

THE ATLANTIC UNION

OCTOBER 2016

# GLEANNER



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**Cover:** The image used in the cover design is from iStockphoto.com.

October 2016, Vol. 115, No. 10. The Atlantic Union GLEANER is published monthly by the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®, 400 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561. Printed by L. Brown and Sons Printing, Inc., 14 Jefferson Street, Barre, VT 05641. Standard postage paid at Montpelier, VT 05602. Annual subscription price, \$10.00. NEW OR RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: Mail new or renewal subscriptions to Atlantic Union GLEANER, P.O. Box 1189, South Lancaster, MA 01561. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

# Today, **More than Ever!**

**N**ews broadcasting was never as busy as it is today. Media cannot keep up with the number of catastrophic events happening in the world on a daily basis; and, as you know, not everything is newsworthy. Political violence, social commotions, natural disasters, economic unrest, religious intolerance, global and public health issues, climate changes, and a myriad of other issues related to human behavior have plagued every corner of our society. Can we, as a church, fold our hands and detach ourselves from these events? How do we respond to these overwhelming calamities? Are we seriously considering our mission in the midst of it all? Let's consider a few elements.

First: **The church is not exempt.** As a religious body, the church might be a tax-exempt organization because of the nature of the work we do in our communities, but we are not exempt from the troubles and distress that our cities are facing. In fact, as a church, we are so much affected, that it's imperative to be involved. Our neighbors are dying, families are getting sick, friends' rights are being violated, coworkers are losing their jobs, and more. You can choose not to be involved, but there goes your relevance in the community. We don't have too many alternatives when it comes to ministering to our dying world.

Second: **The church should never be satisfied.** Our satisfaction should not depend on a well-spent day at church on Sabbath or simply on the wonderful fellowship we enjoy when we come together. Everything we do as individuals and as a church should be driven by mission. In the words of Jesus: "These you should have done and still have done the other things also"—Matthew 23:23 (NLV). If you want to know why

churches have lost, in large measure, the commitment of their members, it's because of a lack of a mission-oriented approach to church life. Don't forget that mission engenders commitment. Returning to a culture of "service to others" may not be a bad thing to be considered. Today, more than ever, we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. If carried to its highest potential, either one will change lives.

Third: **Be on guard.** We are reminded every second that there is a great deal of violence and danger in our world. How do we minister or do service in a complex society? At least we are not alone. Perhaps one of the great promises from our Lord is that He will be with us until the end. We are in the middle of it. We have a clear mission: we are the light of the world; we are the salt of the earth. We have a very reliable arsenal, the "armor of God," ammunition, the things God gives His children to fight with.

Fourth: **Stand up and fight.** Take time and read Ephesians chapter 6:10-17. It's inspiring to know that we have access to all the weapons we can use to defeat the enemy. Our fight is not with people. It is against the leaders and the powers and the spirits of darkness in this world. It is against the demon world that works in the heavens. And remember, "the battle is the Lords."

Moreover, whatever happens to us is for a good reason, if we love the Lord. So stand up and don't be moved. Let the church bring hope into the life of the hopeless, joy to sad hearts, the good news of salvation grace, and the promise that Jesus is coming again. ④

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*Elias Zabala, Sr., is the Atlantic Union Conference treasurer and trust services director.*



*"Everything we  
do as individuals  
and as a church  
should be driven  
by mission."*





# Ministering in the Face of Tragedy

BY ASHELEY WOODRUFF

**T**ragedy is a fact of life. In the past year, terrorist bombings, active shooter incidents in schools and churches, and natural disasters occurring worldwide claimed many lives and critically injured more. As ministry leaders, we cannot shield ourselves or our congregations from heartbreak.

Christ warned us that tragic times would come. He also promised He would be with us through every moment (Matthew 28:20). This knowledge gives us hope and comfort and helps us cope with loss and grief.



## The Role of Church Leadership in the Midst of Tragedy

Ministry leaders are primary points of contact for the bereaved. When a tragedy occurs, church leaders provide emotional support and spiritual guidance for those who experience loss. Tragic deaths, such as a young person's suicide or mass shooting casualties, affect an entire congregation.

### What You Can Do

The church's greatest strength is its ability to provide hope and comfort in a time of grief. As spiritual leaders, reach out to those who are hurting and provide for their spiritual needs. Pray with the bereaved and remind them of God's love through their time of suffering. Demonstrate compassion and sympathy through the use of active listening skills. Bereaved individuals are reassured when they believe you hear them, and their emotions are validated.

Equally important is the ability of church leaders to create a safe place for people to grieve together. Open the worship space for prayer vigils. Hold a community meeting to discuss the tragedy. Creating a safe space for those not directly impacted gives other church members the chance to mourn and find support from each other.

Another option is to hold a meeting with the congregation following a service. Members can then openly dialogue with each other and their spiritual leaders about their experiences, emotions, and concerns about the situation.

These events do not have to be structured, but someone must be designated to make certain all members have a chance to be heard. It is important that everyone involved understands that these meetings are not meant to be group therapy sessions. Limit conversa-



Photos: istockphoto

“The church’s greatest strength is its ability to provide hope and comfort in a time of grief.”





## What? Culinary School? A YouTube Channel?

It can be a daunting task for a young lady to decide which educational path to pursue, and that was the case for me a couple of years ago. That is, until I did a search of Ellen White's writings and found that learning how to cook healthy foods was a definite requirement: "The science of cooking is not a small matter. The skillful preparation of food is one of the most essential arts, . . . This art should be regarded as the most valuable of all the arts, because it is so closely connected with life"—COUNSELS ON DIETS AND FOODS, p. 263.

I have been in the kitchen learning from my mom as far back as I can remember, but as I shared my findings with my family, we decided to explore to see if God would open the door for me to go to culinary school. To make a long story short, God performed several miracles and I was accepted to the Natural Gourmet Institute (NGI), a culinary school in Manhattan.

Within a couple of months I was in the middle of one of the largest cities in the world, learning how to cook plant-based food. It was a unique experience, but God sustained me and gave me strength for the task. The worldliness of the city caused me to draw closer to God, and my prayer life became much stronger. Near graduation I was chosen, along with one other student, to represent NGI in a cooking competition of culinary schools in New York City. By God's grace, we won with a total plant-based entry.




Chef Ani uses her Web site and YouTube channel to teach people how to cook healthy foods.

When I graduated, God placed another vision on my heart: "Greater efforts should be put forth to educate the people in the principles of health reform. . . . some should labor from house to house giving instruction in the art of cooking wholesome food"—A CALL TO MEDICAL EVANGELISM AND HEALTH EDUCATION, p. 36.

Well, in my mind, there is no better way to do this than through online technology, hence the start of a YouTube channel and Web site. The goal is to teach people how to cook simple, healthy, palatable dishes, along with providing information about the eight natural laws of health. This is a small ministry, but I have put God in charge, and

where it goes from here, is up to Him.

God sometimes has unconventional ways for us to serve Him. It may not be culinary school or a YouTube channel, but it may be something totally different than what we thought it would be. How exciting that God cares about the smallest details of our lives and that He is leading the way.

If you want to assist me in this adventure, please keep this channel in your prayers. You can find me at [chefani.com](http://chefani.com) and [youtube.com/chefani](http://youtube.com/chefani). 

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*Anika Perry, also known as Chef Ani, is a member in the Northern New England Conference.*

## AUC Students Graduate from Professional Certificate Program

**A**tlantic Union College (AUC) students, past and present, as well as faculty, staff, and supporters gathered on August 28 in Machlan Auditorium for a convocation to kick off the 2016-2017 school year, and for the graduation of six students from the college's professional certificate program.

Avis Hendrickson, AUC president, welcomed the attendees and introduced the platform guests. In her remarks to the students, Hendrickson said, "You must put the effort into your work. The only place where 'success' comes before 'work' is in the dictionary. This is a faith-based journey." She shared a scripture text from Philippians 3:14: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Hendrickson admonished the students to "Continue to press forward because you can obtain the goal through the indwelling of our sweet Holy Spirit."

Jerrell Gilkeson, Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education director, brought greetings from the Atlantic Union Conference



The platform personnel at the convocation for the 2016-2017 school year and commencement watch as graduates march in.

administrators and staff. He encouraged the students to take what they learned at AUC and share it with their family, their church, and their community.

The guest speaker for the occasion was H. Roger Bothwell, a former AUC professor and current Education professor at Fitchburg State University. He told the graduates, "Education is about coloring your life in a multitude of colors."

In January 2016, in addition to the two degree programs, a B.A. in Religion/Theology,

and a B.S. in Health Sciences/Biology, AUC began offering accelerated certificate programs in office management, bookkeeping, medical billing and coding, enrolled agent (tax preparation), and information technology.

AUC awarded certificates of completion to five students who graduated from the medical billing and coding certificate program: Jeffrey Clarke, Esther Noel, Jennifer Sierra, Patricia Sierra, and Sherine Tulloch. AUC also awarded a certificate of completion

to Oneli Sanchez, who graduated from the professional bookkeeping certificate program. When these students take the exam to become certified, they will be able to seek employment in the area in which they are certified.

AUC also awarded the following scholarships to six students: Samuel Jerome and Eric Jean-Baptiste, who received the Nosworthy-Wright Endowment Community Engagement Scholarship; Kevin Maldonado and Newton



Six AUC students graduate during the first commencement for the professional certificate program.



Six AUC students are awarded scholarships during the August graduation.



Joseph, who received the Dr. and Mrs. Roland J. Brimes Scholarship; Fredy Canales, who received the Hispanic Scholarship; and Edmund Joseph, who received the David E. Counter Memorial Endowment Scholarship.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Susan Willoughby, a staunch supporter and faculty emeritus of AUC, who passed away on May 4. Hendrickson spoke of Willoughby's work and her love for Atlantic Union College.

Orientation for the new school year was held August 25-28. AUC's certificate program began on August 28 and the degree program began on August 29. For more information about AUC and programs offered,

visit the school's Web site at [www.auc.edu](http://www.auc.edu), or call the Office of Enrollment at (978) 368-2251, or e-mail [enroll@auc.edu](mailto:enroll@auc.edu).

—GLENER staff

## Daniel's Story: From Guatemala to AUC

Daniel Moralez is currently a freshman at Atlantic Union College (AUC) and his enrollment at AUC almost didn't happen. A few years ago, his experience in Guatemala impressed him so much that he didn't want to come back to America. "I didn't want to return to the States and definitely didn't want to return to high school," said Moralez.

Moralez was one of the first students I met when classes began for the 2016-2017 school year at AUC. Meeting him reminded me of my experience when I first attended AUC many years ago. He's very friendly and at the same time very humble and introverted. When we spoke, he talked about his trip to Guatemala and how it almost convinced him not to come back to Lynn, Massachusetts, where he was born and raised.

And it wasn't because he had a bad experience in Lynn. It is that he didn't experience, really, anything in his hometown. He was looking for something more.

A few years ago, Moralez went on a trip to visit Guatemala with his family. Being there was a life-changing experience. Lynn, to Moralez, was like any town close to the city of Boston. But in Guatemala, he saw farmlands, fields, mountains, and a volcano.

"The people are very different there . . . very poor but they seemed very happy compared to the people I grew up with."

Moralez doesn't know much about his neighbors in Lynn, but in Guatemala everyone greeted and welcomed him. They had a genuine inter-



Chris Tulloch, Atlantic Union College director of public affairs and enrollment, right, helped Daniel Moralez feel welcomed when he arrived at AUC.

est in the young man and they had heartwarming discussions with him.

Offers for him to come and eat with his neighbors were common. He didn't want to come back, but the economy and healthcare in Guatemala were very bad, and with a heavy heart, he returned.

After returning home, he felt listless and depressed. Following his graduation from high school, the prospect of college and employment did not excite him. "Life stunk," he said.

Suddenly his cousin, Kevin Maldonado, a student at Atlantic Union College, invited him to come down and play basketball with him. Moralez had never been to the college before and when he went to visit his cousin, to his surprise, everyone at AUC was very friendly and welcoming.

"One of the teachers here, Mrs. Fuller, welcomed me like she knew me," Moralez said. "I started coming here more on the weekends, and sometimes during the week when I had vacation." He also loved the scenery, especially viewing the beauty of Lancaster from the top of George Hill.

The next thing he knew, he was happily enrolled at Atlantic Union College, majoring in Health Science.

I asked Moralez where he sees his life going now. "Being here I have re-learned to lean on God. I have learned that everything is in His hands. I don't know what His will is, but I know I will be happy, no matter what the situation."

—Emmanuel Ortiz, communication manager, Atlantic Union College

## St. George's Church Hosts 30-day NEWSTART Program

The Health Ministries department of St. George's church hosted a 30-day NEWSTART program based on the eight laws of health: nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, air, rest, and trust in God. Twenty-six participants joined the program, including members of the church and the community.

Information sessions were held on Sundays from 1:00-3:00 p.m., during which participants learned about the eight laws of health and how to integrate these principles into their lives. Information booklets contained daily readings taken from *COUNSELS ON DIETS AND FOODS* and *HEALTHFUL LIVING* by Ellen G. White.

The meetings started with prayer, testimonies, and singing the theme song, "Moment by Moment." Participants were actively involved in the program and helped by preparing healthy food, which everyone enjoyed.

Information sessions during the 30 days focused on the eight laws of health and additional information about nutrients, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), soaking nuts and seeds, and



These church members and community residents, who are interested in better health, are participants of the 30-day NEWSTART program held at St. George's church.

spouting grains. In addition, participants learned how to properly combine their foods for optimal health and digestion, and about what foods they should avoid eating or eat sparingly.

The ultimate goal of the program was to promote a healthy lifestyle that is consistent with God's ideal for His people. Twenty-three



St. George's church NEWSTART program participants prepare food for the evening meeting.

**"When we do all we can on our part to have health, then may we expect that the blessed results will follow, and we can ask God in faith to bless our efforts for the preservation of health. He will then answer our prayer, if his name can be glorified thereby; but let all understand that they have a work to do. God will not work in a miraculous manner to preserve the health of persons who are taking a sure course to make themselves sick"**

—HEALTHFUL LIVING, p. 30.

participants completed the program, which ended with a final banquet. Testimonies revealed that participants improved their health,

lost weight, and benefited spiritually.

—Kendra-Lee Pearman, health ministries leader, St. George's church

## Greater New York Elects New Executive Secretary

On Thursday, August 18, the Greater New York Conference (GNYC) Executive Committee elected Alanzo Smith to serve as the executive secretary for the conference. Smith succeeds Henry Beras, who is the newly-elected president of the Greater New York Conference.

Smith has worked in GNYC in several capacities. In addition to pastoring several churches, he has served as the director of the Family Ministries, Men's Ministries, Communication, Sabbath School, and Personal Ministries departments. He most recently served as the ministerial secretary. Smith's ministry also includes working as an evangelist, and as an adjunct professor at Andrews University.

Smith has earned the following degrees: Bachelor of Theology, Master of Arts in Theology, Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry in Family Life, Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling, and Doctor of Education in Counseling Psychology.



Alanzo Smith is the newly-elected executive secretary of the Greater New York Conference.

Smith has authored five books and many professional articles. As an evangelist, he has conducted successful evangelistic campaigns in the U.S., Canada, Africa, Europe, and the West

Indies, baptizing thousands for God's kingdom. He is a licensed marriage and family therapist, mental health counselor, and a psychotherapist.

Smith and his wife, June, host the programs *Marriage in God's Hands* and *Families 4 Heaven*, which have aired on 3ABN and Hope TV.

The Smiths have an adult daughter, Waitline; a son-in-law, Marvin; and a grandson, Marlanzo.

Smith will serve on the GNYC team that provides leadership to the Greater New York Conference with its nearly 29,000 members who worship in 172 churches and companies; seven elementary schools, one junior academy, one academy; numerous Adventist community service centers, a van ministry, and other ministries in the Greater New York area.

—Communication staff, Greater New York Conference

## Macedonia Hosts Senior Celebration Day

Senior Celebration Day at Macedonia church revealed that the ratio of seniors to the overall population roughly matches the national average of one out of five people over 65. During the celebration, Margaret Brewster, known as "Sister B," welcomed the attendees with a poetry selection. Superintendent Monica Forrest taught the Sabbath School class as an open forum. She noted that a significant amount of verbal input came from seniors.

Dolores Clarke-Winters directed the senior choir and homilies were presented by Mary O'Garro and Colsome Logan. O'Garro stressed the importance of maintaining social interaction in old age to remain mentally alert and ward off depression, which frequently occurs among seniors. Logan enumerated

the roles of seniors in the church community: knowing God, witnessing, being prayer warriors, and mentoring the young. Both O'Garro and Logan accentuated an advantage of aging—more free time.

A slide show of individual senior portraits was shown, recognizing the service contributions of the seniors, longevity of membership, and favorite hymns and Bible verses. The oldest member of the church, Rheina Samuels, age 92, after receiving a bouquet of roses, wept as she recalled her years of attendance. Edwin Lawrence, 81, sang an a cappella solo, holding notes long and steady.

Church hospitality hostess Sonia Peters pinned corsages of roses on each senior. "Matching floral arrangements and fresh fruit on each table symbolized God's prom-

ise: 'they shall still bring forth fruit in old age: they shall be ever-green,' Psalm 92:14," said Peters. Heather O'Garro, daughter of Mary O'Garro, said that "Sons, sons-in-law, and grandchildren were pleased to see the obvious delight" of her mother, upon delivering her homily. Betty Cambridge, a visitor at Macedonia church, said, "The faithfulness of longtime church service by seniors at Macedonia is on vivid display in the proceedings."

At the evening social, the seniors recalled how they came to be Adventists. The day ended with Julian Jones-Campbell, the church's pastor, congratulating all of the seniors for remaining in God's service.

—Communication secretary, Macedonia church



## Parkview Junior Academy Dedicates New Playground Facility

Parkview Junior Academy in Syracuse, New York, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 19 to dedicate a highly-anticipated, brand-new playground structure at the school. The fundraising project for this playground began in January 2016.

The Home and School team worked diligently to raise funds and apply for grants to meet the playground budget, recognizing that the goal was a bit of a hope and a dream. The team soon realized that God was working with them and



Jeremy Garlock, New York Conference superintendent of schools, left; Kim Kaiser, Parkview Junior Academy principal, center; and Kelsey Hayes, Home and School leader, right, participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate Parkview Junior Academy's new playground.

provided everything they needed to complete this project—and just in time for the new school year to start!

The entire Parkview Junior Academy family is very grateful to two donor organizations that contributed to the project—the Central New York Community Fund and the Ray Halbritter Charitable Giving Foundation. What a thrill to see students learning through play in a safe and stimulating environment.

—Kelsey Hayes, Home and School leader, Parkview Junior Academy

## God's Plans — Our Hands for USA!

From July 24-29, Union Springs Academy (USA) was truly blessed by volunteers who came and worked during the third annual Campus Renovation Week. These volunteers included USA faculty and staff, students, parents, alumni from near and far, New York Conference church members, and other friends with willing hearts.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of alumnus John Cardinell, Campus Renovation Week was established in 2014, with the desire to improve the campus buildings and grounds. With USA's rich 95-year heritage comes the reality of caring for the school's older buildings.

This year more than \$30,000 was generously donated to complete many projects. These included:

- The installation of 15 fire safety doors for the girls' rooms in Sunset Hall,
- Outside lighting for the administration building and dormitories replaced with energy-efficient LED lights,



Union Springs Academy senior Tha Dah in front of the new door to her room.

- The roof over the cafeteria entrance replaced,
- The gazebo repaired and refinished,
- The cafeteria bathroom remodeled,
- A kitchenette installed in the boys dorm,

- The girls dorm chimney repaired,
- Four new sugar maple trees planted on the lower campus,
- Faculty homes renovated and repaired,
- And several other beautification projects around the campus.

Campus Renovation Week has actually turned into a springboard for projects to be worked on throughout the year. We are grateful for alumni Bob and Marilyn Rosa and Bob and Marie Putman, who have spent many hours working on such projects after renovation week.

If you would like to learn more about next year's Campus Renovation Week or are interested in volunteering throughout the school year, please contact the Development Office at USA at (315) 889-7314.

—Janica Caster, development director, Union Springs Academy

## 35 Attend Union Springs Academy Skills Week

Union Springs Academy (USA) held its annual Skills Week from July 10 to 17 with 35 young people in attendance. Visiting students got a glimpse of academy life on campus while experiencing various classes and activities throughout the week. The theme for the week was “Stand Out,” with daily worship talks focusing on heroes of the Bible. Many of the worships were led by USA students.

USA staff and volunteer instructors offered a variety of alternative fun classes, including pie making, origami art, cake decorating, photography, bottle rocket making, and personal finance. Soccer and basketball

clinics were run by Adam Boyd and Tim Raymond, as well as lawn games and a scavenger hunt.

Students enjoyed boating and swimming on the shores of Lake Cayaga and experienced a landing demonstration from an emergency transport helicopter.

USA looks forward to welcoming several of these students to the family this fall!

—Janica Caster, development director, Union Springs Academy



Abigail Pineiro, a ninth-grader, holds her masterpiece stained glass and pottery creation from Skills Week.

## Joy of Troy Youth Day a Success

The youth of the Joy of Troy church conducted the entire church service for Youth Day on August 6. Young people from ages 4 to 18 participated in the day’s programs, including assisting in kindergarten and primary Sabbath School classes, and also served as ushers and deacons.

Several weeks prior to the big day, youth Sabbath School leader Bill Moody coached the youth in the order of service; how to call for prayer, praise, offering, and scripture; as well as how to dress for serving on the platform. Hugh Langley, Joy of Troy church pastor, also met with the youth to review the order of service for the day. The youth practiced their parts and went over the flow of service several times.

On Youth Day, the service went smoothly and the youth did not show



Joy of Troy church youth, from left, Wilmsaiah Rivas, Joshua Trant, Phillip Ramos, and Zayana Moody participate in the worship service on Youth Day.

any signs of nervousness. Abigail Givens and Lovettee Thomas led song service and Eliasa Bernavil gave the Call to Worship. Wilmsaiah Rivas wrote an insightful message directing the listeners to Jesus which he read while the offering was being collected. Prayer

requests and praises were received by Joshua Trant. He expressed sympathy and made sure everyone was heard and acknowledged. Zayana Moody thoughtfully and succinctly prayed for all of the requests individually. Chrysolte Baun gave an inspiring “adult’s story”

reminding the hearers that they are never alone. She also played the violin for special music and led the congregation in singing the opening hymn.

Destin Bernavil read the scripture before Phillip Ramos preached a sermon about Jonah. He challenged the congregation to have the courage to go through their “belly moment,” just as Jonah had to go through his “belly moment” in the whale because he ran from God.

The youth were in tune with the congregation, and in tune with God. It is inspiring to see God in charge of both the youth and church. The youth are not just the church’s future, but its present. The church is in good hands.

—Annette Barnes, elder and Sabbath School superintendent, Joy of Troy church



## Linden School Conducts First Summer Music Camp

The Linden school is committed to educating students who enter its premises seeking a Christian Seventh-day Adventist education for now and for eternity. Located at 137-01 228th St., Laurelton, NY, the school operates under the Northeastern Conference. The school's philosophy is that every student can learn, providing he or she is exposed to an environment at home and at school that stimulates learning. Students learn by doing; this action gives them a sense of creativity and pride as they exercise their ability to perform.

It is said that during the early years of a child's life, much attention should be given to stimulating the brain with positive and complex information that is conducive to higher thinking. As a result, the child will start to develop



Students attend the first summer music camp at Linden school.

Miracle Music, Inc., was asked to introduce this concept during the summer of 2016 by conducting a six-week Summer Music Camp at the Linden school in order to determine the feasibility of incorporating performing arts into the curriculum as

gospel music. The main objective of incorporating a music-based performing arts program is to improve discipline, perseverance, and self-discipline; qualities that stimulate the brain to higher thinking, ultimately helping students to achieve

A few of the parents gave their testimonies during the presentation, sharing how they were impressed with the program. They expressed the satisfaction of knowing that their children had acquired a wealth of experience and knowledge, learned to better appreciate music, and obtain the confidence to perform before an audience.

Ellen G. White, says, "True education is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and spiritual powers. It prepares the students for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come,"—EDUCATION, p. 13. The success of the Summer Music Camp has encouraged the administrators to continue the music program during the school year.

—Laurene Richards-Usher, principal, Linden school

“The success of the Summer Music Camp has encouraged the administrators to continue the music program during the 2016-2017 school year.”

the skill of analytical thinking.

After much consideration about how the Linden school can help students become more creative and analytical thinkers, the school administration deemed it necessary to implement more music-based performance arts in the curriculum, in order to encourage a greater desire to achieve.

an elective during the 2016-2017 school year.

The curriculum will provide exciting and enriching music instruction for students from pre-K through high school. It will provide training that helps students to read and appreciate music, and to perform at recitals.

Miracle Music, Inc., specializes in classical and

success in school and in their daily living.

The summer music camp was a grand success. More than 20 students participated in the program, along with a recital that showcased what the students learned over the six weeks. They performed well, and each student had learned to play at least two instruments of their choice.

## Home Depot Assists Shelter Rock Church With Fellowship Hall Renovations

Shelter Rock church in Queens, New York, is in the business, not only of spiritual improvement, but building improvement as well. With the help of Home Depot, Shelter Rock church is doing just that. Out of curiosity and searching for a solution, Donnett Blake, pastor of the Shelter Rock church, reached out to the home improvement and construction megastore.

“We simply filled out an application and sent a letter for assistance to the Home Depot Foundation. Our first desire was to get the kitchen remodeled and then the project was switched to remodeling the fellowship hall. Amazingly, a response came within two months,” Blake said. Through the process, the Home Depot team has been very helpful and encouraging.

Other churches might be able to tap into the Home Depot Foundation resources by speaking with someone at any Home Depot location. The foundation is there to assist different organizations in any area where there is a need.



Donnett Blake, Shelter Rock church pastor, center, poses with the home improvement team that is involved in remodeling the church's fellowship hall.

The labor and materials are sponsored through Home Depot, and the organization is responsible for providing the contractor who directs the workers. “Having worked with them before, we felt that we could continue to form a bond between Home Depot and the church when we saw the need to remodel the dining area,” Blake said. The workers are led by Vinnett Coleman, a Home Depot Foundation representative.

The anticipated timeframe for completing the project in the church fellowship hall is two weeks.

—JeNean Lendor, assistant to the president for communication, Northeastern Conference

### The Unconventionality of Church Leadership: It Works

The word humility is usually not associated with leadership. In their book, *THE UNCONVENTIONALITY OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP: IT WORKS*, Earlington and Evelyn Guiste introduce a shepherd-servant leadership model for church leaders and lay persons to implement in churches. They examine current business leadership principles and compare them with the exemplary leadership practices displayed by Jesus Christ while here on Earth. The Guistes, both graduates of Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) and Andrews University, are members of the Brockton church in Massachusetts. Earlington Guiste is also a creator of games and educational tools for children. The Guistes desire to contribute something of significance to the growth and development of the Christian church. The book is available at your local ABC and through TEACH Services. For more information, e-mail [tripleegcompany@aol.com](mailto:tripleegcompany@aol.com).



The team at work in the fellowship hall of Shelter Rock church.

## Witnessing in “The County”

Aroostook County, which comprises the northernmost part of Maine, is known in the state simply as “The County.” It is the largest county west of the Rockies as measured by land area, and it has a low population density—only 11 people per square mile. Compared to Maine as a whole, which has a population density of 43 people per square mile, suffice it to say that The County is rural and sparsely populated.

A territory like this poses a number of challenges when it comes to witnessing, not the least because communities like this in Northern New England tend to be insular, post-Christian, and self-sufficient. These are all qualities that loudly say to churches, “We don’t need what you’ve got.” But wait! Yes, they do, and the way to open a dialog is through the right arm of the gospel, our health message.

Recently the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) in the town of Madawaska (one of the larger towns in The County) hosted an EMS expo that included continuing education for



Barry Wecker, M.D., left, and Paula Hartin, R.N., seated third from left, talk to two expo attendees about the relationship between diet and health.

all EMS organizations from EMS Region V—basically all of The County. Because of relationships that had been slowly built up, the group requested that the area’s Adventist churches contribute to the expo by focusing on health, and that Adventist health professionals assist in providing education to EMS employees.

These church members included Barry Wecker, M.D., who provided a booth dealing with the relationship between diet and illness. Jonathan Reynolds, M.D., taught adult intubation on Sunday, and Kathy Marston, M.D., taught airway management for infants. Joe Drayton, M.D., a border agent and member of the

Caribou fellowship, taught EMS employees how to manage situations with violent patients. Jay Neil, M.D., from Southern Maine, provided a booth on the relationship between lifestyle and mental health. Jack and Ruth Doughty, Pathfinder directors at the Oakfield church, provided childcare at the event, using health topics from a recent Vacation Bible School program.

The small and scattered Adventist churches in The County are praising the Lord for the opportunity to witness to a receptive audience and to provide a community service at the same time!

—Jonathan Cross, pastor, Northern New England Conference



The expo hall had many exhibits. The booths set up by Adventist churches generated some real interest.



## Washington Church Holds Annual Meeting

The Washington church in New Hampshire is the oldest Adventist Church in existence. It is, in fact, the very first place where Sabbath-keeping Adventists regularly met. The church is an important piece of history and, if you travel to the little town of Washington, you will see a roadside state historic marker commemorating the church.

The old church is a destination for Adventists, but also for history enthusiasts of all types. It is not unusual for the site to get more than 100 visitors in the course of a week. Visitors can also walk the Sabbath Trail, a spectacular one-mile trail that traces the Sabbath through the Bible and through history.

The church holds regular Sabbath services during the summer, and once a year it puts on an annual meeting. This year's annual meeting was an important one, as it coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Sabbath Trail. Merlin Knowles, designer of the Sabbath Trail, was the guest speaker.

During 2015 the story of Waldo Farnsworth, one of the church members, came to light. Farnsworth was a descendent of the founders of the church and a fixture in the Washington community. While he passed away many years ago, there are many in the community who still remember him and his unique forms of outreach. It was decided that the 2016 annual meeting would also celebrate the life and witness of Waldo Farnsworth.

One of Farnsworth's passions was playing the saw in the evening while sitting in a rowboat on Millen Pond. He especially enjoyed giving sacred concerts on Friday night. As it happens, Knowles also plays the saw, so a tribute to Farnsworth was organized, complete with a sacred concert on Millen Pond.

The two-day annual meeting event was made possible by many people in the community and with help from area churches. The Friday tribute to Farnsworth was by far the most successful community event that the church has ever put on. Many

people turned out on docks and boats for the start of the concert and many more joined during the concert when people realized what was happening. This annual meeting was one of the largest attended events, second only to the Sabbath Trail dedication in 1998. Many first-time visitors attended.

Each Sabbath from May to October the Washington church is open for Sabbath

School and church. I volunteer as the site director, and my wife, Marsha, volunteers as tour guide. We are available to tell stories of the pioneers on the weekend, and can accommodate group tours on weekdays by appointment. "Washington Still Speaks" is the motto of the volunteers who keep the witness going.

—Ken Brummel, site director, Washington church



Merlin Knowles, designer of the Sabbath Trail and now president of the Montana Conference, presents the message at the annual meeting of the Washington church.

Photos: Marsha Brummel



Merlin Knowles plays the saw for special music on Sabbath.



After the church service, annual meeting attendees gathered for lunch under the newly-constructed pavilion, built to serve as a picnic area for tourists drawn to the Sabbath Trail and church.

## Couples Renew Vows at the End of a Family Enrichment Week

The Gardner Seventh-day Adventist Spanish Group held a family enrichment week from August 8 to 13. José Medina, pastor and family life counselor, led a series of meetings focusing on family life matters.

Some of the topics presented were: “7 Keys to Maintaining Happy Marriages,” “Parenting Styles,” “How to Deal with Crisis in the Marriage,” and “The Importance of Emotional Intelligence.” Members from the Fitchburg and Leominster Spanish churches joined the group to take advantage of the presentations.

On Sabbath, August 13, Medina held a renewal of vows ceremony that involved eight couples participating. Medina shared that the priority in a Christian home



Eight couples renew their vows at the end of the Gardner Spanish Group family enrichment week.

should always be: God first and family second; everything else comes after.

The attendees indicated that they were blessed by

all of Medina’s presentations which promised to strengthen the church families and, with the tools they have acquired, the participants

will also be a blessing to many other families.

—Johanna Viteri, member, Gardner Spanish Group

## Churches Share the Good News at Brooklyn Fair

The idea of preaching the gospel is not a creation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church or even of the disciples who spent three-and-a-half years in the school of the Master. Jesus, Himself, established the foundation of the church, and He set up its mission when He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”—Matthew 28:18-20.

Taking this commission seriously, the members of the Willimantic church started to look around for opportunities to share this good news in their community. It did not take long before they

discovered many opportunities to be involved in the lives of those who know little or nothing about Jesus.

The Brooklyn Fair is an annual agricultural fair held in Brooklyn, Connecticut. Every year—during the last weekend of August—for four days, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been present at this fair with significant participation. They offer blood pressure checks, lung tests, professional massage therapy, and distribute a large number of magazines, brochures, and other materials about living a healthy lifestyle to hundreds of people who stop at their three booths.

The well-trained members offer, to those who are interested, information about how to live better, longer, and healthier lives. The stand of spiritual books, DVDs, seminars, and Bible studies, seemed to be appreciated by many.

A special “thank you” to the members of Quinebaug and Norwich churches who helped the Willimantic church make this annual event a success for Jesus.

—Mihail Baciu, pastor, Willimantic church



Members of the Willimantic church share information to visitors at the Brooklyn Fair.

## Worcester Pleasant Street Church Touches Lives in the Community

Members of the Pleasant Street church in Worcester, Massachusetts, hosted a “Summer Fest”

for the surrounding community on July 23. The event was planned to kick off Vacation Bible School, which was held

the following week, as well as initiate a presence in the community prior to the church’s upcoming evangelism emphasis in October.

The event included the Worcester Doves of Peace Pathfinder drum corps, eight health stations, kid-friendly games and activities, as well as tables with bags of food and gently-used clothing items. Drawings were held for food baskets, book bags filled with school supplies, and gift cards from local businesses.

Worcester city council members Khrystian King and Sarai Rivera, as well as four officers from the Worcester Police Department, also attended the event. Tom Murray, Southern New England Conference stewardship and trust services director, offered prayer for the public officials and police officers as Pleasant Street church members surrounded them in support.

—Debra McKinney Banks, communication assistant, Atlantic Union Conference



Alvaro Mgenti

Pleasant Street church members are joined by Southern New England Conference stewardship and trust services director, Tom Murray, as they pray for local police officers and council members.

## 46 Travel to Belize on Their First Mission Trip

Forty-six people from Brooklawn church headed to Belize, Central America, on July 22, for their first mission trip. With a few members from the Calvary church, they went to help with the construction of the La Loma Luz Seventh-day Adventist Hospital in Santa Elena, Belize. The group also conducted Vacation Bible School (VBS) at three churches, in addition to holding revival services for seven days in those churches.

In seven days, the group delivered 30 sermons, saw more than 100 children in VBS, and replaced seven ceilings on the hospital property. Some members dug two trenches 1,000 feet long in order to install multiple light posts along both sides of the driveway leading to the hospital.

It was backbreaking work in the heat and humidity of Belize, but the job was accomplished. The group also painted several doctors’ offices and a guard station. At the end of the revival services, four people requested baptism and another four rededicated their lives to Christ.

The 10 days the group spent in Belize was a rich experience for all of



Vanessa Estime

Forty-six people from the Brooklawn and Calvary churches are in Belize, Central America, on their first mission trip.

them. They made friends with their church family in a different part of the world. As missionaries, they were able to meet and mingle with the members of the Santa Elena community, which was a blessing.

The entire group lived together and became closer because of this common event that they shared. Were there glitches along the way? Absolutely.

One time a sermon had to be delivered in the dark with no microphone. Although there were some conflicts, it could be said that the group members love each other more now than before, because of Mission Belize 2016.

—Roxanne August, member, Brooklawn church





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## Sunset Table

November 2016	4	11	18	25
Bangor, ME	5:17	4:09	4:02	3:57
Portland, ME	5:26	4:18	4:11	4:07
Boston, MA	5:32	4:24	4:18	4:14
South Lancaster, MA	5:34	4:26	4:20	4:16
Pittsfield, MA	5:40	4:33	4:27	4:22
Hartford, CT	5:39	4:32	4:26	4:22
Providence, RI	5:34	4:27	4:21	4:17
New York, NY	5:47	4:40	4:34	4:30
Albany, NY	5:40	4:33	4:27	4:22
Utica, NY	5:47	4:39	4:33	4:28
Syracuse, NY	5:50	4:43	4:37	4:32
Rochester, NY	5:56	4:48	4:42	4:38
Buffalo, NY	6:02	4:54	4:48	4:43
Hamilton, Bda	6:24	5:19	5:15	5:13

Eastern Standard Time

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

#### Pioneer Valley Academy Alumni Reunion

**2016, October 14-16.** Camp Winnekeag, 257 Ashby Rd., Ashburnham, MA 01430. Registration on Friday begins at 3:00 p.m. at the Pathfinder Lodge, followed by potluck supper and Vespers. Sabbath registration and events are in the gymnasium. Reservations for lodging and meals in the cafeteria may be made by contacting Alex Bezerra, '81, PVA alumni president, e-mail: PVAalumnipres@yahoo.com; Web site: www.pvaalumni.org.

## OBITUARIES

**BRADLEY, James "JB"**—93; b. June 27, 1923, in Attalla, Ala.; d. Aug. 16, 2016, in Springfield, Mass. He was a member of Shiloh church in Springfield, where he served with the Adventist Community Services department. A long-time photographer, he opened a photo studio and was the first African American news cameraman in Springfield. He is survived by his wife of 19 years, Mary Anne (Green) Bradley; his former wife, Ernestine Bradley; three children, Charlene Harmon, J.B. Bradley, II, and Michael Carr; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

**DAWSON, Vernon John**—66; b. Apr. 1, 1950, in Ansonia, Conn.; d. Jan. 20, 2016, in Savoy, Mass. He worked as a health evangelist for many years. He was a member of the Shalom church in Waterbury, Conn. He is survived by his wife, Sheree (Lee) Dawson;

three daughters Jurea Dawson of Windsor, Conn., Danielle Dawson of Plainfield, Mass., and Rebekah Dawson of Savoy, Mass.; two sisters, Norma Foster and Karen Louis, both of Virginia; one brother, Larry Dawson of Conn.; adopted brother, Ricky Nelson of Conn.; and one grandson, Vernon Lewis.

**HODSON, Eleanor Lois**—90; b. Nov. 22, 1925, in Stoneham, Mass.; d. June 12, 2016, in Lancaster, Mass. She graduated from South Lancaster Academy in 1945 and was a life-long member of the Stoneham church in Stoneham, Mass. She is survived by a daughter, Jacqui Evans; and four sons, Franklin Hodson, Jr. (Winifred), John Hodson (Maureen), Randall Hodson (Ann), and David Hodson (Jennifer); two brothers, Raymond Ruggles, and Arthur "Sandy" Ruggles; 10 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren.

**MORGAN, Elieen Agnita**—87; b. May 27, 1929, in New York, N.Y.; d. July 3, 2016, in Jamaica, N.Y. She was one of the founding members of the City Tabernacle church in New York, N.Y., and continued as a member for 67 years. During that time, she served her church as Sabbath School superintendent, youth leader, and elder. She also served as head clerk for 20 years. A supporter of Christian education, she served as president of the Save Our Youth Club, assisting students with their tuition expenses through fundraising efforts. She is survived by her daughter, Melanie Morgan; nephews, Reginald Morgan, III, Christopher Morgan, and Melvin Williams; nieces Rhonda Rivera, and Reverend Jennifer R. Williams; and many cousins.

## Remembering . . .

### FORMER AUC FACULTY MEMBERS AND A BOARD MEMBER



**CHRISTOPH, Eugene Charles "Pete"**—84; b. Aug. 17, 1931, in Erie, Pa.; d. Jan. 6, 2016, at his home in South Lancaster, Mass. He earned a B.A. in physics from Atlantic Union College (AUC) in Lancaster, Mass. He served in the army as a medic. He later received a master's degree in education from Clark University in Worcester, Mass. In 1956, he and his late wife, Beryl, served at the Seventh-day Adventist secondary schools in Ihie, Nigeria, and Bekwa, Ghana. He also taught math and science classes at South Lancaster Academy in South Lancaster, Mass. He was an active member of the College Church in Lancaster where he served as Sabbath School teacher, board member, and elder. He also served as president of the AUC Alumni Association and on the AUC board of trustees. He was named "AUC Alumnus of the Year" in 1991. He is survived by his children Cynthia Christoph (James) of Miami, Fla., Bonnie Koval (Paul) of Ashby, Mass., Roy Christoph and Peter Christoph (Kathy) both of South Lancaster, Mass.; a sister, Edna Mae Fairchild of Pleasant Hill, Mo., nine grandchildren; and many other relatives.



**PARISH, Ann M.**—78; b. May 12, 1937, in Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Aug. 24, 2015, in Worcester, Mass. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Atlantic Union College (AUC) in South Lancaster, Mass., and her Ph.D. from Boston University. She was a resident of Lancaster, Mass., for 50 years. She was a member of the College Church. She was a professor of English Literature at AUC for more than 30 years until her retirement. She also taught at Walla Walla Academy in Walla Walla, Wash., and Southern Adventist University in College Place, Tenn. She is survived by her brother, John Parrish (Hazel) of Beaumont, Calif.



**WILLOUGHBY, Susan M. Fenton**—90, b. Nov. 10, 1925, Montserrat, West Indies; d. May 4, 2016, in Worcester, Mass. Willoughby graduated from Atlantic Union College ('56) and went on to obtain a master's degree from Clark University, and a Doctor of Education degree from Harvard University ('72). She became a member of the faculty at Atlantic Union College in 1972 working in the behavioral sciences department. In 1978, she began laying the foundation for a Social Work department for the college, and later served as department chair. Willoughby authored the book *THE GO-GETTERS, TARGETING SUCCESS—REALIZING YOUR DREAMS* (GoGetters Learning Centers, 1998). She served as one of the first women ordained as an elder of the College Church in Lancaster, Mass. She is survived by her son, Gerald Willoughby; daughter, Juliette Melita Willoughby; daughter-in-law, Joanne Allen-Willoughby; sisters, Geraldine Grant of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Elisabeth Christian of England; brothers, Samuel Fenton and Kenneth Fenton, of England; two grandchildren, Daishawn and Michael Willoughby; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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Contact information for conferences is in the shaded box on the bottom right of page 23.

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# REVELATION TODAY



Join us for the **Revelation Today** evangelistic series, **October 7-29.**

**C**ompassion Boston's major evangelistic campaign—*Revelation Today*, hosted by *It Is Written*—will take place in multiple locations throughout the city of Boston, October 7-29.

All are welcome to attend host sites close to home and to join in person for the final weekend programs on Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29 in the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center at 1350 Tremont Street, Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120.

*Revelation Today* is a comprehensive study series that focuses on the prophecies of the Bible—especially the book of Revelation. Based entirely on the Word of God, *Revelation Today* allows the Bible to speak for itself, and will take series participants on an exciting journey through the major themes of the Bible.

The speaker for *Revelation Today* is John Bradshaw, speaker/director for *It Is Written*. The speaker information on the [revelationtoday.com](http://revelationtoday.com) Web site shares that Bradshaw has worked internationally on evangelistic projects, is a popular speaker at conferences and events, is a book author, and works at his home base in Chattanooga, Tennessee, “to energetically lead the *It Is Written* ministry team to impact the world for Christ and His soon return.”

*Revelation Today* is open to all guests without prior registration. Because of the wide availability of this event via multiple locations, registration will occur on the first night at the location you choose to attend. If you have any questions, the event coordinators will be happy to assist.

*Revelation Today* will be held at many locations in the Boston area. For more information, to view a list of locations, and more, visit [www.revelationtoday.com](http://www.revelationtoday.com). We look forward to your participation in the *Revelation Today* series and we invite you to bring a friend with you.

Compassion Boston, which sponsors *Revelation Today*, is a partnership between several organizations, more than 44 churches in the Boston area, and hundreds of individuals.



**John Bradshaw, speaker/director for *It Is Written*, is the *Revelation Today* evangelistic series speaker.**



The Official Publication for the Constituents of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church in the Northeast United States and Bermuda

Established January 1, 1902

Atlantic Union Conference  
400 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561  
Phone (978) 368-8333, Fax (978) 368-7948  
Web site: [www.atlantic-union.org](http://www.atlantic-union.org)

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**Atlantic Union College:** Avis Hendrickson, President; 338 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561; (978) 368-2000. Web site: [www.auc.edu](http://www.auc.edu)

**NETS Evangelism Center:** Kevin Sears, Director; Lois King, Assistant Director. Office Address: P.O. Box 446, South Lancaster, MA 01561. (978) 368-2638. E-mail: [registrar@netsatlanticunion.org](mailto:registrar@netsatlanticunion.org). Web site: [www.netsatlanticunion.org](http://www.netsatlanticunion.org)

Member, Associated Church Press  
Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

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