Village Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Anniversary Program

1864-2014

Celebrating 150 Years

Village Seventh-Day Adventist Church
This weekend we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of our local congregation. With both joy and pride we look back. We are glad that you have come to share in the events of this special weekend. We welcome you warmly and hope that as you reflect upon the past you will be challenged to meet the future with courage and boldness, in the name of Jesus.
The vision of the pioneers has become the reality of today and the promise of the future. Barely a year after the General Conference was organized on May 20 to 23, 1863, the South Lancaster, Massachusetts, Seventh-day Adventist Church was organized in the home of the Priest family on April 30, 1864, in North Lancaster, by Elder J. N. Loughborough.

The infant church met in three places before building a structure as a permanent home for its membership – the Haskell home on Bolton Road, the old Odd Fellows Hall until it was sold in 1869, then to the second floor of an old building owned by Benjamin Rice until 1873 when it was sold after Mr. Rice died. Now the little homeless church was faced with another move, but where to this time? Elder Haskell's carriage...
shop was accepted by the group as a sanctuary in which to worship God. But this shop had a destiny also. It was later used as the first home of “That New England School” now South Lancaster Academy.

Here in 1869 the Vigilant Missionary Society was formed by ladies of this church for the purpose of distributing missionary tracts and papers. Ellen and James White visited South Lancaster in 1871 to study this work and were greatly impressed by its organization and effectiveness. They endorsed the plan and recommended that it be followed by other churches. From this society came the foundation of our Church Ministries Department of the General Conference and our local conference Adventist Book Centers.

Here, in 1870, on the edge of South Lancaster was held the first New England camp meeting, and where Ellen G. White spoke to ten thousand people who eagerly gathered from all over New England to hear her. The pulpit from which she spoke is still in use in our sanctuary today.

Fall of 1877 the decision to erect a suitable church paid for by donations and pledges was made. On March 31, 1878 the name South Lancaster Church was voted and in May 1878, the new church building was dedicated. The 80 members met in this 56 by 32 foot building. Although several additions to this building have been made, the original structure still remains just behind the foyer of the present church.

The first local elder of the church, Elder Haskell, was a very forward-looking man and he stepped out in faith and opened a school for the Christian training of Seventh-day Adventist youth which became Atlantic Union College. This, of course
brought about a larger membership to this church. With the addition of the north wing in 1897, there was ample room for the meetings of the 149 delegates who gathered here from all over the earth for the 33rd General Conference session February 15 to March 7, 1899.

By 1943, the church again was too small to accommodate the growing membership and the west wing was dedicated May 22, 1943, and increased the capacity to nearly 1000. After having two services due to greater increases and after the new college chapel was completed, there was a division of membership into the College and the South Lancaster Seventh-day Adventist Church, the former with 500 members and the latter with about 60. The college division was organized as a separate group on August 27, 1955, with Gerald H. Minchin, chairman of the college religion department, as the first pastor of that church.

Ten years later, as the church continued to grow, the need for an annex to provide facilities for a youth chapel on what had been the north wing was felt. A major renovation program that changed the appearance of the church both inside and out from the basement to the roof was completed under the direction of Emile S. Johnson in May 1986.

Most recently, the church expanded again and on October 31, 1987, the new wing was dedicated, making the fourth major change or addition to the original building. The new wing includes not only the fellowship hall but also a modern kitchen, four lavatories, six Sabbath school classrooms, a pastor’s study, associate pastor’s study, and secretary’s office. Also included in this project was paving the church parking lot.

During Sabbath Vespers, December 24, 1988, a carillon in honor of Dr.
Rochelle P. Kilgore, professor emerita of English at Atlantic Union College, was dedicated. Since then the beautiful chimes can be enjoyed several times each day within a radius of at least one-half mile.

“What hath God wrought?” This church has indeed become, by the Providence of God, the focal point of the Adventist Message in the east and undoubtedly is designed to fill an even larger place in the plan of God in the finishing of the Gospel of our generation. Again and again missionaries have been sent from our church to the world. A few of the many missionaries include Elder and Mrs. Dores Robinson, Elder Stephen N. Haskell, Mrs. C. L. Boyd, Carrie Mace, Elder and Mrs. Asa T. Robinson, Robert Beckner, Frederick Lee, Paul Elderidge, Carl Currie, Matthew Curtis, Stacie Rose Dixon, and Matthew Seymour.

The South Lancaster Church is wealthy in its rich spiritual heritage. It was in this church that Ellen G. White had a vision recorded in Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 114 which focused on the encouragement and instruction of His people.

“In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” Life Sketches, page 196.
Friday Evening

April 25, 2014

Social
6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Friday Vespers
7:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

Praise & Worship
Hunte Praise Team
David & Michelle Hunte, Keren Leonardo

Welcome
Pastor JP O'Connor

Opening Prayer
Pastor James Scarborough

History Reading
Pastor David Dennis
President, Southern New England Conference
Mr. Ronald Huff
Principal, South Lancaster Academy
Mr. Jeffrey Lambert
Vice Principal, South Lancaster Academy
Mr. Ronald Huff

Offertory
Elder Michael Brown

Instrumental
Mrs. Crystal Reid

Special Music
Vocé

Sermon
Lira Cady

Music Director, South Lancaster Academy

Closing Song
Hunte Praise Team

Closing Prayer
Pastor David Thomas
Celebrating 150 Years

Saturday Morning

SABBATH SCHOOL
9:30 a.m.
Sanctuary

Praise & Worship
Mr. Warren & Mrs. Patricia Clarke
Welcome & Prayer
Elder Joselyn Clarke
General Lesson Study
Pastor John Lomacang
Pastor, Thompsonville Church
Special Music
Miss Esther Bazile
Closing Prayer
Pastor John Lomacang

The children division Sabbath School programs are located on the lower level.

Atlantic Union College Alumini
10:45 a.m.
Sanctuary

AUC Alumini
Dr. Dwayne Cady
Interim President, Atlantic Union College
Interlude
Prevost Family
Saturday Morning  

**Divine Worship**  
11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary

Praise & Worship  
The O'Connor Family
Invitation to Worship  
Pastor JP O'Connor
Invocation  
Pastor Steven Jencks
Special Music  
Pastor John Lomacang
Pastor, Thompsonville Church
Pastoral Acknowledgments  
Elder Michael Brown
Honoring the Faithful  
Pastor David Dennis
President, Southern New England Conference
Children's Story  
Mrs. Ani O'Connor
Offertory  
Mr. Tom Murray
Trust Director, Southern New England Conference
Scripture  
Mrs. Crystal Reid
Introduction of Speaker  
Pastor Brian Burgess
Dr. Donald King
President, Atlantic Union Conference
Special Music  
Pastor John Lomacang
Sermon  
Elder Daniel Jackson
President, North American Division
Benediction  
Pastor Robert Sierra
Closing Hymn  
Pastor JP O'Connor
Organist  
Mrs. Crystal Reid

*Overflow rooms are located in the youth chapel and fellowship hall.*

Complimentary Lunch  
12:30 p.m.
Chan Shun Dining Commons
Saturday Afternoon

Heritage Tours
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Heritage Room

The Future is Now
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

Video Presentation
Welcome and Greeting
Opening Prayer
Praise & Worship
Special Presentation
God calls Young Adults
Mr. Gilberto Caraballo & Ms. Rhyvere Christopher
Young Adult Leaders
God calls Youth
Mr. Jethro Jean-Baptiste & Mr. Moses Maxi
Youth Leaders
God calls Pathfinders
Lancaster Ambassador Club
God calls Children
Mrs. Guadalupe Montour
Children's Ministry Leader
Offering - Investing in our future
Mr. Jonathan Niño
Special Music
Children's Choir
Presenter
Elder Daniel Jackson
President, North American Division
Closing Song
Every Eye
Pledge of Commitment
Elder Daniel Jackson
Closing Prayer
Elder Daniel Jackson

Refreshments will be served downstairs in Classroom A.

John Lomacang in a Vespers Concert
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

Introduction
Concert
Mrs. Patricia Clarke
Pastor John Lomacang
Pastor, Thompsonville Church
Daniel R. Jackson, the president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, was elected June 28, 2010, by delegates of the world church at their business session in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jackson was appointed by the church’s 246-member Nominating Committee and confirmed by the General Conference Session delegation, which is an international body of 2,410 appointed members and the highest governing body in the church.

Jackson is a native Canadian and, with the exception of five years of service in the Southern Asia Division, has lived and ministered in Canada. He is a graduate of Canadian Union College (now Canadian University College) and Andrews University, from which he holds an M.A. in Religion in Systematic Theology.

During his career, Dan has served the church as a pastor, teacher and administrator. Dan and Donna enjoy the three children and four grandchildren the Lord has given them.

Bill Knott has been editor and executive publisher of the Adventist Review and Adventist World since January, 2007. Before his appointment, Bill served as an associate editor for nine years. A pastor for 18 years in both small and large parishes, he ministered in New England, New York, Michigan, and Washington state. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Michigan and a Ph. D. in American Religious History from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Bill is an elder and Sabbath School teacher in his Spencerville, Maryland congregation, and a frequent speaker at conventions, conferences, retreats and campmeetings worldwide. He and his wife, Debby, a specialist in the General Conference Human Relations Department, have two sons in college, Evan and Brady. “These two journals highlight the great depth and breadth of Adventism around the world,” Knott says. “It’s an amazing privilege to serve an international fellowship of believers eagerly living toward the Second Coming of Jesus.”
John Lomacang is a native New Yorker and a California resident since 1984. Life dealt John a harsh blow when, at the tender age of 3 months, he was abandoned by his parents. The babysitters where John’s parents had left him became a surrogate family and raised him. It was in that home that music became a part of John’s life. He played guitar and some piano. In his early teens he became involved in singing for the church prison ministry and later in church.

John received an Associates Degree in Electronics before continuing his education at Oakwood University and Valencia College in Orlando, Florida. Though he is an ordained minister, he has received no formal training in that area. That’s another miracle, he says.

“As a young man I heard about the Heritage Singers when I lived in Brooklyn, New York. I would always arrive early for their concerts and sit in the front row, enraptured during their concerts. It was a dream of mine to sing for them, but I never made the first move.”

After marriage in 1983, the Lomacangs moved to Orlando, Florida where John became more involved in Christian music. On a Saturday evening, early in 1984, John’s mother-in-law purchased a ticket to the Heritage Singers concert. Although I had a concert on that same evening, she insisted that I come to the concert for the second half. ‘I already purchased the ticket. You have to come!’ That evening the door to the rest of my life opened wide. I had an opportunity to audition for Heritage and the rest is history. I have been singing with them since 1984.

John Lomacang’s many gifts were presented on a world stage during the Net ’99 satellite series, where he sang nightly for evangelist Doug Batchelor. As a result of this series, John has been receiving calls from all over the world to share his musical gift.
VILLAGE CHURCH PASTORAL & CHURCH STAFF

JP O’Connor    Pastor
Michael Brown    Head Elder
Terry Montoya    Treasurer
Mary Roberts    Clerk
Bob Wilmont     Head Deacon
Myrtle Powell    Head Deaconess