

ENVISION

A Newsletter for the members and Friends of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT - *Trevor H.C. Baker*

TWO CHURCHES UNITE

On Sabbath, December 10, 2010, the Patmos and Immanuel Churches of Brooklyn, NY were officially united to form The River of Life Seventh-day Adventist Church. This unification completed a process that involved many months of Church Board and Business meetings. Both congregations thought it advantageous that their coming together would make for a stronger church body and the fulfillment of the church's mission. Pastor Raymond Alcock who was pastor of the Patmos/Immanuel district, remains as the Pastor of the newly formed church.

CONSTITUENCY SCHOOLS ON HORIZON

In light of the burgeoning challenges which many of our schools have been experiencing in remaining viable institutions, the Northeastern Conference Board of Education has voted to move ahead in implementing multi-church constituency based schools, beginning September 2011. This concept will require that a number of churches comprise the constituency of a school. The churches will thereby be given representation on the local school board, as well as contribute

financially to the operation of the school.

The times in which we live have made it increasingly difficult for any one church to operate a school. So it is the uniting of efforts and resources that will enable us to carry on the mission of educating our children in Seventh-day Adventist schools. Conference Administration will be meeting with Pastors and Church leaders in this regard, and will be piloting the concept. We solicit your prayers and your support as we seek to make our schools the best they can be.

TRAINING CONVENTION A SUCCESS

The annual Northeastern Conference Church Officers Convention was held on February 20 - 23, 2011. For the first time in its 29 year history, the venue was moved from Albany, New York to The Marriott Downtown in Hartford, Ct., and from the comments of most in attendance, it was a success.

A new addition to this year's program was plenary sessions on leadership and Risk Management.



DANBURY CONGREGATION ACQUIRES CHURCH HOME

The Brazilian Church in Danbury, CT purchased a beautiful church edifice on Friday, March 4, 2011. The church, under the leadership of Pastor Henriques Sousa, had been renting for several years; and the acquisition is the culmination of a long-looked-for dream.



LENDING A HAND IN NEW ORLEANS

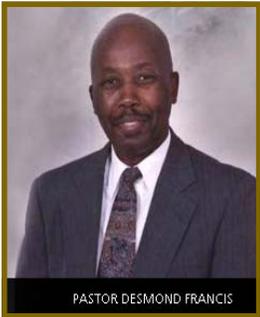
Approximately six years after the devastation of hurricane Katrina, and long after the T.V. cameras have left the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, the Northeastern Conference, through its Department of Community Services, led by Dr. Fitzgerald Kerr, continues to lend a hand in restoring the ruined city. On April 3, 2011, Dr. Kerr and 28 volunteers from 16 churches in the Northeastern Conference returned to New Orleans 9th Ward and spent a week during which they were able to complete most of the restoration of three houses which had been decimated by the hurricane.



CONFERENCE MOURNS LOSS OF WORKERS

The Northeastern Conference bade farewell to a number of former workers: Pastor Desmond Francis, Pastor Edward Herndon, Pastor Lionel Arthur, Ms. Doris Davies, Mrs. Levern Thomas, Pastor Edwin J. Humphrey Sr. and Elder Tester Stringer.

Pastor Desmond L. Francis retired after serving the NEC as a Pastor and Departmental Director over 26 years. He was residing in Atlanta, Georgia. He succumbed on Sunday, February 27, 2011 after some illness.



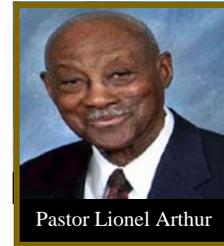
PASTOR DESMOND FRANCIS

Elder Edward Herndon served as the Bible Teacher at the Northeastern Academy for close to 40 years. He was loved and appreciated by his students and fellow teachers over his many years of service. Apart from his teaching responsibilities, he served the Mount Vernon SDA Church as First Elder for 13 years.



ELDER EDWARD HERNDON

Pastor Lionel Arthur On February, 13, 2011, Pastor Lionel R. Arthur who served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for more than 40 years as Pastor, Departmental Director, Treasurer and Conference President, was laid to rest. He and his wife served the Northeastern Conference for many years. Among the churches he pastored were Bethesda Church in Long Island, Flatbush and Elim Churches in Brooklyn, NY.



Pastor Lionel Arthur

Ms. Doris Davies, former secretary to the Northeastern Conference Youth and Personal Ministries departments, passed away in Maryland on January 11, 2011 after an extended period of illness. Her last employment was with the Secretariat of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



Doris Davies

Mrs. Levern Thomas who served the Northeastern Conference as a Secretary to the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments. She succumbed to death on March 22, 2011, after a valiant battle with cancer. Levern was a faithful worker of the Northeastern Conference for nineteen years.



Levern Thomas

Elder Edwin J. Humphrey, Sr., former pastor and Ministerial Secretary of NEC passed from this life in December 2010. Pastor Humphrey was a revered pastor, and served several churches within the Conference; two of which were the Bethel Church in Brooklyn, NY, and the Ephesus Church, in Harlem, NY.



Edwin J. Humphrey, Sr.
1922 - 2010

Elder Tester Stringer, retired Pastor of the Hill and Omega churches in Connecticut, passed away on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at his home in Georgia. Elder Stringer was at one time a very active member of the Elmont Temple in Elmont, New York.



Death is an enemy, which severs tender ties and which for now steals the joy of God's people. Unfortunately, we each must walk this vale of sorrow. At times such as this, there are always questions that we have, but know also that our God, who is too loving and wise to err, has the answers to life's baffling questions. So look to Him, and trust Him in the sunshine and in the shadows. This present vale of tears is

only for a night. For in the not-too-distant future, God's eternal morning will break, and the shadows we now know will flee away. Hold on, everlasting joy is coming in the morning of God's tomorrow. We have this hope!

