

A photograph of a classroom scene. In the background, a female teacher with dark hair, wearing a green shirt, is smiling and has her right hand raised. In the foreground, several students are seated at their desks. A girl with long blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a blue shirt, is seen from behind. Next to her, a boy with short dreadlocks, wearing a blue and green shirt, is also seen from behind with his right hand raised. Other students' hands and parts of their bodies are visible in the foreground and background, all appearing engaged in a classroom activity.

ATLANTIC UNION

GLEANER

MARCH/APRIL 2026

ADVENTIST EDUCATION

Called to Lead, Ready to Serve

SIDEWALK INVITATION
RESULTS IN BAPTISM

CHRIST THE ULTIMATE
EDUCATOR

SMALL GROUP—BIG HEART

Inside MARCH/APRIL 2026

- 4** Atlantic Union Conference News Briefs
- 6** Christ the Ultimate Educator
- 8** Adventist Education: Called to Lead, Ready to Serve
- 14** Bermuda Conference
- 16** Greater New York Conference
- 18** New York Conference
- 20** Northeastern Conference
- 22** Northern New England Conference
- 24** Southern New England Conference
- 28** Advertisements/Announcements
- 29** Sunset Calendar

March/April 2026, Vol. 125, No. 2. The Atlantic Union GLEANER is published bimonthly by the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 400 Main Street, Lancaster, MA 01523-2804. Printed by Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Rd., Nampa, ID 83687-3193. Standard postage paid at Nampa, ID 83687. Annual subscription price, \$10.00. NEW OR RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: Mail new or renewal subscriptions to Atlantic Union GLEANER, 400 Main Street, Lancaster, MA 01523-2804. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version (KJV) | Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. | Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover iStock 1172286440



Sign up for the
GLEANER FYI
weekly newsletter
delivered to your
inbox.



*"The Great Commission calls every believer to reflect the Son and share His love with the world."
— p. 9*

View the **GLEANER**
online with your
smartphone or tablet.



Dear Teachers, Thank You!

I attended Adventist schools from first grade through my freshman year of college. When I look back on those years, I remember more than classrooms and assignments — I remember teachers. Godly men and women whose influence shaped not only my education but, I believe, the person I am today.

From Mrs. Janet Vigil, my fourth-grade teacher at Crestview Elementary school, to Mrs. Crystal Green, Mr. Paul Jones, and Mr. Donald Bedney at Pine Forge Academy, and many more — each left a lasting imprint. Their tough love and high expectations refused to let me settle for less than my best. At the time, I'm sure I didn't appreciate it. Today, I recognize it as an act of love.

The North American Division Office of Education describes the philosophy of Adventist education this way:

"Adventist education seeks to develop a life of faith in God and respect for the dignity of all human beings; to build character akin to that of the Creator; to nurture thinkers rather than mere reflectors of others' thoughts; to promote loving service rather than selfish ambition; to ensure maximum development of each individual's potential; and to embrace all that is true, good, and beautiful."

When I read those words, I think of the teachers who embodied them. The ones who didn't simply teach lessons but lived their calling. Those are the educators who remain etched in my heart.

Adventist education, like any human endeavor, is not perfect. Yet in the hands of Spirit-filled teachers who take their sacred responsibility seriously, it becomes a powerful force for good — one that pushes back darkness in a broken world and helps young people see who they can become in Christ.

I'm sure there were days when my teachers wondered whether I would ever outgrow my classroom shenanigans or amount to much at all. Still, they persevered. They invested in me because they saw potential beyond my foolishness. And isn't that, after all, what Jesus does for each of us?

So today, I say thank you to all the "Mrs. Vigils" and "Mr. Joneses" serving in our schools. Your sacrifices matter. Your faithfulness leaves a legacy. Long after report cards and childish antics are forgotten, the impact of your work remains — shaping lives in ways you may never fully see. I know, because I am one of those lives.

Debra Banks Cuadro is the Atlantic Union Conference communication director and GLEANER editor.



*I'm sure
there were
days when
my teachers
wondered
whether I
would ever
outgrow my
classroom
shenanigans
or amount
to much at
all. Still, they
persevered.*

New Teacher Orientation Continues Cycle of Excellence

Some came to begin their careers. Others came to begin again. All arrived at Camp Winnekeag with the same purpose: to prepare for a new academic year of shaping minds and reaching hearts for Jesus.

Forty-four teachers and administrators from across the Atlantic Union met at Camp Winnekeag in Ashburnham, Massachusetts, Sept. 29–30, 2025, for a two-day orientation for newly

graduated educators and those new to the Atlantic Union.

Participants expressed appreciation for the training. Seminars included “School Culture and Mission,” “Classroom Management and Curriculum Support,” and sessions on education policy, technology resources and leadership.

“I learned a lot of things I didn’t know and met new friends and family,” one attendee said. “It was an awesome experience.”

A highlight of the orientation was welcoming two recent university graduates into the workforce, including a South Lancaster Academy alum who returned to teach in the Atlantic Union.

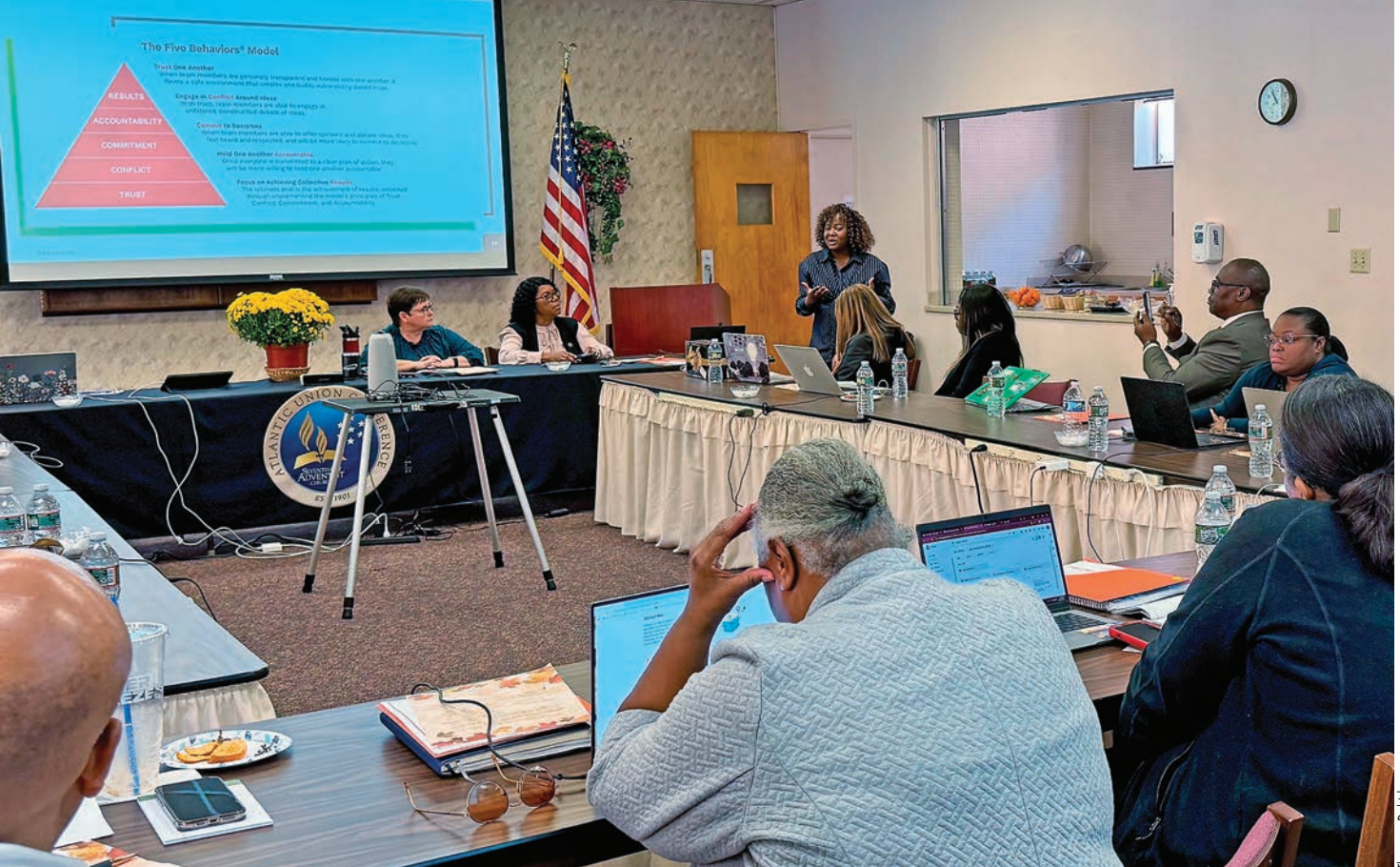
When former students return as teachers and new graduates step into their first classrooms, the cycle of Adventist education comes full circle. The Atlantic Union’s ongoing investment in its educators signals a commitment not only to academic excellence, but to shaping the next generation of servant-leaders.

—Theresa Rubidoux, education associate director, Atlantic Union Conference



Theresa Rubidoux

Marlene Alvarez, right, Atlantic Union Conference vice president for education, presents a gift to Tristan Ramey, a South Lancaster Academy alum who is now teaching at Greater Boston Academy.



Theresa Robidoux

Education leaders listen attentively as Seanna-Kaye Denham-Wilks, chief experience officer at NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County, presents.

Education Leaders Gather to Advance Mission and Strategy

Strong schools begin with strong leadership. That focus guided the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education Administrators Council as it gathered for its biannual meeting in October as part of its strategy to strengthen schools through mentorship, professional development, and mission alignment.

The gathering at the Atlantic Union headquarters in Lancaster, Massachusetts, brought together conference superintendents of schools, academy principals, and an elementary school principal for training and collaboration with industry leaders from across the North American Division (NAD).

Presenters included Nikkia Hampton-Gibbs, assistant superintendent of schools for the South Central Conference; Seanna-Kaye Denham-Wilks, chief experience officer at NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County; and Bordes Henry Saturne, leadership

department chair and associate professor of educational leadership at Andrews University.

Under the theme “Positioned to Serve,” attendees participated in seminars focused on leadership, culture and instructional effectiveness.

“I loved everything,” one attendee said. “Thank you for these valuable resources and time well spent.”

Seminar topics included “Unlocking Standards-Based Learning Success: The High Reliability School Advantage,” “Leadership Interpersonal Differences and Dynamics in the School Setting,” and “The Distinctive Culture of Adventist Schools.” Attendees also received education reports from each conference.

Sherina Phillips, associate superintendent of schools for the Northeastern Conference and the Atlantic Union representative on the

NAD Adventist Education Technology Committee, presented updates on technology initiatives across Adventist education.

As leaders returned to their conferences and campuses, they carried more than notes from presentations. They returned with a renewed sense of responsibility for the schools and students they serve.

Throughout the meetings, 1 Peter 4:10 provided a spiritual framework: “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (NKJV). For these administrators, stewardship means guiding their schools with clarity, supporting their teachers and keeping the gospel commission at the center of every decision.

—Theresa Robidoux, education associate director, Atlantic Union Conference

Christ

the Ultimate Educator



Jesus did not despise education. The highest culture of the mind, if sanctified through the love and the fear of God, receives his fullest approval. The humble men chosen by Christ were with him three years, subject to the refining influence of the Majesty of Heaven. Christ was the greatest educator the world ever knew.

God will accept the youth with their talent, and their wealth of affection, if they will consecrate themselves to him. They may reach to the highest point of intellectual greatness; and if balanced by religious principle they can carry forward the work which Christ came from Heaven to accomplish, and in thus doing be co-workers with the Master....

The Giver expects returns corresponding to the gifts. The humblest gift is not to be despised or left inactive. The little rivulet does not say, I will not flow along my narrow channel because I am not a mighty river. The spires of grass do not refuse to grow because they are not forest trees. The lamp does not refuse to give its little light because it is not a star. The moon and stars do not refuse to shine because they have not the brilliant light of the sun. Every person has his own peculiar sphere and vocation. Those who make the most of their God-given opportunities will return to the Giver, in their improvement, an interest proportionate to the intrusted capital.

The Lord does not reward the great amount of labor. He does not regard the greatness of the work so much as the fidelity with which it is done. The good and faithful servants are rewarded. As we cultivate the powers God has given us here, we shall increase in knowledge and perception, and be enabled to comprehend and value the immortal life. Those who have abused their God-given privileges in this life, and have been content with their ignorance, having their minds completely occupied with subjects of trivial value to themselves or others, will not comprehend personal responsibility, subdue evil tendencies, and strengthen high resolves for a purer, higher, holier life.

The youth should be learners for the next world. Perseverance in the acquisition of knowledge, controlled by the fear and love of God, will give them an increased power for good in this life, and those who have made the most of their privileges to reach the highest attainments here, will take these valuable acquisitions with them into the future life. They have sought and obtained that which is imperishable. The capability to appreciate the glories that “eye hath not seen, nor ear heard,” will be proportionate to the attainments reached in the cultivation of the faculties in this life.

Those who will empty their hearts of vanity and rubbish, through the grace of God may purify the chambers of the mind, and make it a store-house of knowledge, purity, and truth. And it will be continually reaching beyond the narrow boundaries of worldly thought, into the vastness of the Infinite. The justice and mercy of God will be unfolded to the moral perceptions. The grievous character of sin, with its results, will be discerned. The character of God, his love manifested in giving his Son to die for the world, and the beauty of holiness, are exalted themes for contemplation. These will strengthen the intellect and bring man into close communion with the Infinite One.

Excerpt written by Ellen G. White, author and co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, published in THE REVIEW AND HERALD, June 21, 1877.

Christ
was the
greatest
educator
the world
ever knew.



ADVENTIST EDUCATION

Called to Lead, Ready to Serve

Discipleship is most powerful when faith moves—shaping hearts within and transforming lives beyond the classroom. The world needs hope. And we have this hope in Jesus Christ—God’s greatest Gift to provide the solution that the world needs.

The Great Commission calls every believer to reflect the Son and share His love with the world. For students across the Atlantic Union, that calling is becoming a lived experience as they learn that shining their light is not simply an idea or concept, but a daily choice expressed through worship, service, and leadership. When young people discover that serving God can be both purposeful and intentional, they are compelled to say, “I will serve Thee because I love Thee. You have given life to me.”

At the same time, discipleship begins within—deep inside—through changed

hearts and minds softened by the Holy Spirit’s influence. Before students can lead others, their own faith must be strengthened, nurtured, and grounded in Christ. Across our schools, this dual focus has become clear through initiatives that reach outward through service and mission, and others that are intentionally focused on in-reach experiences. All of God’s children are to “be taught by the Lord” (Isaiah 54:13, NIV), and both approaches are necessary to deepen our students’ spiritual lives.

This holistic vision reflects the mission of the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education: to provide leadership and coordination for elementary schools and academies throughout the union territory by training students to lead, empowering them to serve, and inspiring them to be ready. Partnering with the North American Division’s

Pentecost 2025 initiative further encouraged schools to embrace discipleship as both spiritual formation and active mission. Through these experiences, students are discovering that each one can reach one. Individually and collectively, they have an integral role in sharing the good news of the gospel.

The five profiles that follow offer a glimpse into this full picture of discipleship—stories of young people growing deeper in their faith while learning to show it tangibly in service to others. Together, they remind us that when students are trained to lead, empowered to serve, and inspired to be ready, mission becomes more than a program; it becomes a way of life.

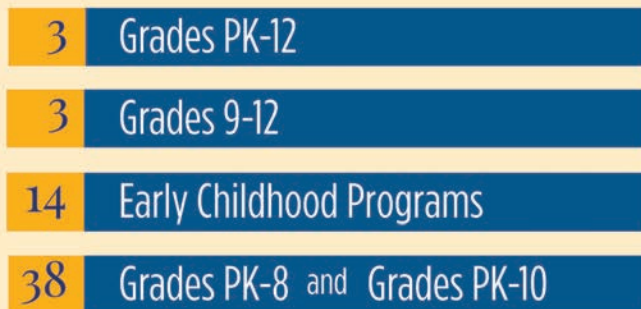
Marlene Alvarez serves as vice president for the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education.



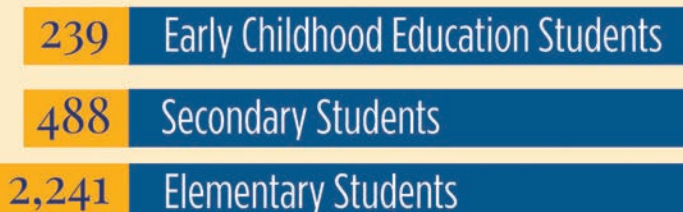
Atlantic Union Conference Education Statistics

2025-2026 School Year | source: adventisteducation.org

58 Total Schools & ECPs



2,968 Total Students



PK-12 Schools by Conference



335 Teachers and Administrators

Greater New York Academy

WOODSIDE, NEW YORK | GRADES: 9-12

PASTORS AND STUDENTS 'PARTNER WITH PURPOSE'

Greater New York Academy (GNYA) recently hosted pastors from the Greater New York Conference for “Partnering With Purpose,” a special event aimed at building stronger ties between churches and Adventist education.

Even with the winter weather, pastors came with energy and dedication, showing their strong support for students and Christian education. The day started with a look at the new gymnasium, then a campus tour led by student leaders. An uplifting chapel program and a shared meal gave everyone time to connect and reflect.

One of the best parts of the event was hearing students thank their teachers. They talked about feeling supported, challenged, and inspired every day, which showed how dedicated GNYA's educators are.

Dr. Alanzo Smith, president of the Greater New York Conference, spoke about the purpose of Christian education and encouraged pastors to keep supporting Adventist schools in their churches. His words highlighted how important partnership is for the mission of Adventist education.



Pastors pose for a group photo at the “Partnering With Purpose” event.

The Greater New York Conference thanks the principal, teachers, staff, and students of Greater New York Academy for their hard work and warm welcome at this event. Their dedication made the day meaningful for everyone who attended.

As pastors head back to their churches, we hope this event inspires them to keep supporting Seventh-day

Adventist education. “Partnering With Purpose” shows our shared mission to help young people grow as leaders and serve others. By working together, we move forward with purpose.

Maria E. Thomas is the superintendent of schools for the Greater New York Conference.

Kingsbury Seventh-day Adventist School

HUDSON FALLS, NEW YORK | GRADES: PREK-8

STUDENTS UTILIZE HOPE TO IMPACT HEARTS AND LIVES

Many people today feel like they have no hope, but as Seventh-day Adventists, we do. We want to share this hope with everyone around us, so Kingsbury Seventh-day Adventist School chose “Hope Reaching” as the theme for our Pentecost 2025

focus. We held three events: Hope Reaching Out, Hope Reaching You, and Hope Reaching Down.

Hope Reaching Out happens on the first Sabbath of every month. The Kingsbury church runs a food pantry, and church members deliver food to people waiting in their cars. Students, parents, and teachers also bring drinks,

cookies, and friendly conversation to these families. During these visits, students invite them to our week of prayer, the Christmas program, and other church and school events.

Hope Reaching You was a week focused on spiritual growth, with Pastor Reynolds Rodriguez, the Youth Ministries director for the New York Conference, as



iStock

our guest speaker. Students worked with him to plan and organize the week. Each night, students led songs, shared testi-

monies, welcomed everyone, and prayed. After this event, one young person said they wanted to be baptized.

Hope Reaching Down was the name of our Christmas program, organized and presented by the students. They shared the story of Jesus' birth, the prophecies about the Messiah, and the events leading up to the Savior's arrival. We invited neighbors, bus drivers, postal workers, food pantry families, friends, family, former church members, and many others—and many attended. After the program, we spent time talking and enjoying refreshments with our guests.

We prayed before, during, and after each event. We asked God to help those who needed to hear the gospel, for the Holy Spirit to work through our school to bring hope to our neighborhood, and for everyone who needs Jesus.

Alicia Biek is the teaching principal at Kingsbury school.

Parkview Junior Academy

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK | GRADES: PREK-10

COLLECTIVE PRAYER FOSTERS FAITH AND UNITY

Every Friday after school, the Home and School leader at Parkview Junior Academy holds a 15-minute prayer session. A teacher or a chosen parent leads the session each week. Students, teachers, and church members can submit their prayer requests in a special prayer box. The coordinator gathers these requests and shares them with the students who are taking part, so they can pray for each one. During the session, students read a Bible verse and sing a worship song, which helps create a warm and uplifting atmosphere. This effort brings the school community together, encouraging compassion, faith, and support for one another.

Sathiyaseelan Raman is the principal at Parkview Junior Academy



Participants in the weekly prayer session review prayer requests before praying for each one.

Pine Tree Academy

FREEPORT, MAINE | GRADES: K-12

STUDENTS DISPLAY FAITH AND PURPOSE THROUGH ART

From January 29 to 31, Pine Tree Academy hosted the Northern New England (NNEC) Art Clinic. Some 140 students, staff, and chaperones came together to learn, share, and worship our Creator. This year's theme was the "Image of God." Colossians 1:15-16 says, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creations. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him" (ESV).

The NNEC Art Clinic provides students with opportunities to explore their God-given creative gifts through various forms of art. We believe that, just as God's image is seen in His creation, it can also be reflected in each student's artwork.

Students chose from classes such as Acrylics, Watercolors, Woodworking, Pencil Drawing, Culinary Arts, Audio/Visual Operation, Costume Design, Embroidery and Felt Applique, Visual Presentation, Set Design, Clay Sculpture, Dress Design, and Furniture Making.



Medium such as acrylics and watercolors are used to practice and learn diverse techniques.



Students participate in a production by the Visual Arts class about the life of Desmond Doss.

Each student picked two classes to learn and practice diverse techniques and media. They used materials such as clay, food, wood, pencils, fabric, paint, thread, and cloth to make their projects.

Each day started with worship, including a song service led by Pine Tree Academy students and a message from Trevor Schlisner, NNEC Youth Ministries director. He shared an inspiring message about the life of Desmond Doss. As a young boy, Doss became enthralled by a picture of the

Ten Commandments in his home. The picture depicted the tragedy of Cain's sin, when he killed his brother Abel. This artwork and his experiences at home inspired Doss to commit his life to Christ and keep the commandments, including the Sabbath and the commandment not to kill another human being. Doss' devotion to Christ and love for his fellow man motivated him to rescue over 70 fellow soldiers during the bloody Battle of Okinawa in World War II. His courage and faith in God earned him the Medal of Honor—the nation's highest military honor. The Visual Arts, Costume, and Set Design classes portrayed Doss' story and showed how he reflected God's image through his actions and words.

In addition to the Visual Arts production, the event culminated with a Sabbath afternoon art gallery. Students, staff, and families enjoyed walking through and seeing the hard work of both students and instructors on display. The NNEC Art Clinic was a success because it demonstrated the beauty of our God and His image in His children.

Mark T. Bugbee is the superintendent of schools for the Northern New England Conference.



Students enjoy food prepared by the Culinary Arts class.

Worcester Seventh-day Adventist School

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS | GRADES: PREK-8

STUDENTS USE CREATIVITY TO SHARE LOVE IN TANGIBLE WAYS

The Southern New England Conference Education Department encouraged all our schools to join the North American Division's Pentecost 2025 initiative, and five schools accepted the challenge.

Between spring and fall of 2025, students organized a variety of programs. These included Week of Prayer activities, Vacation Bible Schools, writing encouraging letters to church members who couldn't leave their homes, leading morning worship for parents during drop-off, making Christmas cards for people in the community, visiting nursing home residents, and other activities to show care and love for their local communities and school family.

One activity that stood out to me was the Agape Feast hosted by Worcester school for the local community. Principal Liola Mathieson worked with all 30 students, another teacher, and a teacher's aide to plan the event. The school board and members of the Airport Drive church also helped support the event.

The students made all the plans and decorated the fellowship hall for the event. They arranged the tables in the shape of a cross and created colorful placemats. Tan stood for Jesus' hands and feet, purple for His role as King of Heaven and Earth, and red for the blood He shed for everyone. Side tables with yellow and blue placemats represented angels.

After a short program by the students and staff, everyone helped pack care bags for people experiencing homelessness. Working together in an assembly line, they packed over 200 bags for those without a place to sleep at night.



Guests enjoy the Agape Feast held in the fellowship hall at the Airport church.

Each family at the Agape Feast took some bags home to hand out over the next few days.

We are very proud of the great work the students did and their efforts

to help those in need. Well done, Worcester school!

Brian Allison is the associate superintendent of schools for the Southern New England Conference.

Evangelism Leads the Way for the Bermuda Conference

The year 2025 was designated as the year of “Pentecost” for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, and the churches across the North American Division were invigorated with the same Spirit found in Acts 2:3 - 4. The churches in Bermuda enthusiastically responded to the call to evangelize and reach the Bermuda public by preaching the good news found in Jesus Christ throughout the island. The churches began by organizing efforts across the Bermuda conference to spread the gospel zone by zone.

At the Southampton church, Pastor Damon Hendrickson led the church in the “I’ve Still Got Hope” series and reminded members and visitors to not give up. As the adults were upstairs receiving the message, the children enjoyed their own series downstairs entitled, “Hope



Claudius Morgan. Pastor Morgan guided participants to get back to the basics of the Bible. With his energetic style of preaching and the gifted singing each evening, the Hamilton church welcomed many new believers. Leonard Gibbons, Bermuda Conference Health Ministries director,

Ministerial director for the Southern New England Conference in Massachusetts, led the charge to draw the St. Georges community to Christ. Pastor Malcolm’s nightly topics reminded people that Christ died for them and rose again, so they can have victory over sin. Many decisions were made for the

His series reminded the hearers that we are living in the last days. Video recordings of his sermons continue to be viewed and enjoyed on YouTube.

In the western zone of Bermuda, Pastor Dwayne Burgess reminded the community that God still cares for them, with a series entitled “Does God Still Care?” This was a power-packed and encouraging series explaining that even when we can’t see the caring ways of God, He is still there and He still cares. Through a deep dive of biblical scripture, the caring nature of Christ was made evident and lives were changed.

God’s work continues across the island of Bermuda. Your prayers are solicited as people continue to make decisions for the Lord.

— Michael Simmons,
communication director, Bermuda Conference

The churches in Bermuda enthusiastically responded to the call to evangelize and reach the Bermuda public by preaching the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the island.

Explorers.” Providing children with their own series was a unique and exciting feature of this program.

Next followed the Hamilton church with the “Good News Explosion” series led by evangelist

presented nightly health messages reinforcing the value of NEWSTART.

The eastern zone of Bermuda was the launching pad for a community-wide revival. In the St. George’s church in Bermuda’s eastern zone, Kenroy Malcolm,

Lord, and Bible studies are currently ongoing.

The Warwick church was on fire for the Lord, as Hector Quinones, church pastor, preached a series of end-time messages that resonated both with members and visitors alike.

Bermuda Conference Focuses on Effective Timely Communication and Standards

The Bermuda Conference hosted a series of four training sessions to educate local church communication leaders across their territory on how to effectively connect with their communities. Under the leadership of Michael Simmons, communication director, and Sophia Hamilton, associate director, the presentations established standards that could be used throughout the conference and improve how churches communicate.

In their inaugural video, Simmons expressed the desire for the local churches and the conference to be “all on the same page.” He pointed the attendees to 1 Corinthians 14:33 that says, “For God is not a God of disorder but of peace” (KJV). With a focus on working together, Simmons set the stage for the attendees by covering



Sophia Hamilton, Bermuda Conference communication associate director, demonstrates Canva during a training session.

organization, teamwork, standards, branding, timely communication, and training. One of the organizational goals Simmons introduced is the establishment of a “Conference Communication Executive Team,” consisting of volunteer communication directors from the local churches, working closely with the Bermuda

Conference communication team. “We’re not trying to have one of those situations where it is just one person doing everything,” Simmons explained in the training meeting. “We’re really trying to move away from that concept and focus more on teamwork.”

The trainings focused on elements of printing standards, viewing

standards for church services, media standards through videos and social media, and other effective uses of technology that would assist in spreading the gospel across Bermuda. Four Zoom sessions enabled local church leaders to learn the above standards and how to create graphics using Canva, a web-based graphic design tool. Additional sessions demonstrated DaVinci Resolve, a popular video editing software to create videos.

The training sessions were conducted virtually and recorded for those who could not attend. The training sessions also focused on multiple entities of the church, and how through collaboration and teamwork church communication teams can do their part to spread the good news throughout Bermuda.

The recordings of the sessions are located on the Bermuda Conference YouTube channel (@bdsda).

—Communication team, Bermuda Conference



Michael Simmons, Bermuda Conference communication director, leads out in one of several online communication training sessions.

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE:



A Legacy of Greatness Continues

Youth and Young Adult Ministries is a clear reflection of Christ's presence and leadership in the Advent movement. For decades, that presence has been visible and celebrated across the Greater New York Conference (GNYC).

On Sabbath, Jan. 31, during its annual Youth Congress, the GNYC Youth and Young Adult Ministries department formally recognized a transition in leadership with the installation of Pastor Christian Genao as Youth Ministries director. Genao was recently elected to serve following the call of former director Pastor Enmanuel Contreras to the Atlantic Union Conference, where he now serves as vice president of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Delegates to the 57th regular constituency session in October 2022 voted Contreras to serve as GNYC Youth Ministries director. At the 2026 Youth Congress, organizers and attendees celebrated Contreras' faithful years of leadership and participated in a solemn changing-of-the-guard service between the two leaders.

Reflecting on his tenure, Contreras said, "During these unforgettable years serving in the youth department of the Greater New York Conference, I watched a generation rise—not by accident, but by intention."

Each year of his term, Contreras centered ministry around a faith-building theme that shaped the annual Youth Congress. In 2023, "I Believed" reminded attendees that faith is the starting line of every movement. "Before plans, budgets, events, and programs, there



Enmanuel Contreras, front right, Atlantic Union Conference vice president of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and former GNYC Youth Ministries director, prepares to pass the Pathfinder flag to Christian Genao, newly elected GNYC Youth Ministries director, as GNYC administrators Alanzo Smith, rear left, president, and Ariel Manzueta, executive secretary, center, observe the symbolic ceremony.

John Jean Baptiste

had to be belief—belief in God, belief in young people, and belief that youth ministry is not maintenance, but mission," he said.

The following year's theme, "Unstoppable," highlighted the growth and resilience of young leaders. "We saw young people push past limitations—cultural, personal, spiritual, and emotional," Contreras reflected. "They learned that obstacles are often invitations to grow." He added, "Their energy, creativity, and resilience proved that when youth are trusted, equipped, and empowered, nothing can restrain what God is doing through them."

In 2025, the theme "Fearless" marked a significant shift for the department. "Youth and young adults began stepping into leadership roles with courage," Contreras explained. "They prayed publicly, served boldly, created

passionately, and led with authenticity. Fear gave way to ownership. Ministry was no longer something done for them—it was something done by them."

Contreras began his new role at the Atlantic Union Conference on Jan. 1, 2026. Before his departure, he was already preparing for 2026 under the theme "Be Intentional." "[This theme] brings clarity to everything we learned," he said. "[Being] intentional in purpose, intentional in service, and intentional in faith. Our mission was never only to host events, but to develop leaders with purpose, passion, and vision—young men and women who understand their calling and are ready to live it."

Each year of Contreras' leadership in Greater New York carried a theme that, in many ways, mirrored his own journey alongside the youth and young adults of the territory.

"These years taught me that youth ministry is not about filling calendars, but about shaping lives," he said. "And in watching this generation grow, I realized: When we invest intentionally in young people, we are investing in the future of the Church."

A new chapter of Youth and Young Adult Ministries has begun, yet the commitment to supporting GNYC youth and young adults remains steadfast. The Greater New York Conference family welcomes Pastor Genao to his new assignment. May God continue to bless Pastor Contreras and his family as they embrace this new responsibility at the Atlantic Union Conference.

In the words of Alanzo Smith, GNYC president: "There is an address for greatness—and that address is the Greater New York Conference."

—Communication department,
Greater New York Conference

Sidewalk Invitation Results in Baptism

One invitation—that's all it took.

In 2024, Zhi Ling walked past the Manor Road church as it hosted a Health Expo. Gladys Pietranico, doing sidewalk evangelism, noticed Zhi and invited her inside. Zhi went through the various stations, learning about healthy living. She also discovered Adventurers classes for children the same age as her children, received spiritual literature, and was given a Bible. Soon after, Zhi began attending church and bringing her children to the classes on Sabbath afternoons.

What follows condenses nearly a year of their experience with the

Adventist church.

Over time, Zhi began Bible studies with Pastor Moses Fang of the New York Chinese church. This was providential because Zhi faced a significant language barrier. Having a Chinese pastor to guide her through Adventist teachings was invaluable. She attended church regularly, and her children endeared themselves to the congregation. By now, her daughter joyfully proclaims "Happy Sabbath!" during children's story and often volunteers to pray.

The church learned that her husband, Leo, wanted to attend but worked on Sabbaths. Everyone rejoiced when Zhi shared that he had

found a new job that let him worship with the family. Since then, they have attended regularly.

They have been such a blessing with their spirit of dedication. During the baptism, Pastor Fang translated the vows from English into Chinese. They both expressed the privilege they have of giving their lives to Jesus and becoming Christians.

The church praises God for the faithful ministry of its Adventurer leaders, whose work played a meaningful role in this spiritual journey. Many elements connected this congregation and the sister Chinese congregation in Queens.



Members of the Manor Road church, with pastors Moses Fang and Steve Cook, pose for a photo with Zhi Ling, Shaoliu (Leo) Li, and their children.

It was truly a team effort—to God be the glory for the great things He has done!

—Steve Cook, pastor, Manor Road church

GNYC Schools Pursue Greatness in 2026

Pentecost 2025 underscored the Greater New York Conference's (GNYC) commitment to holistic excellence. GNYC schools continue to pursue high academic standards, innovative teaching methods, and programs that prepare students for college and careers—while recognizing that true excellence is measured not only by grades or test scores, but by students' character and faith.

The integration of faith and learning is what makes Adventist education unique. Students are challenged to think critically, serve compassionately, and live faithfully. Pentecost 2025 was a visible reminder that when spiritual growth is prioritized, academic success follows naturally.

PROJECTIONS FOR 2026: 'BUILDING ON MOMENTUM'

Looking ahead, the Greater New York Conference is committed to building on the momentum of Pentecost 2025. The vision for 2026 includes:

- Strengthening discipleship programs to ensure that the 64 newly baptized students (see the story in the January/February 2026 GLEANER) continue to grow in their walk with Christ.
- Expanding evangelistic initiatives so that even more students, families, and communities are reached with the gospel.
- Enhancing academic innovation, with new programs in STEM, the arts, and leadership development that reflect a continued journey toward excellence.
- Increasing enrollment and retention as families recognize the unique value of Adventist education in shaping both mind and spirit.
- Deepening community partnerships by connecting schools with local churches and organizations to

extend the mission beyond the classroom.

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

The Greater New York Conference views excellence as an ongoing process—one that weaves together spiritual mentorship and academic rigor, faith and service, and practical vision. Pentecost 2025 marked an important step in this journey, highlighting that schools shape lives and prepare students for the future.

As we move forward into 2026, confidence, gratitude, and renewed commitment define the outlook for GNYC schools. The victories of the past year are celebrated, and even greater things are anticipated. With God's guidance, GNYC schools will continue to shine as beacons of hope, preparing students for success in this world and for citizenship in the world to come.

—Maria Thomas, superintendent of schools, Greater New York Conference

Syracuse Community Benefits From Back-to-School Giveaway

Under a bright and beautiful sky, the Split Rock church in Syracuse, New York, hosted a Backpack Giveaway for children in the community on Aug. 30, 2025. The Sabbath afternoon event was filled with smiles, gratitude, and the joy of serving others in Jesus' name.

Split Rock church distributed more than 300 backpacks—each filled with essential school supplies, including paper, folders, pencils, pens, markers, and other items. Every bag provided items to prepare the community's young learners for school, but also a tangible expression of God's love and care.

In preparation for the community outreach initiative, church members personally delivered invitation cards to homes surrounding both the church and the school, spreading word of the free



Split Rock church members pose for a group photo at Parkview Junior Academy in Syracuse, New York.

warm smiles and handed out backpacks to the children in the vehicles. Everything ran smoothly and efficiently, with each volunteer contributing to the uplifting and welcoming atmosphere.

Reflecting on the day, Alisha Anderson, Split

involved in this program was very excited to serve their communities and, especially, the children.”

New York Conference's Nxt Gen Movement (Youth and Young Adult Ministries) supported the event. Reynolds Rodriguez, New York Conference

to see happy faces as they received their backpacks, which helped many families in need of school supplies.”

The day was a wonderful success, blending service, fellowship, and mission. Through this outreach, Split Rock church reaffirmed its commitment to being a light in the community—meeting practical needs while pointing others to the hope found in Christ.

Split Rock ministry leaders are grateful to God for every volunteer who served with compassion, and to its partners who made this outreach possible. The church, which recently relocated to its new location in the city of Syracuse, is dedicated to serving the community and the city. Together, they are truly serving, loving, and growing in the name of Jesus.

—Communication team, Split Rock church

It was great to see happy faces as they received their backpacks.

event. This personal touch helped create meaningful connections and ensured that many families could benefit from it.

On the day of the long-anticipated event, families drove through the parking lot of Parkview Junior Academy, where cheerful volunteers from Split Rock church greeted them with

Rock Children's Ministries coordinator, shared, “It was amazing to see our church and school family work side by side to support and bless our community through the backpack giveaway. The gratitude and smiles on the faces of the children and their families made every effort worthwhile.” She added, “Everyone

Youth Ministries director, expressed his appreciation for the outreach, saying, “We are so grateful to God for the opportunity to help families, students, and the children of the nearby communities in the city of Syracuse.” He continued, “I was delighted to see so many people involved in this project. It was great

Roosevelt Seventh-day Adventist Church Holds Ice Cream Social

The Roosevelt church held an ice cream social last summer to bid farewell and express gratitude to its long-time pastor, John Livergood, and his wife, Debbie, for their ministry and leadership. Livergood accepted the call to serve as New York Conference assistant treasurer at the headquarters in Syracuse, New York.

The Lord has given Pastor Livergood many talents and gifts, but he is especially known for forming meaningful connections with others. While attendees enjoyed their time together and the tasty ice cream, the best part of the day was hearing the many precious memories—some funny, others tearful, and even forgotten ones—shared by church members.



John and Debbie Livergood

Pastor Livergood and his family came to the North Central District of the New York Conference 10 years ago. This district includes four churches: Fulton, Roosevelt, Pulaski, and Ellisburg. During their time in this district,

Pastor John also served as assistant superintendent at Camp Cherokee and later as superintendent for the annual New York Camp Meeting. Debbie actively participated in the North Country Women's Ministries retreats.

In addition to serving as assistant treasurer for the conference, Pastor Livergood will also be assigned as pastor of the Baldwinsville church.

Members of the Roosevelt church, which is the first established church in the New York Conference's history, wish the Livergoods much joy and God's blessings in their new assignment.

—Stan Krupka, communication director, Roosevelt church

DeRuyter Church Creates Spiritual Home for Future Generations

Several years ago, the Lincklaen Center church decided to purchase the former DeRuyter Baptist Church building. Constructed in 1960, the facility was newer than the congregation's previous place of worship and offered fresh possibilities for ministry.

Now known as DeRuyter Community church, members worked diligently to renovate the building and overcome several unexpected setbacks. The church family approached the project with an eternal perspective, committed to creating a spiritual home for future generations.

In June 2024, the congregation celebrated its first Sabbath in the building. Almost a year later, DeRuyter Community church held its first baby dedication, with Brandon and Joanah Proctor dedicating their daughter, Hazel, to the Lord in a service led by



Brandon and Joanah Proctor dedicate their daughter, Hazel, to the Lord.

Pastor Stuart Bauer.

Another significant moment followed on Dec. 20, 2025, when the congregation celebrated its first baptism in the swimming pool of a local hotel. Members welcomed Elizabeth Hayes into the church family with joy. Hayes came to faith through personal study over more than seven years, completing all of the It Is

Written Bible study guides. She remains active in the church's Monday afternoon Bible study and continues to grow in her understanding of Scripture.

Since relocating, the congregation has averaged 15 to 25 people each Sabbath, which is meaningful growth for a church once considered "dying." No longer primarily a senior congrega-



Stuart Bauer, DeRuyter church pastor, escorts Elizabeth Hayes to the pool for her baptism.

tion, DeRuyter Community church now reflects a vibrant, multigenerational community of worshippers. The presence of children in services has become a source of joy, a visible reminder of God's blessing and the church's hopeful future.

—Eileen Mallinson, communication director, DeRuyter Community church

Christian Fellowship Celebrates 90 Years of God's Faithfulness

Christian Fellowship Church in Brooklyn, New York, is rejoicing as it celebrates 90 years of God's faithfulness. Founded in 1936, the congregation has grown, relocated, and evolved through the decades, yet it remains a vibrant faith community grounded in gratitude for God's sustaining grace.

Under the theme "From Generation to Generation: 90 Years of God's Faithfulness," the anniversary year launched on Jan. 3, when Senior Pastor Raymond Alcock set the spiritual tone during the first Sabbath worship service of 2026. The service marked a moment of reflection and anticipation as members looked back on God's leading and looked forward with hope.

The official anniversary observances began on Jan. 10, when Eldeen C. King, Northeastern Conference president and former Christian Fellowship pastor, opened the series with a sermon titled "The Challenge of Becoming." Members dressed in royal blue and gold—the anniversary colors—created a joyful and celebratory atmosphere.

After sunset, the Activities Committee hosted a "1930s Social," an engaging and educational event highlighting life during the Great Depression. Attendees enjoyed music, learned about the era's economy, and sampled period foods, including cornbread, beans, potatoes, and hot dogs. A highlight



Christian Fellowship senior pastor, Raymond Alcock, left, and his wife, Franceen, pose for a photo with Eldeen King, right, Northeastern Conference president, and his wife, Lorraine.

of the evening was a lively fashion presentation, a creative collaboration led by the church youth whose enthusiasm delighted all in attendance. Each month will feature activities spotlighting subsequent decades.

Winston Stephenson, Allen Martin, Baldwin Barnes, Oswald Euell, James LaMar, Anthony Usher, and Chaplain Simone Mills-Pritchett, a daughter of the church.

While anniversary activities will continue

Sunday, Oct. 11. Additional details will be shared in the coming months.

Christian Fellowship church warmly invites former members, friends, and supporters to join in celebrating 90 years of God's faithfulness—a season of

Founded in 1936, the congregation has grown, relocated, and evolved.

Throughout the year, more former pastors will return to Christian Fellowship on the second Sabbath of each month to celebrate shared memories and God's continued faithfulness. Scheduled participants include

throughout the year, the Homecoming weekend is scheduled for Oct. 9-11. R. Clifford Jones, dean of Oakwood University's School of Religion, will serve as the keynote speaker on Sabbath, Oct. 10. A gala celebration is planned for

rejoicing, reflection, and thanksgiving for all that God has done and continues to do.

—Wendy Gamble, chairperson, 90th Anniversary Steering Committee

Northeastern Conference Invests 92 Master Guides

Ninety-two Master Guide candidates from churches across the Northeastern Conference (NEC) were invested during a special service held Jan. 10 at the Mount Vernon church in Mount Vernon, New York. Representing 10 conference regions, the newly-invested Master Guides completed the highest level of leadership training within the church's Pathfinder organization. They are expected to strengthen youth leadership throughout their conferences.

The service opened with a formal procession of Master Guide candidates, established Master Guides, platform officials, and color guards, led by Michael Cuffie, NEC drill master and coordinator. The ceremony highlighted the significance of the Master Guide role as a model of servant-leadership and spiritual mentorship. After the procession, attendees recited the pledge to the American flag, as well as the Master Guide pledge, law, and song.

Worship was led by a praise team that set a reflective tone for the service. Javier Alcon, assistant to the president of the Northeastern Conference, offered a dedicatory prayer, asking for the Holy Spirit to be present and expressing gratitude for "the efforts and accomplishments of the candidates and youth leaders across the conference."

Enmanuel Contreras, Atlantic Union Conference vice president for Youth and Adult Ministries,



A Master Guide candidate smiles as she prepares to receive her regalia during the investiture ceremony.

conducted a special cording ceremony for Irwin K. Lawrence, newly appointed NEC director for Uniformed Services. Contreras affirmed Lawrence for his service with Youth Ministries within the Atlantic Union.

Lawrence later officiated the investiture ceremony, presenting candidates by region. Participants came from Brooklyn South, Staten Island, Franco-Haitian churches, Long Island, New England North, New England South, New England North Hispanic, Queens, RockWest, Southern New York Hispanic, and Western New York.

Among the invested Master Guides was a family of three, including Papillon Cox, father; Kerry-Ann Cox, mother; and Shantana Smith, daughter. "Being invested at the same time as

my family made it especially meaningful," said Mr. Cox. "It is a rare and profound blessing to grow, serve, and be affirmed together as a family in ministry."

Andrés Peralta, a lieutenant chaplain in the U.S. Navy, delivered an inspirational charge. Speaking from Philippians 2, Lt. Peralta emphasized humility as the foundation of Christian leadership.

"In God's kingdom, elevation does not begin by going up; it begins by going down," Peralta said. "Jesus flipped everything for the church. If you want to be something, if you want to be on the throne, you have to go through the valley first."

Hermia Watson, Pathfinder regional executive coordinator, led a moment of silence in remembrance of deceased

Master Guide leaders before offering the closing prayer. Watson asked God to "give us the wisdom that we need, the humility, courage, and the strength to lead by example and guided by Your Spirit."

The Master Guide program equips adult leaders to mentor youth through spiritual development, service, and discipleship. With the investiture of these 92 leaders, the Northeastern Conference continues its commitment to developing dedicated leadership for Pathfinder Ministries across its territory.

—Communication department,
Northeastern Conference

Small Group—Big Heart

The Hampden, Maine, group that meets every Sabbath in a community building is not large—about 15 to 25 people attend on any given week. They are not an official church or even a company. Still, they are deeply committed to the mission of reaching their community for Christ.

Gloria Misambu immigrated to the United States in 2021 to begin nursing school at Husson University. Born in the Congo, she walked to safety in South Africa with her uncle when she was 5-years-old—a journey that took an entire year.

After moving to Maine, an Adventist classmate invited her to attend services in Hampden. Touched by the love, acceptance, and biblical truth she experienced



Gloria Misambu, center, shares a happy photo moment with David and Joyce Lanyi.

there, Gloria began attending every Sabbath. David and Joyce Lanyi started Bible studies with her and lovingly “adopted” her as their granddaughter. The entire group embraced and supported her as well.

Pastor Harry Sabnani completed her baptismal preparation and baptized her in Pushaw Lake in Orono on Sept. 20, surrounded by her church family.

Gloria will graduate with a four-year nursing degree in



Harry Sabnani, Northern New England Conference missions coordinator, prepares to baptize Misambu.

June. She is now a cherished member of this small group with a big heart.

—Judy Sabnani, assistant to Harry Sabnani, missions coordinator, Northern New England Conference



Several supporters pose for a group photo with Misambu to celebrate her baptism.

Maranatha Volunteers Support Cabins and Beyond at Camp Lawroweld

There are many reasons to visit Maine in the fall, but the 84 volunteers who traveled to Camp Lawroweld in October came with a singular purpose: service. The team was coordinated by Maranatha Volunteers International, a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to provide free labor for the camp. Volunteers reinforced cabin foundations, renovated interiors, split and hauled large quantities of firewood, painted buildings, and cleared debris across the property.

“Maranatha has single-handedly changed the face of this camp, breathed new life into it, and reignited excitement around its mission,” said Trevor Schlisner, Youth and Young Adult Ministries director for the Northern New England Conference.

Camp Lawroweld is a sacred place where visitors encounter God and a vital resource for the region,

hosting roughly 700 guests each year. It serves as the conference’s hub for every Adventist ministry and sits on 200 acres of forested land with nearly 1,000 feet of shoreline along Lake Webb.

Despite its importance, the camp operates with limited funds for maintenance, making regular upkeep challenging and major improvements difficult.

“We need as much help as anywhere, although it’s important to go everywhere,” Schlisner said. “To the volunteers, I want to say, ‘Thank you—you’ve made an impact that will last for eternity.’”

For several days of the project, adult volunteers were joined by 42 students from Richmond Adventist Academy in Virginia. Each year, the school sponsors a trip called “Horizon.” Typically, Horizon visits college campuses to help students consider their future paths. This year, however, staff leaders



Maranatha volunteers work together stacking wood.

intentionally focused the trip on missions.

“We’re so transactional in our world—where we do something and get a better grade, or we do something and get paid,” said Richmond Bible teacher Desmond Suarez II. “But often, the most transformative and impactful things we do are unpaid.”

Suarez added, “Having students here working hard for something that matters—without any financial reward—is incredibly powerful.”

Maranatha volunteers have provided critical upgrades at Camp Lawroweld since 2020. Previous projects have resulted in renovated cabins and bathhouses, marking a significant turning point for the camp’s infrastructure and long-term sustainability.

Maranatha Volunteers International mobilizes volunteers to build churches, schools, water wells, and other urgently needed structures worldwide, including across North America. Since 1969, the organization has



A volunteer reinforces a cabin foundation.

constructed more than 16,000 structures and over 3,500 water wells in nearly 90 countries.

Those interested in volunteering for a future project may email Maranatha Volunteers International at sneedles@maranatha.org.

—Sidney Needles, Maranatha Volunteers International



Volunteers pause from their work to pose for a group photo at Camp Lawroweld.

Christina Lloyd

SNEC Cape Cod Church Marks 50th Anniversary

The Cape Cod church in eastern Massachusetts recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its current building with a heart-warming, God-centered weekend. The five still-living former pastors and their wives were ecstatic about attending. “The entire theme of the weekend was to involve them in every way we could,” said

Cape Cod head elder Charlie Case. On Friday night, the former pastors and the current pastor, Chuck Holtry, each had 15 minutes to share their memories, what they learned, and where they went after leaving Cape Cod. Even the youth of the church attended this service, showed interest, and were really quite engaged.

For Sabbath School, each pastor taught one day of the lesson quarterly. Southern New England Conference president, Robert Folkenberg, Jr., preached the sermon, and each of the pastors was hand-picked to participate in a different portion of the church service based on his giftedness.

In the afternoon, everyone enjoyed a musical

program—again featuring the six pastors and a duet by Folkenberg and his wife, Audrey. Case presented a history of the church, and charter member Susan Duenas presented a slideshow featuring photos of their Pathfinders, youth programs, and the Bayberry Elementary School.

“The whole weekend glorified God,” said Case. “God was the focus of the entire weekend—no glory to self, people, or church.”

In a warm-hearted, thoughtful gesture, the church arranged for all six pastors to stay for two nights at one large inn, where they could mingle and chat before and after programs if they wished.

The Southern New England Conference praises God for the unity and love shown, and wishes the Cape Cod church another 50 years of serving God and the community, or until our Lord returns.

—Sandra Dombrowski,
communication team, Southern
New England Conference



Former Cape Cod church pastors and their wives include, from left, George and Susan Whitsett, Cliff and Sue Gleason, Steve and Tina Jencks, Mark and Pam Gagnon, John and Carmen Piroski, and Chuck and Christina Holtry.

SNEC Family Life Ministries Provides Resources for Whole-Family Mental Health and Thriving Marriages

At a time when many marriages and families face significant challenges, Southern New England Conference (SNEC) Family Life Ministries (FLM) is expanding its ministry. Building on the work of previous leaders Juan Matías-Muñiz and Zenaida Mejías Matías, SNEC FLM has added seminars for teens and children to its annual Mental Health Symposium and

launched a digital devotion-al for couples.

At the 8th annual Mental Health Symposium on Nov. 1, current FLM coordinator John K. Amoah, a SNEC pastor and Certified Family Life Educator, presented two sessions for teens: “When Anxiety Feels Bigger Than Me” and “The Pressure to Be Perfect.” Educator and mental health coach Marilyn Ravina and Lisa Drew

taught children’s classes titled “How God Helps Us with Our Emotions” and “The Fruit of the Spirit.”

During the symposium’s main sessions, mental health professionals and health care providers offered practical insights on strengthening mental and spiritual well-being. Joseph Connelly presented “Faith under Pressure,” outlining warning signs

of spiritual burnout and offering guidance on rest and healthy boundaries. Natasha Francis addressed causes of depression and anxiety and shared pathways to healing. Laura Harris explored the connection between mental and physical health and highlighted habits that support emotional wellness.

On Dec. 9, Amoah launched Together in Grace,



John Amoah, far right, Southern New England Conference Family Life Ministries coordinator, poses for a group photo with presenters from the Mental Health Symposium; from left, Laura Harris, Joesph Connolly, Marilyn Ravina, and Natasha Francis.

a weekly digital devotional for couples.

"Our vision is simple," Amoah wrote: "one devotional each week, one conversation at a time—building strong marriages, healthier homes, and a more united church family across New England. May every reading spark prayer, open deeper communication, and remind couples that God still works miracles in relationships surrendered to His love."

To receive the devotional, visit www.sneconline.org/familylife.

— Communication and Family Life Ministries, Southern New England Conference

Nantucket Church's Growing Health Ministry Reaches All Demographics

You probably know that Southern New England boasts some popular island vacation spots, including Nantucket, a 48-square-mile island about 30 miles south of Massachusetts' Cape Cod peninsula.

But you may not know that Nantucket boasts a thriving Seventh-day Adventist church. A small but vibrant church planted in 2005, the Nantucket church is using health ministry to reach tourists and seasonal residents/vacationers who come for the summer, as well as year-round residents who work on the island. Because the needs and interests of these two groups are so diverse, this is a challenging task. But the church has learned that a health fair is a great tool that can reach all people. Over the past three years, they've developed their

strategy as they implement Christ's method of reaching the people. "God blessed our efforts," said head elder Wayne Brown. "The more we put into it, the more He's blessing it."

Their first health fair in 2023 was scheduled for a cold, blustery day in October, and the wind blew their small tent apart. With help from Laura Harris of Wellspring Health Ministries, they served 25 to 30 people. But they didn't give up. The next year, they rented a stronger tent and changed the date to August, taking advantage of the pleasant weather and the opportunity to serve the crowds of summer tourists. They added massage therapy and advertised on the local radio station.

In 2025, with added advertising in the local newspaper and social media and giving away fresh-



Head elder, Wayne Brown, far right, and some of the faithful Nantucket church members stand in front of their event banner.

pressed, bottled juices, they served about 100 people. They also added THE GREAT CONTROVERSY and STEPS TO CHRIST to their literature table. "We wanted to focus more on getting the message out," said Brown. "It is my strong belief that we are to go out and tell, to share, and minister to a need. This is

Christ's method."

"The Nantucket church has expressed serious commitment to ministry," said Tom Dombrowski, SNEC health ministries coordinator. "I think they've caught the vision on how to reach their community!"

— Sandra Dombrowski, communication team, Southern New England Conference

**ADVENTIST
WORLD
RADIO
ANNUAL
OFFERING**
MARCH 14, 2026



WARRIORS — BECAME — WORSHIPPERS!

THESE WARRIORS ONCE LIVED BY VIOLENCE, REVENGE AND FEAR.

But in Northern Kenya, God's Word broke through—and what bullets could not change, God accomplished through His Word on solar-powered Godpods.

ON SABBATH, MARCH 14, SUPPORT THE AWR ANNUAL OFFERING.

Every gift helps deliver the "voice of hope" to people still waiting to hear the name of Jesus.



Adventist World Radio

📞 1-800-337-4297

🌐 awr.org

f [/awr360](https://www.facebook.com/awr360)

📷 [@awr360](https://www.instagram.com/awr360)

✉ [@awr360](mailto:awr360)

▶ [awr.org/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/awr360)

12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA



Download the
AWR Offering
Media Packet
for **March 14** at
awr.org/offering



AWR360°
BROADCAST TO BAPTISM

EARLY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE



Experience college
life and earn
tuition-free college
credit before the
school year begins!

July 27–Aug. 14, 2026

An in-person summer college experience for rising high school juniors and seniors, as well as incoming freshmen.

- ✓ Earn 3 college credits through 1 academic course
- ✓ Engage in seminars, activities, and local travel
- ✓ Experience 3 weeks of learning, community, and fun



LEARN MORE

Web: andrews.edu/exploreandrews

Email: undergrad@andrews.edu

Phone: 269-471-6343

Tuition is free. Participants are responsible for a discounted, flat lodging fee that covers room and board, textbooks, and local transportation.

Andrews  University

CLASSIFIEDS

All advertisements should be sent, together with payment, to your local conference office for approval by the communication director. For advertisements originating within the Atlantic Union the rate is \$35 for each insertion of 40 words or less, and 50 cents for each additional word. For all other advertisements the rate is \$40 for each insertion of 40 words or less and 50 cents for each word over the 40. There is an 80-word maximum. Check or money order should be made payable to Atlantic Union GLEANER or Atlantic Union Conference.

The Atlantic Union GLEANER reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The rejection of any advertisement should not be construed to constitute disapproval of the product or service involved.

Classified and display ads appearing in the Atlantic Union GLEANER are printed without endorsement or recommendation of the Atlantic Union Conference. The Atlantic Union Gleaner makes every reasonable effort to screen all advertisements, but in no case can the periodical assume responsibility for advertisements appearing in its columns or for typographical or categorical errors.

EMPLOYMENT

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for Religion Program Director and Professor to begin

teaching fall 2026. Candidate must be ordained or commissioned to the ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church or on a track. Responsibilities include serving as program director for the Religion program, oversight of the SALT program, and teaching classes. Please see the job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking applicants for two positions in the student Success Department: Student Success Career Development Program Manager to oversee career development services including coaching and advising students in calling/Vocational exploration and other related duties; and Life Coach to implement strategic indicatives related to student retention, engagement, and graduation. Both are full-

time positions with full benefits package including tuition assistance to dependents. See job descriptions and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is searching for a Director of Human Resources. This is a full-time, exempt position with excellent benefits. This position plans, leads, develops, coordinates, and implements policies, processes, and initiatives to support the University's human resource compliance and strategy needs. Please view the full description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a Controller to direct and coordinate Union Adventist University accounting operation to include disbursements, accounting data, accounting records, payroll, general accounting services and accounting operation system and to develop and administer accounting business policies and regulations. Please see full job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a Plant Service General Maintenance employee to be responsible for performing a variety of maintenance tasks to ensure the safety, functionality, and aesthetic quality of university facilities. This position involves routine inspections, repairs and preventive maintenance across campus buildings and grounds. Please see full job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks candidates for a Nursing Faculty position. This is a full-time, exempt position responsible for preparing undergraduate students to successfully complete the Union BSN curriculum and pass the National Council State Board of Nursing Exam. Excellent benefits package that includes tuition assistance for dependents. Apply at uau.edu/employment.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY continuously seeks qualified candidates to fill various positions around campus, including faculty, salaried staff, and hourly staff positions. If you are interested in working at Southern, we encourage you to view the positions that are currently open at sau.catsone.com/careers and apply as God leads. To view current open Pre-K through college educational positions across the North American Division, please visit jobs.adventisteducation.org.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE seeks qualified candidates to fill open positions in fulfilling our mission to "Learn with Purpose, Rise in Faith, and Serve in Love." Beautiful mountain campus, minutes to shopping, an hour+ drive of ocean and skiing. If interested, please check out our current openings at www.puc.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings.

GOSPEL OUTREACH is seeking qualified Adventist volunteers to support its mission of sharing the gospel with unreached peo-

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Southern New England Conference
Constituency Session

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the 39th Constituency Session of the Southern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists called to convene at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 23, 2026, in the Southern New England Conference Pavilion, on the Southern New England Conference grounds, 34 Sawyer Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561. The purpose of this meeting is:

1. To receive reports.
2. To elect conference officers, departmental directors, an Executive Committee, a Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and an Association Board.
3. To consider amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the conference.
4. To consider amendments to Set Fund Guidelines.
5. To accept new churches or disband churches as may be necessary.
6. To transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

According to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern New England Conference, Article 3, Section 5, A1 "each Church shall be entitled to select one Delegate for the Church and one additional Delegate for each forty-five (45) members or major fraction thereof, provided that each Church shall be entitled to select not less than two (2) Delegates."

Lunch will be provided.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Organizing Committee will convene* at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 3, 2026, at the College Seventh-day Adventist Church, 337 Main Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561, for the purpose of appointing members of the Nominating Committee to serve for that meeting. According to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern New England Conference, Article 3, Section 8A "each Church shall select, from its Delegates, one (1) representative for the Church, and one (1) additional representative for each five hundred (500) members of that Church or major fraction thereof."

Lunch will be provided.

Robert Folkenberg, Jr., President
Edgardo Herrera, Executive Secretary

* Updated date and time provided by SNEC secretariat.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Southern New England Conference Association
Regular Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Constituency Session of the Southern New England Conference Association, a Massachusetts corporation, is called to meet in the Southern New England Conference Pavilion, on the Southern New England Conference grounds, 34 Sawyer Street, South Lancaster, MA 01561, on Sunday, August 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., concurrently with the regular session of the conference.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and a board of trustees, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates of the Southern New England Conference Constituency Session will be the delegates for the Southern New England Conference Association.

Lunch will be provided.

Robert Folkenberg, Jr., President
Tom Murray, Secretary

ple in the 10/40 Window. If you are interested in a volunteer position, please check out our job openings at goaim.org/jobs.

REAL ESTATE

FINGER LAKES AREA, UPSTATE, NY Lands for sale and lease. Ten-acre parcels with mature bearing fruit trees for sale \$19k per acre; 2-acre tillable land without trees for sale/lease. Call (315) 879-0949 or (315) 946-6444.

SERVICES

HONE YOUR FUNDRAISING SKILLS at the 2026 Missional Philanthropy Conference at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, July 14-16. Learn from nationally recognized experts in education, healthcare, corporate foundations, and nonprofit work about how to effectively

generate financial support for projects. Early-bird registration is open through April 1 at southern.edu/philanthropy conference.

WILLIAM TYNDALE REFORMATION TOUR Traveling on Aug. 26-Sept. 11, 2026, celebrating the 500th anniversary of the English New Testament with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Explore Tyndale's England, with optional extensions to Scotland or Germany and Belgium. Visit www.adventtours.org or email info@adventtours.org.

DON'T JUST RETIRE Live with purpose at Fletcher Park Inn, an independent living retirement community located on the campus of Fletcher Academy near Hendersonville, North Carolina. Join our family, take part in the many opportunities for staying active, volunteering,

making new friends and living with a purpose. Celebrating 35 years of welcoming you home! Call to find out more about our apartment and villa homes (828) 209-6930. Ask for our marketing department or visit www.fletcherparkinn.org.

ADVENTIST SINGLES WANTED! Looking for meaningful, faith-centered connection? Join AdventistDating.com—where single Seventh-day Adventists meet for friendship, companionship, and love grounded in shared beliefs. Safe, sincere, and free to join. Start your journey today at AdventistDating.com—where faith meets love!

FREE APP! Discover stellar faith-building, Bible-based and Christ-centered radio programs for all ages. LifeTalk Radio streams all music at LifeTalkMusic.net and awesome kids programs

at LifeTalkKids.net, or listen to talk radio at LifeTalk.net. Download our handy FREE APP from LifeTalk.net.

TEACH SERVICES HELPING AUTHORS Publish your book, including editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Visit www.TEACHServices.com to submit your manuscript for a free evaluation, or call (800) 367-1844. Shop for NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS at www.TEACHServices.com, or at your local ABC.

MOVE with an award-winning agency. Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves for you. Call us for all your relocation needs. Contact Marcy Danté at (800) 766-1902 or visit us at www.apexmoving.com/adventist.

Sunset Calendar

Daylight Saving Time

	Apr. 3	Apr. 10	Apr. 17	Apr. 24	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Bangor, ME	7:05	7:14	7:22	7:31	7:40	7:48	7:56	8:04	8:11
Portland, ME	7:10	7:18	7:26	7:35	7:43	7:51	7:59	8:06	8:13
Boston, MA	7:12	7:20	7:28	7:36	7:43	7:51	7:59	8:05	8:12
South Lancaster, MA	7:14	7:22	7:30	7:38	7:46	7:54	8:01	8:08	8:14
Pittsfield, MA	7:21	7:29	7:37	7:45	7:52	8:00	8:08	8:15	8:21
Hartford, CT	7:18	7:26	7:33	7:41	7:49	7:56	8:03	8:10	8:16
Providence, RI	7:13	7:21	7:28	7:36	7:44	7:51	7:58	8:05	8:11
New York, NY	7:22	7:30	7:37	7:44	7:52	7:59	8:06	8:12	8:18
Albany, NY	7:23	7:31	7:39	7:47	7:55	8:03	8:10	8:17	8:23
Utica, NY	7:29	7:37	7:46	7:54	8:02	8:10	8:17	8:24	8:31
Syracuse, NY	7:33	7:41	7:49	7:57	8:05	8:13	8:21	8:28	8:34
Rochester, NY	7:39	7:47	7:55	8:03	8:11	8:19	8:27	8:34	8:41
Buffalo, NY	7:44	7:52	8:00	8:08	8:16	8:24	8:31	8:38	8:45
Keene, NH	7:17	7:25	7:33	7:42	7:50	7:57	8:05	8:12	8:18
Manchester, NH	7:14	7:22	7:30	7:38	7:46	7:54	8:02	8:09	8:15
Portsmouth, NH	7:11	7:19	7:28	7:36	7:44	7:52	7:59	8:06	8:13
Brattleboro, VT	7:18	7:26	7:34	7:42	7:50	7:58	8:06	8:13	8:19
Burlington, VT	7:22	7:31	7:40	7:48	7:57	8:05	8:13	8:21	8:27
Rutland, VT	7:21	7:29	7:37	7:46	7:54	8:02	8:10	8:17	8:23
Hamilton, Bda	7:40	7:45	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:05	8:10	8:14	8:19

New Resources / Nuevos Recursos



Available in:
Audio, Large Print, Braille



**Order Your Free/Gratis
Copies Today!**

CHRISTIAN RECORD
SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

ASI
ADVENTIST-LAYMEN'S
SERVICES & INDUSTRIES



Join us for a weekend forum:

Conversations on Inspiration
in the Early 20th Century

And Why It Matters Today

When
Friday, May 15 • 7PM
Saturday, May 16
11AM - 4:30PM

Where
Freeport SDA Church
63 Pownall Rd
Freeport, Maine



MICHAEL W. CAMPBELL

Director of Research | North American
Division of Seventh-day Adventists

Michael W. Campbell is a historian, theologian, pastor, and educator. He has served as Professor at Southwestern Adventist University and at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies. He has authored nine books and numerous professional and academic articles.

Recommended Reading as you prepare for the weekend:

- 1922: The Rise of Adventist Fundamentalism
- 1919: The Untold Story of Adventism's Struggle with Fundamentalism

SCAN TO
REGISTER



MAY 1 - 2, 2026

HERE I AM

Send Me

2026 ASI ATLANTIC UNION
SPRING CONFERENCE



STEVE DICKMAN
KEYNOTE

MARRIOTT HARTFORD DOWNTOWN, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT | REGISTER NOW: ASIATLANTICUNION.ORG

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE
PRESENTS

SNEC LAITY Convention

W. DERRICK LEA
Director, Adventist
Community Services of the
North American Division

PIERRE E. OMELER
General Vice President of the
General Conference

DANIEL EBENEZER
Director, Sabbath School &
Personal Ministries of the
General Conference

Early Bird Registration \$165.00
Regular Registration \$190.00
Sabbath Only \$ 90.00

HOTEL REGISTRATION: EVENT REGISTRATION:

MAY 29-31, 2026
Participants will be
responsible for making their
own reservations.

@SNEC_ACS_PM_SS
242 Adams Pl, Boxborough, MA 01719

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

GET TOPICS TO INFORM, INSTRUCT, AND
INSPIRE DELIVERED TO YOUR EMAIL EACH
WEEK. SCAN THE QR CODE, OR VISIT THE
WEBSITE TO SIGN UP.

WWW.ATLANTICUNIONGLENER.ORG

ATLANTIC UNION

GLENER

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

Established January 1, 1902

Atlantic Union Conference
400 Main Street, Lancaster, MA 01523-2804
Phone (978) 368-8333, Fax (978) 368-7948
Website: atlantic-union.org
GLENER Website: atlanticuniongleaner.org

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

Editor..... Debra Banks Cuadro
Copy Editor (off-site)..... Pat Humphrey
Layout & Design (off-site)..... Haziel Olivera
Proofreader (off-site)..... Lisa Krueger

Editorial Contributors

Bermuda..... Michael Simmons, communications@bermudaconference.org
Greater New York..... Clavour Tucker, ctucker@gnyc.org
New York..... Reynolds Rodriguez, reynoldsrodriguez@gmail.com
Northeastern..... Lavern Sturup, lsturup@northeastern.org
Northern New England..... Dustin Johnson, djohnson@nnec.org
Southern New England..... Shawn Santana, ssantana@sneconline.org

Atlantic Union Conference Directory

President..... Abraham J. Jules	Human Relations/Human Resources... David O. McKenzie
Assistant to President for Evangelism... David O. McKenzie	Assistant..... Trevor S. Forbes
Executive Secretary..... David O. McKenzie	Information Technology..... Naquan Taitt
Treasurer..... Thomas (Tom) Murray	Medical Cadet Corps, volunteer..... Dionisio Olivo
Undertreasurer..... Trevor S. Forbes	Ministerial..... Abraham J. Jules
Associate..... Judine Lockhart	Assistant..... Jose Joseph
Vice President, Haitian/African..... Jose Joseph	Assistant..... Henry Beras
Vice President, Hispanic/Portuguese..... Henry Beras	Ministerial Spouses Director..... Dominique Jules
Adventist Community Services..... Jose Joseph	National Services Organization.... David O. McKenzie
Adventist Risk Management... Thomas (Tom) Murray	Native Ministries Coordinator
Adventist Youth/Young Adult Ministries	Personal Ministries..... Trevor S. Forbes
Vice President..... Emmanuel Contreras	Assistant, volunteer..... Louis Mancebo
ASI..... David O. McKenzie	Planned Giving and Trust Services/ Development..... Cynthia Huskins
Chaplaincy, volunteer..... Miguel Crespo	Prayer Ministries..... Angela Beras
Children's Ministries..... Marlene Alvarez	Assistant, volunteer..... Michelle Hill
Associate..... Theresa Robidoux	Assistant, volunteer..... Kettlie Joseph
Communication..... Debra Banks Cuadro	Prison Ministries, volunteer..... Ron Vincent
Disabilities Ministries..... Lileth Coke	Assistant, volunteer..... Kevin Santucci
Early Childhood Education..... Marlene Alvarez	Assistant, volunteer..... Lloyd Scharffenberg
Education, Vice President..... Marlene Alvarez	Advisor..... Trevor S. Forbes
Associate/Certification Registrar..... Lileth Coke	Public Affairs & Religious Liberty (PARL).... Charles Eusey
Associate..... Theresa Robidoux	Associate..... John Ashmeade
Evangelism/Growth/Outreach..... Abraham J. Jules	Associate..... James Richmond
Facilities Manager..... David Keith	Revolving Fund
Family Ministries..... Henry Beras	Accountant..... Violet Bidwell
Health Ministries..... Jose Joseph	Revolving Fund Support..... Cynthia Huskins
	Sabbath School..... Henry Beras
	Stewardship Ministries..... Cynthia Huskins
	Women's Ministries..... Angela Beras

Local Conferences and Institutions

BERMUDA: Kenneth Manders, President; W. DeJaun Tull, Secretary. Office Address: P.O. Box HM 1170, Hamilton, HM EX Bermuda. (441) 292-4110. Website: www.bermudaadventist.org

GREATER NEW YORK: Alanzo Smith, President; Ariel Manzueta, Secretary; Ysaías Javier, Treasurer. Office Address: 7 Shelter Rock Rd., Manhasset, NY 11030. (516) 627-9350. Website: www.gnyc.org

NEW YORK: Miguel Crespo, President; Claudio Gomez, Secretary; Priscilla English, Treasurer. Office Address: 4930 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215. (315) 469-6921. Website: www.nyconf.org

NORTHEASTERN: Eldeen King, President; Nicardo Delahaye, Secretary; Brian S. McDonald, Treasurer. Office Address: 115-50 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11434. (718) 291-8006. Website: www.northeastern.org

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND: Gary Blanchard, President; Larry Kirkpatrick, Secretary; Daniel Battin, Treasurer. Office Address: 479 Main St., Westbrook, ME 04092. (207) 797-3760. Website: www.nnec.org

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND: Robert Folkenberg, Jr., President; Edgardo Herrera, Secretary. Office Address: 34 Sawyer St., South Lancaster, MA 01561. (978) 365-4551. Website: www.sneconline.org

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE CORPORATION: Abraham J. Jules, Chairman; David McKenzie, Secretary; Thomas (Tom) Murray, Treasurer; Cynthia Huskins, Director of Development; 338 Main St., Lancaster, MA 01523; (978) 368-2000. Website: www.auc.edu

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

FIND THE WARMTH OF *Jesus* HERE

Many of our students here in the sunny South share how experiences on this Tennessee campus have helped to deepen their growing relationships with **Jesus**. At Southern Adventist University, we're committed to providing quality education in a Christ-centered environment.

Come see for yourself what makes Southern special! Whether you schedule an in-person or virtual visit, you'll get a guided tour of our stunning grounds, time with academic faculty, and an admissions consultation while having the chance to ask any questions you want.

Check with your local Adventist conference to see if you might qualify for a scholarship to attend Southern.

Can't wait to meet you!

southern.edu/visit

Collegedale, TN

GleanerAd | 12. 2025

