ANTICUNION SEPTEMBER 2017

SHARING THE GOSPEL in the Digital Age

5 11 Things to Think About as Your Church Engages in Using Social Media
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September 2017, Vol. 116, No. 9. The Atlantic Union GLEANER is published monthly by the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists[®], 400 Main Street, Lancaster, MA 01523. 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 Adventist[®].



Proclaiming the Gospel Using Technology and Social Media

hen one considers the enormity of the mission God gave to the church, one must wonder how will the church be able to fulfill it. As we look at the efforts of the church to advance the mission throughout the world, we need to stop and ask ourselves: Can we continue to use our present methods of proclaiming the gospel? Will it be enough to prepare the world for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?

As a church, we have been given a clear mandate to reach the world. In the books of Matthew, Acts, and Revelation, we have been commissioned to go and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world. We read: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"-Matthew 28:19, 20 (NKJV). "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth-to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people"-Revelation 14:6 (NKJV).

In this technology-driven era, we need to be more innovative in finding new ways to reach the world with the gospel. We have a younger generation that will not be reached by the traditional approaches we have used in the past. If they are going to be reached, we must find new ways of communicating with them.

One way to reach the younger generation is through social media via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and other communication tools. We cannot sit back and be content with the old methods we have employed, even though we have experienced much success using them. From time to time, from generation to generation, we have to examine our methodology in reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Seth Pierce, pastor at the Puyallup church in Puyallup, Washington, says in an article titled "What Would Jesus Tweet?," that "Bottom line: digital media is not a fad. The Internet is 45 years old; the World Wide Web is 25; Facebook is 11; and Twitter is 9. Most people don't keep their houses, their cars, or their carpet that long. Additionally, the number of people using these outlets is measured in the hundreds of millions"—ADVENTIST REVIEW, May 5, 2015 (www.adventistreview.org/1511-22). The gospel commission is for us to "go," and it is evident that there are a great number of people who need to be reached through modern technology and social media.

Pierce further said, "While I affirm the primacy of in-person communication, I also recognize that refusal to participate in tech diminishes one's influence and ability to network. And it can frustrate those around you." Ellen White in EVANGELISM, p. 123, affirms that "He [Christ] did not follow merely one method; in various ways He sought to gain the attention of the multitude; and then He proclaimed to them the truths of the gospel."

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has too much of a vital message not to explore all credible avenues to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Modern technology provides us with an extraordinary means of advancing the everlasting gospel that Christ has called His church to proclaim in these last days of earth's history. 0

G. Earl Knight is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.



"The Seventh-day Adventist Church has too much of a vital message not to explore all credible avenues to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ."



SHARING THE GOSPEL *in the Digital Age*

he invention of the Internet and the World Wide Web gave birth to new technology that has changed the world as we know it. Now, in addition to using evangelism tools from the past, we have the opportunity right at our fingertips to go farther in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in this digital age.

In addition to tent meetings, camp meetings, church revival services, Vacation Bible Schools, door-to-door ministries, and more, churches have the opportunity to share the message of salvation beyond their doors and beyond their local neighborhood. They have the opportunity to share a sermon, a word of encouragement, to show compassion, and to invite people to visit their physical locations by using social media and the church's Web site.

Many people, especially those under 40 years old, will visit a church's Web site before they consider whether they want to attend a church. Some are looking to see what a church is all about and for service times and directions to a facility. Others are looking to see if the services are streamed online, because they may not be close enough to visit the physical building.

The Web site is also an effective tool for churches to share information and resources with their congregations. Every church should do an "evangelism audit" and evaluate its effectiveness in completing God's mission. The possibility only exists as church leaders decide to become intentional about making use of these resources for as long as they are available. All we have is this moment in time. There are no guarantees as to how long the door will be open.

In this issue, we present some helpful information for churches as they take on the challenge of using technology and social media to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in anticipation of His soon return. ⁽¹⁾

Ednor A.P. Davison, GLEANER editor



11 THINGS TO THINK ABOUT as Your Church Engages in Using Social Media

Before your church leaders decide to actively use social media, determine why a social-media presence is important or necessary for your church. Don't proceed until the "why" is crystal clear to you! "Because everyone else is doing it" isn't a good enough reason. Be specific. Be intentional.

Keep in mind that all churches should have "active" and "up-to-date" Web sites/blogs. This should be the core of your social media strategy. Social media posts/updates should be able to link back to the Web site/blog.

Here are a few things you'll want to consider as your church becomes active with social media.

- Decide which category you want your church's social media to fall into:
 - Inform—give viewers a snapshot of who you are and what you do
 - **Evangelize**—preach the gospel to the online mission-field
 - **Prompt a Call to Action**—get others involved
 - **Connect**—communicate more effectively with each other
- Determine who your audience(s) will be: the online community, adults, youth/young adults, teens, children, church members, or church leaders.

- **3.** Explore the best way to communicate with your target audience: via social media sites, Web sites, newsletters (printed/ electronic), bulletins, or texts.
- Research social media sites for the best fit for your church. There are many from which to choose. According to the Pew Research Center, around seven in ten Americans use social media to connect with one another.
 - "Don't bite off more than you can chew."
 - Start slowly and get it right before you move on to the next platform(s).
 - Prayerfully choose which platform(s) you should use and when.
- **5.** Choose responsible, trustworthy people to serve as administrators on your social media sites. They should be committed to the church and its goals. Hopefully, you will have some members on your team who are experienced with social media platforms.
- 6. Determine what content will be included on your site(s): current news, devotional blogs, photos (be sure to create a separate photo album for each event), videos, summary of articles with a link

to the original article, event invitations, and more.

- **7.** Copy editors should be on the team. Engage those who can edit information before it's posted.
- 8. More than one person should have access to your social media site(s). At least two individuals should have administrative access. A record of individuals who have access and their level of responsibility should be shared with the church's Risk Management director or other designated department(s).
- **9.** Once your social media site is up and running, set up a schedule of when items will be posted.
- **10.** Monitor the site regularly. Consider setting up a schedule for that, as well. Respond to comments. Determine whether the comments posted are appropriate to the mission and vision (purpose) of your site.
- Periodically evaluate your social media site(s) to be sure you are accomplishing the mission and vision of the church for the site(s). Make adjustments as necessary.

Remember, it's all about sharing the message of Jesus' soon return while there is still time! ⁽¹⁾

WE'RE GOING LIVE: What to Know Before Your Church Livestreams

ith the expansion of social media, there's never been a more opportune moment to share one's faith and ministry. Many churches see the rise of livestreaming sites such as YouTube, Facebook Live, Periscope, and even Instagram as helpful tools to expand their membership globally through livestreams of the church service.

Churches also archive previous services and special events on their Web site or YouTube channels to allow members to rewatch and share the videos. But with opportunity comes new risks, and it is important to address these in the planning stage. Before you add more money to your church's media budget, take a moment to consider the following legal risks and how you might address them.

Copyrighted Content

While many local churches have good intentions about their use of materials, it helps to double check the source, and verify whether it is copyrighted or in the public domain. Copyright is "the exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish, sell, or distribute the matter and form of something (such as a literary, musical, or artistic work)," according to Merriam-Webster.com. Copyrights protect the individuals who create the original work, not the people who use the work.

For example, you may not realize that the songs you sing in the hymnal or the praise music that appears on



the screen are copyrighted. You may have secured a license from Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) or Christian Copyright Solutions to post lyrics on the screen, but did you know you need to check to see if that license includes streaming? Even different versions of the Bible are copyrighted, and one must provide credit, depending on how they are used. When you display scripture, display song lyrics on a screen, or use a video clip in your sermon as an illustration, you must receive the necessary permission and provide appropriate credit. Consider using licenses from CCLI or Christian Copyright Solutions created specifically for the use of music in churches. You may also receive permission to use newlyreleased videos from Christian Video Licensing International.

Churches Need Permission Too

There's a common misconception that churches have more freedom to use these works because they are a nonprofit, it is used under the "Fair Use Act," or even that it is for the sake of ministry. When tempted by Satan in the wilderness, even Jesus sourced Old Testament scripture. "Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'"— Matthew 4:4, NIV.

Because livestreaming is just that live—you are not able to edit it to avoid copyright infringement. Streaming sites like Facebook and YouTube have policies and procedures in place to detect illegal copyright use and may block or shut down your account if you are noncompliant. If your live event is in violation, it is highly probable that your archived version of the event will be as well. Take every precaution ahead of time to guarantee your presentation is free of copyrighted material before filming begins. All permissions must be documented and in place when copyrighted material is used.

Location Concerns

Livestreaming can take place just about anywhere. It is ideal for those who want to "go ye therefore. . ." but be mindful of where you livestream. permission when their identity is used for commercial promotion. The Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute says the right of publicity "prevents the unauthorized commercial use of an individual's name, likeness, or other recognizable aspects of one's persona." Why is this important for nonprofit organizations like local churches?

During livestreamed or videotaped events, audience members must give permission to film their likeness. While it may be difficult to get everyone who enters your sanctuary to sign a model release form, notify them

"As social media continues to shrink our global world by the instantaneous sharing of news, photos, and live events, proceed with caution by making sure you have the approval to share."

You must have permission to film or livestream wherever you are. If you are filming your youth group distributing bagged lunches to needy community members in a local park, first get permission to be there. While you are in a public space, it doesn't mean you have an absolute right. Work with your city or county offices before the event to obtain permission to film or livestream. If the livestream takes place on your church's property, the liability is minimized, but other factors may be involved, including personal privacy.

Privacy and Right of Publicity

Everyone has a right to control personal information and to give

that they may appear on television or online, either in a live or archived program. The notification can be done in a variety of ways:

- a live announcement before the service,
- a notice posted outside the room where the service is being held,
- or even a message printed in the bulletin, event program, or on the church's website.

Churchproduction.com has another suggestion for those who are camera shy. "Your church might consider designating part of the sanctuary that won't be on camera. This doesn't need to be a separate room. It could just be the side of the sanctuary where there are fewer cameras. . . .People who'd prefer not to be shown on video could make one of these shoot-free zones their preferred seating area."

Filming or posting pictures and videos of children online is never advised, unless you have the permission of the parent or guardian. It is more helpful to have this permission in writing. Before any event, be sure to alert parents to any potential on-camera appearance by their little ones. Schools might ask parents or guardians to sign permission slips at the beginning of the school year, or Pathfinder groups might do the same before special events or a Camporee. Some parents may have genuine concerns about their child's image appearing anywhere online, and it is important to treat those concerns seriously and with respect.

Always Get Permission

As social media continues to shrink our global world by the instantaneous sharing of news, photos, and live events, proceed with caution by making sure you have the approval to share. Proactively manage your legal risks by obtaining permission from the correct authority. By consistently taking the time ahead to double-check copyright status and alert your congregation, you will prevent costly legal expenses and claims, no matter what live idea social media creates next. Ø

Frenita B. Fullwood is the communications and resources manager at Adventist Risk Management, Inc. Used with permission by Adventist Risk Management, Inc. Originally published in the SOLUTIONS newsletter, July 26, 2017.



By Jerrell Gilkeson

Church School News

hat are we doing to give our students an advantage? Three things you need to know about your church school:

1. Science Curriculum

STEM is coming. What is STEM? STEM is a curriculum emphasis that stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. As the world of work has shifted to getting jobs that involve one or more of these fields of study, STEM has become increasingly popular. While science and mathematics have had a permanent place in the curriculum for decades, technology has gained its place only more recently.

But why the interest in engineering? How does the engineering emphasis fit into the Adventist school system? When I was on the editorial team for the new science series, ByDesign, the need to include engineering was very apparent. Not only was it included in the curriculum standards, it was the accomplishment and fulfillment of the ideas of science and mathematics.

Technology assists in seeing the outcome of concept, set of numbers, or an idea. Engineering is combining all the pieces to realize a physical reality. I like the synthesis from the report at CurrTech Innovations, "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education What Form? What Function?" written by Hays Blaine Lantz, Jr., which says that STEM can be defined as the "creation of a discipline based on the integration of other disciplinary knowledge into a new 'whole.' "

There are several other variations on STEM. Some schools have chosen to use STEAM as their framework, which is similar to STEM, but includes the discipline of art. Other schools have chosen to add the concept of either religion or relationships, creating the acronym STREAM.

Teachers in the Atlantic Union are using the new Adventist science series, ByDesign. They are improving their skills and attending such conferences as EXSEED (Excellence in Experiential STEM Education) at Loma Linda University.

2. Teacher Training

Both the Atlantic Union elementary school and academy teachers want and need to continue learning in order to offer quality education to their students. In May 2017, the Atlantic Union Conference and Andrews University entered into a partnership to offer graduate classes to our teachers. This partnership includes certification classes to help teachers stay current and, if they choose, to pursue their master's degree. Twelve of our teachers have joined the 2017 master's cohort to work toward their master's degree. The Northeastern Conference hosted the 2017 Andrews cohort orientation on July 5 and 6. We are very pleased that the Atlantic Union Conference and the local conferences are collaborating to fund this teacher education with Andrews University.

3. Bible

Students in the Atlantic Union are being introduced to a new Bible textbook. Wait for it. . . . It's the Bible!

Yes, students will be in the Word. The new teacher support materials are entitled Encounter Bible. All academy teachers have been trained in the interactive Bible study process. All elementary teachers in the Atlantic Union will receive their training this fall. The rich materials help the teachers as they lead the students to not just learn about Jesus, but to meet Him in a personal way. We are making plans as to how each student can accept Him as their Savior.

The goal of the Atlantic Union Office of Education is to increase enrollment of our church schools by 1,000 students. Our guiding text is Isaiah 54:13 (NIV), which says, "All your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace." These children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews that God has given us must know the "peace that passes all understanding." The church school is a place for our children to get excellent education and be taught of the Lord.

Please pray for your teachers (otherwise known as ministers of education). If you wish to know more, please contact the Office of Education at: (978) 368-8333, ext. 3020. Thank you!



Jerrell Gilkeson is the Atlantic Union Conference education director.

Atlantic Union Conference — Office of Education

Bermuda Conference Puts First Things First

Bermuda Conference Camp Meeting 2017 kicked off with the newest Adventist pastor on the island, Hector Quinones, sharing the Word of the Lord at the annual precamp meeting prayer meeting on Wednesday evening.

This year's camp meeting was scheduled as a three-day event, because of the threeweek evangelistic meeting that was held in April. During that time, members were away from their churches for three consecutive Sabbaths. Consequently, the conference administrators decided to limit the camp meeting so that members would be away from their churches for only one Sabbath.

Guest speakers for the event were Michael Polite, an associate chaplain at Andrews University, and Henry M. Wright, pastor of the Takoma Park church in Takoma Park, Maryland. Polite, a soughtafter speaker, spoke to the youth. He also spoke about the Holy Spirit during Friday's Early Morning Manna.

At the Early Morning Manna on Sabbath, Stanley James, M.D., member of the Hamilton church, presented the congregation with a message on Samson.

The speaker for the adults was Henry M. Wright. Throughout his four-sermon series, he stuck firmly to the theme "First Things First— God First." He shared wisdom gained from more than 53 years in the ministry as he skillfully "massaged" the Bible text with precision. A visitor commented that he attended the meetings at every available opportunity. The Spirit of the Lord moved in the auditorium.

Other activities at camp meeting included a special health panel that assembled



Bermuda Conference administrators, from left, Kenneth Manders, president; DeJaun Tull, executive secretary; and W. Aaron Spencer, treasurer; recognize former Bible workers Samuel Lynch, and Margaret DeRosa; current Bible workers, Eloise Symonds and Kevin Santucci; church representative Calvin White holds plaque for Joan Page, who is deceased; and Cynthia Williams stands in for her deceased mother, Irene Howes. Not pictured is Ismay Barker.



Stanley James presents the Early Morning Manna message on Samson.

each evening for one hour to share statistics regarding the health of Bermudians. The health status of Bermudians is alarming, with some health challenges exceeding even those of larger countries around the world.

Guest artists Beverly Burton and Michael Prentice provided the music. Camp meeting ended with many people indicating a desire for more.

Conference Bible Workers Honored

The Bermuda Conference recognized conference Bible workers of yesteryear. In the 1960s, Bible instructors were needed to assist the pastors in giving Bible studies across the island. The first Bible instructor was Joan Page, who was trained by Joe Melashenko



Henry M. Wright presents the message at the Bermuda Conference adult camp meeting.

and others. She became quite successful, traveling from St. George's, where she lived, all the way to Somerset, before other Bible instructors came on board.

Later in the mid-to-late sixties, Ismay Barker (west end), and Lois Wilson and Irene Howes (central) joined Page. By the mid-seventies, these women were out doing God's work late at night, often until 10:00 p.m., some on motorcycles, others with their spouses waiting for them in the car. By the late seventies, they were joined by the first male Bible worker, Samuel Lynch, who assisted in the Devonshire church. Loretta Gibbons (now retired) joined the team around 1980. The Bible workers became quite successful at winning souls.



Hector Quinones speaks at Bermuda Conference pre-camp meeting prayer meeting.

New Bermuda Institute Principal Welcomed

Wayne Edwards, the new principal of Bermuda Institute, was recognized at camp meeting on Sabbath. Edwards, who began his tenure on July 1, succeeds Lois Tucker, outgoing principal, who spent 15 years at the helm of Bermuda Institute.

Edwards comes with experience and expertise that promises to be of great value for the future of Bermuda Institute. For the past three years, he taught in Bermuda Institute's Math Department eventually becoming its chairman. He has positive relationships with students, teachers, faculty, and parents. Bermuda Institute welcomes Wayne Edwards as its principal.

—D. Randolph Wilson, communication director, Bermuda Conference

15 Baptized Following Health and Bible Series



Daniel Duffis, pastor of the Riverhead and Hamptons Spanish churches, left, and Gordon Martinborough, speaker, right, stand with the first group of baptismal candidates during the Healthy & Happy evangelistic series.

"The 86-year-old Grandmother Who Ran Her 64th Marathon" was the opening message for the Health & Happy evangelistic series that began on June 3. Gordon Martinborough, a retired evangelist, former vice-president of the Inter-American Division, and current director of the Happy Family Seminars International, was guest speaker.

The churches had been preparing for this event since it was launched on February 18. Six Bible lessons were distributed to individuals registered by church members, and a community survey was conducted two weeks before the event. For the following three weeks, both the church and community experienced a new series on health and Bible principles at the Riverhead church in Riverhead, New York.

The event was a joint effort of the Riverhead and Hamptons Spanish congregations, with a combined membership of less than 160. The meetings were translated into Spanish by the district pastor, Daniel Duffis, and his wife, Marta Gordon-Duffis, who is a chaplain. The meetings took place five nights a week, including three Sabbaths. Refreshments and fellowship were an integral part of the evening services, and a special lunch was served each Sabbath.

Family Bibles and health books were offered in both English and Spanish for the persons who brought the most friends. Two young pastors, David Barros and Eusebio Smordoni, helped with visitations during the meetings.

The meetings were blessed with music presented by

Karen Smordoni, Greater New York Conference Hispanic Ministries office assistant; Camila Agudelo, Alecia Anderson, pianist; and Maricela Jara, who was baptized during the meetings.

Among those who attended the meetings was Mario Santos, who received a phone call by mistake. It seemed that someone put his phone number on the survey, so he graciously accepted the invitation to the meetings. He never missed a service and was baptized on Sabbath, June 17, along with 11 others. One week later, on June 24, three more were baptized for a total of 15.

During the final week, Waveney Martinborough, wife of the evangelist, joined her husband for the closing meeting. The grand finale was a special program held after lunch when the right hand of fellowship was extended to the new members. A Bible and white and red flowers were given to each newly-baptized member. Public evangelism still has its place in the Seventhday Adventist Church.

—Daniel Duffis, pastor, Riverhead and Hamptons Spanish churches



Many respond during the evangelist's appeal at the Healthy & Happy evengelist series, a joint effort of the Riverhead and Hamptons Spanish churches.

Throgs Neck Mission Serves the Community

The Throgs Neck Mission planned and effectively executed a successful community health fair on July 23. The event hosted more than 25 local vendors (22 of whom are not Adventist), including a mobile cardiology/ diagnostic unit, a mobile mammography unit from the Montefiore Medical Center, and the local fire and volunteer ambulance department.

Activities ranged from giving tennis lessons to operating a bounce house for the neighborhood children. The church's medical missionary group distributed samples of healthy meal



Vendors and community residents connect during the community health fair.

choices, while physical therapists were on hand to offer massages to all who eagerly waited in line for their turn at the tables.



David Ephraim, Throgs Neck Mission elder, left, talks with Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, right, during his visit at the church's community health fair.

New York State Senator Jeff Klein and Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj attended the event. They were both excited to see the church participating in activities that will positively impact the health of the local community.

The responses received from the community-needs survey conducted at the health fair will give birth to the next phase of an evangelistic series. The greatest need expressed by the community was the need for Bible studies.

Members of the Throgs Neck Mission, under the leadership of Anthony DeMore, elder, have wasted no time in making their presence known and felt in the community, considering that this small group was just given mission status by the Greater New York Conference on January 28. The members, who worship at 329 Quincy Ave., Bronx, New York, are few, but they are moving forward with a selfless motivation to be used by God to fulfill the Great Commission in their part of the vineyard.

—Dorrett Williams, communication secretary, Throgs Neck Mission

"The members are few, but they are moving forward with a selfless motivation to be used by God to fulfill the Great Commission in their part of the vineyard."

Meetings at Shinnecock Indian Reservation Result in Baptism

For the past three years, Daniel Duffis, pastor of the Wildwood Seventh-day Adventist group, and his wife, Marta, who is a chaplain, have given full support and leadership in meetings for the Wildwood Seventh-day Adventist group on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation in Southampton, New York. Elaine Collins attended meetings at the church to support her stepdaughter, who was going through a difficult time in her life. Collins continued attending the meetings and has grown in her relationship with the Lord over the years.

While attending the Healthy & Happy evangelistic series hosted by the Riverhead and Hamptons Spanish churches, Collins decided to be baptized and become a member of the Wildwood group. She is the first person from the Wildwood group to be baptized as a direct result of these meetings.

—Communication staff, Wildwood Group

Gearing Up For Eternity at USA Skills Week

From July 23 to July 30, 46 students in grades 7-11 attended the USA Skills Week at Union Springs Academy (USA). This year's theme was "Gearing Up for Eternity." Worships focused on the students' walk with Christ, being ready for heaven, and what heaven will be like. The heaven theme was also incorporated into the drama class.

The students experienced dorm life while attending classes that taught them various skills. Students had a variety of classes from which to choose, including carpentry, auto mechanics, quilting, choir and beginning band, drama, public speaking, blueberry picking and pie making, furniture refinishing, guitar, photography, soccer, and drones. These classes were taught by USA's faculty and staff, dedicated and skilled USA alumni, and church members from the New York Conference.

The students say they had a great time making friends while doing fun activities, such as "slip and slide," swimming, basketball, volleyball, and many action-filled games. We look forward to welcom-



One of the students learns to sew while attending classes during USA Skills Week.

ing many of these visiting students into the academy family this fall and pray that each student will continue to gear up for eternity with the lessons learned while at USA.

—Janica Caster, development director, Union Springs Academy



Students sit together around a bonfire during Friday-evening vespers.



Bob Putman, left, a member of the Roosevelt church, helps students in carpentry class to build a shed.

Retirees Attend Dinner in Their Honor

The Union Springs Academy (USA) gymnasium was the scene of a very special annual event on June 27. The retiree dinner, held each year during camp meeting, was attended by about 140 retirees and participants. The dinner was sponsored by the New York Conference Trust Services Department to honor retirees and to thank them for the many ways that they contribute to the conference.

Sue Walter provided dinner with an Italian theme. Janica Caster, development director for the academy, decorated the gym in red, white, and green, the colors of the Italian flag. Academy students presented special music, as well as background music, during the dinner.

Elias Zabala, Sr., Atlantic Union Conference treasurer and the special speaker for the evening, was gladly welcomed back to the New York Conference. Zabala encouraged attendees to leave a godly legacy for the honor of the Lord and for the benefit of those who come after them.

For the past few years, the retirees have participated in a fundraising event during the dinner. This year the funds raised will help the dormitories with needed renovations, including the lobbies.

---Nancy Whitens, trust services director, New York Conference

NEW YORK CONFERENCI

Running Strong at 90

The eighth annual USA Eagle Run took place on Sunday, June 25, at Union Springs Academy (USA) with 46 runners of all ages, including USA alumni, New York Conference camp meeting campers, local community runners, and Doris Lacks. At 90 years old, Lacks was excited and ready to run the race again to support Adventist education at USA.

Lacks runs in about three charity 5K races a year for schools and hospitals, both of which are causes she is passionate about. Despite having some health issues during the past year, Lacks still ran strong this year. while claiming the school's text Isaiah 40:31, "They shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint." As she ran across the finish line, everyone cheered her on, being very proud of her accomplishment and determination.



People of all ages, including the children, participate in the annual USA Eagle Run.

Lacks was also joined by 85-year-old Vivien Davis, who also ran in the over-60 age group. The first-place finisher was Donna Langerfeld, with a record time of 18:54. Ragan Hayes finished first place for the half-mile Kids Fun Run, with a remarkable time of 3:20.

The run was sponsored by local community busi-

nesses, alumni, and church organizations, including Cayuga Lake National Bank, Saxton Electric, Brighton Hill Chiropractic, Kevin's Car Care, Willow River Therapeutic Massage, Southern New England Adventist Book Center, and Beth Cady Burghardt, M.D.

Lacks finished with a smile and looks forward to her next run. Thanks to Lacks' support and all the other runners, several student scholarships will be dispersed to students this fall.

—Janica Caster, development director, Union Springs Academy



Ninety-year-old Doris Lacks runs the 5K race for Adventist education at Union Springs Academy.

2017 Women's Fall Retreat October 20-22, 2017 at Watson Homestead Center, Painted Post, NY Nathan Hamm, DC, FNP-C Guest speaker Dawn Basciani, DC, FNP-C Guest speaker Christen Adolfi Guest speaker FIRST-AID

New York Conference invites you to the

FOR THE

For further information and registration forms, visit: sdawm.org or call Lynee Hamm at 315.391.6263. Scroll down to Fall Retreat, click on retreat banner and it will bring you to the registration form.

A Chaplain is Commissioned



The family of newly-commissioned chaplain Rohan Simpson, as well as pastors and their spouses, support him at the commissioning service.

n Sabbath, July 8, in Buffalo, New York, Rohan R. Simpson, pastor of the Emmanuel Temple and Pioneer Memorial churches in the Western New York area, was commissioned as a chaplain in the United States Army reserves, with the rank of first lieutenant. Following the sermon by Paul Anderson, North American Division Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries director, the commissioning service was performed by Major Derrick Clarke, officer in charge of the U.S. Army Medical Recruiting Station; Floyd Spence, pastor of Hope church in Ontario, Canada, and a captain in the United States Army; and Stanley Dixon, pastor of the Mount Carmel church in Syracuse, New York, and Lieutenant in the United States Navy.

"Being commissioned is an appointment by the president of the United States of America," Anderson said. "He [Rohan Simpson] wears the fabric of freedom, but his heart is woven in the fundamentals of Seventh-day Adventist ministry."

Pastoral ministry encompasses various methods and tasks. Preaching, teaching, counseling, mentoring, mediating, and administration are only a fraction of the duties that pastors are expected to perform from day to day. It is customary to see a pastor in a robe and preaching in a pulpit, but what about in uniform?

Chaplains are the pastors of the armed forces. They are trained and equipped to pray with, encourage, counsel, and give guidance from God's Word to those who are bravely serving God and their country in the military.

Supporters for Simpson, his wife, Latoya, and the family included several pastoral colleagues, Oswald Euell, Northeastern Conference executive secretary, as well as conference departmental directors Ferron Francis, stewardship ministries, and JeNean Lendor, communication.

While he serves as chaplain in the United States Army, First Lieutenant Rohan Simpson will continue to pastor the Emmanuel Temple and Pioneer Memorial churches.

—Communication Department, Northeastern Conference

Solid Rock Church Hosts First Health Expo

Every department at Solid Rock church in Far Rockaway, New York, was on board for the church's first health expo. Also joining the occasion were the Northeastern

Conference van ministry and Courtney Linton, a medical missionary.

During the August 5 event at the church, members shared information on healthy living with the community and held a live demonstration of making fresh almond milk.

This is Solid Rock church's first health expo bringing health-care access directly to the Far Rockaway community and sharing information on healthful living and natural remedies. The church's prayer warriors were on hand to pray with anyone



Solid Rock members assist a visitor during the church's first health expo.

who needed prayer, which included nearly everyone. The day was well spent and members were encouraged by the beautiful weather. The entire day was designed to focus on increasing health awareness



Residents from the surrounding community stop to get more information during Solid Rock church's first health expo.

and establishing good health habits for the entire family. The next health expo will be held in 2018. —Nadya Jones, communication leader, Solid Rock church

Fire Damages Berea Academy

Fire broke out around 1:00 a.m. On July 6 in a second-floor classroom at the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Academy in Mattapan, Massachusetts. In addition to the fire damage confined to the classroom, the building also sustained smoke and water damage. No one was injured in the fire.

According to news reports, fire officials said the blaze was started by an electrical short in a secondfloor classroom that was undergoing renovations. The damage is estimated to be about \$200,000.00.

Students from the K-8 elementary school were on summer break and no one was in the building at the time the fire started. The preschool that usually operates on the level underneath the damaged area had been moved to the Berea church on July 5, the day before the fire, in anticipation of having renovation and construction crews working on the building.

According to Omar Jarvis, Berea church's pastor, the building will not be ready for occupancy in time for classes in the fall. Students will attend classes in another location



Windows boarded up are the only outward signs that a fire causing about \$200,000.00 in damages occurred at Berea Academy in Mattapan, Massachusetts.

until the building is ready for occupancy. "It saddens us that this situation happened when we're moving forward with ambitious plans to rejuvenate and revitalize the school in preparation for the upcoming school year," Jarvis said.

Cleanup has begun, and Berea Academy principal Venetta Jarvis anticipates that plans to celebrate the school's 90th anniversary in 2018 will go forward. Jarvis says she looks forward to a good school year, even if some of the time is spent away from the place they are used to calling home.

—Ednor A.P. Davison, GLEANER editor

NNEC's Young Adult Camp Meeting Ministry Continues to Grow

Young adults—people from 18 to 35—have their own place at the Northern New England Conference (NNEC) camp meeting. Literally. Their meeting tent is quite removed from the main camp meeting activities, tucked away behind the Freeport church on the edge of the Pine Tree Academy campus.

The young adult tent bears little resemblance to the tents used for other groups, as it is enhanced with strings of small lights and an abundance of citronella candles. But it is not the ambiance that is drawing young adults from throughout the conference and elsewhere in the Atlantic Union; it is the spiritual environment. And that spiritual environment was very intentionally, very prayerfully, created and nurtured for the express purpose of ministering to the

young adult age group. Natalia Olm, one of the young adult leaders, explained what they have tried to do and talked about the environment they have tried to create. "Our entire objective is to help young adults connect with Jesus while they are here, and do so in such a powerful way that their spiritual experience continues on after they leave. To do that, we've emphasized relationships. We try to make sure every person is welcomed and establishes a relationship with at least one other person. Then, we have group discussions on the topic of the day, so we form learning communities, which is another kind of relationship. Also, our

THERN NEW ENGLAND



Young adults lead their peers in singing at the young adult tent at the Northern New England Conference camp meeting.

fantastic speakers hang out with us and we form relationships with them. And all these relationships are focused on building our relationship with Christ."

The young adult meeting was entirely peer-led, made by and for young adults. One attendee, Kelsey Mills of Maine, said she felt welcome and found great value in the meeting. "I love that this is all peer-led. When I come here, I feel like they are discussing things I am struggling with right now, and I can talk these things through with people who are close to my age. That is really different from listening to an older person talk." Mills says she attended the majority of the meetings over the nine days of camp meeting. When asked what she really likes, she lists pretty much every aspect of the meetings. But when asked what she likes least, she has a very precise answer. "The bugs. This place needs tiki torches all around it, or needs to be soaked in bug spray." But other than that? "I love it here," she said. "I feel welcome and I don't feel judged."

The 2018 NNEC camp meeting will again feature a robust and compelling young adult component. If you are a young adult and you have not yet sampled the substantial spiritual fare and friendly people at NNEC's camp meeting, you need to make plans to head to Freeport, Maine, for at least a weekend during the 2018 NNEC camp meeting.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

BORDOVILLE Seventh-day Adventist Church Annual Anniversary

September 16, 2017



Speaker Denis Fortin Professor of Historical Theology Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary Andrews University

Sabbath School starts at 9:30 a.m. Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. An afternoon service is planned.

Bring a dish and enjoy the fellowship dinner.

For more information contact Cornel Preda, Bordoville church pastor (802) 487-4632 or cornelpredasda@yahoo.com

> 6491 Chester A. Arthur Road West Enosburg, Vermont

Northern New England Adventist Heritage Center Opens

n a recent Sunday afternoon at the Northern New England Conference offices, a dream held for many years by a series of leadership teams was finally realized-the Northern New England Adventist Heritage Center officially opened. It was a modest affair, perhaps befitting the currently modest nature of the Heritage Center. And yet, of small beginnings sometimes come great things, and it is both hoped and intended that this will be the case with the Heritage Center.

Something like the Heritage Center has a unique effect on people: after touring it, they begin to wonder if the heirloom or letter or picture they have tucked away would make a good display item. If their wondering leads them far enough, they make an inquiry and find they can either donate the item or loan it to the center for a period of time.

It is through just such "organic growth" of items on display that the Heritage Center wants to grow. But, however it grows, conference leadership was convinced



One corner of the display room features a podium that Ellen White and other pioneers preached from.



Northern New England Conference president Bob Cundiff dedicates the new Adventist Heritage Center during a ceremony in the conference chapel.

that the center needed to be built so that the story of the birthplace of Adventism could be better told.

The center is located on the lower level of the Northern New England Conference offices in Westbrook, Maine, and currently features a display room, a "theater room," and a prayer room. In the display room is a pulpit that Ellen White preached from and a Bible similar to the one she held aloft, unaided, for some time. There is also a collection of historic books, photos of church founders, and a mural of the Washington church in New Hampshire. You will also find a sleigh similar to the one the Whites sometimes traveled in as well as a life-size photo cutout of the White family that visitors can pose with.

In the "theater room" are wooden benches meant to look exactly like old-time camp meeting benches. At the front of the room is a wide-screen TV that plays a selection of documentaries and re-enactments of church pioneer experiences.



The "theater room" at the Adventist Heritage Center features videos about pioneers and seating is on replicas of old-fashioned camp-meeting benches.



Conference executive secretary Ted Huskins guides visitors through the display room on opening day.

The walls of the prayer room are adorned with historic photos, sketches, and prophecy charts, and there is a comfortable couch for resting, prayer, and meditation. The collection is expected to expand steadily, but even now the center is worth the trip—go if you can.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

Worcester Pleasant Street Community Fair a Success

The Pleasant Street church in Worcester. Massachusetts, hosted a neighborhood Community Fair at Elm Park on July 16. More than 100 people visited the various health stations and received information about the benefits of fresh air, sunshine, rest, trust in God, and more. Each booth was staffed by friendly church volunteers who provided a smile, as well as health education materials and demonstrations. Fifteen-year-old Anya

Barrett was in charge of the "water" station for the day. Using a hands-on approach, she demonstrated how to give someone a simple hot foot bath by seating willing participants in a chair and wrapping them in a blanket while gently placing their feet in a large basin of imaginary hot water. "I told them how [hot foot baths] can clear up nasal congestion, relieve cold [symptoms], provide relaxation, and relieve pain," says Barrett. "Most seemed happy to learn. Most didn't know anything about natural remedies, but were very thankful."

Visitors received free blood pressure screenings, as well as free bags of fresh fruit and vegetables. Gentlyused clothing items and



Visitors stop at the many booths at the community fair hosted by the Pleasant Street church in Worcester, Massachusetts.

back-to-school supplies were also given away. Annette Danville, health ministries leader for the church, provided blood pressure checks for more than 50 people. "One woman told me she thought her sister, who is an Adventist, visited our church when she traveled to the area. Although the woman was not an Adventist, she said she liked our health message."

The event also included lively gospel music, a performance by the Worcester Doves of Peace Drum Corps, and gift card giveaways. To demonstrate the benefits of exercise, church elder Milton Wright provided lots of games and activities for the children;



The Worcester Doves of Peace Drum Corps perform during the community fair at Elm Park.

and Karen Zeno, Pathfinder director. led out in lowimpact aerobics routines for the adults.

The fair was co-sponsored by the church's Education department, Adventist Community Services and

Health Ministries departments. "The event met and exceeded our expectations. We were well supported by both the community and the church," Danville said.

-*Communication department*, Pleasant Street church

You are invited to join the

Fitchburg Seventh-day Adventist Church 205 Summer Street Fitchburg, MA 01420

October 6-7. 2017



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Friday, October 6 7:00 p.m. Vespers

Sabbath, October 7		Sabbath, October 7
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:30 p.m.	Fellowship Dinner
	2:00 p.m.	Life Story of Rachel Williams-Smith

For the latest updates, visit: www.fitchburgsda.com



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The Adventist Book Center[®] will be visiting a church or school near you! Locate the stop closest to you and call in your delivery order by the deadline shown!

Full Set Up and Delivery 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Rochester Genesee Park Church, Rochester, NY Friday, Oct. 20 - Sunday, Oct. 22 - Orders due Oct. 16 NYC Women's Retreat, Watson Homestead Conference and Retreat Center, Painted Post, NY Sunday, Oct. 29 - Orders due Oct. 23 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. Laurel Oaks Fall Festival, Hamden, CT Friday, Nov. 3 – Orders due Oct. 30 (Delivery Only!) 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Olean Church, Olean, NY 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Curriers Church, Arcade, NY Saturday, Nov. 4 - Go to Grow Weekend! - Orders due Oct. 30 Full Set Up and Delivery After Sunset Buffalo Suburban Church, Lancaster, NY Sunday, Nov. 5 - Orders due Oct. 30 (Delivery Only!) 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Erie Church, Erie, PA 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Jamestown Church, Jamestown, NY 12:30 – 1:00 p.m. Brocton Church, Brocton, NY 2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Perrysburg Church, Perrysburg, NY 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. Batavia Church, Batavia, NY Thursday, Nov. 9 – Saturday, Nov. 11 – Orders due Nov. 6 Christmas Open House/Pathfinder Derby Weekend Union Springs Academy, Union Springs, NY 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11 Holiday Open House – Sunday, Nov. 19 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 34 Sawyer St., Lancaster, MA 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 11 Gerry St., Stoneham, MA 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 67 Pownal St., Freeport, ME

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OCTOBER 20–21, 2017



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—Psalm 17:6, NIV

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Sunset Table			Daylight Savings Time	
October 2017	6	13	20	27
Bangor, ME	6:04	5:51	5:39	5:29
Portland, ME	6:10	5:58	5:47	5:37
Boston, MA	6:15	6:03	5:52	5:42
South Lancaster, MA	6:17	6:05	5:54	5:44
Pittsfield, MA	6:23	6:12	6:01	5:51
Hartford, CT	6:21	6:10	5:59	5:50
Providence, RI	6:16	6:05	5:54	5:44
New York, NY	6:27	6:16	6:06	5:57
Albany, NY	6:24	6:12	6:01	5:51
Utica, NY	6:31	6:19	6:08	5:57
Syracuse, NY	6:34	6:23	6:11	6:01
Rochester, NY	6:40	6:28	6:17	6:07
Buffalo, NY	6:45	6:33	6:22	6:12
Hamilton, Bda	6:54	6:46	6:38	6:31

ATLANTIC UNION

ATLANTIC UNION Atlantic Union Attorneys Conference, Oct. 13-14, Stamford, Conn. Speakers:

Tina Ramirez, president, Hardwired,

Inc.; and Stan Hudson, director, The Creation Study Center of the North Pacific Union Conference. To register and for information, contact Charles J. Eusey, (978) 534-1414, or e-mail ceusey@euseylaw.com. Sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department (PARL). Web site: atlantic-union.org/religious-liberty.

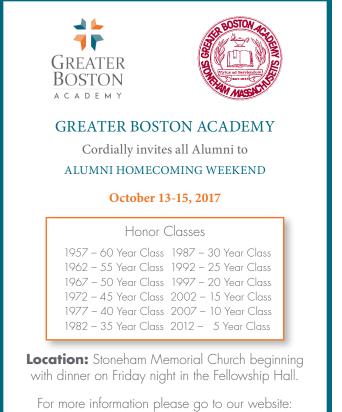
Celebrate two Atlantic Union Early Childhood Education Rally Days on October 7, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. at the Bethel church, 457 Grand Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11238, (718) 783-3630, and on November 4, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. at the Amesbury church, 171 Main St., Amesbury, MA 01913, (978) 388-3352. The theme is "Learning and Growing in Jesus." The event is sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference office of Education (978) 368-8333, ext. 3020, e-mail: earlychildhood@atlanticunion.org.

The Atlantic Union Conference invites you to the Festival of the Laity SEEDS Conference for church members, leaders, and pastors who equip, Oct. 13-15. Topics include: Prison Ministries (new), Children's Ministries, Multi-media Ministry, Church Planting for Millennials, Reaching the World Next Door (Refugees), Small Groups and Bible Studies, How to Have Spiritual Conversations with Secular People, and many more. For more information, visit www.atlantic-union.org/ personal-ministries. To register, visit adventsource.org and click on "Events" or call (800) 732-7587.

OUT-OF-UNION

Uchee Pines Alumni Reunion and Retreat— Sept. 17-23. Visit ucheepines.org for details, or call (877) UCHEEPINES.

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SLA ALUMNI WEEKEND October 6-8, 2017			
Friday:	3:00 p.m Registration	である	
Sabbath:	7:30 p.m Vespers, College Church 9:30 a.m Sabbath School		
	11:00 a.m Church 1:00 p.m Lunch	「「「	
	3:00 p.m Class Meetings 5:30 p.m Vespers	ためないの	
	7:30 p.m Supper and Program at Thayer	「「「「「「」」」」	
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EMPLOYMENT

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE seeks development officer. Requirements: master's degree or equivalent, four to 10 years related experience and/or training, be a Seventh-day Adventist in regular standing, committed to the values, principles, and expectations of the Adventist Church and Atlantic Union College. Submit letter, addressing minimum and preferred qualifications, CV, transcript, and three professional reference letters to:

roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details visit www.auc.edu.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE seeks vice president for student affairs. Requirements: Minimum a master's degree from accredited institution of higher education, five years of experience with a commitment to shared governance as well as a proven track record of experience in leading a diverse student affairs and/or enrollment staff, be a Seventhday Adventist in regular standing, committed to the values, principles, and expectations of the Adventist Church and Atlantic Union College. Submit letter, addressing minimum and preferred qualifications, résumé, transcript, three professional reference letters to: roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details visit: www.auc.edu.

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"Coming home from school, I would always feel sick when I saw my house. Id drop my things on the porch and refuse to go inside. I don't remember ever voluntarily going in that house."

-Ty Gibson



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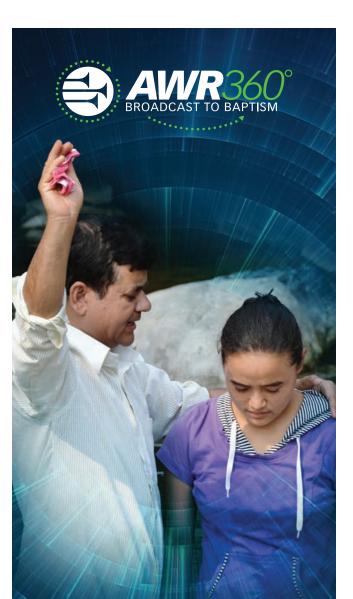
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The Official Publication for the Constituents of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church in the Northeast United States and Bermuda

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

Atlantic Union GLEANER Staff E-mail: gleaner@atlanticunion.org

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