

ATLANTIC UNION

GLEANER

JULY/AUGUST 2026



ONE MISSION. TWO
SEASONS OF LEADERSHIP.

ATLANTIC UNION
CONFERENCE DEDICATES
NEW HEADQUARTERS

STUDENTS CULTIVATE
CHARACTER THROUGH
GARDENING

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*"Ask a Pathfinder
why they keep
coming back, and
almost none of
them mention the
honor badges first."
— p. 11*

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More Than a Weekend

I didn't have the privilege of growing up in a church with a Pathfinder or Adventurer club. I never attended a camporee as a young person, so I missed experiences that many Seventh-day Adventists remember fondly.

Today, I have the opportunity to attend these events from a different perspective. As communication director, I spend much of my time talking with people about their experiences. It's one of the parts of my job I enjoy most. Sometimes the younger children need a little encouragement before they'll answer a question. Others are happy to talk—especially when they see the camera. Every conversation offers a glimpse into what excites them about their church and why they keep coming back.

At this year's Atlantic Union Camporee, I noticed the same themes surfacing again and again. Young people talked about Christ-centered friendships. Leaders spoke about watching children become mentors. Parents described a community that helps their families stay connected. The conversations pointed to something much deeper than camping, honors, or recreation.

More than a century ago, Ellen White wrote, "Let the youth remember that here they are to build characters for eternity... Let those older in experience watch over the younger ones... and pray with them and for them" (THE YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR, Nov. 21, 1911).

Those words came to life throughout the weekend. Older Pathfinders encouraged younger Adventurers. Leaders quietly served behind the scenes. Even when the weather disrupted plans, people adapted, helped one another, and kept moving forward.

By the time I left Goshen, my body was tired, but I left with a renewed appreciation for a ministry that continues to shape young lives. Pathfinders and Adventurers are doing far more than preparing children for the next camporee—they are discipling the next generation to follow Christ.

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



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Atlantic Union Headquarters W

Hundreds of members, church leaders, community partners, and guests from across the Atlantic Union Conference and beyond gathered on July 5 to dedicate the conference's new headquarters and celebrate 125 years of God's leading throughout the Northeast.

The service marked the culmination of a journey that began with the purchase of the Westborough property in 2024. The new headquarters reflects the vision and leadership of Atlantic Union Conference administrators—Dr. Abraham J. Jules, president; Dr. David McKenzie, executive secretary; and Pastor Tom Murray, treasurer—and stands as a visible commitment to advancing the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout the region.

The Atlantic Union Conference previously operated from its Lancaster, Massachusetts, headquarters beginning in 1963 before relocating to its new home at 287 Turnpike Road.

Before the service began, the conference received a warm welcome from the surrounding community.

Representing the Town of Westborough, Planning Board member Mark Silverberg welcomed Atlantic Union leaders and members, expressing appreciation that an international church organization had chosen the town as its new home.

"It's gratifying to hear that a global organization wants to make Westborough its home," Silverberg said. Drawing laughter from the audience, he added, "I don't know why they didn't choose Bermuda, but ... I hope the town is as welcoming as you are to me today."

The program featured inspirational music, prayer, and participation from representatives of each of the Atlantic Union's six conferences. Two ribbon-cutting ceremonies—one at the building entrance and another outside the third-floor offices—symbolically dedicated both the facility and the conference's new

administrative home. The afternoon also included the unveiling of a commemorative granite plaque recognizing the conference officers whose vision and foresight guided the project.

In his opening remarks, Jules reflected on the significance of the milestone.

"As our nation celebrates 250 years," he said, "the Atlantic Union has been ministering in the Northeast for half of that time. We praise God for the long existence and ministry and mission of the Atlantic Union Conference."

The event also officially launched the conference's yearlong observance of its 125th anniversary, highlighting upcoming initiatives and events that celebrate God's faithfulness and renew the church's commitment to mission.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. G. Alexander Bryant, president of the North American Division, who centered his message on Psalm 127:1.

Quoting the familiar passage, Bryant reminded attendees, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." He noted that the verse appears among the Psalms of Ascent, sung by worshippers as they journeyed to Jerusalem.

"If you don't have the Lord in the middle of what you are doing—even in your praise—you're going to go off track," Bryant said. "'Except the Lord,' everything we do will be in vain."

Gesturing toward the new headquarters, Bryant challenged attendees to view the building not as an end in itself, but as a tool for ministry.

"The purpose of this building ... this edifice, is to tell people that Jesus is soon to come."

He concluded by reminding those gathered that the work of the church belongs to God.

"God allows us to participate with Him in His work."

Among the special guests who brought greetings were

Dedicates New with Grand Opening



Juan Rodriguez

G. Alexander Bryant, center left, North American Division president, and Abraham J. Jules, center right, Atlantic Union Conference president, cut the ribbon officially opening the new union headquarters.

Bryant; former Atlantic Union Conference presidents Dr. G. Earl Knight and Dr. Donald G. King; Dr. Carlyle Simmons, former executive secretary; Dr. Ron Smith, president of the Southern Union Conference; and Dr. Clifford Jones, retired Oakwood University professor, dean, and church administrator.

As the celebration concluded, the emphasis remained not on the completion of a building, but on the mission it represents. The dedication honored God's faithfulness

over the Atlantic Union's 125-year history while looking ahead with renewed commitment to serving more than 142,000 members throughout New England, New York, and Bermuda—and to sharing the hope of Christ's soon return with the communities beyond its walls.

—Debra Banks Cuadro, communication director and GLEANER editor, Atlantic Union Conference

Academy Connect 2026: Lead From Where You Are

Academy Connect was held at Camp Winnekeag from March 11–14. The annual event brought together student leaders from the six academies across the Atlantic Union for a weekend of worship, learning, and fellowship.

Throughout the weekend, 78 students, along with chaperones and clinicians, participated in hands-on and interactive activities designed to strengthen their connection with God and one another. Small-group sessions focused on art, leadership, media, and spiritual growth. Students also received disaster relief training as part of the program. Leaders and administrators from several Atlantic Union academies also attended, mentoring students and supporting the weekend's activities.

Morning and evening worship services, led by Enmanuel Contreras, Atlantic Union Conference vice president for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, encouraged students to reflect on how they can lead and serve in their schools and communities.

Clinicians for the event included Nkarlo Alexander, pastor of the Norwalk



A student takes a photo as part of the media training clinic.

church, who led the spiritual emphasis sessions; Reynolds Rodriguez, New York Conference Youth Ministries and communication director, who presented leadership training; and Lorraine Graham, Northeastern Conference administrative assistant, who coordinated the art sessions. Media training was led by Lavern Sturup, communication director for the Northeast-

ern Conference, and Amy Gallimore, assistant communication director for the Northeastern Conference.

Ollyce Gardner, principal of South Lancaster Academy, and James Reid, chaplain and teacher at Pine Tree Academy, coordinated prayer activities throughout the weekend. Everette Samuel, Adventist Community Services director for the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, led the disaster relief training sessions. Sherina Phillips, associate superintendent of schools for the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and Walter Szoboszlai, assistant principal and physical education teacher at Greater New York Academy, organized the recreation activities.

During the event, attendees collected nearly \$700 to support hurricane relief efforts in Jamaica.

— Theresa Robidoux, associate education director, Atlantic Union Conference



Painting is an enjoyable activity during the art sessions.

Adventure Bible Game Expands as Atlantic Union Launches New Ducklings Pilot Program

Three years after its introduction to the Atlantic Union Conference, the Adventure Bible Game (ABG) continues to gain momentum. Now, a new pilot program is opening the door for the union's youngest children to begin digging into God's Word even earlier.

ABG got its start as a pilot program in the Southern New England Conference, championed by Adventurer leaders Jennifer Hay and Lydia Rojas. From there, it spread quickly: Northeastern (NEC) and Northern New England (NNEC) conferences soon launched their own programs, and the Greater New York Conference (GNYC) joined the initiative after a presentation at the 2023 Atlantic Union Youth Summit. This year, GNYC hosted its first conference-level ABG.

As participation has grown, so has the program itself. Under the leadership of Aisha Edwards, NEC Adventurer executive coordinator and Atlantic Union Adventurer Advisory chair, the team has continued refining the union-level competition based on North American Division guidelines and feedback from participants. One key adjustment streamlined the multilingual format: Questions are now displayed in English, Spanish, French, and Creole but read

aloud only in English, a change that lets the competition move at a pace better suited for young participants. The team also adjusted parent participation rules to better accommodate venue capacity.

With interest still growing, organizers are now exploring a larger venue and hope to eventually include the New York and Bermuda conferences in future union-wide competitions, with Bermuda potentially joining virtually.

That momentum has helped pave the way for a second initiative: a new Ducklings pilot program for children ages 2 and 3.

Ducklings is designed to give children too young for the Little Lamb class a Christ-centered experience of their own. Rather than adopt an existing curriculum, the advisory team studied similar programs across the North American Division and Brazil before building one tailored specifically to Atlantic Union families.

Edwards explained that the result is a two-year curriculum built around monthly Bible themes, memory verses, crafts, songs, and age-appropriate activities that introduce biblical principles while reinforcing colors, shapes, and



Aisha Edwards, NEC Adventurer executive coordinator and Atlantic Union Adventurer Advisory chair, left, and Emmanuel Contreras, Atlantic Union Conference vice president for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

numbers. Children also receive specially designed “web feet” participation patches that recognize involvement rather than completed requirements, reflecting the developmental needs of toddlers.

“About 30 clubs are currently taking part in the pilot,” Edwards said. Once development is complete, the advisory team plans to present the finished curriculum to Emmanuel Contreras, Atlantic Union Conference vice president for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, for formal union approval.

Behind both initiatives' success, Edwards credits Contreras' willingness to trust the team and pointed to that trust as a turning point.

“Even though he had heard of the Adventure Bible Game, he wasn't aware of how we as a team operated the union-level game, but he trusted us to do it. And I think that was huge,” Edwards added.

Together, the two programs reflect the Atlantic Union's commitment to providing meaningful, age-appropriate spiritual experiences—ones that help children begin building a lifelong relationship with Jesus from their earliest years.

— Debra Banks Cuadro, communication director and GLEANER editor, Atlantic Union Conference



Adventurers wait expectantly for results during the 2026 Adventurer Bible Games in South Lancaster, Massachusetts.

Alexander Dovich



One Mission. Two Seasons of Leadership.

As more than 6,000 Adventurers, Pathfinders, Master Guides, and Youth Ministries leaders gathered for the Atlantic Union's Conference's "Climb Higher Camporee," another milestone quietly unfolded behind the scenes. For the first time since being elected to serve in his new role as vice president for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Enmanuel Contreras led a Union Camporee, building on years of planning and vision established under his predecessor, David McKenzie.

Rather than marking an ending, the moment reflected something deeper: a ministry strengthened through faithful leadership, shared purpose, and a steadfast commitment to leading young people to Christ.

McKenzie, who served more than a decade in Youth Ministries—first at the Northeastern Conference and then in the Atlantic Union—before being elected executive secretary in 2025, is quick to redirect attention away from himself. While he helped launch the vision for the Camporee and for this year's historic first joint gathering of Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs, he credits Contreras and the planning team for bringing it to fruition.

"God has a man for every season," McKenzie reflected. "He uses us at different phases in His ministry. God used me to commence, find these grounds, and put certain things in place. But then came the powerful Vice President Enmanuel Contreras to take it to the finish line."

Contreras is equally quick to return the praise.

"This Camporee was your vision," he told McKenzie. "It came out under your leadership. God used your leadership, but it was in the mind of God and in the time of God that it was executed. We have seen the hand of God every step of the way."

Their mutual respect reveals a leadership philosophy rooted not in personal recognition but in stewardship—receiving a ministry, strengthening it, and preparing others to carry it forward.



Ron Whitehead, left, Lake Union Conference Youth Ministries director, poses with Atlantic Union Conference representatives after receiving an award: Enmanuel Contreras, vice president for Youth Ministries, his wife, Yasmell Contreras, and David McKenzie, executive secretary.

That same spirit is reflected in their vision for uniform ministries. Both leaders see Adventurers and Pathfinders as spiritual avenues where young people develop character, discover their gifts, and begin a lifelong journey of discipleship with Jesus.

For McKenzie, one of the greatest joys has been watching Youth Ministries continue to flourish in the Atlantic Union.

"I'm proud to see that Youth Ministries is not dying in this union," he said. "Youth Ministries is growing. Our Adventurers and Pathfinders have become even more rooted in the Word of God, stronger spiritually, and looking toward the second coming of Jesus Christ. The church is in good hands."

Contreras shares that confidence while looking toward the future. His prayer is that this generation will continue to "climb higher" in three essential areas: prayer, Bible study, and service. As young people deepen their relationship with Christ and share their faith with others, he believes they will become the next generation of pastors, teachers, healthcare professionals, church leaders, and faithful disciples.

The humble transition between these

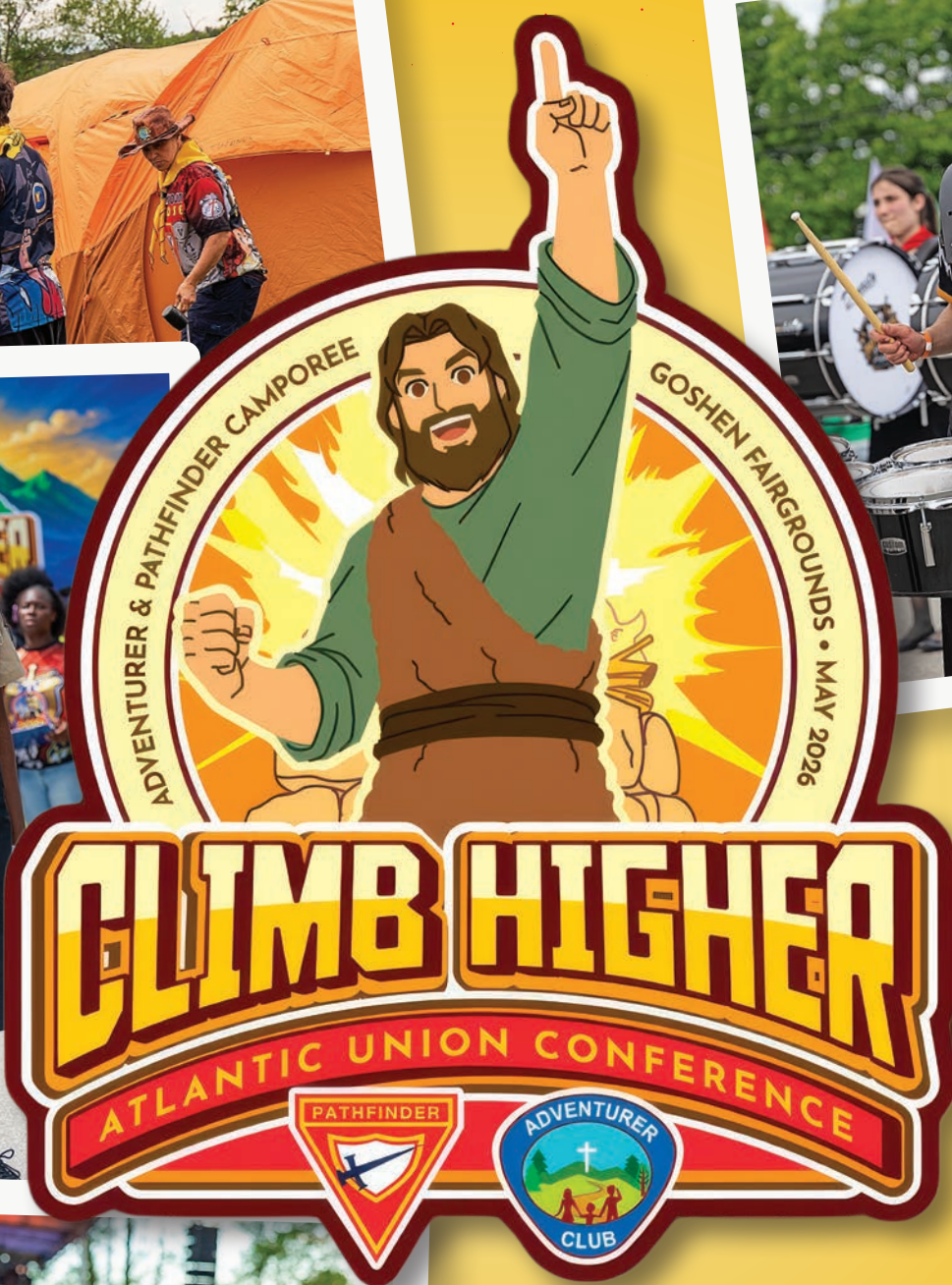


two servant leaders is a reminder that God's work continues from one generation to the next.

"It was amazing to see how everyone came together on one team, on one purpose, on one goal—to lift up the name of Jesus and to serve our youth," Contreras said. "All with a pure heart."

One leader plants. Another builds. "But God has been making it grow," 1 Corinthians 3:6, NIV. Together, they point the next generation toward Jesus—and invite them to keep climbing higher.

—Debra Banks Cuadro, communication director and GLEANER editor, Atlantic Union Conference



The weekend began with sunny skies and laughter at the Goshen fairgrounds in Connecticut, as Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs set up camp, played in bubbles from a foam machine, and traded pins.

NO ONE EXPECTED WHAT HAPPENED JUST A FEW HOURS LATER.





“It introduces you to lots of different skills in life that you might not experience otherwise.”

— a Pathfinder, Northern New England Conference

GOD OF THE STORMS

Fierce overnight wind gusts sent tents and canopies flying, and fear gripped the campground as the storm intensified. Heavy rain soaked exposed sleeping bags, food, cooking gear, and campers as they struggled to secure their areas in the darkness.

By flashlight, families and clubs knelt by their sleeping bags to pray for God’s protection as wind gusts shook their tents.

“We had to pray and ask Him to keep us safe,” recalled one Pathfinder from the Mpungu club in the Southern New England Conference. Another club member added, “God will keep all of us safe, even through the bad things, the hard times and the good times, and He’ll protect us through wherever we are.”

The rising sun revealed mud and debris. Gray skies and steady wind provided little warmth as temperatures hovered in the low 50s. However, true to the camporee theme, “Climb Higher,” the weather could not dampen the hope and enthusiasm of the more than 6,000 campers ready to face another day.

Somewhere between the frigid nights and the (eventually) warm afternoons, thousands of kids — and the adults who support and mentor them — learned that climbing higher usually starts with something falling down first.

WHY THEY STAY

Ask a Pathfinder why they keep coming back, and almost none of them mention the honor badges first.

“Getting closer to God and like, learning life skills,” said one Pathfinder from the Albany Angels club in the New York Conference. One club leader put it more simply: “The little kids grow up together, in a group as a family. That’s the major reason that I’m here for. Because of the club, I’m here in the church today.”

That closeness to God is the thread that runs under everything else — the friendships, the honors, the drilling and marching, even the pin trading. Another Pathfinder described uniformed ministries as a place where you find “friends that have Jesus in their hearts.”

A younger Pathfinder from the Upper Valley Maples club in Northern New England Conference wisely recognized what the honors are actually teaching underneath the skill itself: “The honors help teach life skills and also help bring kids closer to God, while also having some fun mixed in with learning, writing, and hands-on [activities].”

“I thought it was just a random group of teenagers going to camp and do stuff like that. But after I joined Pathfinders, I learned that it’s way more serious than that. It’s to help [us] on our journey to Heaven,” said a Pathfinder from Northeastern Conference’s Oceano club.

LESSONS FROM ELIJAH

Each evening, a talented team of actors brought the powerful story of Elijah to life. The dramatized lessons about the prophet who remained faithful to God despite numerous obstacles deeply impacted young and old alike.

"The meaning of Elijah's story, like, going through even when everybody's telling you shouldn't ... even when you have life threats, he was still faithful. And eventually [his faithfulness] got him taken up into heaven in a fiery chariot. It's pretty cool," one Upper Valley Maples Pathfinder reminisced.

ONE CAMPOREE, EVERY AGE

In a historic and visionary move, three divisions of uniformed ministries joined together for a camporee: Adventurers, Pathfinders and Ducklings, the latter is a new pilot program for the very youngest in the Atlantic Union. (Learn more about this unique program on page 7.) It was not a small logistical experiment. Mixing tiny tots with teenagers on one campground meant answering a question many parents were asking out loud before the weekend even started: Would this actually work?

Enmanuel Contreras, Atlantic Union Conference vice president for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, said organizers built the answer into the planning itself. "We took safety into consideration and the needs of each group," he said. "We took time to dedicate [programs and activities] to the Adventurer's understanding and abilities and come to their level without putting the Pathfinder's needs aside."

By Sunday, the answer was clear. Parents from the Catamount Cubs, a Southern New England Conference club with children in both programs, described watching something click into place.

"As a parent, having the mixed group, it worked out because the big ones were helping the little ones," one parent said. "I like that. It taught them responsibility; it taught them to care. It taught them to let the little ones go first."

The youngest campers didn't need convincing. When a parent raised concerns about the age gap, one child had a simpler read on the whole weekend: "Everybody can be friends together."

Watching the Pathfinder parade and drum corps up close, one parent said: "It's something they can look forward to. We want them to be excited about the Adventurers Club, but we want them to look forward to becoming a Pathfinder as well."

And for some families, the pull of this community reaches further than one club or one conference. "For me it was community," another parent said. "I wanted her to have community. Not just at our church, with her school, but conference-wide — and hopefully worldwide we'll get to connect with our Seventh-day Adventist community and friends in this way."

That kind of connection doesn't always stay inside the years a child spends in uniform. One club director from the Northern New England Conference recalled mentoring a Pathfinder more than 15 years ago — a young girl who has since drifted from regular church attendance. Years later, she asked him to walk her down the aisle at her wedding. "So this person doesn't really attend the church anymore,



"Everybody gets a chance... Everybody can be friends together."

— an Adventurer, Southern New England Conference



Photos: Alex Dovich, Jonathan Mangah, Brenton Morris, Juan Rodriguez

but she still has a connection to the church through Pathfinders,” he said. “And it brought me to tears.”

WHY THE ADULTS KEEP SHOWING UP

Every director will tell you camporee weekend is exhausting. Ask them if it’s worth it, and the answer comes without hesitation.

“The most rewarding thing about doing Pathfinders is working with kids starting at this age down here, and then when they’re old and wise and turning into leaders themselves,” one club director said. “It’s just really rewarding being able to work with them and watch them grow and develop and build that relationship with God. It’s just a wonderful thing.”

Armando Miranda Jr., North American Division associate director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, sees something bigger in this generation of Pathfinders than most adults give them credit for. “I’ve seen these Pathfinders being more moldable, you know, in many circumstances,” he said. “This generation is flexible, they adjust, they adapt more than other generations.”

He also named the real opponent uniformed ministries are up against — and it isn’t the weather. “The biggest challenge, not only for this generation of Pathfinders but for all of us, is the constant noise,” Miranda said. “I’m talking about digital noise that actually invades our spaces.” His prescription is almost old-fashioned: Put the phones down and go outside. “One of the main purposes of Adventurer and Pathfinder

ministries is to learn about God, not only through the Bible, but the second book, which is nature.”

TWENTY-TWO BAPTIZED

By Sabbath afternoon, the mud had mostly dried and the sun was peeking through the clouds. What hadn’t diminished was the momentum that had been building all weekend around one story — a prophet who stayed faithful when it would have been easier not to.

That story found its way into an altar call. Twenty-two campers, including some adults, stepped into the frigid baptismal pool. Cold water. Cold air. And none of it seemed to matter once they were in the moment.

Miranda hopes that in 20 years, when this generation looks back, they won’t remember the weather, logo, or the pin first. “I pray that in 20 years, when they look back ... they remember a turning point where they say, you know what — I’m going to climb higher than where I am,” he said. “Not only thinking about their position, but their life, their spiritual life. Maybe they have to choose to climb higher with Jesus.”

By the time the last camper emerged from the frigid water, dripping and grinning under a blue Goshen sky, more than 6,000 campers had already learned the same lesson 22 of them publicly demonstrated: God is faithful all the time. Nothing is ever truly lost by laying down goals, dreams, and lives for Him in the pursuit of His ideals for His children.

Debra Banks Cuadro, GLEANER editor, with reporting assistance from Naquan Taitt, Atlantic Union Conference IT director.

2025 Caring Heart Award

The North American Division (NAD) Caring Heart Award for Christian Service recognizes senior academy students selected by their school who exemplify Christ-centered service through their commitment to helping others, sharing their faith, and making a positive impact in their communities. Recipients receive a \$500 scholarship sponsored by their union conference, along with an engraved Bible and commemorative plaque provided by the NAD Office of Education.

The Atlantic Union Conference is pleased to recognize the following recipients of the 2025–2026 Caring Heart Award. The comments below are submitted by their schools and reflect the qualities that have distinguished these students as examples of Christlike service.



◀ **MAEL GAHKINAHE**
UNION SPRINGS ACADEMY

In a world where kindness can sometimes feel rare, Mael stands out as a young person whose compassion, humility, and genuine love for others shine brightly every single day. He does not simply perform kind actions when others are watching—caring for people is part of who he is at his core.

What makes Mael truly special is his ability to notice the needs that others often overlook. He pays attention to the student sitting quietly in the corner, the friend carrying a heavy burden, or the person who simply needs someone to believe in them. Mael has an incredible way of making people feel seen, heard, and valued. His kindness is not loud or attention-seeking; it is sincere, intentional, and deeply impactful.

There are students who lead with talent, others who lead with confidence, but Mael leads with the heart. He consistently chooses compassion, even when it is inconvenient. He encourages others when they are discouraged, offers help without being asked, and brings peace into difficult situations. The care he shows flows naturally from a heart that genuinely desires to make life better for those around him.

What is perhaps most remarkable about Mael is the atmosphere he creates wherever he goes. People feel safer around him. They feel respected. They feel important. His presence carries warmth, patience, and understanding in a way that cannot be easily taught. In moments where others may walk away, Mael steps closer. In moments where others may judge, Mael chooses empathy. That kind of character is rare and deserves recognition and celebration.

Mael's impact reaches far beyond simple acts of kindness. He reminds others that compassion still matters. He demonstrates that strength lies not only in achievement but also in the ability to care deeply for people. His example challenges those around him to be better, kinder, and more thoughtful human beings.

His heart for others is genuine, powerful, and unforgettable. He is not only an excellent candidate for this award; he is the very definition of it.

LILIANA LOPEZ ▶
SOUTH LANCASTER ACADEMY

A dedicated student-athlete who consistently strives to do her best in all that she does. She has a strong work ethic, leadership skills, and a caring nature. Lili is a positive role model among her peers and an advocate for doing the right thing. She leads by example, both in and out of the classroom. Through her kindness, determination, and active involvement in school and church activities, she truly makes a positive impact on those around her.





▲ **SHANNON MADRAMOOTOO**
GREATER NEW YORK ACADEMY

Distinguished herself as an exceptional leader, both within and beyond the classroom. As a senior, she exemplifies maturity, poise, and a deeply rooted love for God that informs her actions and interactions each day.

Throughout her time at Greater New York Academy, Shannon has faithfully served in multiple leadership capacities, including president of the Student Council and treasurer of her class. In each role, she has demonstrated the ability to unite her peers, lead decisively, and prioritize others' well-being. Her commitment to excellence is evident not only in her academic achievements but also in her character and integrity.

Shannon's dedication to service extends far beyond her formal responsibilities. Her passion for ministry is clearly reflected in her leadership of the Young Preachers club, where she inspires her peers to step beyond their comfort zones, use their voices to uplift Christ, and deepen their spiritual journeys.

Shannon consistently lives out the principles she shares. In every environment, she reflects Christ's love through genuine compassion, steadfast dedication, and an unwavering commitment to serving others. She is not only a leader by title, but one whose daily life embodies faith, character, and purpose.



▲ **PEDRO DONAVIN DURRANT**
BERMUDA INSTITUTE

Born in Bermuda, Pedro is now completing his senior year and has attended the Bermuda Institute since kindergarten, where he has been recognized for his academic excellence through induction into both the Junior Honor Society and the Honors Society.

In school, Pedro has taken on several leadership roles, serving as Deputy Head Boy, class president, and parliamentarian for the Student Association. He was also crowned Courtesy King at his high school banquet, reflecting his character, respectfulness, and positive influence among his peers.

Pedro is actively involved in athletics, participating in track and field with the Pacers Running Club, where he competes in hurdles, and playing volleyball. Beyond sports, he plays an important role in his church community as a junior deacon and a member of the audiovisual team. He is also a dedicated member of the Pathfinders club at Hamilton church and is currently working toward earning his Master Guide honor.

In his free time, Pedro enjoys singing, worshipping, and spending time with his friends.



▲ **EZRA BENJAMIN**
NORTHEASTERN ADVENTIST ACADEMY – BROOKLYN CAMPUS

A dedicated and compassionate student leader at Northeastern Adventist Academy who exemplifies the spirit of Christian service, humility, and spiritual leadership. Serving faithfully as a student chaplain, Ezra has made it his mission to ensure that every student feels seen, valued, and supported. He consistently reaches out to his peers during school hours, after school, and at events, offering encouragement, prayer, and genuine care that reflects the love of Christ.

Ezra's commitment to ministry extends far beyond the classroom. He actively participates as a lead singer on the praise and worship team, as a media team member, and as a leader in the Canarsie Chiefs Pathfinder club. Through these roles, he contributes meaningfully to worship experiences, youth mentorship, and community outreach. He has also preached at various church programs and for worship services on Education Sabbath, inspiring both youth and adults.

Known among his peers as a unifier, Ezra creates an atmosphere of belonging wherever he goes. He intentionally welcomes new students, builds connections across grade levels, and offers support to those who may feel overlooked. His quiet acts of kindness—such as helping classmates in need, even at personal cost—demonstrate a selfless and Christ-centered heart.

Ezra's life is a testament to integrity, humility, and unwavering commitment to service. He leads not for recognition, but out of a sincere desire to reflect Christ's character. His consistent involvement in outreach efforts, including community service initiatives and church programs, highlights his passion for ministry and witnessing.

With a heart devoted to God and a genuine love for people, Ezra embodies the very essence of the Caring Heart Award. His example inspires others to serve, to lead with compassion, and to live a life rooted in faith.

Hamilton Church Honors Bermuda Cancer and Health Centre for Community Service

Bermuda's Hamilton Church recognized the Bermuda Cancer and Health Centre (BCHC) during its Health Ministries Weekend on April 25, honoring the organization for its longstanding commitment to serving the Bermuda community.

Church leaders presented a donation and a plaque of appreciation to BCHC representatives Anthony Fitzgerald, chief transformation officer, and Ellen Trueman, radiation oncology nurse, in recognition of the center's dedication to providing accessible cancer care and health services.

Founded in 1945, BCHC is one of Bermuda's oldest charitable organizations.



Leaders from the Hamilton church present a plaque to representatives from the Bermuda Cancer and Health Centre (BCHC).

The center is dedicated to the prevention, detection, treatment, and support of cancer and other health concerns throughout

the island. Through its Equal Access Fund, BCHC helps ensure that patients receive essential clinical services, regardless of their

insurance coverage or financial circumstances.

According to BCHC, the Equal Access Fund provided approximately \$2.2 million in subsidized services in 2025, assisting 2,589 individuals at no out-of-pocket cost. The fund supports access to services such as mammography, ultrasound, biopsies, and radiation therapy for insured and uninsured patients alike.

The recognition highlighted the shared commitment of BCHC and the Seventh-day Adventist Church to promoting health, wellness, and compassionate care within the community.

— Hamilton church and GLEANER staff

Partnership and Evangelistic Emphasis Bring Spiritual Renewal Across Bermuda

The Bermuda Conference partnered with the Northeastern Conference to bring the island an impactful evangelistic initiative under the theme "Empowered by the Spirit to ELEVATE." ELEVATE stands for Evangelism, Leadership, Education, Vision, Advancement, Transformation, and Empowerment.

For one week, 11 Northeastern Conference pastors conducted meetings in Bermuda's 11 churches. The series began on February 28 with a special consecration service led by Eldeen C. King, Northeastern Conference president. Throughout the week, churches combined spiritual revival with community engagement by serving evening meals, presenting health segments, and conducting outreach activities tailored to local needs. The visiting pastors were warmly received and also visited Bermuda Institute, where they prayed with students, teachers, and staff.

The initiative concluded March 7 with

a Sabbath celebration featuring Abraham J. Jules, Atlantic Union Conference president. His message, "Celebration," provided a fitting conclusion to a week of spiritual renewal and fellowship.

The spirit of evangelism continued the following week through a conference-wide outreach effort led by John Bradshaw, speaker/director of *It Is Written*, one of Bermuda's longest-running religious broadcasts. Hosted by the Bermuda Conference Personal Ministries Department, the series focused on God's free gift of salvation and was held at CedarBridge Academy in Devonshire. The venue was selected to attract individuals who might not otherwise attend a church service.

The weeklong series culminated on Sabbath, March 21, at Bermuda Institute, where all local churches closed to support the event. The day also coincided with Bermuda Institute Day and Global Youth Day. Bermuda Institute students led the worship ser-



John Bradshaw, speaker/director of *It Is Written*, delivers a message during Bermuda Institute Day and Global Youth Day.

vice through music and praise, while Bradshaw delivered a message of repentance and hope in Christ. He challenged attendees to turn from deceptive influences and commit their lives fully to God. Many responded to the appeal, and Bible studies continue with those seeking to deepen their faith.

— Michael Simmons, communication director, Bermuda Conference

Restored, Renewed, Refocused: Family Life Weekend Brings Healing and Hope to Warwick Church and Community

Under the theme, “Restored, Renewed, Refocused,” the Warwick church in Bermuda hosted a Family Life Weekend on April 3-4. The event focused on strengthening families while addressing the emotional wounds that often affect relationships and life choices.

Members, visitors, couples, parents, and young people gathered for a weekend of reflection, healing, and spiritual renewal. The event provided a safe space for participants to confront real-life challenges and experience God’s restoring presence.

Featured presenters Dr. Cesar De Leon and Carolann De Leon, Family Life directors for the North American Division, brought a unique blend of professional expertise and spiritual insight. As licensed marriage and family therapists, they shared practical, biblically-based strategies for building healthier relationships.

The Friday evening seminar explored how unresolved emotional trauma can influence behavior, communication, and decision-making within families. Participants were encouraged to recognize the impact of past experiences and begin the healing process through intentional steps, forgiveness, and reliance on God. Central to the presentation was the biblical promise that Christ came to restore what has been broken, as expressed in 1 John 3:8: “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

During the Sabbath worship service, presenters emphasized the importance of placing Christ at the cen-

ter of the home. While many families appear healthy on the surface, they noted that true wholeness requires addressing internal wounds and aligning life with God’s purpose. Attendees were challenged to build spiritually grounded homes through daily choices, grace, and intentional love.

The Sabbath afternoon seminar involved an interactive question-and-answer session. Participants openly discussed communication barriers, generational patterns, emotional pain, and the effects of unresolved trauma on relationships. The presenters offered practical tools and spiritual guidance to help families move toward healing and restoration.

The weekend concluded with a solemn anointing service, where individuals and families were invited to seek God’s healing emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. Participants surrendered burdens, committed to positive change, and embraced renewed hope.

Throughout the weekend, attendees testified to the relevance and impact of the presentations. One participant shared, “This experience helped me understand how past hurts have shaped my relationships, and it gave me hope that healing is possible through God.”

As the Warwick church family moves forward, the themes of healing, healthy communication, and Christ-centered living continue to resonate. Many participants were inspired to take intentional steps toward personal and family transformation.

The message of the weekend was clear: Through



Cesar De Leon and Carolann De Leon, Family Life directors for the North American Division, give a presentation.

Christ, families can be restored, renewed, and refocused in their relationships, hearts, and lives.

— Joan and David Goulbourne,
Family Life leaders, Warwick
church

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fourth Quadrennial Session of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church Complex, Hamilton, Bermuda on Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. The Organizing Committee will meet on Sunday, July 12, at 10:00 a.m. and the Nominating Committee will be meeting on Sunday, August 9 at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers, executive, trustees and constitution and bylaws committees, and departmental directors for the ensuing term; to receive reports; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the session. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members. Additional delegates are members of the executive committee, the constitution and bylaws committee, the board of trustees of the Bermuda Conference; members of the executive committee of the Atlantic Union Conference; all employees holding credentials and licenses issued by the Bermuda Conference; departmental directors, associate or assistant departmental directors, and members of the General Conference/NAD executive committee who may be present. The number of General Conference/NAD delegates shall not exceed 10% of the total number of regular delegates.

Kenneth Manders, President
W. Dejaun Tull, Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Trustees of The Seventh-day Adventist Church of Bermuda

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Trustees of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Bermuda, a legal corporation, will be held in connection with the Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists at the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church Complex, Hamilton, Bermuda on Sunday, September 27, 2026. The first meeting of the legal corporation will be held at 11:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a board of trustees and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Delegates to the Conference Session of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the delegates to the Conference Session of the Bermuda Conference Legal Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

Kenneth Manders, President
W. Aaron M. Spencer, Secretary

More Than 200 Men Gather for GNYC Prayer Convention

The Men's Prayer Convention brought together more than 200 men, including youth, young adults and adults, for a worship, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. Inspiring music and heartfelt worship prepared attendees to receive messages focused on strengthening their walk with God.

The convention opened with a powerful sermon by Alton Williams, pastor of the New Haven Temple in Brooklyn. During the Sabbath divine service, keynote speaker Greg Baldeo, pastor of the Eliathah church in Florida, delivered a message entitled "Solid Rock," reminding participants of the unshakable foundation found in Jesus Christ and challenging men to remain steadfast in faith through life's trials. Throughout the weekend, prayers, worship, and fellowship fostered a spirit of unity, encouragement, and spiritual growth.

The Sabbath morning devotional message was pre-



Reginald Barthelemy, center front, is recognized for his faithful service by his brothers in ministry.

sented by Edsel B. Cadet, who pastors the Berea church in Boston, Massachusetts. In addition to the worship services, attendees participated in seminars offered in English, Spanish, and French by a diverse group of presenters. Topics included men's health, personal finance, sexuality, marriage, and spiritual relationships.

Music was a highlight of the convention. Singing evangelist Samuel Clark and other guest artists presented an afternoon concert that inspired and uplifted attendees.

Saturday evening featured recreational activities,

including basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, and a dominoes tournament, providing opportunities for fellowship and connection among participants.

Many attendees expressed appreciation for the organizers and gratitude to God for the blessings received throughout the weekend. The convention continued its tradition of encouraging men in their spiritual journey and strengthening bonds of brotherhood.

The closing day began with a message by Baniel Lara, Greater New York Conference (GNYC) director for Personal

Ministries and church planting, whose sermon and accompanying testimonies inspired and encouraged those in attendance. The closing ceremony also featured a brief message from Baldeo, followed by a charge to the men delivered by Reginald Barthelemy, GNYC Men's Ministries and ministerial director, who challenged participants to remain faithful in their service and commitment to Christ.

As the convention concluded, attendees joined hands and sang: "Side by side we stand, Awaiting God's command."

Pastor Neil Turner offered the closing prayer, bringing the weekend to a meaningful conclusion.

Organizers expressed appreciation to the advisory team, Lisa González, and the GNYC administrators for their support in making the event possible.

To God be the glory.

—Communication department,
Greater New York Conference

Oakview School Celebrates Dedication of New Playground and School Bus

Students at Oakview Preparatory School celebrated the long-awaited dedication of a new playground and school bus on April 17. After being told they would have to wait until after the ceremony to use the playground, anticipation ran high among the students.

Perfect spring weather set the stage for the outdoor ribbon-cutting ceremony, which opened with Ms. Stokes leading attendees in the hymn, "To God Be the

Glory." Students played an active role throughout the program, presenting musical selections, reading Scripture and sharing a poem.

Special guests included parents, pastors, school board members, and Maria Thomas, Greater New York Conference superintendent of schools. During the ceremony, pastors offered prayers of dedication for the playground and school bus, while attendees joined in responsive dedication readings. The



An Oakview Preparatory student prepares to cut the ribbon to officially open the playground.

event culminated with the student council president cutting the ribbon and officially opening the playground.

God has blessed Oakview through the generosity of faithful donors and dedicated supporters. Transportation committee members Mr. McKenley and Mr. Willis worked tirelessly to raise funds for the bus and spent countless hours locating a vehicle that met the school's needs. Thanks

to their efforts, students can now travel safely and comfortably in an air-conditioned bus.

—Judith White, principal, Oakview Preparatory school



Guests to the dedication join Oakview principal, Judith White, center, and Maria Thomas, third from right, Greater New York Conference superintendent of schools, in front of the new bus.

Chosen & Cherished: A Weekend of Renewal, Fellowship, and Faith

More than 550 women, young adults and youth gathered April 24-26, at the Stamford Marriott Hotel & Spa in Stamford, Connecticut, for the Greater New York Conference's (GNYC) 38th annual Women's Prayer Retreat. Under the theme "Chosen & Cherished," attendees were reminded that they are deeply loved, valued, and called by Jesus Christ.

Throughout the weekend, participants were encouraged to trust God's presence and care through life's challenges. Separate programming was offered for English-speaking, Spanish-speaking, young adult and youth attendees. Demand exceeded expectations, with attendance surpassing the venue's intended capacity. Programs were presented in English, Spanish, and French, allowing participants from diverse backgrounds to fully engage in the experience.

The retreat featured seminars on topics including living with purpose, intimacy, spiritual warfare, emotional intelligence, health principles, and listening ministry.



Lisa D. González, right, expresses her gratitude after being recongized for her years of faithful leadership.

Dynamic presenters, uplifting music, and a meaningful anointing service provided opportunities for spiritual renewal and growth.

A special blessing was the attendance of former Women's Ministries Director Angelia Francis-Brown, whose encouragement, mentorship, and friendship have had a lasting impact on the ministry and its leaders.

One highlight of the weekend was a gala celebration honoring the many individuals who have faithfully served behind the scenes over the years. During the event, longtime logistics

coordinator Walter Harris reflected on his ministry experience and expressed gratitude for the relationships formed while serving alongside the GNYC Women's Ministries team.

The evening also included a surprise awards presentation honoring Lisa D. González for her leadership and years of service as Women's Ministries director. The recognition was a touching tribute to her contributions and dedication to the ministry.

As González prepares to conclude her term as Women's Ministries director

in October, she reflects with gratitude on God's leading throughout her ministry. During her tenure, she oversaw prayer retreats, evangelism initiatives, Bible studies, and prayer ministries, while also authoring *FOR HIS GLORY: A JOURNEY OF FAITH, PURPOSE AND TRANSFORMATION*. Released in May, the book was created to support local Women's Ministries leaders and evangelistic outreach efforts.

González expressed appreciation to the Evangelism Advisory Committee, the Women's Prayer Retreat committees—past and present—the faithful participants in the weekly prayer and Bible study ministry, and the GNYC family for their support throughout the years.

The retreat concluded with a renewed commitment to serve faithfully and continue advancing the mission of Women's Ministries for the glory of God.

—Women's Ministries team, Greater New York Conference

Canton Church Supports College Students Through Faith and Community

The Canton church is making a difference in the lives of college students across New York's North Country through an intentional ministry of fellowship, worship, and spiritual support.

Home to several colleges and universities, including private universities, state colleges, and community colleges, the church serves a region with more than 13,000 college students within a 10-mile radius. Recognizing the unique challenges that often accompany college life, the congregation has committed to helping students stay connected to Christ while pursuing their academic goals.

That ministry was on display March 28, when the Canton College Student Choir presented a musical program following lunch at Embajadores de Cristo (Ambassadors of Christ) Hispanic Church in Syracuse, New York. The church is pastored by Acacio Rojas.

The choir is made up of students attending colleges and universities throughout the North Country district,



Members of the Canton College Student Choir pose for a photo after a performance at the Embajadores de Cristo Hispanic Church in Syracuse, New York.

which is led by Pastor Servet Dema. Dema accompanied the students to Syracuse for the program.

The gathering was more than a musical presentation. It reflected the church's ongoing outreach to young adults studying away from home. Through fellowship meals, worship gatherings, and meaningful relationships, the Canton church seeks to create a supportive environment where students can grow spiritually while

navigating the demands of higher education.

The Canton College Student Choir represents not only musical talent but also a vibrant, faith-centered community of young adults committed to remaining connected to Christ during their academic journey.

The ministry also sends an encouraging message to families across the Atlantic Union: Students attending college in the Canton area are not alone. They are

supported by a church community dedicated to their spiritual well-being and committed to walking alongside them during a formative season of life.

By building relationships and fostering community, the Canton church continues to demonstrate its commitment to nurturing the next generation of Adventist young adults.

— Reynolds Rodriguez, communication and Youth Ministries director, New York Conference

Joy of Troy Church Shares God's Love Through Community Outreach

Members of the Joy of Troy Seventh-day Adventist Church recently demonstrated their commitment to serving others through two community outreach initiatives that fostered connection, compassion, and fellowship.

On March 15, church members visited Peregrine

Senior Living at Shaker for an evening of crafts and companionship. While the congregation regularly visits the facility to sing with residents, conduct Bible studies, and administer Communion, this visit focused on celebrating spring and cultivating meaningful relationships.

Residents eagerly gathered to showcase their artistic talents and gardening skills. Each participant received a flower pot to decorate before planting a succulent using soil, rocks, and peat moss provided by the church. As they worked, some residents shared memories of gardening in their younger years, while others learned

the basics of caring for succulents.

The evening was filled with smiles, laughter, hugs, and music, creating a warm atmosphere of fellowship. The gathering concluded with an impromptu singing of the hymn "Marching to Zion," providing a fitting end to a meaningful time together.



Volunteers from the Joy of Troy church distribute water to the 5K participants as they pass by the church in Lansingburgh, New York.

The church continued its community engagement efforts May 9 by serving participants in the annual Joe Manupella Memorial 5K Run/Walk in Lansingburgh, New York.

Despite rainy conditions, church members set up a hydration station along the race route, offering water, sports drinks, and words of encouragement to runners and walkers. The event, held in the heart of the Lansingburgh community where the church is located, provided another opportunity to connect with local residents through acts of service.

As participants passed the hydration station, they were greeted with smiles and support that helped propel them toward the finish line. The outreach reflected the church's desire to care for both the physical and spiritual needs of the community.

The effort also inspired others to become involved. A local resident who was on her way to a nearby food pantry stopped to observe the outreach, then decided to join the church members in distributing refreshments. She later shared how meaningful it was to serve alongside the group and contribute to her community.

Through these simple acts of kindness, the Joy of Troy church continues to build relationships and demonstrate Christ's love beyond the walls of the church—one person and one interaction at a time.

— Lorene Harry, communication team, Joy of Troy church



A resident at the senior living center uses her creativity during the evening of crafts and fellowship.

Students Cultivate Character Through Gardening

Northeastern Adventist Academy–Long Island Campus continues to embrace Ellen G. White’s vision for Christian education by promoting the harmonious development of mind, body, and spirit through practical learning experiences such as gardening. White taught that true education extends beyond textbooks, preparing students for service to God and others while fostering stewardship, self-sufficiency, and an appreciation for the dignity of labor.

About three years ago, the school purchased gardening curricula from *Acquainting Agriculture: PLANTING WITH JESUS* for grades 1–4 and *GOD IN THE GARDEN* for grades 5–8. Since then, school leaders prayerfully searched for a gardening instructor to lead the program. After a lengthy wait, they decided the vision could be delayed no longer. On April 2, 2026, the principal and two dedicated teachers stepped forward in faith to launch the gardening classes themselves.



Students put into practice skills learned through the *Acquainting Agriculture* curricula used by the Northeastern Adventist Academy–Long Island Campus.



Teachers and students work side-by-side in a garden plot.

The program is helping bring a key element of Adventist education to life. Through hands-on learning, students are developing responsibility, teamwork and healthy lifestyle habits while gaining a deeper appreciation for God’s creation. They are also acquiring practical life skills and strengthening Christian character.

The school plans to expand the program by incorporating financial literacy instruction. In addition to learning how to grow food, students will explore

stewardship, budgeting, entrepreneurship, and wise financial management. They will also sell produce through a campus market, gaining firsthand experience in business operations, customer service, and financial responsibility.

This holistic approach reflects the Adventist philosophy of education by preparing students academically, practically, spiritually, and financially for lives of meaningful service.

— Jemimah D. Deonarine,
principal, Northeastern Adventist
Academy–Long Island Campus/
Bethesda Junior Academy

Beacon Light Tabernacle Celebrates 50 Years of Faith, Favor, and Freedom From Debt

Beacon Light Tabernacle in Wappingers Falls, New York, marked its 50th anniversary with a month of joyful celebration that included inspiring worship services, a captivating stage production, an elegant black-tie gala, and a victorious mortgage-burning ceremony.

Centered on the theme, “We’ve Come This Far by Faith ... With a Vision for Tomorrow,” the church family gathered each weekend to celebrate God’s leading over the past five decades while looking ahead with renewed hope and purpose.

The third weekend welcomed the family of church planter George Sampson and honored the vision that inspired Beacon Light’s beginnings. Pastor Kyron John delivered a message that highlighted the church’s legacy of faith and its ongoing mission.

That same weekend, the congregation’s history came alive through the

original stage production *All Roads Lead to Beacon*, written by Monet Williams of TestiMonet Productions and performed by church members. Through drama and personal testimonies, the play traced the church’s humble beginnings, challenges and victories, emphasizing God’s faithfulness throughout its journey.

The final homecoming Sabbath brought together current and former members, friends, and guests for a joyful reunion. Abraham J. Jules, president of the Atlantic Union Conference, delivered a powerful message and challenged the congregation to retire the church’s remaining mortgage debt. Members responded with overwhelming generosity.

By God’s grace, the goal was reached. On Jan. 31, the church gathered for a jubilant praise and worship mortgage-burning ceremony. With tears of gratitude and hands lifted in praise, members



Committee members who planned the 50th anniversary celebration are recognized by the audience for their contributions.

celebrated paying off the mortgage in just eight years and dedicated this new debt-free chapter to expanding ministry throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond.

The congregation also expressed appreciation to Northeastern Conference leaders, including President Eldeen C. King and

Treasurer Brian McDonald, for their steadfast support and participation in this milestone celebration.

Special thanks were extended to the 50th anniversary committee, its chairperson and the many volunteers whose dedication, creativity, and prayerful planning made the celebration possible. From the worship services and theatrical production to the anniversary gala at The Grandview, every detail reflected a commitment to excellence and a desire to honor God.

As Beacon Light Tabernacle enters its next chapter, free from debt and focused on its mission, the church remains committed to preaching Christ, serving its community, strengthening families, and shining as a beacon of hope for generations to come.

— Communication Department,
Beacon Light Tabernacle



A choir sings praises to God during the celebration services.

Adventurers Dive Deep at Spring Escape

The May 15-17 Spring Escape at Camp Lawroweld left a lasting impression on the Adventurers and families who attended. This year's theme invited participants to dive deep—not only into the wonders of the ocean but also into the depths of God's love.

The ocean-themed program came to life through creative decorations that transformed the camp into an underwater world. Vibrant sea life displays, flowing shades of blue and green, and immersive details helped children feel like true explorers.

A major highlight of the weekend was featured speaker Argenta Leblanc. Each presentation built on the last, weaving together

lessons that were both meaningful and easy to understand. Through engaging stories and practical illustrations, she connected the ocean theme to everyday faith, helping Adventurers better understand how deeply they are known and loved by God.

Of course, no Spring Escape would be complete without fun and laughter. One of the weekend's most popular attractions was Whalen, a lovable and often-confused whale puppet, along with his friend Sally the Sea Turtle. Together, they brought energy, humor, and excitement to the program.

On Saturday evening, Whalen's playful antics



Adventurers stand ready for inspection.

stole the show. In a moment of mischief, he began spraying the audience with water from his blowhole, sending children into fits

of laughter and creating one of the weekend's most memorable moments.

Another highlight was a live ocean-themed exhibit



that allowed Adventurers to experience marine life up close through hands-on, interactive learning. The exhibit reinforced lessons about the beauty and complexity of God's creation while providing a fun educational experience.

This year's event also introduced two new Adventurer awards: Creation and Ocean Protectors. Both awards encouraged participants to learn more about the natural world and their role as stewards of God's creation.

Spring Escape 2026 was more than a weekend getaway. It was a time of spiritual growth, friendship, and discovery. Adventurers left with a deeper appreciation for God's creation and the reminder that no matter how deep the



Youth director, Trevor Schlisner, surprises an Adventurer.

ocean may be, God's love reaches even deeper.

— Rebecca Barcelow, Northern New England Conference Adventurer Director



Adventurers pose for a group photo at the 2026 Spring Escape.

Multiple Ministries Partner to Provide Free Health Screenings at Community DEAF Health Day

Approximately 120 members of the Deaf community received free health screenings and consultations June 6 during Community DEAF Health Day, a first-of-its-kind outreach held at the World Deaf Expo in Hartford, Connecticut.

Organizers estimated that almost 3,000 people from the Deaf community attended the expo, where multiple ministries, conferences, and organizations partnered to provide accessible health education, screenings, and spiritual support.

Many attendees expressed appreciation for services designed specifically to meet the needs of the Deaf community. Several remarked that they had never experienced health care outreach on this scale.

Participants received blood pressure screenings; height, weight, and waist measurements; cholesterol and blood glucose testing; A1C

testing when appropriate; and assessments of biological health age. Physicians from Bethesda Medical Mission, ArC Wellness, and WellSpring Health Ministries, provided medical consultations, helping attendees better understand their results and identify opportunities to improve their health.

A dental team also conducted oral health assessments and oral cancer screenings.

Following their screenings, attendees were invited to receive prayer and free hand and back massages provided by Beverly Williams and the Healing Hands team. Organizers said the massage ministry offered a quiet place for reflection amid the activity of the expo and emphasized compassionate, personal care.

Health education was another major focus of the event. Workshops presented in American Sign Language covered topics such as dia-



betes management, blood pressure reduction, mental health, and the NEWSTART wellness principles. Attendees also received health resources, wellness information, and invitations to future programs serving the Deaf community.

Three Angels Deaf Ministries shared Deaf-friendly evangelistic materials, including Bible study resources, Christian literature, and videos in American Sign Language. The ministry also

promoted its Deaf Bible School, which offers Bible studies created by Deaf individuals for the Deaf community.

The outreach was organized through a partnership between the Southern New England Conference Health Ministries Department and DEAF (Deaf Everywhere Are Family) Ministries, with support from health ministries and volunteers from Adventist conferences within the Atlantic Union and across the North American Division.

Organizers described the event as an important step toward expanding health ministries among the Deaf community while creating opportunities to share Christ's love in practical ways. Representatives from other Deaf ministries and organizations attended to observe the program and explore how similar initiatives could be adapted in their local communities.

— Jessica McGowan-Smith, DEAF coordinator, Southern New England Conference

Read the full story at atlanticuniongleaner.org/news to learn more about the workshops, volunteers, and ministries that made Community DEAF Health Day possible, and to view additional photos from the event.



Cape Verdean Churches Make Global Youth Day an Intentional, Sustainable Ministry

On March 21, Southern New England Conference (SNEC) Cape Verdean churches united for Global Youth Day for the fourth consecutive year, taking an intentional and systematic approach to sharing God's love throughout the conference territory.

The initiative has grown steadily over the past four years. Participants served in Boston in 2023, New Bedford, Massachusetts, in 2024, and Norwich, Connecticut, in 2025. This year, approximately 300 young people and their adult sponsors spread throughout Pawtucket, Rhode Island, to serve the community.

Volunteers delivered certificates of appreciation and fruit baskets to local police and fire departments, residents, a nursing home, and businesses, including Cape Verdean specialty stores, and the Cape Verdean Museum. Others donated 100 personal care kits to the OpenDoors homeless shelter. Another group walked through the community carrying banners and distributing flyers with messages of hope and encouragement. They also shared literature, prayed with residents, and engaged in meaningful conversations with people they met along the way.

"The response was fantastic," said Ivanildo Lopes, SNEC coordinator for Cape Verdean churches and pastor of the New Bedford and Fall River Cape Verdean churches. "The Pawtucket Police Department even posted a thank-you message on its Facebook page."



Volunteers from the Cape Verdean churches pray for members of the local fire department during the 2026 Global Youth Day.

The manager of the OpenDoors shelter was so impressed by the group's service that she asked which church they attended because she wanted to visit for worship. Another team met former Seventh-day Adventists at a barber shop and invited them to reconnect with the church.

The outreach was the result of two months of planning by Adilson De Pina, pastor of the Pawtucket Cape Verdean Church; Lopes; António Gomes, lay pastor of the Dorchester Cape Verdean Church; Isaiah Goncalves, Cape Verdean youth ministries coordinator; and youth leaders from Cape Verdean churches across the conference.

Organizers rented a hall where participants gathered for worship, orientation,

and final preparations before heading into the community. At the end of the day, they reconvened to share testimonies and praise God for the opportunities and experiences they encountered.

The success of the initiative has inspired leaders to think beyond a once-a-year event. Lopes and other church leaders plan to organize similar outreach activities later this summer. With relationships established and new connections forming, some youth leaders hope to continue this ministry on a monthly basis.

What began as participation in Global Youth Day is evolving into a sustainable model of community engagement, one that seeks to build

relationships, meet practical needs, and share the love of Christ throughout the year.

— Sandra Dombrowski,
communication team, Southern
New England Conference



Let's Pray MORE

Tuesday 8:00 p. m. - 9:00 p. m.

PRAYER LINE



zoom

Meeting ID: 954 6819 9577

Passcode: PrayMore

By phone 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 954 6819 9577

Passcode: 73439183

**"Call to Me and I will answer you,
and I will tell you great and mighty
things, which you do not know".**

Jeremiah 33:3



**ATLANTIC UNION
CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

**PRAYER
MINISTRIES**

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 qualified candidates for a Business Program Professor. This is a full-time opportunity with excellent benefits. A professor in the Business Program participates as a member of the team preparing professionals for Christian service in the business world by providing a quality, student-oriented education that emphasizes ethics and balances practice and theory. See the full job description and uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks candidates for a Clinical Coordinator in the Physician Assistant Program. This is a full-time opportunity with excellent benefits. The Clinical Coordinator assists the director in organizing and scheduling clinical rotations for PA students. See the job description and apply at uau.edu/employment

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking applicants for EMS Coordinator in the International Rescue and Relief (IRR) Program. This is a full-time exempt position with excellent benefits. The EMS Coordinator is responsible for developing and managing the EMS component of the program and includes both teaching responsibilities and program administration. Please see the

job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for an Enrollment Counselor. This is a full-time position with benefits. The Enrollment Counselor serves as the primary representative for Union Adventist University, actively recruiting prospective students through high school visits, college fairs, and campus presentations. Enrollment Counselors manage a specific geographic territory, guiding applicants through every stage of the admissions process from initial inquiry to final registration. See the job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for the TRIO Student Support Services Project Director. The TRIO SSS Project Director leads and administers the Student Support Services (SSS) program. This role is responsible for overseeing TRIO SSS program services, grant compliance, staff, and student success for low-income, first-generation, and disabled students, ensuring alignment with Department of Education guidelines. This individual will be a key partner in implementing strategic initiatives focused on student retention, engagement, and graduation. View the full job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for Director of Major Gifts. The Director is responsible for cultivating, soliciting, and stewarding major gift prospects to support the strategic initiative to increase philanthropic support through focused individual, foundation, and corporate giving programs. This is a full-time position with a generous benefit package. See the job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY in Rocky Mount, Virginia! Small health food store and plant-based café looking for new management. Products

include bulk flours, nuts, grains, seeds, legumes, and supplements

and essential oils. Space for health education classes. Active, sup-

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fifth Regular Quadrennial and 58th Regular Constituency Session of the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:00 a.m. (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.) on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at Camp Berkshire, 680-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, New York, 12594.

1. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and departmental directors and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.
2. To elect conference officers, departmental directors, an Executive Committee, a Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and an Association Board.
3. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization, and one for every 75 members. Each church is entitled to elect alternate delegates who may be seated at the Conference Session in place of any regular delegate not present. (Bylaws Article III, Section 2:1, 2).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Organizing Committee is being called for Sunday morning, October 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the *North Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3743 Bronxwood Avenue, Bronx, New York 10469. All members of the Organizing Committee should plan to be present.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the of the Nominating Committee is being called for Sunday morning, October 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Greater New York Academy, 41-32 58th Street, Woodside, NY 11377.

Alanzo H. Smith, President
Ariel Manzueta, Secretary

*Updated venue location information provided by GNYC secretariat 7/28/2026.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fifth Regular Quadrennial and 58th Regular meeting of the Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in conjunction with the 58th Regular Constituency Session convening at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 18, 2026, (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.) at Camp Berkshire, 680-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, New York, 12594. The delegates to the Fifth Regular Quadrennial Session of the Conference are also delegates to the Fifth Regular Quadrennial Session of the Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a board of trustees for the coming quadrennial period, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Alanzo H. Smith, President
Ariel Manzueta, Secretary

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Adventist Home

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Quadrennial meeting of the Adventist Home Inc. will be held in conjunction with the 58th Regular Constituency Session (Fifth Regular Quadrennial) of Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists convening at 9:00 a.m., on Sunday, October 18, 2026 (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.) at Camp Berkshire, 680-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, New York, 12594. The delegates to the Fifth Regular Quadrennial Session of the Conference are also delegates to the Fifth Regular Quadrennial Session of the Adventist Home Inc. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Alanzo H. Smith, President
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Sunset Calendar

Eastern Daylight Time

	Aug. 7	Aug. 14	Aug. 21	Aug. 28	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25
Bangor, ME	7:52	7:42	7:31	7:18	7:06	6:53	6:40	6:26
Portland, ME	7:56	7:46	7:35	7:23	7:11	6:58	6:45	6:32
Boston, MA	7:56	7:46	7:36	7:24	7:12	7:00	6:48	6:36
South Lancaster, MA	7:58	7:49	7:38	7:27	7:15	7:03	6:50	6:38
Pittsfield, MA	8:05	7:55	7:44	7:33	7:21	7:09	6:57	6:44
Hartford, CT	8:01	7:51	7:41	7:30	7:18	7:06	6:54	6:42
Providence, RI	7:56	7:46	7:36	7:25	7:13	7:01	6:49	6:37
New York, NY	8:04	7:55	7:45	7:34	7:23	7:11	6:59	6:47
Albany, NY	8:07	7:57	7:47	7:35	7:24	7:11	6:59	6:46
Utica, NY	8:14	8:04	7:53	7:42	7:30	7:17	7:05	6:52
Syracuse, NY	8:18	8:08	7:57	7:46	7:33	7:21	7:08	6:56
Rochester, NY	8:24	8:14	8:03	7:52	7:39	7:27	7:14	7:02
Buffalo, NY	8:28	8:18	8:08	7:56	7:44	7:32	7:19	7:07
Keene, NH	8:02	7:52	7:41	7:30	7:18	7:05	6:53	6:40
Manchester, NH	7:59	7:49	7:38	7:27	7:15	7:02	6:50	6:37
Portsmouth, NH	7:56	7:46	7:36	7:24	7:12	7:00	6:47	6:34
Brattleboro, VT	8:03	7:53	7:42	7:31	7:19	7:07	6:54	6:42
Burlington, VT	8:09	7:59	7:48	7:36	7:23	7:10	6:57	6:44
Rutland, VT	8:06	7:56	7:45	7:34	7:21	7:09	6:56	6:43
Hamilton, Bda	8:11	8:04	7:56	7:48	7:39	7:30	7:21	7:11

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EVENT

MICHIGAN'S BATTLE CREEK TABERNACLE invites you to their 100th birthday celebration Oct. 2-10, 2026. The week-long event will feature guest speakers Erton Köhler, General Conference President; Pavel Goia, evangelist, Adventist World Radio; and Norman McNulty, neurologist and author; and a concert by the King's Heralds Quartet. For more information, visit www.tabernacle100years.com.

OBITUARIES

DAVIS, Vera Louise Bock—89; b. June 15, 1933, in Ellensburg, Wash.; d. Jan. 25, 2026, in Marietta, Ga. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Dean Davis who passed away on February 13, 2024. Together, they served in Brazil for many years and later at the Atlantic Union College, where she was a professor and chair of the nursing department, and he served as a professor and chair of the theology department. She is survived

by their children, Bobby Davis of Herrin, Ill., Dawn “Dolly” Nielsen (Charlie) of Marietta, Ga.; Linda Davis of Clinton, Mass.; four grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

DORSINVILLE-PHANOR, Mona M.—73; born May 20, 1952, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti; died Feb. 27, 2026, in Boston, Mass. She was a member of the Temple Salem Church in Boston, Mass. A lifelong scholar, educator, she devoted her life to justice, education, and public health. She is survived by her husband, Jacques Edy Phanor of Boston, Mass.; son, Eddy Phanor of Dallas/Fort Worth, Tex.; and two siblings, Rachel (Serge Sr.) Vieux of Boston, Mass.; and Marc-Evans Dorsinville of Boston, Mass.

POIRIER, Leo J.—95; b. Jan. 2, 1930, in Clinton, Mass.; d. Oct. 11, 2025, in Leominster, Mass. He graduated from Atlantic Union College in 1960 with a degree in Theology, and assisted in pastoring churches in Fitchburg, Gardner, Townsend, Boston, and Everett, Mass., during his final college years. After receiving his master's degree, he returned to the Atlantic Union and pastored churches in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. During his pastoral career, he also assisted in opening two church schools. He served as hospital chaplain at the New England Sanitarium and Hospital in Stoneham, Mass. (1968-1992). He was a charter member of the Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Chaplains Association, and served as its president (1983-1985), and helped formulate the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries for the General Conference. He later served as an adjunct professor for the religion and continuing education departments at Atlantic Union College. He is survived by his daughter, Maureen Hodson; son, Timothy Poirier (Merle); sister, Janice Mager (Alan); brother-in-law, Alton Johnson (Bonnie); four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

ATLANTIC UNION GLEANER

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