

# NL ADVENTIST eREPORT

A digital publication brought to you by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador.

New Year's Greetings! In this issue, "The First Noel", St. John's SDA Church Hosts 38th Annual Candlelight Service; Students and Families of NuFoundLife Centre Sponsor Christmas Festival, Host in Marystown Church; Botwood Church Hosts Christmas Concert, Despite Furnace Outage, 70 Attend; Mrs. Bridget Oakley Dies in St. John's; Stephen Matthews New Executive Director, ADRA Canada; Lawrence and Diane Burns Ministry Team Leaders, Corner Brook...



St. John's SDA 38th Annual Candlelight Service | Dec. 22, 2017 | Photo by Eric Ollila | NL Adventist Communications

## "The First Noel", St. John's SDA Church Hosts 38th Annual Candlelight Service

Dec. 22, 2017 | SDANL Communications

The St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church held its annual Christmas Candlelight Service, Friday, December 22, 2017. The year 2017 marked the program's 38th anniversary and was led, for the first time, by Lucy Ollila and Sheralyn Pearcey.

It was in 1979 that the first St. John's SDA Christmas Candlelight Service was held, organized and led by Janice Walsh. During the 17 years that followed, former music group, Revelation 2 regularly participated in the events. In 1999, with some overlap of both Christmas Candlelight and New Year's Eve services, Janis' sister, Phyllis Pearcey, took the leadership and organized the

subsequent annual services until December, 2016. Former members of the Revelation 2 group, and New Life Choir members regularly participated during this span of years. The latest transition occurred after Lucy Ollila and Sheralyn Pearcey learned a Candlelight Service would not be held in 2017. With two months to prepare, the two ladies decided to pick up the baton, organize, and run the service.

The aim of the annual program is to provide a community outreach, focusing on the gift of Jesus Christ, His incarnation, birth, and salvation through music, poetry, scripture, and congregational singing. Afterward, refreshments were provided along with time for fellowship. This year, more than 130 individuals attended, 30 participated in sharing their spiritual and natural gifts through voice, music, technical assistance, serving, or helping with set up or decorations.

Some firsts for this year included a vocal duet by Sebastien Lind and Joshua Veber; an instrumental duet on harps by Jonathan Penney and Sarah Veber; and the inclusion of the Bassoon, played by Gabe Azzie, during the Carol of the Bells. Trudy Morgan-Cole beautifully wrote the narration. Several of the original members of former Revelation 2 group also participated, including Janis Walsh, Don Hodder Sr., and Phyllis Pearcey.

The event attracts a large majority of non-Adventist friends, family, and neighbours from the community who hear about our service through the invite of members, VOAR radio announcements, local bulletins, and social media.





2nd Annual Tallys Sacred Christmas Festival | Dec. 9, 2017 | Photo by Pr. Victor Reyes-Prieto | NL Adventist Communications

## Students and Families of NuFoundLife Centre Sponsor Christmas Festival, Host in Marystown SDA Church

Dec. 9, 2017 | NL Adventist Communications

The 2nd Annual Tallys Sacred Christmas Festival was held in the Marystown Seventh-day Adventist Church, December 9, 2017. The event was sponsored, organized and presented by students, their families, and supporters of the NuFoundLife Centre, a community outreach and tutoring service started by Pastor Victor and Pamela Reyes-Prieto, former pastor and elder of the Marystown SDA Church.

Due to the untimely death of Pastor John Brushett, the Christmas event was dedicated to his memory. Ross Murley, deacon, offered a tribute to Pastor John, his childhood friend, highlighting good moments in their lives. A video taken during NL Camp Meeting of 2017 featured Pastor John singing "When We All Get to Heaven", accompanied by Clyde Hodder on the guitar. Those present at the worship service were moved to tears by the lyrics of this precious Christian hymn.

The majority in attendance at the program were non-Adventist. The generosity of community volunteers offset the expenses of the Centre as well as provided financial support to the Marystown district to reach the least fortunate in the local

vicinity. With the departure of the Reyes-Prietos, the Centre's influence may be used by the local congregation to continue to make inroads in the community with a revelation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## Botwood SDA Church Hosts Community Christmas Concert, Despite Furnace Outage, 70 Attend

Dec. 16, 2017 | NL Adventist Communications

Despite the furnace giving out two days before, approximately 70 people were in attendance at the Botwood Seventh-day Adventist Church Christmas Concert on December 16, 2017.

To provide warmth for the attendees, the local SDA members brought portable electric heaters for the day. The program was an open community event and included music from the Botwood Church choir and soloists. A total of 18 people participated in the presentation, 15 of which belonged to the choir (which included some non-Adventist singers).

An offering was collected for ADRA, and a luncheon followed after the program. As a Christmas gift to them from the Church, each household left with the book, Steps to Christ.



Botwood SDA Church Christmas Concert | Dec. 16, 2017 | Photo courtesy of Pastor Jonathan Gascoyne | NL Adventist Communications



New Years 2018 | January 1, 2018 | Photo by Ian Schneider on Unsplash | NL Adventist Communications

## Hello, 2018!

January 1, 2018 | By Pastor Eric Ollila, NL Adventist Communications

This holiday season, I imagined an individual named, Curious, having a conversation with New Year, 2018, personified. It made me think differently about the year ahead. I hope it does for you as well. It went something like this:

**Curious:** Hello, New Year! Pleased to meet you. My name is Curious. Since we're going to be spending so much time together, over the next 12 months, I was wondering if you could share a little about yourself, some insights about you that might be helpful?

**2018 AD:** Hello, Curious! Pleased to meet you, too! My name is 2018 AD or 2018 CE, but you can just call me, 2018. My last name is AD or CE, because I am the 2018th year of the Anno Domini (AD) and Common Era (CE) designations. I am the 9th year (or child) of the 2010s decade, the 18th year (or grandchild) of the 21st century. I am also the 18th year (or great grandchild) of the 3rd millennium.

Unfortunately, my lifespan is short. I will only live for 1 year, but don't let that fool you! A lot can happen during that time. For example, during the 12 months that I span, everyone of the more than 7 billion people on this planet will have a birthday. All four seasons will be had in various parts of the

globe. On every one of the 365 days of my existence, someone will die. Anniversaries of various import will be had, such as the 50th anniversaries of the death of Helen Keller, June 1 and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., April 4, and the 55th anniversary of his "I Have a Dream" speech, August 28; The 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, April 19; the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration (considered the birth of modern Japan), January 3; the 100th anniversary of the Second Battle of the Somme during the First World War, ended September 3, 1918; the centennial of the Armistice to End World War I, November 11, 1918; It will be the 80th anniversary of the Church of England officially accepting the theory of evolution.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church will commemorate many historical events. One of note (in light of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Modern Japan), is on January 1, 1898 (120 years ago) Adventist educational work began in Japan with the opening of a Bible School in Tokyo, with 60 students, headed by William C. Granger. So engaging was he, as a teacher, that just weeks after starting the school, he baptized 4 men in a river. A testimony of the missional importance of Adventist education.

During the 8,760 hours of my life, people will spend approximately one-third of those hours sleeping; others will go to their jobs, students will go to school. Weddings will be performed, graduations celebrated, new jobs started, journeys made, food prepared, meals eaten, and retirees will retire. During the 31,536,000 seconds, that I am composed of, races will be won, deadlines met, judgments rendered.

The most important thing that will happen during my lifetime, but perhaps the least contemplated, is that many souls will give their hearts to Jesus Christ. They will pass from death to life. The most troubling, however, is that many will pass through all my months, days, hours, and seconds, but will not come to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour because nobody will approach and tell them about Him.

So, Curious! Does that satisfy your question, or would you like me to tell you more? I have only just started!!!





Stephen Matthews | Photo courtesy of ADRA Canada | NL Adventist Communications

## Stephen Matthews Appointed New Executive Director of ADRA Canada

Newcastle, ON | Jan. 4, 2018 | By ADRA Canada

On Dec. 28, 2017, the ADRA Canada board of directors voted unanimously to appoint Stephen Matthews as the Executive Director of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada. Matthews will succeed the former executive director, James Astleford, who retired on January 1, 2018.

Stephen, a resident of Newfoundland and Labrador, has some impressive designations that will serve him as he continues the good work of those who have gone before him. These include Professional Engineer (P. Eng.), Biology (BSc.), Project Management Professional (PMP), LEED Green Associate (LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), and he has a GSC (Gold Seal Certified), which is a Canadian Construction and Heavy Civil management professional standard of excellence.

"Matthews has served on numerous boards of directors of Adventist church organizations," stated Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) and chairman of the ADRA Canada board. "In addition, he has

extensive experience in connecting with government and civic officials on various projects." His wife, Amanda, and their children, Ryan, Liam, and Madison, will be relocating to Ontario in the next few weeks.

"I feel greatly blessed and very excited to be joining ADRA Canada as the new executive director and look forward to the work God has in store for the team I will have the fortune to be a part of." Matthews continues, "Being called by God to undertake this responsibility is humbling, and I look forward to serving in this role. I solicit the prayers of the church membership for ADRA Canada's work, for wisdom, guidance, and direction as we reach out to the world around us."

ADRA is the global humanitarian organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ADRA Canada delivers relief and development assistance to over one million individuals in over 20 countries to create sustainable change.

To read this article on the ADRA Canada website, visit <http://www.adra.ca/new-executive-director/>

## Ministry Team Leaders

### Lawrence and Diane Burns Appointed Ministry Team Leaders, Corner Brook SDA Church

January 3, 2018 | NL Adventist Board of Directors

Effective January 1, 2018, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in NL Board of Directors voted Lawrence and Diane Burns to be the Ministry Team Leaders of the Corner Brook Seventh-day Adventist Church for the calendar year of 2018. In this capacity, they will oversee the ministry and operations of the church while the search for a new pastor continues.



## SDA Church in NL Internal Audits Completed Through December 31, 2016

January 3, 2018 | NL Adventist President

As part of the financial policies of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, each conference/mission is required to conduct internal audits of all its churches/companies. We are pleased to announce all of the internal audits for the SDA Churches in NL have been completed for calendar year, 2016. This means the processes, accounts, receipts, offerings & donations were reviewed; assessment of adherence to NAD policies was conducted; Canada Revenue Form T3010s completed and letters of recommendation written for each church. We want to thank Christine Bergen, secretary/treasurer, for completing these during the holiday season.

## Mrs. Bridget Oakley Dies in St. John's

January 5, 2018 | NL Adventist President

On Thursday evening, shortly after 7:00pm, Bridget Oakley of St John's passed away. She was known for being an outgoing, fun-loving committed worker for the Lord. For some 30 years she was cook for Woody Acres and oversaw the Orange Sales for the St John's Church, contributing for years, in a significant way, to the fund raising activities of the St John's Adventist School.

Please remember the Mrs. Bridget Oakley family members in your prayers. Stay tuned for funeral details.

## NL Adventist Events

### 1st Quarter, 2018

- **Jan. 10** – 10 Days of Prayer
- **Mar. 25** – NLSDA Board of Directors Meeting

### **Upcoming Events In Your Area?**

Does your church, company, or group have any events it would like to submit to be included on the NL Adventist Calendar?

Submit to: [nladventist@gmail.com](mailto:nladventist@gmail.com)

Follow us @NLAdventist\*



**Publisher.** Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador Communications  
**President.** Ken Corkum  
**Communications Director/Editor.** Eric Ollila  
**Editors/Proofreaders.** Gail Dempsey, Ros Ennis, Lucy Ollila