

THE ATLANTIC UNION

DECEMBER 2017

GLEANER

A glowing lantern with a wheat stalk integrated into the letter 'A' of 'GLEANER'. The lantern is illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. The background is a textured brick wall.

OUR LIGHT

Shines Brighter
the Darker it Gets

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inside **DECEMBER** 2017



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7 In Troubled Times, Show Compassion, and Share Your Gift

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16 Elementary Students Raise Money for Sister School

South Lancaster Academy elementary students brought in their pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters to raise more than \$2,600 for The Oaks Adventist Christian School in Houston.



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Make Today Count

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”—Matthew 25:40, NIV

This year, we have witnessed tragic events around the world at a magnitude that we have not seen before—hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, floods, domestic violence, sex scandals, mass killings, drug overdose and opioid-involved deaths, and contentious political battles, to name a few. People affected by these tragedies will never be the same again as they face homelessness, grieve the loss of loved ones, care for injured family members, and the list goes on. We live in a world filled with many whose hearts are broken.

To say, “Our thoughts and prayers are with you,” is and will always be important, but as Christ’s ambassadors, we are called to do more. Knowing that God is love and He desires that as many people as possible would come to Him, we are presented with opportunities to “make today count” for Him. We need to let our light shine brightly in this broken world.

I will never forget the kindness extended to me and my daughter by the Atlantic Union Conference office staff many years ago. I began working at the office while in the midst of my own personal tragedies. One evening, during the holiday season, the staff filled the trunk of my car with food that would last for some time. God knew exactly what I needed at the time and He provided. We had a praise party when I arrived home! Over the years, God has blessed me to be able to return that kindness to others over and over again.

Many churches and their members, as well as schools and their students in the Atlantic Union territory, have moved

to action and have become involved in reaching out to those impacted by the tragedies in the U.S. and the Caribbean islands. Departments in the Atlantic Union office and its six conferences have also been involved in assessing the needs and putting plans into action to make a difference in the lives of others. Ellen White, author and co-founder of the Adventist Church, wrote, “The work which the disciples did, we also are to do. Every Christian is to be a missionary. In sympathy and compassion we are to minister to those in need of help, seeking with unselfish earnestness to lighten the woes of suffering humanity”—CHRISTIAN SERVICE, p. 22.

During this holiday season, you, too, have the opportunity to get out of your comfort zone, if you have not already done so, and do something to help someone in need. It could be meeting the need of a church member or guest, or someone in the community surrounding your church or your home. It could be visiting a nursing home or taking on a project working with your city or town, and so on. You get the idea. Why not give someone the opportunity to meet Jesus through your giving, and leave them with the memory of a random act of kindness that will last a lifetime.

Remember, all the time we have to make an impact on people in this world is right now. What are you waiting for? Make today count! ☺

Ednor A. P. Davison is the communication director for the Atlantic Union Conference and editor for the Atlantic Union GLEANER.



“During the holiday season, you have the opportunity to get out of your comfort zone and do something to help someone in need.”



OUR LIGHT Shines Brighter *the Darker it Gets*



Standing inside the sanctuary of the Auburn church are some of the leaders, including, from left, Michael Brown, elder; Pam Blake-Strout, head deaconess; Tracy Vis, Health Ministries leader; Carol Holmes, food bank director; and Rick Kuntz, pastor.

BY SCOTT CHRISTIANSEN

The Barna Group is a respected Christian research organization, and when they released their annual “Top 10 Most Post-Christian Cities in the US” list for 2017, it gave weight to what leaders in the Atlantic Union had long understood by intuition: the Atlantic Union is the most post-Christian union in the entire United States. In fact, of the 10 cities listed by Barna, the first seven are in the Atlantic Union.

But if the Atlantic Union is in a Christian drought, then the Northern New England Conference (NNEC) is an absolute Christian desert. Of the top five most post-Christian cities in the U.S., three are in NNEC, including the top two spots. Now, if that doesn't sound impressive, try this: every major population center in the entire conference is on the top-five list. There are only three major population centers and every single one is in the top five including the part of Maine that Barna calls the “Portland-Auburn” region, which is ranked number one.

But here is a curious thing—the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Auburn, Maine, is a vibrant, creative, growing, joyous congregation that is quite literally bursting at the seams. It is the kind of place where, if you



don't get there a little early for the main service, you run the risk of having to watch the service on a TV in the basement, because there simply are no more seats in the sanctuary. And this begs the question, How did this beautiful flower of a church grow in the intensely post-Christian desert of Maine? And, perhaps even more importantly, What lessons can be transferred from the Auburn church to the rest of the union? But before we tackle those questions, let's take a look at what, exactly, "post-Christian" means.

Barna has a fairly rigorous test for whether or not a person is post-Christian. They use a 15-question survey, and if a person responds "no" to 13 or more of the questions, they are regarded as post-Christian. The questions range from "Do you believe in God?" to "Is faith important in your life?" to "Have you ever made a commitment to Jesus?" to "Is the Bible accurate?" and "Did Jesus live a

sinless life?" In the Portland/Auburn area of Maine, an astonishing 57 percent of the population identifies as post-Christian. For these people, Christianity simply has no relevance in their lives at all and there is a very good chance that it had no relevance

still draws people. The truth we have—showing the true character of God—has never been as important as it is now. And the good news is that people, whatever they believe or don't believe, wherever they are in their lives, will respond to the sincere love

“The Atlantic Union is the most post-Christian union in the entire United States. In fact, of the 10 cities listed by Barna, the first seven are in the Atlantic Union.”

in the lives of their parents and maybe even their grandparents.

But according to Rick Kuntz, pastor of the Auburn church, the post-Christian desert creates opportunities. "Our light shines brighter the darker it gets," he says. "Our message

of Jesus Christ." Viewed this way, the challenge means that the Northern New England Conference and the Atlantic Union are the most profound and potential-filled mission fields in the entire country. And this view is borne out by the transformation the

Ten Most Post-Christian Cities in the U.S.



● Portland/Auburn, ME	57%	● Providence, RI/New Bedford, MA	53%	● New York, NY	51%
● Boston, MA/Manchester, NH	56%	● Burlington, VT/Plattsburgh, NY	53%	● San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose, CA	50%
● Albany/Schenectady/Troy, NY	54%	● Hartford/New Haven, CT	52%	● Seattle/Tacoma, WA	50%
				● Buffalo, NY	50%

Source: Barna Group (www.barna.com/research/post-christian-cities-america-2017)



Auburn church has undergone in the past seven years.

“There was a time,” said Kuntz, “when the spirit of this church simply was not a reflection of Jesus and His love. There was dissension and disagreement. There was a lukewarm attitude prevailing. In response, I tried to turn every meeting—board meetings, committee meetings, church services—into lessons in discipleship to Jesus. We developed an intense focus on really getting to know Christ and live His gospel. And then, within six months, we held a full-length evangelism series. The results were astonishing. The church was flooded with new people, and the power of the Holy Spirit deeply challenged us all. Whenever this happens, no one can stay neutral. Our spiritual pride is offended and some are not willing to embrace the cross and be filled with the Spirit. But those who were willing chose the gospel reality of Galatians 2:20. Christ and Him crucified has become the culture of our church.”

Kuntz did not let the new members tread water. “A truly converted heart burns to share Jesus, so we put new members to work in the Lord’s vineyard,” he said. “And that seemed to also invigorate and motivate many of our long-term members.” Bible studies and outreach efforts were launched. A food-bank was started. A vegan restaurant and health-training center was opened. A Wednesday-night prayer meeting was started and half the church showed up for every meeting. Bible studies for new Christians were started and the flow of new members increased. One of those new members was Michael Brown, an engineer who, at that time, was in his mid-20s.

“I had attended an Adventist church as a young boy, and I returned to the church for a while after a drug-related life crisis that led me to accept Christ

as my Savior,” said Brown, one of the elders of the church. “But my growth had stalled and I had started to seriously back-slide when a job change brought me to Auburn and I started attending this church. I found myself in a group of people who lived the gospel, led by a pastor who lived the gospel. I wanted to be part of that group.” Brown has a heart for the unreached. “I bleed wanting to bring people into an intimate, safe, authentic, spiritual relationship. People crave it, and that is exactly what we try to give them through Christ.”

Tracy Vis is another young adult who is a leader at the church. “I had been diagnosed with MS [multiple sclerosis] and had developed a keen interest in health,” said Vis. “I had started eating a vegetarian diet and practicing yoga, and was saving up to go live in India and join an ashram¹ when I learned about a health program offered by the Auburn church. I came wanting to learn, but was irritated that I had to put up with some ‘church people’ in order to do so. In the end, it was the authentic love and caring of those church people who melted my heart. They then led me into an amazing relationship with Christ. Now one of the things I do is watch for visitors like I was—people who are shy or unsure or withdrawn—and try to help them connect and feel comfortable. I am trying to show people Christ’s love as it was shown to me.”

Pam Blake-Strout was a member of the church for a number of years before it was transformed, and she had become discouraged and left. “The focus wasn’t on Christ or living His gospel,” she said. “And I became discouraged. I started coming back around the time the church changed—and what a change it has been! Seeing the Spirit at work

has motivated and thrilled me from the start! One thing I love about this church is the members put themselves in the shoes of visitors and, as a result, [they are] deeply welcoming. Part of that welcoming spirit is our food bank. I led out there for a few years and you would not believe what a difference that little ministry has made in people’s lives. For many, the food bank serves as their church. They come here and ask to be prayed for. They connect with their spiritual friends. They are strengthened and blessed.”

Is it as simple as the Auburn experience makes it sound? Yes and no. “Since every church is different, there is no universal formula for transforming an inward-focused church into an outward-focused, mission-driven church,” says Kuntz. “There is no set path, except for this: seek to live out the gospel in your lives, seek to live the character of Christ, seek to have every member a disciple, and seek out and follow the Spirit. And, as you grow, the Spirit will show you your needs, your poverty, as He did with us. When you are ready to welcome people with Christ’s love, God will send people to you. And as this happens, understand that you will be attacked by Satan. The Auburn church has had three shakings in the past six years, so expect the attacks to be persistent. But be humble and faithful in seeking Christ, and God will deliver you and use you for great things.” ①



Scott Christiansen is the Northern New England Conference communication director.

¹An ashram is a Hindu monastery where spiritual and yogic disciplines are pursued.

In Troubled Times, Show Compassion, and Share Your Gift

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”—John 16:33

Disasters Around the World

Over the past several months, we have witnessed many disasters around the world. Millions of people have been impacted by earthquakes, fires, floods, and hurricanes. Having lost everything, many people have no hope, but God has promised never to leave them nor forsake them.

God allows us the privilege of being the hands and feet of Jesus. The Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department strongly believes God desires us to do all we can to show compassion and help those in need. While it is impossible with our limited resources to physically help everyone, we have been praying for every situation. God has provided opportunities for us to do more than pray. He has allowed us to impact two areas that have been devastated by hurricanes.

Compassion Puerto Rico

The Atlantic Union Conference treasurer, Elias Zabala, Sr., and I were able to take a trip to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria and visit more than 30 students from the Atlantic Union who are enrolled at Antillean University. With the full support of the union administration and donations from around the Atlantic Union, we were able to provide much-needed resources. Not only did we provide assistance for the students from the Atlantic Union, but we were also able to help the East Puerto Rico Conference in Rio Piedras. In addition, we donated funds to help the Loiza church that was supplying food to people in the community.

Compassion Texas

The Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department has organized three trips to Texas since Hurricane Harvey devastated the area. Several youth directors, youth, young adults, and union departmental leaders were able to visit Texas as we assisted in a tangible way. Volunteers helped with rebuilding several homes, provided financial resources, and encouraged and prayed with many who desperately needed to know that God still exists.



Representatives from the Atlantic Union Conference, Elias Zabala, Sr., treasurer, front row left; and Andrés J. Peralta, Youth Ministries director, front row second from right, visit with students from the Atlantic Union who are enrolled at Antillean University.



One of many homes damaged by Hurricane Maria on the island of Puerto Rico.

Share Your Gift During The Holidays

This holiday season, we recognize that there are tribulations in this world, but we are reminded of our role as Christians. “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me”—Matthew 25:40.

God wants us to share our gifts and change our world. When we share our gifts with those in need, we do it for God. He has given the ultimate gift, His son, Jesus. What will you give? How will you change your world? As this is the season of giving, consider giving a gift that could have an eternal impact. Use your time and talents to help those facing tribulations. ☺

Andrés J. Peralta is the director for the Youth, Young Adult, Pathfinder, and Adventurer ministries in the Atlantic Union Conference.

St. David's Church Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Members of the St. David's church in St. David's, Bermuda, celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the present church on Sabbath, October 21. They welcomed the Sabbath on Friday evening with song service and spent an hour in prayer, singing, and listening to the Word of God. Eugene Gibbons, one of the former pastors, shared a message from the faith chapter (Hebrews 11), focusing on the theme "We've Come this Far by Faith." At the end of his message, the members affirmed the mission of the church and rededicated their lives, making the commitment to share Jesus with the people of St. David's.

The worship service had many special features, and members who no longer attend the St. David's church were present to share in this special time. One such person, Doris Foley, who was the first church clerk (1997), shared a brief history, recounting the time that Adventists in St. David's started a church around 1935, at or about the same location that the present church began some 62 years later.

The building they worshiped in then had a dual purpose—during the week, it was used as a cinema, but on Sabbaths, it became the "house of God." Two leaders of the day, Geary Pitcher and Grosvenor Lamb, both elders, led out until the pastor, Joseph Chapman, then superintendent of the mission work in Bermuda, would arrive.

In those days, the only way onto the island was by boat across the St. George's



Members and friends of St. David's church pose for a photo after the worship service celebrating their twentieth anniversary.

harbour. Should the weather be unsettled or the waves too rough to manage, Lamb would present the Word of God. Unfortunately, complaints received by the landlord led to the church losing its tenancy and, not being able to find any suitable accommodation, the church voted to join the St. George's church across the harbor. Pitcher's boat, named the *Ochita*, became the transportation each week to and from church.

In 1997, under the leadership of Llewellyn Williams, pastor of the St. George's church, the St. David's church was re-established. They had no place to worship, but about 29 members who had a zeal and desire to work in St. David's, left the comforts of pews and walls, to set up and prepare a building for worship service in the new territory.

Services were held in the home of Fanshaw and Evelyn (Polly) Lamb before the church settled

in the gymnasium of the Clearwater Middle School. From there, the church's fellowship grew and the community felt the blessings of the Lord. Fanshaw Lamb and his wife were baptized from this small group and he would invite others from off the street along the side of his house for service. Fellowship lunches after church and prayer meetings all would be held at the Lamb house in Cashew City, St. David's.

Other things that helped to get the new church off the ground included the formation of the Adventist Community Services.

Tracey White, then pastor, is credited with conducting an extension Sabbath School for interested persons in the community at the home of Mavreen Fox. Later, they gathered at the Clearwater gym and, still later, at the cafeteria for the main church services before finally moving to the present location on Southside Road in

St. David's. Over the years the church has had four pastors: Llewellyn Williams, Tracey White, Eugene Gibbons, and currently, D. Randolph Wilson.

Those in attendance at the celebration heard an inspirational message from Carlyle Simmons, former Bermuda Conference president (1992-2000) and Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary (2000-2016), who implored the members and those present to remain faithful to the mission which burned so passionately 20 years ago. His appeal brought all present to their feet in recommitment and rededication to be faithful until Jesus comes.

The celebratory atmosphere continued with a concert during the Adventist Youth service. The members of the St. David's church thank God for His marvelous blessings.

—Communication staff,
St. David's church

Hundreds Served at Disabilities Expo

The third Disabilities Expo hosted by the Co-op City church in Bronx, New York, drew hundreds at a local community center on Sunday, October 1. Among the dignitaries who visited the event was Assemblyman Michael Benedetto of the 82nd Assembly District. After the Pathfinder drum corps performed the National Anthem, Bledi Leno, Greater New York Conference multi-ethnic director, declared the event open.

Among the presenters, Patricia Zuber-Wilson, director of Government Affairs and Federal Policy under the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), delivered a brief message on opioid addiction. Zuber-Wilson said she was pleased to partner with the faith community, noting that, "Places of religion are the first place that people in crisis turn to." Also presenting was Chief Frank Apollo of the Riverbay Public Safety Division, on the R.U.O.K (Are you OK?) daily telephone check on registered participants.

Word of the event was spread through social media and by the vendors themselves on their Web pages, which attracted persons with disabilities from across the City of New York. The service providers were primarily city agencies, including the New York City Commission on Human Rights; New York

City Office of the Mayor, for persons with disabilities; New York State Center for Independence of the Disabled, among others.

also shared literature on the gospel, sitting side-by-side with material from Christian Record Services that included a Braille

the day. Also available was a free CPR course valued at \$100, offered by First Aid Samaritan Training (F.A.S.T.).

The expo was sponsored by Senator Jamaal T. Bailey of the 36th Senate District, the housing management company Riverbay Corporation's Disabilities and Accommodations Committee, and by AHRC of New York, one of the region's largest providers for persons with developmental disabilities.

The event closed with vendors anticipating registration for the next staging of the expo.

—Personal Ministries department staff, Greater New York Conference

"Word of the event was spread through social media and by the vendors themselves on their Web pages which attracted persons with disabilities from across the City of New York."

Voices of people living with disabilities colored the tone of the event, including Kenny Agosto, Deputy Chief of Staff of Senator Bailey's office, who spoke about being "differently abled" in some varied categories. Cheryl Silvera, a member of the Co-op City church and the founder of the expo, spoke on the genesis of the expo and of living with bipolar disorder.

The breadth of the expo included an art exhibit of works created by persons with disabilities, an activity center for children, and a calming room for persons who wanted to get a respite from the bustling main floor. The community Wellness on the Go Health Van was also on site and personnel were available to give massages. Members of the congregation offered vegetarian food samples.

Besides services and resources for persons with disabilities, the church

Sabbath School quarterly. The Men's Warehouse formalwear clothing company offered two vouchers valued at \$25 each to enrich the giveaways of



Tell Us What's Happening in Your Community

We want to know more about what's happening in the Greater New York Conference. How are your members sharing evangelism outside the walls of your church? How are the youth and young adults getting involved?

If your church or school produces a newsletter, add us to your mailing list.

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Roosevelt Church Members Recognized

Merlin Burt, director of the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University, presented a special plaque to the Roosevelt church in Fulton, New York, during their visit to the church on Sabbath, August 12. The black marble plaque with gold etching thanked the members for opening their church and hearts to the students participating in the Adventist History Study Tour, which visits every year from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

The study tour, led by Burt, has been visiting the Roosevelt church since 2005, and offers several intensive church history classes to students while on an eight-day bus tour through New York and New England. Each year, the Roosevelt church worships with the tour participants on Sabbath, teach-

ing them the history of the church. After the worship service, lunch is provided for the group under a large tent on the lawn and a sack supper is provided for the road.

Burt called the members of the church forward for the surprise presentation of the plaque. James R. Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate, also said a few words to the church members: "It's because of people like you who host those of us who come on tours with tour groups that lives are being changed, and a message is being strengthened around the world as people leave after being on these particular tours."

Robert Puttman, Roosevelt church elder, who accepted the plaque, said, "We will treasure it through . . . not all eternity, because it isn't going to make it throughout eternity, but through the rest of the eternity in which this church will



Merlin Burt, director of the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University, presents the plaque to, from left, Robert Rosa, Robert Puttman, and John Livergood.

stand." John Livergood, the church's pastor, also spoke about the impact of being able to pastor in the New York Conference and the history that is in the Roosevelt church and in the state. He also stated that the members always look forward to having the tour and are grateful for the opportunity to min-

ister to and impact a generation of pastors and church leaders. The head deacon, Robert Rosa, mentioned the hard work that goes into welcoming the group, but that the church considers it a privilege to serve each year.

—Heidi Magesa, project and event manager, Andrews University Center for Adventist Research

Joy of Troy Member Celebrates 100 Years

Leslie Bennett celebrated his 100th birthday at the Joy of Troy church in Troy, New York, by being the speaker on the Sabbath prior to his birthday. Bennett typically speaks two or three times a year at the church. He feels that as long as the Lord allows him to live, he needs to speak for Him. He welcomes opportunities to serve God and speak out for Him whenever anyone will listen. "No rock will cry out in this man's place," says church member Rachel Moody.

Born September 4, 1917, in Georgetown, Jamaica, Bennett has been a Seventh-day Adventist his entire life. His parents, originally Baptist, became Seventh-day Adventists before he was born.



Leslie Bennett celebrates his 100th birthday at the Joy of Troy church.

He passed his certification to preach while in Jamaica and has served as a Sabbath School teacher and deacon. He left school at age 18 and went to Panama where he worked in an office doing timekeeping. He married Ethendra Bennett at age 20.

Bennett studied science and became a teacher in

Panama. He then joined the Army and was a pilot for five years in the Royal Air Force in England. He flew fighter planes in World War II. While flying during the war, the Germans hit his plane. Bennett survived, but suffered a broken left arm and a head injury.

Bennett has received numerous international

awards, including a gold medal Coat of Arms, Certificate of Merit—Teachers Communication and Culture, and silver and bronze medals for teaching in Jamaica. Close to his 83rd birthday, he was decorated with the Badge of Honour by the Governor General Sir Howard Cooke.

Two years ago Bennett moved from Jamaica to the United States and has attended the Joy of Troy church ever since arriving. He loves the Lord and has dedicated his life to telling others about Jesus and the truths of the Bible.

—Annette Barnes, elder, Joy of Troy church

USA Praises God for His Goodness

The past 12 months have been very eventful for Union Springs Academy (USA). Comparing the development that occurred over the past year to our school plant, one can only say, "Praise the Lord!" We are counting our blessings!

The Clyde Newmeyr Administration Building (Ad Building) now has fresh paint, new flooring, drop ceilings, and LED lighting. Classrooms have been relocated, which will help enhance learning; and, to cap it off, a new roof has been installed over the entire Ad Building! In addition, thanks to the generosity of the Atlantic Union Conference, the students will be safer with a new security and fire alarm system.

Here is what some of the students think of the changes:

"This is my third year at USA and I am glad this all happened while I was here as a student. It's like God allowed a tragedy to happen and I'm glad it happened, because the aftermath has made us stronger and better."—Mary Htoo, '19

"As a fourth-generation USA student, I am honored to attend the same school as my great-grandfather. Things looked very different when he was a student here over 80 years ago, but up until the



Union Springs Academy faculty and students are grateful to be back in the administration building!

fire, the Ad Building looked the same as it did for my parents, who graduated over 20 years ago. I really am excited about using the new computer lab that looks so modern and nice."—Kim Runnals, '19

"I am very excited the music department has a new location with built-in risers, and plenty of room for both the band and the choir. I have seen many blessings occur before my eyes and am just very thankful for how God has worked in our school to give us things we really needed."—Dan Livergood, '19

"As a freshman, I was excited to follow in my siblings' steps by coming to USA. I didn't realize we would have updated dormitory rooms and a new Ad



The academy classroom wing is now covered with the new pitched roof.

Building. I am so happy by God's grace He has blessed our school! I am thankful for all the volunteers and workers who helped rebuild the school. They really made a big difference! I look forward to being a part of the 100th year class graduating in 2021."—Joseph Htoo, '21

During this season of thanksgiving, we praise God for each miracle from above and for every student! A special rededication of the Ad Building is being planned for Spring 2018.

—Janica Caster, development director, Union Springs Academy



The USA school song, painted by alumnus Sherry Franke, '80, is displayed in the new student lounge.



An aerial view of the construction for the new roof on the Clyde Newmeyr Administration Building.

South Ozone Park Church Connects with the Community



The South Ozone Park church Pathfinder drum corps march during the 48th annual African-American Day Parade in Harlem, New York

Drum Corps Participates in Annual Parade

The Pathfinder drum corps at South Ozone Park church was selected by the Queens area Pathfinder Federation to participate in the 48th annual African-American Day Parade in Harlem, New York.

The parade route started at 110th Street and went up Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard (7th Avenue) to 136th Street. The drum corps marched in the processional of New York City public advocate Letitia James.

The crowd roared with excitement, and the more they shouted “Pathfinders, Pathfinders!” the harder our the drum corps played, says Dennis Bush, Pathfinder director of the South Ozone Park church. What an honor for our club to be a part of this historical moment.

At the end of the parade, each Pathfinder received a signed Certificate of Appreciation from the New York City Public Advocate.

Community Health Awareness Outreach

About 100 people from the community attended South Ozone Park church’s annual Health Awareness Day and sampled health foods and received fresh produce and health literature. Some individuals took advantage of the free blood pressure screening, lifestyle consultations, and health presentations, while others went for the school supplies giveaway.

One health nugget demonstration shared information about using watermelon seeds to help with diabetes and high blood pressure and how the seeds may enhance heart health. A visitor from the community said, “I never knew that you could use the watermelon seeds; I am so used to discarding them. One can hardly find a watermelon with seeds anymore, but seeing the demonstration and knowing [the potential uses of] the seeds will certainly help me to use them!”

The entire church was involved in this

outreach effort. The health department nurses mentored the youth who were interested in learning how to take someone’s blood pressure while the adults assisted with the back-to-school giveaway and health food preparation and distribution. The Pathfinder drum corps entertained the community with music and drill demonstrations.

Gloria Nolan, the church’s health ministries director and coordinator of the event, said that it was good to see the bonding taking place between the community and church.

Members of South Ozone Park church are looking forward to the day when there will be no more sickness, pain, poverty, or heartache. The church will remain a beacon of light in the community and help to finish the work in their part of the vineyard, and bring hope, healing, and health to the people.

—Lorraine Archie, communication leader, South Ozone Park church



South Ozone Park church hosts a Health Awareness Day.



Activities for children are included as part of the South Ozone Park church annual Health Awareness Day.

Evangelistic Series Held in City of Poughkeepsie

This past summer, an evangelistic series was held in the City of Poughkeepsie, New York. The purpose of the meetings was to touch the community with the life-saving message of Jesus Christ. The mediums of song, health, and preaching were utilized. Several stakeholders participated in making this meeting a success.

Churches from two conferences came together for the success of the meetings—from the Greater New York Conference (GNYC): Poughkeepsie, Poughkeepsie Spanish, and Newburgh churches, along with the GNYC Wellness on the Go Health Van, and from Northeastern Conference: Trinity Temple, Kingston, and Beacon churches, along with the medical missionaries from Hudson Valley.

Organizations from the community included the New York Blood Mobile,

the Colgate Dental Van, and Nubian Directions.

Community agencies taking part included Youth Build, Fidelis, and LA VOZ magazine. Local barbers sponsored free haircuts and there was also a shoe giveaway that included free brand-name shoes.

Screenings included blood pressure checks, cholesterol

analysis, body fat analysis, the step test, peak flow/lung capacity test, optical exams, dental exams, health age assessment, examination of waist circumference, and body mass index. Free mental health information was also distributed, as well as information on how to stop domestic violence.

Handouts, as well as an herbal display, were offered to teach about the healing qualities of various herbs. Nutritional counseling and upper body massage to help with relaxation were also offered. High-risk individuals with abnormal test results were referred to their health-care professionals or a community clinic.

The highlight of the weekend was the appearance of Barry Black, the 62nd chaplain of the United States Senate, who preached twice on Sabbath. His message was that God wants the best for everyone, has a plan for each life, and desires that we work together for the good of our entire community. Many responded to the altar call and pledged to move forward in unity.

—Mirlande Jordan, member and pastor's wife, Trinity Temple church



Barry Black, 62nd chaplain of the United States Senate, third from left, and Vernon Jordan, Trinity Temple pastor, back right, pose with Health Ministry team members.

Northeastern Conference Youth Reach Out to the Community

“I was a Seventh-day Adventist all my life . . . but only recently became a Christian.” These were the striking words of Patrick Graham, Allegheny East Conference Youth and Children’s Ministries department director, during his sermon at the packed gathering of youth and young adults at the 2017 Northeastern Conference Youth Fest. Held the weekend of September 23, the goal was to rally young people from across all seven states represented in the Northeastern Conference for a weekend of community outreach and praise and worship.

Sabbath morning began with Compassion–Impact Queens, where youth ministered to the community of Jamaica (Queens), New York. Outreach included Laundromat ministry, bus stop ministry, breakfast in the park, a workshop with senior citizens at Northeastern Towers, and ministering to officers at the local police precinct.

The morning service was held at the Community Worship Center church and it was a service like no other. After a powerful praise and worship session, Graham brought an authentic and open word from the Lord. He encouraged the youth and young adults to pursue a

other groups, ended the Sabbath festivities. On Sunday, the activities continued with the annual Parade and Fair led by the Pathfinders and Adventurers at Roy Wilkins Park.

The Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries department, under the

“Jesus didn’t die for you; He died for me—meaning, that’s how you ought to think of the death of Christ.

It was personal and just for you.”

personal relationship with God, rather than relying on their parents. “Jesus didn’t die for you; He died for me—meaning, that’s how you ought to think of the death of Christ. It was personal and just for you,” was the call made by Graham.

The afternoon concert, featuring Dale Brown and Truth, Laos in Harmony, the Franco-Haitian Mass Choir, and

leadership of David McKenzie and his team, will continue to serve as a vehicle for young people to express their commitment to Christ and their community.

—Judith Silfrene, Young Adult Ministries co-coordinator, Franco-Haitian Youth Federation



A Meaningful Men's Ministry

Real men don't like to hear other men talk about their challenges. Real men don't like to share their struggles or (gulp) their feelings. And real men don't like to search the scriptures and share what they've learned. Everyone knows these things are true. Except that, judging by the men's ministry events and retreat at Camp Lawroweld recently, everyone is wrong; these things just aren't true.

When Men's Ministries leader Leon Twitchell, pastor of the Oxford church in Maine, designed his ministry plan for this year, he decided he wanted to help men deeply connect to Christ and to each other. The way to do that was to directly address the temptations and trials men experience—pornography, alcohol, tobacco and other addictive substances, anger, control issues, gambling, affairs—and use them to tease out the struggles, failures, and success stories of men who have overcome temptations through Christ.

"We're all struggling with temptation and with the pressures of being a man in this age," said Twitchell.

A Labor of Love

A couple of years ago Carol Beale sat in her home church in Michigan and listened as a visiting Marsha Brummel described the Washington church in New Hampshire—the first church in which Sabbath-keeping Adventists worshipped. Beale was immediately inspired and she told her husband, Orville, that she intended to build a scale model of the church for use and display in the Northern New England Conference.



Men from around the Northern New England Conference meet at Camp Lawroweld in Weld, Maine, for the Men's Ministries retreat.

"But we don't like to admit that we struggle and we certainly don't like to admit that we fail. However, once the subject is opened up and addressed in a safe setting, men really, really want to hear about how other guys managed and overcame their challenges, and what it was like for them to live through the process. Turns out we want to discuss this stuff and learn from it, as long as it is in a safe setting."

Tackling the tough issues and relating them to a Christ-centered life was one of the things Twitchell

wanted his speakers to accomplish. The featured speaker for the weekend was Roger Gilbert, former pastor of the Farmingdale church in Maine. Gilbert was able to get attendees to open up and engage in quite a bit of discussion, simply by doing something difficult—he spoke about his personal trials and temptations.

As a result of his witness, it became easier for all the other men to speak about their trials and how Christ helped them overcome. "We wanted the retreat, and Men's Ministries, in general, to be

meaningful and applicable. We wanted men to learn and to gain new tools for fighting their battles," Twitchell said. "And, praise the Lord, that is what He made happen."

More than 30 men attended the retreat, including, to Twitchell's delight, several teens and very young men. "Most men are natural mentors, and when they see these young guys who are just coming up, they naturally want to help them avoid some of the pitfalls they experienced. Having several generations in attendance made the retreat even more relevant," Twitchell said.

The Men's Ministries retreat wasn't just about talking and studying the Bible. The men also enjoyed some of the best food served at any retreat anywhere, thanks to Chef Dave Parlin and his crew. They also enjoyed some recreation and play time, both on the lake and off. When asked if the recreation and play time was an important part of the weekend, Twitchell just winked and said, "Well, boys will be boys."

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

The decision Beale made was not a small one. She had previously built a scale model of one of Ellen White's homes, and she built it with painstaking accuracy and attention to detail. Before she would finish, she would spend hundreds and hundreds of hours on the project, make two trips to the Washington church, and work with site co-directors Ken and Marsha Brummel to get additional measurements and detailed information on fixtures and furnishings.



Carol Beale stands by her scale model displayed in front of the Washington church in New Hampshire. Beale drove the model to New Hampshire from her home in Michigan, since no other method of transport could be guaranteed to keep the model intact.

The 1:24 scale model captures every detail of the original building in stunning accuracy, right down to the hymnals on the pews. The model required extraordinary cutting and shaping of wood, some of which was

paper thin. From the shingles on the roof to the rocks in the foundation, every part of the original circa 1842 building was captured.

Beale dedicated the building to her husband, Orville, who passed away while she

was working on it. For those who would like to see the model, it is now on display at the Adventist Heritage Center at the Northern New England Conference office in Westbrook, Maine. If you do manage to see the model in

person, see if you can find the church mouse that Beale hid in the building—it is her trademark.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

A Sabbath Surrounded By History

The annual meeting at the Washington church in New Hampshire just keeps getting bigger and more of a blessing with each passing year. This year's meeting was held on Sabbath, August 19, and was attended by about 225 people. The crowd was almost more than the church and grounds could accommodate.

Like most Sabbath events held at this circa 1842 church these days, site co-directors Kenneth and Marsha Brummel helped organize and administer a spiritually-enriching program. Daniel Jackson, North American Division (NAD) president, was slated for the sermon. However, due to delays encountered while trying to travel to New Hampshire from Guam, he was not able to attend. This unfortunate news came to Pastor Brummel as he was assisting with the children's Sabbath School program that very morning! Thankfully, the Lord had a plan and provided a ministering minute man in the presence of Greg Whitsett, who was visiting with his wife, Amy (Conrad), and their children all the way from the mission field in Bangkok, Thailand.

People were drawn to the annual meeting from far beyond the conference. Many from Southern New England Conference attended. Following the worship service, most of the crowd gathered under or around



People from around the Northern New England Conference and beyond attend the annual meeting at the Washington church in New Hampshire.

the recently-built outdoor pavilion for a potluck feast. Some families and groups gathered elsewhere at the site to enjoy quieter picnics.

Afternoon activities included a guided tour of the adjacent cemetery by Marsha Brummel, with insights and pioneer stories about many of the departed faithful buried there. Others walked the Sabbath Trail, which starts and ends at the church and is marked by engraved stone monuments that quote Scripture verses about God's seventh-day Sabbath.

Many pioneers spoke at the Washington church, including James and Ellen White, Rachel Oakes Preston, J.N. Andrews, Uriah Smith, Joseph Bates, Annie Smith, S.N. Haskell, and Frederick Wheeler. The building remains very much the same as it did in their times. It has no electricity, no indoor plumbing, and retains its original pew benches and broadboard

pine flooring. The congregation still utilizes a period

pump organ. About the only concession to the times is the period stoves, where wood fuel has been replaced by propane burners.

Regular services are held at Washington church from early spring through late fall, and the annual meeting is usually held in August. Check with the church's Web site (www.firstadventistchurch.org) for more information.

—John C. Schumacher-Hardy, member, Village Church

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Elementary Students Raise Money for Sister School

If you think your loose coins don't amount to much, consider that South Lancaster Academy elementary students brought in their pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters to raise more than \$2,600 for The Oaks Adventist Christian School (The Oaks) in Houston that was flooded by Hurricane Harvey.

The sixth-grade class hosted The Penny Wars, a fundraiser to support The Oaks where their teacher, Brandy Rich, once taught. The school had five feet of water in their classrooms and sustained so much damage that the classes are now meeting in the gym with temporary partitions. They lost desks, books, school supplies, and more.

"Every day we prayed that God would multiply this money like He did with the



South Lancaster Academy elementary students count pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters as they raise money to send to The Oaks Adventist Christian School in Houston that was flooded by Hurricane Harvey.

loaves and fish and bless The Oaks," said Rich. "Little by little the kids brought in their coins. Ultimately, we raised \$2,635.86! God is so good!"

All classes from kindergarten through grade 8 participated in the competition

from September 18 to 29 to see which class could bring in the most money. The sixth-grade class came in first place, bringing in \$913.43 of the total money raised.

"Penny Wars was an amazing experience! I felt

like God was telling our class to help The Oaks Adventist Christian School! I was so happy that we raised over \$2,000, and we helped another school. I will never forget this wonderful experience," said sixth-grade student Khali Muth.

"I learned that a little blaze of fire (pennies) can create a giant fire! I also learned that we didn't just put pennies into a jar. We also put in love, compassion, and life savings. It was all done to help another school," said sixth-grade student Jacob Alce.

What an amazing lesson for all of us, that even our littlest bits, when joined with others, can make a big difference.

—Shauna Neidigh, development director, South Lancaster Academy



Sterling Residents Donate to Bread of Life Ministry

Thanks to the generosity of the Sterling, Massachusetts, residents, the Chocksett Pathfinder Club from the Sterling church was able to fill a van full of non-perishable food. The Pathfinders initially passed out 500 shopping bags to the Sterling residents, asking for donations to this worthy cause. The food was taken to the Village Church in Lancaster to be used for the Bread of Life Food Pantry's Thanksgiving baskets.

—Fawn Gagnon, Pathfinder director, Sterling church.

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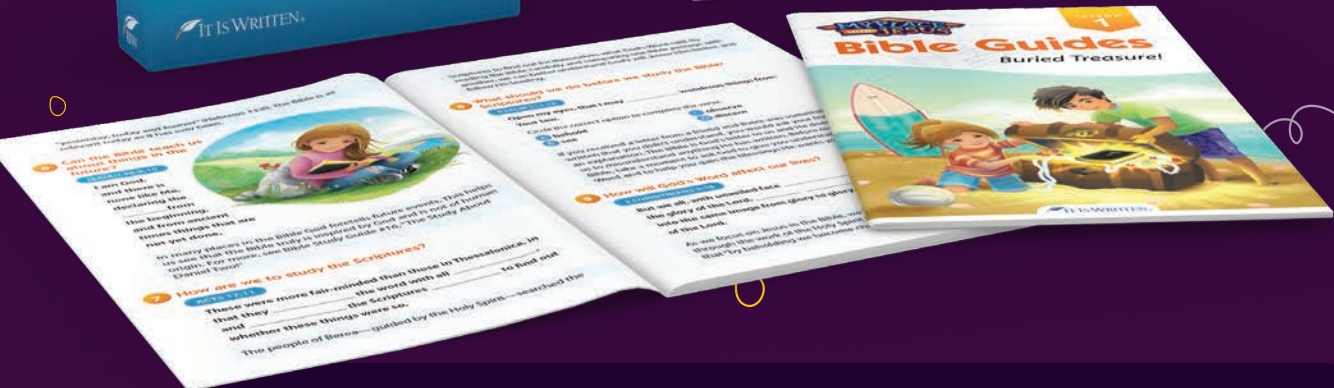
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Bangor, ME	4:08	4:17	4:26	4:36	
Portland, ME	4:19	4:27	4:36	4:45	
Boston, MA	4:27	4:34	4:43	4:52	
South Lancaster, MA	4:29	4:36	4:45	4:54	
Pittsfield, MA	4:35	4:43	4:51	5:00	
Hartford, CT	4:35	4:42	4:51	4:59	
Providence, RI	4:30	4:37	4:45	4:54	
New York, NY	4:43	4:51	4:59	5:07	
Albany, NY	4:35	4:43	4:51	5:00	
Utica, NY	4:41	4:49	4:57	5:06	
Syracuse, NY	4:45	4:52	5:01	5:10	
Rochester, NY	4:50	4:58	5:06	5:16	
Buffalo, NY	4:56	5:04	5:12	5:21	
Hamilton, Bda	5:28	5:34	5:40	5:46	

ATLANTIC UNION

GODencounters, Feb. 23-25, 2018, a young adult life-changing experience, sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries. auyouth.com.

Pathfinder Bible Experience, Mar. 24, 2018, sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries. compassion-now.org or auyouth.com.

Compassion Rally NYC, May 4-5, 2018. The compassion rally cycle restarts. Sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference Adventist Youth Ministries. compassion-now.org or auyouth.com.

OUT-OF-UNION

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend 2018, April 27-28. Honor classes 3's and 8's. Welcome Reception Friday 7:00 p.m. LSA library. Sabbath services: registration 9:00 a.m. and Homecoming Service 10:00 a.m. LSA gym. Potluck, campus tours, reunions, varsity basketball. Please update contact information: JNelson@lsak12.com; www.lsak12.com; alumni office (951) 351-1445, ext. 244.

10 Days of Prayer returns January 10-20, 2018, with the theme "Our High Priest." Congregations worldwide continue to be blessed by this powerful prayer initiative. Find more info and sign up your church at www.tendaysofprayer.org.

BIRTHDAYS



Margaret Smead of West Swanzey, N.H., recently celebrated her 90th birthday with a party attended by guests from all over New England. She has been a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church for 80 years. She was born in Stetson, Maine, in 1927. At age 18 the family moved to West Swanzey. In 1949, she married Claude Smead of Putney, Vt., and they opened the Smead Basket Factory in 1952, making the pack baskets for L.L. Bean for 38 years. Claude Smead predeceased her in September 2005. Margaret Smead is a member of the Keene church in New Hampshire.

OBITUARIES

LONDON, Donna A.—60; b. Nov. 7, 1956, in Linden, Guyana; d. Oct. 10, 2017, in Worcester, Mass. She was a registered nurse and a member of the Northboro church in Northboro, Mass. She is survived by her husband of 37 years,

Ivor London; a daughter, Astrid (Fred) Walker of Upper Marlboro, Md.; a son, Colin London of Worcester; five brothers, Leslie (Hazel) Cameron, Lloyd (Dionne) Hamilton, James (Barbara) Shepherd, Eon (Cassandra) Trotman, and Noel Shepherd; four sisters, Esther "Gem" Wilson, Jennifer (Dennis) Carmichael, Brenda (Frankie) Lester, Lilian (Neil) Shepherd; and many nieces and nephews.

MASON, Earl W. (Brovies)—79; b. April 25, 1938, in South Lancaster, Mass.; d. Oct. 1, 2017, in South Woodstock, Maine. He graduated in 1956 from South Lancaster Academy. He was a member of the College Church in South Lancaster, but later attended the Woodstock church in Bryant Pond, Maine. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Mason; daughter Heather Mason; son Tim (Stephanie) Mason; brother Jim Mason, Sr.; and four grandchildren: Katrina (Kevin) Martin, Taisto Tetreat, Elijah Mason, and Davin Mason, all of South Woodstock, Maine.

WITHERELL, Donald E.—89; b. Mar. 27, 1928, in Hopkinton N.Y.; d. Oct. 11, 2017, in Gouverneur, N.Y. He was an active member of the Gouverneur church. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis E. Bowman; two sons Dean H. Witherell and David K. (Stephanie) Witherell, a daughter, Donna E. (Bill) Chambers, all of Gouverneur, N.Y.; one brother, Phillip Witherell; one sister, Joyce Peck; seven grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

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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

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Remembering . . .

Educators and Pastors Who Served in the Atlantic Union and at Atlantic Union College



BOTHWELL, Roger—75, b. June 13, 1942, in Harrisburg, Pa.; d. Oct. 27, 2017, in Leominster, Mass. He attended Blue Mountain Academy. He served as a pastor in Iowa, Georgia, and California. As an educator, he taught for six years at Bugema Adventist College in Uganda. After earning his Ed.D., he taught at La Sierra University for three years and at Atlantic Union College for 14 years. Beginning in the late 1980s, he began his Spring of Life Ministry that continued until his death. As part of the ministry, he wrote almost 8,000 devotionals

which he shared on his Web site, rogerbothwell.org, and with people via e-mail. His ministry also worked with K-LOVE radio ministry which broadcasted daily devotionals on their radio stations across the U.S. He also served on their board of directors for several years. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ian Bothwell, two sons, Eric Bothwell and Michael Bothwell; and their six grandchildren.



TROTT, Richard Leslie—71, b. May 26, 1946, in Wytheville, Va., and was raised in Mount Vernon, Ohio; d. Sept. 16, 2017, in Lancaster, Mass., surrounded by his family. He fought malignant melanoma for four years. After graduating from Columbia Union College in Maryland in 1969, he worked as a youth pastor in Kettering, Ohio, before attending the seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. He graduated in 1973 with a Master of Divinity degree. He then pastored for several years in Grove City and Washington

Court House, Ohio, before moving to Lancaster, Mass., in 1977. He was the chaplain at Atlantic Union College (AUC) and associate pastor of the College Church for 20-plus years before becoming professor of religion at AUC, and later department chair. He earned his doctoral degree in Psychology and Clinical Studies from Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Mass., in 1991. He was a beloved professor and chaplain, serving not only at AUC, but also in the Lancaster community and at Quinsigamond Community College. He provided premarital counseling to hundreds of couples and performed many of their marriages. The family extends their heartfelt thanks to the kind and compassionate hospice nurses, and to all of his physicians at University of Massachusetts Medical Center, who provided him with extraordinary care. He is survived by his devoted wife and best friend of 48 years, Cheryl Whited Trott; three sons, Gregory (Tammy Tauro) Trott of Ashburnham, Mass.; Timothy (Selena Waterman) Trott of Collegedale, Tenn., and Jamie (Alicia Child) Trott of Topsham, Maine; two brothers, Millard (Mary) Trott of Greenville, S.C., and David (Marcia) Trott of Chesnee, S.C.; and nine grandchildren, Alanna, Jacob, Brianna, Georgia, Aliya, Caleb, Tucker, Reece, and baby Maelee.

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