending Crown of Life.

On June 23, 2013, the Allegheny East Conference Voted to Approve, Edgewood, Maryland – Crown of Life Worship Center from Mission to Company.

Praise God for the growth and progress of Crown of Life.

**EDMONDSON HEIGHTS SDA CHURCH***810 Walnut Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21229*

In 1991, Pastor Amos Hosten came with a vision of outreach and to refresh, renew, remodel and brighten up the dark colored sanctuary. Renovations were set in motion. Members rallied behind his vision and put in many volunteer hours of work to renovate the sanctuary. The baptistery was moved to the Fellowship Hall. His vision of renewing the mind, spirit and body continued as he facilitated installation of a bathroom on the upper level to accommodate parishioners and guests. He added an entire wing to the Colborne Road side of the building with an adjacent stairwell. Additionally, a handicap ramp was installed, and the kitchen and restrooms downstairs were remodeled.

Pastor Ronald Edmonds joined us in 1997. His pastorate was abruptly interrupted when he met with a severe accident while working at Camp Meeting that prevented him from launching his vision and mission for the Edmondson Heights congregation. In the interim, Pastor Lisa Smith-Reid pastored the church body. When Pastor Edmonds was able to reunite and carry out his leadership, he conducted a Revelation Seminar in the Edmondson Village that led to the baptism of several new-believers. To accommodate the "Harvest 2000" outreach project, Pastor Edmonds secured a satellite, screen, and LCD projector to view live broadcasts of the denominational worldwide ministries. Additionally, he facilitated the purchase of a satellite, installed 3ABN, purchased a Hammond organ, acquired drums, installed a projector and screen, purchased a big screen TV for overflow and activities in the Fellowship Hall, installed a new furnace in the parsonage and facilitated growth of the Community Service ministry.

In 2004, Dr. J. Martin Hutchinson shared his 35 + years of experience in Christian ministry and church leadership. Under his leadership, he instituted Combined Budget giving, acquired a new eight-burner commercial stove, enlarged the media room, updated the audio/technological equipment, facilitated the renovation of the sanctuary and corridors and purchased the building located at 4402 Colborne Road to start up a day care.

In coordination with the Maryland Food Bank, Edmondson Heights started a food distribution for the community. During the months of April through November, we distribute food to approximately 200 families, feeding approximately 700 family members per month. We personally take the food that is left over to the people in the neighborhood and community who are unable to pick it because they have no transportation. We even distribute clothing, take blood pressures and serve soup during the food distribution.

## EDMONDSON HEIGHTS SDA CHURCH

*810 Walnut Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21229*

---

Pastor Thaddious Privette served as an interim pastor in 2014. He shared his expertise in stewardship. His wisdom and knowledge afforded us the opportunity to see the blessings of God when we put Him first.

In February 2015, we were blessed with the young and vibrant Pastor Reginald Anderson-Exum. He introduced to the Edmondson Heights Church, "The Simple Church Concept." This afforded us the opportunity to revamp our worship service, church ministries and to be more involved in the growth and concerns of our members.

We have established a new mission of being Encouraged by Christ, Educating our Church and Embracing our Community. We've conducted various seminars for the church as well as the community, such as How to Purchase a Home, Financial Literacy, etc. Twice a week we have an exercise class. This class just celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

At the beginning of the school year, we've conducted a "Back-to-School Cook Out" for the children in the neighborhood. We gave away school supplies to the children. During the Christmas holiday, we have donated new coats, scarves, hats and mittens to the Elementary schools in the area as well.

Our Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs have been revitalized/resurrected. The clubs have grown from seven participants to approximately 30. Their uniforms were purchased by the church. A Drum Corp has even been formed. Our clubs have gone camping and on field trips. They are looking forward to participating at Camp Meeting this year as well as going to Oshkosh Wisconsin in 2019.

Pastor Exum has placed emphasis on our being faithful stewards in following Pastor Privette's vision. We have now been able to operate in the black.

Edmondson Heights currently has 12 students enrolled at Baltimore Junior Academy. Praise be to God. We are current with our monthly subsidy to the school. We see the value of children obtaining a Christian education.

Under his pastorate and being led by the Holy Spirit, our church attendance has grown from 30 to 100+ any given Sabbath. As result of that increase, our stewardship has seen a drastic increase.

Over the years, the church has undergone tremendous water damage, Pastor Exum recently had a sump pump installed in the Fellowship Hall with all mold eradicated. Praise God, the air is so fresh now. We are now entering 42 years of existence. We've celebrated births, experienced losses, witnessed successes, but the one thing that has remained constant is God's love for His children. We could not have made it this far without Him and the leaders He has sent us. We, as a church body, praise and thank God for everything that He has done to and through us. We've truly come this far by faith. His faith will continue to sustain us each and every day. "Great is thy faithfulness."



**EMANUEL SPANISH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***4001 33rd Street, Mount Rainier, MD 20712-1906*

It was the year 2003, when a group of brethren made the decision to organize a new group of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Among them were the families Velasquez, Flores, Granados, Benavides, González, Cacique, Carlos Rodriguez, Darwin Fuentes and the Reyes Family, among others. One day, while gathered in the house of Brother Jose Velasquez, came the idea of starting and opening a new Adventist Church in the city of Mount Rainier. With this plan in mind, they decided to collect the first pro-temple offering. After meeting at the house of Brother Velázquez for a time, the meetings continued in the house of Sister Noemi Flores where the announcement of starting a new church was given. There was a problem however, since we had no place to meet. But with faith, we gave the announcement to start a new church group. As it happens, the Granados family was present. Brother Mario Granados mentioned that his basement was unoccupied and suggested that we could meet there. The group then started meeting in the basement to worship, and it was there where the idea arose to officially name the group EMANUEL which means GOD WITH US, and to this day GOD has been with his church.

On Wednesday, December 31, 2003, the new group celebrated its first year-end program at the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Allegheny East Conference on Route 450, where we ended the year 2003 and began 2004. Saturday, January 3rd of that same year, the group traveled to the city of Baltimore to realize our first worship service in the offices of the Spanish Ministry of Churches. The following week of January 10, we returned to the basement of Bro. Granados house, where we met for two consecutive Sabbaths. There we were visited by our first friends, the Hernandez Family and others, and so we continued to grow.

From 2004 to 2005, we moved to the church known as "la piedra (the rock)". There, we organized the Pathfinder Department and the Food Bank by Bro. Mario Granados. The church continued to grow and was blessed by our GOD. Many leaders were born, and there our children grew.

That church was eventually sold, and we could no longer worship there, but GOD already had another place where we could go; a better place, where together with 150 members we honor and glorify GOD. Pastors that have been with us since the beginning are Pastor Ramon Escalante, Pastor Abel Orellana, Pastor Luis Estrada and the current pastor, Ramon Alberto Campos who has encouraged the Capital Church, which to this day continues to grow.

**HENDERSON SPANISH SDA CHURCH***16866 Henderson Road, Henderson, MD 21640***HOW DID EVERYTHING BEGIN?**

Sisters Esperanza Gonzalez, Carmen Velazquez and Norberta Escalante attended the Templeville Spanish SDA Church. Their missionary territory was the town of Henderson in the state of Maryland. In a trailer, in the house of Sister Carmen Velazquez, we met for the first time as a group that afterwards became the Henderson Spanish SDA Church.

After establishing the small group in the home of Sister Carmen, we started to do Bible studies with two couples in the area of Henderson. Brothers; Erick Lopez and Ignacio Martinez, collaborated in giving these Bible studies. In this manner, the group started to grow and became established with 15 members by December 2009.

**SETTLING IN THE CURRENT PLACE OF WORSHIP**

On January of 2010, Sister Carmen realized that her home was now too small for all these members to worship. So, we all decided to look for a bigger place. On December of 2012, we found the Henderson Community Hall, called Caroline Acres State LLC, where we congregate to this day.

**ORGANIZED OFFICIALLY AS A GROUP**

On December of 2012, Pastor Ramon Escalante, who is the Coordinator of the AEC Spanish Ministry of Churches, visited the Templeville Church to confirm the Henderson Group and authorized it to be a group separate from Templeville. A Bible Worker named Pedro was assigned by Pastor Escalante to work in the Henderson area for three months. Bible studies were given, and five souls were baptized. On March of 2015, the group of Henderson was assigned its first official pastor: Javier Scharon, under whose administration, two more souls joined the church. Now, the Henderson Spanish Church counts with a membership of 30 baptized persons and is currently making plans with its new Pastor, Adrian Ortiz, and Pastor Escalante, to secure its own church building.

**HILLSIDE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1300 Herr Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103-1322*

During the late 1920s or early 1930s, I. H. Johnson, a member of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Harrisburg began giving Bible studies to Alexander Smith in the home of Mr. Smith. This was the beginning of the preaching of the advent message among Black people in the city of Harrisburg.

Later the Bible studies evolved into a Branch Sabbath school started in the home of Mrs. Eunice Carey who was among the first Blacks to be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Harrisburg. From Sister Carey's home, the tiny band of Sabbath keepers rented halls for worship at both Briggs and Broad Streets. This group became known as the Second Seventh-day Adventist Church of Harrisburg and brought an old factory on Montgomery Street to use as a place of worship.

Elder John Farrow led the congregation to its present location at Herr and Thirteenth Streets and the church's name was changed to Hillside.

In the mid 1960s tragedy struck, and the church was destroyed by fire. Elder Jasper J. Johnson was the pastor at that time. Not discouraged by the sudden misfortune, Pastor Johnson led the members in a rebuilding program and raised money as well as secured blueprints for the new church before being called away to serve in another part of God's vineyard.

Elder L. R. Preston, Sr. was the pastor during the construction and the completion of the new church along with his son Louis Jr., and the church was dedicated in November 1972.

Hillside has been blessed to have many dedicated pastors labor for and with them. Robert L. Bradford, John Farrow, Alonzo Wagner, Jasper Johnson, L.R. Preston Sr. and Jr.; Larry Bass, Alvin LaCount and John Trusty are just a few of the many who have been privileged to serve this church over the years. Pastor R. Gaylord Brown began serving in September of 1983 and during his tenure in December of that year, the church voted to construct a new church activity center. They raised over \$70,000 by the end of 1987. In August of 1987, construction began. The new facility had plans to house a K-8 church school, day care center, gymnasium and fellowship hall. The building was completed in August of 1988. In 2011, the gymnasium was renamed the Powell Activity Center in recognition of longtime school supporters Joe and Sandra Powell.

## HILLSIDE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*1300 Herr Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103-1322*

---

In 1990, Pastor Aaron Thompkins was assigned as Hillside's pastor. He was later followed by Pastor Patrick O'Mara who continued to feed the flock. Pastor O'Mara was instrumental in reopening the school, re-carpeted the whole church, and painted the church. Hillside elected women to serve as Elders during Pastor O'Mara's tenure from March 1994 to 2001.

Kirk Thompson was sent to Hillside as the Interim Pastor in 2001, but was assigned as the full-time pastor and served from 2001-2004. During his tenure, the church had a number of church/community events which resulted in baptisms. Church attendance multiplied each Sabbath. A mid-day prayer meeting was initiated for our senior citizens. They also held an annual Mothers' Day Outing for our seniors.

In 2004, Pastor Maurice N. Taylor came to Hillside as its pastor and served until 2010. During his tenure, the church paid off the mortgage in December 2008, and had a mortgage burning ceremony in April 2009. He also made many upgrades to the physical plant. He helped bring us from the Nominating Committee to the Spiritual Gifts method of selecting officers.

In June 2010, Pastor Michael W. Dyson and his wife Helena came to Hillside from pastoring a district in Southern Virginia. Pastor Dyson served as our pastor until August 31, 2016. Pastor Dyson believes in evangelism and held prophecy seminars every single year he was here. He served as School Board Chair for a few years. Pastor Dyson helped to start the Hillside Food Pantry. During his tenure, he helped with the establishment of the Hillside Spanish Church congregation and also helped to get our Prison Ministry team into the prison for service each Sabbath. Pastor Dyson recognized the faithfulness of our pioneers, Joseph and Sandra Powell, and the church renamed the Hillside Activity Center, "The Powell Activity Center."

In November of 2016, Pastor S. Peter Campbell was assigned as our interim pastor, and he is already making a difference with the things he is teaching us.

On Tuesday, June 20, 2017, the Allegheny East Conference assigned Pastor Dorian Kelly as our full-time pastor.

**LIBERTY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1300 Robin Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21208*

In 1973, Berea Temple and Sharon Churches in Baltimore were rapidly increasing their membership. It became apparent that there was a need for another church in the Baltimore area. W. C. Scales, Jr., pastor of Berea Temple, spearheaded an evangelistic effort in the Liberty Heights corridor and founded what became known as the Liberty Heights SDA Church.

From its inception date, October 23, 1973, William Linthicum served as pastor until late 1974. The fledgling church started with 52 members, comprised for the most part of those who left sister churches to help ensure the success of this new faith venture. By July 1974, the membership had increased to a total of 86.

In October of 1974, Elder Rudolph Cush and his family joined the Liberty group. Cush functioned as interim pastor after the church moved to 5020 Gwynn Oak Avenue. He was succeeded in 1975 by Elder Arthur Ward, who served until 1976. Under his capable leadership, the church continued to grow. J. Alfred Johnson, II, replaced Elder Ward as pastor in 1976, when he was called to another pastorate.

In early 1979, Rudyard Lord began his service with the Liberty congregation. During his tenure, the Northwest SDA Church, formerly of the Chesapeake Conference, merged with the Liberty Heights Church. This took place October 1984. This merger was not without difficulties, but under Pastor Lord's leadership, it was accomplished.

William Taliaferro came to us in February 1986. During his tenure, the church voted to change its name. Because of the merger of the Liberty Heights and Northwest congregations and the move from the Liberty Heights area, the membership felt that a new name representing both changes was appropriate. Thus, on August 15, 1987, we became the Liberty SDA Church. Taliaferro served until July, 1990.

**1990 - 1994:** Elder Roland W. Newman graciously served as interim pastor until Pastor Kibble arrived in August 1990. During Pastor Kibble's tenure, Liberty carried on a vigorous building program which resulted in Liberty realizing its long, cherished dream of obtaining its own home, which was fulfilled with the purchase of the present facility (3301 Milford Mill Rd., Windsor Mill, MD 20866). During his pastorate, our Pathfinders began participation in the International Pathfinder

## LIBERTY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

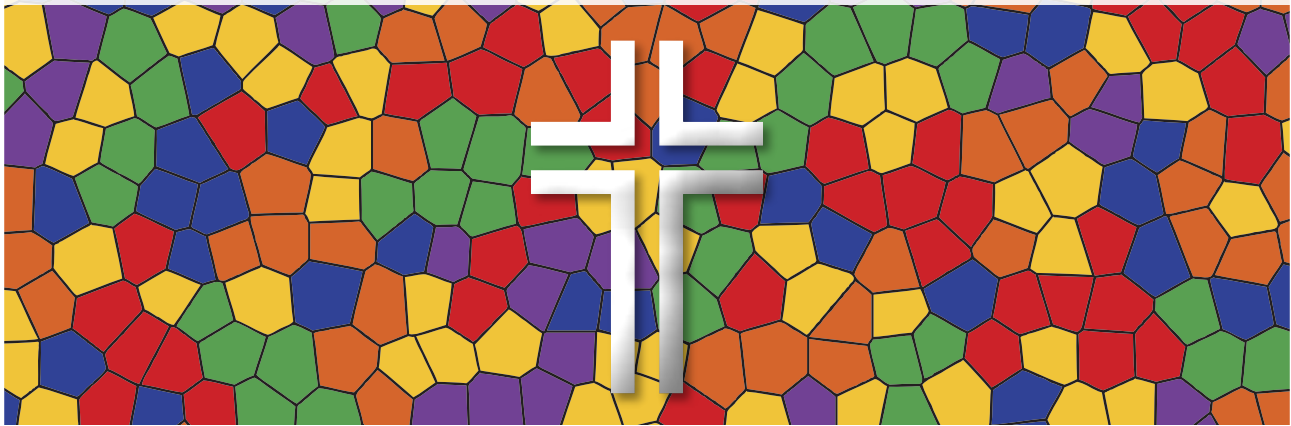
1300 Robin Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21208

Camporee and have since developed into an awarded participant in other Pathfinder-sponsored Areas, Conference, Union, and Division-sponsored events. Liberty's membership maxed at 264 when this history was submitted under Pastor Kibble's leadership.

**1994 - 2004:** During Leslie Moise's first pastoral ministry assignment, Liberty experienced excellent Bible teaching. Wednesday night Prayer Meeting experienced increased attendance because of this emphasis on teaching scripture. Several evangelistic programs, such as Revelation Seminar and revivals were offered to the community at different venues, such as The Baltimore County Library and recreation centers resulting in several baptisms. Our first Cell Group (small group) ministry was launched during Moise's tenure. Two ministry innovations took place under Moise's leadership—Liberty's second female elder, Sharon Pettaway, was voted and the VITA (volunteer, income, tax, assistance) program began its now 20 plus year journey for free tax preparation.

**2004 - 2013:** During Pastor Melvin Hayden's pastorate, Liberty was focused on "The Acts Agenda" as a ministry model. This focus brought numerous new programs such as, "Youth Life Ministries" with centered coordination of all youth activities (i.e., Jericho Boys, Sisters for Christ, and Lily Bells), and the implementation of a Senior Youth Leadership retreat for a period of nine years. Pastor Hayden lead in supporting our youth participating in Conference-sponsored programs (NAD's Pathfinder Bible Bowl Experience), where they have annually represented AEC well by being among its top winners. There were several evangelistic tent meetings and a defined reclamation project to reaffiliate former or inactive members during this era; a structured Literature evangelism program was also implemented. Pastor Hayden promoted an open-door approach to community relations—participation in a government census program was encouraged as well as ongoing involvement with community groups.

**2014 - Present:** Liberty is fortunate to have a pastor at this point in his ministry career, experienced, mature, and passionate. Since January 2014, Pastor McCleary has led Liberty like a lion with a lamb like demeanor. Open communication between pastor and leader and members has been his approach. Members are more engaged as pastoral access and training has been the focus, so ministry ownership becomes more partnership than pastoral micro-managing. Evangelism is still emphasized, and organizational development is becoming more impactful. Some have likened Pastor McCleary to an octopus with tentacles reaching into the community, which has increased Liberty's presence and awareness in its local area. Among the many projects implemented, the most challenging is the major Capitol, Building, Equipment, Improvement Mission (approximately \$4,000,000) have been embraced by young and old alike. Today, Liberty's member is well North of 500 and growing. By the grace of God, it can be said, ***"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is LIBERTY."***

**LIVING SPRINGS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***106 Carroll Rd, Glen Burnie, MD 21060-6902*

The founding of Living Springs SDA Church resulted from a series of prayerful consultations among Kenyan Adventist families and individuals residing in Washington DC and Maryland. Beginning 2007, Silver Spring, Maryland residents began holding monthly afternoon fellowships at an office space offered by one Adventist Kenyan, Brother Amos Awour.

The Living Springs founders included the families of Elders Nehemiah Anunda, Gideon Munene, Evans Ogora, Truphena Choti and Spalatin Oire. These members were motivated by the need to establish a place of worship that meets not only their spiritual needs, but also meaningfully embraced their shared spiritually enriching African values and experiences.

In December 2008, a Delaware based Kenyan Adventist, Pastor Moses Njuguna, presented the idea of starting a fellowship in Maryland. As a result, Living Springs Adventist Fellowship Church was born and held its first official Sabbath worship service on January 17, 2009 at a facility rented from the Glen Lutheran Church at 106 Carroll Rd, Glen Burnie, MD where the congregation has continued to worship to date. Living Springs became a Mission of the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on April 25, 2010. It was affiliated to Maranatha Adventist Fellowship Church, Bowie, MD under Pastor, Uzooma Erondu. Maranatha Adventist Fellowship has continued to support Living Springs' growth in many ways to date.

On October 14, 2012, Living Springs became a full-fledged church, joining the sisterhood of churches in the Allegheny East Conference. On February 21, 2013, Pastor Lee Kimani was installed as the Living Springs pastor. Living Springs' membership is diverse, but largely African, represented by nationals from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Nigeria and USA.

## MIRACLE CITY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS MIRACLE TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH)

*100 South Rock Glen Road, Baltimore, MD 21229-3209*



From its inception in 1968, Miracle City Church, formerly known as “Miracle Temple”, has always prioritized Spirit-led worship and community outreach. From the tenure of founding pastor, Charles Jenkins, to its current pastor David B. Franklin, Miracle has always been a visionary church having had several pastors contribute to its growth and acclaim over the years.

Originally considered a mission group, by 1973, it was officially endorsed as a “company” by Edward Dorsey, then President of the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (AEC), and Glen Roberts, then pastor of the Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church. The newly endorsed company chose “Miracle Temple” as its name because of the miraculous acts God performed to grow the size of this committed group of believers. Just shy of their 10-year anniversary, Miracle Temple purchased its own church building on June 8, 1975 at 100 S. Fulton Avenue Baltimore, MD.

In 1981, Miracle Temple experienced what some identified as a tragedy and others a miracle. On a Sunday morning, when the church was empty, the roof of the sanctuary collapsed. The Baltimore Sun, which carried a picture of the incident in its newspaper, indicated that if the congregation worshipped on Sunday, instead of Saturday, people would have certainly been killed. This is only one of the miracles God performed at Miracle Temple evidencing His favor and protection.

Under the leadership of Errol Stoddart, the church gained the reputation of being a spirit-filled congregation. People flocked to Miracle because of its powerful worship experiences. In 1997, Miracle Temple welcomed a new leader in Pastor Fredrick Russell who challenged the church repeatedly to “make room for making disciples.” It was also under his leadership that the church purchased a seven-and-a-half acre campus inclusive of a worship center and ministry complex at 100 S. Rock Glen Road on July 25, 2003. During Pastor Russell’s tenure, Miracle televised our message and experienced explosive growth in attendance. On any given Sabbath, over 700 worshipers were present.

Ever at the forefront of progressive ministry, in 2004, Miracle welcomed its first female pastoral staff member in Paula Fils-Aime Olivier. Miracle hosted the worldwide satellite event “Net 2004: Experience the Power,” featuring Walter L. Pearson, Jr. The first annual Innovative Impact Pastor’s Leadership Conference was also hosted by Miracle Temple. Pastors from all over the world converged on the Miracle campus to spend time praying together and learning how to grow their local ministries.



## MIRACLE CITY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS MIRACLE TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH)

*100 South Rock Glen Road, Baltimore, MD 21229-3209*

---

In 2009, Errol Stoddart returned to shepherd Miracle Temple. He led an evangelism campaign in Glen Burnie, MD that yielded many new members. By 2012, Miracle instituted its first 24-hour prayer line, organized and facilitated by Miracle Temple members, and run by eight AEC churches. The prayer line received phone calls from more than 5,000 people worldwide. Many Miracle members and leaders still facilitate the operation of this prayer line.

Today, under the dynamic leadership of David B. Franklin, Miracle “exists so that people can experience the miracle of life in Jesus Christ.” Continuing to fulfill its vision to win the city of Baltimore, Miracle is committed To Serve the City broadly, To WinThe City by bringing its residents into our house of worship and to ultimately initiate a campaign to #BuildTheCity.

In 2015, the church was renamed and rebranded as Miracle City Church to more fully reflect its commitment to meeting the spiritual and social needs of the City of Baltimore. Specifically, in 2016, the church initiated its #ServeTheCity campaign with the goal of touching the lives of 100,000 Baltimore City residents in one year. God blessed this effort and by August of the same year, Miracle City had served over 129,000 people! Our service projects included Praise at the Pump, Loads of Love, Bus Stop Blessings, Back to School drives, and a Christmas Around the World event. Miracle also established an After-School Program with the neighboring North Bend Elementary and Middle School under the directorship of Dr. Sherma Charlemagne-Badal.

This year, Miracle continues to serve the city and has launched its WinTheCity campaign. They look forward to seeing how God will continue to perform miracles that lead to the growth of His church, and ultimately many more souls disciplined into the kingdom of God.

**NEW BEGINNINGS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

(FORMERLY CHERRY HILL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH)

*1721 Sexton Street, Baltimore, MD 21230-1324*

Early in the 1970s, Pastor William C. Scales, Jr. also the Pastor of the Berea Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church felt the need to spread the Adventist truths to the nearby Cherry Hill community of Baltimore city. In an effort to satisfy a need in that community, Pastor Scales sent the Elders of Berea Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church to conduct Bible Studies and to administer an evangelistic revival at the nearby Cherry Hill Methodist Church.

Pastor Scales sent Elders: Willie Flowers, Charles Smith, Amos McCall, Earl Cox, Milton Thomas, Michael Jones, Gaylord Brown, A. Tucker, and Shelton Stanley to minister to the Cherry Hill community.

At the conclusion of the evangelistic revival, seven precious souls were baptized. Then on November 9, 1974, the Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church was officially organized by 34 charter members composed of the newly baptized souls of the evangelist revival and several Berea Temple Church members, including Elder Shelton Stanley, the Flowers family, the Davis family, Doris Spence Roundtree and her daughter, and others. This early group was led by Lay Pastor Willie Flowers.

Approximately a year and a half later, Pastor Arthur A. Ward was sent from the Allegheny East Conference to be installed as the first Pastor of the Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church. Under his leadership, a two-story house was purchased on Joplea Avenue. This property was discovered by newly baptized member, Kathryn Kutcherman. In 1987, the property was renovated for church worship by Deacon Elmer Carter. On June 8, 1988, the Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church was dedicated. At the time of the dedication, Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church was the only Baltimore city church built from the foundation-up by members of the congregations.

The Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church has been pastored by eight Pastors since its 1974 inception: Pastor Authur A. Ward (11/9/1974 – 1/30/1993); Pastor Jimmy Ferguson (2/6/1993 – 7/26/1997); Pastor George Williams (9/20/1997 – 1/12/2002); Interim Pastor Mark Stoddart (2/2/2002 – 3/20/2002); Pastor Oliver E. Cheatham (6/8/2002 – 4/12/2003); Pastor T. DuWayne Privette (5/24/2003 – 12/14/2013); Pastor Moses Eli (1/11/2014 – 10/6/2018); and Pastor Ramone W. Griffith (11/17/2018 – current).

## NEW BEGINNINGS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

(FORMERLY CHERRY HILL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH)

*1721 Sexton Street, Baltimore, MD 21230-1324*

---

During the tenure of Pastor T. DuWayne Privette, a church tragedy occurred. On December 24, 2008, a fire destroyed the church building, but the congregation endured by worshipping at a nearby church until 2013. Disappointed but not defeated, the congregation continued to worship, praise God, conduct Bible studies, participate in Wednesday Night Prayer service, conduct Sabbath School, and host AYS programs.

During this period of displacement, the church continued to save money in hopes of rebuilding the church on the existing Joplea Avenue property. However, after much fasting and prayer, three blessings occurred: (1) the church family stayed together, evangelized, and baptized; (2) the church name was changed to New Beginnings Seventh-day Adventist Church; and (3) the congregation purchased a church building located at 1721 Sexton Street Baltimore, MD. This new property contained much more space than the original church property on Joplea Avenue and came with no church mortgage!

The New Beginnings Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to worship, evangelize, and praise God at the Sexton Street location with the current Pastor, Dr. Ramone W. Griffith.

**RE-CREATION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS GARDEN OF PRAYER)

*3006 W. Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, Maryland 21215*

The birth of the Garden of Prayer congregation was a collaborative effort in 2006, between the office of the President (Charles Cheatham), and the Baltimore Ministerium. On August 26, 2007, Garden of Prayer was recognized as an official Company in the Allegheny East Conference. The church was a part of a church planting initiative. The church was the result of a six-week tent revival, conducted by Evangelist Conklin Gentry in the Park Heights section of Baltimore, MD, on an empty lot (previously used by other SDA Evangelists) near West Cold Spring Ln.; which is near The Baltimore Junior Academy.

After the tent meetings concluded, the newly baptized members met in the lower auditorium of Baltimore Junior Academy, 3006 W. Cold Spring Lane. After a year of worshipping in the lower auditorium, the 96-member congregation moved to the gymnasium.

This church was to be an indigenous church. The plan was to evangelize the people of the Park Heights area in close proximity of the tent. Its main supporting church group was the Liberty SDA Church.

The Garden of Prayer Mission was to address the specific needs of the "inner city dweller." The feeling was that the Black church had lost touch with the Black community; so, the project was to choose a leader that had the skill sets to reach the targeted people groups. President Cheatham chose Pastor Ron Edmonds, who was serving as co-pastor of the Berea Temple Church with Pastor Jimmy Ferguson, at the time.

The lead pastor for the group was Pastor Melvin Hayden, III. He was assisted by members of his "Liberty" congregation, and a young Intern, by the name of Nicholas Riley and his wife Samantha. The First Elder was Allwyn Parkinson, Kaaren Sanon, served as Secretary-Treasurer, Hermine Cox served as the Sabbath School Superintendent, all from the Liberty Church. Harvey Hill served as the Head Deacon (Edmondson Heights SDA Church). Helen Artise (Berea Temple) served as the Community Service Director and Head Deaconess, she was also the mother of the church, and more. Sis Artise was the glue that held the church together. She was later joined by Katie Adams, who carried on the Community Services projects after the passing of Sis. Artise. Katie also took on the Treasury, as well as clerk, after Kaaren Sanon left. Sister Artise and Sister Adams really put

## RE-CREATION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS GARDEN OF PRAYER)

*3006 W. Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, Maryland 21215*

---

“GOP” as it was called, on the map. Their ministry and ministry ideas made a footprint in the Park Heights community under the leadership of Pastor Edmonds. After two years of faithful service, the supporting members of the Liberty Church returned to Liberty. The young intern, Nicholas Riley and his wife moved on to another field of service. Elder Parkinson served until the new pastor arrived; he moved on to the Reisterstown SDA Church. Brother Hill remained for a short time; he returned to Edmondson Heights SDA Church.

In 2013, a new pastor was assigned to the church, following Pastor Ron Edmonds, Pastor Vincent Dhem. Under Pastor Dhem’s leadership, the name was changed to “Re-Creation.”

**SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***5814 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21214*

Elder W. A. Thompson ended his crusade in August 1959 at Berea Temple, but he continued the Sunday Night Services. It was during these meetings that he was inspired to start a mission in East Baltimore. One Sunday night, he asked Arnedia Brown to stand and take names of persons who would be willing to work for God in East Baltimore. Six hands went up and their names were placed on a ripped-open tithe envelope: Robert Ball, Leona Best, Willie Mae Sanders, Elizabeth Butler Vinson and Arnedia Brown. Elder Thompson was pleased at the show of hands and appointed Israel Backus as head deacon and the late George Hall as elder and acting treasurer.

A place was needed to hold the meetings. Brother David Johnson and his wife Annie offered the service of their home at 713 East 21st Street. We used their basement and first floor.

The word spread rapidly. The first Tuesday night in September, there were 13 members and their children in attendance. This little group met for four weeks. Elder Thompson then decided that it was time to start a regular service. In order for him to be of the greatest help to this little company, he would come over from West Baltimore after regular services at Berea Temple. Sabbath School would therefore begin at 12:00 noon and Divine Worship at 1:00 pm. There was no election of officers; they were appointed.

The Eastside Church opened for services on October 10, 1959. The growing congregation soon moved to 1122 Harford Avenue to satisfy their need for a larger facility.

Elder Wilmot Fordham became the Baltimore District pastor when Elder Thompson accepted a call to be Secretary/Treasurer of the Allegheny Conference. Under Elder Fordham's experienced leadership, the congregation prospered and grew to 77 members.

On November 7, 1961, Pastor Robert L. Willis assumed the pastorate of this burgeoning congregation. By a vote of consent, the name "Sharon" was given.

In April 1962, the need for a more suitable place of worship was fulfilled by Dr. James Wooten and the congregation of the Milton Avenue Methodist Church, who offered their facilities to the church. The insatiable desire for a church home of their own only deepened.

## SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*5814 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21214*

---

The church's faith venture reached fruition on November 15, 1962 when a purchase agreement was signed with the Trinity Evangelical Church for a church structure located at 1100 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. The pastor of Trinity church, Dr. J. Brinsfield, welcomed our church family and extended a two-year period in which to meet the requirements for financing our project at a cost of \$75,000.

November 19, 1964 at 3:30 p.m. became an unforgettable moment in the Sharon Church history, because mortgage papers were signed with the Savings Bank of Baltimore for \$47,000. This achievement was realized through the encouragement and support of the Allegheny Conference (with a \$6,000 gift) under the leadership of Elder W. A. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer. The Sharon Church was able to free itself from the obligation of its mortgage one year before maturity in 1973.

For over 25 years, the 1100 North Calvert Street address for the church was a lighthouse to all as they shared the Good News of Jesus Christ and His saving powers. In 1997, a large compound was located at 5814 Harford Road that contained three buildings, including a school building. It was the dream of then pastor, Charlie Jenkins, to use this facility to bless the surrounding Baltimore community. The compound was purchased, and this remains the current location of Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church today.

Over the years, many pastors and their families have come to serve the congregation to include: W. A. Thompson; Wilmot Fordham; Robert Willis; John Glenn Roberts; Vern M. Joyner; John Wright; Elder Johnson; James Lewis; Charlie Jenkins; George Williams (Associate); Patrick Graham; Thaddaeus Privette (Interim) and T. Dwayne Privette.

On October 1, 2016, Pastor Michael W. Dyson was assigned to become pastor of Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church. An installation service was conducted on October 15, 2016. Pastor Dyson along with his wife, First Lady Helena Dyson come from a two-church district in central Pennsylvania.

## TEMPLEVILLE SPANISH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

3703 Barclay Road, Marydel, MD 21649-1147



The Adventist University of Montemorelos sent a group of students to colporteur, and they arrived in the City of New York; among the students was Sister Juanita Cruz. She is a Seventh-day Adventist who decided to change her place of work and through friends arrived in the month of May of 1996 to the State of Maryland, to the county of Caroline in Marydel, where her first desire was to find an Adventist church and be a part of their congregation. Unfortunately, there was no church in the area, only the Catholic church had a presence.

### CONTACT WITH AN ADVENTIST CHURCH IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

In the house where Sister Juanita Cruz stayed, a former Adventist called Eleazar Ramirez lived along with his wife Hortensia Bamaca, who embraced the Adventist faith even though her husband was indifferent to the church. Nevertheless, he knew the address of the Adventist Church in Wilmington in the State of Delaware. Sister Juanita Cruz made friends with Jesus Barrera who was a neighbor, and together they made the decision to go to Wilmington accompanied by Rosdeli Ramirez and Victor Gonzales. It was a journey of faith and adventure. They did not know that God would do something great through them for the area of Marydel.

### A SURPRISE INTERVIEW

In the church of Wilmington was located the offices of the Spanish Council of the Allegheny East Conference and the Spanish coordinator at that time was Pastor Pedro Claussell. It was the third week of the month of May 1996, when the delegation consisting of four persons arrived at the church in Wilmington. They found Pastor Claussell preaching. After the service and camaraderie, Sister Juanita Cruz spoke with Pastor Claussell and let him know her concern, to which the pastor responded, "We'll make arrangements to send someone."

### FIRST MISSIONARY THAT COMES TO MARYDEL

The wait was not long. Pastor Pedro Claussell sent Sister Raquel Niño, a Missionary, Bible Worker and Colporteur, the last week of May of 1996 to the area, where she worked fervently for five months.



## TEMPLEVILLE SPANISH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

3703 Barclay Road, Marydel, MD 21649-1147

### FIRST PASTOR ESTABLISHED IN MARYDEL

At a ministerial meeting led by Pastor Pedro Claussell, he appoints Alexander Santeliz to be the pastor of our church in Marydel. Pastor Santeliz arrived in Marydel in September 1996. He was the first pastor in the area, since there was no Christian church there.

### DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCE OF THE ADVENTIST CHURCH IN MARYDEL

Pastor Santeliz began his missionary work carrying out English classes and Bible studies. The church services were held in the home of sister Hortensia Bamaca, where Sister Juanita Cruz, Rosdeli Ramirez and a former Adventist, Eleazar Ramirez lived. By the grace of God, the group grew and later, Brother Adolfo Bamaca and his wife Catalina Esteban joined the ranks. They lived in Trailer 62, and they would invite all their acquaintances from Tocache, Guatemala. Brother Ramiro Esteban also joined the church soon after. There were many Pentecostals in the area, and since they did not have a church of their own in the area, they would congregate with the Adventists.

### BLESSINGS AND TRIALS

In June 1997, the church had its services in the open air, and the preacher was Pastor Carlos Bacallao. One day, the owner of the trailers, Mr. Walker, passed by on his trailer and said nothing at the time, but left a message with Nora, Pastor Santeliz's wife. He wanted the pastor to see him as soon as possible. When Pastor Santeliz arrived at his establishment, he noted it was a large place that supplied food to the sector. Mr. Walker took a set of keys and told Pastor Santeliz to take the key so that they could have a place to meet. He did not charge anything. There the church began to flourish and established a Food Bank to provide food to the community. It was a special fellowship, just like the first Apostles of the Christian church; were all one.

Mr. Walker sold the place where we were congregating, and the new administrator gave us two days to leave the place. It was a critical moment, and we did not know what to do, but we trusted that God was in control of his people. At the same time, the Pentecostals who had joined us began to settle in their own congregations, adding more discomfort to the situation we were going through.

### A NEW PLACE OF WORSHIP

Pastor Alexander Santeliz went in search of a new place to worship and meets Pastor Correa who managed the American Adventist Church, which had a great history in the Adventist faith: Sister Ellen G. White preached in that church in the past. Pastor Correa agreed to give us a place to worship at 647 Wyoming Ave, Dover, DE 19904. There, once more, we praised and worshipped God in the year 1998. The church continued to develop and grow which created discomfort among the Americans who looked for excuses to make us feel bad. Pastor Correa was soon transferred to another church, and we made the decision that it was time to leave and look for a new place of worship.

## TEMPLEVILLE SPANISH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*3703 Barclay Road, Marydel, MD 21649-1147*

---

### TEMPLEVILLE A MIRACLE OF GOD

In January 2001, Pastor Alexander Santeliz visits the Templeville Community Church and meets Brother Bill and Pastor Knotts and proposed to them the possibility of meeting in that place. They were very friendly and receptive to the idea and told Pastor Santeliz they would give him an answer in two days. Soon after, on Friday, they called him and said yes, we could start meeting on the following Sabbath. We then took our official church name, and Pastor Alexander Santeliz was transferred from the Templeville Church to his new district in late September 2003.

### NEW STAGE NEW TEMPLE

Pastor Javier Scharon became the new pastor of the Templeville Church in October 2003. Our church continued to grow, causing the place to be insufficient for our added numbers. No extension was allowed. We needed a bigger place of worship. On May 14, 2004, lightning struck the church, setting it afire. This turned into a blessing. The church was rebuilt, and it was larger and more modern. This was a symbol that the work was not over. Our prayers were answered.

In January 2011, Pastor Javier Scharon is transferred to a new district.

### GOD'S GRACE IS EXTENDED

Pastor Ramon Escalante, Coordinator of the Allegheny East Conference Spanish Ministry of Churches, took over the Templeville Church during the one-year transition period, while a new pastor was installed. The elders and church leaders support the work, and the church continues to flourish. At the end of November of the year 2012, Pastor Ramón Campos is appointed, carrying out his work until November of 2014. From late December of 2014 to present, Pastor Luis Estrada, has taken charge of the Templeville Spanish SDA Church.

Welcome to the Templeville Spanish SDA Church in Marydel, MD. We are a Christian community and would love to have you join our family.

**TRUTH TABERNACLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***617 East Princess Street, York, PA 17403*

While Elder R. L. LaGrone was still Publishing Director of Allegheny East Conference, he and the President, Elder Luther Palmer, Jr., discussed the possibility of the Literature Evangelists helping to establish a new church every three years.

Elder LaGrone traveled through the City of York from time to time, and it bothered him that the Conference was not able to establish a church there. On an ensuing trip through this area, he felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to hand out some literature. Then one evening, as he was enroute to Baltimore, MD, he felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to ask Brother and Sister Jesse Sanders of Baltimore to see what they could do to get a church started in York, PA. The Sanders, always receptive to the guiding of the Holy Spirit, traveled to York on August 11, 1980, passing out cards for people to take Bible studies.

Within three months, three families had enrolled and completed the "Step Up to Happiness Bible Study Series." God's light of truth was spread with such force that it became a beacon in the city that beckons men and women into its path. Sis. Eugenia Miller, after completing her series, consented to allow them to hold Sabbath Services in her home. Alvin and Audrey Ellerbee decided to join Brother and Sister Sanders in York to share in God's work.

As the church began to grow, we were compelled to move to a larger facility. The Lord sent us Pastor John Trusty, a man on fire for God. He expressed a desire to hold an evangelistic meeting in the area and to form a church. It was decided that we should move to a building on Salem Avenue to hold these meetings. The first meeting was very successful, and as a result 36 souls were baptized. Following this meeting, in 1981, Elder M. C. Van Putten organized the group of members into a company. At that time, the group chose the name "Truth Tabernacle."

Pastor John Trusty held two tent efforts in the summers of 1982 and 1983, both of which were held on Cleveland and Cottage Avenues. As a result of lots of prayer and hard work, along with a spiritual unified effort of both York and Harrisburg members, many souls were won to Christ. Sister Edwina Williams, a Conference Bible Worker, was sent to assist in York. In 1983, we moved into our present location at 617 E. Princess Street. The Sanders were sent to Annapolis, MD but were replaced by Brother and Sister Howard Johnson.

**TRUTH TABERNACLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***617 East Princess Street, York, PA 17403*

---

Pastor John Trusty was called to another part of the vineyard. Pastor Gerald N. Wells was sent to pastor Truth Tabernacle. His ministry in York proved to be a blessing. However, a year later, Pastor Wells was sent to pastor Calvary SDA Church in Newport News, VA.

In 1986, Pastor Dennis Waters ministered to the congregation and in 1988, Pastor Gaylord Brown pastored the Hillside Church in Harrisburg and Truth Tabernacle. In 1990, Pastor Aaron Thompkins followed by Pastor J. Douglas Simons as an Assistant Pastor brought further blessing to our church here in York. Sometime later, Pastor Thompkins was sent to minister in Virginia. Pastor Patrick O'Mara, and Assistant Pastor Glenford Baxter continued to feed the flock. Pastor O'Mara was transferred to the New Jersey area and Pastor Baxter, to Salisbury, MD.

For a stint, the church was left without a shepherd and was almost closed by AEC until Pastor Frederick Russell, Pastor of the Miracle Temple Church and Baltimore, Annapolis, Harrisburg, York Area (BAHYA) Ministerium Leader (at the time) decided to take on the responsibility of mentoring and growing the church. Elders from the Miracle Temple Church were sent to minister to the congregation each Sabbath until his Assistant Pastor, Alex Royes, was assigned to fully pastor the church. Shortly thereafter, Pastor Royes was assigned his own church in Chester, PA.

In the interim, Pastor George Williams was assigned until a new pastor was found. Pastor Maurice N. Taylor came to us in 2004 and pastored the Hillside Church as well as Truth Tabernacle, followed by Pastor Michael W. Dyson, who served faithfully from June 2010 to September 2016. Elder S. Peter Campbell served in the interim until Pastor Dorian Kelly, Jr., was assigned, again to both the Hillside and Truth Tabernacle in July 2017 serving until August of 2019.

We were then blessed to have Pastor Donald McKinnie who has been serving since October of 2019.

**UNITED IN CHRIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***3401 Old York Road, Baltimore, MD 21218-2918*

First Maranatha SDA Church was established in 1980 by Pastor William L. Ervin. He, along with a group of ten souls from Berea Temple saw a need for a church in the area. A storefront church on 2222 Harford Road was the first home of First Maranatha, made up of Pastor Ervin along with the splinter group that included: Ronnie Timpson, David Braxton, Cassandra Lewis, Maude Williams, Margaret Perry, Bernard Baker, Ronnie Reed and their wives.

The church later rented a bigger church on Harford Road under the leadership of Richard Reeves followed by, Reggie Robinson, followed by Robbie Robinson, followed by Danny Davis, then Pastor Errol Stoddart. The church purchased a small church on Gay Street. Later the church was divided, and some members moved to Miracle Temple. The next pastor was Jimmy Ferguson, followed by George Williams. Under Pastor George Williams, the church on 3401 Old York Road was purchased.

Our next Pastor was Conklin Gentry. Under Pastor Gentry, First Maranatha was combined with New Macedonia in 2003, thus the name First Maranatha was dropped, and we became UNITED IN CHRIST. Our next Pastor was Michael Edwards followed by our present Pastor Gary Adams.

United in Christ's mission is to ***"Transform our community with the gospel of Jesus Christ by establishing a church through a relationship with God, one another and our community."***

# BAY AREA

## CHURCH

## CITY

<b>Angaza Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Newark, DE	<b>39</b>
<b>Bethany SDA Church (Bridgeton, N.J.)</b>	Bridgeton, N.J.	<b>41</b>
<b>Bethany SDA Church (Willingboro, N.J.)</b>	Willingboro, N.J.	<b>44</b>
<b>Bethuel Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Dover, DE	<b>45</b>
<b>Burlington County Brazilian Mission Group</b>	Palmyra, N.J.	<b>47</b>
<b>Eben-Ezer Haitian Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Seaford, DE	<b>49</b>
<b>El Deseado De Todas Las Gentes</b>	Newark, DE	<b>51</b>
<b>Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church History</b>	Cambridge, MD	<b>54</b>
<b>First Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Glassboro, N.J.	<b>56</b>
<b>First Millsboro Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Millsboro, DE	<b>58</b>
<b>First Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Newtonville, N.J.	<b>60</b>
<b>Getsemani Spanish SDA Church</b>	Dover, DE	<b>63</b>
<b>Mt. Calvary Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Salem, N.J.	<b>64</b>
<b>Mt. Carmel SDA Church</b>	Harrington, DE	<b>66</b>
<b>Mount Olivet Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Camden, N.J.	<b>68</b>
<b>Mt. Zion Miracle Station</b>	Wilmington, DE	<b>69</b>
<b>New Life (Salisbury) Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Salisbury, MD	<b>70</b>
<b>Seashore Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Pleasantville, N.J.	<b>73</b>
<b>Sharon Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Wilmington, DE	<b>76</b>
<b>Voice of Truth Church Seventh-day Adventist Church</b>	Newark, DE	<b>78</b>

## ANGAZA SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

210 Executive Drive., Suite 7, Newark, DE 19702



Angaza Sharon SDA Church is currently located in Newark, DE. It first opened its doors on 12/13/2003 in Wilmington, DE. Angaza's founding home was once a residence to Sharon Temple's former pastor and, at the time of our occupancy, it was serving as storage/pantry for their food ministry. The founding members comfortably shared the space with all the bread and food as they built their budding ministry. As the numbers grew, we moved to Hanover Presbyterian Church building, a block away from Sharon Temple. That was in the Spring of 2004, and we fellowshipped there until the summer of 2007 when we relocated to Newark, DE. Our current location is: 210 Executive Drive, Suite 107, Newark, DE 19702.

The inspiration to have an East African congregation SDA church in Delaware was conceived by a group of Lincoln University students and other students from nearby Universities who lived in Delaware. This Group of 10 included Moses Njuguna (now Pastor at Muungano SDA - N.J.), Barbara Bousi, Daniel Mbugua, Sammy Mbugua, Peter Maina, James Njenga, Tom Muchina, Emma Nyamari, Nancy Anyim and Habil Omamo. These students used to faithfully drive from Newark, DE to Jersey City, N.J. (approximately 126 miles away), every weekend, for choir practice with The Messengers -- an East African-centric Choir of the Maranatha Karibu SDA Church. After doing this routine for about two years, they started burning out. Hence, in October 2003, they decided to form their own singing group, which they called His Majesty's Choir. This is still the name for Angaza Sharon SDA Church choir. In a sense, we are a choir that morphed and became a church -- for the glory of God.

The Group of 10, led by Moses Njuguna, co-opted additional Delaware residents as Friends of the Choir (among them James Ngugi, Martin Kariuki, Elder Maiyo, Elder Felix Nyatete and Kentai Makori) and, together, approached the then Pastor of Sharon Temple SDA Church, Pastor Stephen Boyce, with their express desire to have an East African Congregation in Wilmington, DE. Their desire was met with enthusiasm and Pastor Boyce promptly assigned Dr. Prigg as the Presiding Elder to oversee and guide the Group of 10 in their quest to form the Church Company and eventually transition it into a bona fide church. When the Group met at Emma Nyamari's apartment in late October 2003, they chose the church name "Angaza" -- which is a Swahili word for "Shine" (Isaiah 60:1 - "Arise and Shine ..."). The Sharon part of our name was annexed because we were essentially spun out (as a Sabbath School) of Sharon Temple SDA Church.

**ANGAZA SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*210 Executive Drive., Suite 7, Newark, DE 19702*

---

The First Lay Leader for the new church was Moses Njuguna (only 23 years old at the time) and was replaced by Kentai Makori in May 2004 when Moses was admitted to Andrews University to pursue his Pastoral Ministry degree. In 2006, Pastor Lee Kimani was assigned to lead Angaza Sharon as its first Pastor. Angaza Sharon SDA mainly holds its services in English but has afforded its non-English speaking members the same flavor via personal translation kits.

By the grace of God, the church has since grown to more than 125 members (with an average regular attendance of 160 per Sabbath). Its members span grand-parents, their children and their grandchildren and now we are seeing great-grand children too. We are truly a diverse and multigenerational and multi-cultural congregation -- all blessed of God.



**BETHANY SDA CHURCH (BRIDGETON, N.J.)***32 S. Burlington Rd., Bridgeton, N.J. 08302*

In the early 1930's, a retired White minister, Elder Norman Holman of the New Jersey Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, decided to spend some of his spare time working with colored people. While giving out tracts in Salem, N.J., he came across a large family who became interested in Sabbath keeping. Elder Norman Holman, having learned that there were few members in the city of Bridgeton, also of color, that were Sabbath keepers, decided to bring these new members to Bridgeton (The Jones & Mosley family). The Bridgeton members were taking turns each week holding meetings in their homes. With the expanding membership, the group needed more room. The white congregation was on the corner of Commerce Street and Coral Avenue in Bridgeton N.J. Elder Holman approached the members of the white congregation for assistance. They gave permission to use their facility in the afternoon, but this did not last long. The members decided to find another place to worship, so they rented the first floor of the Masonic Hall on Vine Street in Bridgeton N.J., and Elder Holman became the pastor. The church was called Bridgeton #2.

Once in a while, the New Jersey Conference President Elder Detwiler would drop in to preach or sometimes he would send another minister. A colored minister by the name of Elder Warmick, who lived close to Atlantic City N.J., would come to preach at times. Soon another large family came from the Swedesboro area to join the church.,They were the Brockenbrough family. The church was given their first black, a graduate of Oakwood College, Pastor W. W. Fordham and his family. In those days, a pastor had three or four churches to look after. Therefore, that meant the members would see him approximately once each month. Elder Fordham, after serving for a while, was assigned a new district. Allegheny Conference now governed Bridgeton #2. Elder Fordham was replaced by a home-grown minister, Pastor W.A. Thompson, who also was a graduate of Oakwood College. After Pastor Thompson, Pastor Dobbins came. He was not only a pastor, but an architect. His successor was Pastor M.S. Banfield. By this time, the Masonic Lodge was growing its membership, so that meant it was now time for Bridgeton #2 to have a place of their own. Brother William Wilson, who was a member and an old resident of Bridgeton, was asked to look for a good lot for the church to purchase. A piece of property was found on Burlington Rd. in Bridgeton. The church approved and purchased two lots. The conference had Elder Dobbins draw up the plan. Brother William Wilson, who was a good carpenter, was designated to start building the church. During this time, the conference sent Elder Lewis Preston Sr. as the new pastor.

## BETHANY SDA CHURCH (BRIDGETON, N.J.)

*32 S. Burlington Rd., Bridgeton, N.J. 08302*

In the meantime, the Jones' family who lived in Salem N.J. had found some interested people there and decided it was in their best interest to have a church in Salem. The Brockenbrough family was busy spreading the gospel near their hometown. They came in contact with four people who were the only members of a Methodist church. They became interested in the Adventist faith. Three of them accepted the faith, and the church later joined the Allegheny Conference. The Brockenbrough family left the Bridgeton church and went to support the church in Mantua near Woodbury, N.J. Brother Wilson, and a few of the brethren, began to build the new church for Bridgeton #2. Pastor Lewis Preston Sr., a new and faithful leader, was responsible for several churches, but made sure he came at least one Sabbath each month. However, during the building of the church, he would come almost every day to see what he could do to help. In the early 1950's, the little church was finally completed, not by contractors, but by a loyal and dedicated Christian brother known as William Wilson and the beloved Pastor Lewis Preston Sr. Regrettably, Pastor Lewis Preston Sr. was transferred without having the opportunity of preaching a sermon in the new church.

The church was not furnished with pulpit furniture nor pews, just folding chairs, but Bridgeton #2 moved in, and thanked the Lord they had a place to call their own. There was no heating system either, just a red pot belly stove with the pipe stuck through the wall into the chimney. The church people were very happy and thankful to God for blessing them. When the church was completely finished, it was decided the name needed to be changed. Sister Mildred Purnell came up with the name Bethany, and it was accepted. It is now officially named Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church. Other pastors were C.D. Brooks, former director of the Breath of Life ministries, Pastor Milton Thomas, Elder J.F. Street from Millsboro, Delaware. While here, he started a church school. He often quoted from E.G. White's writings; "Where there are six children, there needs to be a school." (There were definitely more than six children in Bethany). A school was located; a lot of pledges and fun raising activities allowed them to pay for the school with cash, and they were ready to open for the fall of that school year. Some of the teachers who taught at the school during its active years were Ms. Lawton from Philadelphia, Mrs. Helen Preston from Baltimore, Mrs. Fern Robinson from Ohio, and the late Mrs. Katherine Fleeks, a member of Bethany who later moved to Baltimore MD. There was only one Principal named Mr. Earl Greenidge. Many of Bethany's sons and daughters have gone on to serve the Lord and their fellow man in many different capacities across the country. Elder Leon Trusty

Some other ministers were Pastor Alonzo Banks, Pastor Edward Richardson ("Turning Point," a radio broadcast ministry began by local elders, Elder Leon Trusty and Elder Robert Tucker aired each Sunday morning under the pastoral leadership of Elder Richardson). Elder Thaddius Privette (former Stewardship Director of the Allegheny East Conference), Elder Roy Wright, Elder Larry Bass, Pastor Dennis Waters, Pastor Patrick O'Mara, Elder Jose Melendez, Elder Bruce Banner (under who's pastorate the ground breaking ceremony was held in 1997) and Pastor Harry Cartwright who worked endlessly to make Bethany's building project a dream come true. Pastor Harry Cartwright grew the church membership as well as square footage in 2003 and 2004. He, Solomon Morgan,

**BETHANY SDA CHURCH (BRIDGETON, N.J.)***32 S. Burlington Rd., Bridgeton, N.J. 08302*

---

Thad Ferebee, and Elder Clovis St. Bernard, along with other members, constructed the fellowship hall and the second-floor addition and subsequently, within a years' time, renovated the sanctuary. Pastor H. Cartwright was replaced by J. Alfred Johnson III, upon his retirement to California. As a result of his faithfulness, the reduction of the mortgage was well underway. Pastor J. Alfred Johnson's tenure was marked with great preaching and technological advances and baptisms that brought in an entire family. The results are still being multiplied. The soup kitchen was also established under Pastor Johnson's tenure.

Now, Pastor Howard W. Duncan since August 21, 2010, has stood by Bethany's side. He has come to empower and help Bethany become who Christ wants them to be. His humble and straight forward personality makes him easy to approach in search of God's counsel. He is always available to those who have lost loved ones or are sick at home or in the hospital. He is a pastor who is a praying man and seldom leaves a phone conversation without praying for you on the spot. He believes in teamwork and that a church will never survive unless all join the mission of service to the world at large, at home, and mostly in God's house. Personal Evangelism is the heartbeat of church growth and that is what Bethany SDA Church is inspired to do.

Under the leadership of Pastor Duncan, the Lord has blessed Bethany SDA Church to combine two lots to form one for a larger parking lot, in addition to the lot that was originally purchased for the site of the church. Pastor Duncan encourages the church to let their light shine, so an electric LED sign with Bethany's name was ordered. A down payment provided, the sign was delivered and was paid off within ten months. In 2012, while having an evangelistic series, the enemy attacked Bethany Church by having a drunk driver crash the church van, which shook up the driver and passengers who were being taken home. The members recovered with bumps and bruises and by November of that same year, the Lord allowed Bethany to purchase a newly used passenger vehicle. This has allowed the church to continue the van ministry.

During that time, God has granted many baptisms, but the goal is never reached, for Bethany seeks to ever become a sharpened tool in the Lord's hand as they fulfill the mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ until he comes. For several years, Bethany SDA Church has experienced a significant tithe increase that has helped them forge ahead in seeking to pay off their church mortgage in record time. As of January 2015, based on the numbers, the Lord has blessed their faithfulness to be able to make their last mortgage payment. It has taken less than 12 years to complete an \$183,237.00 mortgage. As of today, Bethany SDA Church will celebrate and lift up the name of God with new dreams and new hopes- the sky is the limit.

**BETHANY SDA CHURCH (WILLINGBORO, N.J.)***429 John F. Kennedy Way, Willingboro, N.J. 08046***HOW DOES IT START?****HOW DID BETHANY COME TO EXISTENCE?**

We must begin by saying that Bethany is to Bethel, what a daughter is to a mother. As the mother church, Bethel has members that are coming from several different cities and towns of many counties. From the township of Willingboro in particular, many members from there came to worship at Bethel. So, one day, one of the members that came from Willingboro came up with the idea that we could begin a church in the township of Willingboro, that way they would not have to travel all the way to Trenton to come to church. Some of us, as elders and church leaders, thought that was a great idea.

On the other hand, many of the church members stated that they were not ready to open another church. However, the members who came from Willingboro persisted on saying that it is possible to start a group there. Therefore, we went back to the table with the suggestion. Then, together the pastor, the elders, and every single leader of the church supported the idea of opening the group. Quickly after, the pastor brought the proposal before the church which was also supported by everyone. As a result, in the month of August 2013, a group was planted in the township of Willingboro. A year later with the effort of the Haitian Ministerium, the group was recognized by the Allegheny East Conference, and was inaugurated as Bethany SDA Church.

## BETHUEL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

25 N. Queen Street, Dover, DE 19904



According to records found at Delaware State Hall of Records (Archives) Colored Seventh-day Adventists were in Dover in 1874. A small group of Colored and White members, under the ministry of Elder Ludwill Ashton, purchased a building on Washington Street where they began services. The white members separated, and on November 24, 1917 met at the New Century Club in Dover.

After Elder Ashton's call to Baltimore, Maryland, Elder Leslie Muntz came to this field and served for about one year. It was under his ministry that the plot of ground on 25 North Queen Street was purchased from the late John H. Mosley for the site of the present church. Elder Muntz encouraged a number of farmers of Millsboro, Delaware, with whom he was holding Bible studies at the time, to donate the lumber from their woodland for the building of the Dover Church.

The building of the church began in 1922 and was completed in 1924. Elder Ernest C. Atkinson was pastor from 1920 to 1924. Elder A. J. Evelyn came and pastored in this district until his death in 1937.

Following Elder Evelyn, the church continued to progress under the fatherly ministry of Elder W. L. Cheatham from 1937 to 1945. Elder E. I. Watson succeeded Elder Cheatham and pastored from 1945 to 1949. During Elder Watson's ministry, the church name was changed from "Dover Number Two" to the "Bethuel Seventh-day Adventist Church." From 1949 to 1951, Elder W. L. Brantley was the pastor. Elder A. S. Wagner's tenure was from 1951 to 1954. Elder N. A. Bliss served from 1954 to 1960.

When Elder J. E. Collins entered the district in 1960, the church had just been damaged by fire which made it necessary to make extensive renovations under the contracting leadership of Bro. Melvin C. Hickerson and fellow laborers of the church. Words cannot express our depth of appreciation for their skillful services. Then, in April 1964, the church was officially dedicated to God under the able direction of Pastor Collins.

Following Elder J. E. Collin's pastorate, came Elder J. F. Street from 1964 to 1968. He gave us valuable leadership.

**BETHUEL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***25 N. Queen Street, Dover, DE 19904*

---

Our next pastor, Elder William Ervin, served from 1969 to 1972. When Elder Roy Wright came in 1972, he was our first pastor to reside in the city of Dover since 1954. Elder Wright left in 1974 to become a chaplain in the U.S. Army. We were again blessed to have our former pastor, Elder J. F. Street to return and serve from 1974 to 1975 and at which time he retired. The district was next privileged to have the "oratorical scholar," Elder William Taliaferro from 1975 to 1979. Pastor Melvin Green followed from 1984 to 1989. It was under his pastorship that the Mt. Carmel Church worshipped with us during its expansion program. Then God sent us our present Pastor, Elder Oliver E. Cheatham, the son of one of the early builders of the Delaware districts, the late Elder W. L. Cheatham. How fitting for our Pastor, Elder Oliver Cheatham who is artistically inclined to lead us in renovating the interior of our present structure, making it a beautiful sanctuary. Presently, under his able leadership, as well as the leaders who followed namely, Aaron Thompkins, James A. Johnson, III, Gary Banks, James Watkins, and Glenford Baxter, Bethuel is moving forward in its evangelistic effort to win souls. "God moves in mysterious ways, His "wonders to perform." All working together for good. PRAISE THE LORD!

## BURLINGTON COUNTY BRAZILIAN MISSION GROUP

638 Parry Avenue, Palmyra, N.J. 08065



English Classes, Community services giving food and clothing for those in need, Christmas programs for the children and many other activities was part of our work in the community to preach the gospel since the Philadelphia Brazilian Church Pioneers and Pastor. Lenin Rincon started the church. These outreach programs were extended to the Brazilian community in New Jersey. Due to this reason in 2008, many non-Adventist people from the Brazilian Community from Riverside and Delran Township in Burlington County, New Jersey started to attend our Brazilian Church in Philadelphia. Due to this reason, Pastor Rincon set up a team to start Bible Studies each Sabbath afternoon in New Jersey. The first team was Klebert Feitosa and Jefferson Ferreira. After a while, the first person baptized as a result of that work was Valdecir Riveiro. His wife Elaine Riveiro was Adventist, already attending the Philadelphia church since they arrived in the United States.

After this first baptism, the Riveiro family showed interest to do missionary work for God and Pastor Rincon organized them into a Small Bible Study Group on Saturday afternoon. At this level, Brother Moses, one of the Brazilian Church Elders was designated to do this work. One of the first families attending this small group was Silvio [Brother of Mrs. Riveiro] and Cristiane Santos, his wife with their children, who planned to continue serving the community. English classes were held on Sunday afternoon at the Riveiro family's home. In that way, the people involved in the English classes started to attend the Small Bible Study Group that after a while continued on Friday night with Pastor Rincon, because Brother Moses moved to another town due to his secular job. Outreach ministries with four Brazilian colporteurs from the Review and Herald Student Program for summer came for five weeks and doing their work, they connected us with people looking to study the Bible. These four colporteurs were Andresa, Samirla, Brena and Raul. Other missionary works were done and as a result, another 17 people were baptized.

It was in 2010, when the Columbian Union monthly Magazine VISITOR picked five church planting projects from our Union territory. Our work in New Jersey was picked based on what we were doing in the community to reach people for Jesus, and they published an article about our work on June 2010 with the title **PORTUGUES PLANT MEETS NEEDS IN NEW JERSEY**. Page 19. Erison Durante, his wife Eleni Durante, Rony Silva and his wife Lais Silva were part of the people baptized, but even before baptism, they were involved in outreach to other people, so they were visitors and pioneers of this work in New Jersey while Pastor Rincon continued one Bible Study Group at the

## BURLINGTON COUNTY BRAZILIAN MISSION GROUP

*638 Parry Avenue, Palmyra, N.J. 08065*

---

Rivera's home where they were studying the Bible. So immediately, they got baptized. They started another small group to study the Bible at Isamel and Keila Oliveira's Home who eventually got baptized, bringing other people to Jesus. Yes, my wife and children always supported this ministry that I did not develop alone, but as a team with them.

As time passed, we faced the need of starting the Sabbath meetings. When it occurred, the Santos Family, mentioned above, opened their home to start in summer 2012, the first Sabbath Meeting. Then, on August 26, 2012, the AEC Executive Committee voted to organize this group as a Burlington County Brazilian Mission Group, setting Mount Olivet SDA Church located at Camden, N.J. under Pastor Matlock's leadership, as the mother church for this group.

In January 2013, we rented an Episcopal Church located at 638 Perry Ave. in Palmyra, N.J. 08065 where we had developed several outreach ministries to bring others to Jesus with the understanding that our focus is the Portuguese Speaking community. We always have been open to every culture in the community, and because of it in January 2017, an English-speaking group is meeting in the Episcopal Church building that we are renting, to reach the second Generation of the Brazilian community that speak English and Portuguese. We cannot forget that we have had unconditional support from our mother church members and Pastor Matlock; always supporting in different ways, our work, as well as getting involved with different activities we had developed in the Brazilian community. Pastor Izair Costa as the current pastor who was assigned in 2017.

Jesus has not come yet, but we still have a lot of work to do in New Jersey, and we hope that in the meantime, we see the Brazilian Ministry in New Jersey continuing to grow. We can also see in the future, another English-speaking Church start in this area of Palmyra, N.J., as result of being open to reach everybody while we work to reach people in our own culture. It is the reason that the Bible says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten son, that whoever believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Whosoever, it means everybody, every culture around us. At the end, when Jesus comes again, and He transforms our life to be a perfect human being, all of us will be part of one culture, speaking one language and worshipping one God. Amen.



## EBEN-EZER HAITIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

26988 Bethel Concord Road, Seaford, DE 19973



The Eben-Ezer Haitian SDA Church started with just one invitation. In March of 1993, brother Jean-Willio Ulysse, his wife Romaine and their two children, invited some friends and other Haitians to come to their house located at 109 N Poplar St. in Laurel, Delaware. They had decided to spend some time in prayer and Bible study. Among those who came were Brother Bernard Montulas, Sister Gisele Pierre, and Brother Heine Olivince. They met regularly, mostly on Friday and Saturday evenings. With those recurrent meetings and the quick growth of the group, they couldn't wait to see their church dream become a reality.

In July 1993, a group of seventeen brothers and sisters went to visit the Millsboro English-speaking church of Delaware. The Pastor, Rudyard Lord, warmly received them, and because they mostly spoke French and Creole, he offered to lend them a space to worship in his church building. Pastor Lord spoke about them to Pastor Leslie Moise, the Coordinator of the Allegheny East Conference Haitian churches. They met with the coordinator on October 13, 1993, and he decided to create an official Sabbath School group lead by Brother Jean-Willio Ulysse.

About two months later, in December 1993, the room where they met became too small, and they decided to relocate at 135 Market Street in Laurel, Delaware. They stayed there for eighteen months, and in June 1995, they moved to Georgetown at 309 Conway St. in Delaware. While they were at that location, the Lord blessed them with the purchase of a piece of land with a house and a trailer on it, for \$69,000.00, in Seaford, Delaware. They had some difficulties moving to that place, but our Almighty ordered a Seaford Judge to use his right of veto to grant Eben-Ezer permission to use the trailer as a place to worship. In 1997, the group was able to worship the Lord in that trailer on their own land.

With the Lord's numerous blessings, in August 2007, the very first stone of construction of the Eben-Ezer Haitian Church building was laid. And finally, in December 2008, with prayer and thanksgiving praises, by God's grace and blessings, the sanctuary was officially dedicated to the Lord Almighty.

The Eben-Ezer Haitian Church has helped to raise two daughter churches. The first one is called in French "Mitspa", established in the community of Bear, Delaware, and the other one is "Shekinah in Eden" in Salisbury, Maryland. Here is a list of the Pastors, God has used throughout the years to develop this congregation to his glory for the salvation of his children

**EBEN-EZER HAITIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***26988 Bethel Concord Road, Seaford, DE 19973*

---

1. Pastor Rudyard Lord 1993 - 1995
2. Pastor Max E Charles 1995 - 2001
3. Pastor Arbentz Pierre-Antoine 2002 - 2010
4. Pastor Daniel B. Sejour September 18th, 2010 to January 31st, 2015
5. Pastor Jean Milca Fenelon May 30th, 2015 to present

During his ministry at Eben-Ezer, Pastor-Pierre Antoine was assisted by Pastor Darnel Marius, Roodly Alexandre, and John Edvard Maisonneuve. The survival and the harmonious development of this congregation through very difficult years are clear evidences of the fidelity of God to his promises and his tangible presence by those who have committed their lives to fulfilling the evangelical mandate. The Eben-Ezer Church currently has more than 200 members.

**PRAISE THE LORD ALMIGHTY!**

**EL DESEADO DE TODAS LAS GENTES***51 Blue Hen Drive, Newark, DE 19713*

The history of our church is long, but due to time, we are going to write the most important points. After finishing our contract with the Pennsylvania Conference, Pastor Ramon Escalante, the director of the Spanish Ministry of Churches, saw fit to assign me to two of his churches in Chester, PA: Obed Edom, and the other in Wilmington, DE. The church of LOS TRES ANGELES, under the direction of its servant, Felix M. Amparo, gave birth to a daughter. This was the place where the Lord brought us. There was Alex Ocasio, Ana Santos, Gerardo González and family, Elda Gonzalez and family, Jesus Espinosa, Jesus Cuello, and his wife. There, with the few brethren, we started a strategic plan, discovered what our mission was, set ourselves a mission, and searched for our common goals. We then took our church mission and started working on that mission. We set goals and a plan of action. One of those goals was to plant new churches in places where there was no Adventist presence.

It all started with a Bible study in Elkton, MD, with a girl named Patricia. After that Bible study, we organized ourselves to go and look for other contacts in the same area. We went out on Sundays to give Bible studies to the several contacts that we had received. We organized ourselves in such a way that, each person who had a day off to offer to the Lord as an offering, would carry out the Bible studies that were becoming more and more. We made contact with Elvis, Yareli, Kixi, Erwin and Abdi. Then Jesus, the Lay Activities Director and I, left and found Uriel and his wife Dalila, with whom we studied the Bible.

Later, we started looking for a church to rent in Elkton, MD because most our contacts lived far away. After learning that there was an American Adventist Church called Providence, I went and had a meeting with them. I told them that we were studying the Bible with several people in the community and that we wanted to plant a church in that area. Elder Burton Rexrode liked the idea. After a series of meetings with the church board, they agreed to provide us a place to meet. As time went on, before we began meeting in that place, Elder Burton Rexrode gave me a call, telling me that the date on which we could begin meeting in Providence would be overturned. Their church had not passed inspection and had to make improvements in their basement. This was made mandatory by the city. Elder Burton Rexrode decided that I would be involved in a fair, where his church would also be involved. God was guiding us, since at one of the meetings we were having at Providence Church, was Pastor Berky, with whom I could meet and who in turn was impressed with the plans and work I explained we were doing.

## EL DESEADO DE TODAS LAS GENTES

*51 Blue Hen Drive, Newark, DE 19713*

---

After learning of the circumstances concerning Providence Church, Pastor Berky was interested in giving us his church in Perryvilles, MD, (Blythedale SDA) for us to meet there. We started in October 2013 to have meetings at 3:00 pm every Saturday. There, we got to celebrate a very beautiful Christmas party, and in March of 2014, we married our brethren Uriel and Dalila Perez. We had a series of baptisms of which many are no longer with us, and others still persevere with us. We also married Ever and Clarisa, Elvis and Yarely, Kisy and Erwin.

Those who started with us from the beginning, or those who came to this place for the first time when we opened in October 2014 were Alex and Janet Ocasio, Uriel Pérez and family, Ever Perez and family, Delmar, Misael, José Luis, Francis, Jonathan, Salvador Mata, Pedro and Francisca Sánchez, and the pastoral family. Afterwards, there was a problem in the Mother Church of Los Tres Angeles. There was a terrible cold that caused all the water pipes in the church to freeze, causing great damage; even the roof of the church collapsed. Due to this, some of the members of the mother church, agreed to join the daughter church. Among them was our sister Ana Santo, and Elda Gonzales. Those who joined us through baptism or profession of faith were quite many, but many of them are not with us today.

Our name: The name EL DESEADO DE TODAS LAS GENTES (THE DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS), came from the Bible scripture in the book of Haggai 2:5-7.

The distance was too great to be traveling to Perryvilles, so we decided to move to another place. We started searching for one between Bear, Delaware and Elkton, Maryland. We came to this place in Newark, and here we are going up and down, but always climbing higher, thank the Lord, since September 2014 where we have been praising the Lord. The problem now is that our lessor says that we have been growing more than they have and want to raise the rent.

Until now, the Lord has helped us, and we have rescued many souls, who by the grace of God can now give testimony. Our church is still progressing and is now looking to buy a church. We desire to glorify God in our lives and in our work for His cause. It is the will and desire of this, your servant, to lead this church to grow in all areas of God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**EL DESEADO DE TODAS LAS GENTES***51 Blue Hen Drive, Newark, DE 19713***EL DESEADO DE TODAS LAS GENTES—CHURCH MEMBERSHIP****CHURCH ORGANIZATION—11/12/16****ACTUAL MEMBERSHIP—DTG**

Almanzar, Jonathan	Gonzalez, Ramiro Jr	Martinez, Leonel
De la Cruz, Delmar	Gonzalez, Melisa	Martinez, Genesis
De la Cruz, Yarelis	Gonzalez, Emily	Martinez, Siancy
Chavez, Dolores	Gonzalez, Francis	Mata, Salvador
Espinoza, Abdi	Hernandez, Selvin	Mata, Jehovanly
Gonzalez Morales, Elda	Martinez, Elvis	Mata, Jarelyn
Mazariegos, Moises	Perez, Uriel	Reynosa, Jesus
Mendoza, Jose Luis	Perez Ramirez, Dalia	Salazar, Nilda
Molina, Manuel	Perez, Uriel Jr	Santos, Ana
Montoya, Kimberly	Perez, Anthony	Sanchez, Pedro
Montoya, Tommy	Perez, Ever	Sanchez, Francisca
Ocasio, Alex	Perez Ramirez, Clarisa	Velazquez, Evelio
Ocasio, Janet	Perez Ashley	Velazquez, Aminta
Perez, Josue	Perez Camila	Velazquez, Cynthia
Perez, Jaiden	Ramirez, Balerio	Velazquez, Evelyn
Perez, Adriel	Rodriguez, Jheison	Velazquez, Vicky
Perez, Martinez	Reyes, Misael	

**ITS PASTORAL FAMILY—DTG**

Pastor Felix Amparo	Evelia Cordova	Gaddiel Amparo	Jaziel Amparo
---------------------	----------------	----------------	---------------

**OUR LOYAL FRIENDS--DTG**

Adriana	Perez, Saul
Cartajena, Julio	Ramirez, Eliseo
Chavez, Anamelia	Rodriguez, Erika
Mata, Elizabeth	Leiver
Pino, Adriana	Gladys Gomez
Pino, Carlos	Gladys Hernandez

## FAITH SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH HISTORY

1011 Phillips Street Cambridge, MD 21613



In the 50's, local Elders Powell Sudler and Eldred Pritchett, from Delaware, along with others, sold truth filled literature in the Cambridge, Maryland area.

In July of 1958, Elder Nelson Bliss held a tent meeting in the city of Cambridge on a lot on Phillips Street. Many came to the meetings, believed the messages presented and were baptized.

On September 15, 1969, a company was organized. Prior to that date, Mrs. Hattie Cornish was the only Black Seventh-day Adventist in the city. The company was added to the Millsboro and Dover, Delaware/Salisbury, Maryland District. Pastor Bliss helped us to acquire a storefront building for church and Sabbath School classes. After Elder Bliss was transferred, there was a long period before another pastor was assigned to the district.

Being new in the faith, some left and returned to their former churches. Some passed away, and only a few remained. However, Elder Eldred Pritchett continued to come from Millsboro, Delaware each Sabbath to preach to the congregation. Also, Eldred Cyril Brown from the Salisbury Church came on Sabbaths and Wednesday nights for prayer and Bible study. Soon after, church officers were assigned various duties.

The next pastor was Elder John C. Collins. He, his wife and son came and labored with the members for three years. Following Elder Collins' term, Elder John Street served the congregation for a short time.

The next pastor was Elder Paul Bridgeford and his wife Ethel. They came sharing their love, enthusiasm, talents and gave much encouragement. Following this couple was Elder Gene Smith and his family. During their five-year stay, the church moved from the store front and began worshipping in homes. However, Elder Smith realized the need to have a church building. He enthusiastically worked with the members on various projects to raise funds. He helped with the purchase of a parcel of land. Not long after, he and his family were moved from the area.

The next pastor, Elder St. Clair Phipps, served as interim leader until Pastor Samuel Boynton and his wife LaJean were assigned. They remained for four years. Pastor Harry Cartwright and his family came afterward. He held a tent effort in the city of Easton, Maryland (about 18 miles away.) The members

## FAITH SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH HISTORY

*1011 Phillips Street Cambridge, MD 21613*

---

from Cambridge supported the small group of newly baptized members, joining them in worship on Sabbaths and at prayer meetings. When Pastor Cartwright left to go on a missionary assignment in Africa, local leaders continued the work in Easton.

For a period, interim pastors Elder J. Alfred Johnson and his wife Paula led the Cambridge congregation. Then, Pastor John Wright, assisted by Pastor William Taliaferro, came to the district for a short period. From 1978 until 1980, Elder Peter Campbell was assigned to the district. He encouraged the members to boost the church building fund, in preparation to build on the land that was owned. He was also instrumental in getting a Bible instructor, Bro. Charlie Jenkins, assigned in the Cambridge area.

In the Fall of 1979, Pastor Campbell and members broke ground and began construction on the new church building. Elder Cyril Brown was the leading contractor throughout the construction, along with several Millsboro and Salisbury carpenters.

Next, Elder Alvin LaCount was assigned to the district for two years. Retired pastor, Elder William Erving, came to fill in until another pastor was assigned.

On May 30, 1981, the members celebrated the opening of the new church building, with its own name "Faith."

Elder George Thornton was the next pastor to serve with his wife for three and a half years. Following was Elder Carl Hinds and his family. During his tenure, the church celebrated the "burning of the mortgage" on March 14, 1992. This was indeed a high day for the small congregation. "To God Be the Glory!"

Elder Henry Davis was the next Pastor, along with his family, to serve the district from 1995 to 1999. Then, Elder Richard Reeves with his wife Sheryl and children provided interim service at "Faith." Also, Elder Stephen Richardson and family served here for a short time until a pastor was assigned. Elder Glenford Baxtor was assigned and served from 1999 to 2004. The next pastor was Dr. Paul A. Bryant and his wife, who served the district from 2004 to 2015 until he retired. Elder Thaddious Privette and his wife served for an interim period until the current pastor, Elder Cecil Williams was assigned in 2016.

## FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

127 Earl Avenue, P. O. Box 37, Glassboro, N.J. 08028-0037



On December 20, 1941, the Jericho #2, RFD in Sewell, New Jersey was organized with Elder M. S. Banfield officiating along with Conference President, Elder Conger.

On January 24, 1942, Elder Banfield officiated at the Jericho #2 Church first communion service. The annual camp meeting was held at Ocean Cor Park, Lakeland, New Jersey from July 23 to August 2, 1942.

On April 29, 1950, our church property was changed to the Allegheny Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists.

Our ministers were: M. S. Banfield, 1941-1945; W. A. Thompson, 1945 to 1948; W. D. Dobbins, 1948 to 1950; and L. R. Preston Sr., 1950 to 1953.

The church moved in 1953 to Church Street in Jericho, New Jersey and the name was Jericho Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Our ministers were: L. R. Preston Sr., 1953 to 1954; Charles D. Brooks, 1954 to 1957; James Milton Thomas, 1957 to 1960; Wilmont M. Fordham, 1965 to 1966; Alonzo Wagner, 1966 to 1968; Auldwin Humphrey, 1968 to 1971; Paul Bridgeford, 1971 to 1973.

In 1972, under Pastor Paul Bridgeford's administration, the church purchased property in Glassboro. Additional ministers during this time were Roland W. Newman, 1973 to 1975; Robert Tucker, 1975 to 1976; James L. Lewis, 1976 to 1977.

Our church moved to 229 Wenonah Avenue, P. O. Box 185, Mantua, New Jersey. Our name became The First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Mantua.

Our ministers were: James L. Lewis, 1977 to 1979; William Linthicum, 1979 to 1982; Samuel Boynton, 1982; Ronald A. Smith, 1982 to 1984; Devroux M. Paige, 1983 to 1985; Patrick Green Sr., 1985 to 1987; and Patrick O'Mara, 1987 to 1989/1990.



## FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*127 Earl Avenue, P. O. Box 37, Glassboro, N.J. 08028-0037*

---

Our church moved to 300 University Boulevard, P.O. Box 37, Glassboro, N.J. 08028-0037. Our name became: First Seventh-day Adventist Church. Our ministers were: Patrick Green Sr., 1989/1990; Gary Banks 1990 to 1998; and Cecil Williams 1998 to 2001.

In 2000, a new church building was constructed at 127 Earl Avenue in Glassboro, New Jersey. Our ministers were Claude Harris, II 2001-2002; Mark Stoddart 2002-2008; and Dr. Edward L. Richardson 2008 to 2016. Dr. Richardson retired in December of 2016 and Allegheny East Conference administration assigned Pastor Jason McCracken as our Interim Pastor in January of 2017.

## FIRST MILLSBORO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*P. O. Box 512, 30007 Cordrey Road, Millsboro, DE 19966*



Many years ago, a Seventh-day Adventist church from Dover, Delaware sponsored a tent effort featuring an Elder Sceeny as the speaker. Howard Street, better known as "Uncle Patty" attended the meetings as did Catherine Norwood's parents.

After the tent meetings, regular meetings were held among friends and relatives in the community. "Uncle Patty" became his own evangelist as he shared his spiritual messages with community friends and relatives. He was never without some type of tract as he shared his spiritual messages at every opportunity.

On October 13, 1934, the Millsboro Church met in the home of Burton Street to officially join the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Officiating at the meeting were Conference President W. C. Moffett, Elder A. J. Evelyn, acting as secretary and Elder R. C. Crawford, the conference Missionary Secretary.

The 14 Charter Members were: Emery Wilson Norwood, Sarah Catherine Norwood, Mary Ellen Norwood, Carlos Edward Street, Howard Street, Burton Street, Clara Street, John Franklin Street, Ruth Evelyn Street, Mildred Street, Clara Jackson, Leon Street, Myrtle Street and Verneace Jackson.

On September 1, 1934, the church members and friends witnessed a baptism in the Indian River. Land was donated by Burton Street to be used to erect the new church and on Sunday, September 13, 1939, the Millsboro Church held its dedication service. They were joined in celebration by their sister churches in Milford and Dover, Delaware.

Millsboro became aware of its responsibility toward Christian education and made plans to build a room adjacent to the original church for the education of its children.

Elder Nelson Bliss, who organized the Salisbury and Cambridge, Maryland churches, donated \$500 toward the purchase of blocks for the new school which Thomas Burton helped to build. Teachers at the school included Mildred Jones, Eileen Wright, Alice Powell, Louise Mosby, Catherine Peterson, Frances Bliss, Corine Smith, Lucille Davis and Ruth Evelyn Street.

**FIRST MILLSBORO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*P. O. Box 512, 30007 Cordrey Road, Millsboro, DE 19966*

---

A total of 226 people were baptized through the services of the following ministers:

A.J. Evelyn, 1934 to 1937; William Cheatham, 1938 to 1945; Ercell I. Watson, 1945 to 1949; L.W. Brantley, 1949 to 1951; Alonzo Wagner; 1951 to 1954; Nelson Bliss, 1954 to 1960; John E. Collins, 1960 to 1964; J. Franklin Street, 1964 to 1974; Samuel Boynton, 1974 to 1977; Peter Campbell, 1977 to 1979; John Wright, 1979 to 1982; Alvin LA Count; William Ervin, 1983 to 1988; Carl Hinds, 1988 to 1991; Rudyard Lord, 1991 to 1997.

As the years, have been good to First Millsboro Seventh-day Adventist Church, many of the pillars have passed away. The pastors that have come to minister to the spirit and prepare those remaining for the second coming of Christ are as follows: Oliver Cheatham, 1997-2002; Earl Blackwell, 8/2002-9/2002; A.R. Jones, 9/2002-2003; Colby Matlock Sr., 10/2003-8/2010; R. Vincent Dehm, 10/2010-10/2012; and Stephen Boyce, Sr., 11/2012 to present.

**FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***955 Route 54, Newtonville, N.J. 08346*

The First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Newtonville, New Jersey started in July 1942 as a branch Sabbath School of Ebenezer S.D.A. Church in Philadelphia. Under the leadership of Brother Ernest Williams, this group of thirteen met at the home of the late William and Sarah Faulk. In 1953, M.S. Banfield, Secretary-Treasurer of the Allegheny Conference, organized the Sabbath School members into a company. Worship services were held in the homes of Sis. Selena Chandler, Sis. Jennie Davis. In 1957, a church building committee was formed. Shortly after, they were granted charter status, members began setting funds aside for a church building. In April 1958, with approximately eighteen hundred dollars in the treasury, they broke ground on a 50 by 100-foot lot donated by Elder Henry T. M. Palmer. Prints and sketches for the first building were prepared by Bro. Calvin Clark. Both men and women gave freely of their time and labor to get the construction ready for worship. In June 1958, just three months after breaking ground, Elder Banfield and the little company held its first service, the "Ordinance of the Lord's Supper", in the basement of the church.

In September 1959, Pastor J. Milton Thomas was appointed district pastor. Under his administration, the upper level of the church was added. On April 1, 1960, the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Newtonville with 23 charter members was officially granted church status in the Allegheny Conference sisterhood of churches.

Pastor Roland W. Newman served in Newtonville from 1961 to 1965. During his administration, the main auditorium was carpeted and furnished. In 1963, a devastating fire swept through the area and destroyed many homes. The Newtonville Church served as a disaster relief station providing food, clothing, bedding, and furniture to fire victims, and assisted residents in finding temporary housing.

Elder Wilmot M. Fordham served as pastor from 1965 to 1967. In 1966, he conducted a six-week evangelistic effort in Mizpah, New Jersey during which 15 souls were baptized. Additional improvements were done on both the inside and outside of the church. Also, fifteen acres of land were deeded to the church by Sisters Selena Chandler and Jennie Davis and Sister Mozell Smith.

Elder George L. Braxton served as pastor in November 1967 for eight months. Although his tenure was short, he helped the church acquire a new look that included paneling, a glass entrance door, and windows.

## FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*955 Route 54, Newtonville, N.J. 08346*

---

Elder Aldwin T. Humphrey, pastored from October 1968 until 1970. He had a burden for youth and emphasized the need for a church school. He encouraged members to continue raising funds for a school and organized a youth church that attracted young people of all ages. In 1970, he conducted a successful evangelistic crusade at the intersection of Jackson Road and Highway 54. Many precious souls were won to Christ.

The Modern Miracle Church School was built in 1971, under the leadership of Pastor Paul M. Bridgeford, a former schoolteacher with a knowledge of construction. With the opening of the school, Elder Henry Palmer's vision of a church school in Newtonville was realized.

In 1974, Pastor Roland Newman returned to shepherd the flock for a brief period. In March 1975, Local Elder Robert Tucker, was appointed temporary pastor and served for one year.

Pastor James L. Lewis and his wife Sharon began leading the flock in April 1976. He instituted the church's stewardship plan while Sister Lewis worked as a teacher and principal at the Modern Miracle Church School.

Pastor William Lithicum, Pastor Boyington, and Elder Cantrell also served as pastors. In 1983, Elder Robert Lively served as pastor.

Pastor Claude Harris II, a powerful young preacher, stressed the need for a new church building and encouraged members to raise funds. When Pastor Harris was moved to another church, Local Elder Albert Hibbert led the congregation until Chaplain Douglas Simon came to serve as interim pastor in 1990.

Pastor Michael A. Edwards served as permanent pastor from 1991 until 1994. After Pastor Edwards was called to another vineyard, Elder St. Clair Phipps served as Interim Pastor until April 1995.

In April 1995 until 2004, Pastor Maurice Taylor served as pastor and had a burden to erect a church that would glorify God. He captured the hearts and loyalty of church members by expressing a determination to see this construction through and a willingness to work as hard as the members. In 2002, under his leadership, the church realized its decades-long dream of moving into its current edifice.

Pastor Wayne Scott served in Newtonville from 2004 to 2007. Under his administration, computer and exercise classes were offered to both church and community members at the Modern Miracle School. Following his transfer, Local Elder Albert Hibbert led the congregation until Pastor Robert Smith was appointed in late 2007. When Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast in 2012, Pastor Smith worked with Adventist Community Services to organize efforts to assist Jersey shore residents whose homes were damaged or destroyed in the hurricane. Church members and busloads of students from Washington Adventist University prepared and distributed supplies, knocked on

## FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*955 Route 54, Newtonville, N.J. 08346*

---

doors, set up centers at local malls, and went door to door helping and praying for hurricane victims. Also, during his administration, the church held a tent effort in Atlantic City during which four souls gave their lives to Christ and ultimately formed the Boardwalk Community Fellowship.

Pastor Henry Davis became pastor in early 2015, for a very brief period. During his tenure, he encouraged members to upgrade the communications systems and helped draft plans to order state-of-the art sound equipment. Since August 2015, Newtonville has been pastored by Pastor George Okumu-Camera. Under his leadership, we are actively focusing on Evangelism and ensuring that our community knows that Newtonville Church is that light house where they can come in times of need and be led to Christ.

Newtonville Church celebrated its 75th Year Church anniversary on September 29 - October 1, 2017.

**To God be the Glory!**

**GETSEMANI SPANISH SDA CHURCH***1426 Mckee Road, Dover, DE 19904*

One of the most intrinsic needs of a human being is belonging, belonging to a group or social structure where basic human needs can be met. The clearest example we have is the family. For this reason, it is necessary for our church to fulfill the family roll of the Kingdom of God. Thinking on these intrinsic needs, the Acevedo Family, having moved from New Jersey to the city of Dover, had the need to congregate at a Spanish-speaking SDA church where they could worship. Unfortunately, none existed in Dover, DE.

Brother Ernesto Acevedo in prayer with his wife Maria, decided to start worshipping every Sabbath in their basement, along with 10 of their family members. On February 7, 2006, they started to gather systematically as a small active group. The Delgado, Medero and Ramirez families then joined them, until 75 people were gathering in the same house. God blessed our group, since shortly after, it was necessary for us to find a bigger place where we could worship. God permitted us to find a place to rent, where we started to officially worship as the Getsemani Spanish Group.

Now, thanks to God and with the direction of our Pastor Ramon Escalante, we have the opportunity to operate under the Allegheny East Conference Spanish Ministry of Churches, where people with the Spanish and bilingual tongue, can congregate together to worship a God that makes the impossible, possible.

**We thank God for His blessings.**

## MT. CALVARY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

5 Union Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079



In the late 1930's, while the world confronted various dictators like Hitler in Europe and various nations joined a war in trying to keep Germany and Japan in check, found America trying to keep out of those "distant conflicts". Our factories were working day and night, there were jobs for all. The DuPont Corporation ran buses from Salem City to Bridgeton and that was fine... just wonderful for the Black Salem Seventh-day Adventists for there was not an Adventist church in Salem City. The original members belonged to the Bridgeton "Bethany SDA" church and were satisfied. However, when the U.S. entered the war, things changed. The buses no longer went to Bridgeton. The dear members who rode the buses then piled into a few cars. The cars were packed with adults and their children. Sister Sarah Gross, with her children and Sister Ernestine Brown and her children were determined to worship. As the war progressed, the members along with the country had to deal with gas restrictions. Gas was restricted due to the World War. The draft age men of the church had been drafted and were training for overseas duty. Some served in the regular army, and one was a member of the now famous Tuskegee Airmen Unit. The now deceased Harry Jones Sr. had served in various capacities in the Tuskegee Airmen Unit.

The country seemed to change overnight after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and the minority Adventists in Salem County found that they just didn't have a way to get to church. Salem needed a church! Moving on faith and a determination to serve the Lord, the first members of the Mt. Calvary or Salem City church were: Elder and Mrs. Norman & Mattie Jones, their son; John Jones (he had been the driver for going to Bridgeton but was now drafted); Herman Lawrence and his daughter Marie Caesar and her son; Sister Fannie Folden Atwell; Sister Marion Doran; Sister Earnestine Brown and her children; Sister Sarah Gross and her children. There were 21 children in that initial group.

Elder Harry Dobbins organized the church on November 9, 1949. They first worshipped on Sabbath at the Second Baptist Church on Church Street in Salem. However, when that church had to make repairs on their building, Mt. Calvary had to find another place to worship. Professional Beautician, Marion Doran opened her shop and home to Mt. Calvary, and services were held at her home. After many donations, fundraising dinners, sacrifices and financial help from the conference, Mt. Calvary held the first of many services in a newly constructed church building in Magnolia Street in Salem on December 10, 1958.



## MT. CALVARY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

5 Union Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079

---

Ministers and elders who have served as pastor of Mt. Calvary; U.S Willis, W.W. Fordham and Robert (Nola) Tucker, Dr. Edward Richardson, during the 80's, and recently served again as Pastor. Dr. Richardson and his wife, Myrna were tireless shepherds to Mt. Calvary. Other previous leaders; Roy (Christine) Wright, Thaddious (Dianne) Privette, Alfred (Sylvia) Bass, Dennis (Hattie) Waters, the late Patrick W. (Lillian) Green, Patrick (Majorie) O'Mara, Gary (Robin) Banks, Cecil (Julie) Williams over the years; Elder Claude Harris, Elder Duncan, Elder Weatherford and currently again Dr. Edward Richardson. Our current pastor is Pastor Melvyn Hayden III. We have warmly embraced him and his family.

In the 1990's, after outgrowing the original church on Magnolia Street, Mt. Calvary purchased and moved into the present facility at 5 Union St. Shortly thereafter, a stunning witnessing experience occurred. Elder Leon Trusty was offered and accepted the offer to provide Bible studies to a group of individuals in Wilmington Delaware. In 1991, our church baptized the then pastor, his wife, children and 30+ adults and children who were members of a Pentecostal church. That newly baptized company was then also organized and named; Mt. Zion Miracle Station Seventh-day Adventist church.

As the church continues to endure, we at Mt. Calvary daily pray, work, wait and watch for our Lord Jesus Christ to return as promised. We often recite and act on our motto:

***Mt. Calvary is a Soul Winning center meeting the needs of the community through service and fellowship.***

**MT. CARMEL SDA CHURCH***103 Mechanic Street, Harrington, DE 19952-1007 302-398-4276*

In 1972, several members of the Bethuel Congregation in Dover, Delaware, who lived in the areas south of Dover, felt the need to share the Three Angels Message in their communities. Their initiative helped to develop and implement plans to hold evangelistic meetings in the area. Mrs. Helen Hughes and Kim, her granddaughter from New Jersey vacationed in Harrington during the summer. They were neighbors of the Conquests. Though not a Seventh-day Adventist, she welcomed members into her home for Bible study and prayer service. In July 1972, a tent meeting was held in the backyard of Harold and Margie Conquest's home on W. Milby Street. After the tent evangelism led by Pastor William Ervin, and the transfer of twenty-four members from the Bethuel Congregation, the Mt. Carmel congregation was birthed.

The Conquests opened their home for weekly prayer meeting and Sabbath worship service, until a larger permanent building was found. The first church home was purchased at 117 N. Washington Street in Milford, DE., and the first service was January 13, 1973. The dedication service was led by Elder Edward Dorsey, President, on February 24, 1973. Pastor Ervin's tenure concluded in June 1973, as Pastor John Street assumed leadership and served faithfully four years and four months.

Our next leader was Pastor Roy Wright. Along with his spiritual leadership, he led out in the physical renovation of the building. He served us faithfully for three years and nine months. Our next leader was Pastor William Taliaferro, who assisted us in paying for the furniture and the purchase of an apartment building, and a three-room house next to the church for only \$15,000. His faithful leadership ended after four years. In 1986, Pastor Melvin Green led us on our spiritual journey and the renovations of our church home for three and a half years. We worshiped with our mother church Bethuel during the renovations for two years. Pastor Oliver Cheatham arrived in 1989, and under his leadership we sold the church building in Milford, and a search was begun for a new home, initially in Houston DE. The Lord led us to purchase the former church of The Nazarene at 103 Mechanic Street, Harrington, Delaware, our current church home. Major renovations were made to the property, and the parsonage was converted to a multi-purpose Community Service Center. Under Pastor Aaron Thompkins, spiritual and physical renovations continued. He served faithfully for four years and seven and a half months leaving us in March of 2003. The local leaders led our congregation for five months before Pastor Alfred Johnson arrived in August 2003 and served us for two years and four months. We were again without pastoral leadership for four months before

**MT. CARMEL SDA CHURCH**

*103 Mechanic Street, Harrington, DE 19952-1007 302-398-4276*

---

Pastor James Watkins arrived in April of 2006. He served faithfully for eight and a half years. Along with his many seminars and training for spiritual growth and evangelism, the work of improving our church home continued, with a new roof and paving of the parking lot. The Community Service Center was demolished in preparation for an addition still to come. A sad chapter in our history occurred when on November 2012, the majority of our members left to become a Free Adventist Congregation in Denton, Maryland. Dr. Glenford Baxter was assigned to lead our congregation on January 15, 2015. His introduction and first Sabbath was March 7, He and Hazel are endeavoring to lead us to spiritual renewal, towards healing, repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation with God and one another

## MOUNT OLIVET SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*800 Chelton Avenue, Camden, N.J. 08104*



It was on November 13, 1919, that a company of Sabbath-keeping believers met together at 1030 Linden Street in Camden. These eight believers, Margaret and William Braxton, Bro. Butcher, Ethel Coleman, Sister Morton, Dora Watson and Ella and James Williams, worshiped, prayed, and studied together deepening their love for God and His word. As they witnessed to their neighbors, friends and family, the number of believers increased. The company was organized as a church and called the "Camden Number Two Church", as there was another group of believers worshiping in Camden as Camden First Seventh-day Adventist Church. After prayerful and careful Bible study, other families such as The Clarks, Walkers, Smiths, Bagwells and Davises were baptized into the Mt. Olivet Seventh-day Adventist Church from the Baptist, Methodist and Episcopalian faiths.

As the church grew, it recognized the need for a more adequate location to worship. From 1030 Linden Street, the congregation moved to 620 Chestnut Street, then to 555 Chestnut Street, then to 1916 - 18 South Seventh Street in 1944.

Almost 40 years later the congregation, now well over 300 members, under the pastoral guidance of Dr. Ronald A. Smith, Sr., in faith, constructed a new church edifice to the glory of God at the corner of Eighth Street and Chelton Avenue. They proudly marched in on Christmas Eve morning December 24, 1983. Tragedy struck in March of 1984 when Dr. Smith was killed in a car accident. God showed us that He was still in control and sent us two pastors who would lead us after the loss of Dr. Smith. In succession Pastors Thaddious M. Privette and Augustus F. O'Giste. While under their leadership, the mortgage was burned in record time.

Many outstanding pastors have pastored at Mt. Olivet including Elder Charles D. Brooks of the Breath of Life telecast fame and the current former Allegheny East Conference President Elder Charles L. Cheatham. The longest tendered pastor was Pastor Frank E. Legette III who pastored for over 12 ½ years from Feb 2, 1997 until October 10, 2009. Today 34 years since entering the current building, we continue to serve the greater Camden vicinity. Bible studies and evangelism continually increase the number of believers. On May 1, 2010, we began a new chapter and now forge ahead under the leadership of Pastor Colby A. Matlock, Sr., with the purpose of the church as it was in the beginning, to tell every person in the Camden community that Jesus is coming again real soon.

**MT. ZION MIRACLE STATION***406 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, DE 19801*

Mt. Zion Miracle Station was originally founded [as a Pentecostal congregation in Cherry Hill, New Jersey by Pastor George Williams in 1980 in Chester, Pennsylvania.] The congregation was moved to Pastor George Williams' home (Claymont, Delaware) in 1985. Here, this congregation started with two people and his family. The congregation grew weekly, so much that Pastor Williams rented a building at 302 N. Market Street, Wilmington, DE in March. The church continued to grow into three choirs, Elders, Deacons, Deaconess, Ushers and a large Youth Department.

In August of 1991, Pastor Williams went on a fast for thirty days and thirty nights and God revealed the Sabbath to him. The Pastor and his wife met a Seventh-day Adventist and began studies with Elder Leon Trusty. The Pastor immediately began to teach his congregation about what the Lord had revealed to him about the Sabbath. In January 1992, the church moved to worship on Saturday and became Sabbath Keepers.

In March 1992, the Pastor and his wife were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist faith at Mt. Calvary SDA Church in Salem, N.J. Again, Pastor Williams began to teach the congregation the information he had learned which was the doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In October 1992, the congregation (about 50 people) were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist faith. In January 1993, the church became a company in the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

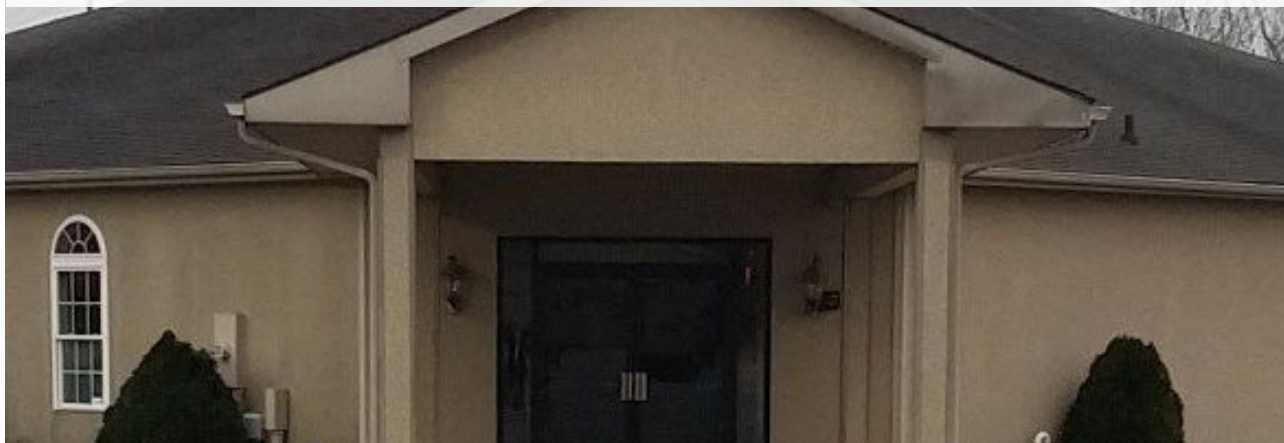
In 2010, Mt. Zion Miracle Station was voted in as a church into the sisterhood of churches in the Allegheny East Conference.

In 2015, after a city-wide evangelism campaign conducted by Evangelist Conklin B. Gentry, Mt. Zion was blessed to increase its membership by receiving the newly baptized souls under the pastoral guidance of Pastor Melvyn E. Hayden, Jr. Pastor Colby A. Matlock served as Pastor of Mt. Olivet Seventh-day Adventist Church from May 2010 – February 2020 for a total of approximately 9 years & 10 months. Pastor Colby A. Matlock served as Pastor of Mt. Olivet Seventh-day Adventist Church from May 2010 – February 2020 for a total of approximately 9 years & 10 months.

In March, 2020, Dr. David Defoe, AEC Relationship Ministries Director, assumed the role of Interim Pastor of the church and is still serving in that capacity as of this date.

## NEW LIFE (SALISBURY) SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

29119 Adventist Drive, Salisbury, MD 21801



The New Life Seventh-day Adventist (Salisbury) Church began its faithful charge in the city of Salisbury, Maryland in 1957, under the name Salisbury Seventh-day Adventist Church. At that time, Cyril Brown and Vincent Carter were the only known Seventh-day Adventists in the Salisbury area. They reportedly traveled to Millsboro, Delaware to worship and fellowship with the saints at the Millsboro Seventh-day Adventist Church, under the pastorate of Nelson Bliss. Pastor Bliss, along with his wife, Francis, and the members of the Millsboro Church worked together to expand the mission field to encompass the Salisbury area.

Plans were laid for the first Seventh-day Adventist crusade in Salisbury. And in 1956, a tent was erected on the corner of West Road and Booth Street on the west side of Salisbury. God blessed their efforts, and from that tent crusade souls were converted. From that campaign, fourteen committed souls who formed a small company (a name given before officially becoming an organized church), would soon become the founding members of the Salisbury Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Having planted a seed, the company still needed a physical church building in order for the congregation to grow. They met from week-to-week in the homes of Ida McCoy, Sarah Gunter, and others. They then decided to rent a church that was located on the corner of East Road and Westover Drive that was pastored by Sister Mary Cannon. With the driving desire to have their own place to worship, the small company, set its sights on a parcel of land on Jersey Road. With the help of Pastor Bliss and the Millsboro congregation, the company successfully purchased the land from Mrs. Ann Purnell.

Their work began in earnest again with the help of the Millsboro congregation and members from Dover, Delaware, Bro. Henry and Sam Norwood hauled in fill dirt to build up the low land. We are told that Cyril Brown, being a carpenter by trade, and the assumed head carpenter for the project, saw that everything was done to specification. James Tull, Sr., Henry and Sam Norwood, and Carlos Street were among the many that stayed to see the work completed. The church pews, donated by a church located in Odessa, Delaware, were hauled to their new home by Carlos Street in his "big rig." The church steeple was erected by Elder Charles Hickerson from the Dover Seventh-day Adventist Church. After much time, money, and most of all prayer, the church was completed in 1957.

## NEW LIFE (SALISBURY) SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*29119 Adventist Drive, Salisbury, MD 21801*

---

The membership began to grow as the next leaders in their turn planned ways and methods to get the gospel out to the community. After Pastor Nelson Bliss and Pastor John Collins, the new church was blessed with Pastor Paul Bridgeford and then Pastor Alfred Johnson.

Because of the faithfulness of her members, the Salisbury Seventh-day Adventist Church, on June 11, 1971, celebrated the mortgage burning ceremony. Pastor Samuel Boynton was the shepherd of the flock at that time.

From 1975 to 1979, the Salisbury Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Allegheny East Conference, and the Park Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Potomac Conference joined together in the interest of Christian education to operate the church school. After the 1979-80 school year, the school partnership was dissolved. However, it was decided that the Salisbury Church would continue to offer Christian education. Sis. Lucille Davis, of the Millsboro Seventh-day Adventist Church, was contracted to be the principal/teacher of the one room school throughout its duration. We were blessed to see four graduating classes by 1987, when the church voted to close the school.

In 1989, the Salisbury Church, for the second time was blessed with the opportunity to purchase land and see great growth and change. There was a parcel of 14 acres for sale at the price of \$34,000.

Under the pastorate of William Ervin, the church agreed to purchase 13 of the 14 acres for \$28,000. This acreage was located approximately a quarter mile south of the original Jersey Road location. On September 2, 2000, in a called Business Meeting, Salisbury Seventh-day Adventist Church members voted to change the name of the church. The newly erected church would be changed to New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church. In the Wicomico County, Maryland registry, there was a plan to have a road adjacent to the new property that would connect Jersey Road and West Road. On June 1, 2002, under the charge of Pastor Glenford Baxter, with much delight, the new road was named "Adventist Drive." Through the vision and guidance of the Building Committee, its Chairman Billie Blake and Co chairman Rossie Bratten, the doors of our newly blessed structure were open to receive the saints in 2004. We would like to thank the following pastors who saw the project from beginning to end: William Ervin, Carl Hinds, Henry Davis and Glenford Baxter.

In 2004, the shepherd's staff was passed to Pastor Paul Bryant, with the support of his wife Patricia. Under Pastor Bryant, the church continued to grow and be renewed spiritually through outreach and evangelistic efforts and saw the blessing of yet another mortgage burning event. One of the efforts of Pastor Bryant was the 2008 Cornelius Award Ceremony, that honored 14 of the communities "unsung heroes" who exemplified the spirit of Cornelius (Acts 10,11), honored and respected for his virtuous deeds in his community.

New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church Prison Ministry Team, after about 10 years of serving the incarcerated, began serving the men at the Eastern Correctional Institute (ECI) through worship

## NEW LIFE (SALISBURY) SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*29119 Adventist Drive, Salisbury, MD 21801*

---

services, Sabbath School, baptisms, communion services, and musical programs. Through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit, for the first time in any such institution, two churches were simultaneously established: The Little Flock on West Wing and the Spirit of Faith on the East Wing. They both entered the Conference fellowship.

In the spirit of evangelism, in 2008, New Life hosted a success religious revival from which over 80 souls were won. The evangelistic effort was recognized by the Conference. And in August 2015, in the traditions of the early church, a tent was raised at New Life for the Revelation of Hope Bible Prophecy Seminar.

As our name suggests, New Life continues to nurture the sheep of God's pasture. In 2016, we welcomed our current pastor, Pastor Cecil Williams to the New Life Seventh-day Adventist family. With the faithfulness and the monetary dedication of the members of New Life, in 2017, we also embarked on another journey of change and expansion, as we prepare the process of adding to the footprint of our current church. The need for additional space and Sabbath School classrooms have driven the pursuit to spread our wings as we continue to spread the Good News of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



## SEASHORE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

102 Linden Avenue, Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232



In 1936, under the leadership of Elder Harry Comegys, a few faithful and dedicated Adventists Sisters: Dorothy Bethel-McRae, Beatrice Thomas, Bernice Dickerson, to name a few, began attending a branch Sabbath School at the home of Sister Delaney in Pleasantville, N.J. For many years, these meetings were conducted in a small one room dwelling.

In 1941, Elder Banfield and Elder Frank McRae conducted an evangelistic tent effort in Atlantic City, and some 40 people were in attendance. Atlantic City, even during this time, was known as a resort area where many of the local residents worked in the hotel and hospitality industries. As a result, membership from the Atlantic City community was low because residents encountered difficulties trying to get Sabbath off from work. Instead many who had learned about Adventism through the tent effort moved to the Philadelphia, PA, area where getting Sabbath off was not as difficult.

But, in the late 1940's, the Sabbath School began to grow. Elder McRae, along with Elder Banfield anticipated the need for a larger building. The Sabbath School was soon moved to the Masonic Temple in Atlantic City, N.J. Within months, the Sabbath School was organized into a church under the New Jersey Conference. During this period, the church grew to 21 members.

Many moved away to pursue better work opportunities. Several others died and the membership dwindled to just two members, brother Comegys and on-fire new member Lois Matthews. Although they were few in number, they re-grew the membership and the following people came into the church:

- Elder Calvin and Sister Beatrice Clark
- Sophie Hull-Williams
- Raymond and Mary Tyler
- Sister Birl
- Annette Reed
- Pearl Scott
- Dorothy Brown
- Rebecca White
- Carrie Wagner

## SEASHORE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

102 Linden Avenue, Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232

---

- Luvenia Watts
- Viola Fisher
- Sister Grant
- Sister Drummond
- James "Jim Henry" and Jacqueline Johnson
- Vivian Hupp
- Sister Bell

In 1957, under the pastorate of Leon Trusty, the church growth required a larger building. After much prayer and fasting, we found a suitable location at 204 N. New York Avenue. After relocating to this address, we became affiliated with the Allegheny Conference and adopted the name Second Seventh-day Adventist Church. During this time, the church was led by Pastors Street and Banks.

In 1965, Elder Clark became the Lay Pastor under the pastorate of Elder Banks, who pastored three churches at the time. Elder Clark served for many years in the absence of the pastor. By his efforts and the blessings of the Lord, the membership increased to about thirty.

In 1969, under the leadership of Elder Clark, the church adopted a new name appropriate for the area, hence the Seashore Seventh-day Adventist Church was chosen. The leadership of the church encountered many changes during the seventies and eighties. Pastor Richardson served from 1970 - 1974.

In 1976, Elder McRae, who had served in the Atlantic City church for many years before moving to North Jersey and later to the First SDA Church in Newtonville, N.J., eventually returned to Atlantic City. Elder McRae answered the call to serve and moved his membership and became First Elder and Treasurer. He encouraged the members to distribute literature.

Pastor Franklin Cardona served from 1977-1980. Again, the church needed a new location to accommodate its growing membership. After much prayer, the church moved to 22 Lake Place in Pleasantville in 1978.

In 1980, a strong and energetic young man; Pastor Ronald L. Edmonds was chosen to serve until 1983. Later that year, Pastor Robert Lively assumed the leadership role and served until 1988. Between 1970 and 1988, the church experienced exponential growth which resulted from multiple Bible studies and a crusade.

The Pathfinder Club debuted and became a viable part of the church under the directorship of Sister Gearline Burch, Sister Mary Tyler, Sister Luvenia Watts and Sister Jacqueline Johnson. The Pathfinder Club was a vital and successful form of outreach for the church, because it consisted of youngsters both in and out of the church. Pastor Claude Harris II was appointed in 1988 to lead the church. Under his leadership, the church began a renovation project by installing new carpet, ceiling tiles and panels for the sanctuary. New siding and storm windows were also installed, as well

## SEASHORE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*102 Linden Avenue, Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232*

---

as a fresh coat of paint. The project ended with the purchase of new pews along with cushioned seats. God truly blessed this project because \$1500 was collected within twenty minutes to fund the new carpet.

In 1990, the church went without a pastor for a short period of time. By the grace of God, we made it. In August of that year, Pastor W. W Fordham came out of retirement to serve the church. We were very grateful and honored to have him. Under his leadership, we purchased a church van, which made it convenient to attend conference events and seminars. We also built and furnished a pastor's study.

In May of 1991, Pastor Michael Edwards was appointed and served until 1995. During his administration, a very successful Revelation Seminar was conducted, and fourteen souls accepted Christ.

In April of 1995, Pastor Maurice N. Taylor became pastor. His motto was that 'God's house should be the best, inside and out.' In 2000, we purchased the building, where we currently worship, located at 102-108 Linden Avenue. Pastor Taylor and the members worked night and day as renovations began immediately: the roof was replaced, new carpeting and pews were installed, the kitchen was remodeled, the oil heating system was replaced with central heating and air, and the hallways and restrooms were completely remodeled. New electrical outlets were installed, the kitchen range was replaced, siding was installed, painting was done on the inside and the outside, and new office equipment was purchased including a computer and copy machine. In 2001, the little church and house on 22 Lake Place was sold, and we moved into this edifice in 2003. We also purchased the property next to the church. The parking lot was constructed during his administration.

Pastor Wayne A. Scott, a gifted administrator, served the church from April 2004 until 2007. Later in 2007, Pastor Robert T. Smith joined the ranks of the leadership. Pastor Smith conducted a crusade in Atlantic City from which a new congregation was born; now the Atlantic City Boardwalk Mission. Pastor Clarence Pettiford worked tirelessly alongside Pastor Smith as the Bible Worker. He canvassed all day in the summer heat to bring souls into the kingdom. Pastor Smith also put our church on the map by hosting the Bay Area Unity Day here in Pleasantville and Atlantic City multiple times. Under Pastor Smith's administration, our church was assigned as a distribution center for the Pleasantville and surrounding areas after Hurricane Sandy. His most recent accomplishment was that he paid off our church mortgage in March 2017. We give all the glory to the almighty God for allowing us to reach such a milestone. After Pastor Smith was assigned to a different church in the Fall of 2014, Pastor Henry Davis served as our interim pastor for five months.

Pastor George Okumu-Camera came to serve as our pastor in August of 2015. We, the members of Seashore Seventh-day Adventist Church are very proud of our history and the strong leadership that has made these accomplishments possible. We will move forward with God's help. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

## SHARON TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

2001 N. Washington Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19802



Sharon Temple's predominate African American congregation comprises the largest Seventh-day Adventist Church in the state of Delaware. In 1911, our church started at 1226 N. Franklin Street under the leadership of Elder C. J. Rogers.

Although the congregation moved to 7th & DuPont Street, records indicate that the church at 619 DuPont Street was purchased from the N.C. Presbyterian on January 3, 1930. It was then consecrated by Elder Arthur J. Evelyn, and dedication services were held May 8, 1943. Elder J. H. Wagner preached the sermon, Elder P. G. Rogers read the history, and Elder W. L. Cheatham led the benediction. Among the many early patriarchs who served here were Elders W. L. Ervin, C.D. Brooks and U. S. Willis.

The church grew tremendously in the 1960's and 1970's. By 1972, Sister Josephine Flowers had organized enough support to establish the Sharon Temple Day Care. A veteran Bible worker for the church, Sister Flowers was also praised for winning many souls to Christ. In 1974, Elder Luther Palmer led the "Step Up to Happiness Crusade" at Bancroft Elementary School, which won about seventy-five souls to Christ.

Elder Henry J. Fordham III, whose first church was Sharon Temple, was one of the outstanding pastors of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He became pastor in 1976, and under his leadership, membership increased to such an extent that he inspired the congregation to seek a larger facility for worship. Finally, on June 24, 1978, the congregation moved to its present location at 2001 N. Washington Street. The blessings were so tremendous that in 1980, we established the Sharon Temple Jr. Academy, with an enrollment of 108 upon opening. We have continued to provide Christian education within our community and are currently the only Adventist Christian academy in the Bay Area.

Elder William Hall succeeded Elder Fordham in 1981, and the membership continued to increase. Elder Hall initiated several evangelistic crusades including one for six weeks led by Oscar Lane at Warner School. That crusade resulted in the addition of fifty more souls to the congregation.

## SHARON TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*2001 N. Washington Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19802*

---

In 1989, Elder Harry Cartwright was appointed pastor to Sharon Temple for the second time and he, along with his wonderful wife, helped to establish the Sanctuary Choir. Realizing the tremendous musical talents of the congregation, Elder Cartwright then initiated the sixty-voice Sharon Temple Mass Choir.

By 1993, when Elder Claude Harris II became the pastor, Sharon Temple boasted a membership of 662; Pastor Harris exhorted his followers to "Take the City of Wilmington".

In 1996, Elder Augustus F. O'Giste became pastor of the church. Truly anointed by the Holy Spirit, Elder O'Giste brought invigorating new ideas to hasten God's coming. As he trained us to prepare more souls for the kingdom, our motto became "This is the church in the heart of the city with the people of the city in the center of its heart."

Elder Stephen A. Boyce, Sr. came to us in 2000 with a vision that has carried us into the new millennium. With his knowledge of modern technology, we have installed a satellite dish that will allow us to keep in touch with our sister churches around the world. Under his pastorate, we have reopened the Sharon Temple Child Care Learning Center. To God be the glory, yes-great things He has done!

In 2012, our congregation was blessed with the leadership of Elder Charlie D. Jenkins. He inspired us to know what we believe and why we believe it. He encouraged us to spread the gospel via our live streaming and radio ministry. We have done many improvements to our sanctuary since his ministry here at Sharon. Upon his retirement, we were under the leadership of Pastor Thaddious Privette serving as our interim pastor. He guided us with his wisdom and vision to be faithful stewards with our finances, time and talents as we anxiously await the return of Jesus!

Currently Elder Jimmy Ferguson is leading our church and making sure we are ready to proclaim the soon coming of Jesus! Pastor Ferguson believes in staying connected to our families and friends, getting to know the community in a more personal light and knowing the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

## VOICE OF TRUTH CHURCH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

1000 Church Road, Newark, DE 19702



Voice of Truth Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 1000 Church Road in Newark, Delaware is the first and only organized Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Newark and Bear areas. The congregation is a multi-cultural one, representing 17 countries, and English is the primary language spoken. The church is currently under the leadership of Pastor Weatherford retired in 2018 (having served eight years). As of 2018, the current pastor is Melvyn E. Hayden, Jr.

Voice of Truth began in late 2002, after the end of a tent effort that was conducted on Route 40 in Newark, Delaware by Evangelist Harry Cartwright. To maintain a worship presence in the area, a charter group of approximately 25 members began holding worship services at the AmericInn Hotel on Route 40. The growth in attendance necessitated renting a larger worship space at the Hope Lutheran Church on Christiana Road in New Castle, Delaware. After the departure of Pastor Cartwright, Minister Cornelius Ruley accepted the challenge and organized the group into a cohesive body. Under his leadership, plans were formulated and implemented to evangelize the community, and the members worked closely along with him to realize the goal of becoming a Mission.

With the appointment of Pastor Richard R. Reeves in March of 2004, the status of Church Company was soon conferred on the congregation and by God's grace in September of 2008, the church was accepted into the sisterhood of churches of the Allegheny East Conference with a membership of 65.

In March 2010, Pastor Haywood Weatherford, Jr. was appointed as the Interim Pastor. The congregation experienced exponential growth under his leadership. With his passion for the youth, a Pathfinder Club (Seven Seals) was soon organized and is still an active arm of the church. The church and the Pathfinder Club continue to grow as we live out our Mission Statement: "To exist as a loving, Christ-centered congregation and a Beacon of Light in the community to lead men and women to the Savior through caring, preaching, teaching and community service outreach to all people."

On December 31, 2011, after renting at several locations, the congregation held its first worship service in its own building located at 1000 Church Road in Newark, Delaware with a membership that now stands at 141. To God be the glory Great Things He Has Done!

We look forward to the day when God's church will be part of that great church triumphant and Voice of Truth Seventh-day Adventist Church will be among that un-numbered throng!

# DELAWARE VALLEY AREA

## CHURCH

## CITY

Allentown Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church	Allentown, PA	80
Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	82
Bethlehem French SDA Church	Reading, PA	83
Brazilian Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	84
First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Coatesville	Coatesville, PA	86
East Lansdowne Seventh-day Adventist Church	East Lansdowne, PA	88
Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	89
Germantown Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	91
Grace Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church	Norristown, PA	92
Jerusalem French	Philadelphia, PA	93
Macedonia Seventh-day Adventist Church	Chester, PA	95
Maranatha Romanian Seventh-day Adventist Church	Hazleton, PA	98
Mizpah Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	99
New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	101
New Maranatha Haitian Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	105
Iglesia de Norristown	Norristown, PA	106
North Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	108
Philadelphia Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	111
Pine Forge Seventh-day Adventist Church	Pine Forge, PA	113
Redencion Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	115
Rehoboth Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church	Reading, PA	116
Rehoboth Seventh-day Adventist Church	Reading, PA	118
Shekina French Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	120
Southwest Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	121
Walnut Street Seventh-day Adventist Community Church	Pottstown, PA	123
West Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church	Philadelphia, PA	126
Willow Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church	Willow Grove, PA	128

**ALLENTOWN SPANISH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS LUZ NACIENTE CHURCH)

*163 W. Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18102*

The Luz Naciente Church began with four families. Three of these: Zapata Family, Castro Family and Vargas Family came in the summer of 2004 from the Mott Heaven Church in Bronx, NY. The Zapata Family was living in Allentown. Our sister Zapata, motivated Pastor Zapata to move to Allentown with the purpose of forming a church. Thus our beginning began with arduous work in the lay activities field.

Pastor Zapata and Brother Héctor Castro decided to go to Maryland, to speak with the Spanish Ministry of Churches, this was how we became part of the Spanish Ministry of Churches. Our first meetings were held in the house of Pastor Zapata and the first pastor to visit us from the Spanish Ministry was Pastor Bacallao.

In 2005, we rented the Refugio Eterno Pentecostal Church, located at 1335 Chew Street. Here, we were joined by others: Delgado Family, Lochart Family, Sister Elena, etc. We started receiving many visitors, product of our lay activities. Also, many members from Mott Haven would come and visit us, with the purpose of supporting us. The place was very small, and we no longer had room for visitors. In 2007, this drove us to rent a place on the same street (Chew). We rented a place we remember as the fish shop, because that was what it was before we rented it. There we suffered from the cold. The floor was very cold when we knelt. We could feel the tiles like ice. At the fish shop, we had a huge growth. We were joined by many young people willing to work, as well as adults. Members such as the De León Family, Sister Anahay who brought Ricardo to visit us, Sister Alicia, and the Cruz family joined us. We have good memories of the fish shop.

We did not last long at the fish shop, since once more it was a small and uncomfortable place. In 2008, we rented a Mennonite church "Fountain of Restoration" located at 1213 Chew Street, our third place on Chew Street. There, we were joined by our sister Unice, Matis, María and Ricardo who were baptized, among other people. The owner asked us to leave because he needed the building for his activities.

Monte Sanáis was our next rented church, located at 114 N of 10th Street, in 2009. Our stay there was very short. They needed their space because during our hours, they were always doing activities in the church, and we had to leave before the year. In that same year, we had to rent the Saint John Church at 1825 W Turner St.



## ALLENTOWN SPANISH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

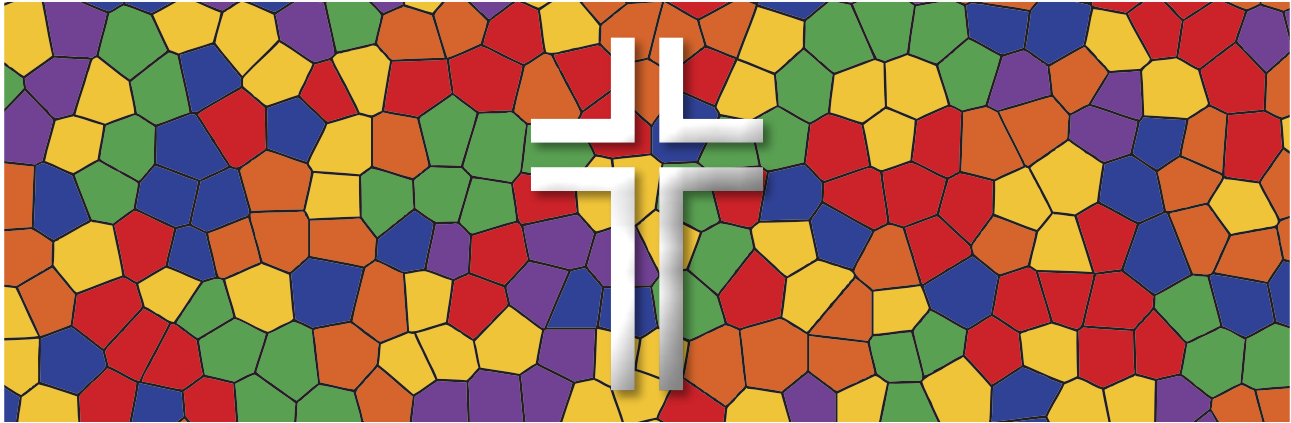
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS LUZ NACIENTE CHURCH)

*163 W. Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18102*

---

In 2010, while Pastor Zapata was being transferred to another church, we also had to move from the Saint John Church, because they sold it. Héctor Castro, who was the first elder for a long time, remained in charge of the church while the new pastor arrived. We rented on Sumner Street.

In 2011, came Pastor Perez who is our present pastor. The pastor arrived when we met in Sumner. Actually this was not a church, it was a space that we accommodated to do our services. From Sumner, we had to move due to the inconvenience of parking the cars. That's how we got to where we are today at St. John's Church of Faith at 607 W. Washington St., where we've been renting for about six years.

**BETHEL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***169 Wyoming Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19140***HISTORY OF ITS FOUNDATION**

Approximately 12 years ago, the Feltonville Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at that time on Front and Fisher Street, in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, had a numerous and stable membership and carried out the normal liturgical programs on days of worship. The idea of forming a new church is born first in the mind of God, and then under the guidance of our leader of the Spanish Ministries, Pastor Ramon Escalante. He motivated the church to form a new group with the purpose of spreading the gospel in the city of Philadelphia. The brethren tell that there was resistance to this proposal. However, a family and a few members welcomed this Good News: The Baez Family, Sister María Inés Urquilla, Brother Ebert Campiño, Brother Freddy Mora and his wife, who decided to support our leader's suggestion. The church initiated its first services with about 12 members on 11th and Lemon Street. The first year, the support for rent and some equipment came directly from the Spanish Ministry. The church grew, strengthened with the help of the Lord and the efforts of the Brethren, who years later planted a group in Harleysville, which later became the Adventist Church of Norristown. Today, the Church of Bethel meets at the address above, and it has about 60 worshipers including members, children and visitors. **Bethel Spanish SDA Church-celebrating a baptism.**

**BETHLEHEM FRENCH SDA CHURCH***1240 Cotton Street, Reading, PA 19602*

The number of Haitian Seventh-day Adventist members was increasing considerably in the American churches in Reading, Pennsylvania. The idea of having a service in the Haitian language was hungered by many, especially by Brother Raymond Pierre, who then shared his thoughts to Brother Hugo from Lancaster, PA and Brother Jean Philippe Liotard from Philadelphia, PA.

On April 2nd 2004, brothers: Raymond Pierre, Jean Charles, and Paul Tanis, met with a few other Seventh-day Adventist families such as: Richard Family, Saint-Preux Family and Pierre Family, to work on the project of having a French/ Creole Seventh-day Adventist Church in the community of Reading Pennsylvania. On the next day, April 3rd, 2004, all the above families met with the Tanis family and Jean Philippe's family at Brother Jean Charles's house to discuss the future of this new church/ group named Bethlehem French SDA Church at Reading, PA.

The Sabbath of April 10th, 2004 was the official opening of this new dedicated congregation, ready to worship and share the love of the Lord in their maternal language in the community of Reading PA. This meeting took place in a Spanish Church in the community.

On June 25, 2006, Pastor Emile Duvivier was called to lead this new congregation under the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. By the grace of God and through a program called "Build the Temple" organized by the church, they were able to buy their own facility located at 1240 Cotton Street, Reading, PA 19602.

On August 21st, 2010, Pastor Wilfrid Louis Jean started his new assignment as the leader of the group.

On May 7th, 2011, the facility was inaugurated, and the group changed status into becoming a church under the Allegheny East Conference of SDA Church.

On July 25th, 2015, Pastor John Edvard Maisonneuve was appointed to be the new leader of Bethlehem French SDA Church. Thanks to the dedication of the members and the power of the Holy Spirit, we now have, in 2016, a total of 118 members worshipping at Bethlehem SDA Church of Reading PA.

**To God be the glory!**

**BRAZILIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***2010 Rhawn Street, Philadelphia, PA 19152***PASTOR IZAIR COSTA**

It all started around the year 2001, at the Hispanic Adventist Church of Lawndale, located today at 7114 Oxford Ave. in Philadelphia. The first Brazilians to meet in this church, notably two families, Luis and Angela Bedin with their three teenage children, originally from Terra Roxa, Paraná, Brazil, and the Paulistas Carlos and Jessi Ostrowski, with their two single daughters, of the American Church of Fairville, in the suburbs of Philadelphia. These two couples, under the strong and dedicated leadership of Carlos Ostrowski began contacting other Brazilians to meet with them separately in the basement of the Hispanic church, which at that time was located on Bingham Street with Unruh and was led by Pastor Sandy Silva. With the arrival of a new pastor in the Hispanic church and with the growth of the group of Brazilians, they felt pressured to leave and seek another place to meet or to become fully integrated in the local culture.

In 2002, by common accord, they left the Hispanic church and went to the basement rented from a residential building on Oxford Ave where Lenin Rincon and his wife Délia lived, who came from Venezuela and joined them. They spent little time there. Soon they rented a space in the Episcopal Church of Loney Street, where they met for five years. From there, they moved into a hall of another Episcopal Church, this time at Welsh Rd., where they stayed for almost a year. After a quick five-month pass by another basement, this time at the Roosevelt Boulevard Adventist Church in 2008, they finally went to the definite address of Rhawn Street, where they purchased the property. Among the pioneer Adventist Brazilians who joined the group in these five years of pilgrimage, and which greatly contributed to the unification of efforts and to the progress of the group, were:

Carlos Ostrowski and family;

Luis and Angela Bedin;

Pastor Lenin and Délia Rincon;

Karla Nascimento and her young children;

Marcelo Latta and wife Joanita.

**BRAZILIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***2010 Rhawn Street, Philadelphia, PA 19152*

---

Lenin Rincón took the lead of the group of Brazilians as Lay Pastor and made the transfer to the Allegheny East Conference, his Administrative Field since 2006, from the Pennsylvania Conference. It was, however, Pastor Fernando Rocha who, in 2009, took the front and operationalized the purchase of the current headquarters in 09/30/2010, Church of Grace to Fujianese New York, that belonged to a group of Koreans. These favored the sale to Brazilian Adventists for knowing that a church would be established there, not restaurants and commercial department stores. The Brazilians did not have all the money to make the purchase. The Koreans then lent \$95,000 to buyers, to pay in seven years, without interest. The Columbia Union Conference lent most of the value: \$275,000. The brotherhood completed the final value of \$420,000 with their pledges and personal donations and made a commitment to pay off the debt mortgage, which ends in mid-2018. Currently, the SDA Brazilian Church of Philadelphia has approximately 50 active members led by a pastor appointed by the Allegheny East Conference and forms a Pastoral District with the New Jersey Group, located on the banks of the Delaware River.

## FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OF COATESVILLE

*200 West Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, PA 19320*



### HISTORY BEGINNING 1992

The year 1992 finds the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Coatesville continuing its presence as a beacon of light in the midst of a city with many losses related to the decreasing rates of employment by the city's largest employer; the Steel Mill. During that time, as noted in previous historical records; Elder Roland W. Newman served the church as "gatekeeper" with diligence and dedication.

Pastor Newman was followed by Pastor Richard A. Reeves, during which time members of the congregation diligently sought to invite family members, friends, co-workers, and everyone they came in contact with, to the up-coming evangelistic series. Over four hundred visitors packed the church on opening night; eager to learn the teachings of Christ as taught by the Bible alone. During Pastor Reeves' tenure, the church was blessed with central air and other upgrades.

The congregation continued to thrive under the leadership of Dr. Alfred Jones, during which time the first female Elders were elected; Mrs. Serena Hunter and Mrs. Carole Anne Smith-Williamson. In March 1999, Pastor Jones led the congregation in the development of small group prayer meetings held in assigned homes that focused on the Desire of Ages and utilized its specific study guide. This was an enriching experience for both church and community members.

In 2003, Chaplain Doug Simons, though actively involved in hospital ministry accepted our congregation as interim pastor. His self-sacrifice, dedication and riveting messages resulted in baptisms and rededication. Doug Simon was there to Sept. 2002.

Pastor Edward Blackwell was installed in September 2002. In 2004, Pastor E. Earl Blackwell, wife Robin and daughter Erica, were introduced to the church as the new pastoral family. They quickly became a part of the fabric of the church; it is therefore no surprise that their tenure continued for nearly 13 years. During that time, renovations both interior and exterior were completed. Pastor Blackwell was known as a family pastor who engaged and affirmed the youth of the church and appreciated and encouraged their participation. He was also very involved in community including the area ministerial association. Pastor Earl Blackwell and Family oved from Maryland to Coatesville

**FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OF COATESVILLE***200 West Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, PA 19320*

---

in November 2002. Pastor Earl Blackwell & Family bought our home in the area in 2003. Pastor Earl Blackwell & Family were officially removed by the Executive Committee from Coatesville SDA Church on April 1, 2016 after serving there for 13 years & 7 months. Pastor Earl Blackwell & Family left Coatesville SDA Church in May, 2016.

Along with its interest in children and youth, Coatesville First has always welcomed diversity, and has been enriched by members from a wide range of countries throughout its existence beginning in 1937. With an emphasis on holistic health, a community health fair is held each year in partnership with providers from around the county. Having ministered to the church since mid-2016; with great anticipation, Elder Aaron Thompkins was assigned in the winter of 2017 to lead the growing and vibrant Coatesville First. His teaching and preaching focus on each individual's personal relationship with Christ resulted in a renewal of on-site Prayer Meeting, initiating a weekly prayer line with Elders, a continuation of the ladies and men's prayer lines and 40-day Daniel Fast. Member relationships are being strengthened by a variety of initiatives including scheduled Sabbath afternoons in the park. Visitors are welcomed each Sabbath including area clergy. The W. C. Atkinson Memorial Community Service Center has expanded to include two transitional homes and three supportive housing town houses for homeless men. The center provides space for a foster care visitation program, a youth mentoring program, and a Narcotic Anonymous Support Group with up to 40 persons attending each weekday.

**EAST LANSDOWNE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*107 Lexington Avenue, East Lansdowne, PA 19050*



The East Lansdowne SDA Church (ELC) is a Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pennsylvania that provides uplifting services and a place of worship to its members and the East Lansdowne, Lansdowne, Upper Darby, and Overbrook communities. ELC was established in 2013 with the merger of two smaller congregations. ELC consists of two separate church bodies that effectively merged to provide an even stronger force and combined skill sets to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ. The two congregations were the United Missionary Church and the Overbrook SDA Church. Overbrook started in 1996 as a small company and grew to over 30 souls. The United Missionary Church began in 1995 and soon had a membership of close to 50 souls. United Missionary soon purchased a church home. Under the guidance of Dr. S. Peter Campbell, United Missionary and Overbrook Church merged to form the East Lansdowne SDA Church. After the merger, Elder Campbell successfully encouraged the utilization of the talents of both churches creating one vibrant congregation. With Pastor Campbell's retirement, ELC received their new pastor Shawn L. Fordham. Elder Fordham had served as Pastor Campbell's assistant. ELC now hosts a growing congregation with a steady weekly attendance of 120 souls and continues to grow.



**EBENEZER SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1437 Christian Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146*

On February 11, 1911, the first African American Seventh-day Adventist Church in Philadelphia, was organized by Elder Heckman, of the East Pennsylvania Conference. Elder T. H. Branch was pastor, located at 1700 Woodstock Street. The congregation consisted of sixteen members. On August 20, 1930, the Ebenezer Church, purchased 1437 Christian Street in the name of George Hampton because the congregation was not incorporated and could not buy property. The East Pennsylvania Conference with whom the Ebenezer Church was affiliated at the time, was not involved in the purchase. On June 17, 1931, the title to the church was conveyed to the Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Church, a Pennsylvania Corporation. The Allegheny Conference was organized on December 17, 1944. On March 12, 1949, The Allegheny Conference Missionary Volunteer Federation was also organized in the Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Thousands of individuals have passed through Ebenezer's hall since 1911. Many have become great leaders, conference presidents, preachers, doctors, lawyers, and mayor of a Metropolitan City. Dr. Grace Kimbrough, a pioneer of Ebenezer was instrumental in securing the land we love and enjoy, "Pine Forge."

Ebenezer was also a leader in education, human services and music. Ebenezer Day School was held in the present church building. From there, the school moved to 6007 Larchwood Avenue and became The Larchwood School. The growth of the school forced a move to Thouron and Sedgwick Streets.

**CHURCHES STARTED BY EBENEZER CHURCH MEMBERS**

1932 - Harrisburg

1957 - Willow Grove

1933 - Norristown

1960 - Newtonville

1942 - West Philadelphia

1970 - Germantown

1946 - Coatsville

1971 - Southwest Philadelphia

1949 - Chester

1979 - Mizpah

1955 - North Philadelphia

1986 - New Life

**EBENEZER SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*1437 Christian Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146*

---

We now have an army of loyal people who will carry the banner of Prince Emanuel on to new victories. We see now how fittingly the church was named "EBENEZER" - "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

**GERMANTOWN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***200 E. Cliveden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119*

Elder Alfred Jones first pastored the Germantown congregation, followed by Elder Leonard Hernandez, Elder Edward Richardson, Elder David McCottry, Elder Thaddious Privette, Elder George Jackson, Elder Harry Cartwright, Elder William Taliaferro, Elder Jimmy Ferguson, Elder Jackson Dogette and presently by Elder Pete Palmer.

Germantown membership now stands at 372 and still includes charter members who regularly contribute to the church.

Under the leadership of Elder William Taliaferro, construction of the current place of worship was completed. Under the leadership of Elder Jimmy Ferguson, a house adjacent to the church grounds was purchased and remodeled. Under the leadership of Elder Jackson Dogette, the mortgage on the current church facility was burned.

Presently, Germantown SDA Church is leading the way in bringing Christian SDA education under the auspices of Allegheny East Conference back to the Philadelphia area with the support of the Delaware Valley churches. In December of 2013, the Germantown SDA Church purchased a school/ministry complex located at 1331 Ivy Hill Road in Springfield Township, PA. The Ivy Hill campus sits on nearly five acres of land with a completed school facility of 48,000 sq. feet and an additional 60,000 sq. feet of steel in the air waiting to be finished. With God's blessings, the Germantown SDA Church will complete the Ivy Hill Worship and Ministry Center in the near future which we hope will house Senior Day Care for adults, Child Day Care, other ministries and businesses in keeping with our mission and vision, and one day a new worship center for our growing church. When completed, the Ivy Hill Worship and Ministry Center along with Ivy Hill Christian Academy, an SDA elementary school, will have a footprint of over 100,000 sq. feet.

**GRACE TABERNACLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***603 East Elm Street, Norristown, PA 19401*

Grace Tabernacle SDA Church began as a few members from Ebenezer SDA Church residing in Norristown had a desire to see a Seventh-day Adventist church in Norristown. They began to meet in various homes and buildings in the sixties until finally meeting and renting the OIC Building for \$100 per month, not sure how payments would be met. On the second Sabbath in the OIC Building, they received a surprise visit from Elder W. A. Thompson, then President of the Allegheny East Conference. Elder Thompson came to organize the church on September 13, 1969. He admonished them to love one another, continue in prayer and remain consecrated to the Word of God.

**JERUSALEM FRENCH***537 East Wyoming Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19120*

The beginning of the formation of the Franco-Haitian congregation of Philadelphia went back to the year, 1982. In March of 1982, some Haitian people were attending the West Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church ministered by George L. Braxton. Soon they organized themselves into a branch Sabbath School under the direction of some brothers among whom Miguel Raphael, so called Toto and Bertony Deguerre, so called Tony. The group of ten met in a trailer located at the corner of Haverford Avenue and 46th Street among whom were Sonia Deguerre and Marie-Pierre Pierre.

At the departure of Toto for Miami, Florida, in the Summer of 1982, Tony remained the leader of that small congregation placed under the direction of the mother-church, West Philadelphia. From 1982 to 1984, the number increased with several others including Therese Gabrile and Rose Leocal.

From September 1984 to March 1985, certain unexplainable problems occurred which caused the dispersion of the brethren in some of the English and Spanish speaking churches.

During that time, Therese Gabriel had the inspiration of gathering back some of the brethren along with others who attended the Germantown church. At the request of Tony, they addressed an invitation to Leslie Moise, a young preacher living in Brooklyn, New York. Leslie Moise preached for us on Sabbath, April 1985 in the basement of a Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church located at the corner of Luzerne and 7th Streets. At our request, he came back on Saturday, the 17th of April and preached in the home of Brother Lubin where we met for the worship services.

Soon after, Pastor Braxton located a place of worship at Fairmount Avenue and 40th Street. Pastor Moise became the leader of the congregation, and we met at this location until March 1987. Elder M. C. Van Putten visited us for the first time on May 26, 1985 and came back to organize us into a company on October 26, 1985. In the meanwhile, Mimose, Guerrier, Victoria Philippe Auguste, Luce Laforet, Renee Leroy, Betty Pierre, Margon Charles, Josy Cenatus, Mananel Saint-Val and others joined us. From March 1987, to this day, we have worshipped at the National Pulpit of Larchwood School.

## JERUSALEM FRENCH

*537 East Wyoming Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19120*

---

Leslie Moise had to leave for further studies in Michigan in September 1988. The president of the conference asked Dr. Edner Corbier to watch over us. He looked for the help of a young preacher, Yveniel St-Luc, his former student living in Brooklyn, New York. Their untiring devotion and generous efforts both in spiritual and administrative plans have given much strength to the company. Adding to that, the relocation of several country men from New York and elsewhere helped us to be ready to be organized into a church on July 21st, in the year of the Lord, 1990.

Under the leadership of Pastor Saint-Luc, we bought our own building located at 537 East Wyoming Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19120. Pastor Yveniel Saint-Luc led the church from September 1988 to May 1998.

After he left, the Conference selected Pastor Daniel B. Sejour to lead us. He was a great musician and was with us for twelve years.

From September 2010 to December 2016, the church has been under the leadership of Pastor Abdonel Jean-Philippe, the former President of the North Conference in Haiti. During his presence, many people have surrendered to the Lord.

**MACEDONIA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1917 West 6th St, Chester, PA 19013-2716*

In January 7th, the Conference selected a young preacher, Pastor Harry Monval. His mission is to prepare a people for the return of the Lord!

In 1946, the Macedonia Church of Chester, Pennsylvania took root and became established through the Reaves family. Mrs. Mary Reaves, wife of Jesse came into contact with the message through literature evangelist, Hayfield Guinyard.

Bible readings ensued and one by one, precious souls from the Reaves household answered "The Call" and set their sights on Seventh-day Adventism. The small group included: Clarence and Ruby Reaves, Milton Reaves, Mildred Reaves, Jesse Reaves, Nancy Kilt, Rebecca Miles, L. C. and Lizzie Kennon, Chester Togood and others.

For a while, this small group worshipped with the believers in the Ebenezer Church in Philadelphia; however, the Holy Spirit directed them to establish a work in Chester. With the help of many of the Ebenezer Church family, things began to come together for a church in Chester.

Sister Bethany Smith was inspired to begin a Sabbath School in Chester. She wrote of her desires to the president of the Allegheny Conference. Thus, began the first formal meeting of establishment for this company of believers who began worshipping at the Fairgrounds Community Building on Peterson Street.

In 1949, the company was accepted into the sisterhood of churches under the leadership of Elder M. A. Burgess. They became known as "The Macedonia Church."

In 1951, Macedonia was blessed with their first pastor, Charles D. Brooks. During his pastorate, the church held their first tent effort and Elder Brooks was joined in marriage to Walterene Wagner.

In 1954, Ulysses S. Willis Jr., the new pastor, challenged the people to build a sanctuary and purchased a lot.

**MACEDONIA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*1917 West 6th St, Chester, PA 19013-2716*

---

The third pastor, Furman Beatty, helped the members to become good stewards of God's possessions. He was followed by Elder J. Jasper Johnson who encouraged love, patience and understanding.

The next pastor was Alonzo Wagner who stressed the importance of godly living on a daily basis.

The sixth pastor was a rare gem indeed. Elder W. L. Cheatham led the church in the direction of Christian education and the Thornbury Elementary School came into being. He also led out in the clearing of the mortgage indebtedness.

In 1973, the new pastor, Harry Cartwright, baptized many precious souls into the Third Angel's Message.

Elder Hayward Weatherford rendered faithful service as pastor from 1974 to 1978.

From 1978 to 1980, Walter L. Pearson served as a powerful preacher of righteousness and vision. He was followed by Elder Alvin LaCount. (August 2, 1980 - January 1, 1982.) Many were added to the church, and church property was purchased.

A man of compassion followed in the person of Elder John W. Wright. He served lovingly from January 16, 1982 - March 1, 1985.

The next pastor, Elder John Trusty (March 16, 1985 - August 31, 1987) served with his special gift of evangelism so that many were added to the church in that city.

From November 1987 to July of 1993, Elder George E. Thornton helped Macedonia hold steadfast to their dream of a new sanctuary for God. Under his ministry, they reached their dream of entering a new edifice. In his time, he brought us through the completion of building the BLC – Better Living Center.

Pastor Frank L. Legette: (1992 to January 1, 1997) - In his time, he launched a T.V telecast called Frankly Speaking, sponsored by the AEC, supported by both conference and Macedonia. This telecast was based on our health message and transformed many lives in the church and outside the church to better lifestyles to mainly accompany our now new BLC. The T.V show was taped from the Macedonia Church and televised on television.

Pastor Curtis B. Crider served Macedonia from February 1, 1997 to September 1999. He used his gift of evangelism in Chester and held several weeklong revivals. He believed in being active in the community and was a member of the Urban Affairs Committee and The Task Force Coastal Zoning Committee in Chester, Pennsylvania.



**MACEDONIA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1917 West 6th St, Chester, PA 19013-2716*

---

Pastor Keith S. Goodman: (1999 to 2006) - In his time, the Sister to Sister program (2) AMACHI - mentoring children of incarcerated parents one hour a week for one year. (3) Our annual block party. (4) Participation in the Chester Ecumenical Lenten services. (5) Phoebe - another small adult mentoring program. (6) The burning of the church mortgage deed.

Pastor Alex Royce (2006 - 2009) spurred incredible growth and ministry under his tenure with Macedonia. The church services required an overflow room be created to facilitate the more than capacity members. Elder Royce's early departure to another conference left many members saddened, but not discouraged.

Pastor George Jackson (July 11, 2009 - 2016) followed Pastor Royce with a shepherd's heart to help the members readjust to the transitioning of pastors. Under his leadership, members were equipped to take a more proactive role in the vital ministries of the church, thereby empowering the church to run more effectively if pastoral leadership ever left a vacuum. Elder Jackson facilitated the grand re-opening of the church's community outreach ministry "The Better Living Center" under the direction of its CEO Blane Stoddart and board members. The Better Living Center is a 501(c)3 organization with its own Board of Directors. Pastor Ronald D Williams, Jr. (2016 to present), an urban minister specialist and evangelist, arrived challenging the church with a renewed vision for intentional community engagement, contemporary evangelistic methods and redefining what it means to be a church. With an intentional refocus on Christ ministry to people in all walks of life, members are serving in ministry according to their spiritual gifts, passion and temperament. The church baptized more than ten people in the first seven months of Pastor Williams' ministry. The church has adopted a simple model for discipleship called e4 which serves as a clear path for how the church moves "first time" guests to fully committed disciples. The day is fast approaching where church attendance, engagement and ministry will require multiple services or a bigger facility.

**MARANATHA ROMANIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***80 North Laurel Street, Hazelton, PA 18201*

In November 2005, a Seventh-day Adventist Romanian Mission was organized in Hazelton, Pennsylvania. Prior to this time, there was not a Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hazelton.

Seven dedicated members – Dumitru Asanache, Olga Asanache, Marie Viaro, Aurica Tirchi, Giselle Tavarez, Varnia Viril and Juan Martinez decided to share the gospel of Jesus in Hazelton where people had never heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We first met in November of 2005 at the Community Bible Fellowship Church located on Spruce and James Street in Hazelton. Our First Elder was Lucaciu Nicolae. Maria Viario was our Head Deaconess and Moldovia Somy was Head Deacon.

In June of 2006, we moved to the Diamond Methodist Church located on 519 Locust Street in Hazelton. Our meetings were held there until March of 2008.

While renting these properties, we started outreach ministry in Hazelton. Five of our charter members, along with Pastor Asamodel and family, who came from Romania went door to door to introduce our group and faith to the people in Hazelton. We were able to baptize three precious souls in August of 2006. We chose the name "Maranatha Romanian, a Multinational Seventh-day Adventist Church" because there are five nationalities in the church – Romanian, Haitian, Serbians, Americans and people from Dominica and Honduras. Our services are in English, but we translate for people who speak other languages.

Our establishment of this church was not easy. The enemy tried to break our faith three times, but God prevailed. We are glad that Elder Charles Cheatham, the president of Allegheny East Conference helped us through the difficult times.

Every year, we hold evangelistic meetings in our church. We also host English and computer classes.

In 2008, we purchased our building from a Catholic church for only \$70,000.00. God truly led us to this property that we could afford.

Our future plans are to open a school for children in grades one to eight; host a Nurse's Aide Class and continue to hold evangelistic meetings every year.

**MIZPAH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***4355 Paul Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124*

The Holy Spirit was moving—inspiring quietly and in a mighty omnipotent way. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the support of members of the North Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church, Elder Charles D. Jenkins, under the pastorate of Pastor Roland Newman, held a soul-winning crusade between October and November 1979. Hearts yielded to the pouring out of the Holy Spirit during this crusade and approximately seventy-seven (77) precious souls gave their lives to Christ.

After the crusade, Elder Jenkins and Elder Newman were inspired to organize a new church. In January 1980, Deacon William Hill, Elders Joe Hicks and James Childs, of the North Philadelphia Church, were asked to be the nucleus of this new church. For further spiritual nurture and guidance, Sisters Sadie Stokes, Cecelia Brown, Mamie Foxworth and Frances Hampton were also chosen to join the new church. These dear members were later referred to as the “Magnificent Seven.” In love they gathered us, in love we worshipped God, in love we worked and praised God together.

Subsequently, Elder Childs and Elder Hicks transferred back to the North Philadelphia Church and God impressed Elder Henry Richards to become a part of the Mizpah family.

Being weaned from the North Philadelphia Church, our “mother” church, we made our first step. We began to worship at a center located at 33rd Street and Susquehanna Avenue. Our second step took us to a Baptist church located at Ridge and Allegheny Avenues. It was at this location that our new church was named “Mizpah.” Mizpah—a Light, Mizpah—a shining light in a dark world.

Steadier now, our third step led us to the Larchwood School at Sedgwick Street and Thouron Avenue. God continued to bless us under the leadership of Elder Charles D. Jenkins.

Elder Jenkins was later transferred to Ebenezer. God saw our needs and supplied us accordingly with Elder Paul Cantrell as our Interim Pastor.

In the summer of 1982, Elder William Linthicum, who was at that time Pastor of Southwest Church was sent to also pastor Mizpah. In the summer of 1985, Elder Linthicum was appointed full-time pastor of Mizpah. Under his leadership, the Mizpah Church purchased a building at 4701 Germantown Avenue and with lots of dedication and hard work, transformed it into our new church home.

## MIZPAH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*4355 Paul Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124*

---

In December 1986, Elder Linthicum was transferred to Maryland, and in January 1987, Elder Carl Hinds became our new pastor. Pastor Charles Jenkins was sent back to our church, followed by Pastor Michael Edwards, Pastor Andrew Harewood, and Pastor Patrick O'Mara. It was under Pastor O'Mara's tenure that we outgrew our church home at 4701 Germantown Avenue and relocated to our current home at 4355 Paul Street in the section of Frankford/Philadelphia, PA. Under the leadership of Pastor O'Mara, in 2010, three churches merged together to form a single congregation, Frankford United, Berean Fellowship, and Mizpah. Our Community Services have grown since Sister Stokes (now deceased) served as our "Dorcas Leader."

Our current leadership is under the direction of Sis. Vernessa Wilson. Our church operates a food pantry for the Frankford community and people come three (3) times a month for food distribution and clothing. In addition to the food distribution, senior citizen boxes are distributed to the elderly. Community Services also hosts a dinner for the community once a month. After over ten years as our pastor, Pastor O'Mara retired, and Pastor Jackson Doggette was sent to Mizpah for a short time to serve as our Interim Pastor. Pastor Donald C. McKinnie, Jr. succeeded Pastor Doggette in August 2013 and is still serving as our pastor. He and his wife, Lahai, have a beautiful family with three young children. Pastor McKinnie leads with a passion for serving the community and sharing the love of Christ in practical ways. He counts it a privilege to lead God's people in our new territory of ministry. He is also grateful to be leading our church as the Holy Spirit writes the next chapter in our story.

**NEW LIFE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***4726-28 Old York Road, Philadelphia, PA 19141*

The birth of New Life SDA Church began in 1986 after several members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the North Philadelphia area noted that a Seventh-day Adventist Church did not exist on the East Side of Broad Street. Pastors Alfred Johnson, William Hall, and Charles Cheatham then suggested to the Allegheny East Conference that there should be the formation of a church in the Logan Area. Both the name of our church and the initial officers were chosen at the first organizational meeting which was held at the North Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church at 16th and Oxford Streets.

The first officers chosen were: Leader - Charlie Jenkins, First Elder - Elliott Brooks, Head Deacon - Robert Burton, Head Deaconess - Amelia Patterson, Sabbath School Superintendent - Mildred Bailey, Sabbath School Secretary - Sharyn Bonds, Personal Ministry - John Patterson, Sr., Clerk - Joyce Burton, Treasurer - Loleithia Morgan, Head Usher - Dorothy Watson, Building Fund Chairperson - Elouise Johnson, Search Committee Chairperson - John Patterson, Sr., starting June 14, 1986, we did not have a place to worship of our own, so we rented The Shalom Baptist Church balcony which we called "The Upper Room".

In God's timing, He saw fit to bless us with a beautiful structure of our own. Sis Deloris Bonds fondly remembers – "We started out renting space that we called "the shack." It was nice, Later, we worshipped in the upstairs balcony at another church. We called it the "Upper Room", and from there we moved to the present location. That first Sabbath, we marched from the "Upper Room: to our new home and own place. Everyone was very happy walking and singing along the way. That place had nothing, except for a camera shop on the Broad Street side, so we had to build the space into a church."

It was the spirit of the Lord that led Elder John Patterson to encourage us to purchase our current facility. Our church has two entrances. The sanctuary entrance is on the Old York Road side and the community center is on the Broad Street side. This floor plan is ideal as it allows us to provide a place where we can worship and provide space where we can minister directly to the community.

Our first Sabbath in our new space took place on February 27, 1988. We marched with pomp and circumstance from the previously rented Shalom Baptist Church at 10th and Rockland Streets to our New Life Church at 4726 Old York Road.

## NEW LIFE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*4726-28 Old York Road, Philadelphia, PA 19141*

---

Sister Helen Howell, a Charter Member, says that I was the first one down the steps from the Shalom Baptist Church at 10th and Rockland and the last one to walk into our new church at Old York Road. It is mountaintop experiences and memories like these that sustain me as I face today's life challenges.

The ribbon cutting took place at 9:15 AM before the 11:00 Divine Worship Hour. The officiating Allegheny East Conference representative was Elder Alfred Johnson. Our principal speaker was none other than Elder Charlie Jenkins, who was our first pastor.

It was during Elder Jenkins pastorate, New Life increased through personal Bible Studies, Revelation Seminars, Tent Efforts, Crusades, Revivals, Radio Ministry, Transfers and much prayer. The membership which started out as 14 grew to almost 400. There were so many members who transferred or were baptized that we had to put chairs in the aisle to accommodate everyone.

Sis. Brenda Miller Turner whose son, Lorenzo Turner passed at the age of 21, remembers how Elder Jenkins' tapes lifted her son's spirits and eventually convicted her of the Third Angel's Message. It was his sermons, energized by the Holy Spirit, that changed her life and gave her comfort and peace while she grieved for her son.

It was Elder Jenkins who instilled into New Life the importance of community outreach. Sister Agnes Smith, a Charter Member, says that "Elder Jenkins taught the members how to minister to others in the community. I was the first Director of our Community Services Center. I served for eight years feeding the homeless for two days a week and was also Director of the newly established Regeneration Program. I remember how the community used to flock to our center."

Our first choir was led by Sister Agnes Smith. We were known for our spirit-filled singing and beautiful scarlet robes. Sister Darlene Wilson, the daughter of Sister Smith and a gifted soloist, was one of the individuals reclaimed by the efforts of Elder Jenkins. She became one of the main soloists during the many tent efforts Elder Jenkins held here in Philadelphia.

After ministering for 10 years, Pastor Jenkins was transferred in 1995. God sent us another Holy-Ghost filled Pastor in the person of Pastor Vern Joyner. Pastor Joyner also took us from the seats into the streets to meet the community up close and personal.

Elder Joyner conducted street preaching and talked one-on-one to the people who stopped to meet him. As a result, many community individuals would visit the church to hear the message.

Elder John Patterson, Sr, who was the First Elder and driving force in the success of our church says, "I was overjoyed that New Life had pastors who made the concerns of the community a priority. We worked along with them, and it was under their leadership, we grew in numbers and expanded our outreach to the community."

## NEW LIFE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*4726-28 Old York Road, Philadelphia, PA 19141*

---

Elder Joyner faithfully served us for 10 years and was transferred in 2005. For one year, Elder John Patterson continued to minister to the church until the Conference sent us Pastor Augustus O'Giste in 2006.

Pastor O'Giste continued the focus on the community by providing dynamic and uplifting Daniel and Revelation Seminars. He was also instrumental in highlighting the importance of diet and nutrition and correct health habits through extensive health seminars and health expos. Church members and community friends attended Health and Bible prophecy classes and received graduation certificates.

It was during Elder O'Giste's pastorate that we grew in our understanding of the Three Angel's Messages and prophecy and together with Head Elder John W. Greene solidified our Outreach Survey approach.

When Pastor O'Giste retired in 2015, the Allegheny East Conference sent us a young, gifted preacher in the person of Pastor John D. Hall, III. Pastor Hall is the son of Elder William Hall, Area Leader of the Delaware Valley Ministerium. Pastor Hall's approach is also community-oriented, and we are not only strengthening the old programs but embracing new programs which address the community's needs.

His teaching and administrative style is growing our church and setting the foundation for extending God's work in the Logan area.

In 1989, our community center offered free meals to the community. In 2017, this program is still continuing as our Thursday Soup Kitchen under the leadership of Gordon Patterson. Approximately 20 or more individuals come to the center to receive a nutritious meal.

Elder Melva Springer, our Community Services Director and Delaware Valley Community Services President, has expanded our community feeding to include the SHARE Food Program. Every 1st or 2nd Monday over 46 bags are filled with staples and fresh groceries and distributed to community friends. In addition, we now have a pantry which we keep stocked and ready to provide food for those in need at a moment's notice.

Each year, during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, Community Services and our Homeless Ministry provide free meals for the community and new clothing and personal items as gifts. It is also during these times that clothing racks are made available for the community to choose whatever items they need.

The literature distribution program begun in the early days has now expanded into a Homeless Ministry led by Elder Roshann Hoyte. Once a month, Elder Hoyte leads the youth from the seat to the street with clothing, food and literature for approximately 200 people.

**NEW LIFE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***4726-28 Old York Road, Philadelphia, PA 19141*

---

A recent new program provided by Community Services, Sabbath School and Hospitality is a Community Sabbath School Breakfast served while studying the Sabbath School Lesson.

Another new program we have adopted under Pastor Hall's leadership is the collection of diapers of all sizes to distribute to the Community and an Adopt-a-School Program where we provide hats, scarfs, gloves, etc. for children in the Cook Elementary School who express a need.

Our Bible Studies program led by Sis. Morrye Berrios has also added an "Adopt-a-Block" program where Bible workers go out into the community distributing literature, fruit and water. The Pray and Weigh Ministry that started in the early days expanded to a Health Ministries Nutrition and Diet Program, Exercise Program, and an annual Health Expo led by Elder Beulah Parker. It is now being continued by Deacon Lamont and Genevieve Wilson. Pastor John D. Hall, III is also initiating plans to reactivate the Regeneration Program as started years ago and new community programs such as Adopt-a-School, After-Care, a Reading Program, Mental Health Counseling and a Senior Day Care Center.



**NEW MARANATHA HAITIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***6439 Lansdowne Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151*

Maranatha was founded in 1992 following an evangelical series preached by Brother Caleb St. Luc. Soon after, a Sabbath School had been established by Pastor Yveniel St. Luc. The first leader of the newly church plant was Brother Jean Caleb St. Luc and Sister Victoria St. Fort. This Sabbath School morphed into an organized institution in 1999. In 2001, the group underwent a major separation and was divided into two congregations. The name of the church was changed to New Maranatha. In 1998, Pastor Daniel Séjour was called by the Allegheny East Conference Administration to serve as the shepherd of the church. He was replaced by Pastor Jean Milca Fenelon in 2010 who served for the following five years. Pastor Rooldy Alexandre was introduced in March 2015 by the local conference to lead the church. After eight months of pastoral vacancy, the conference administration asked Pastor Darnel Marius in November 2016 to serve as the spiritual leader of New Maranatha.

**IGLESIA DE NORRISTOWN***506 Haws Street, Norristown, PA 19401*

The families Fernández, Mora and Argueta assisted the Bethel Spanish Church located in Philadelphia, that was led by Pastor Otniel Gonzalez. Because these people previously mentioned lived in the sector of Landsdale, traveling to the Bethel Church proved more and more expensive. They, therefore decided to form a group in their area and rented a place where the Nueva Jerusalem Church was formed, led by Brother Freddy Mora and his wife, Telma. They requested help from Brother Jacinto Baez, who from Philadelphia, would come on Saturdays and preach. He did this for a long time.

The brethren had the idea of making a missionary plan with the raffle of a Bible. For this project, they prayed and requested permission in a Mexican store of some Catholic brothers, who also participated in the raffle. Through this project, they offered to visit the homes of people who signed up. Thanks to the blessing of the Lord, they were able to gather several people and very soon about thirty people gathered in this congregation. With the Power of the Lord and the effort of these courageous workers, other families were added, among which the Brothers Sánchez and Sister Raquel Covarrubias stand out.

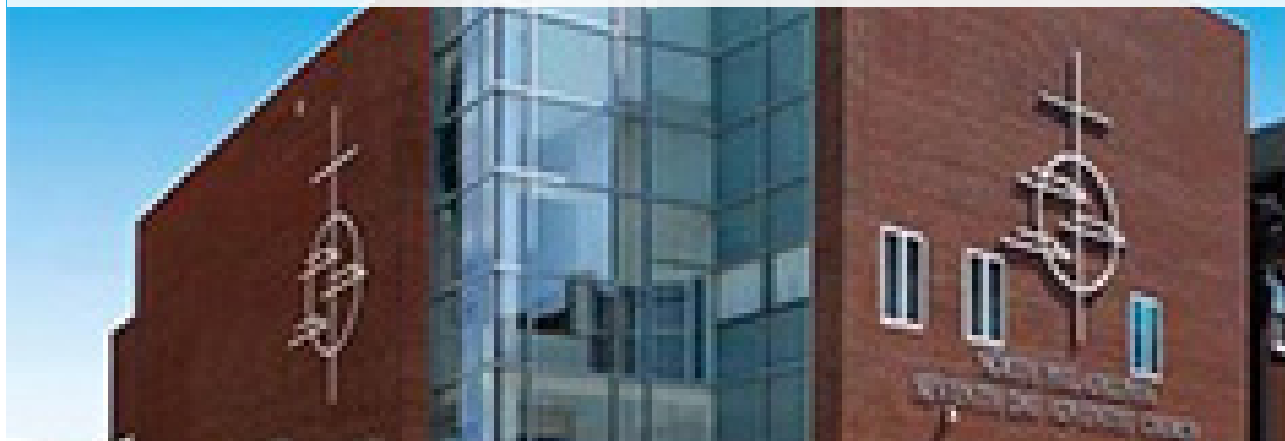
Sister Kenia later brought Sister Noymi Mautino from Norristown. She embraced the gospel with much enthusiasm. Sister Noymi, feeling her first love for the gospel, decided to start a small group meeting in her apartment in 2011; the group was called Aposento Alto. Many visitors attended, who later offered their homes, in order to rotate the place of meeting. Thus, the group of brethren kept growing. For that reason, and with the approval of Pastor Otniel Gonzalez, they decided to search for a place in Norristown where they could worship, without having to go too far. Sister Noymi, with the Pastor, prayed and went to the Lutheran Church located at 506 Haws Ave., Norristown PA 19401, where Pastor Janice Voughth acceded to their petition. She opened her doors without expecting reward, but the brethren decided to give an offering in gratitude for her goodwill.

The first Sabbath, only two families attended: Sister Noymi and Sister Raquel Covarrubias. They felt great expectation every time the door opened. On the third Sabbath, Brother Delfino Hernandez and his wife, Merle Orozco, arrived, which filled the brethren with much joy. Later, for reasons beyond his control, Pastor Otniel had to stop pastoring the Church. Because of this, Pastor Ramón Escalante, Director of the Spanish Ministry of Churches, decided to put Pastor Jorge Morales in

**IGLESIA DE NORRISTOWN***506 Haws Street, Norristown, PA 19401*

---

charge, who enthusiastically engaged in the missionary work. With the initiative of this pastor, it was decided to unite the Nueva Jerusalen Church with that of Norristown, to make them more solid. Pastor Jorge Morales then traveled to Guatemala and in his absence, Sister Rosa Fernandez took charge of the church under the supervision of Pastor Ramón Escalante. Later, Pastor Otniel González returned to support the church along with the Bible worker, Yolanda. At the end of the year 2015, Pastor Otniel González moved to another state, and Pastor Ramón Escalante, transferred Pastor Roberto Reyes and his wife Eunice Fandiño who received the church with three small groups. Currently, there are six small groups. We pray that the Lord will continue to give victory in this place and allow us to be heirs of the crown of life together with the brethren of this church and all the souls we reach before His coming.

**NORTH PHILADELPHIA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1510 W. Oxford Street, P. O. Box 6821, Philadelphia PA 19121*

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pennsylvania had a presence in South Philadelphia. However, felt the need to expand into another area of the city. So, on December 17, 1955, Elder W. A. Thompson officially organized the North Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church, with 106 charter members. The congregation's first official place of worship was the lower auditorium of the Immanuel Institutional Bible Church, pastored by William Bentley. Because the church building was only rented for Sabbath services, weekly prayer meeting services were held at the homes of various North members. Missionary Volunteer (MV) meetings (now Adventist Youth Society – AYS) were held on Friday evenings.

Elder Wilmont Fordham was the church's second pastor, and under his direction, as would be the case for many years to follow, the church began to grow. The weekly church services were joyous occasions – like mini family reunions. The congregation soon outgrew the space they were renting at the Immanuel Institutional Bible Church, and under the direction of their new pastor - Elder Charles L. Brooks - they changed locations twice to accommodate their growth. The first move was in 1957, to the Jones Memorial Baptist Church. Shortly thereafter, on October 17, 1958, the congregation held their first service in their very own building at 1313 West Susquehanna Avenue.

Elder Leon Cox was installed as the church's new pastor in 1961. He utilized the potential of the new building on West Susquehanna. There was a large lawn on the side of the church, close to the main street and the subway. In addition, a major bus route ran right past the church's front door. Elder Cox hosted an evangelistic series on the lawn, and the church added more to its number.

In 1964, North welcomed Elder William DeShay as their new pastor. DeShay was quiet and gentle; but had a strong manner. He, and other Adventist pastors in the Philadelphia area were instrumental in bringing Elder Charles D. Brooks to Philadelphia to host an evangelistic series. The Lord blessed tremendously, and North's membership reached an all-time high. Elder J. C. Smith followed Elder DeShay. He saw the over-crowded conditions and started looking for a new place of worship. He found a large building, with Gothic architecture, built in 1892. The building's beauty couldn't be seen at first sight, but Elder Smith envisioned what the renovated project would look like. The church purchased the building. With Elder Smith at the helm, the members worked untiringly to sand, repaint and varnish the building's interior. The finishing touch was the installation of a large, lighted cross at the back of the rostrum – the cross was built by none other than Elder Smith! Under

**NORTH PHILADELPHIA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*1510 W. Oxford Street, P. O. Box 6821, Philadelphia PA 19121*

---

Elder Smith's direction, the church also bought their first parsonage and a community services building. The next pastor was Elder Paul Cantrell. Quiet and reserved, he was a meticulous teacher with a blackboard and some chalk. Although he never conducted any evangelistic campaigns, his teaching style continued to bring new members to the church. When he left North, the church's membership stood at 876. The church's mortgage was liquidated under his leadership.

In 1975, Elder Roland Newman came to pastor North Philadelphia Church. His ministry had more than one dimension. He was the first pastor at North Philadelphia to mentor a young minister at our church. Elder Ronald Edmonds was our first Associate Pastor. Elder Newman also had a vision, that we not only grow inwardly, but outwardly also. Along with Bible Worker, Elder Charles Jenkins, the Mizpah Seventh-day Adventist Church was established. From then on, Elder Newman pastored both North and Mizpah churches until 1980.

In 1980, Pastor Walter Pearson was installed as our pastor. He not only pastored our church but served on the Allegheny East Conference Board of Education and as the Area Leader for the Delaware Valley Area. He also helped to initiate television evangelism in Philadelphia with a program entitled, "Daybreak."

Pastor J. Alfred Johnson, II was assigned to our church in 1985 after Pastor Pearson transferred to the South Atlantic Conference. He only served as our pastor until 1989 because he was voted to be the Personal Ministries Director for Allegheny East Conference.

In May 1989, Elder William Hall became North's pastor. On October 11, 1991, he received probably some of the worst news a pastor can receive: a fire had destroyed the church building! Two Philadelphia churches graciously hosted the church during their rebuilding – first the National Temple Baptist Church and then the Shiloh Apostolic Temple Church. The church was able to purchase the Mother Divine Church building across the street from the old burnt-out building. Again – pastor and members worked together to get the church repaired and painted. The congregation moved into the building in 1993. Under Elder Hall's leadership and direction, the congregation built a new church building, which they moved into on October 12, 2002. Pastor Hall served the church faithfully for sixteen years.

In February 2006, Elder Keith Goodman, Sr., became the church's pastor. Interestingly enough, Pastor Goodman was one of four associate pastors who had interned at North under Pastor Hall. Pastor Goodman had a passion for social justice and under his leadership, the church participated in several outreach ministries including a mentoring program for children of incarcerated parents.

Pastor Marquis D. Johns was joyfully welcomed as the lead pastor at North Church in March 2016. Under his energetic direction and encouragement, we expanded our ministry and outreach. With a new Vision & Mission, North Church blessed our surrounding communities with two AMEN Vision &

**NORTH PHILADELPHIA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1510 W. Oxford Street, P. O. Box 6821, Philadelphia PA 19121*

---

Dental Clinics, a partnership with Rise Against Hunger to package 10,000 meals, two partnerships with North Central Victim services to give away school supplies, a donation of 500 duffle bags to a local children's shelter, and a partnership with Temple University Alumni outreach. During his tenure, church members and the community were brought together through a First Responders Dinner, weekly Sabbath breakfasts for the homeless, Thursday night dinners for the community, and free community babysitting. Pastor Johns spiritually led the church in starting the Tuesday Morning Prayer Line and North's outreach efforts culminated with a Breath of Life Evangelism series in 2018 which resulted in the baptism of over 70 souls.

Starting a new chapter, on February 8, 2020, Jamond Jimmerson was installed as our newest pastor. Pastor Jimmerson's leadership is based on guidance by the Holy Spirit. He will continue to lead our congregation as we work to further spread the gospel truth of God's second coming and His everlasting love.

**PHILADELPHIA GHANA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***7501 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19136*

It all started in February 2003 when Elder Kwame Kyei Baffour (AB) and his family relocated from New Jersey to Pennsylvania. His immediate goal was to plant a Ghanaian SDA Church in Philadelphia. To achieve this goal, his family visited some of the Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Philadelphia area in search of Ghanaians who would partner with the family in his effort. With Jesus leading the way, Elder Baffour's family met the families of Elder Akwasi Addai Kwarteng, Pastor Abraham Wentum, Lawrence Ampofo and Rebecca Abena Twumasi. The church planting concept was discussed with these families who readily pledged their wholehearted support to this mission of winning souls for Christ.

On August 8th, 2003, the families initiated rotational prayer meetings from one family house to another on Friday nights from 8pm to 10pm. Elder Baffour called the Allegheny East Conference president, Elder Charles Cheatham and discussed the idea of establishing a Ghana SDA mission in Philadelphia. Elder Cheatham gave his blessings and pledged the conference's support to make this vision possible. Thereafter, the search was on to rent a place for Sabbath worship and prayer meetings. By God's grace, the group was offered a place to rent by Pastor William Hall at the old North Philadelphia SDA Church building at 14 West Oxford Street, Philadelphia, PA.

On September 6th, 2003, the group of five families composed of seventeen Christian brothers and sisters observed their first Sabbath worship at this location. From this time on, the effort to grow the congregation through outreach, increased.

On April 16th, 2005, Philadelphia Ghana SDA was organized into a company. The occasion was honored and blessed with the presence of spiritual leaders from the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church led by the President, Elder Charles Cheatham, Elder M.A. Bediako (the then Executive Secretary of the General Conference of SDA), pastors as well as delegates from all sister churches in the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. On the day of the organization, membership count had increased from seventeen to forty-two members.

**PHILADELPHIA GHANA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***7501 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19136*

---

In 2006, the Philadelphia Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Company moved to a rented location at Chestnut Hill Church on 1159 East Cheltenham Avenue. Here, the company continued to win souls for Christ and began the search for a permanent home for God. During the year, we were fortunate to have Pastor Andrews Ewoo as the guest speaker for its first crusade where 13 people were baptized.

Again in 2006, Pastor Enrique Amponsah became the first pastor of this organization. In 2007, Pastor Enrique Amponsah baptized an additional four people into the organization. In 2009, the company moved and rented the Faith Canaan Baptist Church on 910 East Church Lane for worship. In addition to membership growth, the primary focus of the company at this time was to find a permanent home of worship and therefore instituted a bi-annual harvest to mobilize funds, solely to either purchase an existing church building or build a new one. At the end of 2011, Pastor Enrique Amponsah left the church to continue his academic goals. Finally, on April 27th, 2012, after many disappointments in our church building search efforts, the Lord answered the prayers of this organization with a beautiful church building at 7501 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. The first Sabbath worship here was on July 7th, 2012. On September 29th, 2012, Philadelphia Ghana Company was organized into a full-fledged church and the church building was dedicated. The sermon was preached by the President of the Allegheny East Conference, Elder Charles Cheatham. In July 2013, the church was blessed to have Pastor Appiah Kubi Kwarteng, PHD assigned as the second church pastor by the Allegheny East Conference.



**PINE FORGE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***308 Pine Forge Road, Pine Forge, PA 19548*

The history of the Pine Forge Seventh-day Adventist Church is inspiring, tied inextricably with that of Pine Forge Academy. In her manuscript "Along the Manatawny", Freda James provides much of the following information.

On November 2, 1946, the officers of Allegheny Conference, Elder J. H. Wagner, President; Elder F. L. Bland; Secretary-Treasurer; and Departmental Secretary, Elder W. R. Robinson, met in the dining room of North Hall with the group of believers who lived in the community. This was the official birth of the newest Allegheny Conference church, named Pine Forge Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Pine Forge, Pennsylvania.

The first pastor of the campus church was Elder J. L. Moran (1946-1949). He was followed by Pastors Joseph Powell (1951-52), Roland Newman (1954-1955; 1970-74), Edward Dorsey (1956-59), Cleveland B. Tivy (1960-66), John E. Collins (1967), Paul Bridgeford (1968-69; 1974-77), Kenneth Bushnell (1977), J. Paul Monk (1978-80), Samuel G. Campbell (1980-88), Kirk U. Thompson (1992-98), Joel Johnson (1998-2008), Gary Banks (2009-13), Melvin Hayden III (2014-18) and Stephen A. L. Richardson (1988-92; 2018-Present). Most of the pastors also served as faculty members for Pine Forge Academy.

One of the students, Mary D. Peterson Connors (class of 1948), recalled "attending church on Sabbaths in the different buildings during the first months of the school year. The girls who resided in the Manor House descended the concrete stone steps, strategically placed by students, down the hill to get to the new Chapel."

The sanctuary was a large room on the second floor of the Chapel that was fitted with a rostrum and piano. The community, faculty, staff, and students sat on wooden folding chairs and praised the Lord for bestowing blessings on Pine Forge Institute. The Chapel, transformed from a dairy barn, served Pine Forge Institute for twenty years. During the 1966-1967 school year, the roof on the Chapel collapsed from the weight of snow, which ended its use for the school and community. "Freda James, Manuscript, "Along the Manatawny" 2015.

**PINE FORGE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*308 Pine Forge Road, Pine Forge, PA 19548*

---

The Pine Forge Seventh-day Adventist Church was a nomad congregation from 1967 onward, assembling in the academy cafeteria, the basement level of Kimbrough Hall and the worship room of Handy Hall until 1985, when the grand opening of the current church facility occurred under the leadership of Pastor Samuel G. Campbell.

History continues to mark the legacy of grace and spiritual influence that God has produced through this congregation. From its embrace have come pastors, physicians, educators, lawyers, and an abundance of alumni who remain stalwart believers in and ambassadors for the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

**REDENCION SPANISH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***4839 N. Mascher Street, Philadelphia, PA 19120*

The Redencion Spanish SDA Church had its happy beginnings on November 1, 2008 on Luray Street, in North Philadelphia, PA. It's first pastor was Hector Fandiño. The other founders of the church were his daughter, Lida Fandiño, his wife Neyla, Arnulfo Ariza, Natalie Ariza, Dinora Moreno, Nelson, Lisa and Ricardo Irizarry, Sonia Ricci, Maire Tejeda, and the sisters Jessie and Soleiny Herrera. These group of brethren came from the Feltonville Church in Philadelphia, after a week of prayer that was held at that church. The Spanish Ministries that is directed until this day by Pastor Ramon Escalante, was supporting our group for six months with the rent payment of the building in which our group functioned. This was a great help that allowed us to continue forward with our church. Even though some of our members have moved to other churches, God has prospered His work, so that it can be a light shining, to dissipate the clouds of evil.

The church is currently being pastored by Pastor Arnulfo Ariza and his wife Lida. We count a fellowship of 35 members, and God has continued to bless us with people that have come to be a part of our church. We are happy to be a part of God's chosen people to proclaim the message of salvation. We thank the directive of the Spanish Ministry for its arduous work and for its support as well as the Allegheny East Conference. We desire to continue forward with God's blessings and with all who form part of our church and our conference. God richly bless you for being part of our missionary team. Currently, our church is located at 4850 N. Mascher Street Philadelphia, PA.

**REHOBOTH SPANISH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***45 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Reading, PA 19602*

At the end of 2001, a group of about 20 brethren, seeing the events that were occurring, the great disputes between the leaders and members of the Reading Church in the Pennsylvania Conference, guided by the Holy Spirit, decided to gather together in their homes to worship in a peaceful manner.

In the beginning, we gathered in different homes. One day, six brethren decided to return to the Reading Church, and only 14 remained. After having gathered in homes for a while, in 2002, we asked Sister Amacita Beckford to rent us a property that was located on South 4th Street, where she had a ministry called Kid's Café. Some of the brethren cooperated with Amacita in said ministry. In that same year, a group leader was named, Abundio Garcia, as well as the directors of departments. In 2003, Brother Miguel Sanchez spoke with Pastor Bridgeford and asked if we could move to his church, the Rehoboth Church, located at 42 S. 6th Street, Reading PA 19602. We then became members of that church, which was part of the Allegheny East Conference. In the beginning, it was hard for us, since most could not understand the English service.

One of our brothers who spoke English asked Pastor Bridgeford and the church board members, if they could hold a bilingual service, and they agreed. Brother Jose de Peña and his wife became the interpreters. Our first evangelistic crusade was carried out by Brother Enzo Consetino who presented topics about Daniel and Revelation.

After about a year, some of the members of our original group, asked the board of the Rehoboth Church, if they would allow us to hold the Sabbath School and Divine Worship in Spanish. For this purpose, our Spanish group was partitioned a section by the front of the church where we could carry out our services. I remember that we used to use a curtain as a wall to divide that section. One night, in the year 2003, Pastor Ramon Escalante, Spanish Coordinator for the AEC sent Pastor Carlos Bacallao to speak to us, so that we could be absorbed under the Spanish Ministry of Churches. It was then that all the members of the group decided to have the name of Rehoboth Spanish Church and to become members of the AEC Spanish Ministry of Churches. Our first pastor was Ramon Escalante and after a few months, Pastor Alexander Santeliz. After being with our English-speaking brethren for some time, they asked us to move out, and we once more returned to the building South on 4th Street in Reading, PA. We were then assigned Alejandro Zapata who

**REHOBOTH SPANISH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***45 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Reading, PA 19602*

was our pastor for a short time, followed by Pastor Leandro Perez. By that time, our group was composed of only 10 persons. We distributed more than 1,000 copies of the book "Steps to Christ" (in Spanish) around the Glenside and Oakbrook homes. We then realized a month-long crusade under a tent by Glenside Homes, where 17 souls were baptized for Christ. After moving around to several places to worship, we eventually moved to the Hopewell Mennonite Church located at 45 S. 6th Street Reading, PA. After moving to the new place, we encountered several setbacks, since the newly baptized members did not follow us there, and half of the members decided to leave to go to another church in the Pennsylvania Conference. We were now a small group of five members, renting a building that could hold 750 persons. We thought of Matthew 9:37-38: "Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Together with Pastor Leandro Perez and his family, we started to fast and pray for God to send workers into His harvest field. It was then that new Adventist families started to come, who had recently moved from the Dominican Republic to the U.S. and were in search of a church where they could worship. My church is a church, where despite being small in membership, is big in love with Christ. We have different youth programs that have been operating in our church: Transformed in Jesus' Ministry, End Time Preachers and Gideon's in the Time of the End. God has put in our hearts to provide for the homeless, through clothes, food, etc.

In January of 2017, the Hopewell Mennonite Church where we were renting, was condemned by the city of Reading due to a problem with the structure of the building. Because of this, we were once more homeless. We called various churches, looking for a place to rent, but to no avail. We eventually rented the gymnasium of the Reading SDA Junior Academy. After being there for several months, we planned an evangelistic crusade with Pastor Juan Cubero, but we did not have an adequate place in which to host the crusade. We even asked the Rehoboth SDA Church to rent us their building, but they could not, due to the complication of having to have one of their deacons to open and close each night. God's plan, nevertheless, moved forward. One day, while fasting and praying, God reminded me of the Hope Rescue Mission Men's Shelter, where we eventually held the crusade due to their generosity. It was a great blessing; we had three baptisms. On March 24, 2017, God finally gave us a place to worship: The Reading City Church in West Reading, PA, and thanks to Him we are no longer homeless.

Among the most significant events that occurred in 2000, was the ardent work we did, distributing around 200 CDs weekly of the sermons of the international evangelist Pastor Andres Portes. We then held an evangelistic crusade which resulted in the baptism of around 27 souls for Christ. Since 2003, we have participated in Global Youth Day where, even under snow, we have gone out to the streets to share the message of love and mercy through acts of kindness to the community of Reading. Our history has been one with challenges and difficulties, but also filled with victories, for the honor and glory of God. God bless, and let us continue the arduous work in God's field, and let us testify, on time, and out of time.

**REHOBOTH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1502 Snyder Street, Reading, PA 19601*

Our journey began as a faith venture! A few dedicated believers set out to follow the guidance from "on high". There was an overpowering conviction that something had to be done for those in the inner city of Reading, PA.

**APRIL 20, 1990**

Meeting at the home of charter member, June Talley, where it was determined under the direction of the Holy Spirit that a Seventh-day Adventist church was necessary in inner-city Reading to reach the members of this community with the message of Jesus Christ.

**AUGUST 5, 1990**

First tent meeting held on 3rd and Walnut Street under the direction of Pastor Paul. S. Anderson. A strong Seventh-day Adventist presence was felt in the community. These meetings were help through September 8th, 1990.

**JANUARY 26, 1991**

The Mother church, Walnut Street Community SDA in Pottstown, Pennsylvania voted unanimously for the "birthing" of an SDA company in inner city Reading, Pennsylvania.

**FEBRUARY 4, 1991**

After worshipping in several members' homes, a facility was located at 416 Franklin Street under the spiritual direction of Head Elder, Lawrence DeWitt Dunn. At which time a meeting was held to determine the name of this company that would soon mature to an official church under the Allegheny East Conference of SDA's. With fervent prayer, the Holy Spirit led Sis. Carol Johnson to Gen. 26;22, and the Name Rehoboth was selected.

**MARCH 9, 1991**

The first glorious Sabbath day celebration of the Rehoboth SDA Company (Church).

**MARCH 12, 1991**

The first Prayer Meeting

**REHOBOTH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1502 Snyder Street, Reading, PA 19601***DECEMBER 7, 1992**

After much searching, the edifice at 47 South 6th St was located and purchased. The facility was a store-front property located only 1 block or so from the center of downtown Reading.

**JUNE 16, 1996**

Elevation to Church status (from a company) at the Allegheny East Conference constituency meeting. Praise God!

Worship was initially conducted in the front area of 47 South 6th St, until the Fall of 1998. It eventually became too small to accommodate the growing congregation, many friends and frequent community guests. It was soon voted to convert the larger warehouse facility in the rear area to a more accommodating worship center. The front area was transformed into the fellowship community outreach sector of the church. The 2008 move into the larger sanctuary has been more conducive to worship. The church continued to grow and under the leadership of Pastor Earl Blackwell; the church's 20th Anniversary & Grand Opening Celebration was held Sabbath, June 16, 2012 at a newly purchased church located at 1502 Snyder Street (corner of Lackawanna) – Reading, PA 19601. Our earnest prayer continues to be ~ Make Thy house a restful place and fill it with Thy loving grace... Hear within these humble walls; the needy soul who on Thee calls... Grant to them Thy gracious care; those who heavy burdens bear. Let us in numbers also grow and richly with Thy Spirit glow... Make us so large that pride and selfishness will find no place... May those about us everywhere... Thy many blessings with us share.

**CHARTER MEMBERS**

Claudette Boswell – (Deceased)

Lucy Reeves

June Talley

**PAST LEADERS**

Pastor Paul Anderson: 1991 - 1992

Pastor Byron Hill: 1991 - 1997

Pastor Larry Johnson: 1991 - 1995

Pastor John Trusty: Interim

Pastor Paul Bridgeford: 1997 - 2001

Pastor Oliver E. Cheatham: 2001 - 2008

Pastor Peter S. Campbell: Interim

Pastor Joel Johnson: 2008 - 2009

Pastor E. Earl Blackwell: 2010 - 2016

Pastor Paul M. Turner: 09/10/16 - Present

**SHEKINA FRENCH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***5704 North Fairhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19120*

The existence of the assembly of Shekina, before Mount Nebo, is derived from the result of prayer and the fruit of perseverance. More than seven families including Saint-Luc, Gillot, Jean-Philippe, Laguerre, Charles, Bazar, and Pierre coherently undertook this initiative in August of 2002. Other brothers and sisters joined their efforts with a vision to establish a new Adventist presence in Philadelphia.

The sympathizers of this commendable movement had become accustomed to meeting weekly in the living room of the Saint-Luc family in order to draw up plans while seeking the divine direction. A shelter room opened the doors of Mont-Nebo, a name inspired by the mind of Sister Alerte J-P, in the morning of Saturday, January 11, 2003 in the presence of a compact crowd.

Without delay, the pastoral body initiated a process of recognition of our assembly at the Allegheny East Conference (AEC). What was the joy of the brotherhood when reading a circular issued by the AEC referring to a vote of integration of Mount-Nebo, adopted in January 2005, to the rank of "Group." She was officially elevated to this status on October 10, 2005 by emissaries from this entity.

Pastor Emile Duvivier, the first shepherd of the assembly, was installed in his office on June 10, 2006. With his dynamism, we acquired a temple at the end of the calendar year 2008. The days of 2009 were marked by two historical events in the existence of Mount Nebo: 1) Inauguration of our place of worship (5704 Fairhill Street, Philadelphia PA 19120). 2) Organization in the Church of our congregation.

In 2010, as part of the rotation of spiritual ministers, the AEC called upon Pastor Jean-Milca Fénelon to work on the Mount Nebo affairs. Meeting in plenary session, the assembly decided to replace, in 2013, Mont-Nebo, by the name of "Shekina." Two years later, Pastor Rooldy Alexandre was instructed by the local conference to lead the church.

After eight months of pastoral vacancy, the Conference administration asked Pastor Darnel Marius, in November 2016, to serve as the spiritual leader of Shekina and New Maranatha.



**SOUTHWEST PHILADELPHIA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1220 S. 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143*

The Southwest Philadelphia SDA Church stands today as a testimony of what faith, perseverance, and hard work can accomplish.

It's eventful past, dates back to 1971 when two branch Sabbath School programs conducted in the homes of Clorice Hayes and the late Benita Boyer were consolidated into the Southwest Mission under the leadership of Pastor Alfred R. Jones, Pastor of the Ebenezer SDA Church.

These small groups of believers were former members of Ebenezer SDA Church in South Philadelphia. As they spreaded the Third Angel's Message in the Southwest Philadelphia community, they faced many obstacles, chief of which was the lack of a permanent place to conduct their worship service.

They found a temporary place of worship in the New Home Mission Baptist Church in the 5200 block of Woodland Avenue. A few months later, with the assistance of Elder Alfred Jones, they obtained a store front in the 4800 block of Woodland Avenue, where worship services were held until 1973.

During Elder Jones' tenure in Philadelphia, the worship services at the Southwest Mission were scheduled to facilitate his presence at the meetings. The Divine Hour Service was held during the Sabbath School period; Sabbath School was conducted on Sabbath afternoons; and, Prayer Meeting was held on Tuesday evenings.

Under the leadership of Elder Dorsey, President of Allegheny East Conference, the Southwest Mission with its twelve charter members was formally organized as the Southwest Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church and accepted into the Allegheny East Conference of Churches in 1972.

The twelve charter members were: Clorice Hayes, Betty LaHart, Amy Love, William Holloway, Dorothy McRae, Dorothy Joint, Sara Lee, Jeannette Ligon, Katherine Murray, Kenneth Palmer, Pamela Palmer, and Macedonia Pine.

Elder Kenneth Palmer was appointed to serve the church as Lay Pastor. He served for several months and helped the church overcome many difficult situations and setbacks. Later in 1972, Elder James W. Warren accepted the call from Elder Jones to replace Elder Palmer as the Lay Pastor.

**SOUTHWEST PHILADELPHIA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*1220 S. 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143*

---

The decision made by the former Elder from Mt. Olivet SDA Church in Camden, New Jersey was a major factor in the growth of the new church. Elder James W. Warren faithfully served as Lay Pastor until December 1982.

The following pastors have helped Southwest to become a bulwark of faith in Philadelphia.

William Linthicum – 1983 – 1987;

Paul Anderson; Joshua Broomfield, 1994 – December 2000;

Joseph Hutchinson – March 1992 – January 1995;

George Jackson – August 2001 – June 2009;

Thaddious Privette – April 2010 – Interim;

Paul Turner – August 2010 – March 2016.

Pastor Earl Blackwell was installed as our pastor in April of 2016.

With the help of God, we will continue to spread the gospel in the Southwest Area of Philadelphia.

**WALNUT STREET SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH***543 Walnut Street, Pottstown, PA 19464*

Any worthy historical sketch needs to start as near the “beginning” as possible. Every entity owes its existence to its parents and ancestors. So, for that, our own Walnut Street Seventh-day Adventist Community Church must give due honor to our parent church, The Pine Forge Academy Church.

We further recognize that for the basis for its establishment, every official Adventist church body must make the priority of its agenda, the gospel call, as recorded in Matthew 28:19 - “Go ye therefore and teach all nations...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”

This was the main thrust of the school, a goal which they began fulfilling by their diligence to the education of the church’s youth. Even as they migrated to various worshipping sites across the Pine Forge campus, they were always mindful of a need for deeper evangelistic involvement. This church was “born” in the small white building which stands between North Hall and the president’s cottage. It later became the school laundry.

Worship sites at various times included a small white barn (later demolished) near the foot of the hill and facing Douglas Drive; Handy Hall and the basement of Kimbrough Hall. Many accepted Christ in these humble environs.

It became all they could accomplish. Evangelism beyond the school campus was inconvenient, as well as nearly impossible. Each Sabbath posed a serious housing problem as students, faculty, conference workers and community members, including the small children, found themselves jostling for mere seating space. Many found the worship experience to be frustrating and exasperating. Despite this negative condition, there were a few members from Pottstown who had been convened. (Among them, Sisters Edith Blanding and Lorraine Watkins).

After prayer and diligent searching, in June of 1964, Mr. and Mrs. James Hague, now deceased, located a small church for sale at 515 Walnut Street in Pottstown. The asking price was \$25,000, of which we had less than \$1,000. The building was old and in need of repair, but it was soon ringing with sounds of praise as the Walnut Street S.D.A. Community Church became an established entity on Walnut Street.

**WALNUT STREET SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH***543 Walnut Street, Pottstown, PA 19464*

---

The motto of the 24 charter members became "Let the evangelism begin!" And begin it did! Classes were held in healthful living, first aid certification and adult education. Also included were projects such as scholarship funds, day-camp sponsorship and food and clothing for those in need.

Elder Cleveland B. Tivy, our first pastor, held tent services on the lawn of the church. This was followed by a very vibrant Vacation Bible School, conducted by Mrs. Maureen Walker, wife of our Assistant Pastor, Donald A. Walker. Others who faithfully led out in VBS activities were Mrs. Glennie Ford and Mrs. Corine Smith. With an enrollment of 100 children, we no longer made an annual canvass in the community for VBS students. We only put up the announcement signs, and the children came.

By the summer of 1967, when our membership had swelled to 40, Elder J. E. Collins was assigned to us. His tent effort on a vacant corner of Lincoln Avenue resulted in the addition of 36 members by baptism. During his administration, we were also able to dedicate our small edifice debt-free on December 10, 1967.

In January 1968, Elder Collins was called to another area of service, and Elder James E. Dykes, who was also The Dean of Young Men at the Academy, became our new and very methodical pastor. He served in this field only until July of 1968 when God saw fit to assign our care to the multi-talented Elder Paul Bridgeford. God has regularly sent us the leadership we needed at the appropriate times -- godly shepherds all!

In January 1970, we again changed pastors. Elder Roland Newman served us diligently until August of 1974, when Elder Bridgeford returned to care for us under God. Under the leadership of these godly men, our body continued to grow until we were again in a housing crunch. Our growth once more was stunted by a lack of space, and the necessity to expand became crucial. The question again was "What about evangelism?"

In June of 1977, Elder Alfred R. Jones accepted the dual challenge of pastoring our church while still directing the Lay Ministries Department of the Allegheny East Conference in Pine Forge. He willingly accepted the need for our efforts to be channeled into an area of greater potential and urged us to plan seriously to build a new edifice. This time, the object of the search was ground zero. A dilapidated eye-sore, a decaying building which had once accommodated a factory, now occupied the property adjacent to our church. A housing developer was by now making serious bids for what he saw as prime territory for new housing. We, however, saw the property as a solution to our quest for a new church home and immediately began our prayer sessions asking that "somehow" (for we were nearly penniless again) we might be able to obtain half of the lot which extended to Warren Street.

**WALNUT STREET SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH***543 Walnut Street, Pottstown, PA 19464*

---

Once again, our faith met the challenge. God again moved for us, marvelously and miraculously so that in the end of negotiations against the so-called Goliath big powers, monetarily endowed against our David poverty, God in His strength and power, prevailed.

The Goliath-David encounter reached resolution on May 27, 1979 when ground was broken for our 230-seat sanctuary with its adjoining educational building and off-street parking for 48 cars. On November 3, 1979, this lighthouse was consecrated to the glory of God. We continued to witness God's faithfulness to us. Elder Jones, who had initiated our building project and seen it through to completion in 1984 turned over the reins of leadership for this flock to a seasoned and caring pastor, Elder U. S. Willis. Elder Willis, with his experience and pastoral know-how led our congregation faithfully until 1988. Elder Paul Anderson proved to be our next energetic pastor, with a determination to make our positive presence continue to receive recognition as he bonded with the local community. Under his direction, we became more civic-minded and openly and vehemently made war against drugs and its deviant lifestyle in this community, until his call to another field in 1991. After that, Byron K. Hill and his wife, Brenda led us in our continual impact on the Walnut Street community. Prayer and Bible memorization, plus strong lay involvement in the giving of Bible studies are helping us to carry out the mandate of Matthew 28:19. Under his leadership, we burned our mortgage -- in less than 30 years. Hallelujah! Adding to this history of leaders, we have had Pastor Andrew Harewood and Pastor Vernon Waters as pastoral shepherds and currently, Pastor Frank Legette serves as the pastoral shepherd.

**WEST PHILADELPHIA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***4527 Haverford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19139*

The West Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church was organized under the name, Elmwood First Seventh-day Adventist Church on January 24, 1942. Its formation was the result of Bible studies held by Ebenezer members in the homes of people in Southwest Philadelphia. These studies began as early as 1934. The real move to plant a church in this area was made in the summer of 1940 when Elder F. B. Slater held a tent meeting at the corner of 84th Street and Bartram Avenue. At the end of the meeting, 12 souls were baptized, and a store front was secured on the corner of 86th Street and Eastwick as a meeting place. Here, they met regularly, along with some members of Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Church, until they were organized in 1942.

The 34 charter members that made up the fledgling church experienced some trying times in their struggle to stay alive during the early days. The record shows that in 1947, the membership stood at 19, but only 11 were active. But under the leadership of pastors like Elders F. L. Bland, A. V. Pinkney, G. E. Peters, C. D. Brooks, and C. L. Brooks, they successfully resisted the idea of disbanding and rejoining Ebenezer Church. The various pastors who have served the West Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church each left their indelible mark on the shaping and identity of this vibrant, dynamic congregation.

In 1962, the church purchased a building on 55th Street and Haverford. There, they experienced steady growth. In 1976, Pastor George Braxton came and saw the need for a larger building. He immediately set about finding a spot to build a church so that the congregation could continue to grow. Under his strong leadership, the present building was erected; and now the membership stands at over 500. To God be the glory!

In January of 1988, Pastor S. G. Campbell became the pastor of the church and served with us until 1995. Under his leadership and exceptional administrative skills, the present building was completed and equipped in an amazingly short time.

Pastor Harold Kibble served us from 1995 - 1998, showing us the care of a gentle shepherd, while demonstrating the power of an amazing preacher.

**WEST PHILADELPHIA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***4527 Haverford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19139*

---

Dr. S. Peter Campbell served from 1998 - 2006. Under his leadership, members experienced a pastor who was always available. He was at the bedside of the sick; he grieved with the grieving; he celebrated the birthdays and the weddings. In every circumstance we knew that he would be there.

Pastor Hinds turned our attention to the community during the years 2006 - 2010. He fearlessly blazed the path through uncharted territories and alleviated our fears about stepping out of our comfort zone.

Pastor Colin Brathwaite, who served us from 2010 - 2013 was supposed to be an Interim Pastor. However, he did not serve as one who was just passing through. Together, we created many positive memories. He exemplified kindness, respect, and compassion. The church was energized by his soft-spoken demeanor and authentic ways.

Dr. Gary Banks was with us from 2013 - 2015. He brought innovation, energy and enthusiasm that inspired us to broaden our vision.

The West Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church, now seventy-five years, since its founding, stands poised to do God's will and fulfill its mission. Pastor William Taliaferro came to the church in October 2015 and has brought new life to the community. His public recognition within the City of Philadelphia puts our church on the frontline for ministry. His sermons stimulate life-changing decisions for Christ. His infectious love for his members is creating a renewed sense of unity and commitment. We are committed to the growth of the kingdom of God.

**WILLOW GROVE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1576 Fairview Avenue, Willow Grove, PA 19090*

In 1958, two men were moved by the Holy Spirit to bring hope and salvation to a small community in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. That community is a neighborhood of Willow Grove called "Crestmont." These two men, Richard Chapman and George Dennis were members of the Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Realizing that a pastor would be an influential force in their efforts, one of the men, probably Bro. Chapman invited Elder Wilmot Fordham, Pastor of the Ebenezer SDA Church, to hold meetings in Willow Grove. Pastor Fordham obliged. He brought his brother, Henry Fordham, to assist him. The meetings were held on Rothley Avenue in the open air. The canopy of the blue sky was their covering, and the emerald-green leaves of the trees formed the perfect background in that open-air tabernacle. There were no new members added to this company of Seventh-day Adventist believers as a result of those meetings; however, the seeds were sown, and germination was awaited as the Holy Spirit continued to work.

Shortly after the meetings, Bro. Ernest Williams, a member of Ebenezer, relocated to Glenside, PA and joined company with Bros. Richard Chapman, George Dennis and Benjamin Dennis. It was suggested and decided that this small body of believers would hold weekly meetings in Bro. Chapman's home. Continued evidence of the Holy Spirit was manifested when Bro. George Dennis went to New York and moved Charles Rollins to the Willow Grove area where he became involved in the meetings and was later baptized.

With a burning desire to move forward, another tent effort was launched under the leadership of Pastor Wilmot Fordham. Assisting him once again was his brother, Henry Fordham, and some of the local elders of the Ebenezer SDA Church. These meetings were held approximately three nights a week for three weeks. The first elder of Ebenezer SDA Church, Elder George Johnson, did most of the preaching. Soon after this tent effort, the group met on a weekly basis to worship in the basement of Bro. George Dennis' home located at 1555 Rothley Avenue in Willow Grove. There, they became organized into a Branch Sabbath School of the Ebenezer SDA Church, and they elected officers. Some of those officers were: Elder Henry Fordham, First Elder; Bro. George Dennis, Local Elder; Bro. Richard Chapman, Treasurer; and Bro. Charles Rollins, Sabbath School Superintendent.



**WILLOW GROVE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1576 Fairview Avenue, Willow Grove, PA 19090*

---

Later, an addition to the group was the first female member; Sis. Lois Miller, with her four small children – Leon, Patricia, Sandra and Barbara. Sister Miller had been recently baptized in Camden, N.J. before relocating to the Crestmont area. The group was delighted to have her, and she immediately started to work in the roles of Church Clerk and Sabbath School Superintendent. The basement church was by no means dull. The small company was on fire. Testimony of their first love was always eminent -the Holy Spirit was truly at work.

These devoted Christians were never alone, thanks to the officers of Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Church who visited them constantly, such as: Elder George Johnson and his wife, who served as secretary; Elder A .B. Humphrey, principal of Larchwood School, who preached on a regular basis, and his wife, who taught Sabbath School, and Elder Melvin Warfield, a faithful local elder of Ebenezer who came every Sabbath for a number of years to preach and assist in all activities. Added blessings came to the basement church in the person of Elder George Braxton, a local elder of the Camden SDA Church. Elder W.A. Thompson, President of Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at that time asked Elder Braxton to consider working with the small company of believers in Willow Grove. President Thompson asked Elder Braxton to visit the basement church one Wednesday night and then make his decision. Elder Braxton visited the Willow Grove believers and was enthused with what he found. He then called President Thompson and agreed to accept the challenge.

Elder Braxton was a born leader-a man of great experience. As President of the Laborers' Local Union in Camden, he knew how to motivate and deal with people of all levels. His service as a First Sergeant in the Philippines during World War II gave him added ability to lead, but more importantly, his spiritual vision became clear while serving as a volunteer Pastor at the Mt. Olivet SDA Church in Camden, N.J.

For nine years, commencing from 1958, this small congregation worshipped in Bro. George Dennis' basement. The situation in the basement was not the best, but no other suitable site was affordable as the congregation had very little money. The situation that seemed unsolvable invited suggestions from city officials-suggestions that seemed unacceptable for God-fearing people. The city officials felt that the congregation was too small, and that they had no youthful members to insure their future. They suggested that the Adventists join some other church and disband their group. What the city officials did not know was that God's Church can never die, no matter how many of them voted for its abandonment.

Three members of this body of believers were in construction work: Brother George Dennis, a builder and designer; Brother Benjamin Dennis, an electrician; and Brother Douglas Dennis, a stone mason. Under the leadership of Elder Braxton, the members corralled to envisage what should be done. After much prayer and planning, a decision was reached. These skilled construction workers would use their God-given talents to build a new church home.

## WILLOW GROVE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*1576 Fairview Avenue, Willow Grove, PA 19090*

---

Brother Douglas and Sister Lucille Dennis owned land on the most beautiful site in the heart of Crestmont-land that was ear-marked for their dream house. But, because of their love for God's work, they decided to donate the land for the building of God's Church. This piece of land is located on the corner of Fairview and Hamilton Avenues. That generous gift of love bespoke in no uncertain manner the way Brother and Sister Douglas Dennis felt about building the church.

Brother George Dennis immediately began designing the building, which was not an easy task. He had to take into consideration the best architectural design suitable for the corner, bearing in mind that the congregation needed ample parking space. When the design was complete, their problems began. They had no money to implement its construction. Disheartened, but not hopeless, they continued to pray and pursue avenues whereby money could be accumulated, knowing full well that God was in control and would see them through.

God blessed the handful of dedicated workers as the entire congregation joined together in the construction of their new church home. The Dennis brothers led in the skilled work, while the other members faithfully assisted wherever they were needed to achieve the ultimate goal-the completion of their new church. Elder George Braxton labored long hours right along with them. When it came time for the brick work, Brother William Mooring, Mr. George Melton, and eight students from Mr. Melton's Bricklayer School contributed the brick work. The women were not left out, either. Under the direction of Sister Lois Miller, they made sure the men had hearty lunches every day. Stone by stone, brick by brick, the church building was finally completed. On Saturday, September 14, 1968, a beautiful grand opening was held. This magnificent edifice now graces the corner of Fairview and Hamilton Avenues. It is a lighthouse to the community of Crestmont-made possible by God, and a few dedicated workers, under the leadership of Elder George L. Braxton.

Continuing throughout the history of the Willow Grove SDA Church, many wonderful pastors have graced its doors-pastors who contributed many unique qualities encouraging Willow Grove to be all that God intended.

Succeeding Pastor George Braxton, Pastor and Mrs. Milton Nebblett joined this vibrant body of believers in 1976. Among their many contributions, the congregation was elevated toward a greater appreciation for health reform and proper nutrition.

In 1980, the torch of leadership was passed on to Pastor and Mrs. George Jackson, and they effectively reorganized the children's Sabbath School department, in addition to many other contributions.

In 1984, God's continued blessings poured out once again when the torch was passed on to Pastor and Mrs. Kirk Thompson. Under the leadership of this musical pair, the musical instruments were beautifully upgraded, and the Treasury Department became computerized.

**WILLOW GROVE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*1576 Fairview Avenue, Willow Grove, PA 19090*

---

Pastor Rodney Malcolm, who picked up the torch in 1990, was a great inspiration to the congregation. His vibrant smile and winning personality were like a magnet to all who came in contact with him.

Pastor St. Clare Phipps served as interim pastor for one year. His depth of experience and warm personality uplifted the congregation and aroused many to make a decision to accept God as their personal Savior.

In 1992, Pastor Ronald Reeves graced the doors of Willow Grove with his youthful and prayerful spirit. His flair for creativity, and zeal for all to grow spiritually, preserved the convictions of the 'basement church.'

In 1999, Pastor and Mrs. Pete Palmer came to the Willow Grove Church and brought us up-to-speed with the latest technologies, such as Powerpoint presentations and other computerized gadgets.

In 2005, Pastor and Mrs. William Hall came to the Willow Grove Church and brought us his "can do" attitude. Under his current leadership, the Willow Grove SDA church has reached new heights in evangelism and stewardship...and the Lord hasn't finished with Pastor Hall and his work with His church yet. Pastor Hall and his family are a blessing to the congregation.

# NORTH JERSEY AREA

## CHURCH

**Beraca Haitian Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Bergen Korean SDA Church**  
**Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Bethel French Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Bethany French SDA Church**  
**Bethlehem French Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Bethsaida Haitian SDA Church**  
**Canaan SDA French Speaking Church**  
**Capernaum French Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Community Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Community Seventh-day Adventist Company**  
**Ebenezer Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Eben-ezer Haitian Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Ebenezer Spanish SDA Church**  
**Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Montclair**  
**First Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**First Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**First Indonesian Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Fort Lee Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Genesis Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Hillcrest Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Irvington Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Living Faith SDA Church**  
**Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Mount Olivet Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Blakeslee SDA Community Worship Center**  
**Mt. Sinai Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Muongano Adventist Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**New Maranatha Karibu SDA Church**  
**Salem French Church**  
**The Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Oranges**  
**Trinity Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**University Heights SDA Church**

## CITY

Roselle, N.J. **133**  
 Newark, N.J. **135**  
 North Bergen, N.J. **137**  
 Jersey City, N.J. **138**  
 Trenton, N.J. **140**  
 Willingboro, N.J. **141**  
 East Orange, N.J. **142**  
 West Orange, N.J. **143**  
 Orange, N.J. **144**  
 Neptune, N.J. **145**  
 Englewood, N.J. **146**  
 New Brunswick, N.J. **150**  
 Newark, N.J. **151**  
 Elizabeth, N.J. **154**  
 Union City, N.J. **155**  
 Trenton, N.J. **157**  
 Montclair, N.J. **158**  
 Paterson, N.J. **163**  
 Teaneck, N.J. **165**  
 South Plainfield, N.J. **169**  
 River Edge, N.J. **171**  
 Plainfield, N.J. **173**  
 Port Murray, N.J. **175**  
 Irvington, N.J. **180**  
 West Orange, N.J. **184**  
 Plainfield, N.J. **186**  
 Neptune, N.J. **188**  
 Mt. Pocono, PA **189**  
 Trenton, N.J. **191**  
 Jersey City, N.J. **193**  
 Jersey City, N.J. **195**  
 East Orange, N.J. **197**  
 Orange, N.J. **199**  
 Newark, N.J. **201**  
 New Brunswick, N.J. **202**

**BERACA HAITIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1149 St. George Avenue, Roselle, N.J. 07203*

In order to retrieve ourselves from a marginal movement that was growing up in the Bethesda French Seventh-day Adventist Church, a movement through which some members and even some leaders were deeply involved in, a movement known as "The Shepherds Rod." Madsen Delva, Philomène Nelson, Lucienne Princivil, Ives Princivil, Fernelle Valery, Georgette Collot and others made the decision to no longer belong to BETHESDA, our Mother Church, and to form a new group through which the sound and authentic doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be maintained. As a result, we named the group: BERACA French Adventist Group.

It all started from a meeting that we held in the afternoon of November 6, 2011 on 625 N Broad Street, Apt. 3f in Elizabeth N.J., when Madsen Delva, Philomene J Nelson, Lucienne Princivil, Lyonel Joseph, Conceptia R. Joseph and Fernelle Valery gathered together in order to set up an operational plan for the new group (acquisition of a building for worship, funds for infrastructures, placement of leaders, and recruitment of new human resources etc...)

Up to January 7, 2012, all the prior meetings for the forming of the new Company formerly known as BERACA FRENCH ADVENTIST GROUP were held at the address above: 625 N Broad Street Apt 3f, Elizabeth N.J. 07208.

The Company became operational on January 7, 2012, when the original members officially moved from their temporary office that was located on 625 N. Broad Street Apt 3F, in Elizabeth N.J. to a new location that was best fitted to hold worship services. This building is located on 1149 St. George Avenue in Roselle, N.J. We are currently worshipping at the present address still.

Since the formation of the company, the original members were waiting to join a conference that was affiliated with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. This expectation lasted about four years, from January 2012 to February 2016.

Dr. Edner CORBIER, the Associate Leader of the Company began with the preliminary steps leading to its integration into the Allegheny East Conference beginning November 2015.

During the negotiations going on, Doctor Norman Miles, Area Leader in the Allegheny East Conference, and Pastor Yveniel St. Luc, Coordinator of the Haitian Churches, were introduced to

**BERACA HAITIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*1149 St. George Avenue, Roselle, N.J. 07203*

---

the members of the Company by Dr. Edner Corbier, on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, in order to obtain their consent for their integration into the Allegheny East Conference through a request letter to be sent to the Ministerium for approval. The request made by Dr. Edner Corbier was submitted on February 4, 2016 via e-mail to the care of Doctor Norman Miles, Area Leader, via Pastor Yveniel St. Luc, the Haitian Church Supervisor. Later on, it came to the attention of Dr. Edner Corbier that the request for the Company to officially belong to the Allegheny East Conference was approved by the Ministerium. As a result, on April 2016, a new Board was elected, and the name of the Company was changed from Beraca French Adventist Group to Beraca French Seventh-day Adventist Group.

The leaders and charter members of Beraca are Dr. Edner Corbier, our former counselor, the current First Elder Lyonel Joseph, his spouse Conceptia Renee Joseph, and Sister Philomène Nelson, were instrumental in forming this Company. The original officers, at the opening of the group on January 7, 2012, were the following: Dr. Edner Corbier, Counselor, Lyonel Joseph, Philomene Nelson, Conceptia Renee Joseph, Lucienne Princivil, Galilee Joseph and Madsen Delva.

The Company/Group started with 16 original members whose names are as follows: Dr. Edner Corbier, Counselor, Lyonel Joseph, Conceptia Renee Joseph, Philomène Nelson, Madsen Delva, Lucienne Princivil, Galilee Joseph, Myrdline Eldy Manasse, Georgette Collot, Fernelle Valery, Lea Celestin, Nicole Saint-Juste, Ronald Saint-Juste, Clara Dalmacy, Idelette Dale, and Ives Princivil.

From January 7, 2012 to February 3, 2016, the very day the group was visited by two eminent figures emerging from the Allegheny East Conference, the number of worshipers was 35.

All of the original members except five still attend Beraca.

**BEREAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***828 Sanford Avenue, Newark, N.J. 07106*

On December 4, 1992, Pastor John Trusty of Church of the Oranges made a call for a group of church members to start a new church based on Evangelism Outreach. This church would answer Christ's command of "Go-ye..." Twenty-three individuals responded, and a number of meetings were held at Sister Baker's home, one of the members who later became an elder. This little group wrestled with a name for the new church and came to rejoice with the name Berean. The Bereans in the Bible were known as readers and students of the word, and this inspired the group to choose its name. Specific areas were targeted as places to plant the church such as Vauxhall, Maplewood, South Orange, Clifton and Passaic.

On December 26, 1992, the Bereans held their first service as a group at the Universal Church located at Main and Oakwood Avenues in Orange, and they stayed there for two weeks. In the meantime, Pastor John Trusty was looking around for another place to worship when he finally identified the Calvary Reform Church on Prospect Street located in Maplewood. They worshipped at that location from January 1993 to March 2003. In August 1993, the Bereans were formally organized as a Company and later that year officially joined the Allegheny East Conference as a church.

In 1994, Pastor Patrick Green was assigned to pastor the Bereans after Pastor John Trusty was transferred to Washington D.C. Pastor Green was later transferred to Baltimore. In 1995, Pastor James Watkins was assigned to the church. Pastor Watkins built on the work that was already started by helping the membership to grow. With the help of the members, the membership increased by thirty in the first year of his tenure.

In 1993, the church was blessed with eight (8) baptisms, one transfer of membership and one by profession of faith. In 1994, ten (10) individuals were baptized and eight (8) transferred. They closed off 1996 with twenty-six (26) baptisms, four (4) transfers, two (2) reinstatements and four (4) professions of faith. In the same year, seven (7) transferred out bringing the membership at the time to one hundred fifteen (115).

**BEREAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*828 Sanford Avenue, Newark, N.J. 07106*

---

Pastor James Watkins was subsequently transferred to Virginia in 2001, and Pastor Paul Turner was assigned in. Upon Pastor Turner's transfer in 2003 to Trenton, N.J., the membership stood at one hundred and sixty-three (163).

In 2003, Pastor Daniel Davis was then assigned to the church as an interim pastor. He, along with faithful members, did a tremendous job in getting the church situated at the current location completing what Pastor Turner initiated. His expertise in building programs and trust services at the conference level was a great asset and gave the church a needed boost.

In 2004, Pastor Keizer was assigned to the church and served until 2014 after which Pastor Marcellus Robinson served as the interim until Pastor Henry O. Davis was assigned in July 2015.

Today, Berean has a membership of 224 souls and has not lost sight of its original purpose to "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." Bereans are often found on the street corners in Newark, in the shelters, nursing homes and in the prisons. The Bereans have continued on by God's grace, and we pray for unity and strength to finish his work in this part of the vineyard.

The following charter members are still attending the church:

1. Gabriel Ikpemgbe
2. Carolyn Ikpemgbe
3. Catherine Belcher
4. Constance Stone-Brown
5. Claude Greenfield
6. Paula Johnson
7. Fay Henry
8. Fay Johnson
9. Grace Stanislaus



**BERGEN KOREAN SDA CHURCH**

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS NORTHERN N.J. KOREAN MISSION)

*79th Palisade Avenue, North Bergen, N.J. 07047*

In 2009, a group of 10 members from the Fort Lee Korean SDA Church started worshipping in Ridgefield, N.J.

In 2011, this group was recognized as a Branch Sabbath School by the Central New Jersey Korean Church.

In 2014, two elders (Cory Ko and Justin Kim) and Pastor Songpill Kim joined the group.

The group was recognized as a mission group by the Allegheny East Conference on October 26, 2014.

The group was recognized as a company by the Allegheny East Conference on November 27, 2016.

Church address = 7 Broad Avenue Palisades Park, N.J. 07650

**BETHEL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***271 Stegman Street, Jersey City, N.J. 07305***MIGRATION LEADS TO SALVATION**

In the early 1900's, as folk were migrating to the Jersey City area from the South and other cities in the United States, inquiries were made about how to find Sabbathkeepers. This question led people to a small group meeting in the home of Elder and Mrs. Franklin Warnick, parents of Mrs. Gladys Cunningham (deceased) and the grandmother of Elaine Gardner. The charter members include Elder and Mrs. Franklin Warnick, Mamie Scruggs, mother of Audrey Vidal, and mother-in-law of Lillian Scruggs. As membership outgrew this location, the search for a larger meeting place led them to Richie Green's Barber Shop. Outgrowing that location, a move was made to 56 Atlantic Street in Jersey City.

Under the umbrella of the New Jersey Conference, one pastor was designated to the North Jersey area which included: Englewood, Montclair, Newark, Little Washington and Jersey City. Elder Wagner, H. W. Kibble, Sr., were some of the pastors during that time. Local Elders, Reed, Pease, Pierrie, Craig and Linkhorn endeavored to keep the church on course since we did not see our pastor on a weekly basis. Once a quarter all the churches in the district came together for worship.

Evangelistic growth led our early pioneers to 103 - 105 Orient Avenue. Later, the church moved to 18 Orient Avenue. By this time, the church was known as the Third Seventh-day Adventist Church because there were two other Seventh-day Adventist churches in the city. On September 7, 1968, the church voted to purchase the church at 271 Stegman Street, the church's present location.

During the mid - 1940's, the New Jersey Conference sent Ulysses S. Willis to pastor the church. Since then, Jersey City has experienced a rich sense of leadership ranging from conference presidents to youth leaders, including those on administrative levels as well as those of varied backgrounds. During the leadership of our second full-time pastor, Elder Louis Preston, Sr., the idea for a change in church name was initiated. However, the change in name did not occur until the pastorate of Daniel L. Davis. The name is still our name today (Beth-El).

**BETHEL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***271 Stegman Street, Jersey City, N.J. 07305*

---

The early days of our church experienced a dominant female membership. Today, a large portion of the membership is male. Our membership is a combination of people from various parts of the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean. Our rich cultural heritage brings a sense of heaven, where saints from all nations will worship God together.

Pastors who have led this flock since 1946 are: M. S. Banfield, U. S. Willis, Charles L. Cheatham (former President of Allegheny East Conference), Louis L. Preston, Sr., Edward Dorsey (former President of Allegheny East Conference), C. B. Tivey, Daniel L. Davis (former Youth Director of Allegheny East Conference), Melvyn E. Hayden, II, Alvin Kibble (former President of Allegheny East Conference), Gene N. Smith, Ivan L. Warden (former Assistant Director of Ellen White Estates), Thaddious Privette (former Stewardship Leader of Allegheny East Conference), S. Peter Campbell (former Ministerial Director of Allegheny East Conference), Stephen L. Richardson (Ministerial Director of Allegheny East Conference), Patrick O'Mara, Melvin Greene, Bruce Flynn, Ernan Norman, Melvyn Janey, Carl Hinds, and currently Troy Levy.

**BETHEL FRENCH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***203 Hillcrest Ave., Trenton, N.J. 08618-3409*

Every community is unique. Many believe that history is the only channel through which this uniqueness can truly be described. As a body of believers, Bethel Seventh-day Adventist church owes its genesis to exceptional circumstances.

Sister Valérie migrated to the United States of America and became a resident of Princeton, N.J. Ever since she arrived, she never stopped looking for a French/Creole speaking church. By the year 1988, it became clear to her that finding an ethnic church was challenging and was not going to be stress-free. However, in order to capitalize on her mother's advice, who was living in Guadeloupe, she decided to get in touch with some of her old acquaintances. Needless to say, brothers Jean Lionel Exantus and Laurent Sainvilus, were among others, the first church officers that the Lord placed in her path and would eventually become the founding members of Bethel SDA Church.

Another key player in the establishment of Bethel was Gene Donaldson, pastor of Mount Sinai Seventh-day Adventist church of Trenton, N.J. Although he was a bit cautious in the beginning, he realized how enthusiastic the group was. On June 25, 1988, pastor Donaldson helped them put together their first worship service in the basement of Mount Sinai. There were six (6) partakers: three adults and three children. Also, a month later, he encouraged and arranged their relocation to a small place in Lawrenceville, N.J.

Bethel was two (2) years old in 1990 when Yvéniel Saint Luc became its first pastor. During his leadership at Bethel, Pastor Saint Luc orchestrated two significant measures. First and foremost, the name of the church was changed from Mount Sinai to Bethel. And then Bethel officially became the newest member of the Allegheny East Conference.

Besides Saint Luc, the church has immensely benefited from many other prominent spiritual leaders: Daniel B. Séjour, Harry Monval, Rooldy Alexandre, and Wilfrid Louis Jean.

Considering all of the places (Guadeloupe, Haiti, Princeton, Trenton, Lawrenceville etc.) that are associated with Bethel, this is a church that will never stop moving forward until they reach the mountain top, where they will dwell together with their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**BETHANY FRENCH SDA CHURCH***429 John F. Kennedy Way, Willingboro, N.J. 08046-2118***HOW DOES IT START? HOW DID BETHANY COME TO EXISTENCE?****WE MUST BEGIN BY SAYING THAT BETHANY IS TO BETHEL, WHAT A DAUGHTER IS TO A MOTHER.**

As the mother church, Bethel has members that are coming from several different cities and towns of many counties. From the township of Willingboro in particular, many members from there came to worship at Bethel. So, one day, one of the members from Willingboro came up with the idea that we could begin a church in the township of Willingboro, that way they would not have to travel all the way to Trenton to attend church.

Some of the elders and church leaders thought that was a great idea. On the other hand, many of the church members stated that we were not ready to open another church. However, the members who came from Willingboro persisted on saying that it is possible to start a group there. Therefore, we went back to the table with the suggestion. At that time the pastor, elders, and leaders of the church supported the idea of opening the group. Quickly thereafter, the pastor brought the proposal before the church, which was overwhelmingly supported by everyone.

As a result, in the month of August 2013, a group was planted in the township of Willingboro. A year later, with the effort of the Haitian Ministerium, the group was recognized by the Allegheny East Conference, and was inaugurated as Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**BETHLEHEM FRENCH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***30 North Clinton Street, East Orange, N.J. 07017*

Bethlehem French SDA Church was established by Haitians to be a lighthouse to French-speaking people in the Northern New Jersey Area. Although things have not always run smoothly, Bethlehem is determined to follow the beaten paths of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and we are totally integrated into the “tae ethnaè” of the Allegheny East Conference.

The original nucleus of our congregation was the result of an evangelistic meeting conducted in East Orange, N.J. by the late Pastor Max Charles, the guest of his son-in-law, Pastor Joseph Charles, who was the pastor of the first Haitian Salem French SDA Church in Newark, N.J.

The congregation convened for the first time under the name “Bethlehem” on March 14, 1987. We had our first baptismal ceremony on April 25, 1987, and we were organized as a “Church” on July 25, 1987, by Elder Mead Van Putten, then President of the Allegheny East Conference.

The Lord has greatly blessed us with the acquisition of our current church building located at 30 North Clinton Street in East Orange, N.J.

For the past 30 years, we have tirelessly worked under the leadership of three pastors: Pastor Edner Corbier (1987-2005), Pastor Abdonel Jean Philippe (2006-2010), and Pastor Emile Duvivier (2010 to present).

We are confident that Bethlehem can truly be a lighthouse attracting thousands of Haitians living in East Orange, and the surrounding areas.

**BETHSAIDA HAITIAN SDA CHURCH***135 High Street, West Orange, N.J. 07052*

In 2013, the congregations of Morija and Bethanie, two local independent Adventist churches, undertook an outstanding endeavor merging the two separate missions into one congregation. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Elders Manoah Gracia, Enigue Marc, Fritz Noël and devoted Pastor Yvéniel St Luc led and coordinated the assimilation of the churches' members. Unity and union stood as their ultimate goals as members were encouraged to regard one another as one cohesive group. We are a community with a common wish to accomplish the Lord's mission and become recognized through membership of one of the Seventh-day Adventist Conferences. The journey posed many trials for both congregations. However, pride, doubt, and negative sentiments were quickly vanished by the Holy Spirit's light, and the two churches made a significant step towards unity.

On April 6, 2013, a day that will remain in the memories of all members, these two churches had their first service together as one. From that point on, many more blessings showered the newly unified congregation.

In August of 2014, one of our dreams became palpable when we were accepted in the sisterhood of churches of the "Allegheny East Conference." This milestone served as proof that once more, our God Almighty had accomplished what seemed to be impossible. He paved the road, sealed this honorable venture and under the name of "Bethsaida." we achieved unity. We became and remain proud members of the conference. The Lord continued pouring His blessing upon us by granting us our own and beloved pastor, Emile Duvivier, installed on January 10, 2015. We are confident that with the Eternal's guidance and, under Duvivier's leadership, our humble, yet proud congregation will continue to flourish. Our journey to this point is a testament to our faith, perseverance, and above all, the Almighty's power to bless those He loves and who strive to follow His word.

Recently, by the grace of God, on February 28, 2017, we acquired a church building where we can give praise and glory to our Lord until Jesus comes.

**CANAAN SDA FRENCH SPEAKING CHURCH***21 Ridge Street, Orange, N.J. 07050-1603*

It was on June 25, 2006, under the leadership of Elder President Charles Cheatham, Morija SDA Church had failed to comply under the Allegheny East Conference rules and wanted to take action on their own. A part of the congregation was for and another part was against. A separation occurred, and this group decided to follow the conference regulations.

At that time, we were advised by President Charles Cheatham of the Allegheny Conference to form a group and look for a place. The following Saturday, July 2nd of that same year, we went to worship at camp meeting. With the blessing of the Lord, we found an Episcopal church to worship. With the support of the Administration, we were able to sustain the cost of the first few months.

On October 14, 2006, we were organized as a "Church". We believe in the evangelistic work of God, and we will continue to preach the gospel and stand for the truth. By the grace of God, now we can count 135 members. We can shout out loud, "Praise be The Lord!"



**CAPERNAUM FRENCH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1144 State Route 33, Neptune, N.J. 07753*

By and large, whether big or small, rich or poor, social or religious; every entity has a history. Interestingly enough, those who belong to “Capernum” believe that their history is a spiritual journey. This is a pilgrimage that began 35 years ago, precisely in August 1982. Admittedly, the church had a very humble beginning. Hence, it started with only one (1) member: Denis Gregoire.

Ever since the dawn of the group, members of Mount Olivet Seventh-day Adventist Church and their senior pastor Ronald Edmonds, have been key players in the formation of Capernaum. In a matter of days, after he started worshiping at Mt. Olivet, Brother Denis had the opportunity to gather a few other Haitian Seventh-day Adventist brothers and sisters who would eventually become the founding members of the church. Noticeably, a majority of them had been living in Asbury Park, a historical city situated in central Jersey, known for its beautiful beaches and Bruce Springsteen.

Notwithstanding the fact that members will come and go, no one doubted that the church will remain. However, we will always be reminded of the commitment and dedications of those who have been guided by the Holy Spirit in order to start up a community of believers. Among them were Jonas Lavarin, Jean-Claude Lavarin, Willy Lavarin, Charline Alexandre, Reynold Alexandre, Phaniel Predestin, Frantz Dumassais, Jola Dumassais, Emile Ambroise, Yannick Gilles, Estil Jean-Baptiste, Damene Louis etc.

As it grew in numbers, the group decided that they would contact someone that might help them keep up with certain cultural, social, and spiritual obligations. Therefore, they went to Newark and met with Joseph Charles who was pastoring another French/Creole speaking congregation. With his help and many others that would follow, such as: Daniel Sejour, Jean Milca Fenelon, Edner Corbier, Harry Monval, Rooldy Alexandre, Wilfrid Louis Jean ... The church has been organized since 1992. Today, it has more than 250 worshipers and remains by the grace of the Lord, a work in progress.

We, undoubtedly, are proud members of the Allegheny East Conference; and our membership has helped us attain significant echelons. One of them is being able to gather and regularly worship the Creator in a place that we call our own. This is more than a commodity, it's a blessing. “Capernaum” has been on a collision course with destiny. We are absolutely certain that when we get there, it will be heaven itself - welcoming us from the other side will be none other than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**COMMUNITY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***245 Tenafly Road, P. O. Box 5329, Englewood, N.J. 07631-5329*

On June 4, 1984, some members of the First S.D.A. Church in Teaneck, New Jersey came to recognize a change in ideals and goals existed within the congregation. This resulted with the realization that there was a need to re-establish a Seventh-day Adventist Church in the City of Englewood. On Wednesday, June 6, 1984, approximately 25 individuals met to engage in prayer and to seek God's guidance. Seven individuals were selected to function in an advisory capacity (Collin Thomas, Head Elder, Jonathon Anderson, Nora Harris, Percival Reid, J. Albert Smith, Doris Thomas and Janis White). This committee of seven was named the Advisory Committee whose purpose was to serve as a unit in the role of pastor. That following Sabbath, June 9, 1984, at 245 Tenafly Road, Englewood, New Jersey, approximately 124 individuals met for Sabbath Worship as a body of believers for the first time. Keeping in mind the purpose for our existence, we chose the name Community Seventh-day Adventist Church. As is with all Seventh-day Adventist Churches, we elected church officers along with a church board and set about proclaiming the gospel message via weekly door to door outreach, evangelistic campaigns and community service ministries.

In November 1985, the church voted to ask Elder Luther R. Palmer to serve as liaison between us and the Allegheny East Conference on our request to be accepted as a constituent church of the Conference. During this time, Elder Palmer agreed to serve as our pastor and to guide us into the Sisterhood of Churches in the Allegheny East Conference. Shortly thereafter, the Advisory Board was disbanded as we began transitioning to standard operating procedures according to the policy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

During Divine Worship on Sabbath, November 22, 1986, Elder Alvin Kibble, Executive Secretary of the conference, led us through the organizational process. Ninety-two members registered with the Allegheny East Conference, and the names of another 30 Seventh-day Adventists individuals for a total of 122 persons, were declared to be charter members of the Community S.D.A. Church. Thus, the Community S.D.A. Church was officially inducted into the Allegheny East Conference.

Pastor Palmer continued to care for our flock. He guided us gently and patiently through the process of adapting to our new role as a part of the Allegheny East Conference. A few months later, Elder Palmer had to leave due to obligations elsewhere and for a short period of time, we fell under the pastoral leadership of Elder Alvin Kibble.

## COMMUNITY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*245 Tenafly Road, P. O. Box 5329, Englewood, N.J. 07631-5329*

---

Two months later, in August of 1987, Elder Robert K. Lively became the new pastor of Community S.D.A. Church. While serving under his vivacious spirit, we experienced a unique bonding. During these years, everyone pitched in to add vitality and strength to the church. Our young people became actively involved in the Allegheny East Conference annual Olympics, winning second place in overall activities the first year they participated and first place in later years. Our Pathfinders became a vibrant part of our youth ministry participating annually in the local Memorial Day Parade. It was during Pastor Lively's administration, that we acquired 87 Knickerbocker Road and 189 W. Demarest Avenue as our future church sites. The ladies of Community united in a phenomenal way. They planned and executed a huge building fundraising bazaar that was held in April 1990 at the Janis E. Dismus Middle School. This project was a part of the Mother's and Ladies Day Celebration in May and was extremely successful. In December of 1990, with heavy hearts, we said goodbye to Pastor Lively and his family and an era that represented our existence as a young church.

On January 8, 1991, Elder Donald L. McPhaull was introduced as pastor of our church. In that same year, under the dynamic leadership of Pastor McPhaull and Pastor Kirk Thompson of the First S.D.A. Church in Teaneck, N.J., the Community and First S.D.A. Churches united and embarked upon our first joint public evangelistic endeavor. Both churches were blessed with a bountiful harvest from this fantastic crusade, "The Joy of Faith Revival." Community S.D.A Church became the proud sponsors of the "Joy of Faith Radio Hour" which was transmitted every Sabbath morning, flooding the air waves over the extensive areas of Long Island, New York and New Jersey. In addition, the Joy of Faith Radio Hour was broadcasted in Huntsville, Alabama and Greenville, South Carolina.

Women's Ministries became part of our church's ministry. The women became even more active while discovering new and ingenious ways of ministering to the needs of women in the church and the community at large. In 1993, the Adventist Youth Society Department, the Education Department and the Women's Ministries Department united to implement a male mentoring program that culminated with a Beautillion on May 16, 1993. Ours was the first Seventh-day Adventist Church organized Beautillion to be held in the New York, New Jersey area. On November 19, 1994, Community celebrated its Eighth Anniversary of being accepted in the Sisterhood of Churches. We celebrated with a touch of sadness, as Pastor Donald L. McPhaull spent his last Sabbath with us as our pastor. Due to a need in the Germantown, Philadelphia S.D.A. Church, the Conference Committee had called Pastor McPhaull to that area.

While we awaited the assignment of a new pastor, Elder Alvin Kibble (now our Conference President), exercised great wisdom in acquiring Elder Paul Cantrell (who was retired), to serve as our interim pastor. For approximately two months, Pastor Cantrell faithfully traveled the highways north to Englewood every Sabbath. On each trip, he brought with him bountiful blessings, for which we will forever be grateful. Elder Cantrell, not only warmed our hearts with messages from our Heavenly Father, but also won our hearts with his honest and sincere acts of love. The words and spirit of encouragement, correction and humor he shared still linger with us.

**COMMUNITY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***245 Tenafly Road, P. O. Box 5329, Englewood, N.J. 07631-5329*

---

On Sabbath, February 4, 1995, we welcomed Pastor Joseph M. Hutchinson and family to the Community S.D.A. Church. It was obvious to us that he was a minister of great determination for he had weathered a severe snowstorm in order not to disappoint his waiting flock. He implemented a Power Hour Team which meets each Sabbath morning, addressing the need of in-house ministry through prayer. Focusing on our mission, we engaged in evangelistic training and seminars ("Friendship Evangelism Seminars," "Healthy 2000"), satellite evangelism (e.g. each of the "Net series" "The Next Millennium," and "Metro 99") and Bible study visitations (Discovery Bible Series and others). These have all resulted in the reaping of souls for Jesus and the reclaiming of missing members. In 1997, Community organized a delegation of 32 youth and chaperones to attend the BAYDA Missouri Youth Congress. Ours was the largest Allegheny East Conference church delegation and the second largest Congress delegation.

We took steps that strategically positioned us for the successful building of a church edifice. Subsequently, in December 1995, the balloon loan due on the purchase of the 87 Knickerbocker Road and the 189 W. Demarest Avenue properties were paid in full. While aggressively pursuing the project of building a church edifice, St. John's Lutheran Church expressed their interest in selling their church building to us. Thus, it came to be that on March 4, 1999, the closing on the purchase of 245 Tenafly Road took place, and we became the owners of the edifice that has served as our church home for nearly 33 years. On July 6, 1999, we opened the doors to the Promise Day Care Center which was privatized on November 25, 2003. On March 6, 2004, Pastor Hutchinson preached his farewell sermon and began preparing for the undertaking of his new assignment at the Edmondson Heights S.D.A. Church in Maryland.

On April 3, 2004, Pastor Richard P. Campbell and his family, wife Florence and daughter Melissa were introduced to us by Pastor Carl Hinds, North Jersey Ministerial Leader. On September 4, 2008, the size of our first family increased to four with the addition of Kevin Trevis Campbell. While under Pastor Campbell's leadership, we continued to grow in number as we regularly engaged in prayer and fasting which matured us spiritually and better prepared us for fulfilling the purpose for which we exist. Leading by example, Pastor Campbell encouraged, guided and supported us in enhancing our presence in the community. During his tenure, Community S.D.A. Church's relationship with the community continued to expand while conducting: consistent Door to Door Ministry, annual Health and Well Being Days, the establishment of the church's website, implementation of live streaming of church services and programs and "Breakfast with Jesus," a program focused on reaching lower division Sabbath School aged children and their parents. On January 6, 2013, we dedicated and opened the doors of "Community Food Pantry Plus," a monthly food distribution mission that continues to grow and serve our local community and residents of other Bergen County municipalities. We were blessed greatly under Pastor Campbell's pastoral ministry and were saddened when he left us in August 2014 to serve as pastor of the First Paterson S.D.A. Church in Paterson, New Jersey.

**COMMUNITY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***245 Tenafly Road, P. O. Box 5329, Englewood, N.J. 07631-5329*

---

In September 2014, Pastor Ivor Keizer and his family, wife Debra and son Denzel became the first family of our church. They quickly blended into our church family, joining the various ministries with their apparent love for family, mission and fellowship. Under Pastor Keizer's leadership, we have implemented and are growing A.N.G.E.L. Network (a Discipleship-Mentoring program), conducted "Praise in the Park Ministries, annual "Daniel Fast" health challenges and "Living the Health Message" and Health Ministry Days. Pastor Keizer's leadership motivates us to continuously research and implement ways to increase our membership's involvement in the church's mission with a push for Total Membership Involvement. At present, we are actively expanding our outreach ministry beyond the boundaries of the city of Englewood through street ministry in Bergenfield, New Jersey.

**COMMUNITY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST COMPANY***5 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, N.J. 08901*

What is now the Community SDA Company, New Brunswick, started as a Bible Study group, led by Joseph and Jane Otieno, then members of the Kenyan-based Muungano SDA Church, on August 5, 2011. It was formally organized as a Branch Sabbath School on October 12, 2012.

The original intent was to reach, reclaim, and restore Kenyan Adventists who had drifted from the faith since coming to the United States, by inviting and welcoming them into a more culture-friendly worship setting. Providing socio-economic support and assistance in coping with the demands of adjusting to life in this country, while maintaining their Kenyan identity, was also a major objective. When the anticipated response from the Kenyan community did not materialize, it was decided to broaden the outreach in order to form a multi-cultural, multi-national congregation.

The Bible Studies were initially conducted in homes, but the attendance grew to the point where it became necessary to form a congregation and find a place to worship. The group has rented a space in the church facility of an Episcopal Church located at 5 Paterson Street in New Brunswick, where services are conducted on Sabbaths.

On February 28, 2016, the group was granted Company status by vote of the Allegheny East Conference Executive Committee. Pastor Orlando Moncrieffe, who had been ministering to them while he served as pastor of the Muungano SDA Church, was assigned as their first pastor, effective March 1, 2016 – a position he still holds.

While the official membership currently stands at 26, there are many others for whom this is their home church, and a number of them are awaiting baptism or are in the process of having their membership transferred to the Company. Outreach to the wider community, particularly in the form of the distribution of food and clothing, is a hallmark of the congregation.

## EBENEZER GHANA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*731 South 17TH Street, Newark, N.J. 07103*



### BEGINNING PHASE

The idea of establishing the New Jersey Ghana SDA Church, now Ebenezer Ghana SDA Church was initiated by Elders Kwame Kyei Baffour, Samuel Kumah, Emmanuel Sefa Bonsu, Joseph Agyemang, Eric Darko, Janet Serwaa Agyemang, Rhoda Baffour, Agnes Kumah, Abraham Owusu, Richard Amegavi, Ransford Adu Gyamfi, Agatha Edusei, Theresah Peprah and the Wiafe family. This idea resulted in prayer meetings in members' homes to seek the Lord's guidance in this venture.

Since most of the members attended the First Ghana Church in Bronx, NY, it was necessary to solicit support from then pastors Brempong Owusu Antwi and HVA Kumah, and the elders of the church. The First Ghana Church supported the New Jersey group through evangelistic approaches such as the organization of Revelation Seminars, Friday prayer meetings and home visitations to attract members for the new group.

The group needed a place of worship. This was resolved when Pastor Haywood Weatherford, the former pastor of Trinity Temple SDA Church and his board approved the use of their Fellowship Hall, without charge. On January 13, 1999, the New Jersey Ghana group had our first service with Elder Samuel Gyimah as the preacher. As our numbers increased, we needed a bigger space and the Trinity Temple Church, with the help of their Head Deacon, Mr. Benjamin Day, Jr., rented us the gymnasium of the Trinity Temple Academy.

Soon after, Prince Acheampong and Janet Serwaa formed a choir to enhance our worship. Some of the outstanding choir members included: Ophelia Konadu, Ellen Sarpong, Ransford Adu Gyamfi, Awo Yaa Agyemang, Margaret Kodua, Mrs Wiafe, Barbara Tweneboah Kodua, Rhoda Baffour, Emmanuel Boateng, John Kesse, Gabriel Yaw Ahimah, Princess Asieduwaa, Patricia Kumah, and Agnes Kumah. In addition to the church choir, the group was blessed with three singing groups namely, Melodians, Echoes and Morning Stars. Later, Elder Samuel Adusei Buabeng became the leader of the choir and transformed it with the help of Noah Owusu Ansah and Abraham Nkrumah.

**EBENEZER GHANA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***731 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Newark, N.J. 07103*

---

**ORGANIZATION AND CHALLENGES**

As our number increased, we requested for organization. With a visit from the then president Elder Charles L. Chatham, a recommendation was made to the Conference and on October 30, 1999, the group was organized as a Company with forty members. A few months after our organization, we faced some setbacks as some of our members relocated to Ohio, and the second was the untimely death of Yaw Bawuah, who was an active member. The dedication and encouragement of Elders Gabriel Ahimah, Samuel Kuma Dwumfour, Maxwell Kyei, Solomon Amoah, and Kwame Boakye sustained us through this difficult period.

The second challenge was the need for a resident pastor to shepherd the new and growing believers. Even though Elders Kwame Kyei Baffour and Samuel Kuma Dwumfour served the role as lay pastors, the job required a full-time pastor whose leadership would meet the spiritual and emotional needs of the members as well as the numerical growth and financial gains of the church.

In July of 2001, the Allegheny East Conference, under the visionary leadership of Elder Charles Cheatham assigned Pastor Amofah A. Asamoah as the first ordained minister for the New Jersey Ghana Company. We thank God for giving us a transformative and spiritual leader at the right time. Pastor Asamoah's leadership ushered in a new era of an aggressively growing congregation.

**MILESTONE**

In July of 2002, the New Jersey Company hosted a successful camp meeting for the North America Ghanaian SDA churches at Rider University, Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Series of evangelistic meetings and seminars resulted in about 74 baptisms.

Within a year, our membership rose to over a hundred adults, thirty-five youth and twenty children.

In November 2, 2002, the Allegheny East Conference organized our company into a fully-fledged church.

In December 2009, the church celebrated its tenth anniversary. Our transformed choir of at least 50 members has produced a CD titled "Aseda Wura," under the directorship of Gabriel Ahimah. We have a children's choir and a youth choir which is directed by Jehoshaphat Tetteh. There is an active youth and children's ministry under the leadership of Mrs. Elizabeth Asamoah and Mrs. Mabel Kwei respectively.



**EBENEZER GHANA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***731 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Newark, N.J. 07103*

---

**CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT**

In 2005, the church acquired a small church building located at 731 South 17th Street, Newark, New Jersey and decided to renovate it into a place of worship to meet the needs of our growing congregation. A second floor was added to serve as the main sanctuary. Even though it has taken the church twelve years to do the extensive renovation to bring the building into a decent house of worship, we are grateful to the Lord that the renovation is completely done. A grand opening was held April 22, 2017 during which the Allegheny East Conference and the Columbia Union officials as well as the Mayor of Newark City, Honorable Ras J. Baraka, and his deputy Honorable Ugo Nwaokoro, officially cut the ribbon.

**EBEN-EZER HAITIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1203 E. Broad Street, Elizabeth, N.J. 07201*

On April 14th, 1984, the Lord opened the spiritual eyes of his servants of Salem Seventh-day Adventist Church on the need to extend the missionary duties to other communities as he mentioned in the Book of Mark 16:15. That call propelled Brother Gamaliel Beauzil, along with other servants of the Lord, to start a new group in the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey. With the assistance of the Almighty God, the group spiritually grew, thus the church named "Sinai" was created. The first worship service was held at St. James United Methodist Church located at 40 South Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey. The church would later be renamed Eben-Ezer Seventh-day Adventist Church (SDA). Pastor Louis Jacques Regis of Brooklyn, New York was the first minister of the church for a brief period of time. He was temporarily superseded by Pastor Wilson Monpremier of New Jersey Conference. Upon his departure, on March 29, 1988, the members overwhelmingly decided to call upon Dr. Edner Corbier who was then in charge of Bethlehem Church of East Orange to be their new Pastor.

On October 8th, 1988, Eben-Ezer Seventh-day Adventist Church, under the ministry of Dr. Corbier, joined the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh Day Adventists from the New Jersey Conference. He ministered the church from 1988 until he was succeeded by Pastor Jean Milca Fenelon in 1992, who was appointed by Charles Cheatham as the new minister of the church. He administered the church for 17 years, and it was during his tenure that the Lord blessed the church with the acquisition of its own building.

After a rotation of pastors, in August 2010, Pastor Harry Monval was appointed the new minister of the church. He ministered the church for six years before being transferred by the Executive Committee of the Allegheny East Conference. On January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the welcomed the current minister, Pastor Abdonel Jean Philippe.

Like the people of Israel, Eben-Ezer's 33 years of existence have been marked with moments of joy as well as moments of crisis and adversities. The various stages of its history clearly show that it's aptly named. So far, the Lord has blessed and helped his church in profound ways.

**To God be the glory!**

**EBENEZER SPANISH SDA CHURCH***2308 Summit Ave., Union City, N.J. 07087*

It was 1998, when a group of brethren from the Union City Adventist Church, worried and upset at the same time, about the way the church was functioning concerning the norms and beliefs of our church. Because the secular world was taking over our beautiful church, in the way the programs were being altered, the music was questionable, the dressing was more liberal, and many other problems that our churches are currently facing, we decided that there needed to be a revival.

These families that joined in this great challenge never imagined that this great "Project" in which they were participating in, was directed and guided by God. The Pardo family, comprised of Brother Andres Pardo (deceased) and his wife, Sister Matilde Pardo, the Hernandez family comprised of Brother Heriberto Hernandez and his wife Luz Maria Hernandez (deceased) and brother Francisco Morey and his wife Marlene Morey contacted the Allegheny East Conference and the Coordinator of the Spanish Council at that time, Pastor Pedro Claussell. Shortly after, they had a second interview, with the Secretary of the Spanish Council, Brother Norberto Leonur.

After that meeting and resulting conversation, the Coordinator and the Secretary offered the founding group a pastor, which they rejected, since Pastor Martho Lujan and his wife Dina Lujan had already joined the group, and the group of pioneers asked that Pastor Lujan be the pastor of their new church. The Allegheny East Conference then asked Pastor Lujan for a Letter of Recommendation from Peru and his pastor's license, and as the pastor fulfilled all these requirements, he was accepted by the conference to lead the new company of this nascent church.

There were many critics, challenges to face, mocking and gossip. The founding members were ridiculed due to this "Project," since they said it was a spurious work and was not directed by God. They gave ugly nicknames to the brethren who initiated this work and wanted to bring this message of salvation to the world. But we had good triumphs, and we are here now celebrating on this day of the Lord 19 years later with a congregation that God gave us.

We were first located in the Lutheran Church of San Mateo located at 22nd Street, New York Ave in the City of Union City, N.J. for 4.5 years and at that time, we paid \$350.00 monthly. Then we were in the Saint John Church located on street 16 of Palisade Ave for a period of six months. We were then desolate and without a church for a space of four years and 11 months. Salvation came

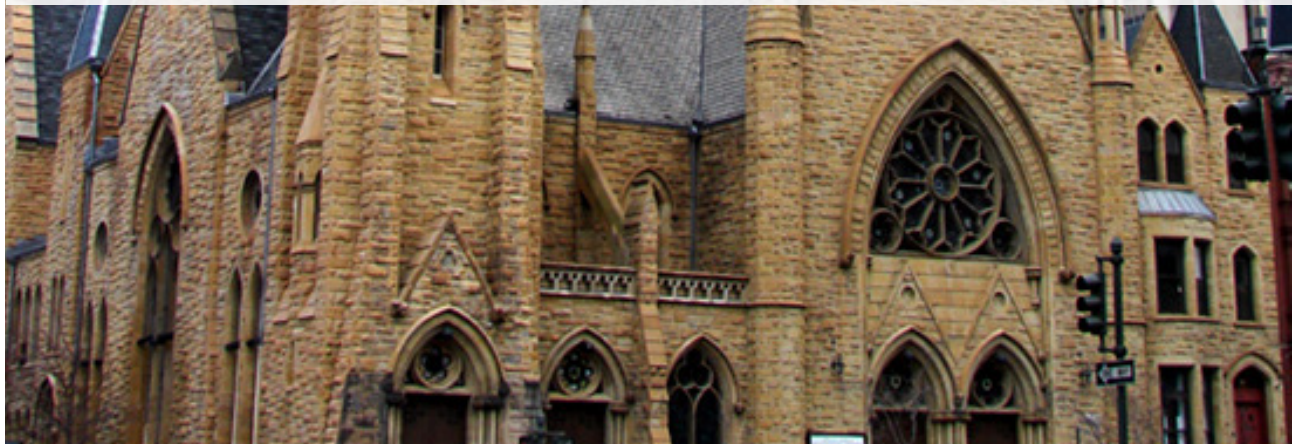
**EBENEZER SPANISH SDA CHURCH***2308 Summit Ave., Union City, N.J. 07087*

---

and in the year of 2003, we baptized a very dear sister, Eleana Vallejo, who the Lord inspired, and in the month of July of that same year, donated the amount of \$150,000.00 for the purchase of our current church building that was previously called La Casa España, which was a center of diversion. They were selling it for \$285,000.00, but they made a discount of \$50,000.00 and left it for \$235,000.00. Immediately after the donation, the small church got in touch with the Real State (Roggero) and made the purchase. Sister Eleana Vallejo issued the check of \$150,000.00 and at that time, this humble servant (Rosalba Martinez) was the treasurer and signed the check in the presence of the authorities of the church who were Brother Francisco Morey, Pastor Martho Lujan and the Coordinator of the Spanish Ministries, Pastor Ramon Escalante. The \$150,000.00 donation was given to the Revolving Fund and the remaining \$85,000.00 was paid to the revolving fund over a 15-year period, and in 2016, in the month of December, we canceled the debt, thanks to God. Today, we have a church that God had the pleasure to provide us with so we can freely worship Him.

## EPHESUS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*541 North Clinton Avenue, P. O. Box 2897, Trenton, N.J. 08607*



The Ephesus SDA Church (then known as East Trenton) began in 1977, when the Allegheny East Conference desired to establish a second church in the city of Trenton, New Jersey. Under the pastorate of Elder W. L. Ervin, and his wife Ethel, 21 persons presented themselves to be members of this congregation.

In December 1977, a fire destroyed our place of worship. The fire destroyed the building, but God allowed our piano and organ to survive. With this encouragement, the members rallied, cleaned out the building and rebuilt.

The church experienced growing pains, but with the help of Elder W. L. Ervin and Lay Leaders - Melvin Green, Frank Legette, William Jolly, and Vern Johnson, our church is still growing. The membership now stands at 105.

East Trenton has now changed its name to Ephesus and like the Ephesus of old, under the Lay Leadership of Vern and Patrice Johnson, the church is steadfastly moving toward the kingdom.

In 1992, Pastor Gene Donaldson became our leader and led us further toward the Kingdom of God. He served as our leader until 1999.

Pastor Michael Edwards became our new under-shepherd and led us in green pastures from 1999 to 2003, with the assistance of Elder Malcolm O'Dean.

Lay Pastor Malcolm O' Dean became our leader in 2004 and with his determination and the guidance of God, we have been maintained as a "Lighthouse for God in East Trenton." Since then, we have moved progressively towards the 'Heavenly Canaan,' through a wilderness of challenges. We'll continue availing ourselves to the Lord in becoming a spirit-filled people, adding to the church as many as would be saved until Jesus appears.

**FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OF MONTCLAIR***15 Elmwood Avenue, Montclair, N.J. 07042*

The history of First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Montclair is an exhilarating experience of events that bear witness to God's leading power.

Many years ago, an Adventist Minister, Pastor Marion Campbell, was on his way to visit one of his members. As he got out of his car, he saw a gentleman passing by. Greeting the stranger, he introduced himself, handed the man a piece of literature, and told him he hoped to see him again. That gentleman was Mansfield Wilson. Mr. Wilson took the literature and continued on his way. Some folks say that this experience was a coincidence, but we believe that it was the Spirit of the Lord leading. One week later, upon Pastor Campbell's return visit with his member, he met Mr. Mansfield Wilson again.

Pastor Campbell inquired as to whether Mr. Wilson had read the literature and enjoyed it. Mr. Wilson replied, "I liked it very much." Pastor Campbell asked whether he would be interested in Bible studies to which Mr. Wilson replied, "Yes." Unbeknownst to Pastor Campbell, a seed had been sown for the birth of a new church. Bible studies were held at the home of Mansfield and Katie Wilson in North Caldwell, New Jersey. They were accompanied by their two daughters; Betty Wilson Neal and Caroline Wilson Wyatt and two nieces; Alice and Lola Jackson.

The following week, two additional souls were added to the group meeting, Thomas and Minnie Lankford. The word of God was lifted up and men were being drawn to Christ. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me," John 12:32. As time progressed, another family joined the group for Bible studies, Solomon and Shirley Mills and their six children; Anna Mills-Dade, Rosalie Mills, Mozelle Mills-Lockette, Margie Mills-Ledder, Nathaniel Mills, and Willard Mills. This expanding group of Christians would sometimes worship at the Newark Church on Bergen Street.

On April 19, 1929, sixteen precious souls were baptized into the fellowship of God; the Wilson's (six), the Langford's (two), and the Mill's (eight). This dedicated and determined group formed the nucleus for the first Seventh-day Adventist Church in Montclair. The number of souls continued to grow as did the need for a formal meeting place. On December 6, 1930, this group was organized by the Allegheny Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as a church under the leadership of Pastor Marion Campbell.

## FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OF MONTCLAIR

*15 Elmwood Avenue, Montclair, N.J. 07042*

---

The first official meeting place for this newly formed congregation was 11 Mission Street near Bloomfield Avenue. Today, the building still stands and is currently a house of worship for another church. Approximately in 1932, the members rented a storefront and services were held at 80 Maple Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey under the leadership of Elder John Wagner, Sr.

The membership of this flock increased rapidly. Some of the new members were, Elizabeth Battle, Juanita Carter, John Farrow, and James Hale. Sister Elizabeth Battle was baptized in 1937 and was a faithful and dedicated worker. For many years, she served in Community Service (formally known as the Dorcas Society).

In 1932, a tent effort was held by Elder Harvey Kibble, Sr. at 23 Elmwood Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey where St. Peter Claver now stands. Three souls joined the church as a result of the tent effort, Louisa Penneywell, Mary Harvey, and Mayberry Williams. Louisa Penneywell was instrumental in purchasing the property on the corner of 90 Mission Street and Elmwood Avenue. At that time, the property housed a small two-car garage. Sister Penneywell had a vision of building a large church in the near future that would accommodate worshippers in the Montclair area.

During the years of 1942-1959, First Church of Montclair continued to be blessed with committed leadership. The pastors in service were as follows: Pastors E. I. Watson, Stanley Huddleson, Wilmont Fordham, Jethro Lester, Louis Preston, Sr., Cleveland B. Tivy and Edward Dorsey.

When Pastor Daniel L. Davis accepted the call as pastor to First Church in 1962, the members were currently worshipping in a building on Wheeler Street in Montclair, New Jersey. The decision to build a church was reached under the leadership of Pastor Daniel Davis and the plans for transformation of the two-car garage were underway. With Joseph Britt (the First Elder at that time) donating the first five dollars, a building fund campaign was initiated. The building fund continued to grow. Before he was able reach his goal of seeing a church built in Montclair, Pastor Davis was called to the Ohio Conference to serve as a Departmental Director.

The baton for completing the construction of the church was passed on to Elder Charles Cheatham who served at the helm from 1963-1968. As a result of an intensified building campaign and with the collective efforts of the members, a ground-breaking ceremony was held on April 5, 1964. Initially, the architect's plans included the installation of a flat roof. The church family felt that such a design would not provide the kind of ambiance that they envisioned. A business meeting was called, and the members voted along with Elder Charles Cheatham to choose a gabled roof. This is the style of the roof on the church today.

Among the outstanding leaders who served in the church during those crucial years when it was establishing its roots were Mother Caroline Wyatt, Joseph Britt & family. Pastors Daniel Davis and Charles Cheatham were blessed by the service of these stalwart members. Sister Caroline

**FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OF MONTCLAIR**

*15 Elmwood Avenue, Montclair, N.J. 07042*

---

Wyatt was the treasurer who worked with Elder Cheatham when the gabled roof was installed, and Joseph Britt served the church as Elder and continued to do so with the pastors that followed.

A two-car garage remodeled into the structure that we are thanking God for today. The vision of that faithful Bible study group became a reality known as the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Montclair. The doors were opened for the first worship service on March 27, 1965. The speaker for the grand opening was Pastor W. A. Thompson. With no traces of its humble beginnings, this present-day edifice consists of a sanctuary that includes a balcony, pulpit, choir stand, and baptismal pool, a foyer with a balcony entrance, a mother's room, a coat room, offices and a finished basement.

The succession of pastors during 1970 through 1978 included: Pastors Alfred Winston, Alvin M. Kibble, Milton Thomas Sr., James Clements Jr., Paul Monk, Jr., and Oliver Cheatham.

From 1979-1981, Pastor Reginald O. Robinson (wife, Patricia and family) served as the pastor. It was under his pastoral leadership that the church paid its final mortgage obligation.

During 1981-1984, the members of First Church were blessed to have Pastor Augustus F O'Giste, (wife, Shirley and family) as their pastor. His three years of ministry greatly impacted the growth and spirituality of the church. Again, the Spirit was leading the pastoral journey of Pastor Lloyd Major, who served for a brief time, during which the mortgage burning ceremony took place on September 22, 1984.

God's blessings continued to be bestowed on the congregation in the form of Pastor Mark McCleary's, (wife, Queenie and family) ministry. Along with the dedicated service of his wife, Pastor McCleary made a great contribution to the church and community of Montclair. In 1986, the church widened its outreach to the community by operating a soup kitchen on Sundays. The Soup Kitchen provided hot meals that were served at the church as well as the distribution of food and clothing to anyone in need. That program continues to operate today. Under the administration of Pastor McCleary, the following were implemented: a financial stewardship campaign that proved successful and resulted in a debt free church; two successive evangelistic tent meetings; numerous ingathering campaigns; the first church van was purchased along with an organ, a piano, and sound system. The membership grew from 129 to 219. Pastor McCleary also made the initial inquiry regarding the property located next to the church building. First Church would later acquire that property. After eight years (in 1993) the Lord directed the pastor's journey to another vineyard.

From 1993-1998, Pastor Bruce Flynn (wife, Pauline) blessed the congregation with their ministry. In 1995, under the leadership of Pastor Bruce Flynn, a two-family house located at 86 Mission Street was purchased next door to the church building with plans to extend the current facility. This property is referred to by the members as the Annex. The Annex has a reception room with a



**FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OF MONTCLAIR**

*15 Elmwood Avenue, Montclair, N.J. 07042*

---

baby grand piano, donated by the organist, Dorothy Jackson. At that time, this room was used for fellowship dining. Other rooms were used as a kitchen, board room, Sabbath school classrooms and departmental meeting rooms. Dolores' Roulhac, daughter of Frances Moore was instrumental in the furnishings and décor of the Annex.

Our first Homecoming Celebration was held May 24-26, 1996. Pastor Reginald O. Robinson was the Divine Worship speaker. This celebration took place during the pastoral ministry of Pastor Bruce Flynn. The theme of the Homecoming Celebration was "Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow." Pastor Flynn stated, "With confidence that this celebration was conceived not by human powers, but by Divine intervention and inspiration, therefore with encouragement, we must move forward in faith and with confidence towards achieving our goal."

Pastor Bruce Banner (wife, Lillian and family) served as pastor during 1998-2000. Under his leadership, the church purchased a new van.

In September 2000 - July 2004, First Church was once again blessed with the ministry of Dr. Marcus E. Harris (wife, Arlene and family). It was during his ministry that we celebrated our second Homecoming Celebration, which was held July 27-28, 2001. Pastor Alvin M. Kibble was the Divine Worship speaker. The celebration theme was "Our Journey...Past to Present." Pastor Harris reminded us, "Our experience together is indeed a journey. One that has intersecting relationships that unites the past, with the present and future. Upon faith, heritage and work of our church ancestors, we presently stand. The paths we forge today will set the stage for our future generations." He instituted the first Pastor's Preaching Class culminating with a grand graduation ceremony.

In August 2004, Dr. D. Robert Kennedy (wife, June) began his ministry at First Church of Montclair with much enthusiasm. With his guidance, a new porch dormer and roof were erected. Interior improvements were also made which included new carpet in the sanctuary, improvements in the mothers' room and health station, and the installation of a new pastor's office in the balcony. A new floor was installed in the lobby and basement, which included upgrades in the kitchen. The interior of the Annex was also remodeled. New carpet was installed, and rooms were expanded in order to provide adequate space for the children's Sabbath School classrooms and a Board Room. The interior and exterior improvements have given the church a much needed "face-lift." It improved the levels of effectiveness and comfort, thereby increasing worship appeal.

In April 2005, Pastor Moses Eli was assigned to our church as Associate Pastor. His first sermon was preached on May 7, 2005. He is a 2005 graduate of Andrews University.

In June 2006, he served as the sole pastor of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Montclair until September 2008. During his tenure at Montclair, he led the church through various renovation

## FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OF MONTCLAIR

*15 Elmwood Avenue, Montclair, N.J. 07042*

---

projects including installing a previously purchased mounted church sign, purchasing and installing an illuminated church sign and installing a central air-conditioning system for the church.

He also led this church to be actively involved in community outreach projects. They sponsored an annual community health fair, a host church for Inter-faith Hospitality Network, a non-profit organization in which homeless families are housed and cared for while they are assisted in becoming self-sufficient. Also, they sponsored a motorcycle club and initiated the first annual bike blessing in which motorcyclists were able to hear the gospel presentation.

On October 25, 2008, the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Montclair welcomed their first female pastor. Pastor Paula Olivier's (husband, Pastor Smith Olivier) installation was officiated by President Charles Cheatham who was assisted by Dr. Ella Simmons, the first female Vice President of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist. Pastor Olivier served First Church from 2008-2016. Pastor Olivier's passion for outreach has been a mark of her ministry at Montclair. She has forged relationships with several civic bodies in order to broaden the influence of the church in the North Jersey area. She is a member of the Montclair Community Intervention Alliance. She is also a member of the CARES Committee which is a committee of all the human services organizations in the city of Montclair which includes the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the United Way, and many more non-profit organizations. Pastor Olivier also represents the church at the Human Services Council of Essex County. She is also the founder of the popular Life Skills Academy for teens and has helped to secure over thirty thousand dollars in grants for the administration of the Academy. Pastor Olivier is a lover of people and desires to see the church continue to embrace the community and to be a living testimony of the grace of God. It is her heart's desire to continue to lift up the name of Jesus Christ.

We deeply and respectfully thank all the members past and present who have made such substantial contributions to the development of First Church. We, the members love our church family and are grateful for the tenacious vision and hard work of our founding members. We honor the memory of our forefathers for their steadfast faithfulness. We thank them for our rich heritage. We continue to build upon the good of our past, rejoicing, honoring and thanking those on whose shoulders we gratefully stand. We humbly give honor and glory to the Most High God from whom all of our blessings flow. Our faith is in no less than the God who has been our help in ages past and our hope for years to come.

As we look to the future, it is our prayer that God will continue to bless our church family. May He keep us as we strive to carry out His ministry in spreading the good news of the gospel in the Montclair, Glen Ridge and Bloomfield communities until He comes again.

**Surely, God Is Good!**

**FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***343 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Paterson, N.J. 07514*

The First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Paterson is located at 343 11<sup>th</sup> avenue between East 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Madison Avenue in Paterson, New Jersey. The church began with a small group of Truth seekers in the Alabama Avenue Project in 1961 under the leadership of a dedicated elder, John Williams, from the Englewood Seventh-day Adventist Church. From his dedicated efforts and the leading of Christ, in 1967, President of the Allegheny East Conference, W. A. Thompson organized the Company into the "Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Church." Under District pastor, Charles Cheatham (1973-1975) with Elder Williams serving as lay pastor, the church membership grew.

In 1975, Pastor Thaddious Privette came to Paterson. During this time, the Pathfinder club was organized. In 1976, Pastor Victor Wallen became the church's next pastor. He was the church's first full-time conference pastor. He moved the church forward to win souls for the Kingdom of God. He conducted two crusades, a Branch Sabbath School, an after-school tutoring literacy program, and he organized the Paterson Gospel Choir.

Pastor William Hall became the pastor in 1979. With the zeal and skill of a seasoned veteran, he pitched two tents in the city of Paterson in 1979. His constant drive for souls paid off as the church grew tremendously. Under his leadership, the Paterson Gospel choir became one of the finest choirs in the Allegheny East Conference. They sang at the 1980 Camp Meeting.

Pastor William Leroy Ervin was assigned to Paterson in 1981. His strong administrative abilities allowed the Poor Fund, Deacon and Usher boards to become strong and vital during his stay.

Pastor Joshua Broomfield in 1985 made the adjustment from Arizona to Paterson as the church's next minister. He was family minded and with his guidance, the church grew, and the Pathfinder Club was on the move. He conducted two tent efforts in the city.

In 1987, Pastor Brian Carter was united with the Paterson Church as its pastor. He brought with him a spirit of beauty and vision. The reconstruction of the church began under his leadership. The name of the church was changed to the "First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Paterson." The next pastor in 1990 was Pastor Claude Harris, II. He was very innovative and youth oriented. He completed the building project and was instrumental in raising the standards of the Pathfinder Club to top form. His thirst for souls for the Master continued to move the church forward.

## FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*343 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Paterson, N.J. 07514*

---

Pastor Carl Hinds succeeded Pastor Harris (1991-2006) as the pastor. So far, he is the church's longest serving pastor. Under his leadership, the church continued to grow, and a functional top of the line Media Department was organized. It was also under his leadership that the church's location was changed from 440 East 36th Street to its present location, 343 11th Avenue. Pastor David King became the church's pastor in 2006. His avid desire for souls bore fruits because under his leadership, the church's membership grew significantly. He conducted one tent effort. He possessed efficient administrative skills. The church's leaders benefited from this. His vision was for the church to have an integral impact on the community. He started an ambitious building project, but unfortunately, he could not have completed it, because he passed in 2012. In 2012, the charismatic Dr. John Trusty became this church's Interim Pastor. He served until 2014. His leadership was profoundly effective. He came to Paterson at a time when the church was going through a difficult time, having lost Pastor David King. In 2014, Pastor Richard Campbell came to Paterson. He is the present pastor. He is community, family and mission focused. The church is learning and benefitting from the leadership of this man-of-God.

**FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***405 Englewood Avenue, Teaneck, N.J. 07666-6039*

In the early 1920's the community of Englewood, New Jersey, became for the first time, a mission field to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

There were ministers such as Pastor Durant, a West Indian by descent, working with him under the administration of the New Jersey Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Pastor Campbell, Pastor Phelps and Pastor Joseph, all from the West Indies, established the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Englewood, New Jersey.

From then, a nucleus of believers began worshiping in Sister McCloud's home on Epps Avenue. From there, they moved to 185 Lafayette Place, the home of Brother and Sister Harris. After another successful evangelistic crusade, the church founded a home in the store front building on William Street across from the Lincoln School (still located in Englewood.) For many years, the church remained together under lay-pastor's care.

In the early 1930's, the church moved into its own building, a simple one-room church, at the corner of Fourth and Warren Streets with a seating capacity of approximately 75. Here, some officers served for more than thirty years under the pastoral leadership of Pastors Warnick, H. W. Kibble, Sr., Wilmont Fordham, M. S. Banfield, J. Wagner, Jethro Lester, S. Huddleston, U. S. Willis, L. R. Preston, Sr. and Pastor Tivy.

Almost thirty years later, November 21, 1961, under the youthful leadership of Pastor Edward Dorsey, this body of believers, at the corner of Fourth and Warren Streets, made their move to another new building at 36 Tenafly Road in Englewood, New Jersey. Here, Pastors William Ervin, Charles Cheatham and Daniel Davis proudly continued in the light of the Third Angel's Message burning in Englewood. Then, on June 27, 1970, under the leadership of another young, talented, and vibrant, Pastor Alvin Kibble, the church at 36 Tenafly Road was dedicated debt free.

The church experienced an influx in membership and soon outgrew the now dedicated facility, and soon plans were set in motion to procure land for a new place of worship to accommodate the continuous increase in membership. The hearts of all were united in purpose, and like Israel of old, from the little children filling their gleaners with quarters to adults making great financial

## FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*405 Englewood Avenue, Teaneck, N.J. 07666-6039*

---

sacrifices, in 1973 through the continued and inspiring leadership of Pastor Alvin Kibble, this land on Englewood Avenue was purchased.

To continue this vision, another dedicated servant of God, Pastor James Clements, Jr. led the church in yet another Spiritual Revival of Sacrificial and Benevolent Giving to clear the debt of the newly acquired land and to build the new church. In March of 1977, the church at 36 Tenafly Road was sold and arrangements were made for us to worship at the United Methodist Church at 325 Genesee Avenue, Englewood, New Jersey. The Ground-breaking ceremony was September 11, 1977 and opening day ceremony for the First Seventh-day Adventist Church, 405 Englewood Avenue, Teaneck, New Jersey was February 10, 1979. "To God Be the Glory Great Things He Has Done."

In 1980-1984, the church experienced another tremendous growth under the pastoral leadership of Pastor David Leroy McCottrey, the membership grew to almost four hundred members (400). The church experienced great trials but with the guidance of the "Great Shepherd of the Flock" and the interim leadership of Pastor Roland Newman, the church progressed. On June 24, 1984, God placed Pastor Haywood T. Weatherford and his family as the pastoral leadership of this church and with much patience and love came spiritual renewal. We were truly blessed of God, and the church membership increased.

In 1989, Pastor Kirk U. Thompson and his family took the challenge for leadership of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Teaneck, New Jersey. Pastor Thompson, with the coordinated efforts of Pastor Donald McPhaul of the Community Seventh-day Adventist Church of Englewood, New Jersey, led the church in quite a memorable evangelistic outreach in the city of Englewood, and many members were added to the church through baptism.

For the latter five months during 1992, the lay leaders under the direction of Elder Wilbert Mays helped the church to focus on the 'unity of the spirit.' Then, on December 9, 1992, the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Teaneck was again blessed with another dynamic, spirit-filled servant of God, Pastor Errol T. Stoddart and his wife, Vernee' Stoddart. From weeks of Revival, Revelation Seminars and power-packed Sabbath morning sermons, Pastor Stoddart led many precious souls to the saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Stoddart was not afraid to obtain permission from the townships of Teaneck and Englewood and get their law-enforcement officers to accompany him with his church on a 100 man march on very cold and snowy Sabbath afternoons through the streets of Englewood, New Jersey, using his blow horn to speak out against the use of drugs and alcohol. The county's largest newspaper, "The Bergen Record", bore record of this march that appeared in the paper the day after; the interest of many in the community was also stirred. Pastor Stoddart's ministry, not only focused on the spiritual aspect of his congregation, but encompassed the social avenues, as he was quite instrumental in

## FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*405 Englewood Avenue, Teaneck, N.J. 07666-6039*

---

the starting of the new "Smiling Faces Day Care" in September of 1993. We experienced a new interest in basketball games and indoor sports activities because we invited the community's youth to play within our safe and Christ-like environment. Since then we have seen many positive things transpire in our church and community. Our day care grew to full capacity with a long waiting list. This was the year that the Police Department of Teaneck gave a "Community Policing Award" to our church for our community efforts.

As is the case with the world church of Seventh-day Adventists, the torch of pastoral leadership was passed to another leader in the army of Christ, and on October 4, 1997, Pastor Gary Banks, wife Robin Banks and sons, Gelani and Kalen Banks became our pastoral family. Pastor Banks became united in the efforts of the church to accomplish its goals and on October 5, 1998, the church started its new kindergarten program.

It was back in February/March of 1992 that Pastor Thompson and the church realized that in order to continue to Maintain Our Vision and Actualize Our Dream for a church school, we must aggressively accelerate our mortgage payoff of the remaining two hundred seventy-two thousand Dollars (\$272,000). The membership rallied to the task of an additional twenty dollars (\$20) per month, towards the "principal" of the mortgage. Pastor Stoddart continued with this same burning desire and in 1997 formed our "Mortgage Burning Committee." Here, Pastor Banks worked with the church to have our mortgage liquidated, and December 26, 1998 was set for our Mortgage Burning Celebration. On December 3, 1998, the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Teaneck, New Jersey paid its last mortgage installment and showed a zero balance to our mortgage account. Again, we exclaim, "To God Be the Glory Great Things He Has Done!"

In retrospect of our humble beginnings and how far we have come through faith, First Church will continue to "Maintain the Vision, and Actualize the Dream" in the building of our new school and whatever else the Lord wants us to accomplish for Him because the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Teaneck, New Jersey will continue to be the beacon of light in these troubled times – "the closing days of earth's history."

Pastor Bruce Flynn and his wife Pauline took up the torch in 2002, and carried it until his retirement in 2005, when it was handed over to Pastor Orlando Moncrieffe and his wife Maureen. Pastor Moncrieffe took the Wilber F. Mays SDA School to another level after it was transformed from the "Smiling Faces Day Care" by Pastor Gary Banks to a grade school that goes up to sixth grade. The school was named Wilbert F. Mays SDA School in honor of our faithful and dedicated servant because of his strong belief in Christian Education. Wilber Mays would transport our children in rain or shine to the Waldwick SDA School every day. It was under the leadership of Pastor Orlando Moncrieffe that the school added the seventh and eighth grades, which allowed us to produce those wonderful children that are part of Pine Forge Academy. Pastor Wayne Scott and his wife Claire joined us in 2009 as the Associate Pastor family and brought with him his expertise as a

**FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*405 Englewood Avenue, Teaneck, N.J. 07666-6039*

---

Social Worker and was able to minister to the community of Teaneck having Town Hall Meetings with the Teaneck Police Department to bring awareness to the entire community of the different issues that are facing our young people. The torch was then passed in November 2015 to Pastor Robert T. Smith and his wife Ann Smith, who reminded us that he might not be here for long, but when he leaves, we will all know that he was here.



**FIRST INDONESIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***3145 Park Avenue, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080*

In March 1998, Jouke Sigar and 32 other Adventist Indonesians in Middlesex County, New Jersey met and prayed for the guidance of the Holy Spirit on how to reach the growing number of Indonesians in New Jersey. They sensed that the growth warranted the opening of the second Indonesian Adventist Church in New Jersey.

On May 30, 1998, the group met and held its first Sabbath service in a government Park (Merrill Park, Colonia, New Jersey). The sermon was delivered by Pastor E. Manueke. On that Sabbath afternoon, the group chose its leaders, namely, Laurens Lasut, Paultje Pelupessy and Jouke Sigar, and agreed to name the group, "Merrill Group/Congregation."

On June 6, 1998, the group met for the second time in the park and Pastor Johnnie Kohdong, the first Pastor of the Merrill Group/Congregation, delivered his sermon in front of more than 55 Indonesians Adventists who had joined from other English-speaking churches in Middlesex County.

On June 13 and 20, 1998, the newly formed congregation participated in the New Jersey Conference Camp Meeting in Garden State Academy, hoping to reach out to the Conference Leadership about the newly formed Merrill Group/Congregation. On June 20, 1998, at Camp Meeting, four (4) precious souls from the group were baptized: Assdhy Lolowang, Billy Lasut, Dickynson Lolowang, and Joan Piai. The New Jersey Conference, however, was unable to accept the new group/congregation.

In July 1998, the group, then, tried to seek recognition from the Greater New York Conference, proposing to the conference that they would meet in Staten Island, New York. Members of the group went to search for a Seventh-day Adventist Church in order to inquire about possible places of worship in the area. Finally, they met with Pastor S. L. Walters, the pastor of Staten Island SDA Church at Union Avenue. Pastor Walters informed them about Allegheny East Conference (AEC) of Seventh-day Adventists.

On August 19, 1998, Pastor Johnnie Kohdong contacted AEC and talked to Pastor Charles Cheatham, then the Executive Secretary of AEC, requesting that AEC meet with the group in order to see the possibility for the group to be under AEC. Pastor Cheatham came twice to meet the group at the residences of Laurens Lasut and then Ramly Siwi.

**FIRST INDONESIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***3145 Park Avenue, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080*

---

On August 22, 1998, Merrill Congregation began meeting at the American Legion Post 248, Colonia, New Jersey. This meeting place was discovered by Fredrik Rattu.

On September 26, 1998, Pastor Cheatham met with the group and conducted the first communion service. At the same time, Elders and Deacons' ordination was performed and all members filled membership forms.

On October 14, 1998, Pastor Johnnie Kohdong, Ernest Welley, Fredrik Rattu together with Pastor Noldy Sakul (the then Executive Secretary of the East Indonesia Union Conference) went to the AEC office and met with Pastor Alvin Kibble (then the President of AEC) to discuss about the acceptance of the group into AEC. On April 18, 1999, Executive Committee of AEC voted to accept the Merrill group into AEC with company status. On June 20, 1999, Merrill Company was formally organized, witnessed by Dr. Jonathan Kuntaraf and Mrs. Kathleen Kuntaraf of the General Conference of SDA Church. Pastor Charles Cheatham formally accepted the Merrill Company to AEC and to use for the first time a name: FIRST INDONESIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH (FISDAC).

**FORT LEE KOREAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***340 Bogert Rd., River Edge, N.J. 07661***BACKGROUND OF AROUND CHURCH**

Fort Lee Korean SDA Church in New Jersey is a church that God established to spread the gospel to Korean people in Fort Lee, Palisades Park, Leonia, Ridgefield, and Edgewater, where high Korean population concentrated in the vicinity of George Washington Bridge.

It is estimated that Korean population here in New Jersey is over 70,000 in the census but actual estimation of Koreans is more than 100,000. Over the George Washington Bridge, there are five Korean Adventist churches, but only one in New Jersey.

**HOW DID FORT LEE KOREAN CHURCH STARTED**

In August of 1995, few families who attended New Jersey Central Korean Church including Kim, Ki-Kon and Ko, Kwang-Bum family who worked and had businesses in Manhattan and Fort Lee area, started a small group ministry in a rented school classroom in the Fort Lee area.

**DEVELOPMENT**

Several families joined such as Kang, Woi-Deok and Oh, Jong-Jae family who lived near there and the group grew larger. On August 15, 1997, they decided to join as a church under the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and started community outreach in that area.

As the church grew, the membership grew up to 100 members, it could possibly become a new starting point for great mission opportunities, however, there were disputes over the church in various matters and unfortunately the church was split into two.

**ORGANIZATION OF CHURCH**

Due to that incident, most of the crowd disobeyed the Conference's advice and counsel, moved out and joined another conference, on Nov. 19, 2015, the remaining few rose from the difficulties with the support of the conference and had an organization worship by the grace of God.

However, the church was again in conflict and suffered the pain of separation, yet the remaining members of the church strongly conveyed the health message to the community through Pastor Baek, Sang-Jin and Dr. Rhee, Joon Won.

**FORT LEE KOREAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*340 Bogert Rd., River Edge, N.J. 07661*

---

**PRESENT AND FUTURE OF CHURCH**

Fort Lee Korean Church has come so far with the service and the dedication of God's people who have been involved in mission work for the past 21 years from 1996 to 2017.

Continuing to grow as God's Church, Fort Lee Korean has a very special plan to have its own building, to reach the Korean Community, and to fulfill God's great commission to bring many people back to the light.

**PASTORS WHO SERVED FORT LEE KOREAN CHURCH SINCE 1997**

1. Yong Ho Eum
2. Tae-Gyu Kim
3. Tong-Ryun Choi
4. Hyun-Seok Do
5. Si-Eun Bae
6. Songpill Kim
7. Giwoong Kim
8. Hyun-Soo Kim

**GENESIS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***402 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Plainfield, N.J. 07060*

The journey of the Genesis Seventh-day Adventist Church began on June 12, 1999, when a group of concerned members came together to discuss change and progress in the work of the Lord. This small group united and started worshipping at Grace Episcopal Church on Cleveland Avenue in Plainfield. The primary goal of the group was to serve God wholeheartedly in spirit and in truth, and to go as the Lord had mandated into the highways and the byways and share the good news of a wonderful Savior.

The original name of the group was Exodus Seventh-day Adventist Church, significant of the journey of the children of Israel and the awesome God who took care of all their needs and carried them safely to the Promised Land. The leadership of the group, known as the Transitional Committee consisted of Elder Jean Exantus, Elder Eyvonne Drisdorn, Elder Sedrick Allen, Brother John Patterson and Sister Nadine Smith. Elder Allen was later replaced with Sister Claudette Kerr.

On January 1, 2000, Exodus Seventh-day Adventist Church was accepted and became a member of the sisterhood of churches under the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The group voted, and the church's name was changed to Genesis Seventh-day Adventist Church, signifying a new beginning and a fresh start. The church also began worshipping on January 1st, at Covenant United Methodist Church in North Plainfield, New Jersey. Pastor Samuel G. Campbell was assigned as our interim pastor. Later that year, in September of 2000, Pastor Paul Turner was assigned as our pastor. He served as our Pastor for two years.

On January 1, 2003, the baton was passed to Pastor Ivor Keizer. Pastor Keizer was a visionary leader who led with love, compassion and humility. Under his leadership, we were able to acquire our church's property at 407 West 2nd Street, Plainfield. In his words, Genesis is his first love. His last month as Genesis' Pastor was spent with the Pathfinders at Osh Kosh, Wisconsin in August 2014. He still remains a part of the Genesis Family.

The Lord has started a good work with the members of the Genesis Seventh-day Adventist Church, and we know He is not finished with us yet. Currently, we have a membership of 157 members. Dr. Kevin Jenkins was installed as our pastor on September 27, 2014. Under Dr. Jenkins' leadership, we proudly took the next step and moved into our new church on June 10th 2017.

**GENESIS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***402 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Plainfield, N.J. 07060*

---

As one church, united with one aim, the Genesis Seventh-day Adventist Church has committed in their hearts that they would walk humbly, do rightly and serve God wholeheartedly. To God be all the glory for the wonderful things He has done. This is only the beginning. "Forward and still climbing..."

Godly and true we pledge to be  
Evangelizing daily so others will see  
Noble and honest to those we contact;  
Ever faithful and true as we stay on track,  
Serving and ministering to both friends and foe;  
Imitating our Savior, His character we'll show  
Standing firm as we press on higher ground,  
Knowing that by His grace  
GENESIS Saints are Heavenward bound.

**HILLCREST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***590 Route 57 East, Port Murray, N.J. 07865*

It all began almost 60 years ago...when the Adventist work began in the Mansfield Township vicinity in 1935. In the beginning, the work here was small. They first met in a private home; they had no church building in which to worship.

The very first meetings were held in the home (a log cabin) of Brother and Sister Samuel Hughes with a small group consisting of Brother and Sister Samuel Hughes, Brother and Sister Godfrey Beckett, Brother and Sister J. Martin, Sr., and Sister Phyllis Ann Gillespie. It was Sister Gillespie that became the first known Seventh-day Adventist in this area.

As time went on, this mission group began to grow until it became recognized as a church. The first formal formation of the Hillcrest Church, as such, took place under the pastorate of Pastor Jethro H. Lester of Newark, New Jersey. The Church being organized in the Allegheny Conference in 1951.

A decision was made soon after to start building a sanctuary for the Lord. In the year 1955, the Hillcrest Church was completed and dedicated under Pastor Lester's leadership. Thus, the first 20 years (1935-1955) had seen a small but zealous group of believers move from worshipping in a member's home to having a place to worship of their own.

There were eleven charter members who became the nucleus of the formation of the first Hillcrest Church. The eleven charter members were, Godfrey Beckett, Marian Beckett, Ruth Brown, Orvin Davis, Montrose Davis, Magda Clarke, Samuel Hughes, Lula Hughes, Ethel Forbes Robinson, Charles Winfield, and Daisy Winfield.

The "new" church building completed in the 50's was a lighthouse to the community and a testimony to the faith of these early believers. Its position on Route 57 was a visual reminder of the blessings of the Lord, and it often found passers-by worshipping within its hallowed walls.

After a number of years, through faithful giving, the mortgage was burned, on June 15, 1968, during the ministry of Pastor Paul Cantrell.

## HILLCREST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*590 Route 57 East, Port Murray, N.J. 07865*

---

The church membership continued to increase by transfers until 1970 when the first tent effort for Adventism was conducted in this part of the Lord's vineyard. Pastor Melvin Hayden conducted the first evangelistic tent effort in Anderson, New Jersey, and as a result, many precious souls were added to the faith by baptism.

For many years, the members shared pastors with Trinity Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church of Newark, New Jersey and the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church of Plainfield, New Jersey. In 1972, Hillcrest was given their first full-time pastor, which was Pastor Haywood Weatherford. The membership grew by baptisms again when Pastor Weatherford conducted an evangelistic effort in the Easton, Pennsylvania area in the early to mid-1970's.

During his tenure, a building fund was established. The purchase of a family owned and operated restaurant adjacent to the church, from Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Robinson. This new acquisition would be used for a parking lot and the building for outreach ministries. The restaurant was later named "The Better Living Center."

In addition to the above persons, there have been a number of individuals who have been important as it relates to the shepherding of the Hillcrest congregation. The first of which is the late Godfrey Beckett, who not only was a pioneer in this area, but served as its revered leader through the years. Elder Beckett was respected and applauded both in the church and in the community.

The church has been privileged to have such outstanding leaders throughout the years, such as pastors Leon Cox, W. Fordham, John Wagner, Jr., T. M. Fountain, James Martin, William Linthicum, Oliver Cheatham, Stephen Boyce, Gene Smith, Sr., John Collins and Paul Bridgeford.

In the early 80's, the beautification began in the original Hillcrest structure which tested our spiritual liberality and prepared us for a more extensive renovation program which was to follow. The members and friends were so encouraged by the change in the church's sanctuary appearance, some began to ask the questions as to the feasibility of further renovation. At first, there were mixed feelings in regard to how far we should go as to renovating and building, but later a consensus to build became nearly unanimous.

It began with the early gifts of Sis. Magda Clark, Elder William Jelks, and Sister Daisy Winfield. These financial gifts were given by them even before the building project was officially approved. This became an instant source of inspiration to each of us.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we began to lay architectural plans to enlarge the present building. The plans which were drawn were approved by the local authorities, the Allegheny East Conference and the Columbia Union. The plans involved three basic stages which had to do with the sanctuary, "The Better Living Center," and the building's exterior and parking lot.



## HILLCREST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*590 Route 57 East, Port Murray, N.J. 07865*

---

Soon after, the building project was approved, three sisters of the Hillcrest Church, Sister Mary Parker, Sister Mamie Perry and Sister Ethel Robinson made a commitment in faith involving the project subject to the Lord's granting to each of them, special certification. They not only have been granted the desired certification, but they have contributed very substantially to the building project years from the beginning of the project up to the present date. To God be the glory!

Without fanfare or fundraising appeals during the 11 o'clock worship service, the members of the church began to make a commitment quietly in their homes. In fact, the majority of church members made a commitment to God privately in secret as to what they would do for the Lord's temple. There were to be no fundraising dinners, community fund-raising drives, or public appeals for finance (not even from our Conference) until we had first followed what the Lord had said in His Holy Word, saying, "Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." Ps. 50:5.

Joining with these early contributors, considerable sacrifice were made by Sister Martha Jelk and family (including the air conditioning unit), along with the dedicated giving of Sister Martin (plus a special dedication in honor of Elder Martin by the Martin family), and especially inspired giving and funding by Sister King (including financial provision for a sign).

The number of contributors increased. Quietly in their own homes, on their jobs, or while traveling to their various duties, the Lord impressed more and more hearts with the urgency of giving. In all, there were about 35 members who actively contributed to the project.

The Hillcrest membership support included financial contributions from the Arterberry's, Baileys, Becketts, Boyds, Branhams, Bridgefords, Choices, Clarkes, Davises, Groves, Holloways, Hughes, Hunters, Jarretts, Jones, Kings, Manleys, Martins, Mayers, McKinnises, Mitchells, Norwoods, Rodwells, Seays, Winfields, Wynns, Yarboroughs and a few others. Joining with the members of the church, have been a host of neighbors and friends, which gave of their means for the building of this place where we could be of service to our community, and where we could worship our Lord.

Not only was it important that the members and friends of the church provide the funds for the building of the Lord's temple, but it was likewise important to note that their "labor of love" had been freely given. Many hundreds of hours of free labor were cheerfully donated saving many thousands of dollars.

Nearly every day, certain members would come by and "plug-in" to the building project. Pastor Bridgeford could always count on Elder Beckett, Elder Perry, Brother Joseph Boyd, Brother Thoms, and Brother Rudy Clarke most of the days of any given week over the period of several years. Either, working on the project or picking up needed materials, was a most important factor in keeping the project going.

## HILLCREST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*590 Route 57 East, Port Murray, N.J. 07865*

---

A few of us worked day-by-day during the week, but on the weekends anywhere from 10 to 40 people volunteered from the church and the surrounding community. Many took their vacation time to work on the building. Infact, Brother Leon Manley donated one entire summer. While some worked on the building, others worked in their kitchens preparing a nourishing meal. This was not just a rare occasion, but every week, month after month, and even year after year, delicious meal after delicious meal was prepared.

The beginning of the project was not easy. Countless hours were involved in tearing down. There were a few who were often seen tearing down so we could build:

Through inspiration, Pastor Paul Bridgeford in 1985, led the church members into its extensive building and renovation program.

It took several years of planning and meetings with committees and boards prior to this point. There were many who registered interest in helping the church. In their own ways 'they worked and provided much inspiration and encouragement."

There were many outstanding individuals which were concerned with the progress of the church. One was Elder James Martin who did not live to see the building. Another person in particular that had planned to help us was Bro. Marisio Seay, he indeed was an expert in building skills, but without warning, he passed away leaving his planned job to others.

Another very important person was Brother Brinkley Pierce, who had done considerable plumbing work for the church, but in the midst of his work, the Lord called him likewise to rest.

An important factor in building had to do with the Brineger Building Associates. Even though Brineger's workers were paid, the monies, for the most part donated as a contribution to the Hillcrest Church. The brickwork at the entrance of the church was likewise a donation to the church.

What was happening was that church had joined together, by the grace of God, to work with a single purpose to honor their God. By joining together, they had pulled together as a family, working, fasting and praying as they faced the many challenges that came their way.

In addition to this, which the Allegheny East Conference had given, the Hillcrest Church found it necessary to borrow some \$50,000 from the Columbia Union Fund. The church has systematically paid on this account though the faithful giving of its members and friends. Pastor and Sister Bridgeford, Elders, officers, the church board, the Building Committee, the beautification committee, the finance committee, and members both young and old, diligently worked together untiringly. Through the years, the members of the Hillcrest Church and community, have given sacrificially and unselfishly towards the completion of this edifice.

**HILLCREST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*590 Route 57 East, Port Murray, N.J. 07865*

---

“May God’s Holy Name Be Praised!” After the grand opening of the new edifice on December 17, 1994, Allegheny East sent Cecil Williams along with his wife Julie to be our pastor. He served as our leader from 1995 to 1997. Pastor Michael Edwards and his wife Wilhelmina came to us in 1998 and stayed until 2005. While here, they established the “Little Lambs Day Care Center.”

Pastor Kevin & Marcia Jenkins came in July of 2006 and served until August 2013. Our current pastor, Wayne Scott & his wife Clare came as our leader in September of 2013. Pastor Wayne started in September 2013.

**IRVINGTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***120-134 Prospect Avenue., Irvington, N.J. 07111*

At the formation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in East Orange (now the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Oranges) in 1978, the town of Irvington was part of the mission territory. After twenty years had elapsed, Irvington was still without a Seventh-day Adventist Church presence and the existence of a lighthouse for God in Irvington was still a dream.

With the approval of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Oranges, Elder Andrew A. McDonald organized a steering committee to study the prospect of starting a Sabbath School mission in Irvington. After much prayer, study and planning, it was eventually determined that Irvington was indeed a ready mission field.

Holding planning meetings at the Law Offices of McDonald and Campbell (280 South Harrison Street, East Orange, N.J.), the steering committee of nine lay individuals pressed on following the model of traditional Adventism and Personal Ministries. Although faced with many challenges, the concept of lay leadership stepping out to plant churches in unreached cities based on God's commission and the model supported by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, reinforced the vision of a church in Irvington.

On July 11, 1998, the Irvington Company was formed. Finding initial worship facilities in the church hall of the First Congregational United Episcopal Church (1240 Clinton Avenue, Irvington, N.J.). The Irvington experience became another example of committed lay persons leading out in the church planting process without dependence on the clergy.

At the Incorporation of Irvington Company, the Certificate of Incorporation included the following names:

- Andrew McDonald
- Juan Scott
- Vanessa McDonald
- Audrey Hinds

## IRVINGTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*120-134 Prospect Avenue., Irvington, N.J. 07111*

Within two years the Irvington Company was admitted into the sisterhood of churches of the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) with the following thirty-five charter members (in alphabetical order):

Farrah Armstrong	Cornetta Gooden	Brent Phillip
Inga Armstrong	Andrew Harris	Bruce Phillip
Jarian Armstrong	Marva Harris	Florence Phillip
Ovid Armstrong	Bernadette Hilaire	Novlette Reid
Rumold Armstrong	Charles Hilaire	Arlene Richards
Shirley Armstrong	David Hutchinson	Juan Scott
Valarie Blake	Andrew McDonald	Paula Scott
Olga Boothe	Audrey McDonald	Kingsley Simms
Delores Curvin	Vanessa McDonald	Pauline Smith
Shera Gray	Verne Melbourne	Desrene Spaulding
Carl Green	John-Dean Nwafor	Michelle Terrelonge-Johnson
Valda Green	Judith Nwafor	

On July 2001, Pastor Bruce A. Banner was assigned as the first pastor and served until November 2003. Under his leadership, the Irvington Church purchased its first church building (120-134 Prospect Avenue, Irvington, N.J.) from the Lutheran Redeemer Church.

The Lord blessed Irvington with such an explosive growth, that during the summer of 2001, we received notification that the current rental arrangements needed to be revisited due to our growth. The landlords wished to charge on the number of worshipers, thereby incrementally changing the rent based on our increase.

Arrangements were soon made for temporary use of the facilities at "Church of the Crossroads" (10 South Oraton Parkway, East Orange, N.J.).

During the next six months in East Orange, we continued to maintain the close relationship we had developed with the town of Irvington. So that when a church became available for sale, it was the Mayor of Irvington (Wayne Smith) that was directed by the Lord to personally inform us of the availability of the Lutheran Redeemer Church.

A lease-purchase agreement was entered into and on November 1, 2002, we took occupancy. The title was closed on July 16, 2003, and the Irvington dream had become a reality with a membership of one hundred nineteen (119).

## IRVINGTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*120-134 Prospect Avenue., Irvington, N.J. 07111*

---

The official opening of the acquired facilities took place on November 21-23, 2003, with our Columbia Union President, Dr. Harold L. Lee preaching the Friday evening consecration sermon; Elder Walter L. Pearson, Jr., preaching the Divine Worship service and Elder Charles Cheatham, Conference President, bringing welcome and reflections.

The Irvington church has always profited from a diversity of leadership (in chronological order):

- Pastor Bruce A. Banner (First Pastor)
- Pastor Carl Hinds (Interim Pastor)
- Pastor Dr. D. Robert Kennedy (Senior Pastor) and Moses Eli (Associate Pastor)
- Pastor Peter Campbell (Interim Pastor)
- Pastor André J. W. Campbell
- Pastor Carl Brewer I
- Pastor Dr. Kevin Jenkins (Interim Pastor)
- Pastor Carl Hinds
- Pastor Peter Campbell (Interim Pastor)
- Pastor Dr. Richard James Sr.

Each has contributed to the vision and has brought a different flavor of ministry. Through each period without pastoral care, by the grace of God, Elder Andrew McDonald (First Elder) and Elder Juan Scott (First Elder), along with a committed and Holy Spirit led laity has lifted the church to another level of ministry.

In fact, the Irvington Seventh-day Adventist Church was presented with the Allegheny East Conference Excellence In Ministry Award during the June/July 2004 Camp Meeting session. The award reads "in grateful recognition of the inspired leadership ... in building a house of worship to the glory of God and for the comfort, spiritual training, and building up of the community and members of the body of Christ".

The Irvington church has always experienced many rich ties with the town of Irvington and surrounding communities. Some notable contributions consist of:

- Hosting of AA/NA meetings
- Food Pantry (food distribution)
- Operating a Music Academy
- Caroling in the Community
- Nursing Home visitations in the town of Irvington
- Serving as Polling Facility (registered voting location for the town of Irvington)
- Back to School supplies for the community
- Immigration Seminars

## IRVINGTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*120-134 Prospect Avenue., Irvington, N.J. 07111*

---

- Health Fair/Health Risk Screenings
- Video Streaming Ministry

Effective April 1, 2018, Dr. Richard James Sr. became the pastor of the Irvington SDA Church. Subsequently, the First Elder (Juan Scott) and the church's leadership, outlined the needs and efforts already underway to acquire a new church home. Pastor James quickly embraced the vision and partnered with the leadership in search of a new church home, a church home that would foster and accommodate the next level of church growth mandated by God.

On September 1, 2018, the church in business meeting, voted to sell the Irvington SDA church building. In February of 2019, the church voted and provided to the AEC Executive Committee, a plan to proceed with the purchase of a new church building. By December 2019, the sale of the Irvington church was completed. The purchase plan evolved, culminating during April of 2020, with the closing date for the purchase of the new church home being confirmed.

The current church membership, under Pastor Dr. Richard James' ministry, stands at 257. The existing membership includes the following charter members still worshipping at the church:

1. Ovid Armstrong
2. Shera Gray
3. Cornetta Gooden
4. Audrey McDonald
5. Novlette Reid
6. Juan Scott
7. Paula Scott
8. Kingsley Simms
9. Desrene Spaulding
10. Michelle Terrelonge-Johnson

From the beginning, the mission of the Irvington SDA Church has been "to bring the saving power of Jesus Christ to broken relationships with God, family, friends, community and the Church through the infilling of God's marvelous grace". This vision is still reflected in the church's welcoming invitation, "A place where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ is uplifted!".

**LIVING FAITH SDA CHURCH***80 Washington Street, West Orange, N.J. 07052*

The idea of starting a church, which is now known as Living Faith SDA Church, originated from an International Day celebration at the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Oranges in November 2008. During said celebration, it was observed by the Nigerians that the younger generation fully embraced the Nigerian's culture with great enthusiasm and pride. Based on the observed enthusiasm, a decision was made to nurture the desire of the young generation to learn more about the native culture. It was decided to cultivate that desire by conducting regular meetings.

The first meeting, which was attended by a handful of believers, was held on January 10, 2009 in the basement of one of the members. The group continued to meet thereafter for regularly Sabbath services. Then believers from other African countries heard about our group and decided to join in the worship experience.

As the membership grew, the idea of starting a church was conceived. Since this was a leap of faith, the members adopted the name "Living Faith" as the church's official name.

On May 9, 2009, with the blessings of Pastor Robert Kennedy and the members of Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Oranges, Living Faith rented a space at the Church of the Epiphany in Orange, N.J. and started conducting weekly Sabbath services. Living Faith left Epiphany and rented from another church located in East Orange, N.J. At this location in East Orange, we decided to purchase our own church property which is currently located at 80 Washington Street, West Orange, N.J. 07052.

As the church evolved, brethren from non-African countries decided to join the congregation, and God continued to bless by adding more members to the flock.

We have been working together with our current part-time pastor, Uzooma Erundu, since March 2013. We have a very vibrant church with a current membership of 98 members, and our membership continues to grow. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless us to accomplish our mission and vision as we continue to labor for the Master and to win souls until He comes to take us home.



## LIVING FAITH SDA CHURCH

*80 Washington Street, West Orange, N.J. 07052*

---

### OUR MISSION

To win souls for Christ through the proclamation of the gospel's message and to nurture the spiritual growth of its community members to live Christ-centered lives.

### OUR VISION

To be a friendly and praying church that is led by the Holy Spirit and typifies the love of God in its community and around the world.

**METROPOLITAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1003 West Fourth Street, Plainfield, N.J. 07061*

The Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church started as a result of a Bible Study in the home of Ruth Brunson. Five people decided to leave the Baptist Church and accept the Adventist message: Ruth Brunson, Robert Bland, Claudia Brand, Lillian Presley and Millicent Presley.

After Camp Meeting of 1954, a building was located in New Brunswick, and our company was organized. Elder Cheatham and the Conference Committee voted to send someone to work with this group and Alonzo Wagner and Aaron Brogden came. During the summer, an evangelistic effort was held and others soon joined our small but growing group. After the evangelistic effort, Elder Wagner remained with us as our pastor.

Elder J. H. Lester was the next pastor. He remained with us for three years. The group was worshipping in the Workman's Circle Building on New Street in New Brunswick. Finding this location unsuitable, we were able to relocate and use the Baptist Church on Oliver Avenue in South Brunswick to hold our services.

Elder Danny Davis was assigned as our next pastor. He had the New Brunswick, Asbury Park and Trenton District. During his pastorate, 20 people joined the group. Elder Davis also encouraged the members to purchase some property and in due time God answered. Property was purchased in Somerset.

In 1962, Elder A. R. Jones became our pastor. He too held evangelistic meetings and under the advisement of the Conference Committee, the church was moved to Plainfield. For several years, a building on Richmond Street was used for our worship services.

Elder John Wright followed and promptly found a new place of worship for us in the Congregational Methodist Church on Fifth Street.

In 1970, Elder Melvyn Hayden became our pastor. Under his guidance, property was purchased in Plainfield. After Elder Hayden's move to Virginia, Elder Alfred Winston became pastor of the church. The property in South Plainfield was sold, and our current church on Fourth Street and Monroe was purchased.

## METROPOLITAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*1003 West Fourth Street, Plainfield, N.J. 07061*

---

Elder Milton Thomas came and stayed until 1974. Elder Oliver Cheatham came and under his leadership, a parsonage for the church was purchased. Elder Stephen Boyce replaced Elder Cheatham. During Elder Boyce's tenure, our membership grew to 255.

Pastor Frank Legette came to serve Metropolitan and during his tenure, he held a crusade in 1990 and baptized 30 people. During his time at Metropolitan, the church completed an extensive renovation of the church. Over the next decade, several pastors served Metropolitan including Augustus O'Giste, William Jolly, St. Clair Phipps, Rudyard Lord and Vernon Waters.

There were birth pains that came from a division in the church and a new congregation – Genesis of North Plainfield was established.

Vernon Waters wrote that during his tenure, "The church had recently suffered from a split which resulted in two congregations, the other became the Genesis Seventh-day Adventist Church. A good deal of time was spent in endeavoring to heal the rift that had occurred and provide stability.

Two evangelism series were held during my tenure (2001-2003) which resulted in some baptisms and renewal of faith within the body. One of the series, a revival, included the preaching dynamism of several pastors; Elder C. D. Jenkins, Melvyn Hayden and Marcellus Robinson. The series concluded with the Pine Forge SDA Choir concert.

During 2001-2002, the following portions of the building were renovated; basement, kitchen, vestibule and main entrance steps.

Pastor Robert Lively served for two years and continued church renovation.

Pastor William Linthicum became the pastor of the Metropolitan and University Heights Churches from 2006 until 2010. The Lord blessed the Metropolitan Church to remodel the kitchen and Fellowship hall. God added about 25 precious souls to the district.

Pastor Gregory Nelson was our shepherd from 2010 to 2013 but eventually transferred to South Central Conference. Pastor Roland Hill was assigned as our Interim Pastor and served until our current pastor – Carl Brewer came to us in December 2013.

One Bible study has led to a church of over 200 members, at one time a Child Day Care Center, a mission in New Brunswick which is now an established church by the name of University Heights and through a rough birthing process another church – Genesis Seventh-day Adventist Church came from the members of Metropolitan.

**What hath God wrought!**

**MOUNT OLIVET SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1707 Washington Avenue, Neptune, N.J. 07753*

Historical records show that in October of 1927, Elder H. Rossin, his wife, Corrine, and two sons Ewing and Vernon, arrived from the West and built a group of faithful believers. This first group of worshippers were Mary B. Allmond, Sophie Best, Prizerra Gibbs, Henry Hines, Whilhemin Hines, Cherrie Isaacs, David Joiner, Mary Lawrence, Elizabeth Managuait, Minnie Mizell, Hattie Phillips, Maggie Randolph, Annie Weeks, Clara Stevens, Berth Ashton, M. Houston, Leatta Clark, and William McClean.

It was the depression years, and money was very hard to find. New members arrived: Brother Crump, Eulah Clark, Sister Nuelon, Sister Rollins, and Emily Fisher. In the minutes of January 7, 1928, – Elder Rossin, with the group made plans for a new church building. The size was to be twenty-five feet by forty feet. The church at the time were leasing from the Presbyterian Church, at the corners of Atkins and Bangs Avenues. The Church then became cognizant of a condemned church building at the corners of Borden and Heck Avenues.

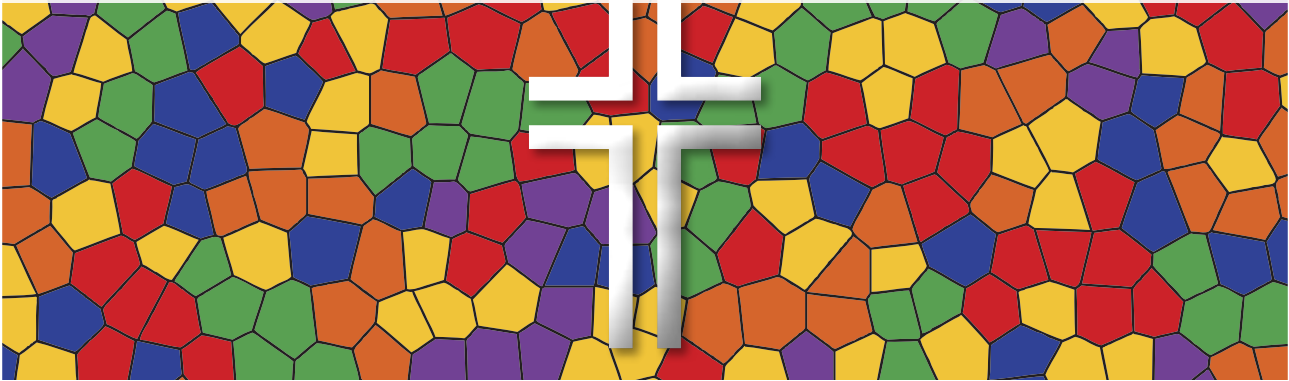
After much fasting and prayer, the city was approached, and we secured the building with stipulations... restoration and repairs began at once. Without money, but with prayer and much determination, the church looked for aid from friends, neighbors and combing the surrounding countryside. God blessed our endeavors, and the church was most thankful for a place of our own to worship.

In 1935, many of our teenage young people were baptized and were assisted in remaining faithful through the efforts of Mrs. Bernice Moore and her son, Calvin. Our membership continued to grow, and with dedicated efforts of many pastors who came to serve: Elders A. S. Wagner, W. W. Fordham, F. Beatty, R. L. Bradford, Milton Thomas, D. L. Davis, A. R. Jones, John Wright, and Jasper Johnson. The dream was of a larger edifice with adequate facilities for serving.

It wasn't until 1962, that we purchased a plot of land, under the leadership of Elder Jones. The previous church building was sold in 1968 and ground was broken for the new church on March 21, 1971, at 1707 Washington Avenue, Neptune, N.J. 07753. The present church was constructed through the efforts of Bro. Agnew Greenwood and his wife Anita. The leadership of the church was under Pastor Pettway. The church went forward and continued to spring up under the leadership of the following pastors (1971 – present) Pastors: Pettway, William Scales, Mack Wilson, Franklyn Cordoba, Ronald Edmonds, Pastor Cheatham, Melvin Green, Ron Hobson, Henry Davis, Jr., and at present Pastor Joseph Thelusca.

**BLAKESLEE SDA COMMUNITY WORSHIP CENTER**

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS MOUNT POCONO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH)

*P. O. Box 865, Summit Avenue, Mt. Pocono, PA 18344*

On February 24, 2007, a group of 48 Seventh-day Adventists came together to establish a place of worship that was close to their homes.

**OUR CHARTER MEMBERS WERE:**

Carlisle Wildman	Jasmyn Wildman	Ritchie Wildman	Carlomi Wildman
Sis Anderson	Joel Sancho	Jolene Sancho	Brianna Sancho
Alexandra Sancho	Shem Haynes	Yvette Haynes	Jason Haynes
Shemyra Haynes	Shem Quashie	Annabelle Quashie	Alana Quashie
Colvin Sylvester	Thera Sylvester	Sadia Sylvester	Shaya Sylvester
Garrett Ingram	Nicola Ingram	Rachel Ingram	Garrett Nicolas Ingram
Yvonne Emmanuel	Monique Toussaint	Eustace Harrow	Israel Garcia
Maria Garcia	Wendy Garcia	Damian Garcia	Geraldine Henry
Tammy Henry	Za'Qima Wilson	Za'Qerrah Wilson	Matthew Dey
Nicolette Dey	Matthew Dey Jr	Samuel Dey	Eon Dey
Michelle Dey	Eon Dey Jr.	Jasmine Dey	Jahnel Dey

We first met in the home of Garrett Ingram located on 1110 Trapper Lane in Pocono Summit. As a group, we met in three other family homes before coming to our current location on Summit Avenue in Pocono Summit. We are currently renting from the Full Gospel Church of God in Christ with whom we have a very good and close working relationship. We are currently in the process of trying to acquire our own edifice to worship.

Though many of the charter members came from Stroudsburg SDA Church, we were not a spin off from her. A significant number also came from New York who were in search of a place to worship. Our small group attracted many to us.

**BLAKESLEE SDA COMMUNITY WORSHIP CENTER**

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS MOUNT POCONO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH)

*P. O. Box 865, Summit Avenue, Mt. Pocono, PA 18344*

---

Eon Dey was the member responsible for pulling the group together and reaching out to Pastor Wildman as the spiritual leader. Carlisle Wildman - Pastor, Darius Alfred - 1st Elder, Glen Anderson - Elder, Eon Dey and Matthew Dey - Deacons, Shem Haynes - Treasurer, Shem Quashie - Sabbath School Superintendent, and Nicola Ingram - Clerk

We had a visitor one day whose name was Joseph Melvin. He was passing the church one Sabbath wearing shorts and lots of jewelry. One of our members, Sister Wildman, struck up a conversation with him. From the conversation, she discovered that Mr. Joseph was a musician. She invited him to our worship service. He accepted the invitation. He continued to attend the church and was eventually baptized into the Hope SDA Church in Effort. Eighteen of our charter members still attend Mount Pocono. We are reaching out to our community. We have held two health fairs in the Tobyhanna community and conducted three evangelistic seminars. We've distributed water and tracks and have also had AY and baptisms in the Tobyhanna State Park. Our goal is to share the gospel with the Pocono Summit Community.

**MT. SINAI SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***35 Arlington Avenue, Trenton, N.J. 08618*

In 1949, two brothers, John and Fred Zimmerly of the Broad Street SDA Church had a desire to see a regional church in Trenton. After much prayer, they started a door-to-door witnessing program. One day, John canvassed the entire block of Race Street, but was convicted to return again to the first house on the block. That first house was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hicks. Bible studies were initiated, then stopped for a while. Upon their resumption, however, neighbors named Ernest and Nina Howard came to the studies as well.

“People of color” were attending the Broad Street Church and were introduced to the Bible study group. This entire group started meeting together in various homes for group study.

In the meantime, John Zimmerley contacted Elder John Wagner, then president of the Allegheny Conference. He was told of the group there and asked if a pastor could be sent to Trenton. Elder Wagner, himself, baptized Ernest and Flora Hicks at the Broad Street Church and then sent Elder Milton Thomas as the first pastor.

The first official meeting place was in the Lincoln Homes. Milton Thomas labored with the group until they were organized into a company. After Milton Thomas was called to another field of labor, Brother Ernest Howard located another place of worship in the Quartet Association Building on Montgomery Street.

The conference sent Elder R. L. Bradford to be the next pastor, and soon the company became a church. The group grew until the need for a new place of worship was recognized. Word came to Ernest Howard of a building for sale on Vine Street. Sister Zimmerly gave the first dollar; Brother Zimmerly gave \$300.00; Brother Zimmerly’s friends gave \$500.00; and the members gave sacrificially and with much prayer, so much so, that the edifice was purchased in August of 1958. The membership was then 29 adults and 40 children.

The church continued to grow, and on September 20, 1975, under the leadership of Elder W. L. Ervin moved into the building where we worship today, on 35 Arlington Avenue. Since moving to Arlington Avenue, our church for many years, operated a school and currently operates a daycare center that has been recognized as the top daycare center in the area by readers of the local newspaper.

**MT. SINAI SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*35 Arlington Avenue, Trenton, N.J. 08618*

---

We are deeply grateful for the contributions of our pastors: Milton Thomas, Robert L. Bradford, Alonzo S. Wagner, Daniel L. Davis, Alfred R. Jones, John Wright, Jasper J. Johnson, Mack Wilson, William L. Ervin, Haywood T. Weatherford, Vern M. Joyner, James Lewis, Gene Donaldson, Stephen Boyce, Ronnie Hobson, Paul Turner, and J. Alfred Johnson, III.



**MUUNGANO ADVENTIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1799 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N.J. 07305*

Muongano SDA Church was inaugurated as Muungano Fellowship as a result of a union of two Adventist groups namely, Liberty (Uhuru) and Nuru (Light) in 2005.

Liberty was started as a Sabbath School Branch of Beth-El SDA Church sometime in 2004. The initial group used to worship at the Jersey City YMCA building on 275 Bergen Avenue, Jersey City, N.J. 07306. The original group consisted of the families of Elder Shem Onditi, Elder Peter Masongo, Elder Paul Ondari, Elder Arnold Matonda, Elder Evans Janai, Elder Zechary Moitui, Elder Nelson Bogonko, Elder Jerry Simon, Elder Samson, and Elder Lumbsden.

Nuru was started about a year later as a Sabbath School Branch of Jersey Heights SDA Church. The members used to meet for worship in downtown, Jersey City. The original members of Nuru included the families of Elder Daniel Masaka, Elder Joseph Otieno, Elder Douglas Bonuke, Elder Richard Maburi, Elder Moses Makori, Elder David Onchagwa, Elder Prester Kenya, the late Elder Joel Ongaro, and the late Sister Grace Nyatome.

The common objective of both groups was to reach many of the Kisii/Swahili oriented members whose spiritual interests or needs were not being met by the existing congregations.

In 2006, the church officers from the two congregations met and after analyzing that their objectives were comparable, they decided that they were better off together than separate. They thus came together, and formed the union now known as MUUNGANO (Union) with a membership of about 70. Muungano Fellowship rented a Lutheran Church for worship at 15 Brinkerhoff, Jersey City, N.J. 07304. The group continued to worship at Brinkerhoff and by 2012 the membership had grown to about 150. In 2014, the group moved to 1799 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, 07305 where services are conducted with the congregation of about 180 worshippers.

Muongano has always been and is currently led by a group of elders under a Head Elder who also chairs the church board. Those who have functioned as Head Elders include Shem Onditi, Kayus Mose, Paul Ondari, and the late Joel Ongaro.

**MUUNGANO ADVENTIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*1799 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N.J. 07305*

---

Services are conducted in Swahili to meet the ethnical and spiritual needs of the congregation. Lesson study in one of the groups is also conducted in Kisii dialect to meet the spiritual needs of part of the congregation that neither speaks and/or understands nor reads Swahili.

Muongano SDA Church initiated the opening of Community Sabbath School Branch in New Brunswick in 2010 and was headed by Elder Joseph Otieno. In 2015, the branch was elevated by AEC to a Company Status under the name of Community SDA Company, New Brunswick.

It is soon to be a full-fledged church to serve those around that community.

Muongano conducts the following community service events annually:

Community Services Day whereby members wear shirts with the Church Logo and go out to serve the community by cleaning the streets near and around the church premises. The community members join the church members on the church grounds for a

- BBQ
- Muongano Annual Picnic or trip to Connecticut at the beach for outdoor recreational events
- Muongano Annual Youth Retreat which is held in various states during each summer

Muongano's mission is to prepare for the second coming of Jesus Christ our Lord by upholding a Christ-like lifestyle where every church member is a soul winner. Muongano recognizes the unique heritage, embraces the African values and accommodates the unique needs amongst the congregation to support spiritual growth. God's desire is for all to be saved! (2 Peter 3:9).

## NEW MARANATHA KARIBU SDA CHURCH

*177-179 Duncan Avenue, Jersey City, N.J. 07306*



New Maranatha-Karibu SDA Church was started in January 1998 as a prayer group organized by its founding Pastor George Okumu-Camera who had relocated from Britain to further his studies in the United States. The original founding members of the prayer group were: Elder David Onchagwa; Elder Manny; Brother Jack Odondi; Sister Grace Nyatome; Brother Henry Kerongo, Sister Naomi Kerongo and their two kids; Brother Peter Moriasi and Sister Gladys Moriasi; Sister Susan Akinyi Okumu and her two daughters; Sister Risper Nyabeta and her niece; Sister Emily Chakua; Pastor George Okumu-Camera. The pastor and members faithfully met each week for prayers and Bible studies and used this forum to encourage one another and provide a support system far from home. Many members of the prayer group were immigrants from East and Central Africa.

Sensing a growing need to provide a more structured worship service and cater for the members of the prayer group, an idea was floated and prayerfully discussed over long periods of time. Eventually, it was agreed that weekly worship services should be held on Sabbaths. Accordingly, the first service was held in 2000 with 30 adults and 10 children and adopted the name New Maranatha-Karibu. The Name "Karibu" is a Swahili word meaning "Welcome." The goal was to have a welcoming church that would yearn to make every member and visitor feel welcome and "at home". This was very important since the majority of the members were immigrants who were trying to settle in the United States and needed a place where they could feel at home.

Since these humble beginnings 17 years ago, the church has gone through different phases of growth. Many ministries have been founded as a result of the New Maranatha Karibu SDA Church. Additionally, former members of this church who relocated to other states were instrumental in setting up other ethnic churches in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Georgia, Texas and other places including Kenya.

Under the able leadership of the founding Pastor George Okumu-Camera, the church was able to acquire a building in 2007, after many years of renting places of worship. The church is now located at 177-179 Duncan Avenue in Jersey City, New Jersey.

New Maranatha Karibu now has over 180 adult members, over 85 children and many visitors per Sabbath. Its continued growth is a testament to the goodness of the Lord who calls us to celebrate humble beginnings (Job 8:7) and stand in awe at what He only can do.

**NEW MARANATHA KARIBU SDA CHURCH**

*177-179 Duncan Avenue, Jersey City, N.J. 07306*

---

Over the years the following pastors provided spiritual leadership and direction to the church.

- Pastor George Okumu - Camerra - November 1998 - August 2015
- Pastor Melvin Hayden - August 2015 - November 2015
- Dr. Orlando Moncrieffe - November 2015 - December 2015
- Pastor Moses Njuguna - January 2016 - To date

**SALEM FRENCH CHURCH***10 South Oraton Parkway, East Orange, N.J. 07018*

Salem French Church history is fascinating, when we consider its evolution from 1979 to 2016, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit who has moved to action the following men of God: Pastor Joseph Charles (October 1979-February 1985), Pastor Daniel B. Séjour (March 1985-May 1998), Pastor Yveniel Saint-Luc (May 1998-September 2012), Pastor Arbentz Pierre Antoine (October 2012-May 2015), and Pastor Ezechias Jean (July 2015 to present).

In 1972, several people in the area of New Jersey were skeptical when Brothers and Sisters: Lemer cier Montrevil, Max Baptiste, Lucie Baptiste, Marc Jean Baptiste, and Damasca, came from Hebron Seventh-day Adventist Church, Brooklyn, New York, with the idea to start a branch Sabbath School in New Jersey. It did not take them too long to welcome the first soul they won for the kingdom of the Lord: Sister Marguerite Humbert.

It was the first step of a wonderful spiritual journey that started with Pastor Joseph Charles, the first shepherd of the flock. His persistent efforts were significant, as they paved the way to three (3) important realizations: First, the membership growth; second, the stability of the church finance; third, the purchase of a four story building, which became a beacon of light and hope at 37-39 William Street, Newark, N.J., for about 30 years. As a result, the congregation, since then, is affiliated with the Allegheny East Conference.

In 1985, Pastor Daniel B. Sejour succeeded him as the new spiritual leader. His first action was the remodeling of the first floor that served as the sanctuary for the congregation. At this location, Pastor Séjour spent 13 years of a successful ministry. With Pastor Yveniel Saint-Luc, Salem Church has moved to a major step with an evangelism explosion and the purchasing of one of the largest church buildings, in the city of East Orange. Since 2011, Salem is definitely located in this area, as the largest Haitian Seventh-day Adventist Church, thanks to God and the wise administration of Pastor Saint-Luc.

Pastor Arbentz Pierre Antoine, who succeeded Saint-Luc, spent only 2 years and 7 months, as the shepherd of Salem, he left, however, the souvenir of a powerful preacher, well known as the one who attracts crowds. His years of ministry have produced such a positive impact on Salem even time will not be able to erase it. Since July 15, 2015, the church is moving forward under the leadership of Pastor Ezechias Jean. Presently, Salem membership is about 500.

## SALEM FRENCH CHURCH

*10 South Oraton Parkway, East Orange, N.J. 07018*

---

We praise God for His guidance and the many blessings He has bestowed on His children. Those who were hard to believe are now full of joy, when they see Salem Church standing as a huge monument to the glory of God.

## THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OF THE ORANGES

*270 Reynolds Terrace, Orange, N.J. 07050-3306*



And it came to pass on, January 7, 1978 on the Sabbath Day, a small group of believers from the First Church of Montclair, Morristown Church and Trinity Temple met in worship for the first time. This gathering of 40 members was the culmination of weeks of planning and the search for a rented meeting place to worship – the Church at the Crossroads, East Orange. This first meeting was truly an occasion for gratitude; the idea of establishing a Branch Sabbath School in the Oranges had finally become a reality.

By April 16, 1978, the membership of the small group, by the blessings of God had grown to 55. Elder Meade C. Van Putten, Executive Secretary of the Allegheny East Conference came on that date to organize the group into a "Company," but upon finding a larger group than anticipated, he instead officially organized the group into a church – "The East Orange SDA Church." In 1983, the present church building (formerly Beth Torah Temple) at 270 Reynolds Terrace, Orange, N.J. was acquired, and the name of the church was changed to the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Oranges. The church later became a mother church with four off springs: The Spanish Church of the Oranges, The Berea Church in Maplewood, The Irvington SDA Church and The Living Faith SDA Church in West Orange.

From a humble beginning, that small group filled with faith, hope and love would be guided over the succeeding years by nine lead shepherds and five under-shepherds. These pastors shared in the spiritual nurturing, growth and development of the membership.

Pastor James Clements, Jr., was the first part time shepherd in 1978. In 1979, Pastor Roy R. Brown accepted the call from the California Conference to be our first full time Pastor. A vibrant MV Society and Pathfinder Club drew scores of young people. From 1980 to 1984, under the pastoral leadership of our third Pastor Harold L. Lee, well known as an advocate of the stewardship principles of Time, Talent & Treasure, the church building fund was stimulated into six figures and the present church home was acquired as a blessing to the then congregation of 300 members.

From 1984 to 1987, Pastor J. Glenn Roberts, brought to us the doctrine of "Love." The Church, during those years, became known as "A Place Where People Care About People." Pastor John A. Trusty, "A Young Peoples' Pastor," came to us in 1987. He boosted evangelism with the first

## THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OF THE ORANGES

*270 Reynolds Terrace, Orange, N.J. 07050-3306*

---

telecast of its Sabbath Services. The Mortgage Burning and Church Dedication were also significant during the leadership of Pastor Trusty.

In 1994, Pastor St. Clair Phipps, Interim Pastor, came to us from Allegheny East Conference Office. He brought to our congregation his many years of administrative experience and his multi-cultural background which uniquely qualified him to be a successful advocate and facilitator of relationships among members. Pastor Samuel G. Campbell transferred to the Church of the Oranges in 1995. He contributed his administrative and technology skills, essential in the preparations for down-linking Net '96, '98 and Metro '99 which became the major evangelistic thrusts. Pastor Alfred Johnson III and his wife Jayne joined our congregation in January 2000 as our first ever Assistant Pastor. "Renovation Project 2000" was completed, and the church was rededicated on September 23, 2000. Pastor Andre J. Campbell and his wife Tanisha joined us in August 2001 as our new Assistant Pastor. Pastor David Arrington and his wife joined us for a short while just before Pastor Paula Olivier, who had a passion for ministry and young people. She became the first female Assistant Pastor of our congregation in 2004.

Dr. D. Robert Kennedy, a prolific author of many spiritual books with 35 years in ministry, became our Eighth Senior Pastor in August 2006. The church continued to thrive as a community outreach bus was purchased, a Music Enrichment Academy was formed and a new fourth congregation was formed out of our large numbers. From 2010 to 2014, we were blessed with a new Assistant Pastor, Joseph V. Thelusca and his lovely wife, Marthine, who joined our congregation and were a dynamic pair in engaging the youth of the church in various ways. Dr. Errol T. Stoddart, a minister of the gospel for more than 20 years, became the 9th Pastor on November 1, 2014. He brought with him, his ability to unite and inspire a diversity of people and his passion for service in the surrounding communities. Under his guidance, various small Life Groups have been instituted as a way to engage more members and build relationships in the large congregation of now more than 950 members.

**To God be the glory, great things He has done!**



**TRINITY TEMPLE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***P. O. Box 3248, Newark, N.J. 07103*

In 2000, Pastor Malcom Taylor became the Senior Pastor of Trinity Temple and led out in a strong program of evangelism and church development. Under his leadership, the church grew in membership and income. Pastor Taylor conducted an outstanding program for three and a half years before he was reassigned to a congregation in Maryland, and Elder Henry Fordham assumed the leadership of Trinity Temple as interim pastor.

At the time, he became Interim Pastor Elder Fordham was Executive Secretary of the Allegheny East Conference. Although his conference responsibilities kept him busy around the field, he was at the front door of the church greeting the saints at Sabbath School time almost every Sabbath. He ministered to the congregation as a caring shepherd for almost a year and a half until the appointment of the current pastor, Norman K. Miles Sr., in December 2005.

On December 3, 2005, Dr. Norman K. Miles Sr. was installed as the Senior Pastor of the Trinity Temple Church by Elder Charles Cheatham, Conference President. Dr. Miles came to the church from Chicago, Illinois where he served as the president of the Lake Region Conference and the Senior Pastor of the Hyde Park Church. He, his wife Doris, and their granddaughter Christina were quickly adopted by the Trinity Temple family. During his tenure, the church focus has been directed toward evangelism, church capital improvements, and church school development. Several large capital projects have been completed at the church and the school without incurring debt and the church's community outreach programs have been officially recognized as outstanding by Essex County.

A second service was inaugurated in 2008, and the church has developed innovative programs such as the annual School- book bag giveaway, which gives away 1,000 bags of supplies each year, and the bi-monthly meal distribution to homeless people at Penn Station in Newark. The Trinity Temple Pioneer Pathfinder Club has been recognized as an Outstanding Club of AEC and was cited as Pathfinder Club of the Year in 2016. The church plans to renovate a house it purchased to become a Ministry Center for the community. Trinity Temple has been committed to spreading the Third Angel's Message for almost 100 years and is committed to remaining a beacon of truth in Newark until the Lord's return.

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS SDA CHURCH***247 Somerset Street, New Brunswick, N.J. 08901*

During the summer of 1975, a survey for the City of New Brunswick, New Jersey was conducted for the purpose of establishing a "City Directory." The possibility of establishing a church was realized when a church member was asked to serve on the Directory Staff for the purpose of surveying the Black Community. The survey revealed that a large number of Black citizens in the city had no church affiliation. Resulting from this survey, tracts and other religious literature were passed out from 1977 to 1980. From 1980-1983 Brother and Sister W. Royster, Sr. passed out additional literature and gave Bible studies on Welton Street, Pine Street, Throop Avenue and Remsen Avenue.

In the Spring of 1983, meetings were held at the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plainfield, New Jersey. As a result of these meetings, an Evangelistic SWAT Team was organized to pass out literature and give Bible Studies. The team would gather at the Metropolitan Church for prayer sessions, form into groups and embark on their respective missions in the New Brunswick Area. These meetings were usually held on Sabbath and on Sunday afternoons.

The first organizational meeting was held at the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church Parsonage in Plainfield, New Jersey on June 1, 1983. The agenda was to decide on the initial members who should attend and support the new Mission. At that meeting, names were discussed, and a name was decided upon for the new Mission. The name "University Heights SDA Church" was finalized when the group considered New Brunswick to be a college community. Some Seventh-day Adventist young people would be attending Rutgers University and would need a church home while attending.

A second organizational meeting was held on June 8, 1983 at the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church for the purpose of additional planning and organization for the New Brunswick Mission. These meetings were conducted and supervised by Pastor Stephen A. Boyce.

The initial service as a Mission was held on Sabbath, June 18, 1983. This service was held in the Neighborhood House located at 184 Commercial Avenue. The initial families attending this service were Royster, Anderson, McCrary Families and Sister Hattie Deal. On July 16, 1983, the Mission moved next door in the Spanish Pentecostal Church at 186 Commercial Avenue. These initial meetings were conducted by Brother W. Royster and supervised by Pastor Stephen A. Boyce. Sister Bessie Scott-Fenwick was the Mission's first baptismal candidate. Sister Fenwick was baptized on

## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS SDA CHURCH

*247 Somerset Street, New Brunswick, N.J. 08901*

---

On August 20, 1983, at the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plainfield, New Jersey. Her husband (now deceased) joined the church before his death.

Pastor Stephen A. Boyce conducted an evangelistic crusade at the Neighborhood House. His theme: Christ is the Answer. This crusade was approximately eight weeks during October and November 1983.

Pastor A. F. O'Giste was called to the New Brunswick district to continue the work. Pastor O'Giste preached his first sermon at the Mission on February 25, 1984. Under his leadership, plans were made for a larger crusade in the city. Again, the SWAT Team Method was used. The Metropolitan Church joined them to participate in Outreach Work.

This preparation led to the successful "New Life Crusade" by Evangelist Clifton Davis. The Crusade was held from early August to September 1, 1984 on the campus of Douglass College-Rutgers University. The number of baptismal candidates resulting from the crusade was a total of 63 – men, women and children.

On September 15, 1984 with Elder Van Putten, President of the Allegheny East Conference presiding, University Heights was officially organized as a church. This service was held in the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plainfield, New Jersey.

After being organized as a church, the Allegheny East Conference Committee assigned Elder Artemus Tucker to assist the church. Elder Tucker was to assist on Sabbaths and provide mid-week prayer services. After a brief tenure of service, Elder Tucker was recalled, and Pastor Brian Carter was assigned as Pastor. Pastor Carter preached his first sermon on Sabbath, February 9, 1985. The church moved from Commercial Avenue to Somerset Community Center, 55 Fuller Street in Somerset, New Jersey. This facility was shared with Emanuel True Temple Church (using it on Sundays). Early in Pastor Brian Carter's tenure, the church was relocated to the Mt. Zion AME Church, 25 Division Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey. The church made this decision easily, recalling its earlier plans in its organizational meetings.

In the Summer of 1986, the Conference assigned Elder Michael Blount to carry on services for the church. The sale of this building in the Fall of 1987 forced the church to look for a new home. The local YWCA at 64 Livingston Avenue granted worship privileges to the church, permitting the use of its main auditorium for worship purposes.

Pastor Frank Legette and Pastor William Jolly served as pastors of the church during the last (2) two years. The church was held in the YWCA Building on Livingston Avenue. An evangelistic crusade was held in Feaster Park in New Brunswick during Pastor Jolly's tenure. Fifteen souls were baptized. Upon the closing of the YWCA Building, the church currently leases the Ascension Evangelical, Luther Church Building located at 247 Somerset Street, New Brunswick. University Heights SDA

## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS SDA CHURCH

*247 Somerset Street, New Brunswick, N.J. 08901*

---

Church currently uses this facility on Saturdays and on Tuesday nights. The pastor of the church was St. Clair Phipps. Under his leadership, the church purchased land to build a church.

After Pastor St. Claire Phipps, the church has been served by Pastors Rudyard Lord, Bruce Banner, Robert Lively, William Linthicum, Gregory Nelson, Carl Brewer, and Orlando Moncrieffe (since March 1, 2016). In 2007, a property with a building was purchased at 37 Matilda Avenue in the Township of Franklin in Somerset County. A loan was secured from CURF to convert the existing building into a church facility. The work is almost complete and after renting the facility at 247 Somerset Street in New Brunswick for 24 years, the congregation plans to move to the new location in July 2017.

# VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA AREAS

## CHURCH

**Tercer Angel Spanish SDA Church**

**Alpha and Omega Spanish SDA Church**

**Bread of Life Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**Calvary Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**Campostella Heights Church**

**Capernaum Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**Cedars of Lebanon Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**Coastal Shores Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**First Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**Maranatha SDA Church**

**Mt. Calvary Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**New Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**New Life SDA Church**

**Northern Virginia (NOVA) Korean SDA Church**

**Penuel Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**Prentis Park Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**Restoration Seventh-day Adventist Company**

**Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church**

## CITY

Fredericksburg, VA 206

Petersburg, VA 207

Emporia, VA 209

Newport News, VA 211

Norfolk, VA 214

Suffolk, VA 216

Chesapeake, VA 217

Virginia Beach, VA 219

Richmond, VA 220

Franklin, Virginia 223

Fredericksburg, VA 225

Williamsburg, VA 227

Tappahannock, VA 228

Hampton, Virginia 229

Fairfax, VA 231

Brandy Station, VA 236

Portsmouth, Virginia 237

Richmond, VA 238

Crewe, VA 240

Petersburg, VA 242

**TERCER ANGEL SPANISH SDA CHURCH***6050 Plank Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22407*

Our church began in the month of June of 2002. We started as a filial Sabbath School and as a missionary group of the Woodbridge Church. At that time, I had the privilege of being the Lay Activities Director, and together with my church brethren Paiz, Vera and Del Rosario, and of course my wife Rosy Salguero and my children, we initiated the project and vision of having a Spanish speaking church in the area of Fredericksburg, Virginia. With the help of Brother Joel Vera and his family, who opened their doors, we were able to start a small group in their home.

When the group started growing, and we could no longer fit in their home, we moved to their backyard. When winter arrived, and it was freezing outside, we continued gathering and prayed to God to provide us a place with a roof where we could worship Him. In November of the same year, we found a place off Route 3 West on Plank Road. After a time, through the brethren of the Maranatha Spanish Church and the intervention of Pastor Cheatham, who at the time was the President of the Allegheny East Conference, and without forgetting the great support of our Coordinator Pastor Ramon Escalante, on Julio 3 of 2003, we were recognized and organized as a "group".

Thanks to the unconditional support of our leaders and God's blessings, we continue forward.

**ALPHA AND OMEGA SPANISH SDA CHURCH***935 West Washington Street, Petersburg, VA 23803*

Life is full of miracles; some big, some small. We have seen it in our walk and, we know that God has never abandoned us. Everything began on Sabbath 17th of June 2006: As if we were sheep without an earthly shepherd but knowing that the good Heavenly Shepherd guided us. We decided to meet in the park "Point of Rock" in Chester, Virginia, being faithful and loyal to the word of our God and to His church, which we also loved. Our pilgrimage began... for various Sabbaths, we worshipped God in the simplicity of nature. In one of those moments, Pastor Josue Prada joined us and infused our church with support and trust.

The first Sabbath of the month of July of 2006, we gathered in the day care installations of the River of Love Pentecostal Church as proposed by our Sister Lucelly Naranjo and officially called ourselves "Alpha and Omega" in honor of Him who is the Beginning and the End; in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ. It should be noted that getting to that place was not a coincidence. When Pastor Josue Prada and David Castillo were going to interview with Pastor Def of the River of Love Church, they arrived early one Sunday evening, while the church was holding their worship service. A young member of that church, who was seated at the end of the hall, approached them and told them: "You must be Christians. I saw the light that accompanied you as soon as I saw you enter. As if God wanted to tell you, have peace."

Interviewing with the Pastor, he assured them that they could meet there. It is impressive that they didn't even ask for a deposit. Rather, they gave us the first month of stay, free. Hallelujah! From July 2006 until June 2011, we congregated at that church, worshiping and glorifying our God. During that period, we saw Pastor Def die, a man that God had utilized to bless us. It was now time to look for a new place. God knows the best course and already had a place prepared for us and led us there.

We started looking for a new place of worship and found the Hopewell Methodist Church. God had already prepared for us a blessing. Sister Eunice Vidal was able to get an interview with Pastor Miguelon, a great Pastor, who allowed us to meet there while paying only a monthly offering. This allowed us to gather enough funds, with strong, arduous, and selfless work on behalf of the brethren, which are many and important, the essential help by our Pastors, the help of many friends

**ALPHA AND OMEGA SPANISH SDA CHURCH***935 West Washington Street, Petersburg, VA 23803*

---

that are not part of our church, persons that we will never grow tired of being grateful for and pray that God continues to prosper them. We also thank Pastor Escalante for his encouragement and support.

Today, we have reached this place, surrendering our lives as an offering to our Creator, dedicating our building located at 935 W. Washington St. Petersburg, Virginia, to His honor and glory, and our entire lives to His service, in order for it to be a blessing to the community, a blessing to all families on this earth just as the word of God says.

In 2016, our church completed 10 years of service and worship to our God, and we now join in gratitude to our Eternal King for the celebration of 50 years of our Conference, Allegheny East. May the Lord utilize us all to finish satisfactorily the proclamation of the three angel's message, and thus, we can see our God and Savior Jesus Christ come again to seek us and take us to the heavenly homeland. Today, more than ever., we say Maranatha: Christ is coming! Christ in us: The Hope of Glory!



**BREAD OF LIFE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***600 East Atlantic Street, Emporia, VA 23847*

The seed giving birth to Bread of Life Seventh-day Adventist Church began to germinate in the fall of 1989, when Pastor Stephen Boyce, Ministerial Area Leader, met with Sister Delores Rough, Conference Bible Worker, at Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church in Richmond, Virginia and expressed the desire of President Alvin Kibble to have a Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern tip of the Allegheny East Conference. Stanley Mayes, a native of Emporia, Virginia, and a local elder serving the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church of Petersburg also attended the meeting. Following a plan, devised by these three individuals, Sister Rough, Elder Mayes and a few other members from both Ephesus and Shiloh, began fieldwork in Emporia and eventually held Bible studies at the Elks Lodge on East Atlantic Street.

During the winter of that year, Elder Gary Adams was assigned as pastor for the Crewe - Emporia district and took charge of the effort. His wife, Darla, Sister Rough, Elder Mayes and his wife Patricia, Elder Luther Pottinger, and Sister Annie Henderson conducted a five-week hall meeting at the Elks Lodge; but the group saw disappointment in that no souls were baptized! Disheartened by the results, no further effort was made until two years later when Elder William Ervin, Dark County Evangelist, began fieldwork in the area during the winter of 1991. Pastor Ervin learned that Elders Mayes and Elder Luther Pottinger had participated in the initial effort and sought their assistance. A hall was secured on South Main Street in Emporia and the first Sabbath worship meeting was held February 1, 1992, comprising Adventists from neighboring churches. The group continued to assemble weekly and began calling itself "Emporia Seventh-day Adventist Church."

The fall of 1992, Pastor Ervin conducted a five (5) week tent effort and was assisted by his wife, Pastor Mayes and his wife, Elder Pottinger, and Elder Tom Davis from the Columbia Union Conference. The team struggled through a most trying time, and sadly again, no souls were baptized.

Further disappointment came when Evangelist Ervin departed in September 1992. Although discouraged, Pastor Gary Adams, Elder Mayes and the few Adventists (6 or 7) who remained, struggled to keep the flicker aflame, by continuing the weekly Sabbath meetings. Realizing that they were not a church, the group changed its name to "Emporia SDA Bread of Life Mission" to reflect its purpose and identity more accurately.

**BREAD OF LIFE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***600 East Atlantic Street, Emporia, VA 23847*

---

Later that same year, Pastor Adams was assigned to another district causing even greater devastation. Only Elder Mayes, his wife and about four other Adventists remained. With no assistance from the conference or any local churches, these individuals made great personal and financial sacrifices to maintain the work and continue the weekly meetings at the Main Street location.

Around the first of the year in 1993, Sister Mildred Ivey, began assisting Elder and Sister Mayes with fieldwork and house-to-house Bible studies. Many studies were given, but none of the recipients committed to the Adventist message. At the very last when it was felt that there was no hope for Emporia, two (2) persons from the area (Sister Gloriece Baylor and Brother Roy Turner) accepted the teachings and were baptized. The baptisms were perceived as a sign that God wanted the work to continue and shortly thereafter, Elder Norman Williams, his wife and family, and a few others joined the movement. The cell continued to grow and was elevated to "mission" status under Shiloh of Petersburg, by vote of the Executive Committee on December 19, 1993. Elder Mayes was officially assigned as "Church Leader."

During the summer of 1996, Dark County Evangelist, Harry Cartwright, Sister Deloris Rough, and Elder and Sister Mayes conducted another tent effort which resulted in the baptism of 10 more souls. Shortly after this major breakthrough, the Mission moved from "South Main Street" to "600 East Atlantic Street."

The Executive Committee elevated the Mission to "company" status in April of 2002 and to "church" status on December 15, 2003. Accordingly, the name was changed to Bread of Life SDA Church. Congruent to this change, on March 1, 2004, Elder Mayes was assigned as Lay Pastor. He currently serves in this capacity. Sister Gloriece Baylor, the first baptized member, has remained faithful and now serves the church as deaconess.

On December 17, 2016, Bread of Life relocated to 501 Halifax Street, Emporia, Virginia where it owns property and is now advancing with plans to build a new edifice. Its' been 28 years since that cold, chilly night at the Ephesus Church when Emporia was just an idea! I was there. I saw it all happen. I felt the joy, experienced the disappointment and endured the pain! But most of all, I witnessed the victory! I affirm this account to be true, and with all my heart, I honor, praise and thank God, who would not let us fail!

**CALVARY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1200 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport News, VA 23607*

In the early 1900's, a Caucasian male came to this area and presented the Adventist message. The message was accepted by several individuals, and a company was formed. After meeting in several homes, the converts decided to build a church and in 1910, 1222 30th Street became their new church location. They were named "Seventh-day Adventist Church No. 2" because there was another Seventh-day Adventist Church in the area.

Ministers who were influential in the progress of the church over the past 107 years were: Pastor J. B. Mallory, Pastor S. Barbour, Pastor Monroe Burgess, Pastor W. H. Sebastian, Pastor Alan Anderson, Pastor Jethro Lester, Pastor R. Preston, Pastor J. E. Farrow, Pastor J. Wagner, Jr., Pastor James Thomas, Pastor W. C. Scales, Sr., Pastor W. C. Scales, Jr., Pastor Leonard Newton, Pastor Auldwin Humphrey, Pastor William Ervin, Pastor Alvin Kibble, Pastor Alonzo Wagner, Pastor Harry Cartwright, Pastor St. Clare Phipps, Pastor Gerald Wells, Pastor Stephen Richardson, Pastor Ronald Reeves, and Pastor Trevor Kinlock. As of August 2016, Pastor T. DuWayne Privette has become the leader of the flock.

Under the leadership of Pastor J. B. Mallory, a church school became a reality in the 30th Street location. In the latter part of 1930, under the leadership of Pastor Burgess, two major changes took place: the church received a new name, "Calvary," and the size of the congregation out-grew the church. The 30th Street building was sold, and the membership met temporarily in a building located at 29th Street and Oak Avenue. They later moved into the Odd Fellows Hall on 33rd Street and remained there for several years. A church school was reopened under the leadership of Pastor Anderson.

In the late 1960's, Pastor Jethro Lester, along with Sister Ethel Nell led the church in a strong building program which resulted in a new church located at 21st Street and Wickham Avenue. The building was completed in 1950, under the leadership of Pastor Preston, Sr. and opened to 46 members. When Pastor Farrow dedicated the edifice, the membership had grown to 60. Pastors John Wagner, Jr. and James Thomas saw the rolls increase to 108 in 1964.

Pastor W. C. Scales, Jr. became the pastor in 1965 and when his 1967 crusade more than doubled the membership, it was deemed necessary to purchase yet another building. This brings Calvary

## CALVARY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*1200 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport News, VA 23607*

---

to its current location, 1200 17th Street. In 1968, Pastor Newton led in the reestablishment of the Calvary Elementary School. He was followed by Pastor Humphrey, who stressed community involvement. Pastor Kibble strengthened the financial, administrative and educational aspects of the church.

The church continued growing and in April of 1981, under the pastorate of Pastor Cartwright, ground was broken to add a larger sanctuary. In July 1981, Pastor Phipps continued the awesome task of securing a loan which enabled the completion of the new sanctuary on August 12, 1983. The former sanctuary now serves as a fellowship hall and was named in memory of Jasper Godwin. Brother Godwin was physically blind, but spiritually insightful, especially when it came to giving. Pastor Phipps was also instrumental in establishing the Mount Calvary SDA Church in Williamsburg.

The growth of Calvary continued flourishing as Pastor Gerald Wells took the helm in August of 1986. Pastor Wells was responsible for refurbishing and renovating the original building and the installation of the official Seventh-day Adventist sign which sits on the corner of Chestnut Avenue and 16th Street. It was on November 21, 1992 during his tenure that the official mortgage burning and dedication took place.

Pastor Stephen Richardson came to Calvary in 1994 and continued preaching the Word with clarity and exegesis. He ordained Ethel Lee as the first female elder. When Pastor Richardson left to pursue an advanced degree, he was followed by Pastor Ronald Reeves who introduced praise and worship teams. His wife Dena was instrumental in forming "Hands of Worship," a singing group. Pastor Reeves led the first mission group to Africa. He, along with the Virginia Area Ministerium, were successful in planting a new church, New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hampton, VA. Pastor Reeves also led the church in purchasing property surrounding the church.

In 2005, Pastor Trevor Kinlock came to Calvary with a penchant for saving souls, the well-being of youth and for the community welfare. He established CROP (Calvary's Rite of Passage), a program designed to inspire young men to become men of integrity. His wife, Carleen, organized a similar program for young women called NEB (New Earth Beauties). He continued the property expansion project, expanded the work of our community service ministry, worked along with other area churches to plant Coastal Shores SDA Company in Virginia Beach. Under his leadership, Calvary adopted children in the orphanage in Tanzania and provided contributions to World Global Missions. It was in March 2010, Pastor Kinlock led the church in celebrating the centennial celebration.

Pastor T. DuWayne Privette, presently the current pastor of Calvary, along with his family have hit the ground running. He is already known for his thought-provoking sermons. In the short time that he has been here, he has encouraged and used technology in our worship services and other church activities and has greatly enhanced our outreach through YouTube and social media. He has expanded 'Praise and Worship' throughout all services. Pastor Privette has also led the church in securing two buses in just seven months. We praise God as we look forward to coming events.

**CALVARY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1200 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport News, VA 23607*

---

Throughout the years of Calvary's existence, the transition from one pastor to another often takes time. God has truly blessed Calvary with spiritual dedication and competent and capable leaders who bridged those gaps. We thank God for giving them the ability to continue His work.

Calvary Seventh-day Adventist Church will continue "Celebrating Our Past, Serving Our Community, Awaiting Our Lord." To God Be the Glory for The Great Things That He Has Done!

**CAMPOSTELLA HEIGHTS CHURCH***1006 Oakwood Street, Norfolk, VA 23523-2330*

It was in the early 1900's, approximately 1917, when a group of about ten persons formed their first church in Norfolk, Virginia. The homes of this small group served as meeting places. Service to God and man characterized this group as they flooded Norfolk with religious literature, held open-air evangelistic meetings, prayed and studied the Bible with hundreds of families and visited from house to house.

The corner of Calvert Street (now Virginia Beach Blvd.) and Maltby Avenue holds great memories for the survivors of that first company. A meeting hall was purchased on that site and used as a church. Christian Education was also provided there. In 1932, the meeting hall was torn down, and a church was erected on the same site. Bethel S.D.A. Church was dedicated in 1933 under the pastoral of Elder Burgess. Because of a redevelopment program, we were compelled to vacate this vicinity. A building program was started in 1954 under the pastorate of Elder J. H. Farrow. It was during Elder Wagoner's term that a new site on Corprew Avenue was purchased for a church building and a school. We went into our new school building in 1958.

Our membership continued to increase. Cramped conditions and a change in the city ordinances compelled us to vacate this building. Under the leadership of James Thomas and through the untiring efforts of Sister Ada Peele; our Building Fund Chairperson, negotiations began for the purchase of our edifice at 1006 Oakwood Street. In 1965, our move from the school building to the present structure was made possible under the pastorate of Elder W. C. Scales, Jr. and his father, Elder W. C. Scales, Sr., our Bible Instructor. A change to a new building also called for a change of our original name from Bethel S.D.A. Church to Campostella Heights S.D.A. Church.

Our church school continued to thrive and during our first year at Campostella Heights emerged our first graduating class—Beverly Garris, Cheryl Dixon, Matthew Corley, III, Carlton Hopkins and Martin Scarborough. Our church has always been blessed with children, but it might interest you to learn that Gordon Davis was the first baby born to Campostella Heights. Patrick Holley and Suzanne Guilford were the first babies to be blessed. The first to be wed at Campostella were Wayne and Gwendolyn McGill.

## CAMPOSTELLA HEIGHTS CHURCH

*1006 Oakwood Street, Norfolk, VA 23523-2330*

---

The baptistry was installed during Elder Brewer's pastorate. Under the leadership of Pastor W. C. Scales, Jr. and W. C. Scales, Sr. we conducted our first radio broadcast and television appearance. During Elder Louis Preston's pastorate, television appearances were made, and a regular weekly radio broadcast was instituted. The radio broadcast continued until 2015. Elder James Clements conducted our first Revelation Seminar and under Pastor Oliver Cheatham, we witnessed the burning of the church mortgage. Pastor Byron Hill started our Prison ministry program, which is still active today.

Under Elder Colin Brathwaite, we began a new "Building Program." In 1996, Pastor Thornton led the church in adopting the nearby community of Oakleaf Forrest. In this community, we held health fairs which included blood pressure checks, a community Sabbath School, cooking classes, and Bible studies. The church continued to grow rapidly under Pastor Thornton's leadership. Pastor Banks saw the vision for a larger sanctuary and in January 2007, a new sanctuary was dedicated. In 2008, Elder Michael Edwards became our pastor. One hundred years later, we continue to make great strides in our Christian experiences. In 2017, we started a vibrant community services program ministry where more than 100 families receive food weekly. We also have a strong Seniors program. The church has passed out hundreds of pieces of literature telling of God's love, mercy and His soon coming. We also have a prayer band that meets weekly, health ministry, personal ministries, music ministry, women and youth ministry, and Bible studies. Our Pathfinder club drum core won first place at the 2015 Osh Kosh camporee competition in Vale, Colorado. Currently we are holding weekly Bible studies at the Campostella Heights community center. As one pastor coined our congregation, "There is no place like Campostella Heights."

**CAPERNAUM SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***314 York Street, Suffolk, VA 23434-5443*

In August of 1978, an evangelistic campaign was conducted in the City of Suffolk by former Pastor W.C. Scales, Sr., then conference President W. Palmer, Pastor D. McCotry and Bible workers in the area of whom was our own Sr. E. Nelson, Sr. E. Williams of Portsmouth, just to name a few. Conducted in the City of Suffolk at the Suffolk High School, it concluded with the baptism of twenty-one (21) precious souls. These converts were soon organized into a company along with members of the Prentis Park SDA Church in Portsmouth who lived in Suffolk and met in the homes of members to worship.

The charter members were Elders and Mrs. Scales, Sr., Robert and Lillie Bonner, Horace and Mattie Sawyer, Quay Sawyer, Shirley Warren, Pamela Midgett, Evelena Britt, Edward, Lizzie, Sara, Dianne, Virginia, Edward and Mary Burrus, Lewis and Nancy Chamblee Jr., George and Sarah Bynum, George Basemore, Deborah Clemons, Elmira Stallings, Maurice Wiggins, Brenda Clemmons, Laura Mann, Dorothy Powell, Cfroney Sawyer, James Reid and Jacquelyn Harrison.

The Lord blessed miraculously in the early months of the year 1979, as the small company of believers raised \$6000.00 to pay down the present church edifice and adjoining parsonage which was sold to us for the sum of \$28,000.00. The company organized into a church with forty- four (44) members.

The early months of the year brought about pastoral change. Pastor W. Cartwright succeeded Pastor Scales, Sr. and served as minister for approximately six months. A call to pastor in Newport News, VA left us without a pastor for a few months as Pastor Cartwright accepted the call.

In June of 1982, Pastor Brathwaite came to serve us. He will always be remembered for the Revelation Seminar which he conducted that drew the largest number of interest that this church has ever had in an evangelistic outreach in this city for Adventists to date. Pastor Brathwaite served us for six years.

The Allegheny East Conference decided to redistrict the Tidewater area in December of 1988 and sent us Pastor Maurice Taylor to pastor both Franklin and Suffolk as a new district. Pastors that followed have included George E. Thornton, Sr.; Melvin L. Greene; William Linthicum, Michael W. Dyson; Rudyard Lord and our current pastor George Howard.



**CEDARS OF LEBANON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1977 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA 23323-6689*

Cedars of Lebanon Seventh-day Adventist Church (SDA), the first Allegheny East Conference Church in Chesapeake, Virginia was established by a group of members from the Campostella Heights SDA Church, under the leadership of Joshua Broomfield, then the pastor of Prentis Park SDA Church in Portsmouth, Virginia. Although the leadership at Campostella Heights did not feel that it could support a new church in Chesapeake, Virginia, this group joined with Pastor Broomfield who had a vision for an Adventist Church in Chesapeake.

The visionary Joshua Broomfield, along with the group from Campostella Heights, called us together to pick a name of this first SDA church in Chesapeake, VA. The group chose Cedars of Lebanon SDA Church (Cedars);

This group met on a regular basis to discuss potential places to worship, strategies for evangelizing and methods for populating Cedars as well as finances. During these discussions, Doctors Adolph and Delores Flowers were impressed to purchase 6.5 acres of land located at 1977 Cedar Rd., the location of our permanent church after having rented the Canaan Baptist Church for about one year and Cedars Roads Assembly of God for 17 years; they also purchased and donated the church van.

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:**

**1990** Pastor Byron Hill, Wade Satterfield, Toni Harris, and Melvin Studervant Jr. members of Campostella Heights SDA church discussed an additional church in Chesapeake, VA because of overcrowding. Pastor Hill directed them to look for land in Chesapeake with one of the parcels of land for sale located at 1977 Cedar Rd, a farm for livestock at the time. The house to the right of this property was the home of the farmer.

**1992** Pastor Joshua Broomfield introduced the idea of a SDA church in Chesapeake, VA to Rosa Satterfield while shopping in Food Lion on Cedar Rd.

**1992** Rosa Satterfield, the mother of Wade Satterfield, asked Wade to contact Pastor Broomfield because of their shared interest in starting a new church.

**CEDARS OF LEBANON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*1977 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA 23323-6689*

---

**1993** First service at Canaan Baptist Church (approximately one year, March 14, 1993).

**1993** Met for approximately 17 years at Cedar Roads Assembly of God.

**1996** Twenty-one souls were baptized into Cedars during one evangelistic effort, 14 were Caucasian.

**SEP. 2009** Moved into permanent church at 1977 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, Virginia.

**COASTAL SHORES SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***136 S. Lynnhaven Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452-7407*

Virginia Beach, Virginia is the most populated city in the entire state of Virginia. In 2013, there weren't any Allegheny East churches in Virginia Beach, VA. However, that would soon change because 10 members of Calvary SDA Church in Newport News, VA (Robert Johnson, Ken Guillaume, Beverly Guillaume, Mozart Desrosiers, Natasha Momplasis, Rolston Audain, Kristal Audain, Jude Marc, Dayanna Marc & Ingrid Williams), two members of Campostella Heights church in Norfolk VA (Todd & Swehla Hunt SDA) set out to plant a church in Virginia Beach, VA. For several months, this core group met in each other homes to build community and discuss core values, mission and vision.

In 2013, Pastor Keenan Tyler served as an Assistant Pastor for Calvary SDA Church. With the help of the mother churches and their Pastors (Trevor Kinlock and Mike Edwards), the core group and Pastor Keenan Tyler came up with the name and plans for the church plant. Then on opening day January 18th, 2014, over 300 people were in attendance. The first location that Coastal Shores met was 409 First Colonial Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23454. Then a year later, Coastal Shores moved to 136 South Lynnhaven Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

Since opening day, Coastal Shores has stayed committed to evangelism, outreach and spreading the "Three Angels Messages" of Revelation 14.

## EPHESUS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*3700 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA 23224*



The Colored work in Richmond began in 1906. From the establishment of the church in 1907, its slow start, through times of prosperity and peril it has, by God's grace, stood firm for 110 years! During this time, some of the most effective leaders of the church have served and gone on to do an even greater work after serving at the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Evangelism for Colored people began in Virginia in 1901. The first public effort in Richmond took place in 1906 led by Elders Leslie Muntz and Franklin G. Warnick. By 1907, the first meeting place for the six members was established and located on North 2nd Street and was known as the Second Seventh-day Adventist Church of Richmond (So named because it was the second Adventist Church in the area). Elder Warnick (1907-1911) served as the pastor. He was followed by Elder John B. Mallory (1912-1914). An article in the local newspaper, the Richmond Afro-American described Elder Mallory as a, "Well-informed, able speaker and singer."

Charles Kinney (1914-1916) served for two years. He was a native of Richmond and the first Black minister ordained in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was because of the segregation of his members from his ordination in 1889, that he first proposed the development of Regional Conferences. The idea was not approved until 1945.

Elder John B. Mallory returned to the pastorate at Richmond from 1917 to 1923. Under his leadership, the church moved to 6th Street. There is no record of a pastor assigned to the church from 1924 to 1925. In 1926, the small congregation became part of a district that included Newport News and Norfolk under the leadership of Elder George E. Jackson (1926-1929).

Later Elder N. J. Grant (1930-1934) reported that upon his arrival in Richmond, he found the church in a "scattered and weakened condition." However, he later reported that by 1933, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the congregation had grown from 14 to 60. It is generally believed that a conference pastor was not assigned to the church from 1934 to 1938. Nevertheless, the congregation was being led by "Elder Yearwood," possibly a lay pastor.

## EPHESUS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*3700 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA 23224*

---

The next assigned pastor was Elder Monroe Burgess (1938-1943). In the January 14, 1939 edition of the Richmond Afro-American, the church was featured as the "Church of the Week." The article stated that "With a group of loyal workers, the 'work' has moved into a well-organized church, free of debt."

There were several changes in leadership in the next few years. Elder Frederick B. Slater (1942-1945) served both the Richmond and Petersburg Churches. He later served as the Secretary of South Central Conference. Elder William R. Robinson (1945-1946) served a short period of time and later became the editor of the Message Magazine. He was followed by Elder R. L. Bradford (1946-1949), father of Elder Charles Bradford, former President of the North American Division.

The church flourished during the next few decades. In 1952, with a membership of 437, the Second Seventh-day Adventist Church moved to 2809 North Avenue, and the name was changed to Ephesus. The pastor, Elder Cleveland Tivy (1950-1955), said Ephesus was a more appropriate name because the church was second to none.

Accepting the admonition, "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord and great shall be the peace of thy children," the church founded Ephesus Junior Academy in 1955. The following year, during an evangelistic campaign, conducted by Elder George H. Rainey and assisted by the pastor Elder Furham D. Beaty (1955-1957), more than 100 people were added to the church.

Elder Louis Preston Sr. (1958-1961), also a Richmond native, was called to serve as pastor of Ephesus, in a district with two other churches, Petersburg and Crewe. He was followed by Pastor J. Milton Thomas (1961).

Pastor Ulysses S. Willis (1963-1968) expanded the focus on youth. In 1965, his Prophetic Bible classes included students from ages 8 to 80. Mrs. Willis organized the first Pathfinder group and the Servicemen's Baking Club was founded by Leola Joseph. In 1967, the Review and Herald, lauded the youth of Richmond for keeping in touch with servicemen, sending them baked goods and tracts.

Under the leadership of Elder William C. Scales Jr. (1968-1971), the church moved to its current location at 3700 Midlothian Turnpike and was purchased in January of 1970. Championed by the school principal, Milton Brown, the daycare opened. During this time of growth, the Ephesian Choir was also formed, and a successful tent effort was conducted on Richmond's West End by the father-son team of William Scales Sr. and William Scales Jr.

Elder Kenneth Bushnell (1972-1976) brought out a new dimension to the work, emphasizing both spiritual and healthy living in his evangelistic efforts. He used Adventist and non-Adventist medical doctors. Mrs. Bushnell also conducted a two-week "Living Conference" at the church.

**EPHESUS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***3700 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA 23224*

---

Pastor John Wright (1976-1980) served Ephesus with his wife, Mrs. Strannie Wright, Bible worker. Pastor James Clements Jr. (1980-1983) conducted a successful evangelistic effort on Richmond's Southside. Under the leadership of Pastor Oliver E. Cheatham (1983-1988), the church burned its mortgage and took full ownership of the church. Pastor Stephen Boyce (1988-1993) served the congregation.

Pastor Gene M. Donaldson (1993-2004) led the church into an extensive renovation and upgrade into a church complex housing a gym, school, and daycare. During the pastorate of Pastor Errol Stoddart (2004-2007), Ephesus celebrated 100 years of ministry in Richmond, Virginia.

Under the leadership of Pastor Cecil Williams (2010-2016), Fred Vaughn started the Restoration Adventist Company on Richmond's Northside. The daycare closed, but the facility was quickly rented.

Like Elder John Mallory a hundred years ago, Pastor Gene M. Donaldson returned to Ephesus March 2016 for "a new beginning."

**FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***2102 South Street, Franklin, Virginia 23851*

After worshipping in the home of one of the members for one year, the first company of S.D.A. believers worshipping in Franklin, Virginia, moved into a storefront on South Street in the city of Franklin. Following much door-to-door outreach by Bible worker, John Anderson, and others, the company grew.

In August 1984, Pastor Gene Donaldson came to pastor the company of believers. The storefront was put up for sale, with the company being given first priority for the sale. They decided that this was not what they wanted. They instituted a 10 and 10 plan (10% tithe and 10% offering). This was soon changed to a 10 and 5 plan which still exists in the church today.

At the same time, they started to search for a lot upon which to build a church. Soon after, the present lot (corner of South Street and Thomas Street) was agreed upon. After a contractor was voted on and a loan was secured through the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the lot was purchased. The newly formed church witnessed the groundbreaking for their new church building in April 1987.

During the period of April 1987 through July 1988, Pastor Gene Donaldson and the members of the church worked on many projects: construction of the building, installation of pews, baptistry, carpet, air-conditioned unit, windows and blinds. Chandeliers, tables, hymnals, a stove, refrigerator, pulpit, and a communion table were either purchased or donated. The members were able to move into their new edifice in August 1987. Evangelistic efforts were conducted by Pastor Donaldson, and souls were added to the church family.

Pastor Maurice Taylor came to pastor the congregation in August 1988. Under his leadership, the church has participated in the following projects: installation of an official S.D.A. sign, ceiling fans and cabinets, beautification of the outside of the church, including the laying of a walkway around the building, and the purchase or donation of the following: organ and stool, desk in pastor's study, TV/VCR, flags and new imprinted hymnals. The most recent project was the purchase of the land next door to the church.

**FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***2102 South Street, Franklin, Virginia 23851*

---

In October 1994, shortly after the church's seventh anniversary (seven means complete), the church family was elated to learn that the loan from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund was paid off. This was accomplished by God's help, the determination of the pastors and members, and various stewardship programs.

The church wishes that the words of Exodus 25:8 may now be realized "Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." "We've come this far by faith."

Since 1994, the following pastors who have served our church. Pastor George Thornton–1995-1998; Melvin Greene–1998-2002; William Linthicum–2002-2008; Michael Dyson - 2008-2011; and Rudyard Lord–2011-2015. Our current shepherd is Pastor George Howard who came to serve in 2016.



**MARANATHA SDA CHURCH***321 Wallace Lane, Fredericksburg, VA 22408*

In 1992, the Lord placed a vision in the heart of Pastor Norman Jackson and his wife June Jackson to start a Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Fredericksburg, Virginia area. After much prayer and guidance from the Holy Spirit, the Maranatha Church was formed in the home of Pastor Norman and June Jackson in the spring of 1992. The first Sabbath service was held at 303 Mine Road, Fredericksburg, VA. The initial church service was attended by Pastor Norman Jackson, June Jackson, Freddie Jackson, Gregory White, Shana White, and Bondara Buckner. A few weeks after the launch of the Maranatha Church, Elder Albert Zellars and his church family began worshiping with the Jackson Family in their home. After a few months of worshiping with the Maranatha Church Family, Elder Zellars and "Truth On The March Gospel Mission" closed their Culpeper location and united with the Maranatha Church.

In the fall of 1992, the Jackson Family home became too small for the growing church congregation. The members began worshiping on 321 Wallace Street in Fredericksburg, VA. At the Wallace Street location, the church began to grow and flourish under the pastoral guidance of Pastor Jackson and his team of elders.

In the late winter of 1996, Allegheny East Conference recognized the Maranatha Church as an official company. Pastor Linthicum was named as the Pastor of the Maranatha SDA Company. In the winter of 1997, Pastor Robert Lively was sent to be the pastor of the Maranatha Company. The church was formally accepted into the sisterhood of churches by the Allegheny East Conference in the year 2001.

After a few years under Pastor Lively's leadership, the Lord led Pastor Lively, Pastor Jackson, and a team of church members to search for a permanent church location. In the year 2000, the Maranatha SDA Church obtained permanent residency at 321 Wallace Lane, Fredericksburg, VA. At this location, we continue to grow and thrive, under the leadership of Pastor, Dr. Roland J. Hill, who has been serving as pastor since March 2015.

**MARANATHA SDA CHURCH***321 Wallace Lane, Fredericksburg, VA 22408***THE CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH IN 1996 WERE:**

Alvin Evans Jr.	Gregory White	Shane White
Amanda Hagerman	Jackie Smith	Pastor Norman Jackson
Arianna Harp	Janet Pinkney	Patrick Knighton
Bondara Buckner	Joann Evans	Pricilla Harp
Bonita Freeman	June Jackson	Shana White
Callie Riley	Kristin White	Sharen Smithers
D. J. Pinkney	Kristina Johnson	Shirley Lewis and Family
Dominique Harp	Lawrence Cheeks	Tamara Morris
Elder Albert Zellars	Lorecia Williams	Tamora Carter
Elder Alvin Evans	Mary Usher	Tyler Riley
Elder Henry Robinson	Maxine Zellars	Vickie Knighton
Elder Maurice Riley	Michelle Stuart	Wilfred Usher
Frank Simon Jr.	Mildred Williams	William Hagerman III
Freddie Jackson	Nelda Hagerman	William Hagerman Jr.

**MT. CALVARY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***P.O. Box 566, 200 Railroad St., Williamsburg, VA 23185*

Historical Williamsburg is blessed to have the Mt. Calvary SDA Church in its city. There were five charter members that decided to birth a church in this historical city. Sister Helen Williams took the lead in this venture. After the retirement of her husband, they moved back to their home of Williamsburg from Newport News. Sister Williams had been a faithful member of the Calvary Church in Newport News, and the travels caused her to ponder a church in Williamsburg.

The dream had started – Pastor Alonzo S. Wagner, pastor of the Newport News Calvary Church, began holding studies in the Williams' home until he was transferred to another assignment. Shortly after, the AEC sent Pastor W. C. Scales, Sr. to Virginia to serve as a Field Evangelist for the state, with Richmond as his headquarters. Joined by Tim Lewis, they flooded the area with the Real Truth Bible cards. As the weekly classes grew, and St. Clare Phipps was newly assigned to the Calvary Church in Newport News, these two men agreed to organize a small group named Mt. Calvary in Williamsburg. There was a crusade conducted at the Elks Lodge that led to eight people joining this newly formed company named Mt. Calvary. With six letters of transfer and these eight new members, Mt. Calvary was established, never to look back.

On August 1983, the congregation moved into a representative edifice. It was refurbished by its members and friends from surrounding churches. And in January of 1988, we were blessed to make our final mortgage payment and have the burning of our mortgage on May 14, 1988. To God be the glory.

**THE FOLLOWING WERE PASTORS OF OUR CHURCH:**

Pastor W. C. Scales and St. Clare Phipps

Dr. Gene Donaldson

Pastor Michael Edwards

Pastor Robert Lively

Pastor Gary Adams

Pastor Rudy Lord

Pastor Eric Hatcher

Pastor James Watkins

**NEW HOPE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***P.O. Box 335, Tappahannock, VA 23115*

During the fall of 1987, a Revelation Seminar was prayed over and started by Elder Richard and Delilah Vandiver with family and friends of the community. The thirst for biblical knowledge from those attending made it obvious that the Lord had blessed these studies. This also made it clear that a new church in the area was needed.

The formation was called New Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church. Elders Vandiver and Perry Wormley were ordained as local Elders by the Allegheny East Conference. The formation was now a company with Travis Ruffin selected as Deacon (now deceased), Shelia Wormley, Treasurer (now deceased), and Mary Alice, Taylor clerk (now deceased), and Delilah Vandiver Personal Ministries.

A location was needed for the new congregation and the Company found and rented a building that was called "The Chicken Coop." For 12 years, we worshipped there. As the Company grew in membership, we also started a building fund for the purchase of a more modern building under the spiritual leadership of Pastor Gary Adams.

On July 10, 1999, the Company was voted to become a Church. New Hope had arrived.

**OUR PASTORS OVER THE YEARS WERE:**

Pastor Gene Donaldson	1987 - 1992
Pastor Michal Edwards	1992 - 1996
Pastor Robert Lively	1996 - 1998
Pastor Gary Adams	1998 - 2006
Pastor Rudyard Lord	2006 - 2010
Pastor Eric Hatcher	2010 - 2014
Pastor James Watkins	2014 - Present

Thank God for these God sent Pastors to the New Hope Seventh-day Adventist with the gifts each brought to us. Many have come and gone, but one thing is certain "all who pass through the doors of New Hope take with them a deeper knowledge of God's Word and a feeling of fellowship."

**NEW LIFE SDA CHURCH***1808 Shell Road, Hampton, Virginia 23661-2444*

"We've come this far by faith" is the title of a well-known and often sung hymn that has encouraged the hearts of believers for many years. This song acknowledges the works of Christ Jesus in the life of a true believer. How fitting then for our church to select "This Far by Faith" as the theme for our church theme. "This Far by Faith" is a public acknowledgement that this church did not get here on its own...but only by God's Grace and Mercy are we able to look back over the past 16 years to see how far He has brought us.

New Life's journey started in 2000, under the leadership of Allegheny East Conference's President Alvin Kibble, and then Secretary, Charles Cheatham. Their vision was to plant a church in the City of Hampton VA. They enlisted the aid of "The Real Truth Evangelist" team under the leadership of Elder W. C. Scales and Evangelist Timothy Lewis to conduct a "Seeking the lost" crusade in the Hampton Roads cities of Hampton and Newport News. Within a few short weeks, realizing that the crusade would be a success, the conference appointed Pastor James Watkins to lead this new "babe." In May 2000, the church was started with 74 new baptisms. With no name, and no place to call home, these precious souls stepped out on faith, and the Lord worked miracle after miracle on their behalf. To help lead this new flock, a small cadre of faithful stewards were selected to help get this new babe on its feet. The charter members were: Elder Fred and Carolyn Rattliff, Charles and Linda Ridley, from Calvary SDA in Newport News, VA; Kenneth Shackelford, and Elder James Milton from Mt. Calvary in Williamsburg, VA. Over the next six years, the Lord challenged us spiritually, increased our faith and blessed us with a growing membership and a church home. In the Spring of 2006, after six years of dedicated leadership, Pastor Watkins was reassigned to another part of God's vineyard, leaving big shoes to fill.

Once again, the Lord demonstrated His Grace and Mercy to New Life. In May 2006, Pastor Lisa Smith-Reid was assigned to lead our church. Under her outstanding leadership for the next seven years, New Life continued to live out its mission statement to Reach outward, inward and upward to serve our God, our community, and our fellow man. The church conducted seminars, evangelistic meetings and small group meetings throughout the community. A number of programs such as the Wednesday Food Program and Bible study, Back-to-school block parties and Vacation Bible School were started and continue to enhance the church's influence within the community. In March 2013, Pastor Reid was reassigned. In December 2013, Pastor Meade Adams was assigned as our under-

**NEW LIFE SDA CHURCH**

*1808 Shell Road, Hampton, Virginia 23661-2444*

---

Sheppard. Over the next three years, Pastor Adams focus was to “Develop Disciples for Jesus.” As part of the churches outreach ministry concentrated on reaching the un-churched and under-served; he conducted in-house training on how to properly interpret the scripture. In November 2016, Pastor Adams followed his calling to become a Chaplain in the US Air Force.

As of February 2017, the church is awaiting assignment of a new pastor. Under the dedicated leadership of our Elders, New Life has continued to be a light in our community. Over the past 16 years, we have experienced many ups and downs, good times and bad, hardships and joy, but through it all, Jesus has led us all the way. As we prepare to celebrate our 17<sup>th</sup> year in May 2017, we are ever mindful that this is not the end of our journey, but just a mile post along the way, and we are continually preparing to make Heaven our home.

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA (NOVA) KOREAN SDA CHURCH

*10331 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030*



The NOVA Korean Church held its very first church service at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (also known as TJ), located 6560 Braddock Road Alexandria, VA 22312 on September 7, 2002. The members at the time, were a total of 53 people, including few families that registered as the founding members of the church and visitors from the surrounding cities who traveled to celebrate the occasion.

Pastor Won Hoi Koo, senior pastor, who had served seven years at Virginia Korean SDA Church worshiped at Vienna SDA Academy in Vienna. He noticed that there was only one Korean SDA church serving 70 to 80,000 Koreans living in the northern Virginia area, and this became a burden in his heart. The Virginia Korean Church was going to move to a newly purchased property in Manassas. The area of Fairfax County was soon to be without any Korean SDA Church. As a result, he received much encouragement and prayer from his supporters in the church who shared his vision.

With much support from Allegheny Conference, possible church locations were explored in the northern Virginia area. Annandale was chosen because of the high Korean population and Korean owned businesses, meeting the stated goal of reaching out to other Koreans. A music room, two classrooms, and cafeteria in Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology became the first NOVA Korean SDA Church sanctuary in August 2002. Required supplies were procured, a bank account was established by Miki Doyle (Church Treasurer), and the first Friday evening Sabbath service was held at Deacon Alvin Kim's house on September 6, 2002, under the name of NOVA Korean SDA Mission, establishing itself as another body of church in the northern Virginia area to serve Koreans and the Korean community. During ten years from September 2002 to September 2013, Dr. Jerry Lee's house was used for every Friday evening Bible study and prayer. His house was located nearby the TJ High School. The church's name NOVA (Northern Virginia) was suggested by Deacon Jerry K. Lee and accepted by the church members. Its name means both Northern Virginia and Nova (new star/new light house of God).

### CHRONOLOGY OF NOVA KOREAN SDA CHURCH

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2002:** First church service at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology with total of 53 attendees including guests.

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA (NOVA) KOREAN SDA CHURCH***10331 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030***The original mission members were 31 (adults 19, children 12) as follows:**

Won Hoi Koo (Pastor), Henry Kim (First Elder, Church Clerk), Miki Doyle (Deaconess, treasurer), Jerry K. Lee (Deacon, Health Evangelism Director), Alvin Kim (Head Deacon, Church Building Manager), Debbie Kirkland (Deaconess, Head Deaconess), Kyoung Yeol Shin (Deaconess, Church Bulletin), Young Ho Lim (Deacon, Literature Ministry Director) Johnny Turpen (Youth Director), In Joo Baik (Deaconess, Pianist), Ja Eun koo (Assistant Pianist), Won Dae Yi (Deacon), Hwa Sun Yim (Deaconess), Ki Soon Nam (Deaconess), Mihwa Button (Deaconess), Young Ahn Jin (Deaconess), Hyo Soon Turpen, Myung Chul Shin, Mi Soon Koo, Michael Inkyu Kim, Daniel Joonkyu Kim, Albert Kang Ho Lee, Jason Button, Jerry Button, Kyung Bo Turpen, Kyung Hwan Turpen, Scott Doyle, Boram Lim, Boeun Lim, Jaehwan Lim.

**JULY 2, 2005:** Church moved to Edgar Allen Poe Middle School, located at 7000 Cindy Lane, Annandale, VA 22003.

**FEBRUARY 2009:** Children's worship was operated independently by Hyereon Shin and other children leaders.

**MAY 2011:** From NOVA Korean Mission to NOVA Korean SDA Church.

**MAY 2011:** The church status was voted from Allegheny East Conference Executive Committee and August 13, 2011 celebrating church status was done. The celebration was held by the visit of Elder Cheatham from facilitated the celebration and 145 people including 50 visitors from surrounding cities. Total Sabbath School members were 103, including 46 baptized members.

**THE OFFICER LIST IS AS FOLLOWS:**

Won Hoi Koo (Senior Pastor), Sean Myers (Youth Pastor), Henry Kim (First Church Elder, Clerk), Rae Song Park (Church Elder), Burtrand I. Lee (Church Elder), Eun Joo Park (Associate Church Clerk), Miki Doyle (Treasurer), Alvin Kim (Head Deacon), So Sim Dick (Head Deaconess), Rae Song Park (Sabbath School superintendent), Sangmee Richardson (Associate Sabbath School Superintendent), Ok Young Joo (Associate Sabbath School Superintendent), Sonmi Finley (Associate Sabbath School Superintendent), Soon Ja Cha (Associate Sabbath School Superintendent), Suk Joon Kim (Associate Youth Director), Miki Doyle (Assistant Youth Director), Ok Young Joo (Children Co-director), Sangmee Richardson (Children Co-director), Veronica Myers (Children Co-director), Chino Kim (Choir Leader), Jae Hoon Kim (Associate Choir Leader), Mihwa Button (Choir Secretary), Hye Reon Shin (Pianist), Ok Young Joo (Associate Pianist), Mihwa Button (Associate Pianist), So Sim Dick (Women's Ministry Director, Community Service Director), Soon Ja Cha (Associate Community Service Director), Jerry K. Lee (Health Ministry Director), Chino Kim (Associate Health Director), Ok Young Joo (Health Ministry Secretary), Kyung Jae Lee (Media Ministry Director).



## NORTHERN VIRGINIA (NOVA) KOREAN SDA CHURCH

*10331 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030*

---

**AUGUST 21, 2013:** Purchased office spaces to be served as sanctuary, located at 10331 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030. Dr. Sungtae Kim (Deacon), with other volunteers worked hard for acquiring church building and renovation process.

**AUGUST 2, 2014:** Held the first church service at the new location after completing the renovation inside and required paperwork to comply with city laws. The total attendees on this blessed occasion were 105 people including 46 baptized members.

### CHURCH OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Around 10 years of SAT Test Prep Class (mainly Mathematics and English) from winter of 2002: It was held at Deacon Jerry Lee's house every Saturday evening. Two teachers were Dr. Kyung Yeol Shin (Deaconess/PhD in Statistics) and her friend doctor Claire.

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TRAINING FROM JULY 2007:** It was suggested by Henry Kim (Church Elder) and operated by Henry Kim and his son Chino Kim (Deacon) who was talented in music. The primary purpose of the training was to teach the church members on different musical instruments in order that the talent could be utilized in uplifting the spirits of those who are living in nursing homes and who are those sick in mind and body. The team, composed of 4 to 6 people, regularly visits nursing homes located in the northern Virginia and Maryland. Other Korean churches took a note of the effectiveness of the program and have begun implementing similar programs at their own churches.

**NOVA COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR FROM SEPTEMBER 2009:** It was suggested by Deaconess Ki Soon Nam who was the mother of Dr. Chino Kim, and it was operated by Dr. Jerry K. Lee, Dr. Chino Kim, Dr. Sungtae Kim, Dr. Soon Duck Kwon, Sangmee Richardson (Nurse Practitioner), and other church members. To maximize the talent of the church members who are in the medical profession, the church began serving sick people around the Washington-Metro area. The services included covering basic blood tests, diabetes screenings, cholesterol checks, hepatitis B checks and others. Service started being provided every last week of the Sabbath day from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM and is still now open to everyone. Based on the results of the blood tests, further consultations are provided, if required. In 2016, a total of more than 150 people, including Hispanics, were served through the program.

### CEREMONIES FOR BAPTISM AND ORDINATIONS

In February 14, 2004, the first baptismal ceremony was held. Kyungbo and Kyunghwan Turpen were baptized.

In June 18, 2005, Song Ran Lee (Alice) was baptized.

In September 22, 2007, Scott Doyle was baptized.

In October 4, 2008, Timothy Sol, Young Hee Kim, and Daniel Lee Wu were baptized.

In May 16, 2009, Fu Ran Lee was baptized.

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA (NOVA) KOREAN SDA CHURCH

*10331 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030*

---

In May 29, 2010, Hee J. Jung was baptized.

In December 11, 2010, Byong Suh Min and Byong Kwon Min were baptized.

In July 13, 2013, Suegee Elena Gomez was baptized.

In June 18, 2016, three adolescents Lauren Lee, Erica Shin, and Kristina Serrao were baptized.

- The first ordination for Deacon and Deaconess was held June 16, 2007. Five candidates were ordained: Ying Soo Lee, Julia Kim, Joon Ja Lee, Sangmee Richardson and Johnny Turpen.
- The second ordination for deacon and deaconess was held January 11, 2011.
- Five candidates were ordained: Jae Yoon Kim, Hee J. Jung, Hyo Soon Turpen, Ok Young Joo, and Fu Ran Lee.
- The third ordination for Deacon and Deaconess was held January 14, 2017.
- Kyung Jae Lee and his wife Young Hee Kim were ordained.

### STORY OF YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Johnny Turpen was the first youth teacher, and later on to teach and prepare young people in the church for the world. The church has been providing a part time youth pastor Sean Myers (October 2002-May 2007), Pastor Edwin Morales (June 2007-June 2010), and Pastor Yoon Gil Lee (NOVA Community Health Center Coordinator) have all contributed their time, talents, and efforts for the young people in the church, with the stated aim of introducing God in the hearts of young people so that they continue to walk with Christ as they transition into the world outside of the church. At the present time, Sean Myers (July 2010-Present) has accepted the responsibility of preparing the young people.

### SPIRITUAL AWAKENING OF THE CHURCH

Realizing that the growth of the church lies with the spiritual health of the church members, several small group meetings were formed based on geographical locations (different neighborhoods) and have been in operation since 2016. The groups' emphasis is on reading/studying the Bible, reading the Spirit of Prophecy books, and praying to strengthen his/her relationship with God and to encourage each other in Christ through fellowship outside of the regular church service.

### NAMES OF DECEASED MEMBERS

Since September 7, 2002, the five charter members passed away. The names are as follow: Won Dae Yi, Ki Soon Nam, Young Ahn Jin, Myung Chul Shin and Kyung Ja Park.

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA (NOVA) KOREAN SDA CHURCH

*10331 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030*

---

### NUMBER OF BABIES BORN IN NOVA CHURCH

Nineteen children were born in our church since church started. Currently (March 2017) church membership consists of the following:

**LEADERS:** Won Hoi Koo (Pastor), Sean Myers (Youth Pastor), In Sung Lee (First Elder), Jerry K. Lee (Head Deacon), Joon Ja Lee (Head Deaconess), Miki Doyle (Church Treasurer), Young Ran Um (Sabbath School Superintendent), Chino Kim (Children Director), et al.

**CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS:** 14 (includes the names listed above)

**REGULAR MEMBERS (BAPTIZED):** 59

### THE CHURCH'S VISION AND ITS GOAL IS LARGE

The church, whether it desires or not, is being affected by the changes affecting the world. In response, the church has accepted the challenge and expanded its efforts in reaching out to people other than "Koreans." In the congregation are several non-Korean speaking congregants who are regular members of the church.

Unlike its small size, the church vision and its goal is large. That goal is to preach Jesus' message that the "Kingdom of Heaven is near." The church firmly believes that the fulfillment of the message has to happen in the lives of each church member so that the formation of the individual cell groups are critical in achieving the goal.

**PENUEL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***11282 Mount Zion Church Road, Brandy Station, VA 22714-1815*

Elder Albert Zellars, a dedicated layman, always had a zeal for spreading the Everlasting Gospel. Elder Zellars was a member of the DuPont Park SDA Church in SE Washington DC, where Elder John C. Smith was the pastor. One of the members of Dupont Park Church, sister Johnnye Thomas asked Elder Zellars to go with her to Brandy Station to meet a group of believers who had been part of a Seventh-day Adventist Company that had disbanded in 1975. After a time, these precious souls decided that they would get together and pray and start a new company in the Brandy Station area. They met in the home of Regina Barksdale, who lived in Brandy Station. The group continued to grow and had to be moved into the basement of Sister Carrie Williams' Rest Home. The group realized the need for organization so that the work could continue to grow. They wanted to remain a laymen group under the umbrella of the Allegheny East Conference. Sis Johnnye Thomas took the matter to Elder John C Smith. Elder Smith presented the request for the organization of this group to be continued by laymen. Elder Smith was appointed by the Allegheny East Conference to come down and organize the group into a company in April 1976.

The group desired that Elder Zellars continue to be the leader of the company. Albert Zellars was ordained as an Elder and given his credentials under the Pastorage of O. S. White, district Pastor of the Rocky Mountain and Wilson NC Diocese, South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

After the Company was organized in Brandy Station in 1976, they decided on a name. PENUEL became our name, taken from Genesis 32:30-31, meaning "The Face of God." After worshipping for many months in the basement of Carrie Williams' home, the believers had a mind to build. Pledges were made, and monies began to flow into the building fund. Sister Regina Barksdale donated the land, and she and Sister Carrie Williams donated the bricks for the construction of the new church building. In July 1980, a dedication service was held by Elder Mead Van Putten and Elder Paul Cantrell who was appointed to serve as liaison between Penuel and the conference. The Lord prospered Penuel spiritually as well as financially. On June 20, 1987, the mortgage burning ceremony was held. We give all praises to God. Yes, God's movement is going to triumph in the end. We, at PENUEL hope to be a part of it when the "Saints Go Marching In."

**PRENTIS PARK SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***3709 Winchester Drive, Portsmouth, Virginia 23709*

The Advent message was first preached in Portsmouth, Virginia, under a tent, by Elder Sabastian in 1912. Among some of the first converts were Mrs. Caroline, two of Mrs. Caroline's daughters, Mrs. Mattie Coke and Mr. Mason. With these few souls, a church and a school were established and Miss Mary Miles, a conference worker, was the teacher. Interest grew, and many more were added to the church.

Years later, the small group united with new converts in Norfolk and established a church there. A branch Sabbath School was organized in Portsmouth and continued for a number of years.

In 1957, Elder J. H. Wagner, then pastor of the Norfolk Church, conducted evangelistic meetings in Portsmouth, and souls were won. This was the beginning of the Portsmouth Church. Its first meeting place was the Recreation Center in Douglass Park. Later, the Allegheny East Conference purchased a little church on County Street for our worship services. Our church name was Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church with Elder J. H. Wagner as our pastor.

Many souls were added to the church, and in 1965, the team with Elder W. C. Scales, Jr. held a tent effort, and God blessed us with more souls, in so much that we outgrew our little church on County Street. Our present building, which is a large brick building, is in the Prentis Park section of Portsmouth, thus, changing the name to Prentis Park Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The personal ministries team laid out plans that sent ministry teams into the community going from door to door once a month. A feeding program was established and grew to about 200 people being fed per month. It was the spring of 2009 when Armando Reid was appointed as Pastor. Under his leadership, many souls were added and once again outgrew the building. The congregation was weighing the option of adding onto the building or purchasing a new building when the Portsmouth SDA Church contacted Pastor Reid to see if Prentis Park would be interested in purchasing their church. It was an answer to our prayers, and the church received a substantial reduction in the original price for the building.

Currently, we are under the leadership of Pastor Marleena Debrough who was installed in May 2016. The church is moving upward, multigenerational, multicultural church with a current membership of 188 members and 96 "Friends of the church" who often attend.

**RESTORATION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST COMPANY***7401 Woodman Road, Richmond, VA 23228-4314*

In December 2011, a Seventh-day Adventist Branch Sabbath School/Study Group of 21 members was organized with the approval of Pastor Cecil Williams within the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church in Richmond, Virginia. We felt the need to have a church in the West End of Richmond.

21 dedicated members – Fred Vaughan, Crystal Vaughan, Kamryn Anderson, Kyra Anderson, Horace Campfield, Chanetrice Carter, Shavonte Chestnut, Beatrice Hunt, Beverly Hunt, Cleveland Hunt, Taisha Hunt, David Jackson, Diane Jackson, Carol Lynch, Amos Owen, Treina Owen, Quan Pressley, Jason Tyler, Toneisha Tyler and Lemetra Vaughan came together to spread the gospel in the West End of Richmond.

At first, we met in the church, but in November 2012, we met in a meeting room at the Quality Inn located on 801 East Parham Road. We were organized as a Mission in 2012.

Two years later, we were able to rent the Lakeside Baptist Church located on 7401 Woodman Road for our services. In April of 2014, our group was accepted as an official company of the Allegheny East Conference.

We chose the name, Ephesus West but when we were organized, we selected the name Restoration. Our first officers were Elder Fred Vaughan - Lay Pastor, Crystal Vaughan - Sabbath School Superintendent, Treina Owen, Clerk - Amos Owen - Deacon/Treasurer/Elder and Carol Lynch - Deaconess and Usher Leader.

Our in-reach ministry includes meeting folk on the West End of Richmond. We eventually added former members who had been out of the church for a number of years.

In 2014, a family that learned about the Seventh-day Adventist Church joined Restoration as a result of watching 3ABN.

We have had two evangelistic meetings. The first meeting resulted in four baptisms and one Profession of Faith. The second meeting was not as successful. Three took their stand but did not follow through with baptism. We are not discouraged because we know the Holy Spirit sowed the seed and with the help of God in due time, we will reap a harvest from the second crusade.

**RESTORATION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST COMPANY***7401 Woodman Road, Richmond, VA 23228-4314*

---

Our vision in the West End of Richmond is to minister to the children in the apartments with a Story Time Program on Sunday Mornings because we know that if we win the hearts of the children, and they are anxious to come to Story Time, the parents will come to check out the program and will be told the gospel story and give their hearts to God also.

We started with 21 people. 21 is a multiple of the perfect number seven. In fact, the multiple is the number 3, and with the help of God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit, we will be able to let our light shine in West Richmond and restore the lives of many who are looking for a better way of life and hope for the future.

**SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***291 Old CCC Road, Crewe, VA 23930*

The birth of Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church started to evolve during the 1940's when Marie Scott, a native of Crewe Virginia read a book she purchased from Charlie Ingram, a White colporteur. The book was entitled: "Bible Readings for the Home," and Marie was so deeply moved and convicted by what she learned of Jesus and His loving nature that she shared her experience with her sister, Mattie Parham.

Marie wanted to learn more about the Adventist message, but being African American she was not welcomed at the White's only Seventh-day Adventist Church in the nearby town of Blackstone. Thusly, she began holding Bible studies in her home with her five (5) children, and Mattie and her four (4) girls.

Mr. John Vasco, Literature Evangelist, for the District of Nottoway County became acquainted with Marie and Mattie and assisted them with their studies. Upon completion of the Bible course, the sisters were convicted regarding Adventism, became faithful Sabbath keepers, and began witnessing to other family members and neighbors.

Marie was baptized May 1946, and Mattie was baptized July 1946, both at Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church in Petersburg, Virginia. During the five years following, Marie and Mr. Vasco took turns holding regular Sabbath services at their homes.

Elder Paul Williams, a Local Elder at the Shiloh SDA Church in Petersburg, teamed with Elder Vasco, and as the two continued to evangelize the area, the cell began to grow.

Marie felt the need for a pastor to oversee the company of new believers and congruent to her appeals, the Allegheny Conference Executive Committee assigned Elder Paul Williams as Lay Pastor and made Crewe a part of the Richmond-Petersburg district, of which Elder Bradford was pastor.

Elder Paul Williams served as Lay Pastor for eight (8) years, leading others to become a part of the Sharon family. He held a series of Bible meetings in the Crewe-Blackstone area which resulted in the baptism of 17 additional members. Included in that group was Bertie Campbell (Marie & Mattie's mom), Nannie B. Elliott & children (a neighbor of Marie & Mattie), Sister Annie Mae Jefferson &



## SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*291 Old CCC Road, Crewe, VA 23930*

---

children, Martha Johnson & children, Sister Taylor & children, Robert & Lillie Morgan & children, Ida Robertson & children, Mary Casey & children, and Sister Gladys Jennings & children (a friend of Parham). The baptisms were conducted in 1951, at the Shiloh SDA Church, by Elder M. S. Banfield, who had succeeded Elder Bradford as district pastor.

It was during the period 1951-52, when Sharon was elevated from Company to Church status, and at that time, Elder Tivy had become the district pastor.

The church became too large to meet in houses and began holding services in a tin shed belonging to Mrs. Ethel Perkinson, one of the new members. When Elder W. L. Erwin became the district pastor for the Petersburg-Crewe area, it was then that our current church building on Old CCC Road was built. Marie and Mattie, the first two founding members were instrumental in finding the building contractor, and both sisters remained faithful until their passing (Marie 9/16/1989, and Mattie 7/24/1999). In December 1976, while Elder Samuel Boynton was district pastor, Elder Hilton Fields succeeded Elder Paul Williams as lay pastor, and he and his wife served Sharon until 1990. To the best of the writer's knowledge, the following Elders pastored the Sharon Church: Bradford; C. B. Tivy; G. I. Beatty; R. W. Newman; John Farrow; W. L. Erwin; John Damon; A. S. Wagner; Lloyd Major; Paul Williams; Hilton Fields; St. Clair Phipps; Samuel Boynton; Stephen A. Boyce; Dennis L. Waters; Gary Adams; George Thornton; Richard Reeves; Aaron Thompkins; and George Howard. Elder Adams was Sharon's first full-time pastor and served from June 3, 1989 until July 24, 1993. He was most instrumental in leading the church through major renovations; both he and his wife gave sacrificially of their financial means. Pastor George Thornton, Sr. served from March 1, 1994, to October 1995. He was succeeded by Pastor Howard who served from January 20, 2001, to April 2007, and baptized 18 souls. Our current pastor, Stanley Mayes has served Sharon since June 14, 2007 and has baptized nine members thus far. In addition to pastoring, he serves as a musician and routinely provides janitorial, yard maintenance, carpentry, plumbing, and electrical services. He and his wife have supported the church, giving significantly of their financial means even while pastoring and supporting the Emporia Church. As of February 2017, Sharon stands at 33 members, and Mrs. Gladys B. Jennings is the only original member that remains.

**SHILOH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***310 West S. Boulevard, Petersburg, VA 23805*

The summer of 1938 brought to the small city of Petersburg, VA, an event that touched many lives and will always be remembered. The first tent effort conducted by Seventh-day Adventists was held under the direction and evangelistic efforts of Elder Monroe A. Burgess with the assistance of Elders Garland Millett and Dunbar Henri and with Sister Ethel Nell as Bible Worker, held on a vacant lot on New Street. As a result of this evangelistic effort, thirty-one souls were baptized on November 19, 1938. In November of 1939, under the leadership of Elder J. W. MacNeil, the group of believers was organized into a church under the Potomac Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the sisterhood of churches. Participating in the ceremony were Elders M. A. Burgess, J. W. MacNeil, F. B. Jensen, J. E. Johnson, and Brother C. H. Kelly.

The church was initially named Emanuel SDA Church and was later changed to Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church. The first place of worship was Harding Street Recreation Center Auditorium, where the members met, until they purchased their first building on Wesley Street, at the corner of Federal Street, a site now occupied by Peabody Junior High School (originally Peabody High School). Elder M. A. Burgess served as pastor from 1938 to 1942, followed by Elder Slater from 1942 to 1944. Elder W. R. Robinson pastored Shiloh for only a short time, 1944-1945, leaving Petersburg to join the newly organized Allegheny Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He was replaced by Elder Charles Bradford, who pastored from 1946 to 1951.

As the church began to outgrow the Wesley Street location, the members purchased a larger site that was the former Olde Tymes Florist Building located on New Street. At the new location, tent efforts were held on the lawn by Elders Bradford, Tivy and Beatty, continuing to increase the congregation. Elder Cleveland Tivy was pastor from 1953 through 1956, and it was during his pastorate that the church voted to purchase the former Mt. Olivet Church on Gill Street, a large building with a balcony and classrooms. Elder Tivy was followed by Elder Furman Beatty from 1956 to 1958. Pastors following Elder Beatty were Roland Newman (1958-1960), and John E. Farrow (1960-1963). Both pastors held tent efforts in Petersburg leading to significant church growth. Elder William L. Ervin followed and pastored from 1964 to 1968. He held three tent efforts located on key sites in the city, Federal, Halifax, and Jones Streets, and with each effort, our congregation grew. Additionally, under his leadership, Shiloh realized the importance of Christian education and the first church school was opened with two teachers, Sister Draggan and Sister Ennis.

## SHILOH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*310 West S. Boulevard, Petersburg, VA 23805*

---

After Elder Ervin, Elder John Damon served as pastor from 1968 to 1970. He was devoted to the youth of the church, giving many plays and concerts, along with his wife Nancy, with the two most notable being, the concert, "The Seven Last Words", with participants from (then known as) Virginia State College and the community, and the play, God's Trombone, with church members of all ages and members of the community as participants. Also, during his pastorate, Shiloh was known for its talented basketball team within the Virginia Area League.

Elder A. S. Wagner II pastored from 1970 to 1977. Under his leadership, we were familiarized with many of the great church leaders from the General, Union, and Local Conferences with notable guest speakers frequenting our pulpit. It was also during his pastorate that the church voted to purchase a new building and relocated to 935 W. Washington St. in January of 1971. Elder Wagner was followed by Elder Samuel Boynton who came to us in 1977 and served as our pastor until December 10, 1980. During his tenure, he conducted a very successful tent effort, and we were blessed to burn our church mortgage. Elder Lloyd Major succeeded Elder Boynton in 1981 and continued programs previously initiated and held Sunday night evangelistic meetings. On February 16, 1984, Elder Stephen A. Boyce came to Shiloh replacing Pastor Major. Under his leadership, the church was remodeled, four rental homes were purchased, a separate building was provided for a Community Services Center, and Shiloh celebrated its 50th Anniversary April 29th – May 1st, 1988. Pastors following Elder Boyce included Pastor Dennis Waters from 1989 to 1994. Pastor Waters held two successful tent efforts in the city of Petersburg on the corner of Lee Avenue and South Street filling the pews of Shiloh with young families. His wife, Hattie, formed a children's choir with more than seventy children from the church and the community and performed locally and as far away as N.C. Following Pastor Waters was Pastor Aaron Thompkins from 1995 to 1999. Pastor Thompkins held a successful tent effort in the parking lot of the church and also formed a choir. Pastor St. Claire Phipps pastored Shiloh from 2000 to 2002 and held several "In-House" Evangelistic meetings. Pastor Gary Adams and his wife Dr. Darla Adams were spiritual, medical, and financial blessings for Shiloh from 2002 to 2010. Pastor Adams held several evangelistic meetings and seminars leading to the spiritual enrichment and growth of Shiloh. Pastor George Howard followed Pastor Adams from 2010 to July of 2016. Under his leadership, Shiloh relocated from 935 Washington St. to its current location at 310 W. South Blvd. in Petersburg. The new worship center has a main sanctuary, chapel, and a lower division with a fellowship hall and multiple classrooms as well as a church store. Additionally, while pastoring, the main sanctuary was remodeled to include new carpet and matching seat cushions on the pews as well as improving our media capacity by installing monitors in the main sanctuary (4), chapel, and the fellowship hall. Pastor Howard also held several "In-House" Evangelistic meetings, some of which focused largely on health, a ministry greatly supported by Pastor Howard, among others, to include Pathfinders.

**SHILOH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***310 West S. Boulevard, Petersburg, VA 23805*

---

We would be remiss if we did not mention Elder Paul E. Williams, who, through several outreach evangelistic efforts, his timely sacrifices and dedication, resulted in the organization of the Sharon S.D.A. Church in Crewe, VA. in 1952. Shiloh is proud to be the mother church. The chapel at Shiloh was recently dedicated in honor and memory of Elder Paul Williams and his evangelism in the Petersburg area.

We would also like to express gratitude for our Bible workers; Ethel Nell, Alice K. Ruffin, Gertrude Burgess, and Edwina Williams.

May God continue to shed His grace upon the Shiloh S.D.A. Church as we continue to march onward, forward, and upward to make heaven our home.

# WASHINGTON, DC METROPOLITAN AREA

## CHURCH

Beacon Light Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
 Bethanie Haitian Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Bladensburg Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Breath-of-Life Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Capitol Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Columbia Community Center of Seventh-day Adventists  
 Dupont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Emmanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Emmanuel-Brinklow Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Emmanuel Worship Center SDA Church  
 First Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Fourth Street Friendship  
 Glenridge Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Horeb Haitian Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Maranatha Adventist Fellowship  
 Maryland Central Korean Adventist Church  
 Metropolitan SDA Church  
 Mitchellville SDA Church  
 New Hope Community SDA Church  
 New Joy Fellowship SDA Church  
 New LIFE SDA Church  
 Oxon Hill Filipino-American SDA Mission  
 Pisgah Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Reaching Hearts International SDA Church  
 Remnant Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Serenity Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 United Telegu Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Virginia Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Lighthouse Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship  
 Filipino-American Oxon Hill SDA Church

## CITY

Annapolis, MD 246  
 Columbia, MD 247  
 Bowie, MD 249  
 Fort Washington, MD 253  
 Washington, D.C. 256  
 Columbia, MD 258  
 Washington, D.C. 259  
 St. Leonard, MD 262  
 Brinklow, MD 265  
 Alexandria, Virginia 267  
 Washington, D.C. 270  
 Washington, D.C. 273  
 District Heights, MD 274  
 Adelphi, MD 278  
 Bowie, MD 279  
 Gaithersburg, MD 281  
 Hyattsville, MD 282  
 Largo, MD 284  
 Frederick, MD 287  
 Hagerstown, MD 289  
 Gaithersburg, MD 291  
 Temple Hills, MD 292  
 St. Leonard, MD 294  
 Spencerville, MD 297  
 Silver Spring, MD 299  
 Martinsburg, WV 301  
 Silver Spring, MD 303  
 304  
 Prince Frederick, MD 306  
 Temple Hills, MD 308

## BEACON LIGHT SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

1943 Drew Street, Annapolis, MD 21401-3912



On June 11, 1957, there was a vote for a crusade in Annapolis, MD. The church organization was approved on October 10, 1957 by the Executive Committee of Allegheny Conference. The Executive Committee voted to approve a church of 27 members in the city of Annapolis on December 16, 1957, and by 1966, the church had 75 members recorded in the Conference Division Document.

Since organizing in 1957, the church has experienced numerous ups and downs. However, through it all, we have been especially blessed. After much prayer and the support of the A.E.C, the Beacon Light did finally get our very own full-time pastor, Pastor Walter L. Pearson II, who was with us until his retirement in 2016. We were then blessed with another dedicated full-time leader in Pastor Claude Harris II. Pastor Harris continues to emphasize and is devoted to the growth of our church and moving the Church in a direction to fulfill the calling of the Church in these last days. We believe GOD is calling us to be the Beacon of Light in the Maryland State Capital to bring more souls to Jesus.

During the past year, we have turned our focus outward and are focused on feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, providing programs for those in need. Specifically, we are in partnership with Fields and Fields Counseling Service. We are working to enable and empower the residents of the Newtowne 20 housing development. We have provided hundreds of food baskets to those in need, sponsored couponing classes to enable our community to make better use of their resources, hosted a weekly Narcotics Anonymous meeting, ministered in our local detention center and hold a weekly clothing giveaway. We also have an early morning prayer line that meets at 6am Monday through Friday. We pray for our church, it's ministries, our youth, friends, families and those we are having Bible studies with.

Our theme for this year at Beacon Light is that our church will be "***Bible Fed and Holy Ghost Led.***" Under the leadership of Pastor Claude Harris II, we are seeking to hasten Christ's second coming so that "heaven" becomes our eternal home real soon.

**BETHANIE HAITIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***9405 Guilford Road, Columbia, MD 21046-1911*

The story of Béthanie Haitian SDA Church of Columbia, MD is rooted in grace, resilience and dedication to service.

It all began in the summer of 1998, when the Lord brought together two unlikely partners to raise a Bible study group for those who speak French and Creole in Howard County.

Chérubin Dorcil, who graduated three years earlier from Columbia Union College's Theology program, was working toward establishing a Haitian mission group in the Baltimore-Columbia area. At the same time, many miles away, Georgina Saint-Aubin, a devoted and experienced layperson, was sharing the Adventist message with friends and neighbors from the Oakland Mills village community. Without knowing each other, they were working toward the same goal. In August 1998, God brought them together at a crusade, and they immediately joined forces in the local mission field.

Supported by a few friends and fellow Adventists who attended the Baltimore Liberty SDA Church, among whom were Neubert Philippe and Cléyanne Jean. The two pioneers held the group's first meetings in a small room at the Phelps Luck Village Center. The group would continue meeting there until the spring of 2000, and for the next 11 years almost all the meetings took place at the Oakland Mills Interfaith Center, with an emphasis on prayer, Bible training, fellowship, and outreach.

While the group began as an independent church plant, the charter members later opted to join an existing congregation and be recognized. This took place on March 11, 2000, when the Haitian Adventist Group of Columbia was formally affiliated with Horeb Haitian SDA Church of Silver Spring, MD, under the leadership of Pastor Max Emmanuel Charles.

Serving as elder over the years were: Chérubin Dorcil, Erick Charles, Jean David Cadet, and Arnel Nérette. Worthy of note is the ministry of Pastor José Michael St-Phard and Kaneil Williams, prior to the change in status. Selflessly, they helped develop a successful youth ministry during their time of service in Columbia.

**BETHANIE HAITIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***9405 Guilford Road, Columbia, MD 21046-1911*

---

God has chosen Brother Arnel Nérette to lead the group, five years ago, towards the fulfillment of the dream so cherished by its founders, that of becoming a full-fledged congregation of the Allegheny-East Conference, under the leadership of Pastor Arbentz Pierre-Antoine.

Today, with Pastor Yveniel St-Luc at the helm, Béthanie Haitian SDA Church remains very active within Howard County's Haitian community, both in evangelism and social services.

**To God alone be the glory!**



**BLADENSBURG SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1911 Lanham Severn Road, Bowie, MD 20720-4551*

The First Seventh-Day Adventist Church of Washington, DC was constantly adding new members to its congregation. First church always encouraged the members to become involved in missionary activities, and to follow the instruction given by God in Matthew 28:19, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel..." The members were also reminded of the counsel given in the inspired writing by Ellen G. White, Testimonies, Vol. 3, which states, "There is much work to be done in new fields... The work of warning souls should not be confined to ministers alone, but brethren who have the truth in their hearts, all should feel that a responsibility rests upon them to devote a part of their time to going out among their neighbors to share the Word of God.

A group of the newest First Church members took heed to the words of inspiration. Sr. Edwina D. Williams, the Bible Worker, led this young eager group into the Northeast Washington area. It was early in 1973 that the group started knocking on doors and passing out literature, seeking individuals that would be interested in Bible Studies. The response was rewarding. The Palmer family opened their home and invited the group and their neighbors in for Bible Studies. The interest grew stronger, and more attended the studies. The house became too full so the group rented a small church – The Mt. Calvary Baptist Church on Sherriff Road, Northeast Washington. Some of the students were baptized as they learned about our Savior Jesus Christ and His desire to save all sinners. After the seeds of the gospel were well saturated in the Northeast area, during the months of July and August, 1974, Elder A.R. Jones, Pastor of First Church and District Leader, along with his team conducted an evangelistic meeting. The Lord gave a good harvest, and in September, 1974, the group became a Company. Elder Jones then returned to the Mother church of the District (First Church) leaving Elder James L. Jackson, then First Elder at First Church to be the Shepherd of the little Company. Membership: 69.

As the Company continued worshiping in the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, the members were taught to give Bible Studies in the surrounding neighborhoods. The Company's membership continued to increase from the earnest effort of the believers, thus making the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church inadequate in size for the congregation.

**BLADENSBURG SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1911 Lanham Severn Road, Bowie, MD 20720-4551*

The members looked for larger dwelling quarters, and were able to use the Deanwood Baptist Church, which was just a few steps away, still in the Northeast Washington area. Programs were started to raise funds toward purchasing our own church. A search committee was sent out to look for a suitable location.

Because of the rapid growth in membership, the Conference saw the need to organize our Company into a Church. This took place on January 25, 1975. The new light in Northeast Washington, DC was now burning brightly as the command was given to the new baby – “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel.” The name given to the new babe was The Northeast Seventh-day Adventist Church .”

The Northeast Church received its first Allegheny East Pastor on January 25, 1976, in the person of Pastor William E. Hall. He served until December 31 1988. During this period, plans were made to purchase our own church building. Membership: 111.

On January 6, 1979, Pastor Victor O. Wallen came to us and served until July 31, 1982, and on February 9, 1979, we moved into our own church home located in Bladensburg, Maryland.

Pastor William A. Thompson came to minister to us from August 7, 1982 until June 23, 1990. It was during this period of time that the Northeast Seventh Day Adventist Church was renamed the Bladensburg Seventh-day Adventist Church. The church building was renovated and given a new interior look. A sign with the church’s name was placed outside. Membership: 147.

On June 30, 1991, Pastor Ronald L. Edmonds was introduced to us. At that time, the attendance for the Sabbath worship service was pushing the seams of the building to a bulging overflow each week. There was discussion of having two divine worship services on Sabbath. Membership: 212.

On May 8, 1993, Pastor Marcellus T. Robinson became our Pastor. He initiated stewardship, spiritual gifts, and leadership training seminars for church leaders/officers, and other interested members. We then had four choirs, and three musical groups. Sabbath services were being televised on monitors in two overflow areas of the church, and prayer meeting attendance generally filled the sanctuary on Wednesday night. Other highlights of Pastor Robinson’s administration included:

- The number of children attending church school doubled;
- New members were baptized every month;
- A building search team was sent out to find a suitable location for a new church home;
- The Community Services Department expanded to include giving lunches twice monthly to temporary residents at a homeless shelter in Hyattsville, MD;
- An AIDS ministry was organized to minister to the needs of AIDS patients at the Hyattsville Nursing Home;

**BLADENSBURG SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1911 Lanham Severn Road, Bowie, MD 20720-4551*

- In 1997, the building search team located a plot of land suitable for a church building;
- The LOVE FEAST Program was initiated to help newly baptized and transferred members feel welcome, comfortable, and accepted in our church;
- Personal Ministries conducted monthly street visits in the surrounding community, praying with the residents, and distributing literature and gifts;

Every Sabbath morning at 8:00am the new constructed band of Prayer Warriors met at the church for prayer, and at 5:30am on Sundays, the men of the church met at the church singing, sharing testimonies, studying the Bible, and sharing family concerns.

On November 6, 1999, Pastor Curtis B. Crider and family came to minister at the Bladensburg SDA Church. Under his leadership, monthly baptisms and Wednesday night prayer service attendance increased. Highlights of Pastor Crider's administration was:

The Bladensburg SDA Church Land Drive. More than \$50,000 was raised as a result of the efforts of our church family.

On January 3, 2003, Pastor Brenda Billingsy became our new Pastor. This was truly a new experience for the Bladensburg Church family. We found Pastor B to be a true woman of God who waits for His instruction, and acts upon it. Highlights of Pastor B's administration included:

- Financial Peace University
- Bladensburg International Day
- Special prayer for the families of Bladensburg offered on a weekly basis by Pastor B
- Special recognition of member's birthdays and anniversaries

On July 19, 2008, Pastor Noah L. Washington was installed as our new Pastor. He came to us with an energetic spirit, on fire for Jesus, and ready to move forward with the Lord's work. Some highlights of Pastor Washington 's administration include:

- A weekly study of the Book of Revelation
- Gas give-away
- Establishment of our church mission which states:

"We, the Bladensburg SDA Church, by the power of the Holy Spirit, exist to minister to the needs of people in our homes, in our church, and in the community of Bladensburg. We do this by showing people that Jesus is the solution for any situation.

**BLADENSBURG SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***1911 Lanham Severn Road, Bowie, MD 20720-4551*

---

Establishment of our core values which are as follows:

- Excellence
- Discipleship
- Prayer Corporate worship
- People Evangelism
- Our community
- Relationships
- SDA Message
- Leadership

During Pastor Washington's administration, he became ill, and it was apparent he would need some assistance. It was at this time that Pastor Moses Eli was introduced to our church. The two Pastors worked well together to run the business of the church until it was decided that Pastor Washington was strong enough to return to his normal duties.

Due to a flooding which damaged the basement of our church, we began worshipping at the Bladensburg Elementary School, and were there for more than a year. Since that time, the congregation became too large to return to our church building, and it became necessary for us to seek larger facilities. In June 2015, we moved into our new church home in Bowie, Maryland and kept our name The Bladensburg SDA Church.

On January 9, 2016, Pastor J. Melvin Janey became our new Pastor. Under his leadership:

- Sabbath School Continental Breakfasts was introduced in order to encourage a stronger Sabbath School attendance.
- Community Services grew to include a food pantry, clothing distribution, Wednesday night prepared dinners served and bread and pastries made available to members and the community.

Today, Bladensburg Church is a thriving congregation. We remain blessed as God continues to bless our congregation with opportunities to serve, lead and grow in the Bowie Community and beyond.

**BREATH-OF-LIFE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

11310 Fort Washington, MD 20744



The Breath-of-Life Seventh-day Adventist Church was established in 1978 by the Allegheny-East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. This church was formed to accommodate a group of newly baptized persons, following the conclusion of a four-week crusade that was held at the Warner Theater in Washington, DC. The year was 1978.

A second crusade was held in 1979, yielding additional members for the new congregation.

The congregation later purchased land and built a church in Fort Washington, Maryland. It officially opened the new church building in the summer of 1983.

**IN THE BEGINNING**

On November 18, 1978, some 200 persons were baptized on the last day of a four-week Evangelistic Crusade. That Crusade, held at the Warner Theater in Washington, DC, had begun on October 22, 1978. It represented the combined efforts of all the Allegheny-East Conference Seventh-day Adventist Churches in Washington, DC, suburban Virginia, suburban Maryland, and some of the many churches in Baltimore, Maryland. The featured evangelist was Elder Charles D. Brooks, speaker/director of the Breath-of-Life Telecast.

To nurture the many newly baptized members, the Conference officials established the Breath-of-Life Seventh-day Adventist Church. The new church was officially inducted into the Allegheny-East sisterhood of churches on December 9, 1978.

Ours may be described as a “mountain top” experience. We were placed under the leadership of veteran church members who knew how to lead new people. Some of our unique experiences follow:

The Conference and Crusade leaders handpicked our first set of church leaders. They selected persons they knew to be able to lead church departments.

The leaders taught us as the new people we were – people who did not know much yet. Thus we learned many “new” terms such as “ingathering,” “13th Sabbath,” “meatless,” “vegetarian,”

## BREATH-OF-LIFE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*11310 Fort Washington, MD 20744*

---

"diet and foods," "day of preparation," "potluck," "season of prayer," "camp meeting," "church school," "crusade," "Bible instructor," "Spirit of Prophecy," "sanctuary," "state of the dead," "pathfinders," "Sabbath School," "Ellen G. White," "ordinance of humility," etc.

The leaders arranged for an education professional, Dr. Mamie Lindo, to teach us, through weekly classes, how to prepare and deliver Bible lessons. From her we learned how to prepare lesson plans, how to present lessons, and how to study the Bible meaningfully.

For the first year of the new church's existence, the Conference did not allow established SDA church members to transfer their membership into the new church. Thus, during that first year, the only way to gain membership in the new church was by baptism or by special selection by Conference leaders.

The church leaders announced that every member must participate in some ministry. No member would be allowed to just sit idle. Therefore, we all selected a ministry (or two or more) in which we wanted to serve. Some chose to be ushers, others chose to be deacons, deaconesses, Sabbath School teachers, Lay Activities (Personal Ministries) members, etc. But everybody chose something.

### THE MIDDLE YEARS

A second Breath-Of-Life Crusade was held at the same theater in the year 1979. Same evangelist. Same Conference. Same everything except that, this time, the 1978 members now participated in publicizing and staffing the 1979 effort.

After the 1979 Crusade, newly baptized members were allowed to decide which church they would attend. Many, if not most, of them decided to join the Breath-Of-Life Church that was formed in 1979. Others, however, chose to affiliate with other SDA churches closer to them.

As a result of increased membership following the 1979 Crusade, we outgrew the auditorium of the Dupont Park SDA Church School we had occupied since 1978. Therefore, we sought, and found, a larger space by renting the sanctuary and classrooms of the 19th Street Baptist Church (located on 16th Street, NW, in Washington, DC) for our Sabbath School and Divine Worship services. Thus, we had Saturday services – Sabbath School and Divine Worship – at 19th Street Baptist Church, but we held all our other meetings, services, and activities at the Dupont School auditorium on Alabama Avenue, SE, in Washington, DC.

This split arrangement continued from 1979 until the time we acquired our church building. We began our search for our own church home shortly after the conclusion of the 1979 Crusade. We found land, we bought it, we built on it – and marched into our new sanctuary in Fort Washington, Maryland in the summer of 1983.

**BREATH-OF-LIFE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***11310 Fort Washington, MD 20744*

---

**POSTSCRIPT**

And, thus was founded the current Breath-of-Life SDA Church of Fort Washington, Maryland.

This historic congregation acknowledges and salutes the leadership of the following pastoral appointees:

- November 1978 – May 1979 – (Elder Luther R. Palmer, Conference President);
- May 1979 – March 1985 – Elder James Alfred Johnson, II;
- April 1985 – September 1990 – Dr. Lorenzo H. Grant;
- September 1990 – April 2005 – Elder Luther R. Palmer, Jr.;
- August 2004 – October 2015 – Dr. Marcus Harris;
- August 2004 – April 2005 – Elders Palmer and Harris served as co-pastors;
- December 2015 – June 2016 – Elder Colin Brathwaite;
- July 2016 – October 2019 – Pastor Pierre Quinn;
- October 2019 – February 2020 – Dr. Marcellus Robinson
- March 2020 – Present – Pastor Colby A. Matlock Sr.

We have also enjoyed the leadership of the following Assistant Pastors and/or Associate Pastors and/or Youth Pastors: Elder Michael Edwards; Elder Mark Stoddart; Elder George Williams; Elder Eric Hatcher; Elder Jasmine Johnson; Elder Reginald Anderson-Exum.

**CAPITOL HILL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***914 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20019-2904*

Capitol Hill Church is a grace-filled community of faith whose goal is to continually grow into the image of Christ. Our fellowship seeks to live by the principles of the Word of God in order to be used by the Spirit to help grow His Kingdom by Exalting Jesus Christ, Edifying believers, Establishing Disciples and Evangelizing the World.

This mission began in the 1970's with Bro. Wallace Ferguson. He, and a small group of believers evangelized in the Northeast Washington D.C. area and soon the Northeast F Street Mission was formed as an affiliate of the First SDA Church in Washington, D.C.

Shortly after becoming a Mission, the group planted roots in Northeast D.C. and held Sabbath morning services at the Deliverance Church of Christ on 806 F Street, NE, Washington D.C. and Sabbath afternoon and Wednesday evening meetings in the basement of Sis. Hattie Payne Addison's home.

By 1973, the Mission was granted Company status with 25 charter members, and on October 27, 1973 selected the name Capitol Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church and also decided to embrace a rigorous building fund campaign.

In April 1974, the group bought their first church home at 1000 East Capitol Street, N.E. Seven months later in November, with a membership of 62, the Company became a Church under the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. In March 1986, and with a membership of approximately 200, the Church voted to purchase a new sanctuary 10 blocks from the U.S. Capitol building. Two years later, after extensive renovation, the Grand Opening Celebration was held on the same property from which Capitol Hill members still worship— 914 Massachusetts Ave, NE. Over the years, the Church also purchased properties adjacent to the sanctuary building and completed a multi-million-dollar renovation in 2015.

From its inception, Capitol Hill Church has maintained a commitment to prayer and evangelism. As a result, our membership numbers have increased, our community relevance have deepened, and our arms of Christian service have expanded. The Capitol Hill community of believers maintains a posture of intentional kindness with a focus on moving from membership to discipleship. All we have accomplished thus far is through full dependence on God and faithful leadership.



**CAPITOL HILL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***914 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20019-2904*

Those pastors include:

**SENIOR PASTORS****ASSISTANT / ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

Pastor William S. Jackson, Sr. (1971 -1976)

Pastor Harold D. Singleton (1976–1977)

Pastor Lloyd Major (1977–1980)

Pastor Don King (1980–1983)

Pastor Rodney Malcolm (1983 – 1985)

Pastor Wintley A. Phipps (1985–1995)

Pastor J. W. Warren (1987 – 1989)

Pastor Don McPhaul (1988–1995)

Pastor Ebenezer Pedapudi (1991–1995)

Dr. John Nixon (1996-1998)

Pastor Colin W. Brathwaite, Jr. (1998-2004)

Dr. Anthony A. Medley (2004–2008)

Dr. Gene M. Donaldson (2004-2016)

Pastor Gregory Nelson (2009-2010)

Pastor Ramone W. Griffith (2013-present)

Dr. Emil D. Peeler (2016-present)

Pastor Ramone W. Griffith (2013-Present)

**COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CENTER OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS***7277 Eden Brook Drive, Columbia, MD 21046***OUR BEGINNINGS**

In 1992, a small group of Seventh-day Adventists from various churches in the Maryland area met at the home of a young couple, Ralph and Joy Peterson, who lived in Howard County, Maryland. This group of believers often found it difficult at times to drive several miles out of their way to their home churches. When the group grew to approximately 15 people, they decided to stay together and find a meeting venue in Columbia. Services were held weekly at The Meeting House located in the Oakland Mills Village Center.

As they continued to gather each week, they became excited about the possibility of forming a church within their own community. Those who attended the first meetings were Elder and Mrs. William C. Scales, Sr., Dr. & Mrs. Ralph Peterson, Sister Mildred Lewis, Elder and Mrs. Robert Patterson, and Mr. & Mrs. Greg Johnson. In a few months, the group expanded to include Elder Arnedia Brown, and sisters Marguerite Brown, Maxine Friend, Ernestine Scott, and Edith Tucker.

On Sunday, April 14, 1996, the group met at the home of Elder and Mrs. Scales to plan their first official Sabbath service, and election of officers to serve the needs of this new congregation. On April 20, 1996, Columbia Community Seventh-day Adventist Church was established with 38 members.

The congregation needed to find a home, and after renting at a few places, they settled in at the Hawthorn Center, a place they called home for more than 15 years.

The vision was always to be a ministry center. It was the vision then, and still remains today. In 1997. The church changed its name to Columbia Community Center of Seventh-day Adventists.

**DUPONT PARK SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***3985 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20019-2904*

A group of 25 banded themselves together as a company of worshippers. This company of believers met in various places around Northwest Washington, finally using the large home of Mrs. Rebecca Jones. One Sabbath, Elder Harter, president of Potomac Conference, met with the company. After his sermon, a vote was taken for this group, who called themselves Ephesus, to be a part of the Potomac Conference sisterhood of churches. The year was 1916.

The Columbia Union and Potomac Conference decided to purchase a church building for us. In fact, they allowed us to choose the location, choose the building, and then gave us the building! The site chosen was 6th and N. Street, NW.

At that time our first full time minister was sent, Elder U. S. Willis. Sr. Elder Willis pastored at Ephesus less than a year. Later in 1916, Elder P. G. Rogers arrived, and when he left in 1923, the congregation had grown from 40 to 300.

Pastors who came after Elder Rogers were R. L. Bradford; J. B. Mallory; E. C. Atkinson and during the dark days of the Depression, Elder J. C. Dasent. Elder Dasent firmly believed that Christianity should be translated into community help and literally hundreds were fed by the church. One of our local elders became our interim pastor for one year, namely Joseph Dodson. The conference then sent Elder J. E. Johnson, a very systematic, sympathetic, and much loved pastor. Our next pastor sent by the Potomac Conference was Elder John H. Wagner. During his pastorate, the Allegheny Conference was born, and he became its first president.

Elder T. M. Fountain was the first pastor sent by the Allegheny Conference. He was deeply attuned to the spiritual needs of the community and the church overflowed for Sabbath and Wednesday night services.

Elder W. A. Thompson came after World War II and kept the doors of the church open at all times, and many soldiers and their families came to worship. Services were also conducted at the Lorton Penitentiary.

## DUPONT PARK SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*3985 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20019-2904*

---

Elder Jacob Justiss came and saw that the church needed a new church home, not just any home, but one that would house a church and a school for the growing needs of Ephesus. The present location in the Dupont Park area was purchased, and a magnificent structure rose. The final cost was over \$900,000.00.

Before we moved into our new structure, Elder Justiss was moved, and Dr. Troy became our pastor. The school became self-supporting, and the members rallied to pay off the indebtedness of the church. The name of the church was also changed to Dupont Park because of the new location. Dr. Troy did not stay long, but was chosen to go to the General Conference.

Our next pastor was Elder Walter Starks. Elder Starks faced the challenge of the remaining \$500,000 mortgage to be paid. During his tenure, the mortgage went from \$500,000 to \$19,000; a new church was established in Pisgah, Maryland, and a new company of believers in Sandy Springs, Maryland.

Elder William DeShay was our next pastor, and during his stay the church debt was liquidated. Elder J. Milton Thomas followed and faced the problem of housing the school in a larger facility. We knew the Lord's hand was in this venture because what we needed for our school was just one block over. Before the purchase of the new school facility was made, Elder Thomas was moved to New Jersey and Elder John C. Smith came to shepherd the Dupont Park congregation. Under the leadership of Elder John C. Smith, the suitable price of \$321,000.00 for the Alabama Avenue territory was settled upon. This property included three acres of land, two brick houses, a storage building, and a separate chapel. Our Kindergarten through 5th grade was then moved to the Alabama Avenue location.

Following Elder John C. Smith, Elder R. L. Willis came to lead Dupont Park. His ministry ushered in a keen interest in good music that could minister to a cross-section of musical genres. In addition to his love for music, Elder Willis completed many building projects, including the renovation of the church sanctuary, the foyer and various other sections of the church.

In the 1980s, Elder Harold L. Lee became the next pastor. Throughout his ministry, he incorporated the spiritual principles of stewardship, educational and organizational development, as well as public evangelism. During the latter part of the 1980s, Elder S. Peter Campbell became the pastor. His broad and vast experience as an evangelist and his expertise in church planning and building were essential attributes to church growth. During his pastorate, Elder Campbell conducted several major evangelistic crusades in various parts of the world, as well as locally in the Washington, DC area. He also served on several denominational committees and community wide organizations. In addition to his many talents in the ministry, Elder Campbell's pastorate ushered in a new era for the Allegheny East Conference, the assignment of the first female African-American pastor, Lisa Smith-Reid.

**DUPONT PARK SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***3985 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20019-2904*

---

During the 1990s, Dr. Jonathan Thompson became the next pastor. His expertise in educational development and business acumen resulted in a variety of achievements for him and the congregation. After his tenure at Dupont Park, Elder Henry Fordham, secretary of the Allegheny East Conference, became the interim pastor of the church until another minister was called. Even though Elder Fordham and his family experienced great personal difficulty, his demeanor and sincere love for the Lord was also illustrated in his love and devotion to the congregation.

In 2005, the pastoral team consisting of Dr. Emil D. Peeler, Colin W. Brathwaite, Jr. and Gregory Nelson ushered in another era of historical legacy and spiritual renewal for Dupont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. With this pastoral team, innovative ministries and initiatives were instituted. The church underwent major renovation which significantly enhanced the physical blueprint of the sanctuary, the foyer, and other areas of the church facility.

Once again, the church was in need of a new pastor. Colin W. Brathwaite, Jr. served as our interim pastor until Jimmy Ferguson was called to be our senior pastor. Under his leadership, David Arrington and Meade Adams were our associate pastors. Together, they led the church with spiritual vigor and energy.

In 2013, Samuel Hutchins became our senior pastor. He led with compassion and love for the church, the school and the community. Unfortunately, he served a brief time until his death in 2014. At that time, Pastor Colin Brathwaite, Jr. was called again to shepherd the flock until another senior pastor was assigned. Dewaine Frazer, served as our associate pastor. His spiritual vitality and his God-given talent to minister to the needs of children, youth and our senior members have been a blessing. Dr. Marcus E. Harris is our current senior pastor. He comes to us with a wealth of leadership experience in both church and school growth. V. Tinashe Mkorombindo serves as our assistant pastor.

God has richly blessed us in the past, and we look forward to His leading as we seek to serve the community with compassion, excellence and integrity, and as we seek to make mature followers of Christ who will be prepared to meet Him at His imminent return.

**EMMANUEL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***105 Kinsberry Court, St. Leonard, MD 20685*

It all began on that fateful day in the 1940's. That's when Mrs. Agnes Holland found a leaflet in her yard promoting a Faith for Today/Voice of Prophecy Bible correspondence course.

After completing the course, Mrs. Holland wanted to go to church on God's holy Sabbath Day. In contacting representatives from the correspondence class, she was told that the only church in Calvert County was a White congregation. Because of the segregation that was still prevalent at the time, they told her they would send a representative from Black church.

Mr. Wilson and Agnes Holland joined the Ephesus SDA Church, which is now Dupont Park SDA Church in Washington, D.C. Ms. Holland shared the message with her sister and brother-in-law, Roland and Malinda Plater. They subsequently accepted this prophetic truth and joined the Holland's at Ephesus, taking their four children with them.

In the late 1950's, Wilson and Agnes Holland and Roland and Malinda Plater, lived 50 miles from the nearest Allegheny East Seventh-day Adventist Church. Every Sabbath, they attended church and were in Sabbath School with their children.

They traveled from their home in Prince Frederick, MD to the Ephesus Church in Washington, DC. It was here that they learned, through a visitor, that a church had been organized in Annapolis, MD and was only 35 miles away. Without hesitation, they enrolled their children in Sabbath School and became active in all phases of the Annapolis Church. The church in Annapolis was initially meeting in the home of the Pindell's.

Brother Harris once said that Brother Plater used to embarrass him. Brother Plater would arrive from Prince Frederick to the Annapolis church and have the wood stove started and the place warm before Brother Harris arrived. Brother Harris, who lived in Annapolis, was inspired by Brother Plater's diligence to arrive at church on time.

Pastor Alfred Jones soon conducted an evangelistic meeting in Annapolis. The Platers helped boost the crowd with number of visitors, family members, and friends from the Prince Frederick area.

## EMMANUEL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*105 Kinsberry Court, St. Leonard, MD 20685*

---

However, it was during an Ingathering Campaign, that the Platers met a builder. They asked him if he would like to build a church for the Annapolis congregation. The builder replied to the effect, that God had put such a project on his heart, hence the Beacon Life SDA Church edifice. Sometime later, Mrs. Plater was heard saying, "Wouldn't it be nice, if we could have a church in Prince Frederick." At that time, that initial group was the only known Black Seventh-day Adventist in Calvert County. Dr. Marsha Plater recalls her mother saying, "would Pastor Alfred Jones, who was the Pastor in Annapolis, come and preach, if they started a church in Prince Frederick?"

Soon thereafter, an open-air meeting was held on the property of Mr. & Mrs. Woodrow King, Sr. A fellow Adventist of First Church SDA Church in Washington, D.C., had recently moved to Prince Frederick. As a result of advertising this open-air meeting, Mrs. Mary Johnson, who also was an Adventist, traveled 65 miles from her home in Lusby, MD to Washington, D.C. Soon she learned that there was a small zealous group of Adventists located only 15 miles away, working hard to hasten Christ's soon return. She visited the Prince Frederick group, which was being operated as a branch Sabbath School of the Annapolis Church. Sergeant Richard Brown and Mrs. Victoria Turner, Sabbath School Superintendents of the Annapolis Church, untiringly assisted Pastor Alfred Jones in getting the work established in Prince Frederick.

Shortly thereafter, Sisters Malinda and Agnes, and Helen Holland and Queenie Noland joined the fledging congregation that now included the Kings, Fowlers, Grays, Tuckers, and Jones families. Sometime later in the 1960s, Mary Johnson offered land and practically co-sponsored a tent meeting on a spacious lot on Route 2 in the Prince Frederick area. From a human standpoint, this would be the least ideal place to conduct an evangelistic meeting. The place was completely rural, most of the houses were far apart, and the only means of transportation was by car or by foot. But, by God's Grace, the meeting proved to be a great success.

While the Tuckers were engaged in literature evangelism, the Platers would take their big, yellow school bus into various neighborhoods and make presentations on Daniel and the Revelation. They would run an extension cord from someone's home to have power for the projector to give the Bible study. Dr. Plater remembers the children turning the projector at the sound of the beep from the tape recorder. The Platers, Hollands, Grays, Kings, Fowlers, Jones, Johnsons and others laid an enduring foundation.

The members worshipped in a little brick church on Dares Beach Road. The church was located next to the William Sampson Brooks High School (now the Calvert County Board of Education). They began renting during the late sixties for \$18.00 a month for almost fifty years.

In the early seventies, Pastor H. D. Singleton asked had we ever inquired about purchasing the Dares Beach property. With that incentive and some legal paperwork, the church was deeded to the Allegheny East Conference. The church was purchased from the trustee of the Baptist Congregation for \$100.00. Malinda Plater named the church Emmanuel (God with us).

**EMMANUEL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***105 Kinsberry Court, St. Leonard, MD 20685*

---

The membership embraced their ownership status by renovating the building. The membership continued to grow in numbers and in spirit.

When the late Pastor W.A. Thompson took the shepherd's staff in 1990(?), he brought a new sense of order, discipline and spiritual accountability. He made it clear that he didn't preach at a church without a choir. Guess what, under the musical direction of Pamela Davis and musician Jerry Parker, about fifty percent of the church became choir members and magnified the name of the Lord throughout Calvert County.

When Pastor Thompson retired "again" in 1992, Emmanuel was the last church he pastored prior to his passing. Pastor Joseph M. Hutchinson became the District Pastor, which included the Hadley SDA church in D.C.

It was during Pastor Hutchinson's ministry that a friend of Dr. Plater, Mr. Englis Gray, became instrumental in bringing us to our current location. His father, Mr. David Gray, told his son about a recreation building, a summer house, owned by a club called "The Adventurous Eight." The members of the club had gotten older and none of their children wanted to buy the place. Englis told Marshal about the property, she in turn shared it with her brother Roland, Jr. (chair) and Mark Cheatham, (asst. chair) of the building committee. Following intense prayer, discussion, and serious soul-searching, the members were led to visit the site. After the on-site inspection, the church agreed to the asking price of \$150,000.00 for 5.6 acres of property and a usable edifice.

Elder Roland Plater, Jr. and Mark Cheatham led a small band of willing workers (men and women) in a six-month renovation project that culminated a joint "Dedication Day/Ground-Breaking" celebration in the fall of 1992. Or was it the Spring of 1993?

Under Pastor Timothy Nixon, additions were made to both the sanctuary and the fellowship hall which was named "Tucker Hall" in memory of the late W. L. Tucker, who died while faithfully anticipating the soon return of Jesus. When Pastors Armando and Lisa Reid came to shepherd the flock, renewed energy was put into getting this project under way. With their zeal, loving "prods," and their own financial sacrifice, the structure, we dwell in today, finally got started.

A financial snag held up significant construction progress for some time. With Pastor David M. Arrington, the work continued to progress under a dedicated building committee which was chaired by Mr. Mark Cheatham.

The summer of 2008, under the leadership of Pastor George Williams, Sr., a loan was secured by the Allegheny East Conference. With these funds we were able to complete the construction of edifice to the Glory of God. We thank God for a humble beginning.



**EMMANUEL-BRINKLOW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***18800 New Hampshire Avenue, P. O. Box 100, Brinklow, MD 20862*

Emmanuel (formerly Sandy Spring) SDA Church had its humble and miraculous beginning in October 1962, when Sister Sara P. Wills returned home from Oakland, California, with an intense desire to start a church in the Sandy Spring-Brinklow area.

The first phase of the groundwork was started when Elder Leonard Hernandez, Annapolis SDA Church Pastor, led a literature distribution that paved the way for a Branch Sabbath School of 25 children at the Spencerville Recreation Center on April 13, 1963.

On April 30, 1963, Elder Walter M. Starks, Dupont Park SDA Church Pastor, organized an evangelistic prayer band that met each Tuesday night to offer special prayer and to make preparations for an evangelistic campaign which commenced on July 21, 1963 on Norwood Road in Silver Spring. The late Elder W. L. Cheatham exercised his authority to make this happen after Elder Starks and his Bible workers -- the late Sister Josephine J. Flowers, the late Sis. Ethel M. Nell, and Sis. Carolyn Roy -- spent many hours in house-to-house visitations.

On October 5, 1963, Elder Starks baptized 13 souls to make an interracial company of 25 new and old believers. Their initial church home was the residence of Bro. Jefferson D. and Sis. Sarah P. Wills.

There were 30 believers when the company was organized into the then Allegheny Conference with the late Elder W. L. Cheatham, President, presiding on February 1, 1964.

With a steady growth in membership, they had no place to call home. Their seventh move in seven years was into the basement of the \$130,000 new edifice built on a two-acre lot donated by Brother and Sister Wills. The congregation, composed of 15 salaried members, gave sacrificially of their resources. It was obvious that God was truly with this congregation all the way, and for that reason the church name was changed to Emmanuel SDA Church.

Part-time ministers -- Pastors W. M. Starks, G. P. Walker, E. L. Richardson, R. E. Osborne,

A. A. Ward --led out until Pastor M. W. Wilson became the first full-time spiritual leader in September 1969. The other full-time ministers were: Pastors, W. E. Hall, W. A. Phipps, H. J. Fordham, III, S. M. Phipps, and M. E. Hayden, Jr.

**EMMANUEL-BRINKLOW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

*18800 New Hampshire Avenue, P. O. Box 100, Brinklow, MD 20862*

---

Elder Fordham suggested to Home and School Leader Benjamin F. Bandy that Emmanuel should have a church school of its own and invited other churches to join us. Elder Bruce Flynn, Metropolitan SDA Church Pastor, consented to join us.

Then AEC Superintendent Mrs. Carol Cantu, assisted by Brinklow Home and School Leader Benjamin F. Bandy and later Dr. Carol J. Wallington, took the reins in outlining the guidelines for the establishment of an AEC church school, with grades 1-8 in the Fall of 1987. In 1988, the school more than doubled in enrollment and went from Kindergarten to Grade 8. It was during this school year that the first steps were taken to plan for the construction of a school building. At this time, Brinklow was also in an ongoing church building program. The enrollment continued to increase in the 1990 school year, and First SDA Church became a Constituent Church. On June 24, 1991, the School Board with the approval of the three constituent church congregations, authorized the construction of the G.E. Peters School building. At the beginning of the 1993-1994 school year parents, students, teachers and all well-wishers anticipated moving into the new education facilities. After seven years of operation, the dream of a school facility had become a reality. All glory, honor, and praise are given to God."

**EMMANUEL WORSHIP CENTER SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIS***2707 Dewitt Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301-1107*

The Emmanuel Worship Center is a Seventh-day Adventist congregation which has been replanted from the Emmanuel Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church which has existed for 50 years at 2707 Dewitt Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia. The new worship center began its operation on July 27, 2017. The last worship service at 2707 Dewitt Avenue culminated with a baptism of four persons who gave their lives to Christ. This brought to an end what has been described as an extensive and fascinating history. Since the Emmanuel Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church congregation was formed in 1906, for varying reasons, the size of the congregation remained at less than 100.

The transformation of the community around Emmanuel Temple and the challenging attendance allowed various pastors to discuss with the membership the prospect of relocation. Two pastors, respectively, Patrick Graham and David Defoe, were most forthright in the discussions of relocation, but the membership were not enthusiastic. Then came Pastor D. Robert Kennedy, in the Fall of 2015. At the time his experience of 44 years in pastoral work, Conference and Union Departmental Directorships, teaching and college administration, gave him the wisdom to guide the congregation through the reality of all external and internal circumstances, to make a decision to sell and replant in 2016. The property at 2707 Dewitt was put up for sale, and the sale was completed in May 2017. A new property was secured for where a church was to be built at 8145 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, Virginia. The property contains a small house and an old tire changing garage. As much as was possible, the house was repaired and cleaned up to become a central point of operation from which community services, health, small church fellowship and business activities, are being conducted. Since its establishment, the church has also secured a tent and baptistry which are stored on the property and has conducted a tent evangelistic campaign, two baptismal services, two health fairs, four yard sales for community services fund raising, and a bimonthly food distribution for our Food Pantry.

We are holding our morning worship services at Wesley United Methodist Church at 8412 Richmond Avenue, that is half mile away from 8145 Richmond Hwy. People are taking notice, stating that the congregation is made up of friendly, warm and genuine people who make them feel welcomed. You can feel the warmth too, when you call our church or walk in the front door.

**EMMANUEL WORSHIP CENTER SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIS***2707 Dewitt Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301-1107***COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

In the new location, a sub-region of Alexandria, the missionary efforts of the church will epitomize. Health Education will be a major soul-winning tool. According to the Community Needs Assessment conducted by Inova Hospitals, about 50% smoke cigarettes, over 50% consume alcohol, 21% use hard drugs like Cocaine and depression stands at about 25% of residents. Homelessness is approximately 21%, and 32% have an income less than 50,000/yr. The Virginia Dept. of Health reports that rates of primary hypertension are more than 75% worse than the state average. Cancer, heart disease, strokes and high rates of teen pregnancy abound, especially among minority populations. Per the Inova report, there have been reductions in government funding for children/youth programs, elder care, and health and family services for the indigent and low-income populations.

**OUR MISSION**

Determined by the power of God, we strive to be a spiritually-growing, Christ-centered worship center, which endeavors to creatively reach out to the Alexandria, Virginia, community through needs-based outreach services, practical teaching, and prayer.

**OUR VISION**

A CHRIST CARING COMMUNITY WE ARE MOVING ON. TO A NEW FUTURE WE ARE COMING SOON TO SERVE THE MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY FAIRFAX, ALEXANDRIA

**OUR GOALS**

1. Connect with the community using multiple compassion pathways.
2. Grow the congregation by at least 15 souls in 2018 and 15 souls per year over the next four years.
3. Give special emphasis to local community outreach through social media.
4. Build a worship and service center that will accommodate 250 people.

**OUR STRATEGY**

1. To raise up a church at 8145 Richmond Highway, which will be identifiable and integrated into the community, giving strong emphasis to compassion with Community Services, Health and Bible Evangelism, and Youth and Children Ministries as our gateways to growth.
2. Our desired outcome is to be seen in the community as a church that cares and a congregation that is vibrant with the intergenerational membership of children, youth, young adults, and adults.
3. Have an ongoing community penetration program, with members of the church plant team visiting homes and shopping malls to share literature and flyers on the New Church Plant in your area.

**EMMANUEL WORSHIP CENTER SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIS***2707 Dewitt Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301-1107*

---

4. Have 5000 cards announcing the presence of a New Church in Your Area.
5. Send 1000 Steps to Christ to the community each year for 5 years.
6. Have a Food Pantry in the little ministry house which is present on the property, to distribute food every 1st and 3rd Sabbath at 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM for food distribution.
7. Have two Community Health Fairs each year, (one in the Spring and one in the fall).
8. Have three cooking classes for the year and ongoing blood pressure screening.
9. Have a Vacation Bible School program in the evenings during the Month of July to attract youngsters.
10. Have three Bible workers to spend at least three months in the field for three years during to build relationships prior to each Evangelistic Plant event.
11. Conduct a large scale Evangelistic Campaign in the Summer to the Fall each year, for the next five years.
12. Have Have a Sunday Morning 11 o'clock Bible Study Explosion, cycled every three months to teach Seventh-day Adventist doctrines at the church house.
13. Have a Sunday Morning exercise classes in conjunction with the Bible Study Explosion.
14. Engage in Community Prayer and Family Bible Studies surveys to pick up Bible study interests (Use volunteer Bible Workers and Students in our one Week intensives called Mission Alexandria.
15. Have an annual Spring or Fall, Family, or Bible or Prayer or Youth Impact Conference at a center that has proximity to the church plant site, for the next five years.
16. Use social media to reach out to the local community.

**FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***810 Shepherd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011*

The First Seventh-day Adventist Church was organized on February 23, 1889 with 26 charter members. But the beginning of the work dates to 1876, when Elder D. N. Canright, on his way to Baltimore, reported two families in the area actively distributing tracts. In 1890, Elder I. Sanborn, while spending a week in Washington, found three members and baptized two more. Four years later, Rueben Wright distributed publications in the city, held Bible studies, and after some months reported two converts. But no concerted effort was begun until two years later.

In January 1886, Elder Willard H. Saxby of Vermont, and his wife, a Bible instructor who had been one of the first converts in Kentucky, were assigned to Washington. Assisted also by Elder Charles Parmele and his sister, Julia of Illinois and others including apprentice Bible instructors from time to time, Elder Saxby operated what was called a city mission at 1831 Vermont Avenue, N. W.

In the first three months, they gave 297 Bible studies and gained one convert. In two years, they had a Sabbath school of 46, which having outgrown the Vermont Avenue location, met in Claybough Hall, at 1630 Fourteenth Street, N. W. Elder John O. Corliss conducted evening meetings with the membership and believing that the time had come for perfection of organization, formed a church on Sunday, February 24, 1889. "During the following week, we were made glad by meeting with Elder Uriah Smith, Elder Lycurgis MCoy and Professor William W. Prescott, who with others from Battle Creek met with us on Sabbath, March 2, in celebration of the ordinances," wrote Elder Corliss in the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*.

In the same month, the mission moved to a Southeast site near the Capitol. There, in March 1890, a council of leaders from Battle Creek planned the formation of the Atlantic Conference (organized in September 1889) which included the District of Columbia. Under the new arrangement, it was decided to close the mission and the Saxbys left in August. The church then had a membership of 41. Elder J. S. Washburn and Elder Charles L. Taylor held evangelistic meetings in 1890, and the congregation grew.

"We left on Thursday night at four for Boston, from which place we took transportation for Washington ...", so begins the diary entries of Ellen G. White, whose prophetic gifts and writings have been a constant encouragement and guide to Advent believers everywhere. She visited the

## FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*810 Shepherd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011*

---

First Church from December 19 to December 29, 1890. She expressed great concern about the need for an appropriate "house of worship" in the nation's capitol. In 1893, under the leadership of Elder John Corliss, who had returned after a four-year absence, the first building was purchased. The Evening Star reported the following in the July 14, 1893 issue: "The Seventh-day Adventist congregation in this city, having met for some years in various sections of the city, have purchased the church building formerly used by the Eastern Presbyterian Church on 8th Street, between F and G Streets Northeast, and will hold services therein for the first time tomorrow. Aside from services on the Sabbath, Elder J. O. Corliss will also hold services on Sunday evening." The congregation was interracial and among its members was Rosetta Douglas Sprague, the daughter of Frederick Douglass, who was no doubt influenced in some way by her father's witness of the falling of the stars and his belief that this event was a "harbinger of the coming of the Son of Man."

By the turn of the century, the church was firmly established and involved in evangelism. In 1902, Elder Louis G. Sheafe and Elder J. S. Washburne conducted evangelistic crusades with Elder Washburn establishing the second Washington church, the Memorial Church. The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was moved from Battle Creek to Washington, and the churches in the District of Columbia were assigned to the administration of the General Conference. By 1905, two additional churches had been formed, the Takoma Park Church and the People's Church with Elder Sheafe as pastor. In 1909, they were made a part of the District of Columbia Conference which had been operating from the Atlantic Union Conference.

Over the next several years, church growth increased, and the First Church continued its outreach activities. In 1916, while the nation was involved in World War I, Elder J. Marion Campbell was called to the First Church as pastor. The membership grew as a new wave in the northwest and southwest sections of the city took hold. The membership grew, and the congregation, as well as, its minister became more deeply involved in tract distribution and in personal witness. Believing that Christian education was necessary, a church school, the Washington Union Academy was established in 1917 under the pastorate of Elder Frederick J. Seeney and jointly operated with the Ephesus Church. The school made a more substantial penetration into the life of the community. Many children enrolled in the school were not affiliated with the church, and the church welfare programs strengthened this tie with the neighborhood and with the public.

Church growth continued, and in 1919, it was reported that "membership has doubled during the past three years."

The next thirty years proved to be fruitful for the First Church. A formal Sabbath School was established and maintained. Ingathering goals were often reached and exceeded in a matter of weeks. By 1955, the small church on 8th Street, N. E. had become greatly overcrowded, and the congregation, under the leadership of Elder Wilmot M. Fordham purchased the property at 810 Shepherd Street, N. W. The official opening services were held June 5-7, 1957 with Elder Paul Cantrell as minister. An extensive remodeling program was initiated by Elder John H. Wagner,

## FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*810 Shepherd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011*

---

Jr. the next pastor, and the cost of the building and the renovation had been fully met at the dedication.

Elder Luther R. Palmer led the church through the tumultuous events of 1968 when the Community Services Department provided food and clothing during the riots, following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the "Resurrection City" encampment on the national mall. Evangelism was once again embraced by the congregation under the leadership of the next pastor, Elder Alfred R. Jones. Several new congregations were established - Fourth Street Friendship Church, the Bladensburg Church and the F Street Mission (now the Capitol Hill SDA Church). The late 70's also saw the development of the radio ministry with live broadcast of Sabbath worship services on WGTS-FM. The Breath of Life evangelistic crusade in 1978 by Elder Charles D. Brooks at the Warner Theatre produced 267 new Adventists, and the establishment of the Breath of Life SDA Church.

The need for parking for the growing congregation led Dr. Edward Richardson to purchase two homes on Shepherd Street which later became valuable assets in ministry as the Youth and Primary houses with increased usage by the Sabbath School and Pathfinders. Church growth continued during the pastorate of Elder Melvyn E. Hayden as youth and children initiatives were a high priority. Renovation of the Youth House, the establishment of a Pathfinder Drum Corps, and the Education Endowment program were a few of the new initiatives. Additional major highlights included the ordination of the first woman elder and the year-long church Centennial celebration in 1989.

Community Services moved to a higher level with the expansion of the soup kitchen and Operation Community Outreach during the tenure of Dr. John A. Trusty. The "Save Our Youth" summer street festival generated awareness and action on violence, poverty, and drug abuse. Existing community services expanded linking up with other church based and civil agencies in the city under the leadership of Dr. Mark A. McCleary. First Church became the Ward 4 distribution center for government assistance with utilities and housing. In June 2008, the first Community Day of Awareness for HIV/AIDS and cancer was held at the church. Presentations by prominent health professionals, screening and testing services and a gospel concert were held. Other notable highlights include the renovation of the Primary and Youth houses and Fellowship Hall.

On November 20, 2015 marked another major milestone with the installation of Pastor Lisa Smith Reid as the first female pastor of this historic church. Under her guidance, the church wrote and published the first of its kind devotional book, *Voices from the Pews* in 2016.

Other ministers serving the First Church have been Elder Charles B. Atkinson, Elder Adolphus E. Webb, Elder Leslie J. Pryor, Elder Eric S. Dillett, Elder R. T. Hudson, Elder John Collins, Elder Thaddious Privette, and Dr. Roland J. Hill. Where there was one church and one conference in the area, there are over 102 churches and companies and three conferences. The First Church has made a most decisive impact on the Washington D. C. community in its 128-year history.



**FOURTH STREET FRIENDSHIP***1611 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001-1907*

In November of 1973, Elder Alfred R. Jones, then the pastor of the First SDA Church in Washington DC, met with several members of his church in the student center of Columbia Union College. Several of the CUC students were also in attendance. Elder Jones had a great concern about missing members of his church. He discovered that they felt uncomfortable in a big church where everybody dressed better than they did. After weighing some of the reasons given for not attending church, Elder Jones felt the need to start an inner-city center. The idea was for a group of dedicated believers to carry the church to the people. He then contacted Elder Jesse Reaves who agreed to head up this inner-city project. Elder Reaves recruited the students from CUC and volunteers from First Church and started the Fourth Street Mission.

Elder Jones located a store-front row house at 1611 4th Street, N.W. First Church paid the first six months rent on the building and started its service for the people in the inner city. Many community services were provided to the residents in the neighborhood. In 1978, Elder Reaves started a soup kitchen which was open two days a week and then Sunday operations was added to accommodate those who weren't able to come during the week. In 1987, the pastors of the 10th Street Friendship SDA Church and Fourth Street SDA Church came together and decided with much prayer that the two churches could merge because they both had the same mission. After the members heard the viability of the move, they voted to become one church; the name would be the Fourth Street Friendship SDA Church. In January 1988, we officially became one church. And now because of the dedication of many members and volunteers of the Bread of Life Ministry (Soup Kitchen), more people are being fed and are hearing the Good News that Jesus is coming soon. "When you did it to these my brothers, you were doing it to me."

**GLENRIDGE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***5501 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, MD 20747*

In 1989, a challenge for outreach ministry was put forth to the members of the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church, Hyattsville, MD, by Sis. Pamela Palmer, the then Sabbath School Superintendent. In response to this challenge, one sunny Sabbath morning in March 1990, a member, Bro. Sydney Bartley, now deceased, said to his wife, Sabbath School Class #2 of the church, "Let's have a baby."

The idea of a baby excited our brothers and sisters and prompted them to ask the following question: "Where shall we have the baby?" "In the Landover, Lanham or Landover Hills area" was the response. Soon thereafter, we began a search for a hospital in the vicinity of the suggested areas. The search culminated in the Glenridge Elementary School on 7200 Gallatin Street, Landover Hills 20784. At last! What a joy it was!

On Sabbath afternoon, June 16, 1990, seven older brothers and sisters - Sydney Bartley, Lucine Bartley, Olive Cush, Phyllis Edwards, Myrtle Grosvenor, James Harvey and Mauva Hunter and thirteen cousins from other classes - Richard Arjune, Ronda Cush, Verna Cush, Ralph Daley, Vernon Dominique, Gloria Francis, Julio Francis, Lisa Hammond, Alicia Phillips, Elsie Phillips, Gerald Taylor, Gwendoline Wilson and Kareen Young-headed for the hospital. Here we met for prayer and Bible study in preparation for the onslaught in the neighborhood.

After we were strengthened spiritually, a day of prayer and fasting ensued. Later that afternoon, we headed into the community with our tracts and invitations for our friends and neighbors to join us at the school for worship.

From time to time, we were privileged to have visitors and others join us in worship, chief among whom were John Calvert, Dr. Owen Carryl, Keith Harris, Jane James, Dr. Rudolph Cush, Petal James, Amy McNeill, Valentine Parillon, Tamisha Younis, Maria Williams.

Despite the enemy's attacks, arriving many Sabbaths to find the door of the school locked, thereby resulting in Brother Bartley's having to make several phone calls before the custodian would arrive, only to state that he forgotten about his responsibilities. On one occasion, the acting custodian said he was not informed that we were worshipping there and that he needed to open the building. There were times when other activities were planned for the school conflicting with our worship time

**GLENRIDGE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***5501 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, MD 20747*

and activities, thus causing great inconvenience and even disruption of our programs. However, our little Branch Sabbath School pressed on until we felt it was time to begin worshipping as a group on Sabbath mornings.

At last, on Sabbath morning, October 13, 1990, at 9:15 a.m., the baby was born. This did not please the enemy, so he decided to try another strategy. The Lord sent showers of blessing, but the enemy used the custodian to keep us out of the school. When we arrived, the school had not been opened. Despite these seeming setbacks, the saints were joyful and while Bro. Bartley made his usual calls, we sang and prayed under the canopy, some taking shelter under their umbrellas and we began an informal Sabbath School. The children had their Sabbath School in Brother Harris' camper. The school was opened in time for the Divine Hour.

God will triumph! Upon the arrival of the custodian who unlocked the school, we soon had the chairs in order, and the service began. Pastor Glenn Roberts gave us a challenge and encouraged us to proclaim the Word of God in the neighborhood.

We were not contented to be just a Branch Sabbath School, so we began striving for a higher status. We wanted to become a Company and on December 21, 1991, we achieved that status. The Glenridge Company was officially organized by Pastor Glenn Roberts, under the leadership of our first First Elder-, Sydney Bartley. Elder Bartley served under the watchful eye of Elder Herman Bromfield from the Metropolitan Church.

During this service of dedication, twenty-three individuals indicated their desire to become the Glenridge Company. These individuals are our "Charter Members"- Lucine Bartley, Sydney Bartley, Bernice BeN.J.amin, John Calvert, Lunette Case, Ralph Daley, Vernon Dominique, Gloria Francis, Keith Harris, James Harvey, Jane James, Amy McNeill, Elsie Phillips, Valentine Parillon, Norbert Payne, Leroy Rowe, Bridget Taffe, Pastor Horace Taffe, Gerald Taylor, Laura Vasquez, Tamisha Younis, Maria Williams, and Gwendoline Wilson, along with their children-Richard Arjune, Julio Francis, Lisa Hammond, Alicia Phillips and Kareen Young.

From this original group, seven members still attend, eight have been lost by death and others have transferred their membership to other churches.

The need to meet as a group for Wednesday Night Prayer meeting arose. Rather than going to Metropolitan, the desire was expressed that in order to bond, we needed to be together on Wednesday nights as well. In response to our need for a place where we could all assemble for worship on Wednesday evenings, the Lord made it possible for Brother Samuel and Sister Waverly Harris to open their home to us for this purpose. We remained there until we found a more convenient place of worship.

## GLENRIDGE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*5501 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, MD 20747*

---

Conditions at the school did not improve and together with the pursuant increase in fees, a search was soon on the way for another facility, a church building where we could worship. Contact was made with several churches in the area with the intention of leasing one of them, but our effort was successful. The Christ United Methodist Church was approached, and they too turned us down. We then had a day of prayer and fasting, and God directed Bro. Jasper Barrow to approach Christ United Methodist Church again, and this time our prayers were answered, and we were granted use of the facilities at 69th Avenue & Annapolis Road, Landover Hills, MD 20784 and began worshipping there in September 1993.

We then moved to Sharon Bible Fellowship, 6117 Seabrook Road, Lanham, MD in 1997. In January 2008, we moved to Spirit of Christ Church at 8005 Cryden Way, District Heights, MD 20747 where we stayed until renovations on our present church building were completed. On September 19, 2009, we moved into our current location at 5501 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, MD 20747.

In 1991, under the guidance of Pastor Glenn Roberts, Brother Sydney Bartley became our First Head Elder; Leroy Rowe - first Sabbath School Superintendent; Valentine Parillon - first Church Clerk; Personal Ministry Leader and Literature Evangelist; Ralph Daley - first Treasurer; Vernon Dominique - first Head Deacon; Elsie Phillips - first Head Deaconess; John Calvert - first pianist; Tamisha Younis-Olajide - first AY Leader.

The first pastor assigned to Glenridge was Pastor Mark (Juliette) Stoddart who served from 1997 -2000. He was succeeded by Pastor Amos (Wilma) Hosten 2001-2011. Our current pastor is Pastor Vernon (Vinette) Waters, whose tenure started in 2012.

Over the years, we have conducted several evangelistic meetings, revivals and Daniel and Revelation seminars all of which yielded new members. Our church picnics and potlucks have been interesting and fun as we shared with one other and some community guests.

In 2009, our Pathfinder Club--Glenridge Voyagers--was formed under the leadership of Brother Vincent Payne and Sister Donnett Cole. Since then, The Voyagers have been involved in several activities - "Give Thanks" and "Unity in the Community" which are sponsored by the city of District Heights. They are also involved in feeding the homeless, in conjunction with the Fourth Street Friendship Church in Washington, DC, "My Christmas Wish," "Make a Child Smile," and the annual Independence Court Nursing Home Christmas concert. They have received several trophies for their participation at the annual Allegheny East Pathfinder Camps. In 2014, they made their first trip to the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

On February 10, 2010, saw the birth of the Glenridge Adventurers Club, under the leadership of Sister Daphne Anderson. Glenridge Adventurers attended their first Allegheny East Conference's Camporee that same year. Since their organization, they have been involved in several activities such as warm clothes distribution at the shelter; flyer distribution for evangelistic events in the

## GLENRIDGE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*5501 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, MD 20747*

---

District Heights community; and in 2017, joined with the Metropolitan Adventurers club in battery distribution and installation of smoke detectors in the Hyattsville, MD area. They were also engaged in several other activities--camping, picnic and fun days, trips to the Zoo and a Spring banquet and talent show.

A basketball team was formed by Brother Donald Gordon. The team won several trophies. Not only did this team serve our Glenridge members, but members of the District Heights community were engaged also, as a means of witnessing.

Our first Vacation Bible School was held in 2010. Our Pathfinder Club and our Community Services Department have been actively involved in the District Heights community distributing literature, visiting the homeless shelters and distributing clothing and bread. The Glenridge Church Community Services Department, under the leadership of Brother Marcel Alexandre, hosted the Allegheny East Conference's Disaster Relief training for the Washington Metropolitan Area in 2015.

Our Sabbath School lower division has grown over the years from one group to all the various divisions--from Cradle Roll through Collegiate. We have a vibrant Adult division as well.

Annually, we conduct a graduation ceremony for our students from kindergarten to advanced degrees. Also, our Mothers/Women and Fathers/Men's days are celebrated annually. Our youth collaborate with other churches for Adventist Youth programs and outdoor activities.

In 2014, our then Congresswoman, Donna Edwards paid us a visit and addressed the issue of Religious freedom. We have been involved in the District Heights Community Day activities in which we have shared literature, samples of healthy sandwiches, and conducted blood pressure screenings. "Let's Move Day," has been a part of our involvement in the District Heights community.

Glenridge has plans to expand its building to include a multipurpose space for classrooms and community activities. In the final phase, we will expand the sanctuary for a growing and vibrant congregation. Glenridge is also happily well on the way to eliminating the mortgage by the end of 2017. Through the creation and nurturing of relationships with community leaders, businesses, and citizens of District Heights, Glenridge will become an important part of encouraging a healthy city environment where families are strengthened, and lives are changed through practical and personal gospel application. Through meaningful building development, felt needs ministries and effective community networking, our goal is to love God, grow together and reach the world for our loving Savior, Jesus Christ.

**HOREB HAITIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***3310 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, MD 20783-1031*

The Horeb Haitian Church Seventh-day Adventist Church is located in the heart of the state of Maryland, sharing a district with its "legitimate and natural" sister church, Bethanie Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Columbia, Maryland. Horeb's story is a testament of the Lord's fidelity, generosity, and benevolence towards His people.

The foundation of this church was laid on Sabbath May 25, 1989 in Laurel, MD when sisters and brothers of a French-speaking international congregation (Nouvelle Jérusalem) opted for the evangelization of the Haitian community of Washington, DC metropolitan area, in the language understood by all Haitians, Creole. This initiative, led by Brother Cliff Bastien with the help of a few dedicated brothers, led to the formation of a Haitian Adventist group on July 8, 1989, with 21 members. A few months later, on February 3, 1990, Horeb was officially organized as a Church Company in the Allegheny-East Conference, which in September of that year appointed a shepherd in the person of Leslie Moïse.

Pastor Moïse and his successors all insisted on evangelism and outreach as key elements of Horeb's mission in this community. This resulted in continued growth, whether during the ministry of Pastor Max Emmanuel Charles (1995-2001), the transition team of 2001-2002, Pastor Arbentz Pierre-Antoine (2002-2012) or the current holder, Pastor Yvéniel Saint-Luc.

In anticipation of the glorious return of our Lord and Savior Jesus, Horeb wants to persevere "in the daily exercise of brotherly love, and maintain the faith until we can participate in the marriage of the Holy Lamb," as stated by Pastor Yvéniel Saint-Luc during the recent celebration of our 25 year anniversary.

**MARANATHA ADVENTIST FELLOWSHIP**13325 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Bowie, MD 20715

Maranatha Adventist Fellowship is a Bible believing, inclusive church where everyone feels free to worship, regardless of nationality. We are proud of our diverse congregation with members from: Nigeria, Cameroon, the West Indies, USA, Kenya, Ghana, Angola and South Africa.

Maranatha began in 1995 with a small group of Nigerian Adventists who came together at the General Conference in Silver Spring, Maryland to craft a vision for a Nigerian church. They included Elder Timothy Atolagbe, Pastor Israel Olaore and Sister Bose Adeosifogun. Prior to this, there had been informal meetings of several Africans for regular Bible studies at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Fawole.

At the same time, a group of Nigerians residing mainly in Baltimore, Maryland, started a choir and informal meetings known as the "Baltimore Group." Later, another small group of Nigerian Adventists gathered in Baltimore to hold a special praise session with the late Pastor James Erondu, who suggested regular fellowships. The attendees promised to consider the possibility and pray about it.

Sometime in 1996, with the help of Pastors Martin Weber and Tim Goff of New Hope Church (then at Burtonsville, MD), and Pastor Dapo Oriola, a ministry was created at New Hope to cater for the peculiar needs of the Africans in the congregation. Thereafter, the Baltimore Washington Metro area groups coalesced, and Maranatha Adventist Fellowship emerged. New Hope Church was very supportive of the Maranatha Adventist Fellowship.

With 35 members, during the summer of 1996, the Fellowship had its first official worship service at Jesus House, a non-Adventist Nigerian Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. Subsequent meetings were held at Baltimore First SDA Church in Ellicott City. Since then, we have grown to a church where everyone feels free to worship regardless of his or her nationality.

From 1996 to 2009, the Fellowship worshipped at many different locations. Finally, in the fall of 2009, members mobilized and embarked on a major fundraising campaign. With \$250,000 on hand, the Fellowship obtained a loan to acquire a 6.7-acre property in Bowie, Maryland for \$700,000.00. This was a miracle then, and God is continuing to perform more miracles at Maranatha Adventist Fellowship.

**MARANATHA ADVENTIST FELLOWSHIP***13325 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Bowie, MD 20715*

---

Maranatha Adventist Fellowship is known for special events catered to Africans in diaspora, its unique warmth where everyone feels at home, and its sumptuous potlucks. Maranatha Adventist Fellowship has organized two family retreats, the last of which had wide participation from another AEC church, Living Faith, West Orange, New Jersey. Maranatha Adventist Fellowship and Living Faith are pastored by Pastor Uzooma Erundu and share a close relationship as a result of this. As we continue to grow, it was evident that we needed a bigger place and sanctuary befitting of our Lord Jesus Christ. Maranatha Adventist Fellowship is currently running a capital campaign to raise funds to build a 500-seat worship center.



**MARYLAND CENTRAL KOREAN ADVENTIST CHURCH***20101 Woodfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882*

We started as a small group consisting of four families on February 17, 1990, at Twin Brook Elementary School in Rockville, Maryland under the name, Rockville Korean. In April 1991, we were officially recognized and accepted into the Allegheny East Conference, and we changed our name to Maryland Central Korean SDA Church. We then moved from Rockville to Wheaton in 1993, and we purchased our own sanctuary in 1997 at our current location on Woodfield Road in Gaithersburg. We participated as a satellite campus of an English language school from 2001 to 2006 through which we had an increase in number of youth memberships.

The year 2008 saw numerous milestones. First, a scholarship fund was established with an emphasis on rearing youth in Adventism. Secondly, King Sejong Korean Language School was opened for students of all ages who desired to learn Korean and to pass down the Korean tradition to our children. Lastly, we remodeled and expanded our sanctuary to accommodate increased membership. English worship began its separate service in 2009, and Maryland Central Academy was established with a special focus on youth outreach and foreign student ministry. Our first foreign missionary team was dispatched to Haiti in 2013 with a subsequent trip in 2015 and more to follow.

With God's blessings and grace, and under the current leadership of our pastor, Namyong Kim, we will continue to thrive in being faithful workers to deliver God's messages and helping people prepare for Jesus' second coming!

Maryland Central Korean SDA Church is a church with the largest attendance of children, youth, young adults and adults among Korean churches within the Middle-East territory of the United States and the church has a variety of programs designed for each age group.

Through the fun and beneficial church programs, unity and harmony within the church members have been being well-developed.

Our church had a church dedication ceremony on March 16th, 2020.

**METROPOLITAN SDA CHURCH***6307 Riggs Road, Hyattsville, MD 20783*

In an organizational ceremony performed by Elder Edward M. Dorsey, then president of the Allegheny East Conference, the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist was officially organized on December 15, 1973.

Different groups began to meet informally to discuss the need for a forum that would meet the spiritual and other needs of Caribbean students. One account indicates that as early as January 6, 1973, a meeting was held at Columbia Union College with over 60 people in attendance. A meeting on January 20, 1973, again at Columbia Union College, laid a more secure foundation for the establishment of a church. A committee comprised of Amos Hosten, Neville Smith and Clare Hosten was established for the purpose of finding a place of worship. They were led to the Chillum Community Church of the Advent Christian denomination, that, like the Seventh-day Adventist Church, came out of the William Miller movement. At this time, they called themselves the Caribbean Seventh-day Adventist Church and held their first Sabbath worship service in early May 1973.

The Allegheny East Conference asked Pastor J. Glenn Roberts, serving in Baltimore, to give the group pastoral supervision. The first slate of officers served from July to December 1973. Pastor Roberts served for one month before accepting a call to the Hanson Place Church in New York. The church was then under the leadership of first elder Amos Hosten until May of 1974. In 1984, the church broke ground for its own worship center on a 9-acre property it purchased on Riggs Road in Hyattsville. Others who served in the pastoral capacity were Milton Nebblett, Adrian T. Westney, Augustus Ogiste, J. LeCount Butler, Stephen Richardson and Bruce E. Flynn.

In 1987, Pastor Roberts returned and served sixteen years. During this period, the Metropolitan Church membership rose from just over 250 to just under 950. During Pastor Roberts tenure, two new congregations were also planted. The first was the Glenridge Church and the second was the Mitchellville Church. Meanwhile, the campus was expanded to house the Chillum Oaks senior citizen's home. It was also Pastor Roberts' dream to build a gymnasium on the campus.

When Pastor Roberts retired in 2003, he handed over the mantle of the Metropolitan Church to Pastor Michael Bernard. Other pastors who have served include David Defoe, Brenda Billingsy,

## METROPOLITAN SDA CHURCH

*6307 Riggs Road, Hyattsville, MD 20783*

---

Robert Edwards and Marquis Johns. The current Senior Pastor is Trevor Kinlock. Alex Royes and Novella Smith are the Executive and Youth pastors respectively.

With Christian education as a priority, the Metropolitan Church in cooperation with Emmanuel-Brinklow and the Washington First Churches, established in 1988, the George E. Peters SDA School with grades K – 8. Thaddeus Jackson was its first principal. On April 5, 1992, a ground -breaking ceremony was initiated for a \$1.3 million school plant. In 2008, with Evelyn Savory as principal, the school building was devastated by a tornado. The church, as at the school inception, once again housed the school. Before Ms. Savory left, she worked with the state and county governments and other regulatory bodies to add the Pre-K grade. God has blessed Metropolitan in many ways. In 2010, Pastor Billiny during her tenure as Senior Pastor had the opportunity to plan the dedication of the multi-million-dollar Metropolitan Activity Center to minister to the church, school and community. This building annexes the school and houses a gymnasium, banquet hall, conference rooms, Community Services Department and a commercial grade kitchen. The Metropolitan Church is truly living out its mission statement. “Through prayer, love and service, we connect our church and community to Christ.”

## MITCHELLVILLE SDA CHURCH

122 Old Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774-1255



In keeping with the great commission of Matthew 28: 19, 20, and the need to nurture members of the burgeoning Metropolitan SDA Church, under the parsonage of J Glenn Roberts, the then First Elder Pamela Palmer divided the church into twelve small groups based upon the geographic location of each the members. Elder Pamela Palmer was the coordinator for the Hyattsville area group. The coordinator of the Mitchellville area group was Elder Albert St. Hillaire.

The year was 1996. Our first meeting was held at the home of the St Hillaire's. In attendance were Anson Brereton, Hazel Brereton, Terence Monkou, and Albert St Hillaire. Myrtle St Hillaire kept us further encouraged with a delicious portion of baked wham and juice.

Initially, we met on Friday nights in the home of one of the members of the group and would rotate each week to another member's home. We loved when the time came for the Breretons' to host the Friday night meeting, because we were sure to be served with "pone and coconut sweet-bread."

When we met at the Monkou's, we enlisted the energetic Ruby Taylor (Terence's mother-in-law) as Secretary for the group. She was tasked with calling all the members who lived within our geographic area. God used her in a mighty way.

By the summer of 1997, the group had grown to over 23 members. As a result of this growth, the Lord impressed upon us to look for a larger meeting place. We were led to the St. Michael Lutheran Church. The cost for renting the church was \$400.00 per month. The time of occupancy was from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM. We started a Bible Class on Sabbath afternoons under the leadership of Pastor Alan Johnson. It was here that we had our first NET program. The Lord used Terrence Monkou in a marvelous way to secure equipment needed for the download of the NET programs. This resulted in the baptism of our first two members – Samuel Motamarry and Beverley Anderson (Stone). This was a heart-warming experience for us and served as encouragement and inspiration for our evangelistic endeavor.

As our Sabbath service in the St. Michaels Church was limited to Sabbath afternoons, the group continued to search for a place to worship on Sabbath mornings as well as Sabbath afternoons. With persevering prayer, we asked the Lord to find us such a place. It was the Breretons who contacted Faith Missionary Baptist Church and providentially, they were looking for an Adventist

**MITCHELLVILLE SDA CHURCH***122 Old Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774-1255*

group to share the expense of their lease. This was no accident, we believed this was the Lord's doing. Our faith was tested when we had to make the decision to move a \$400.00 per month payment to a \$2,000.00 per month payment. There were many who doubted that we could handle the payments. With the Lord's leading, we made the decision and never looked back, nor were we ever short in meeting our obligations. If God is in it who can be against it.

In early 2000, the Faith Missionary notified us of their intention not to renew their lease which would be up in February 2000. The Lord provided us with an opportunity to take-over the lease from Faith Missionary, and thereby occupy the entire space Faith Missionary leased. This would require us to sign a lease with a payment of \$6,000.00 per month. Again, our faith was tested, having to move from a \$2,000.00 to a \$6,000.00 per month lease payment. This time, our faith failed us. So, another church – Peniel House of Worship - took over the lease, and we ended-up having to lease from them.

On January 31, 2001, as we were preparing to conduct our Wednesday night service, we discovered that Peniel House of Worship had moved. They literally moved everything that can be moved out of the sanctuary, including pews, chairs, and podium. Shocked, dismayed, angry and confused, we humbled ourselves before God in prayer. We conducted prayer meeting that night standing in a circle, hand in hand, as we sang hymns and worshiped God. That was our "Upper Room" experience. Shortly thereafter, by faith we moved and signed a lease with a payment of \$6,000.00 per month. It was a happy time for us. We now had our own place to worship. But we were not yet a church. We were still the Mitchellville Fellowship.

After we moved to our current location, many other members from Metropolitan and other churches including our Nigerian brethren joined us, and our pool of talents expanded tremendously. Between the years 1999 and 2003 all aspects of a fully functioning church were incorporated into our operations. Some of those activities included baptism, tithe and offering, communion, funeral, wedding, board meeting, other NET programs, the Children's Choir under Francis Baird and Ethleen Ambrose, our first live evangelistic crusade under Pastors Pete Palmer, Amos Hosten, Alan Johnson, J. Glenn Roberts, and Richard Campbell, health programs under Dr. Judy Herbert, tract distribution, nursing home visitations, giving food baskets, shelter program, cooking schools, feeding of the homeless and the establishing of a Discover Bible School.

On December 21, 2003 at an Executive Meeting of the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh Day Adventists. Mitchellville Fellowship was approved to be the Mitchellville Church.

From a small group of four members, the church has grown to a membership of 192 with attendance in the area of one hundred each Sabbath. Our first pastor was Alan Johnson, December 2003 to July 2010; our second pastor was Melvin Hayden III served from 2010 to the 2014. Our third and current pastor is Leslie Moise. Our first First Elder was Kenneth Palmer – December 2003 to 2006. Our second First Elder was Hugh Springer – 2007 to 2011. Our third First Elder is Paul Johnson –

**MITCHELLVILLE SDA CHURCH**

*122 Old Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774-1255*

---

2012 to present. In September 02, 2005, the Lord led Mitchellville to purchase the entire property, which you now see. That too was a walk of faith. We have plans by the grace of God to build a new sanctuary in the near future.

In 2013, Mitchellville celebrated its 10th anniversary as a church in the Allegheny East Conference. Since then, Mitchellville has established an Adventurer Club, the Tiny Torches, implemented Worship in Action (outreach that occurs every 3rd Sabbath), and small group ministries. As of April 2017, Mitchellville's membership stands at 208.

We now have one member Dillon Jones serving in South Korea as a missionary. To GOD be the Glory.

**NEW HOPE COMMUNITY SDA CHURCH***10034 Hansonville Road, Frederick, MD 21702*

The New Hope Community Church was organized as a Company of Seventh-day Adventists in Frederick, MD on 4/27/1991 under the name "Unity." At that time, a few African-American Seventh-day Adventists that were living in Frederick, were either attending Frederick SDA Church or driving "down the road" every week for church. This continued until the Lord impressed Kenneth Peters and a few other core members to start a small company called Unity SDA Church, with a mission to reach the minorities in Frederick. One day, as Sister Peters was driving down South Street with her children, Kanetha, the eldest daughter, saw a sign that said "office space for rent" at 201 A Broadway Street; that became the first meeting place for Unity.

It was in this small office space on Broadway Street where our vision of owning our own building first began. Unity read what the Bible said in Exodus about building the sanctuary when Israel was commanded to give freely with a willing heart. They brought so much Moses had to tell them to stop giving! This small congregation also read the Spirit of Prophecy, on fundraising for our church building, and there began our Building Fund on Broadway Street. The pledges of this small committed company were multiplied by God over the years. We then had enough money in the building fund to buy our next place of meeting on West 9th Street, which only cost \$149,000 at the time. Unfortunately, we hesitated, and another church bought it before we were able to complete the process. However, we were able to rent from them for a few years before moving to three other locations. Our 4th and final location was definitely a gift from God through the diligent searching of the internet by our current Pastor's wife, Sis Jasmine Anderson. We were led to an old abandoned bar at 10034 Hansonville Road, Frederick MD 21702 which was previously the old airport inn off Route 15 North. To God be the glory!

Some of the chartered and early members were Kenneth & Wilma Peters, Vanessa Grooms, Sis Shirley Keys, Vickie Bruins, Gerard & Judy Griffin, Marilyn Jones, Roy & Veronique Barnes, Reggie & Jill Sellers, Darryl & Suzette Echols, Art & Jackie Lyons, Margaret Naylor, Carol Proctor, William & Joan Frazier, Ed & Judith Sullivan, Charles & Marshell Jackson and their children.

Special mention of Elder Damazo of the Frederick SDA Church who worked closely with Unity from its very inception assisting with Bible studies, baptisms, church growth and building.

## NEW HOPE COMMUNITY SDA CHURCH

*10034 Hansonville Road, Frederick, MD 21702*

---

We have been pastored by the following: Jessie Thompson, our first pastor for a short time, Pastor Ron Hobson, Pastor Dennis Waters, Pastor Earl Blackwell, and Pastor Coby Matlock. Then under Pastor Jason McCracken, Unity's name was changed to New Hope Community in 2005. Currently, Pastor Kenneth Anderson is now officiating for the past 10 years.

It was during the time that we were worshiping at our 9th St. location that we invited a group of about 10 young people from Oakwood College to come and do a summer evangelistic meeting. The students were L.E.s (Literature Evangelists), who canvassed the area by day, and two young theology students did the preaching at night. One of these young men was Pastor Melvin Hayden, III! Unity was an active and thriving church under the leadership of Elder Peters as the official AEC Lay Leader and Elder Art Lyons the First Elder (alternating) at different times through the years. We frequently had 40-75 people attending Sabbath services. Elder Lyons was also the leader of the Pathfinder Club Ministry with his assistants, Gerard Griffin and Roy Barnes. Elder Peters along with Evangelist Cartwright conducted several evangelist efforts that yielded many baptisms in the early years. Through the Daniel & Revelation Seminar, Pathfinders Club and Oakwood Student Evangelists Summer L.E. Program as well as our church Newsletter; our target was to spread the gospel to the Sagner Community Sagner Community and residents at the John Hanson Apartments in Frederick, where we recruited many young people for the Lord's army. We were able to gain the trust of some parents who sent their youngsters with us to a weekend Camporee at Allegheny East Conference Camp meeting. They marched beautifully in their Pathfinder's uniform during the Camporee Parade. They actually did exceptionally well. It was a joyous occasion, and the young people loved it. It was a great experience! Since then, we have had many highs and low moments as members and supporters came and went, but even with the challenges and changes, New Hope Community SDA has remained God's church and the apple of His eye. Our long, hoped for dream, of one day owning our place of worship became a reality on September 17, 2016, when we celebrated the transformation of an old abandoned bar to the church of the Living God filled with the Holy Spirit with an official dedication ceremony of our new church building. However, our greatest hope, joy and dream is the soon coming of Christ our Saviour, where we will dwell together forever in an Earth made new. Maranatha!



**NEW JOY FELLOWSHIP SDA CHURCH***319 W. Howard St., Hagerstown, MD*

In the beginning, God brought together eleven individuals who had a dream: a dream to begin a church in the Hagerstown area to minister to the culturally specific needs of African Americans through its ministries, programs and services. These pioneers included: Debra Banks, Marjorie Chambers, Shirley Cherry, Ed Crumbly, Faith Crumbly, Doreen Franks, Gloria Jones, June Jones, Lisa Royster, William Royster, and Ed Sullivan.

This open meeting at the Review and Herald Publishing Association with Dr. Ron Smith took place on Wednesday, February 9, 2005. In light of Dr. Smith's hectic schedule, it was proposed that he would serve as a consultant to the group and give guidance and suggestions to help with organization, growth, proper conference protocol, and act as a liaison on our behalf to facilitate an introduction to Elder Charles Cheatham, President of the Allegheny East Conference. Dr. Smith's recommendations were that we focus on outreach, Bible studies and other ministries, and to conduct weekly "cottage meetings" to study and pray together and continue to plan and encourage one another. In addition to the ministries, he felt it was important that we show financial growth in offerings and establish a financial base to eventually have the means to independently support expenses associated with having a church.

While this was excellent counsel, we were an impatient and determined bunch; eager to see our dreams come to fruition. Arrangements were made to hold Sabbath School and church services that following Sabbath, February 12, 2005, at the Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center. Calls were quickly made to invite friends and family to attend this special Sabbath service. More than 50 people filled the place in a spirit-filled worship service where Elder Kenneth Peters gave us the charge to build up the "walls" like Nehemiah and keep moving forward. This would prove to be our very first meeting. Thus, we have continued to meet every Sabbath since.

The first few church services were held at the Mt. Aetna Adventist Elementary School Gym. It is here that the name, New Joy Fellowship, was established with the charter members including:

- Alvin and Debra Banks and their three children, Autumn, Alvin and Alijah
- Shirley Cherry
- David and Loranda Distan and their three children, Alexandria, Ashley and David
- Gloria Jones

## NEW JOY FELLOWSHIP SDA CHURCH

*319 W. Howard St., Hagerstown, MD*

---

- Doreen Frank and her two children, Tyrell and Trevor
- June Jones
- Myrlene Romain-Bounds and her daughter Shamitz Bounds
- William and Lisa Roysters and their children William, Christopher and Alyssa
- Yolanda Smith
- Violet Wilson

In keeping with our desire to incorporate the children in ministries, we started visiting the Beverly Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (now known as the Golden Living Center). In March 2005, while looking for another place to hold weekly extended Sabbath School services, calls were made to local churches. Pastor Clarke Carr, of the Grace United Methodist Church, agreed to meet with us. Upon entering the office, the church secretary immediately recognized Alijah Banks as one of the children reciting scriptures at the nursing home while she was there visiting her mother the previous Sabbath. Her glowing words of praise for all our young people impressed the pastor, who then granted our request to hold weekly services using their entire facility; free of charge. On May 15, 2005, we officially became a Branch Sabbath School of the Serenity SDA Church in Martinsburg, WV. In November 2006, Elder Henry Fordham, Secretary of the Allegheny East Conference, met with our church to discuss "Company" status. At the December 17, 2006 AEC Executive Committee Meeting, a motion was made to accept New Joy Fellowship into the Allegheny East Conference as a "Company".

In November 2007, Dr. Kenneth Anderson began serving; the first Pastor at "Company" status.

In 2008, Pastor Dr. Kenneth Anderson performed N.J.F's first Baptismal Ceremony, baptizing four candidates.

Between the years of 2008- 2010, membership grew with the addition of 20 additional persons.

In July 2011, New Joy Fellowship purchased property on 319 W Howard Street in Hagerstown MD and renovation began for a new church home.

On February 24th, 2013 the Allegheny East Conference Corporation Executive Committee voted to approve New Joy Fellowship Company into Church status.

**NEW LIFE SDA CHURCH***7401 Muncaster Mill Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877*

It all began in May of 1985 when Claudette Hargrove and Donna Orr, Seventh-day Adventist residents of the Gaithersburg, MD area, were jokingly speaking about how far they had to travel to attend church on Sabbath. From this doorstep discussion grew the idea to form a Gaithersburg Company under the Allegheny East Conference. Donna Orr approached the Pastoral Staff at the Emmanuel Brinklow SDA Church who, under the leadership of Pastor Henry J. Fordham III, decided to sponsor this effort.

Waverly Massenburg, a young lay person who had a heart for higher service, spearheaded the organization of the company, with the support of other young men and women who lived in the Gaithersburg area. The median age was about 30 years old - a group primarily made of young families with small children.

Elders James Warren and Joyce Royster responded to the call to come over from Brinklow to provide direction and guidance. On September 28, 1985, the first organizational meeting was held at the Orr home. On October 16th, the first prayer meeting was held at the home of Kenneth and Debra Campbell. From these humble beginnings, a church was born!!!

We moved on to begin worshiping at Gaithersburg Middle School. We were young and energetic, too inexperienced to know what it all meant. But we did know God was leading. Our children needed a home church in which they could grow, and God provided. The congregation moved to Flower Hill Church of the Brethren, and God sent a steady stream of mighty men of God to shepherd his flock - Rodney Malcolm, Ronnie Hobson, Dennis Waters, even a brief and blessed time with Elder Danny Davis.

Then Pastor Errol Stoddart took us to the next level by leading us to build a new edifice in 2004. The church continued to thrive and grow under the subsequent ministries of Malcolm Taylor and our present pastor David Defoe and has matured into the present vibrant ministry and worship center that we are today.

From that small group of believers, we are now over 300 strong and growing. Praise God for not despising the days of small things, but by His grace and mercy He has led us all the way. May God continue to bless us and all that are part of the great Allegheny East Conference.

## OXON HILL FILIPINO-AMERICAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST MISSION

7400 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills, Maryland 20748



On November 11th, 2011, a momentous event was recorded in the books of Heaven. It was the founding and organizing of the Filipino Oxon Hill SDA Mission Church.

As written by the pen of inspiration in the book *Christian Service*, "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men, it was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning, it has been God's plan that through His church, shall be reflected to the world, His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the Church, will eventually be made manifest, even to "the principalities and powers in heavenly places," the final and full display of the love of God.

It was this mission and goal inspired by God that moved on the hearts of the founding members of the Filipino Oxon Hill SDA Mission Church which include:

- Pastor Ronald Cho
- Pastor Joel Rizalino
- Pastor Ariel Matira
- Loreighne Jhoy Matira

When the Filipino Oxon Hill SDA Mission was started, it was located in a little church house in Fort Washington, Maryland and then moved from house to house of the founding members. As the founding members pressed forward to grow the Mission Church, their motto was Isaiah 56:7 which states that "Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." It was through diligent prayer and spirit led effort and support from the Breath of life SDA Church that the Filipino Oxon Hill Mission Seventh-day Adventist Church was finally recognized on November 17, 2012 as an official mission church by Allegheny East Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church officiated by Pastor Marcellus T. Robinson, Vice President for Administration/Chief Human Resources Officer. The Lord continued to lead the founders to fulfill the great commission of Jesus Christ outlined in

Mathew 28:19-20 which states: Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you . . . "

## OXON HILL FILIPINO-AMERICAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST MISSION

*7412 Livingston Road, Oxon Hill, MD 20745-1705*

---

It was on August 11, 2012, that the Filipino Oxon Hill Mission SDA Church held its first baptism of three (3) precious souls. The baptism was officiated by Pastor Ronald Cho and Pastor Ariel Matira.

Then on July 13, 2013, the Lord again blessed the Mission Church with additional baptism of 7 precious souls. This second baptism was officiated by Pastor Vic Arreola, III.

On June 14, 2014 and July 5, 2014, this Mission Church again grew with the additional baptisms of four.

Pastors Ariel Matira and Ramon Baldovino had the blessing of officiating at this baptism.

Year 2015, Pastor Vic Arreola conducted another evangelistic crusade in Fil-Am Oxon Hill SDA Mission and five (5) precious souls gave their lives to the Lord through baptism. These baptisms were officiated by Pastor Vic Arreola, III and Pastor Ariel Matira.

Year 2016 on July 11, three more precious souls were added to the church through baptism officiated by Pastor Ariel Matir.

With this Holy Spirit led growth in the mission church, the members of the Filipino Oxon Hill Mission Church then decided to elect its first mission church officers, Elders:

- Nestor Alconga
- Rodolfo de Guzman
- Ner Lirazan
- Jaylord Hernando

Since 2016 and currently 2017, these are the following Elders who dedicated their lives to continue on serving the Lord to nurture the faith of the believers and to reach out to the residents of Oxon Hill, Fort Washington, Temple Hills and the nearby areas mainly the Filipino Community.

- Steven Saint-George
- Nestor Alconga
- Rodolfo de Guzman
- Arnel Nerona

This is the early history of the Filipino American Oxon Hill SDA Mission Church, which is history recorded in the heavenly books that far exceeded any events in earth's history because the Church is God's exclusive means through which to reveal His glory. May the Lord continue to shine his blessings and empower this Mission Church with His Holy Spirit to continue to win souls for Christ.

**PISGAH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***105 Kingsberry Court, St. Leonard, MD 20685*

Pisgah Seventh-day Adventist Church started as a dream of Sister Edna Bailey Criddle. For years, she was the only known Black Adventist in Charles County, and she diligently carried on her responsibility of sharing her faith in Jesus Christ. Although she was a member of the Ephesus Church in Washington, D.C., she conducted numerous Bible studies and Branch Sabbath Schools long before the Pisgah Church was organized. Sister Criddle realized the magnitude of the work and appealed for help from the members of the Ephesus Church. A company of interested persons was formed and met informally at the homes of Sister Criddle and Hancock.

In response to Sister Criddle's desire to have a church in her community, Elder Walter Starks of the DuPont Park Church (formerly Ephesus) dispatched some workers to the area in preparation for an evangelistic meeting in 1964. Lay Elders Wilmer Hunt and Henry Smith assisted, as did workers Edna Criddle, Josephine Flowers, Nettie Lewis, Amos Lewis, Earline Smith, Edith Winters, Catherine Rivers Jackson, Malachi McKelvin, Timothy Bright, Robert Pyndell, Helen Pyndell, Bernard Smith, and Mildred Hunt.

From the evangelistic effort, ten souls were baptized. Included among the ten were Rallie Brown, Sr., and his wife, Liza Ann of Pisgah, Maryland, whose home was used for church services for a brief period, immediately after the tent effort.

When the group grew too large for the Brown's home, they moved to Sister Hancock's home. Continued growth necessitated moves to several locations. The Grange Hall, Mason Spring School in Pisgah, and, then to Elder and Mrs. Smith's home in Nelson Point Road. It was at Elder Smith's home in 1968 that Elder W. A. Thompson, then President of the Allegheny East Conference, organized the Company into a Church with Elder Henry L. Smith and Wilmer Hunt serving as Lay Pastors until Elder Mack Wilson was appointed as Pastor. From the Smith's home, the church moved to the Elks Home on Bryans Road, and Elder James Clements served as the spiritual leader. The church continued to grow and later moved to the J. C. Parks School, and a new pastor was appointed; namely, Pastor A. L. Banks. Lay Elders were appointed to assist in the work, one of which was Elder Lawrence Saunders, whose dedicated and committed work resulted in many converts.

## PISGAH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*105 Kingsberry Court, St. Leonard, MD 20685*

---

In 1979, the Conference assigned Elder Colin Braithwaite as Pastor. During his pastorate, the congregation worshipped at the Faith Methodist Church in Accokeek, Maryland. Under his leadership, the church building project, which had begun many years ago, rapidly progressed.

During the transition period of assigning new pastors, Harold Singleton came to serve as interim pastor.

The succeeding pastor was Pastor Amos Hosten, and associate Pastor Carl Hinds. During their leadership, the congregation began worshipping at the Metropolitan Methodist Church in Bryans Road, Maryland and did so for three years, and it was during this time that the construction phase of the Pisgah Seventh-day Adventist Church building project began. The Metropolitan Methodist Church congregation was gracious beyond measure and their hospitality and generosity will always be remembered.

In 1984, Pastor LeCount Butler was assigned to assist with the construction phase of the building project. Many hours (night and day) were spent in prayer and dedicated labor to erect a sanctuary that would appropriately represent the God we serve. It was remarkable to see God use ordinary people, who overnight became carpenters, roofers, land surveyors, bricklayers, chain saw cutters, painters and electricians. Another blessing was to see God unite the hearts of so many different people to work as one for His cause. What a remarkable demonstration of the POWER OF THE LIVING GOD to the neighboring community.

Under the leadership of Pastors Amos Hosten and LeCount Butler, and through the prayers, hard work, and dedicated financial support of the members of Pisgah (old, young, and in-between) and many friends, this fine edifice on Bumpy Oak Road was erected for the service of mankind and to the Glory of God. The opening celebrations began on February 28 and ended with the dedication service on Sabbath, March 2, 1986.

In 1987, Alonzo Wagner served as interim pastor. He is remembered for his loving Spirit, which was a blessing to the members.

The appointment of Pastor Bruce Flynn followed in March of that same year. Serving with him as associate pastor, and lay pastor during another transition period was Elder James Fulton. Under their leadership, the church continued to increase.

For several months, Walter Starks served as interim pastor. His years of experience and wisdom contributed to the spiritual growth of the church.

In 1993, George Thornton was appointed as the new pastor. He is remembered and appreciated for his gift of preaching, his ability to make the Word come alive, and the joy that he shared.

**PISGAH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***105 Kingsberry Court, St. Leonard, MD 20685*

---

In March 1994, Pastor Melvyn E. Hayden, who is loved and greatly appreciated was appointed as pastor of the Pisgah Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In 2004, Pastor Leslie Moise began serving as our pastor. Pastor Moise is remembered for his effective methods of teaching and educating us and the community.

From 2014 to present, Pastor M. Joseph Hutchinson is held as a pastor who is very personable. He knows everyone's name and has made spectacular strides in helping to return former members to church.

Pisgah has been blessed over and over again by God's faithful servants. We look forward to continuing to reap God's blessings while we wait for his soon return.



**REACHING HEARTS INTERNATIONAL SDA CHURCH***2410 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD 20868*

In December 2000, a group of folks from Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church wanted to establish a congregation in a place to preach and share the gospel. They met in the following locations:

- Berwyn Presbyterian Church  
*6301 Greenbelt Road, College Park, Maryland 20740*
- Grace United Methodist Church  
*7001 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912*
- Round Oak Baptist Church  
*15812 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20905*
- Cedar Ridge Conference Center (Now known as: Cedar Ridge Community Church)  
*2430 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, Maryland 20868*

The original name for their group was Healing Hearts International, but since someone else had their original choice, they voted to change the name to Reaching Hearts International or RHI Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Mylas Martin, Dr. John Butler, Pastor Michael Oxentencko, Tom Prasado Rao and Sylvia Dennis organized the beginnings of RHI. 90 people were the original nucleus for Reaching Hearts.

**OUR CHARTER MEMBERS WERE:**

Raj Abel	Terry Martin
John Butler	Alvin Mottley
Shirley Butler	Ed Poey
Pat Burrs	Abraham Pourhassani
Sylvia Dennis	Kathryn Pourhassani
Harrison John	Tom Wessel
Helen John	Kathy Oddono

## REACHING HEARTS INTERNATIONAL SDA CHURCH

*2410 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD 20868*

---

Mylas Martin a newspaper editor, Patricia Burrs and Author Clifford Goldstein helped the core group to give RHI a firm foundation.

Reaching Hearts has helped to develop the following:

- Two Mangalore Churches in India
- Reaching Hearts Brazil School of the Prophets
- Reaching Hearts for Kids International
- Panama Mission

Emmanuel-Brinklow SDA Church has helped Reaching Hearts in their development and Reaching Hearts has helped to develop the Mangalore Churches in India.

Reaching Hearts has spread the gospel in the following unique ways:

- World Bank Ministry
- Radio Broadcast Ministry
- Campus Ministry
- Homeless Ministry
- Health Evangelism
- Prison Ministry

RHI has partnered with the Adventist Book Center to present healthy eating and living to the surrounding community.

Reaching Hearts is building a church and will be moving in on June 3, 2017. However, in order to move in on June 3, the leaders had to fight a Goliath System that did not want a church in their county. God prevailed, and the church has been selected as the location for the Allegheny East Conference Constituency on October 15, 2017.

**REMNANT SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***13925 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20904*

In November 2009, a group of seventy two Seventh-day Adventists of Southern Asian origin after much prayer and seeking divine guidance decided to organize a company of believers under the auspices of the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in order to carry on a holistic ministry to its constituents, the local area community, the nation and the world. The group selected Pastor Sujjan John as their leader and initially was part of the United Telugu Seventh-day Adventist congregation.

The Lord's guiding hand was with us at each step of the way. He helped us overcome every difficulty, opposition and challenge. The new company, in a few months, was able to rent a beautiful and comfortable church building on the Sabbaths from a kind and generous local Protestant congregation on New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, Maryland and assumed the status of a full-fledged constituent church of the Allegheny East Conference.

What followed is amazing. The congregation, which by God's grace included men and women of immense talent in the operational, technical, musical, administrative, spiritual and witnessing fields, began to grow phenomenally. The membership surged and stands at 165 and growing and includes believers of all races who are fully bound by Christian unity and brotherhood to carry on the ministries of the church. Giving is enthusiastic, sacrificial, exemplary and disproportionately high. The church services and programs are also broadcast electronically, and we have thousands of viewers throughout the world every Sabbath. In YouTube we have 9,862 subscribers and 2,571,110 views, on FaceBook 6,269 followers and on Twitter, we have 1,436 followers and 3,922 Tweets. In addition to worship services, our various ministries focus on health and wellbeing, end time prophecies, outreach programs, prayer ministry, family life enrichment, children, youth and women's ministries, and feeding the homeless. Every second Sabbath more than 200 people are fed and more than 40 Bible studies are going on, visits to the sick and shut ins, revival meetings, and of course evangelistic series that have had an immense impact on the lives of the members, visitors and broadcast watchers. The characteristic love, warmth, fellowship and care extended by the church leadership and members have made an indelible mark on the visitors, a number of whom have promptly joined as members. The congregation is also fully committed to either buy or build our own church building with the Lord's help, from where we can operate with thankfulness, joy, pride and security.

**REMNANT SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***13925 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20904*

---

The church leadership and members have a noble vision for the future of the church—that it should continue to grow, not only in numbers, but also spiritually, lending a helping hand to the needy and underprivileged and taking the gospel of Christ to the nation and the world with an uncompromising sense of urgency, dedication and commitment. We are fully confident of fulfilling this mission because the God who was with us when we began, who has been with us thus far, will continue to lead us and see us through from strength to strength, and victory to victory until time shall be no more. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

**SERENITY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***25 Duke Road, Martinsburg, WV 25404*

In the Spring of 1989, God began a work that would culminate beyond one's greatest expectation. Sabbath services were being held in the home of Jefferson and Sarah Wills, located on Serenity Lane in the beautiful north mountains of Jones Springs, WV.

In attendance were five believers, the Wills, Sis. Irene Day, and Dr. and Mrs. Warren Harrison. Not long after, the group was joined by Sis. Lucille A. Harron (who had worked with the Wills previously in the pioneering of Emmanuel-Brinklow SDA Church).

Elder St. Clare Phipps, then Pastor of Emmanuel-Brinklow, traveled 180 miles round-trip to give his invaluable guidance to the newly formed group. He directed Brother Wills to seek out Elder Vernon Cartwright, an outstanding colporteur and lay minister, whom he had known and worked with for several years in the Allegheny West Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

September 24, 1989 marked the first meeting for the election of officers, with Elder Cartwright presiding as leader. At the recommendation of Elder Phipps, a letter was sent to Elder Alvin W. Kibble, President, outlining the groups plans for establishing a work in Martinsburg, WV and expressing their desire to become a part of the Allegheny East Conference. In a regular business meeting on October 29, 1989, the group voted to adopt the name Serenity Seventh-day Adventist Community Services.

On March 1, 1990, the group of believers moved to its first place of worship in the city of Martinsburg at 214 N. King Street. They were blessed when the families of John Washington and Russell Miller moved in from Palo Alto, CA and Hyattsville, MD respectively, giving additional support to the Martinsburg work. October 20, 1990, marked a high day in the experience and growth of Serenity. The group was officially organized into a Company of the Allegheny East Conference by the Executive Secretary, Elder Charles L. Cheatham.

As members joined and others relocated, Serenity maintained a steady membership of 30 to 35 members. On September 20, 1995, under the leadership of Pastor Andrew R. Harewood, and with the constant support of Mr. Leonard Harris of Martinsburg, Serenity miraculously secured a 2.7-plus-acre lot for \$124,000 with a down payment of \$24,800 and a loan of \$99,200, which was liquidated in three years.

**SERENITY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH***25 Duke Road, Martinsburg, WV 25404*

---

On October 1, 1997, God inspired eleven stalwart members from the Berryville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Virginia to join Serenity at a most crucial time, making our dream building of a church a reality. In July 2000, members of Serenity placed \$98,000 in escrow to start construction of their building, which was completed February 15, 2001. One outstanding blessing of which we all marvel, is that our seventh and final move was to this beautiful, God-given location. Biblically speaking, seven is the complete number. With this in mind, our seventh move denoted completion—God was with us all the way.

**UNITED TELUGU SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS TAKOMA PARK TELUGU SDA COMPANY)

*12621 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904*

United Telugu Adventist Church (Known as Takoma Park Telugu Company) was affiliated with AEC of SDA in the year 1998 September 22nd. Elder Alvin Kibble, then the President of AEC, invited this small group in the Conference and appointed Pastor George Lamu as Pastor.

From the time Pastor Lamu came to USA, he had the desire to organize a small group of elders who had migrated from India. The first meeting was started in a nearby school, "Rolling Terrace" Middle School, located in Takoma Park, Maryland. It was a great success, and the Telugu community was growing. As years passed by, the Church did blossom and had great success and was a blessing for the believers.

In the year 1999, the church had its first Telugu Christian Convention where distinguished guests made their appearance. The meeting was held in Montgomery Blair High School with over 1000 attendees. This meeting was the greatest spiritual blessing for the community. The church presently worships in St. Mark's Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. We are so blessed by the efficient leadership of Elder Charles Cheatham, President and Elder Henry Fordham III of AEC as Secretary.

We thank all the members of our Church and well-wishers of the Community for their unconditional support.

Please continue to pray in our spiritual journey.

## VIRGINIA KOREAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



August 29, 1981 – In Vienna, VA (344 Courthouse Rd SW, Vienna, VA 22180) few people joined the worship lead by Pastor Jong Pil Kim

March 27, 1982 – 22 people gathered (12 adults and 10 youths) to celebrate place of worship.

- Pastor: Jong Pil Kim,
- Worship Director: Sa Guek Kim
- Treasurer: Shin Jong Park
- Sabbath School Director: Myung Sup Kang

July 1982 – 5 members were baptized

April, 1984 – 44 members gathered to celebrate the church formation

April 1989 – 18 people immigrated from Korea joined the church

September 1989 – In search of bigger space for worship due to sudden increase of membership, church moved its place of worship to 114 Kingsley Rd, Vienna, VA

March 1990 – 11 more immigrants joined the church

August 1991 – For the 10th Anniversary of church, total number of members has increased to 127 (92 baptized)

June 1993 – Pastor Jong Pil Kim was called to serve Staten Island Korean SDA

July 1993 – Pastor Nam Suk Chung was appointed as the senior pastor

1994 – VASDA moved to 340 Courthouse Rd, SW, Vienna, VA gymnasium as its place worship

June 1995 – With sudden illness Pastor Chung retired and resigned

July 1995 – Pastor Won Hoi Koo was appointed to serve VASDA as the senior pastor

July 1996 – VASDA moved its membership to Allegheny East Conference from Potomac Conference

July 2000 – VASDA purchased a large lot with a building \$580K in Manassas, VA (12351 Dumfries Rd)



**VIRGINIA KOREAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

---

November 2000 – After public hearings, building/land usage was granted as place of worship

January 2001 – Pastor Peter Shin was appointed to serve as the associate pastor

September 2002 – Led by Pastor Koo, Northern VA Korean Church was formed and separated from VASDA

January 2003 – Pastor Heung Seog Park was appointed as the senior pastor

July 2, 2005 – VASDA moved to its current place 12351 Dumfries Rd, Manassas, VA

September 2009 – Associate pastor Peter Shin was relocated to California to serve as the senior pastor of Ronhert Park SDA Church

August 2009 – VASDA organized and successfully held the annual Korean East Coast Camp Meeting in Johnstown, PA

December 2009 – Pastor Justin Yang was appointed to serve as the associate pastor

April 2010 – Church Van was purchased

September 2010 – Pathfinders/ Adventurers formed

June 2012 – Pastor Yang has left to church to finish his graduate degree

September 2012 – Pastor Charles Hong was appointed to serve as the associate pastor

July 2014– Pastor Heung Seog Park relocated to serve as the senior pastor of Oregon Central Korean SDA Church

August 2014 – Pastor Dae Doo Seo was appointed to serve as the senior pastor of VASDA

December 2015 – Pastor Dae Doo Seo resigned.

July 2016 – Pastor Giwoong Kim was appointed to serve as the senior pastor of VASDA

**LIGHTHOUSE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST FELLOWSHIP***Calvary United Church of Christ, 7545 Wayside Drive, Sunderland, MD 20689*

Tyrone King was raised as a member of the Allegheny East Conference from childhood. In 2005, he, transferred his membership to the Chesapeake Conference to work with one of their pastors in St. Mary's County, MD. After two years there, the Chesapeake, Conference asked him to Pastor their Prince Frederick Church. After eight and a half years, he desired to return to the Allegheny East Conference and looked into starting a start-up church in the Waldorf, MD area.

Several members who joined the Prince Frederick Church under his leadership, he decided that they wanted to be a part of this new venture. This small group met and voted to start a new group under the name of Lighthouse Fellowship with a starting membership of 14 members.

During a conversation with Pastor Joseph Hutchinson of the Pisgah SDA Church, he was asked to partner with Pisgah to start a church in Waldorf. From this meeting, the Pisgah SDA Church voted to sponsor the members of Lighthouse Fellowship as a mission followed by the Allegheny East Conference voting Lighthouse in as a mission in August, 2015.

After an unsuccessful extensive search in the Waldorf area for a building to rent, the members decided to look for something locally in order to keep the group in tack while they continued to look. The All Saints Episcopal Church in Sunderland, MD agreed to allow the group to meet there on Sabbath mornings for services. After worshipping at this location for several months, the group voted to discontinue their search for a worship location in Waldorf, MD and to continue to worship at All Saints.

At All Saints, they were able to partner with the church members on several outreach programs. The two churches sponsored a backpack ministry where they provided week-end lunches to children at a local elementary school. They also worked together to provide Christmas gifts through the Angel Tree program and the members of Lighthouse volunteers to work during Safe Nights which is a program to house the homeless population during winter months.

All Saints allowed use of their facilities during the weekdays for the members of Lighthouse to conduct a Community Bible Class and a Ladies Only Bible Study group where the majority of the participants are non-church members.

## LIGHTHOUSE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST FELLOWSHIP

*Calvary United Church of Christ, 7545 Wayside Drive, Sunderland, MD 20689*

---

After four years of worshipping at All Saints Episcopal, the members of Lighthouse voted to look for a new worship location that would better accommodate their needs. Currently, the members are worshipping at Calvary Apostolic Church, also located in Sunderland, MD.

Over the years Lighthouse has participated in the following outreach projects:

- Yearly scholarship to a local high school with Concerned Black Men of Calvert County
- Baby shower to residents of the local women's shelter
- Contributions to "On Our Own Calvert" to assist with the Homeless population
- Community cookout to collect underwear and school supplies for local children
- Supplied school supplies to local teachers during winter months
- Supplied school supplies to an Adventist Elementary School in Baltimore, MD
- Provided tuition support to an Adventist Elementary School in Baltimore, MD
- Provided toiletries and underwear to homeless shelter in Washington, DC
- Provided free hair cut/styles for children returning to school

With the assistance of Dr. Gene Donaldson, Lighthouse was granted Company status by Allegheny East Conference in 2017.

## FILIPINO-AMERICAN OXON HILL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

7400 Temple Hill, Temple Hills, Maryland 20748



Did you know that just at the beginning of the 20th Century, on November 11, 1909 – the construction of the US navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, began and

It was on November 11, 1926 when U.S. Route 66 was established as the Mother Road of America which originally ran from Chicago, Illinois, going west all the way to Santa Monica, California, covering a total of 2,448 miles (3,940 km)

And finally, it was on November 11, 1966 when NASA launched spaceship Gemini 12 to the space, marking a giant step in the history of human kind.

However, although these great and wonderful events all occurred in world history on November 11th, the greatest event recorded in the books of heaven was the founding of the Filipino Oxon Hill SDA Mission Church, on November 11, 2011, 8 years ago this month.

As written by the pen of inspiration in the book Christian Service, “the church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory.

It was this mission and goal inspired by God that moved on the hearts of the founding members of the Filipino Oxon Hill SDA Mission Church, which include:

1. Pastor Ronald Cho
2. Pastor Joel Rizalino
3. Pastor Ariel Matira
4. Loreighne Jhoy Matira

When the Oxon Hill Church was started it was located in a little church house in Fort Washington, MD that then moved from house to house of the founding members. As the founding members pressed forward to carry on the mission of the church, their moto was Isaiah 56:7 which states that “Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people”.

## FILIPINO-AMERICAN OXON HILL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*7400 Temple Hill, Temple Hills, Maryland 20748*

---

It was through diligent prayer and spirit led effort and support from the Breath of Life SDA Church that the Filipino Oxon Hill SDA Mission Church was finally recognized on November 17, 2012 as an official mission church by Alleghany East Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, officiated by Pastor Marcellus T. Robinson, Vice President for Administration/Chief Human Resources Officer.

The Lord continued to lead the founders to fulfill the great commission of Jesus Christ outlined in Mathew 28:19-20 which states "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:"

It was on August 11, 2012 that the Filipino Oxon Hill Mission SDA Church held its historic first baptism of three (3) precious souls who are:

1. Romy Dumling
2. Amy Dumling and
3. Melody Lirazan

The baptism was officiated by Pastor Ronald Cho and Pastor Ariel Matira.

Since then, each year thereafter, by the grace of God, by the power of His Holy Spirit, and through the dedicated efforts of Pastor Ariel Matira and the founding members, the church continued to grow in membership through accession by membership transfers and annual baptisms.

On July 13, 2013, the Lord again blessed the mission church with additional baptisms of 7 precious souls.

On June 14, 2014 and July 5, 2014, the third baptism took place with 4 members added to the flock of God.

Year 2015, Pastor Vic Arreola conducted another Evangelistic crusade In Fil-Am Oxon Hill SDA Mission church and five (5) precious souls gave their lives to the Lord.

Year 2016 of July 11, the Lord added yet another three (3) more precious souls to the Church through baptism.

With this Holy Spirit led growth in the mission church, in this same year – 2016, the members of the Filipino Oxon Hill Mission Church then decided to elect its first mission church officers with the following church Elders:

1. Nestor Alconga
2. Rodolfo De Guzman
3. Ner Lirazan
4. Jaylord Hernando

## FILIPINO-AMERICAN OXON HILL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*7400 Temple Hill, Temple Hills, Maryland 20748*

---

The power of the Holy Spirit was continually manifested upon this little, but growing congregation evidenced by the triumph of the Gospel as more people accepted Christ Jesus as their savior through baptisms:

In 2017 - 4 souls were baptized into the church.

On the same year, 2017 in April 8, Oxon Hill SDA Mission Church was recognized as a Company with its dedication led by Pastor Marcelus Robinson of Alleghany East Conference.

In 2018 - God gave us 10 souls, the highest number of baptisms in 7 years

And in 2019 - the Lord has already given us one baptism just a month ago. She is our newest church member, sister Rose Guiao

Through the 8 years of its existence, the Oxon Hill SDA Mission Church has faced several challenges both from within and without. But through the humble and dedicated leadership of our Pastor, Pastor Ariel Matira, through the corporate prayers of faith and support of our members, and by the grace and mercies of our Savior Christ Jesus, Oxon Hill SDA Mission Church has stood strong and faithful.

To Him alone we give all the honor and the glory for blessing our church to what it is now.

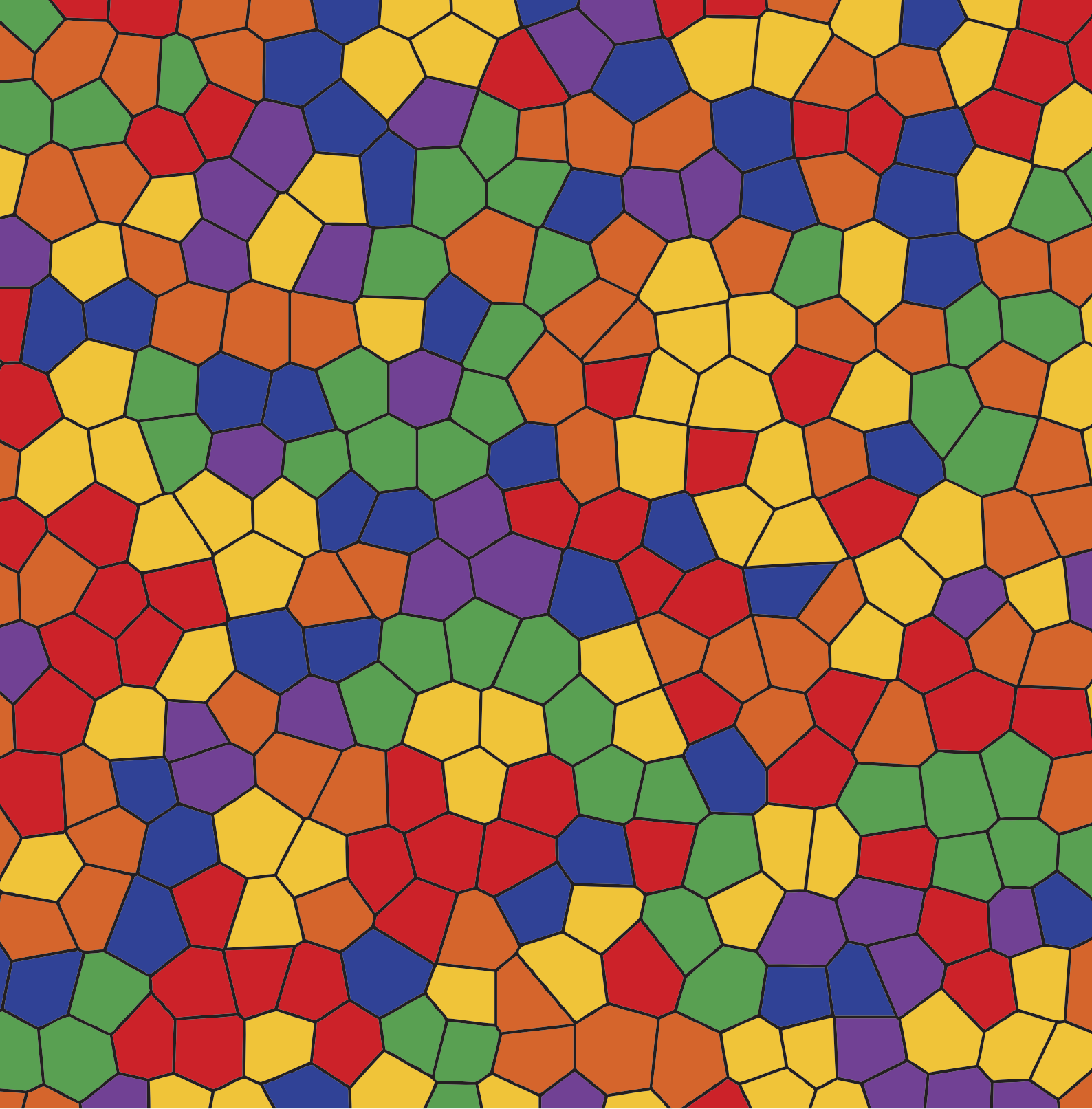
From the 4 founding members, we now have \_\_\_\_\_ celebrating members as of today.

Assured by the same guidance, leadings, and power of the Holy Spirit, we as a church make another resolve today; to remain true and faithful to Christ our redeemer, committed to our Mission, and steadfast in waiting and looking forward to the soon return of our Savior.

We firmly believe that as our Lord we serve has guided and blessed us in the past, we can

look and move ahead with solid faith and unwavering trust that He will continue to lead this church we all love – the Filipino-American Oxon Hill SDA Mission Church.

Today, our corporate prayer is; **"Oh Lord, Revive Us Again"** and grant us the power to shine and share your grace, until you come. **AMEN!**



**PHYSICAL ADDRESS**

**767 Douglass Drive, Boyertown, PA 19512**

**MAIL**

**P.O. Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548**

**[www.visitaec.org](http://www.visitaec.org)**

