

Grand Concourse Seventh-day Adventist Temple

1275 Grand Concourse
Bronx, New York 10458
Phone: (718) 681-2232
Fax: (718) 588-8832
Website: www.grandconcourse.org

Senior Pastor - Allan W. Hay
Associate Pastor - Desmond C. Haye
Bible Worker - Garfield Thomas
First Elder - Patricia Thiessen
Church Clerk - Ruth Smith
Secretary - Jennifer Mussington

Hours of Service:
Saturday: the Sabbath Services
9:15am – Sabbath School
11:00am – Divine Worship
1 hour before sunset – Adventist Youth

Wednesday:
12:00pm - Community Services Food Pantry
7:15pm – Prayer Meeting

Friday:
9:30pm - 10:00pm - AS & Men's Ministries Prayerline

Pastor's Office Hours:
Tuesdays 1:00pm – 7:00pm
Wednesdays 1:00pm – 7:00pm

Links:

Sabbath School Lesson Online
<http://www.ssnet.org/qtrly/eng.html>

The Bible Online
<http://www.carm.org/bibleonline.htm>

Adventist Review
<http://www.adventistreview.org/>

General Conference of SDA
<http://www.adventist.org/>

Greater New York Conference
<http://www.gnyc.org/>

North American Division
<http://northamerica.adventist.org/>

Atlantic Union Conference
<http://www.atlantic-union.org/>

Northeastern Conference
<http://www.northeastern.org/>

Andrews University
<http://www.andrews.edu/>

Oakwood University
<http://www.oakwood.edu/>

Absent Saints

Sis. Iris Anderson	1541 Selwyn Ave.; Yonkers, NY 10705; (718) 716-2016
Sis. Sybilla Bridgeman	Morning Side Nursing Home; 1000 Pelham Pkwy
Sis. Kathleen Brown	3228 Edison Ave.; (718) 671-3749;
Sis. Margaret N. Brown	Bronx Park Nursing Home; 3845 Carpenter Ave.
Sis. A. Burrell	39 Crawford St. Yonkers, NY 10705; (914) 376-0429
Sis. Iris Daley	Kings Harbor Multicare; 2000 E. Gunn Hill Rd.
Sis. Metella Dinnall	1104 Taylor Avenue; (718) 824-5153
Sis. M. Forteau	225 East 203 St., BX, NY; (718) 563-8763
Sis. Sonia Harvey	975 Walton Ave. Apt 4AS
Sis. Sarah Hutchinson	2429 Valentine Ave. Apt. 2S; (718) 562-1198
Sis. Winniefred James	1870 Morris Ave #2; Bx, NY; (718) 731-8422
Sis. Florence McClane	Regeis Nursing Home; 3200 Baychester Ave.
Bro. Hebert Merritt	
Sis. Lenna Miller	1181 Walton Ave.
Sis. Josephine Mulcare	2274 Grand Concourse Apt. 1G (718) 933-2274 or (718) 933-5682
Bro. Cecil New Year	Beth Abraham Nursing Home; 612 Allerton Ave.
Sis. Ada Pickering	
Sis. Deloris Porter	1111 Gerard Ave. Apt. 2R; (718) 681-8907
Sis. Gloria Rawlins	Green Pk, Rehab, Rm. 923; 140 Edwards St, Brooklyn
Bro. Sylvester Roberts	625 Walton Ave.; (646) 938-2838
Sis. Anita Samuel	900 Grand Concourse Apt 7GN; (718) 293-2018
Sis. Minnie Scott	5751 Mosholu Ave. Apt. 36E; (718) 601-0851
Sis. Winifred Smith	St Patrick Nursing Home for the Aged 66 Vancortland South, BX NY 10463
Sis. Linda Vassell	975 Walton Ave. Apt. 4AN; (646) 361-6111
Elder Joyce Wilks	39 Deil Ave. Mt. Vernon; (914) 664-2527

Looking Back – Moving Forward concluded

weekend's most talked-of event, the comedy "Miss Mattie One Son!" on Saturday night. To him, his cast and everyone who helped to plan and/or participated in the weekend's activities I say "You were great!" Every review we have received has been positive and praise-filled. Thanks.

Let us now turn our attention wholeheartedly to the "One Glorious Celebration!" that really matters – the anti-typical Feast of Tabernacles, when Christ returns and we all go home to spend eternity with Him. I pray that we all will be there.

Once again, Elder Mitchell, thanks for a great suggestion. Kudos to you and your

committees for a well executed weekend.

*Sincerely,
Pastor Hay*



Miss Mattie One Son!

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Grand Concourse Seventh-day Adventist Temple



Contents:

Year - End Message from Pastor Hay
page 1

The Weekend in Review
page 2

Faith Journey...
page 2

God's Guiding Presence...
page 3

Looking Back - Moving Forward
page 3

Absent Saints
page 4



The Grand Concourse Pulse Newsletter
December 29, 2012

Vol. 1 No. 7



Sabbath, November 17 at Grand Concourse

Pastor's Year-End Message

My Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,
How quickly 2012 has passed. It seems that only a few weeks ago I greeted you in our winter edition and already the year is over. What a year it has been, however!

First, we said "Good-bye!" to one Associate Pastor, and "Welcome!" to another. God, as He has always done, gave us a smooth transition and another faithful and dynamic worker. Pastor and Sister Haye, we are blessed to have you as part of the Concourse family.

Our church facilities also underwent some significant changes during the year. We were able to replace our sanctuary roof and do some much needed upgrading of the sanctuary itself, as well as all four restroom facilities; and not to be overlooked, we just finished replacing our annex roof as the first step to its full restoration in the coming year.

On the spiritual side, the enemy continues to wage war against the "seed of the woman," hence there have been challenges. God, however, has kept His promises and the Concourse marches on, under His blood-stained banner. We were able to bring a degree of stability to our music department, have a successful health fair, and conduct a Spirit-filled evangelistic series, which although not as numerically successful as we hoped, was nonetheless

a great blessing to the church both spiritually and physically.

With God's blessings and the church's cooperation we had an extremely successful anniversary, of which you will read more in this issue. The highlight, however, was the rededication of our sanctuary to the glory of God and the finishing of His work. And we have just closed out 2012 with election of a new slate of officers for the 2013–14 cycle.

Now we must look to the coming year and beyond with a renewed sense of faith and optimism. As usual, there will be changes and challenges, but God will still be in control and He has never failed His people. So let's go forth in faith, knowing that under His leadership the best days of Grand Concourse are yet ahead.

Sister Hay and I continue to recognize how blessed we are to share your fellowship, and are extremely grateful for all the love, support and cooperation of both the officers and members of our beloved church family. We are extremely confident that in whatever direction God leads us in the new year and beyond, it will be for our eternal good. May He continue to bless you and yours with a happy, Spirit-filled holiday and a healthy and blessed 2013.

*With Love and Appreciation
Yours sincerely
Pastor Hay*

THE WEEKEND IN REVIEW!

Friday evening, November 16, 2012, heralded the beginning of the long-awaited weekend celebration of praise and thanksgiving for the family, friends and well-wishers of the Grand Concourse S.D.A. Temple as we celebrated forty years of existence. The celebration was coupled with the expression of thanksgiving to God for His blessings on the Caribbean islands of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago as they celebrated fifty years of independence. Forty years of witnessing and service to the community and fifty years of God's leading are reasons to celebrate.

After Friday evening's service of high praise, hope and re-consecration (see "Faith Journey", for details), we were poised for something extraordinary. Sabbath School began at 9 a.m. as Dr. Carmen Kerr, a former Superintendent, and her team took us on a reflective journey through the years. Drs. D. Robert and June Kennedy, former shepherd and shepherdess of this flock, powerfully presented the lesson, "Arm for Victory." The congregation was also blessed by the sweet music of the steel drum played by Mr. Sterling Samples of The Church of God of Prophecy and the singing of Sis. Raeline Glasgow.

The Divine Worship offered a platform of adoration as local and international religious and civic leaders brought welcome, greetings, congratulations and encouragement. These included Bronx District Attorney, Mr. Robert Johnson, President of Atlantic Union Conference, Dr. Donald G. King, and President of Greater New York Conference, Dr. G. Earl Knight.

Pastor Everette Brown, President of the Jamaica Union of SDA, presented the message from the Lord – "Breaking Down Walls and Building Bridges." The 100-voice choir, directed by Bro. Desmond Campbell, sang some of the Great Anthems, sounding as if angels sang in their midst. At the console was Bro. Lloyd Chung. Bro. Trevor Bonney and Sis. Stephanie Johnson brought additional musical blessings as they sang God's praises.

At 4 p.m. we watched with joy and pride as Lady Patricia Allen cut the ribbon to begin the service of rededication of the newly renovated sanctuary. Dr. King gave the dedicatory message, with several pastors in attendance.

At 7 p.m. we continued the celebration

with a cultural play, "Miss Matty One Son." This was directed by Dr. Alanzo Smith, assisted by Barbara Mitchell. Many who



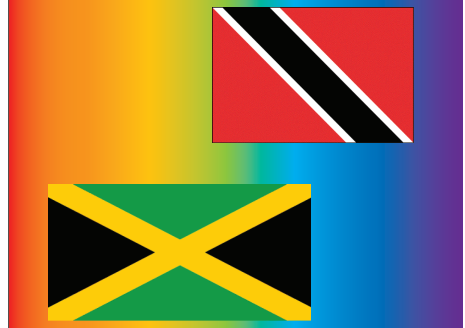
Anniversary logo designed by Katrina Garcia

Faith Journey a Matter of Focus

The Grand Concourse S.D.A. Temple's 50/40 Anniversary Celebration kicked off Friday evening, November 16, 2012, at 7 p.m., with a well-attended Reconsecration Service in the newly renovated sanctuary. A number of guests honored us with their presence, including guest speaker Dr. Inskip Allsop, brother of our dear Sister Josephine Allsop.

Five of our local Pathfinders began the ceremony. Deputy Director Tanice Wallace called the Pathfinders to attention and ordered the march. Tatyana Wallace brought in the Christian flag, Dominique Ellis the United States flag, Malachi Mitchell the Jamaican flag and Garfield Porter the Trinidad and Tobago flag.

Pastor Allan W. Hay greeted and welcomed members and guests to this special occasion. Not only was this anniversary



Jamaican and Trinidad and Tobago flags marched in on Friday evening

attended declared this evening such a success that we should have charged more for the tickets.

On Sunday evening, November 18, the weekend concluded with a grand Gala Banquet. Approximately 400 guests gathered at Green Tree Country Club for an evening of elegance and fine dining. Music of a live band, fine singers and other performers filled the air. The message of keynote speaker, The Most Honorable Sir Patrick Allen, ON;GCMG;CD, Governor General of Jamaica, has resonated with many.

As we reflect on the highlights of the weekend, we can truly declare that, with God as our Father, we are all brothers and sisters. We wait now with great anticipation for that grand day when all God's children will be with Him for that Grand and Glorious Celebration in Heaven.

Elder Barbara Mitchell, Chairperson, Planning Committee.

the 40th Anniversary of our church here at the corner of 169th and Grand Concourse, but also the 50th Anniversary of independence from Great Britain for two of our congregation's home countries – Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica.

Dr. Allsop's message, entitled "Between the Obstacles and the Miracles," reminded us that our faith journey is all a matter of focus. We can focus on faith or fear. "You can pray or you can worry – don't do both," he said. "When you focus on the obstacles, you lose sight of the miracles." "Faith focuses on the miracle while leaning on the arms of God." These were just a few gems in an insightful, Spirit-filled message of faith and hope for the future.

Musical selections were provided by Dr. Allsop, by our Gospel Choir and by Derrick Peart, along with Judy John. Other participants included Sis. Olive Bedlow (opening and closing hymns), Joeline Allsop and Joel Pike (scripture reading), Pastor Keith Crawford (opening prayer), Pastor Desmond Haye (introduction of speaker), and Sis. Alberta Graham (benediction). Coordinators of the Friday evening service were Elder Patricia Thiessen, Sister Carline Green and Sister Josephine Allsop. Friday evening's Reconsecration Service was indeed a beautiful way to begin our weekend of celebration.

Sis. Ann Slaughter

God's Guiding Presence on Our Journey of Faith

The 40th Anniversary celebration is now history, yet its memory will linger in our minds for a long time. As we reflect on what God has done for us as a church family before and during the weekend, we can truly say we have shared in the journey, sensed God's presence, and are sent to serve.

Several years ago, the Grand Concourse S.D.A. Temple began a journey. It is a journey of faith guided by the divine hands of our Omnipotent King. It is a journey to the eternal kingdom where peace, joy, and love will reign. Along the way, many faithful sojourners have shared in this journey. While some are now sleeping in hope of the resurrection, those who are still alive can declare, "Hitherto hath the Lord brought us." 1 Sam. 7:12. Our being able to celebrate this milestone is not due to our own prowess, but rather to God's divine guidance. We have experienced challenges on the journey, but God has been faithful. During those difficult times, we

have learned what faith in God can do. We have seen by faith God's guiding hands, and have often heard His still small voice saying, "This is the way; walk ye in it." Isa. 30: 21. The happy times, however, have far outweighed the difficult ones, and we have much to reflect on with a joyful heart.

During the 40th Anniversary weekend celebration, we sensed the presence of the Lord in a real and powerful way. The music, fellowship, and worship were exceptional. The various encounters we had only served to remind us that whenever we are in His presence we experience "fullness of joy." This joy was evident throughout the weekend celebration as we reconnected with Christ, church family, and community. This anniversary celebration has provided an opportunity for us as a church to bask in the blessings of the King. In addition, we have experienced Him anew as we listened to His words and participated in the activities of the weekend.

Having recognized the leading of God



Sabbath Church service, November 17 (Courtesy of GNYC Communications)

in the life of this church, and His presence in our 40th Anniversary celebration, we are encouraged to serve Him with all of our being. This anniversary weekend has done something wonderful for us as a church community. It has energized us to serve with greater zeal. Through the messages presented, we have sensed the urgency to give of our best so that by God's enabling grace we will be a part of that grand and glorious celebration in Heaven. We should long for that time to come and, like the apostle John, I say, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" Rev. 22: 20.

Pastor Desmond Haye

Looking Back – Moving Forward

In Leviticus 23 God enjoins Israel to observe seven special feasts depicting various aspects of His relationship with them. The last of these feasts – the Feast of Tabernacles – was an eight-day event of joyful celebrations reminding Israel of its wanderings through the wilderness during the exodus, when they lived in tents (tabernacles), and how wondrously God had blessed, preserved and guided them, eventually taking them safely to the promised land.

All seven feasts, including the seventh-day Sabbath, but especially the Feast of Tabernacles, were intended to be joyous celebrations reminding succeeding generations of God's past blessings and inspiring them on to the eventual "glorious celebration" in their final home.

Other than the Sabbath, we as Adventists have largely forgotten the significance of these feasts, relegating them to the ceremonial system, with the unfortunate result that for successive generations we have, by and large, forgotten or taken for granted God's blessings of the past, and to a large extent lost our focus on our future



Part of the mass choir on Sabbath. (Courtesy of GNYC Communications)

destination.

Late last year Elder Barbara Mitchell suggested that in a small way we should try to rekindle that reminder of where we came from, while sharpening our focus on the journey ahead. This, she suggested, should take the shape of a thanksgiving celebration of Jamaica's fiftieth anniversary of its independence from Great Britain, sometime this year.

Coupling that milestone for the country from which many of our congregation derive with a similar milestone for our sister nation Trinidad & Tobago, as well as with the fortieth anniversary of our church's existence at this location, we determined to

have a weekend of thanksgiving, praise and rededication November 16-18.

Elder Mitchell and her planning committee, aided by several subcommittees and a host of people too numerous to name, worked almost endlessly planning, strategizing and implementing various ideas and suggestions to produce a weekend of services and cultural activities that will not soon be forgotten, highlighted by the rededication of our newly renovated sanctuary to the glory of our God.

We were privileged to obtain the support and presence of Jamaica's Head of State, Sir Patrick Allen, and his charming wife, along with that of the President of the Jamaica Union of S.D.A. and his dear wife, for the entire weekend. They, along with our Union and Conference leadership and the support of former pastors and members, leant validity and a special degree of dignity to the celebrations which proved to be an overwhelming success. Again, on the church's behalf, I say "Thank You!" to all of them.

While, as stated previously, the weekend's success was due to the sacrifice and hard work of countless people, I cannot help but mention one individual – Dr. Alanzo Smith – who gave unstintingly of his time and "talent" to produce maybe the

concluded on page 4