

MOVING FORWARD



Maritime Conference

SPOTLIGHT

September 2024 Edition

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
ÉGLISE ADVENTISTE DU SEPTIÈME JOUR

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Proposed Artist Rendition

MOVING FORWARD

As many of us know, hurricane Fiona did some involuntary redecorating to our campgrounds approximately three years ago. As a result of her aesthetic preferences, we lost what was formerly known as the ABC building. Even though the loss of our ABC building was unfortunate, we remain positive because we see this experience as an opportunity to replace it with something new and even more capable of meeting our needs. *John 5:24 says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."*

Hence, although the destruction of our former building was unfortunate, this is an opportunity to replace it with something that will *bear even more fruit* to meet the needs our constituency. We are happy to announce that we are currently working on the plans for the erection of a new multipurpose building. We are excited because as much as we loved the former building, this new one is going to be even more spacious and have even more functionality. Our old washroom facilities are going to be torn down, and along with the space where the old ABC building resided, our new building is going to be constructed.

To replace the old torn down washroom facility, the new building will have a total of six full bathrooms with showers. One of the bathrooms will be reserved for handicapped individuals. There is going to be a 39.6 by 14.2 foot storage room with a large garage door that will make it easier for staff and volunteers to load or to unload ABC inventory into the building. The space will also provide additional storage for Conference materials as well. There will be a Board Room for camp staff, ministry leaders and administration meetings. Also included in the plans are an office space as well as a laundry room.

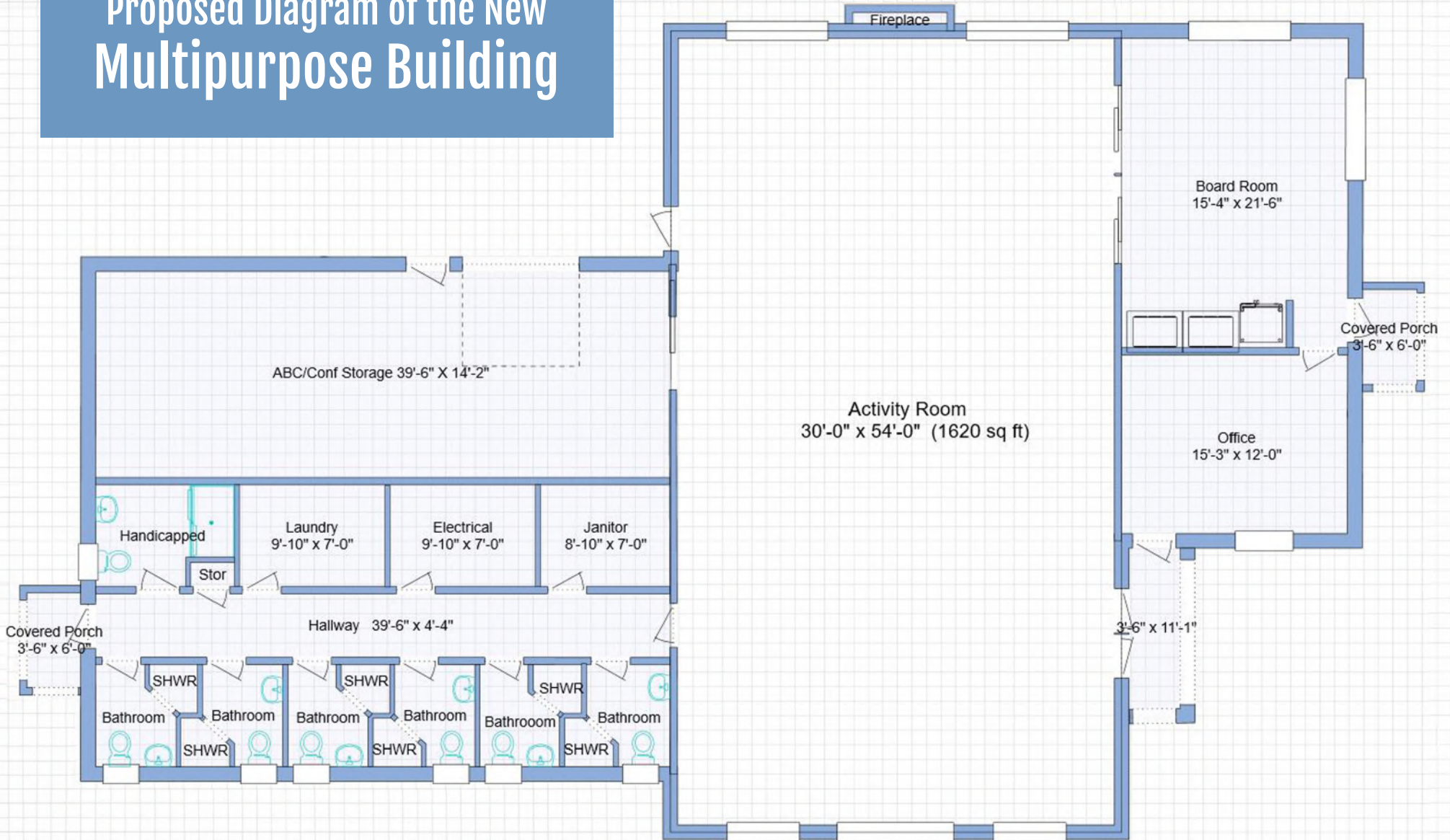
However, the biggest attraction of this building will be the Activity Room which is 1624 square feet. Even though it will be used as the

ABC store during Camp Meeting, other ministries within our Conference will be able to use it during times when Camp Meeting is not in session. You can almost imagine what our Prayershops, Health Retreats, Women's Retreats and Pathfinder Club meetings are going to look like. Our *Prayer Ministries* coordinator Erna McCann says that, *"The meeting room would be used instead of the cafeteria which makes it a little easier - less noisy during meetings, etc..."* she also said that there will be *"...more bathrooms and showers, and laundry opportunities."*

Our *Club Ministries* director, Brenda Henry says, *"I am very excited at the opportunity to have a multipurpose building at Camp Pugwash. We hold our camporees at Camp Pugwash, and we have had to use the dining room building for multiple uses, which sometimes requires us to set up and tear down after each use. A multipurpose building will give us an area to hold our inside events and not have to rearrange the dining room after each meal. We could also use it for staff meetings during the camporee and staff training. The impact of this building would be great for our event. In past years we have held the Adventurer and Pathfinder Camporee at the same time. Because we have grown in numbers, we currently have outgrown the current set up and in 2025, without the new building, we will only be having a Pathfinder Camporee. With the new building, we will be able to host both Pathfinders and Adventurers."*

"A multipurpose room would be handy so that we can lock stuff up, if need be, instead of lugging items back and forth." says *Health Ministries* director Catherine Walsh, *"...also, electrical outlets would be good for computers, printers, etc. A central place where people would know that for example, Health Ministries will be set up and available at certain times would be great. I am not sure of the impact it will have, but having a determined location will establish a sense of permanency. For instance, people will know where to go if they want to talk to the Health Ministries team."*

Proposed Diagram of the New Multipurpose Building



It will also provide another room to use when we have our yearly wellness workshops.”

Aside from all the various uses that we are going to have for the new building, we would like to also include that its structure is going to be created using innovative building materials called ICF (Insulated Concrete Form). This is important because we live during a time when hurricanes are increasing. ICF buildings are created to have more resistance to hurricanes winds. We want to do everything possible to ensure that the new building is going to be sturdy. As we finalize our plans to bring them into fruition, we are going to need the support of the constituency whether it is spiritually or financially.

Please continue to keep this project in your prayers as plans are being made to turn these wonderful drawings and diagrams into a reality. We are ever grateful to *David Streifling* who assisted us in creating the building plans. We are also appreciative of the support of our *Board of Directors, the Camp Pugwash Committee* and *our constituency*. Camp Pugwash plays a very important part in the lives of many of us at the Maritime Conference. We hope this new building will create a space to help foster further Christian fellowship and spiritual growth among our visitors as well as our members.

Submitted by the

Administration

of the Maritime Conference

The ABC Building Following Hurricane Fiona



We Will Miss You Pastor Mike!!

As my family and I make a transition to a new call and post in Alberta, I would like to take a moment to share my gratitude.

Thank you, Maritime Conference, for the opportunity and privilege to serve as a pastor with you these past three years. You have given me my first pastoral appointment and have taught and shaped me for the calling God has called me to. I pray for God's guidance in your ministry till He comes.

Thank you to the members of the Pugwash, Truro, and New Glasgow churches for allowing me and my family to minister to and with you. This time with you all has been a blessing and we will never forget each and every one of you.

Thank you to my fellow pastors for your guidance, support, and friendship; may the Lord continue to lead and care for you as you move forward in your ministerial path with Him.

Marthe and I love the Maritimes and will always hold the memories we have with all for you dear, especially since our boys were born here. You will always be in our hearts and our prayers.

Thank you again, and may the Lord bless and keep you always.

Yours in ministry,

Pastor Mike & Family



FAREWELL

TO PASTOR MICHAEL HALL AND FAMILY AT THE TRURO SDA CHURCH

On Sabbath, August 31, 2024, the Truro SDA Church bade farewell to our beloved Pastor Michael Hall; his dear wife, Marthe; and their precious sons, Noah and Wyatt. Pastor Hall has ministered to the three churches in this district — New Glasgow, Pugwash, and Truro — for three years and we have appreciated and been blessed by his Christlike, loving, and dedicated leadership. Pastor Hall preached his inspiring farewell sermon based on *Psalms 23*, and closed with the very fitting farewell and promise found in *verse 6*: “*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*”

It was a high day for our church as many visitors from New Glasgow and elsewhere joined with us to swell our numbers. How happy we were to have them unite with us! Following the service, we enjoyed a delicious potluck supper in the Fellowship Room. At the supper, Pastor Mike and Marthe were presented with the beautiful farewell gift of a quilted wall hanging picturing a lighthouse, and inscribed with the names of his three churches. Embroidered on the back side was the wonderful promise of *Psalms 121:8*: “*The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.*”

Also presented were two beautiful quilts as farewell gifts for their sons, Noah and Wyatt. The wall hanging and quilts were lovingly crafted by the Quilting Ministry of our three churches, including Bev Mosher, Nancy Dorey, David and Jean Streifling, and others. We wish Pastor Mike and Marthe, and Noah and Wyatt Godspeed and Heaven’s most

abundant blessings as they move to the Alberta Conference to a youth pastor’s position at the Red Willow Church in Edmonton.

Submitted by
Communications Department
Truro Seventh-day Adventist Church

The Maritime Conference would like to say farewell to Pastor Michael Hall as he has been called to pastor for the Alberta Conference. It has been truly a blessing having him as part of our team. He has done a phenomenal job working with the Juniors at Camp Meeting and has touched the hearts of many when ministering to his three congregations in Pugwash, Truro and New Glasgow. Michael is very friendly, warm-hearted, and a dynamic preacher. We pray that God will continue to do great things through him as he transitions to his new assignment.

God bless you Mike, Marthe and the rest of the family.

We will miss you!

Administration

WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR CHURCH?

We want to know what God is doing in your church! Don't keep the blessings to yourself! Let us know so that we can be inspired!

Submit your reports to the MC Spotlight to ron.marshall@maritimesda.com before the 15th of each month (except for July & December, it will be on the 03rd)

"Tell the world about Jesus...tell them about His love...as you go..."



Maritime Conference

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

2024

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CHURCH ATTENDANCE

For those of us who live on or near a camp meeting location, attending meetings through the week can be a challenge. Life as we know it doesn't stop just because camp meeting starts. But Sabbath is different. It was tempting to stay in the house Saturday evening, but I had no reason not to attend so I went. And I'm glad I did.

Elder Paul Llewellyn had been the main speaker for the first Friday and Sabbath at the Pugwash camp meeting, and sitting there that night I had a feeling that is hard to explain. I knew I was in the right place, surrounded by people who were possibly having the same sense of purpose and anticipation for what can be. And it got me thinking. *Why do people stay away from church? Why do people risk missing out on an experience that only comes from attending church?*

Where in the Bible does it say, "Go to Church!"? *Hebrews 10:25* tells

us to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, so there must be a reason why meeting together is important.

I know people, who for one reason or another, have decided that church attendance is not important. Some have been offended and walked away. Some claimed the sound system was inadequate. Some are against organized religion. Some do not have anything to wear that meets the assumed dress code. Some do not like crowds. Some are single and feel lonelier in a group than home by themselves. Nature is God's second book so a hike is just as good. I had a church member tell me that they did not enjoy the sermon because they had heard it before. (it's not the pastor's fault you went to hear him speak at two different locations only a week or two apart – a repeat sermon is bound to happen).

Ephesians 5:22-33 makes a comparison between Christ's relationship with His church and the relationship between a husband and wife. Isn't it fair to say that if a husband and wife stop spending time together in one aspect of their marriage, they are more likely, over time, to spend less and less time together overall? What will this do to their relationship? How can a level of intimacy be maintained and the relationship strengthened?

I have yet to meet a husband and wife who agree on every little thing. Church attendance is not about all members seeing eye to eye with each other (and the pastor). Is our interest piqued every week? I'm guessing not. But do we attend church with a closed off, "been there, done that" mindset or do we go with a willingness to learn, asking the Holy Spirit to open us up to what we need to hear that day.

Another common excuse I hear is "I can just watch it on-line." True. But there is a difference between sitting in a pew at church (or chair at camp meeting), surrounded by people of similar faith, studying and learning together. *Exodus 25:8* says "*and let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.*" It's not that God is only with us if we are sitting in a church building, He is with us wherever we go provided we invite Him. And I understand that "church" can look different for each of us. There are members who need to meet in a home setting for a variety of reasons. There are circumstances and limitations that prevent people from meeting at all – age, illness, physical, mental or financial challenges - and the only option is an on-line service. But there is a difference between a reason and an excuse.

Can we honestly say "surely the presence of the Lord is in this place" if we choose to put ourselves in a position where it is easy to hit "pause" for a snack break or a bathroom break, if we can change the channel to something more exciting or intriguing? Do we also run the risk of forgetting it's Sabbath if we don't make an effort, when possible, to set the distractions of home aside? Are we missing out on more than just a sermon by not meeting together with other members?

God knows why we want to stay away from church. He also knows why we shouldn't. Maybe it's not about us, but more about the person who is hurting and just needs someone to say "hello". Maybe the offended person hasn't walked away yet and we are the ones to encourage them because we have gone through a similar experience.

There are times it will be about us. Sometimes we don't know what we need until it is staring us in the face. Sometimes we don't know our lives can be better until we hear that it can be. So, I would like to encourage all of us to focus more on reasons for attending church than our excuses for not. If we aren't listening to the message God has prepared for us, we will be missing out on what He has in store for us.

But I can't tell you to go to church. I can only tell you why I go. It helps to reset my attitude. It helps to maintain and strengthen my connection with God. And that connection tells me everything will be all right. Even through tears of frustration, heartache and grief there is "*the peace that passeth all understanding*". (see *Phil 4:7*)

Submitted by

Lois Hancock

Attends Pugwash Seventh-day Adventist Church



PENTECOS

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THREE THOUSAND-PLUS PROCLAMATION INITIATIVES

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EVANGELISM FOR 2025

Interview with Pastor John Fournier about Pentecost 2025

Elder Ron Marshall: Pastor Fournier, in your own words, describe to me what is *Pentecost 2025*?

Pastor John Fournier: *Pentecost 2025* is an initiative by the North American Division to encourage all the churches of the North American Division to participate in some form of evangelism in the year 2025. This can be as broad as a big evangelistic series with several meetings. It can also be as simple as just bible studies at home with individuals. What they're hoping to do is to make it easy and encouraging for everyone to get on board and to do something.

With this initiative that each church decides to do, the NAD would really like for there to be a minimum of 10 meetings, and 5 of those should be basically make appeals to people to take a stand. Five of them are actually preaching services, while the rest can be Bible studies, one-on-one, a group meeting, it can even be during prayer meeting. It can be anything that can be considered a form of evangelism. So, it's really left with each individual church to decide what they want to do. They're not very fussy about it, so I'm very happy for that.

Elder Ron Marshall: So, what's your role in *Pentecost 2025*?

Pastor John Fournier: I'm considered the liaison between the North American Division with this initiative and with the pastors, the Conference leadership, and the church members of the Maritime Conference. In other words, whatever information I get, they would like me to pass it on to, to the pastors, perhaps the elders of the church, and so forth.

Elder Ron Marshall: How can this initiative be a blessing to the everyday church member or the everyday church leader?

Pastor John Fournier: If they go to pentecost2025.com where they have all kinds of resources, all kinds of ideas, all kinds of recordings. They have meetings that have been recorded, so that if you want to hear those meetings and watch them on video, you can. It hasn't started yet. But every Friday night, there will be a webinar of some sort or some meetings that are going to be held that are going to help train the laity to prepare them for this initiative.

Elder Ron Marshall: How much money is the NAD giving the churches for evangelism?

Pastor John Fournier: For each church that registers with them, and this is an important thing, because they need to register on the *Pentecost 2025* website for the NAD. If they register, they will qualify for a total of \$3,000.00 USD. That could come close to \$4,000.00 CAD. Also, the SDACC is offering \$1,000.00 CAD on top of that, on the condition that at the end of the meetings, the church will continue to follow up with the participants, and with the interests that they have developed.

Elder Ron Marshall: Wow! In total that's approximately \$5,000.00 CAD!

Pastor John Fournier: The \$3,000.00 USD from the NAD is given upon the condition that you submit to them a report at the end of your meetings. Right now, there are about 2172 churches in the North American Division who have already registered. The meetings don't have to start in January 2025. They can be February, March, June, September, or October, as long as it's in 2025.

Elder Ron Marshall: If I'm a leader of a church and I'm interested in participating in it, what can I do? Who can I contact?

Pastor John Fournier: Well, pretty much your safest bet would be to contact your local pastor. It's not a bad idea to get in touch with your elders as well, because they'll be the ones to initiate anything of that nature. They will have to gain the approval

from their church boards. When they do register, they will need to sit down and to think carefully about how they will plan to do it. They need to think about what funds they intend to include themselves, just like a regular evangelistic seminar. The NAD requires this information when you register.

There is something also that I would like to mention. They are calling for a *National Day of Prayer on September 28th at 7pm, Eastern Standard Time*, which would be 8pm our time. They will be a praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Following our interview, Pastor John Fournier prayed with me and for this great NAD initiative. We want to thank him for his time and for providing us with all this wonderful information about the *Pentecost 2025* initiative. If you want to know any further information, you can check out their website pentecost2025.com or you can ask your local pastor or church elder. God is opening up an opportunity for your church to do something great in 2025. Let's take hold of that opportunity in faith!

Submitted by
Ron Marshall
Executive Secretary for the Maritime Conference



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Seventh-day
Adventist[®] Church

MARITIME CONFERENCE