

Bordoville Seventh-day Adventist Church

6941 Chester Arthur Road

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Enosberg Falls, Vermont 05450-1167

December 4, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Bordoville Seventh-day Adventist Church, built in 1864, is believed to be the oldest church built by Seventh-day Adventists in New England. Since about 2001, the historic Bordoville SDA Church property has been used by members of the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church for three primary purposes. First, the property provides a place of worship for members during the spring, summer and fall. Secondly, the church building and cemetery are places where tourists can come to connect with the roots of Seventh-day of Adventists or to learn about the history of this church. Thirdly, once a there is an annual meeting where 70-300 people gather. Let me expand on each of these here.

1. Weekly Services

A weekly Sabbath service is held on Saturday afternoons at 4 P.M. at the historic Bordoville SDA Church beginning late spring through the early fall. The meetings are attended by local SDA members and guests. They regularly sign the guest book. These meetings have taken place regularly for three seasons of the year ever since the church was renovated in 2000-2001 with the exception of the time period from March 2020 to August 2021. At the weekly meetings, attendees pray, study the Bible and sing. A message or sermon may be presented by the pastor or some other church leader.

2. Tourist Spot

Because this church is mentioned in SDA history books and textbooks, tourists from around the United States and Canada, as well as people from other countries, visit this church. Tourists also sign the guest book. The church foyer contains glass cases with artifacts and books. There is a TV with photos of past events. In the sanctuary, there are pews and a pulpit recently donated from the Atlantic Union College Miller Chapel because the church's original

pews went to the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Michigan. There are also charts, pictures, and songbooks with traditional songs sung by SDA pioneers in the sanctuary.

Within the past ten years, thousands of dollars were raised to clean and repair the gravestones in the cemetery up on the hill behind the Bordoville Seventh-day Adventist Church. Early church pioneers are buried in this cemetery including members of the Bourdeau (Anglicized to Bordo) family. Some local families in the community are related to people buried in this cemetery besides it being a site where SDA pioneers were laid to rest. Currently, tourists are able to walk about the cemetery; SDAs can view the sky where they expect Jesus to return as mentioned in I Thessalonians 4:13-17. People currently appreciate the quiet serenity of this resting place on the hill behind the church.

3. Annual Meeting

There is a yearly annual meeting held at the Bordoville SDA Church on the third Sabbath (or Saturday) in September, celebrating the history of this church. Attendance at annual meetings before the pandemic was 100-300 people. In 2021, there were about 50 in attendance and in 2022, over 70 people attended. Included at annual meetings, since 2001, is a report given by local SDA historian, Esther Knutson, who is a member of the Abercorn SDA Church in Quebec. From about 2010 to 2019, a Romanian choir from Montreal provided choral songs, responses and special musics at the annual meetings in honor of the fact that the Bourdeau brothers, who founded this church, also planted churches in the country of Romania.

The Bourdeau brothers, A.C. and D.T., founded this church. They were also leaders in spreading the gospel and starting SDA churches in Quebec, Romania and throughout the United States. During the 1800's, various SDA pioneer leaders visited this church and spoke here, including Ellen White, a prolific SDA author.

Seventh-day Adventists believe this church provides rich historic value for the reasons stated above. Those currently worshipping at this property for three seasons of the year hope to have the beauty and serenity of this place remain.

Sincerely,

Debra Knutson-Bezerra