



**From The Pastor's Heart**  
**The Stroudsburg**  
**Seventh-day Adventist Church**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to the New Year 2016, today we can certainly give God praise and thank for all his wondrous mercies, grace and love towards us. The fact that we are alive to see the beginning of 2016 is a tremendous blessing. 2015 was very good year I learnt so much and I have seen the hands of God in the circumstances of life. I have prayed more and depended of God more for his sure and divine guidance and I have felt the power of all my brothers and sisters who prayed for me and this church every day and my heart is filled with great expectation as we prepare & pray for what God has in store for us.

The Spirit of God was with us from January to December. What an amazing journey and another year of God's faithfulness unto us. He promised us and we continue "Anticipating our Future" of what God has done and is going to do, therefore, our "Hope is in the Lord." God has been mighty good to us! You and I are privileged to be a part of celebrating God's grace and mercies towards us. We are the manifested truth of God's Word revealed to us in the words of the Prophet Jeremiah, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness!" Lamentations 3:22-23 (KJV)

Our Hope is and continues to be in the Lord, as it is expressed in the lyrics of, "The Solid Rock," by Edward Mote. Our hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; We dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name. When darkness seems to hide His face, we rest on His un-changing grace; In every high and stormy gale, Our anchor holds with-in the veil. Our hope has to be in Christ nothing more and nothing less. Great is thy Faithfulness, Lord unto me!

I empathize these words to help express my deepest conviction and appreciation to our membership for their many prayers and hard work given to provide an experience that is worthy of these one hundred and forty-three years of celebrating his love for us. Welcome home and continue to "Anticipate your Future!"

I am profoundly grateful to Stroudsburg members for your trust with the stewardship of my pastorate for almost three years as Pastor of this congregation. It has been and continues to be an honor to serve you, and it is with great joy to extend the legacy established by my predecessors as well to serve a group of church and ministry leaders whose insight and service has improved this body of believers. Therefore, it is with that full hope of the things to come that God has prepared for us as we build his kingdom on earth. When hope is placed in Jesus Christ we add more meaning to our lives.

My prayer for 2016 is that God will guide and bless us in ways that are "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think or imagine according to His power that works in us because our HOPE IS IN THE LORD." Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Yours for a Finished work

Pastor Livingstone Aaron

**CHURCH AT WORSHIP**

**JANUARY 2, 2016**

**Second Service**

- Introit....."We Have Come Into This House".....Praise Team
- Call to Worship.....Elder James Obegi
- Doxology....."Praise God from Whom".....Congregation
- Invocation.....Pastor Livingstone Aaron
- Welcome.....Elder James Obegi
- Announcements .....Church Clerk
- Pastoral Announcements.....Pastor Livingstone Aaron
- Hymn of Adoration.....# 470.....Praise Team
- Scripture Reading.....Mathew 16: 13-18.....Elder Angela Clarke
- Intercessory Prayer.....Elder Gladsworth Richards
- "I Must Tell Jesus"
- Special Music.....
- Children's Story.....Sister Janet Cato
- Offertory.....Elder Michael Douglas
- "We Give Thee but Thine Own"
- Praise and Worship.....Praise Team
- Sermon..... "The True Basis of Our Faith".....Pastor Livingstone Aaron
- Hymn of Consecration.....# 525
- Benediction.....Pastor Livingstone Aaron

**PLEASE REMAIN SEATED UNTIL USHERED OUT**

# PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEN DAYS OF PRAYER - JANUARY 6-16 2016!!

Ten Days of Prayer at Stroudsburg Seventh day Adventist church?

*We are inviting all our visitors, friends and church members to join us here at Stroudsburg for 10 Days of Prayer, a program in which hundreds of thousands of people worldwide have participated. Our goal in this program is to have a broader focus to provide support for both a personal and an interactive prayer community that unleashes God's power for His will in the world through united prayer. As we develop this website, participants will be able to share and receive testimonies, prayer requests, inspirational messages, and practical prayer resources. Our goal is to create a community of prayer where we are "praying every day with God's people and seeing God work."*

*God poured out His Spirit in Pentecost power after His church spent ten days together, pleading for His promised blessing. He is ready to do it again today! All around the world, Adventist churches are experiencing the renewal of the Holy Spirit by following the disciples' example and participating in Ten Days of Prayer.*

*Church elders, pastors, and lay leaders have led prayer groups of all sizes in homes, schools, churches, online forums, and teleconference. Groups unable to meet during the designated days have chosen an alternate ten days and been just as blessed. Will you lead your church to join us in Ten Days of Prayer 2016? The dates voted for 2016 are January 6-16 (Wednesday evening through Sabbath morning).*

# CHURCH AT WORSHIP

January 2, 2016

First Service

Introit..... "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"  
(Please Remain Standing)

Call to Worship.....Elder James Obegi  
(Congregation, Please Stand)

Invocation.....Pastor Livingstone Aaron

Welcome.....Elder James Obegi  
(Congregation, Please Sit)

## ADORATION & PRAISE

Hymn of Adoration.....#470  
(Please Remain Standing)

Intercessory Prayer.....Elder Gladsworth Richards  
(Those Able, Please kneel)

## STEWARDSHIP & GRATITUDE

Offertory.....Elder Michael Douglas

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Scripture Reading.....Matthew 16: 13-18.....Elder Angela Clarke

Sermon....."The True Basic Of Our Faith" .....Pastor Livingstone Aaron

Hymn of Consecration.....#525

Benediction.....Pastor Livingstone Aaron

# THE CHURCH AT STUDY

January 2, 2016

9:15 AM — 10:45 AM

- Welcome.....Sister Ruth Obegi
- Opening Prayer.....Sister Joyce Anderson
- Opening Song.....Revive Us Again
- Scripture Reading (Ps 85: 6-8) .....Elder Donna Wilson
- World Mission Emphasis.....Sister Josephine Aaron
- Welcome to Visitors.....Sister Ruth Obegi
- Special Music.....Sister Michelle Williams
- Lesson Study: First Quarter, 2016: ..... “The Christ and His Laws”**
- Closing Remarks..... Sister Jean Marie Williams
- Closing Prayer.....Sister Joyce Anderson

## HEALTH NUGGET

Everyone knows that physical activity is good for your health. But it’s especially important for people with diabetes or those trying to prevent the disease. In addition to improving blood sugar control, decreasing the risk of diabetes, and maintaining overall good health and weight management, being active boosts brain activity, helps you deal with stress and improves your mood. Type 2 diabetes is linked to being overweight. Healthy eating habits and regular physical activity help the body to use its insulin better resulting in improved symptoms or reduced risk. “Therefore, whether you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do it to the glory of God.” I Corinthians 10:31

# PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Bible workers Certification Program

If you are interested in deepening your experience with Jesus while learning more than you currently know about the Bible, look no further. This certification program will equip you to be a better soul winner and inspire you to live a life of soul winning for Jesus. Our Bible workers Certification training Program continues this afternoon from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. Please come prepared to have an exciting time discussing the principles of personal evangelism. During today’s program we will be discussing the principles of conducting a Bible study. Come and experience some of our students presenting their Bible studies.

## Church Board 2016

The Stroudsburg SDA church board will convene this evening at 6:00. All subsequent church board meeting will be held on the first Sabbath in the month unless a holiday intervenes. If there is a holiday, the meeting will be held on the second Sabbath of that month. The meeting is to commence 6:30pm. Any schedule changes (cancellations, date/time changes, additional meetings, etc.), are to be communicated by the chairperson to all Board members. It is the responsibility of the chairperson to ensure that all Board members are made aware of any meeting changes. The chairperson or Board members may determine the need for additional Board meetings to address imminent church business. The date and time (location assumed as church) would be also included in the church bulletin. Email will be the preferred method of communication between the Board Members. This vehicle will be used to communicate items such as, but not limited to, agendas, time and location changes, additional meetings, cancellations, items for review, etc. It is the responsibility of each Board Member to provide the chairperson, with a valid and current email account, a phone number at which they wish to be contacted in case of an emergency and a mailing address where they wish to receive mail. The chairperson is also to communicate any changes to all Board members. As a courtesy to the fellow Board Members, each Board Member is asked to notify the chairperson if they will not be attending a planned Board Meeting, at least one day prior to the meeting. This will avoid having situations where there is no quorum.

## Church Officers Workshop

On Sunday January 3, 2016. we are inviting all church officers and department leaders to meet at the church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to accomplish the following;

1. **Set faith goals and establish priorities.** Faith goals include where you need to grow, being sensitive to the supernatural, and being realistic. Make sure that goals are measurable. Prayerfully prioritize goals in accordance with God’s will for life and ministry.
2. We will **challenge** each other to read at least one book a month in the area of his or her ministry, along with something in another area of interest.
3. Once a month, we will challenge one another to consider areas of strengths, of weaknesses, and action steps for growing and/or improving in these areas: Personal, Family, Church, and Vocational. Remember, part of growth is failure, so allow people to fail, but make sure they are repentant, reticent to blame others, and willing to grow and learn from mistakes and setbacks.

During the planning meeting, each department will have the opportunity to meet with their team and seek to explore and answer the following questions especially as it relates to your department, sharing in accomplishing the mission and vision of the Stroudsburg Seventh-day Adventist church.

What are the greatest spiritual needs of our church and our community? What are the greatest strengths and weaknesses of our church? What are the most significant ministry opportunities for and potential threats (or barriers) to our church, given the answers to the first two questions? What appear to be the most viable options for strengthening the ministry of our church? What is the primary ministry platform on which our specific ministries should be build? Included in the ministry platform are statement of faith, vision statement, mission statement, philosophy of ministry, and ministries. What goals are the Holy Spirit inviting us to strive for to enhance our church’s ministry over the next year? The next two years? What action steps will your department take to accomplish these goals?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Medical Personnel on Duty:** Sister Laverne Ventiere & Dr. Sandra Pascal

**Prayer Session:** Immediately after Divine Service

### Up-Coming Events

**Prayer Line:** Beginning Sunday, January 10, 2016 @ 8PM. Phone number 712-432-0175 Access Code 853923#

**Family Life:** The PA Conference Marriage Retreat will be held on February 26-28, 2016. The theme this year is A Night at the Carnival. Registration is now open!!

**Thank you:** *for all that you have done as you served Stroudsburg Seventh-day Adventist Church during 2014-2015.*

\*Thank you for demonstrating grace, love and patience when people question your motives and competency. \*Thank you for putting in countless hours. \*Thank you for being a continual learner. \*Thank you for being men and women of admirable character and integrity. \*Thank you for expanding and helping to shape our worldview in Stroudsburg SDA Church. \*Thank you for challenging and then helping us live a life of meaning and purpose. \*Thank you for seeing what we could be through the power of Jesus Christ and not just what we currently are. \*Thank you to your spouses and children for their willingness to share you with us.

To all our leaders and officers who served the Stroudsburg Church faithfully during the years 2014-2015, I want to express my sincere gratitude it's not the positions that defines us it's the possession of the Holy Spirit in our lives that will continue to unite us to reach out and lead men and women boys and girls to the savior.

Let us be gentle with one another in the journey. Sometimes we get so focused on the work piling up all around us that we forget to connect with one another as colleagues, friends, and neighbors, offering and receiving support, asking questions, and sharing insights. Let us remember that we are part of the larger body of Christ, and when one of us hurts or rejoices, so do we all.

Let us continue to pray for one another, in love and kindness, strengthened in the knowledge that others are praying for us, giving glory to God, who by the power at work within us and among us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

## Theme Song: Revive Us Again

We praise Thee, O God!  
For the Son of Thy love,  
For Jesus Who died,  
And is now gone above.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Thine the glory.  
Hallelujah! Amen.  
Hallelujah! Thine the glory.  
Revive us again.

We praise Thee, O God!  
For Thy Spirit of light,  
Who hath shown us our Savior,  
And scattered our night.

All glory and praise  
To the Lamb that was slain,  
Who hath borne all our sins,  
And hath cleansed every stain.

All glory and praise  
To the God of all grace,  
Who hast brought us, and sought us,  
And guided our ways.

Revive us again;  
Fill each heart with Thy love;  
May each soul be rekindled  
With fire from above.

### Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Sanctuary Choir – Sabbaths at 4PM

Youth Choir (12 years and up) – Sabbaths at 2:30 PM

Children’s Choir (2 years thru 11 years) - Sabbaths at 3PM

## SICK & SHUT-IN

Richard Adams 1361 Resica Falls Rd, East Stroudsburg 570-223-7727

Bro Drakes (Brookmont Health Care Center) Effort, PA 610-681-4070

Nemesia Rance 267 King St, Stroudsburg, 570-619-5338

Norma Leap 570-992-4970

### Financial Report as of 12/26/2015

	This Month	Year to Date
Amount needed:	\$10,500	\$126,000
Amount collected:	\$ 8,552	\$114,357
Amount under:	\$ 1,948	\$ 11,643

*“Are we as individuals searching the word of God carefully and prayerfully, least we shall depart from its precepts and requirements? The Lord will not look upon us with pleasure if we withhold anything, small or great, that should be returned to Him.”* Counsels on Stewardship pg. 111

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

Key principles of faithful Stewardship

What is stewardship??? Stewardship is the effective use of one's resources. For Christians, this means being responsible for, and the use of, everything entrusted to the believer by God that involves: life, physical being, time, talents, and possessions. Basically, stewardship is the God given ability to properly manage the blessings God entrust to His children. Stewardship is more than money and material blessings!

### Key Principles

1. *Acknowledge God's Ownership.* The heart of effective stewardship is to recognize that God is the CEO and we are managers under God's Supreme Leadership. Christians belong to God, and everything we have is given to us by God. God is in control!

**Psalm 50:10**

**Romans 14:8**

2. *Accept Responsibility.* Effective stewardship begins with accepting responsibility. Good stewards understand what is required of them and seek God for wisdom.

**Luke 12:42-48** To whom much is given, much is required! The more God gives to us, the more responsible we must become in managing our blessings.

3. *Abide In Faithfulness.* Stewardship involves faithfulness in our giving in tithes, offering, time, talents and resources. Stewardship without faithfulness is a sign of irresponsibility. **Luke 16:1-3** - For Christians, careful use of possessions is for the benefit of others. God blesses us in order for us to be a blessing unto others. God will hold us accountable for the blessings He entrusts us.

4. *Anticipate God To Meet Your Needs.* True stewardship entails trust. We have to trust that God will meet our needs. God knows our needs before we even ask Him (**Matthew 6:8**). And if our earthly parents know how to give good gifts, what more will God Almighty give to us (**Matthew 7:11**). An effective steward realizes that God will provide what is needed at the appointed time (**Genesis 22:14**).

5. *Appreciate God's Blessing (Contentment).* Effective stewardship is being content with what God provides. Too many times, Christians covet another person's blessing instead of appreciating what God has given to them. Christians cannot afford to covet another person's blessing. We do not know the struggle the person went through to get their blessing from God.