

ATLANTIC UNION

GLEANER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EVANGELISM

NOTHING TO FEAR WITH GOD

DELEGATES ELECT
LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR NEXT
FOUR YEARS

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
CONFERENCE ACCEPTS THE
CALL TO GO

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Apply Your Life to Wisdom in the New Year

The beginning of a new year is an opportunity to reflect on what has been accomplished during the previous year and to plan for a successful new one. The year 2022, with all its sadness and joy, has gone, and 2023 is upon us. The question is: How will we live our lives in 2023? Are we simply going to count another year and occupy space, or will we make a difference in someone's life? Is this a year to accumulate the "things of this world" or a new opportunity to labor for the "inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade" (1 Peter 1:4, NIV)?

Moses was a seasoned and experienced leader, full of years when he wrote Psalm 90. He begins by acknowledging the love, grace, and eternal nature of God for His children over the ages. "Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God"—Psalm 90:1, 2 (NIV).

At the heart of the Psalm is verse 12, which establishes the difference between God, who is from everlasting to everlasting, and us, who are finite, mortal beings. It says, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (NIV).

When I read this verse, three points come to mind:

1. Our days are numbered. While our awesome God is infinite and has been our refuge from everlasting to everlasting, that is not the case for us. We are finite like grass that "in the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered" (verse 6). The fact of the matter is we are not here forever.
2. We do not know when our last day will be. We do know that our life is in God's unchanging hand. As we live our numbered days on this

earth, depending on our choices, our hearts will either grow in wisdom and insight or in the ways of this world. If we make foolish choices, we will focus more on ourselves and our selfish temporal desires. If we grow in wisdom, we will concentrate more on helping others in their need of eternal salvation.

3. In the same way that 2022 came and is now history, we, too, will one day be relegated to the annals of history. While the things we do with our time may not necessarily lengthen our lives, our daily choices can often improve the quality of our lives. Abraham Lincoln is attributed to have said: "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

Applying our heart to wisdom leads us to focus on things of eternal value rather than living our lives based on self-centered, temporal, and worldly ideals. Self will never be satisfied, and self-focus will continually make us miserable and discontented. When we focus on helping others and their eternal needs, our hearts will overflow "with an inexpressible and glorious joy" (1 Peter 1:8, NIV). With the inexplicable joy also comes the "peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7, NKJV).

My New Year's wish for each of you reading this GLEANER is that you will choose to apply your life to wisdom. No matter what comes your way, may this year bring you joy that is anchored in the Lord and not shaken by the temporal circumstances of life. May this year bring you and your family the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. ①

Pierre E. Omeler is the president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Corporation.



"Applying our heart to wisdom leads us to focus on things of eternal value rather than living our lives based on self-centered, temporal, and worldly ideals."

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EVANGELISM

By Jose Cortes, Jr.

A few years ago, while our youth mission team was working in an area that had been devastated by an earthquake, a young adult leader asked one of the pastors of the church in that territory: “What do you need right now to help your community here?” The pastor, wearing a suit and a tie in the midst of the ruins, replied: “I need a sound system because, with all this distraction, it is challenging to preach. When I preach, they can’t hear me.” Oddly enough, amid the

and lodging for those who were left homeless and for others who were sleeping outside of their homes, afraid of being buried under the rubble if another tremor came and destroyed their already compromised homes. Every time I remember that story, which, unfortunately, our team had to experience, I realize more and more that words need a microphone, but actions don’t.

IS SOCIAL JUSTICE A DISTRACTION?

Serious concerns have been raised in the midst of what seems to be a wave of hate crimes against Asian Americans, religious crimes mostly perpetrated against Muslims and Jews, mistreatment of immigrants, the unjustified deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, and those who did not catch the eye of the media. In the protests and movements that rose from these cruel actions, I have heard the following phrases:

- “Protesting against abuse, senseless crime, and discrimination is a distraction from what we should actually be doing.”
- “With all these racial issues, religious tension, and human suffering, we cannot allow ourselves to be distracted from our mission, which is to preach the gospel and proclaim the messages of the three angels.” When I hear these phrases and

“If our mission is so vital that it does not allow us to take time to care for the needy, heal the wounded, feed the hungry, and speak up for those who are being discriminated against and mistreated, then our mission is not Jesus’ mission.”

devastation, disease, hunger, and death, our colleague’s first need was a set of speakers and a microphone so people could hear him preach.

When they heard those words, our team had the impression that they were interacting with someone who was more concerned with the message than with the people for whom the message had been given. They came together and asked me to work with another pastor who was very busy organizing food, water, medical help,

many others, I wonder if we really understand our mission. I wonder if we, as God's people, can be at peace with a gospel that proclaims the salvation of Christ for sinners, and eternal life in the future, while pretending to be blind to present human suffering. I have seen, with surprise and sadness, some use specific quotes from our pioneer and inspired writer Ellen White out of context to attack those who have seen it necessary to defend the lives of at-risk immigrants or our Asian, Muslim, Jewish, and African American brothers and sisters.

I have also seen the use of Scripture and theology to quiet protests against the crimes committed toward certain human beings. And I ask, are we okay with a "theology" that does not give us permission to speak up on behalf of the suffering? Shouldn't we have a problem with looking the other way and ignoring the pain of a group of

"If you had been the man, who was attacked and left for dead on the side of the road which church do you think you would prefer to attend—the church of the priest, the church of the Levite, or the good Samaritan's church?"

people so we can stay focused on our mission? Are these two positions mutually exclusive?

SOCIAL JUSTICE IS EVANGELISM

If you (I or our church) are willing to overlook human pain to stay focused on "the mission," and if we think this is a distraction from the preaching of the three angels' messages, then we have a lot in common with

the priest and the Levite in the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). They continued on their way after seeing the wounded and half-dead man on the side of the road.

If our mission is so vital that it does not allow us to take time to care for the needy, heal the wounded, feed the hungry, and speak up for those who are being discriminated against and mistreated, then our mission is not



“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”—Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV).

Jesus’ mission. Jesus said: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”—Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV).

Would you become a member of a church that does not care when you are mistreated? Would you join a church that does not stand by you and advocate for you when you experience discrimination and abuse because of your skin color, immigration status, religion, or social position? Would you get baptized in a church knowing that its members do not care about you or the well-being of your family?

If you had been the man who was attacked and left for dead on the side of the road, which church do you think you would prefer to attend—the church of the priest, the church of the Levite, or the good Samaritan’s church? I know which church I would want to attend when I recovered. It would definitely not be the church whose mission and message was so important that they did not have the time or felt the need to take care of me when I needed them the most.

Do not expect to successfully evangelize people you are not willing to love, care for, and defend.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IS A PART OF THE THREE ANGELS’ MESSAGES

If we proclaim a message that does not give us room to advocate for those who are unfairly denied their human rights, our message does not come from Jesus. If our message is deaf to the needs of humanity, it will be voiceless and meaningless.

One of the great things about the three angels’ messages is that they are inclusive. “Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people”—Revelation 14:6 (NIV).

In its entirety, the messages of the three angels and the gospel of Jesus are to be preached to all. That includes all races, all nationalities, and all languages. Clearly, if everyone needs to hear it, there is no place for exclusivity. If one (or several of the groups that have to listen to the messages) is being discriminated against, it is our duty, as bearers of the messages, to ensure that these groups are defended, loved, and cared for, so they, too, will have access to truth. If they do not see us as a community of love, they will never see us as a community of hope, faith, and truth.

So, next time you hear someone say that social justice is a distraction from evangelism and the three angels’ messages, tell them what Jesus said. Read the parable to them, and ask them which church they would rather attend—the priest’s, the Levite’s, or the good Samaritan’s?

And if that doesn’t convince them, remind them of this: words need a microphone, but actions don’t. ①



Jose Cortes, Jr., is an associate director of the Ministerial Association and leads evangelism, church planting, and Adventist/Global Mission for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. This article, first published by the North American Division Ministerial Association on July 15, 2020, was modified and reprinted with permission.

Nothing to Fear With God

Have you ever felt like you needed a magic wand when taking on a task that promised to stretch you? If only it were that simple. As a child, I learned that magic wands and fairy godmothers exist only in the world of fictional, childhood fantasy. In the real world, I have access to an Omnipotent God, who has promised that He will withhold no good gift if we walk uprightly. I am assured that God is in total control of everything—His creation and anything else we could undertake or imagine.

Yet, if I am to be totally transparent, I have wished for a magic wand many times over, as I have consecrated myself to a leading role in God’s work in Adventist Christian education. For example, I have had to learn and match the faces and names of 282 students, capture the nuances of their family structures, understand the work patterns of faculty and staff while establishing vibrant professional relationships, establish processes for a more efficient work environment, and not to mention the policies, handbooks, and manuals I am to read. If only I had a magic wand!

On July 1, 2022, as the newly-appointed principal of Bermuda Institute (BI), I fully appreciated Jonah’s dilemma. I decided it was best to avoid the belly-of-a-whale scenario and join God in His plans for my life. So, with respect and trepidation, I firmly planted my feet in the principal’s office and took my place at the principal’s desk. I knew this appointment was part of God’s plan for me. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) informs me that “if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, and the new is here!” I also realized that God has placed me on the Potter’s lathe to be molded

further. Another reason I accepted the role of principal at BI is that I believe anything is possible with God. As a former BI student, teacher, and present stakeholder, I have seen students of Bermuda Institute achieve incredible things with God’s help. I believe God has more planned for us in the future.

Our word for this school year is “exceptional,” and we have embarked on a transformational journey. Therefore, as I began the journey, I determined to answer the following questions: How are we doing? What are our stakeholders’ perspectives? Do they see what I see? Do they see the potential? Along with my leadership team, I decided that during the first

a God-led, community-supported, innovative future. We invite everyone to help us breathe life into our mission statement as we press toward the mark! According to Socrates, the secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old but on building the new. Therefore, one of the hallmarks of my principalship will be to move forward with a vision anchored by clarity about what is vital to BI’s stakeholders.

No, this new school year, we do not need a magic wand! This is not a fairy tale. This is the real world in a post-modern age. We don’t need to find ourselves in the belly of Jonah’s whale, either. We just need mustard

“I sincerely believe God planted within our hearts a desire for Bermuda Institute to be the premier choice for education in Bermuda!”

100 days of the school year, we would conduct an assessment of the school. We created a survey so that all BI stakeholders who believe in Adventist Christian education, and want the best for our school will have an opportunity to inform us of what is going well and where we have some growth opportunities. We would use this data to enable a more effective evaluation of programs, resources, and interventions; and to facilitate student and school success. These data points would drive our strategic plan.

As life unfolds for me in this position, the team and the school are also under construction. I sincerely believe God planted within our hearts a desire for Bermuda Institute to be the premier choice for education in Bermuda! We are committed to

seed faith to usher in the endless possibilities and realities that God has already envisioned for us. Let us embark upon a new beginning with new ideas and new energy. Let us seize the counsel of Habakkuk 2:2, and “write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.” New beginnings, ideas, and energy can be exciting and awkward, but we have nothing to fear with God at the helm. ①



Linda Holdipp is the principal of Bermuda Institute in Southampton, Bermuda.

Delegates Elect Leadership Team for Next Four Years

The Greater New York Conference held its fourth quadrennial session and 57th regular constituency session on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, New York.

Delegates elected Alanzo Smith as president; Ariel Manzueta as executive secretary; and re-elected Ysaías Javier as treasurer. Smith previously served as executive secretary with outgoing president Henry Beras. Manzueta transitions from his previous role as director of Adventist Youth Ministries/Adventist Community Services.

Delegates voted to add two churches to the sisterhood of churches: Morningside Spanish and Bethel Spanish. One company, Wingdale Spanish, was dissolved.

Throughout the daylong meeting, delegates heard reports from the conference president, executive secretary, treasurer, and Todd Mayer, an auditor from the General Conference Auditing Service. They shared information regarding the status of the conference, highlighting developments over the past four years, including the number of baptisms, church membership totals, evangelism efforts and training resources, as well as the financial standing of the organization. According to the treasurer, the conference finances improved over the quadrennial, despite the turmoil of the COVID-19 pandemic, with deficits and debts from previous years eliminated.

Delegates voted down a motion to add two vice presidents to the administration. Suggested changes to the constitution and bylaws of the conference were voted and approved, including an item making provision

for delegates to participate in meetings via electronic conference.

Departmental directors elected during the session include Adventist Youth Ministries: Emmanuel Contreras; Communication: Clavour Tucker; Ministerial: Reginald Barthelemy; Family Ministries: Samuel Peguero; Personal Ministries/Church Planting: Biana Lara; Sabbath School: Bancroft Daughma; Publishing: Daniel Sanchez; Superintendent of Schools: Maria Thomas; and Women's Ministries: Lisa Gonzalez. The executive committee will fill the Adventist Community Services, Health Ministries, and Men's Ministries positions.

Five ethnic ministries directors were also elected, including English Ministries: Lincoln Smith; Haitian Ministries: Andy Lagradelle; Hispanic Ministries: Yeury Ferreira; Korean Ministries: Sang Ki Ahn; and Multi-Ethnic Ministries: Steve Siciliano.

In addition, a new slate of members for the conference executive committee and the constitution and bylaws committee were voted to serve for the next term. These individuals will represent the members at regularly scheduled meetings.

Representatives from the Atlantic Union Conference who attended and participated in various aspects of the day's proceedings included Pierre E. Omeler, president; Ted A. Huskins, executive secretary; and Elias F. Zabala, Sr., treasurer. In addition, Todd McFarland, deputy general counsel at the General Conference, served as the session parliamentarian.



Greater New York Conference administrators: Alanzo Smith, president, center; Ariel Manzueta, executive secretary, right; and Ysaías Javier, treasurer, left.



Administrators from the Atlantic Union Conference are Henry Beras, Hispanic/Portuguese Ministries vice president, left; Elias F. Zabala, Sr., treasurer, second from left; Ted A. Huskins, executive secretary, right; Pierre E. Omeler, president, third from right; and Greater New York Conference administrators Ysaías Javier, treasurer, third from left; Alanzo Smith, president, center; and Ariel Manzueta, executive secretary, second from right.

Over the next four years, the elected officers and various committees will provide leadership to the more than 32,576 members who worship in 161 churches and 35 companies, attend eight elementary schools and one academy, and participate in several community services centers and other ministries in the conference's territory. Incoming president

Alanzo Smith told delegates he would be a leader for all constituencies represented in the diverse conference. ①

Kaara Baptiste-Harris is a journalist and member of the Greater New York Conference Communication Advisory. [Photos this spread, except where noted, are by Dawin Rodriguez.]

GNYC Communication



Sang Ki Ahn
Korean Ministries



Reginald Barthelemy
Ministerial



Emmanuel Contreras
Adventist Youth Ministries



Bancroft Daughma
Sabbath School



Yeury Ferreira
Hispanic Ministries



Lisa Gonzalez
Women's Ministries



Andy Lagrabelle
Franco-Haitian Ministries



Baniel Lara
Personal Ministries/Church Planting



Samuel Peguero
Family Ministries



Daniel Sanchez
Publishing



Steve Siciliano
Multi-Ethnic Ministries



Lincoln Smith
English Ministries

Clavour Tucker



Maria Thomas
Superintendent of Schools



Clavour Tucker
Communication



Three Young People Baptized Following the 10 Days to Finding Love and Happiness Seminar

Love. Happiness. Are they just fancy, storybook words, or are they real concepts? Can they really be obtained? Yes, they are real, and they can be obtained, in as little as 10 days, possibly. Those very ideas were the crux of a series of presentations by Jeffrey Brown, titled “10 Days to Finding Love and Happiness.”

In October 2022, Brown went to the Warwick church in Bermuda to show participants how to find love and happiness and reveal that those two things could actually be located in a pretty familiar place.

For 10 nights, Brown, who is an associate secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association and the associate editor of *MINISTRY* magazine, shared a new topic, with each collectively working as stepping stones on the path leading to love



Attendees to the “10 Days to Finding Love and Happiness” series, presented by Jeffrey Brown, receive biblical insights and practical tips to understanding what love and happiness actually entail.

and happiness. Nightly topics included, “How to Find a Good Man,” “Bermuda Idol Meets Miss Bermuda,” “You Are Not Alone,” and “God’s Dating App,” to name just a few. With each presentation,

Brown provided biblical insights and practical tips to enable participants to grasp the concepts he shared. At the end of each night, the attendees were able to move a little closer on the journey to understanding what love

and happiness actually entail.

The true beauty of the presentations was that each one was based on one of the 10 Commandments. Each topic, or stepping stone, had one of the 10



Family and friends watch as three young people who gave their hearts to the Lord during the “10 Days to Finding Love and Happiness” series prepare for baptism.



Jeffrey Brown, associate secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association and the associate editor of *MINISTRY* magazine, presents the “10 Days to Finding Love and Happiness” series.

Commandments as its core. Love and happiness, such widely sought-after ideals, could be simply realized by obeying one of the oldest systems of laws—God’s 10 Commandments. By honoring God, refusing to have idols in their lives, treating God’s name with reverence, keeping the Sabbath holy, obeying their mothers and fathers, not committing murders, being faithful to their spouses, not stealing, choosing to tell the truth, and being appreciative of what they have and not desiring what is not theirs, they can find love and happiness. When they simply adopt the 10 Commandments into their lives they can come closer to finding love and happiness. Brown showed that what people want, what many are desperately searching for, can be found in the Bible. And that was truly eye opening!



Pattiejean and Jeffrey Brown, center, are recognized by the Warwick church for sharing a paramount message regarding love and happiness with the people of Bermuda.

Photos: Ricardo Clarke

Brown and his wife, Pattiejean, who is originally from Southampton, Bermuda, have written several books on love and happiness, including *TOTAL MARRIAGE*, and *THE FOUR LOVE SEASONS*. He has pastored in England and in Canada and previously served as

the president and Family Ministries director of the Bermuda Conference.

Along with the powerful nightly messages, attendees also experienced wonderful special music, seasons of prayer, special features, and pop quizzes. Plus, there was a special presentation of the

film *Return to Palau*, and warm soup was provided at the beginning of each service. The series was a special occasion, and much thanks to the Browns for sharing such a paramount message with the people of Bermuda. The messages taught many to find love and happiness, and some truly took them to heart.

Three young people who attended gave their hearts to the Lord and were baptized at the conclusion of the meeting. Several others also revealed their interest in getting baptized at a later date. Credit for the baptismal decisions also goes to Eloise Symonds, who gave several Bible studies to the young baptismal candidates, which helped lead them to make the choice. Praise God that so many people were receptive!

—Randall Lister, member, Warwick church



Hector Quinones, Warwick church pastor, baptizes Dahlia Bosire, while her sister, Agnes Bosire, and best friend, Diana Bishop wait to be baptized.

Elmira Church Welcomes Newest Member

The Elmira church in Elmira, New York, welcomed its newest member, Darlene Gee, on Thursday, September 1, 2022. Gee was baptized on a beautiful summer afternoon in the lake at Park Station Campground and Recreation Center by Waren Muir, senior pastor, who was assisted by church elders Charles Cunningham and Luke Moss, Jr. Church members, lifeguards, and some park visitors watched the baptism from the shore.

Cunningham read the baptismal vows as Gee responded in the affirmative, and others watching recommitted to the vows in their hearts. The baptism was followed by lunch at



Elmira church elders assist Waren Muir, the church's pastor, as he baptizes Darlene Gee in the lake at Park Station Campground and Recreation Center in Erin, New York.

the church. Elmira church members officially voted Gee into membership on the following Sabbath, September 3. At that time, Gee received her baptismal certificate, the CONFLICT OF THE AGES book series, and she participated in the Communion service. Pictures of the baptism were shown on the screen for those who were unable to attend.

The Elmira church rejoices that Gee has made the decision to follow her Lord and Savior. The Lord is impressing the hearts of the people who are looking for a new place in life, and Gee's baptism is a testament to His work.

—Jim Reynolds, communication secretary, Elmira church

Retreat Attendees Experience Joy

Joy of Troy's yearly retreat in Saranac Lake, New York, was held on the

last weekend of August 2022. The Lord poured out His blessing and provided perfect weather for a vibrant group of more than 50 people who were thankful to get together since COVID-19 had put a damper on past retreats.

The theme was "Finding Joy," and the theme song was "If You Want Joy." Topics covered included "Joy in Redemption," "Joy in the Night," "Joy in a New Life," "Real Joy: Jesus in Your Heart," and "Joy in Service." Members invited their non-Adventist friends to come experience a retreat

outside of church in the beautiful Adirondacks and several visitors attended.

Everyone split into small groups for discussion and specific prayer related to each message. People made connections, young people asked how to know Jesus, and a safe place was created to ask questions, pray, fellowship, enjoy the various camp activities, and experience the Holy Spirit's presence.

—Annette Barnes, elder, Joy of Troy church



Attendees sing during worship at Joy of Troy church's yearly retreat at Camp Cherokee in Saranac Lake, New York.

Hispanic Retreat a Celebration of the Power of Unity in the Holy Spirit

Everyone is welcome to the New York Conference's annual Hispanic Retreat. However, this year took that concept to a whole new level. Three conferences within the Atlantic Union were represented at the 2022 event celebrated at Camp Cherokee located in Northern New York's Adirondack Mountains: New York Conference (NYC), Greater New York Conference, and Northeastern Conference.

Aneury Vargas, senior pastor in New York Conference's north country, was the speaker for all sessions and emphasized the need for the Holy Spirit in



Members from the Greater New York, New York, and Northeastern conferences participate in New York Conference's annual Hispanic retreat.

people's lives. Luis Mancebo, NYC Hispanic Ministries and Family Ministries director, led the general coordination of the retreat. Claudio Gomez, NYC executive secretary, also

attended the event and led out in organizing alongside Reynolds Rodriguez, NYC communication director,

Oreste Natera, Sr., senior pastor of the Buena Vista church in Utica, New York, and Josue Nico, senior pastor of the Utica, New York, district.

From August 18-22, 2022, attendees enjoyed quality time in nature, awesome food, and great outdoor activities provided by Camp Cherokee's staff. Under the direction of Dan Whitlow, NYC Youth Ministries director and Camp Cherokee director, the camp staff also led worship on Sabbath morning.

—Communication staff, New York Conference



Josue Nico, left, Utica church district senior pastor; and Oreste Natera, Sr., Buena Vista church senior pastor; look on as Luis Mancebo, New York Conference Hispanic and Family Ministries director, speaks during a panel discussion.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Constituency Session

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the 2023 Regular Quinquennial Constituency Session of the New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists called to convene at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, April 30, 2023, on the Union Springs Academy grounds, 40 Spring Street, Union Springs, NY 13160. The purpose of this meeting is:

1. To receive reports and establish future plans for the New York Conference.
2. To elect conference officers, departmental directors, an Executive Committee, a Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and a Board of Education Committee.
3. To consider amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the New York Conference.
4. To accept new churches or disband churches as may be necessary.
5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Constituency Session Regular Delegate Selection: According to the Constitution and Bylaws of the New York Conference page 7, Article III, Section 1a, "Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each fifteen (15) members or major fraction thereof and who hold membership in the local church which accredits them."

Vegetarian lunch will be provided.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Organizing Committee will convene at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 9, 2023, at the New York Conference office, 4930 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215, for the purpose of appointing members of the Nominating Committee to serve for that meeting.

Organizing Committee Delegate Selection: According to the Constitution and Bylaws of the New York Conference page 8, Article IV, Section 1a. "The Organizing Committee shall be constituted as follows: Each church represented at the Constituency Meeting shall choose or empower its delegation to choose, one (1) member plus one (1) additional member for each five hundred (500) members or a major fraction thereof."

Miguel Crespo, President
Claudio Gomez, Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE

New York Conference Association Regular Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2023 Regular Quinquennial Constituency Session of the New York Conference Association, a New York Corporation, is called to meet on the Union Springs Academy grounds, 40 Spring Street, Union Springs, NY 13160 on Sunday, April 30, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., concurrently with the regular session of the New York Conference. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates of the New York Conference Constituency Session will be the delegates for the New York Conference Association.

Vegetarian lunch will be provided.

Miguel Crespo, President
Claudio Gomez, Secretary

Northeastern Adventist Academy Hartford Is Poised to Make a Difference

Northeastern Adventist Academy Hartford Campus, formerly the Hartford Area school, is poised to make a difference in Connecticut. As the 2022-23 school year began, school administrators and teachers were pleased to see the enthusiasm of students, parents, and teachers as they walked the red carpet on the first day of school. The students received a warm greeting from the faculty and staff; Theodore Basil Sturrup, Faith church

pastor; and the school's founding principal, Deborah Richardson.

Enrollment is one of the school's greatest challenges. Competition with charter, magnet, and public schools that offer free tuition requires the school to "step up to the plate" and offer meaningful, Christ-centered, 21st-century education. Northeastern Conference Office of Education's strategic plan envisions the students becoming technological innovators and global

digital citizens. Hence, the Hartford Campus is determined not to be left behind technologically or otherwise.

Special thanks to Pastor Sturrup and the Faith church, who saw the need to collaborate with the school in making the classrooms innovative and technologically equipped by donating \$20,000 toward the purchase of interactive boards. The saying, "We should be the head and not the tail" is no longer just a passing phrase but is now the reality. Northeastern Adventist Academy Hartford Campus is determined to reawaken the interest and commitment of the Adventist parents as to why the school exists and the need to enroll their children in Adventist schools.

Ellen White advocated that Adventist schools were "intended to serve as a barrier against the wide-spread corruption, to provide for the mental and spiritual welfare of the youth, and to promote the prosperity of the nation by furnishing

it with men [and women] qualified to act in the fear of God as leaders and counselors"—EDUCATION, p. 45.

Prior to the start of the school year, Sturrup led the Faith church in a full day of fasting and prayer for the school. Afterward, the church members transitioned to the school and prayed in every classroom with the teachers. On Sabbath, September 3, 2022, the church held a consecration and dedication service for the students, parents, teachers, administrators, and all stakeholders. Sturrup challenged everyone to press toward the mark. By God's grace, they will completely rely on God's promise throughout the year which says: "being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ"—Philippians 1:6, NKJV.

—Wayne Edwards, principal, Northeastern Adventist Academy Hartford Campus



Northeastern Adventist Academy Hartford Campus students, parents, teachers, administrators, and stakeholders attend the September 3, 2022, consecration and dedication service.

Berea-Nyack Church Recognizes Leaders in the Community



The 2022 Berea-Nyack church's leadership and charitable award honorees.

The Berea church in Nyack, New York, has honored its pastors for nine years through a leadership and charitable award, an initiative cofounded by Frances Pratt and Horace Turnbull. On October 27, 2022, the church continued the nine-year tradition of shifting the platform from the pulpit to the community.

October has been designated by Christians

worldwide as Clergy Appreciation Month. According to the General Conference, on Pastor's Appreciation Day, church members from more than 150,000 congregations in 215 countries worldwide may express gratitude to God and recognize their pastor. With Berea-Nyack, however, it is a community affair.

"It is all about the community," said Pratt

during the award ceremony attended by elected officials and other community leaders from across the county at the famous Nyack Seaport restaurant. It was also inspiring to have the involvement of

Nathan Delevante, the youngest speaker during the ceremony. Rochell Burke of the Nyack Center was the Charitable Recipient, and Virginia Norfleet was the Community Honoree. Cornell Jackson, the

church's pastor, received the award and citations from the State of New York and county officials on Saturday, October 29.

Berea-Nyack thanks all the sponsors and supporters of this endeavor and looks

forward to continuing to bridge the gaps and forging partnerships between the church and community.

—Communication team, Berea-Nyack church

Federation Members Encouraged to Get Up and Go!

Get Up and Go!" was the rousing theme and charge at the 54th annual Northeastern Conference Personal Ministries (NEC PM) Federation Convention, September 16-18, 2022, at Camp Victory Lake, in Hyde Park, New York. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and expectancy as the officers and delegates received a reprieve from the devastating pressures and confines of social distancing.

Walton Rose, NEC PM director, began the convention with a rousing message for the opening service on Friday night. This was also the first Personal Ministries convention conducted by Rose as the new Northeastern Conference PM director. Rose had already distinguished himself with the Lay School of Evangelism and the Lay Preaching and Technology Seminars held earlier in 2022. J. Kendall Guy, the former NEC PM director and Prison Ministries director, served with great distinction for the previous nine years. His dedication to these ministries was invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Elections

Every four years the Personal Ministries Federation elects new

officers. In 2022, the Federation elected Adrian Alvaranga to serve as the new PM Federation executive president. Godfred Ansa, former PM Federation executive president, served for many decades, and his dedicated service to the PM Federation was greatly appreciated. He certainly proved himself to be a valuable asset to the building up of God's kingdom.

Revival

During the convention, the Spirit of the Living God tabernacled among them and fell afresh on each participant at the convention. Each face shone with the glory of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Hearts were refreshed; lives were recommitted and transformed by the new resolve to "Get Up and Go!" in obedience to the thematic clarion call given by God's messengers.

On Friday evening, Rose gave a devotional message based on Mark 2:1-5, encouraging the attendees to "Keep on Going." During the early Sabbath morning devotion, NEC pastor Uba Ogbuehi, showed attendees God's "Divine Orchestration" from Acts 16:9-10; 22-34. During the worship service, Orville Brissett, a pastor from the Allegheny East



Northeastern Conference Personal Ministries Federation officers and speakers pose for a group photo at the 2022 Personal Ministries Federation Convention. From left are: Uba Ogbuehi, NEC pastor; Orville Brissett, Allegheny East Conference pastor; Walton Rose, NEC PM director; Stephen Williams, NEC pastor; and Anthony Usher, Northeastern Conference assistant Personal Ministries director.



The Northeastern Conference Personal Ministries Federation celebrates its 54th annual conference at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York.

Conference, taught them "Lessons Learned at Horeb" through Exodus 3:10-12. Rose closed out the session on Sunday morning with the charge to "Get Up and Go, Together," focusing on Matthew 28:18-20. The delegates left the convention

with their hearts aflame and their ears ringing with the resounding commission, "Get Up and Go!"

—Edward E. Baptiste, Jr., executive first vice president, Northeastern Conference Personal Ministries Federation

Claremont and Plainfield Churches Share Living Water

“How can we reach our communities?” has been a question often asked by Seventh-day Adventist churches in Claremont and Plainfield, New Hampshire. One answer that surfaced was for both churches to jointly sponsor a booth at the local Cornish Fair—a fair that has annually attracted some 25,000 people over a three-day weekend in August. The fair consists of livestock 4-H competitions, draft horse and oxen sled pulling, a petting zoo, rides, musical concerts, art displays, vendors and, of course, lots of food.

The Cornish Fair has been a major community attraction since 1949. The 2022 fair promised even greater crowds, with individuals desiring to socialize after being “cooped up” during the pandemic these last two years. Planning for a booth at the fair soon expanded to the Estabrook Christian School, Plainfield’s church school, and they rented

space right next to the Plainfield/Claremont church tent. The question yet remained: How should the booths be showcased? God answered many prayers on how to show His love to fair attendees.

Volunteers offered free bottles of water to all who walked by the two exhibit tents. As guests approached the tents, they could see three backdrop posters. One poster asked the question: “Does Life Matter?” The second read: “For God So Loved the World. . . .” The third stated: “You Matter to God.” Visitors could choose from free literature on display, such as pocket versions of *SIGNS OF THE TIMES*, *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, and *STEPS TO CHRIST*. Guests also received a business card with each bottle of water. One side of the card had the name, address, contact information, and worship hours of the Claremont church; the other side had the same information for the Plainfield church. Both children and parents



A volunteer plays music to draw passersby to the Estabrook school tent at the Cornish Fair.

were interested in cards promoting Your Story Hour and Life Talk Radio. Many guests also enjoyed free, relaxing back massages.

The Estabrook school booth was also very popular. Children received animal balloons as parents learned about the benefits



Parents observe as children receive balloon sculptures at one of the tents.



Visitors talk with a volunteer staffing the Claremont/Plainfield church tent at the fair.



A visitor to the booth enjoys a relaxing massage.

of this small Christian school. Ellen Busl, a retired Estabrook teacher, exclaimed, “Doing the fair booth helped us to meet many local families, and it gave us good exposure to families and children. Our location near the rides was a good place to be.” Santosh Rao and Nicole Conn volunteered all day, both Sabbath and Sunday. “The fair was a great opportunity to meet and share God’s love and to meet individuals interested in knowing more about Jesus,” remarked Conn. David Kim, pastor of both the Plainfield and Claremont churches, had an “Interest Box” for people to submit their names and

contact information to receive more information.

Twenty-four participants hosted the two booths with each wearing a blue t-shirt. Church members were incredibly grateful for the positive interactions they experienced. Plans are underway for both churches and school to again sponsor booths at the 2023 Cornish Fair. Church members will never know the full outcome of these efforts until they get to heaven.

—Julie Kim, member and wife of Pastor David Kim, Claremont and Plainfield churches

The Spark of Baptism at Auburn Church

Some of the many highlights of pastoral life are the baptisms they are blessed to perform for those precious individuals who have chosen to follow Christ. In 2022, Cornel Preda, pas-

tor of the Mt. Blue district, which includes the Dixfield, Farmington, and Auburn churches in Maine, encouraged and baptized seven people over several Sabbaths, adding them to the Auburn church congregation.

Those who were baptized started with Molly, who encouraged her family and friends, which resulted in Brandi, Warren, and Damion making a decision for baptism. As it often happens, Venice, Devon, and Jasmine—who were already members—were inspired to recommit their lives to the Lord and were later rebaptized. The church members are elated, and they continue



Cornel Preda, Mt. Blue district pastor, stands with members and newly-baptized members Matt, Brandi, Damion, A.J., Warren, Heather, Carol, and Molly.

to love and encourage each of them in their relationship with Christ.

There is nothing like the excitement new members bring to the rest of the congregation. Church

leaders and Pastor Preda are developing mentoring plans to help the new members as they grow in Christ.

—Linda Dayen, story editor, Northern New England Conference



Cornel Preda, Mt. Blue district pastor, shares some words before baptizing Molly.

Southern New England Conference Accepts the Call to Go



Southern New England Conference employees and volunteer leaders pose for a photo during workers meeting at the College Church in Lancaster, Massachusetts.

As the fall season began in New England, the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) embarked on a new quadrennial term under the leadership of Robert Folkenberg, Jr., who was elected president at the conference's 38th constituency session on September 11, 2022.

While adjusting to a new place, learning names of co-workers, and trying to find accommodations, Folkenberg assembled a team to orchestrate the inauguration stages of a conference-wide, four-year plan. Named the "All Together Planning Committee," the group consisted of individuals who accepted the challenge to plan and execute several meetings that included members of the SNEC office staff. The "All Together" team met several times and announced plans for a virtual week of prayer open to everyone in the Southern New England Conference territory.

The Week of Prayer ran from October 15-22, via Zoom and Facebook live.

Videos, flyers, posters, bulletin inserts, and emails were sent to churches and pastors, asking that they promote this event. While the members prayed nightly, workers, and members of the "All Together Planning Committee" engaged in planning the upcoming workers meeting during the day which, for the first time, would include office workers, pastors, principals, and volunteer leaders. The workers meeting, held October 25, paved the way for all SNEC leadership to converge, prayerfully connect, and share their vision for the Southern New England Conference.

Employees and volunteer leaders arrived at the College Church in Lancaster, Massachusetts, for the workers meeting with anticipation for what the day would reveal. After a brief registration and announcements, attendees participated in a time of praise, worship, and prayer. Folkenberg challenged everyone with his sermon titled "Lord, Show Us the Way."

Participants attended three breakout brainstorming groups organized by region, language, and interests. After each breakout session, the group's moderator presented to everyone what was discussed and highlighted the main concerns or recommendations. The day ended the same way it started—with a lot of enthusiasm, energy, and the challenge to answer the call, "Yes! I will go."

As a result of the workers meeting, SNEC administrators, in consultation with all department leaders, synthesized all the ideas and established five overarching goals for the four-year term with each having corresponding Key Performance Indicators (KPI). The goals, along with the corresponding KPIs were presented to the executive committee (EXCOM) on November 13. The EXCOM reviewed the goals and overwhelmingly accepted them. The goals presented to the EXCOM were to faithfully grow God's kingdom:

1. "Together in Mission: I Will Go,"
2. To dynamically provide discipleship opportunities for our members,
3. To prioritize engaging our children/youth in the mission of the church,
4. To widen and deepen the work of Adventist education in our conference, and
5. To proactively engage in meeting the needs of our community.

In *CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP*, p. 11, Ellen G. White states, "Be sure to pray and counsel together before laying your plans, and then, in the Spirit of Christ, push the work unitedly." The Southern New England Conference leadership invites each member to prayerfully accept the call today and say, "Yes! I will go."

—Carolyn Woods, administrative assistant, Southern New England Conference

Online Week of Prayer Unites Conference

Southern New England Conference (SNEC) took the initiative to organize a Week of Prayer via Zoom for all its constituency members. It was an amazing week! They were able to fellowship with brothers and sisters from different ethnic groups and languages and worship as one big family. It is the first time that this kind of event was organized by the conference, and the feedback from the members was extraordinary.

Each night leaders led a short devotional and directed the attendees to pray for SNEC conference leaders, churches, academies, teachers, youth, and church planting. Then those participating on Zoom submitted prayer requests. It was amazing to hear and pray for the many events occurring in the

conference, as well as to pray for those facing illness and challenging times.

Every night, more than 250 people joined the program on Zoom and some also joined on Facebook Live. Prayers went up to God through the different languages. While, at times, not everyone could understand what was being said, God heard every one of them, and He will answer in His perfect time.

People began to notice each other as they spent time together each night. It was amazing how a sister acknowledged the presence of a young girl who logged on each night for the worship service. Families and couples of all ages came together every night to hear God's Word and pray.

Miracles happen when God's people pray!

Mountains are moved when God's people pray! When God's people unite as one in prayer, He leads them and they can hear His voice despite all the commotion of the world. During one of the devotionals, Danny Velez, SNEC Youth Ministries director, encouraged everyone by reminding them that "Now is the Time." Now is the time to (1) wake up; (2) clean up (cast off the works of darkness); and (3) put on (the armor of God).

Robert Folkenberg, Jr., SNEC president, and his wife, Audrey, ended the week by encouraging the participants to proclaim the three angels' messages. He challenged them that now is the time to dedicate themselves to serving God and letting Him lead while working together in mission for Him. God has

plans for His people, His leaders, volunteers, and staff at the Southern New England Conference. He has promised in His Word, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future," Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV). The verse could also be paraphrased in this way: "For I know the plans I have for you, Southern New England Conference, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." May God bless this work as the conference unites to proclaim His Word to those waiting to hear it and work together in mission as they go and share Him!

—Evelyn Santana, member, Redemption Community church

New Members Added Following the "God Can Help You" Evangelistic Outreach

During the week of October 22-29, 2022, the Jamaica Plain Spanish church held a Week of Evangelism with the theme "God Can Help You." The speaker was Ebanildo Rosario-Mejías, Jamaica Plain Spanish church elder. Every night he opened the Word of God and appealed to the attendees to allow God to help them overcome their challenges. He reminded them that God already has a solution for every problem and the challenges and problems they would face in the days ahead.



Standing with the seven newly-baptized and members are Brandy Peralta, pastor and member of the Jamaica Plain Spanish church, left; Ebanildo Rosario-Mejías, Jamaica Plain Spanish church elder, second from left; and Eduardo Rodriguez, Jamaica Plain Spanish church pastor, right.

In preparation for this event, Brandy Peralta, pastor and member of the Jamaica Plain Spanish church, conducted a baptismal class that

led to seven baptisms, and six people were added on profession of faith. Eduardo Rodriguez, Jamaica Plain Spanish church pastor, along

with his teams of elders and lay volunteers, are studying the Bible with an additional 40 interests and preparing them for baptism.

May the Lord continue to bless the efforts of the Jamaica Plain church as the members respond to the call to work together in mission for the cause of Christ. Let each member answer the call of Jesus and say: "Yes, I will go!"

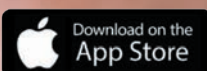
—Robert Folkenberg, Jr., president, Southern New England Conference

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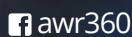
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"The power of the Lord was with Jesus,
enabling him to heal." Luke 5:17



HEALTH MINISTRIES
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nadhealth.org/events

Sunset Calendar

Eastern Standard Time*

	Feb. 3	Feb. 10	Feb. 17	Feb. 24	Mar. 3	Mar. 10	Mar. 17	Mar. 24	Mar. 31
Bangor, ME	4:47	4:57	5:07	5:16	5:26	5:35	6:44	6:53	7:02
Portland, ME	4:55	5:05	5:14	5:24	5:33	5:42	6:50	6:59	7:07
Boston, MA	5:02	5:11	5:20	5:29	5:37	5:45	6:54	7:02	7:09
South Lancaster, MA	5:04	5:13	5:22	5:31	5:39	5:48	6:56	7:04	7:12
Pittsfield, MA	5:10	5:19	5:28	5:37	5:46	5:54	7:02	7:10	7:18
Hartford, CT	5:09	5:18	5:27	5:36	5:44	5:52	7:00	7:08	7:15
Providence, RI	5:04	5:13	5:22	5:30	5:39	5:47	6:55	7:03	7:10
New York, NY	5:17	5:25	5:34	5:42	5:50	5:58	7:05	7:13	7:20
Albany, NY	5:12	5:21	5:30	5:39	5:48	5:56	7:04	7:12	7:20
Utica, NY	5:17	5:26	5:35	5:44	5:53	6:02	7:10	7:18	7:27
Syracuse, NY	5:20	5:30	5:39	5:48	5:57	6:05	7:14	7:22	7:30
Rochester, NY	5:26	5:35	5:45	5:54	6:03	6:11	7:20	7:28	7:36
Buffalo, NY	5:31	5:41	5:50	5:59	6:08	6:16	7:24	7:33	7:41
Keene, NH	5:05	5:14	5:24	5:33	5:41	5:50	6:58	7:07	7:15
Manchester, NH	5:02	5:11	5:20	5:29	5:38	5:47	6:55	7:03	7:11
Portsmouth, NH	4:59	5:08	5:17	5:26	5:35	5:44	6:52	7:00	7:09
Brattleboro, VT	5:06	5:16	5:25	5:34	5:43	5:51	6:59	7:08	7:16
Burlington, VT	5:05	5:15	5:25	5:35	5:44	5:53	7:02	7:11	7:19
Rutland, VT	5:06	5:16	5:25	5:35	5:44	5:52	7:01	7:10	7:18
Hamilton, Bda	5:55	6:01	6:07	6:13	6:18	6:24	7:29	7:33	7:38

Daylight Saving Time begins on March 12.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified candidates for the following positions: Salaried position—Marketing and University Relations Digital Engagement Manager. Hourly positions—(cafeteria) Cafeteria Floater, Cafeteria Worker, and Cook Coordinator; (Village Market) Deli Lunch Cook/Supervisor, Deli Floater, Vitamin Associate, and Procurement and Merchandising Assistant; The Garden Assistant Manager (Food Services); (Plant Services) Painting Technician, Plumbing Master Technician, and Housing Technician; Gym-Kid Director (Health and Kinesiology), Customer Support Supervisor (Workstation Support), and Patrol Officer (Campus Safety). For a detailed description and qualifications, see southern.edu/jobs.

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TRAVEL

ADVENTIST TOURS 2023 Israel: April 16-25 and June 4-13 with Andy Nash, and June 18-27 with Clifford Goldstein; Revelation's Seven Churches/Patmos/Greece: March 22-April 2; Egypt/Jordan/Israel: March 28-April 16, 2024; British Reformation: June 9-17, German Reformation: June 16-28, 2024.

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OBITUARIES

BRACETTI, Rosaura—47; b. July 28, 1975, in Atlantic City, N.J.; d. Oct. 5, 2022, in Monson, Mass. She was a member of the Hudson church in Hudson, Mass., where her husband and partner in ministry, David S. Bracetti, serves as pastor. She was involved in organizing and leading Vacation Bible School and Pathfinders. She is survived by her husband David S. Bracetti of Monson, Mass.; son Elias Bracetti of Monson, Mass.; two daughters Ciara Bracetti of Worcester, Mass., and Mariana Bracetti of Monson, Mass.; her mother Hilda Rodriguez of Worcester, Mass., and sister Hilda Rosado of Webster, Mass.

HODDER, Judith (Carey)—79; b. July 13, 1943, in Takoma Park, Md.; d. Nov. 4, 2022, in Leominster, Mass. She was a member of the College Church in Lancaster, Mass. She worked in Adventist education for more than 40 years. She served as administrator to the dean of students for 24 years at Atlantic Union College, and seven years at Union Springs Academy. She served at South Lancaster Academy as both principal and vice principal prior to her retirement. She is survived by three daughters, Christina Louise (Brian) Ronco, Lauri Jo, and Vicki; a sister, Charlene Carey; a son-in-law, Carlton Bailey; six grandchildren, Carrol Bailey, Prudence Bailey, Jillian Kokocinski, Colby Ronco, Evan Ronco, and Angela Christine LeClair; and two great-grandchildren.

LAING, Ronald D.—88; b. May 1, 1934, in Westfield, Maine; d. July 26, 2022, in Oxford, Maine. He was a member of the Oxford church in Oxford, Maine. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Dudley Laing of Oxford, Maine; their two daughters Judith (Matthew) Lombard of Milton-Freewater, Ore., and Jacqueline

(John) Rathbun of Lake Mary, Fla.; five grandchildren, Adam Lombard, Lindsey Lombard Hales, Ronilea Lombard, Danielle Rathbun, and Kelsey Rathbun Servi; and six great-grandchildren.

MATTHEWS, Gloria E.—91; b. Apr. 6, 1931, in East Lempster, N.H.; d. July 6, 2022, in Tolland, Conn. She was one of the founding members who built the Rockville-Tolland church in Tolland, Conn., and served in many roles at the church, including as treasurer and clerk for more than 40 years. She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Malcolm E. Matthews of Tolland, Conn.; a daughter, Alison Harris and her partner, Phillip Dunham of Tolland, Conn.; a sister, Dorothy (Alexander) Usko of Westbrook, Conn.; a granddaughter, Kristina Harris and her partner, Alex Shambach of Camp Hill, Penn.; and two great-grandchildren.

McKINNEY, Oscar J.—86; b. Mar. 30, 1936, in Washington, D.C.; d. Aug. 18, 2022, in Dallas, Texas. He graduated from South Lancaster Academy in 1955. He was a member of the Bethesda church in Albuquerque, N.M., and later attended the Dallas City Temple church in Dallas, Texas, until his passing. He is survived by his ex-wife, Bertha McKinney of Dallas, Texas; their four children, Sharon McKinney and Carolyn McKinney, both of Dallas, Texas; Michael McKinney of Albuquerque, N.M.; and Debra (Richard) Cuadro of Orange, Mass.; six siblings, John (Gloria) McKinney of Albuquerque, N.M., Samuel (Brenda) McKinney of Atlanta, Ga., Lucy McKinney of Atlanta, Ga., Elizabeth McKinney of Albuquerque, N.M., Lavinia (Chico) Young of Arlington, Texas, and Jerome (Thao) McKinney of Seminole, Okla.; seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

RATHBUN, Charles W.—89; b. Dec. 10, 1932, in Malden, Mass.; d. May 11, 2022, in Winchester, Mass. He was a member of the Stoneham church in Stoneham, Mass. He graduated from Atlantic Union College in 1959. For 16 years, he taught and, in some instances, served as principal at various Adventist schools including San Pasqual Academy in California, Hartford school in Connecticut, Culver school in New York, Shenandoah Valley school in Virginia, and Greater Boston Academy in Massachusetts. He is survived by six children, Dave (Gina) Rathbun of Tampa, Fla., John (Jacqueline Laing) Rathbun of Lake Mary, Fla., Paul (Marilyn Bertsch) Rathbun of Winter Park, Fla., Martha (Michael) Peddle of Tewksbury, Mass., Mark (Mary Bertsch) of Port Orange, Fla., and Mary Rathbun DeSantis of Apopka, Fla.; 12 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

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