There’s MUSIC at the Mansion

Thayer enrollment nearly doubles in one year
There's Music at the Mansion
Thayer Performing Arts Center is positively bursting with an incredible 90-percent enrollment increase over the past year.

Thinking of Attending the 2015 GC Session?
The 60th Session of the General Conference, Arise! Shine! Jesus coming! will convene July 2-11 in San Antonio, Texas.

The Odd Couple
For the first time in the history of the Northeastern Conference, teachers and pastors convened for workers meeting at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York.

Scholarships Awarded to Greater New York Conference Schools
Over $100,000 in grants and scholarships was awarded to more than 50 students at the Bronx-Manhattan school.
The Rain of Grace

“Who has cut a channel for the flood water, or the path for the thunderstorm; to cause it to rain on a land where no man is; on the wilderness, in which there is no man; to cause the waste and desolate ground, to cause the tender grass to spring forth?”—Job 38:25-27, River Bible

God alone gives rain and the same is true of grace. Every blade of grass, every drop of dew, to every believer He gives His portion of grace. Rain comes in its own way (most times), apart from the power and influence of humans. But grace comes always in its own way, sent in due measure by God to bring conviction and enlightenment, apart from the wisdom or intellect of man.

It is interesting that rain generally falls regardless of the efforts of men. Rain does not wait on men’s observation or reflection. But when it comes, like grace, it blesses the heart in its own way, in its own time. The grass does not call for rain, yet the rain falls. Rain falls on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45) and so does the marvelous grace of our Lord.

Rain sometimes falls where there is no trace of former rain. It falls where we least expect it. Even in the desolate wilderness, where no one dwells, it falls in torrential showers or a gentle drizzle. So does grace as it enters hearts that seem too barren for cultivation, too desolate for growth and development, except where a great need provides the only plea for heavenly intervention.

Rain gives joy to seeds and plants in which there is life. Loving life knows it. Tender herb rejoices in it. And so it is with those who confess and repent of their sins and who are justified by His grace. The rain causes development and bloom of seeds and plants. Buds of hope grow into strong faith. Buds of faith grow into eternal life.

The rain causes health and vigor of life. Is it not the same with grace? The rain nourishes the flower with its verdant colors and perfume. The Lord is pleased and smiles upon the earth. The development of a renewed nature comes from grace and the Lord is also well pleased. Let us acknowledge the sovereignty of God’s grace. Let us plead to Him for His bountiful grace. Let us expect Him to send it, however inadequate and unworthy we may be.

As rain is pleasurable to languishing plants, to make them green and beautiful again, so is the effect of Christ’s influence of grace upon our souls. It enlightens us and comforts us in our spiritual walk with Him. As grass springs up, the bud opens, the leaf extends, and the flower emits fragrance as if they were under the most careful cultivation. Be assured that all this is the work of God, since man cannot even pretend to produce these effects. But could it be that our pious stupidity could make us to want less and less of that which the Lord relishes to give?

May the rain of grace impact your life and heart today to lead us home to love and eternal life. ¶

Donald G. King is president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chairman of the Atlantic Union College Board of Trustees.
Since 1972 generations of students have discovered the joy of music at Thayer Performing Arts Center (TPAC), a department of Atlantic Union College (AUC), housed in the beautiful and historic mid-nineteenth century mansion. And these days, TPAC is positively bursting with new classes, new instruments, new ensembles, and an incredible 90-percent enrollment increase over the past year.

Earl Raney, appointed TPAC director by the AUC board of trustees in September 2013, wholeheartedly credits God with abundantly blessing this endeavor. “There are times in my life when I have truly felt God has prepared me for a specific task, and serving as director of TPAC is one of those times. My goals are very ambitious, and I am absolutely thrilled at how the Lord is leading!”

Raney is uniquely qualified for this post as he clearly possesses a rare combination of skills in performance, music education, and administration. He is well-known as the artistic director and solo trumpeter of the award-winning Epic Brass Quintet, which has given over 2,000 performances in 46 states at venues including the Kennedy Center, Weill Recital Hall and Carnegie Hall, and internationally throughout Europe, the Caribbean, and the Far East.

He also has eight compact discs with Arts Nova Digital and Chapel Records to his credit. Passionately committed to music education, he is a faculty member at New England Conservatory’s Preparatory School and Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. He directs the Southeastern Massachusetts Wind Symphony and the Atlantic Wind Symphony and has performed as clinician at colleges and high schools throughout the country and abroad.

Raney says, “In phase one of my tenure as director, I felt it important that TPAC reach into the community with every offering that might be expected from a successful community music school.” These include an impressive array of new programs for the young and old. Private instruction has been expanded to include not only orchestral instruments, but also folk guitar, ukulele, bass, and percussion, which nowadays are common in so many smaller Bible study gatherings and contemporary worship settings.

As a matter of convenience, TPAC students have an option to enroll in group lessons at expanding satellite locations which now include South Lancaster Academy and Clinton Middle school. Other new TPAC initiatives include a focus on student chamber ensembles (string quartets, brass quartets, piano trios, vocal quartets, and more) that can travel to area churches and schools.

A “Music Time for Toddlers” class (ages 2-4) is offered along with new classes in composition, theory, ear training, and sight singing. Students may now earn an APLE diploma by satisfactorily completing Artist Performance Level Evaluations at the end of each academic year. Ensembles-in-residence include the Nashaway Philharmonic Chorus, the Youth Ensemble of New England (YENE), and Rose, Thorn & Fiddle and Celtic Chorus.

This past year, TPAC launched an ambitious concert series including recitals by such noted guest artists as the Boston Cello Quartet (members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra),
Yamaha Performing Artist Adam Frey (euphonium), the High Altitude Trombone Quartet (members of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic), and the New England Piano Trio. These special events have drawn an increasing number of new visitors to Thayer, many of whom are astonished to hear music of this caliber presented in such a lovely local setting.

In January a capacity audience attended the first annual New Year’s Celebration Concert at Thayer, an all-star recital featuring dazzling performances by several young TPAC alumni who have gone on to study music performance, including oboist Tyler Rand (Southern Adventist University), pianist Ilana Cady (Andrews University), soprano Halla Kalmansson (Yale School of Music), and Kristjón Imperio (Atlantic Union College). TPAC alum Dawn Harms, a brilliant violinist with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, is scheduled for a much-anticipated guest recital on April 12. Funds raised at these special concert events have helped to augment a much-needed scholarship fund.

TPAC’s students, faculty, and resident ensembles offer many free programs for the community, as well. The Youth Ensemble of New England’s Annual Thayer Christmas Concert attracted an audience that filled all available seating and spilled into the lobby and up the stairs. TPAC’s sacred programs by the Nashaway Philharmonic Chorus were also well-attended and blessed worship experiences. Rose, Thorn & Fiddle and Celtic Chorus, in addition to their annual TPAC outreach concert for local senior citizens, also performed at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, the Lancaster Senior Center, and provided the Family Christmas Eve service at the First Church of Christ, Unitarian, in Lancaster, known locally as the “Bulfinch Church.”

During the summer of 2015, concertgoers can look forward to TPAC’s debut North Lawn Concert Series, including performances by the Atlantic Wind Symphony, Epic Brass Quintet, and other family picnic/concert events.

“With a dedicated community outreach program by our gifted multicultural faculty, Thayer Performing Arts Center is certainly a community music school in the truest sense, offering music of diverse genres to musicians of all ages,” Raney beams. “Our mission extends beyond these walls as we seek to glorify God and enrich our community through music, one student at a time. We believe people who study music learn that perseverance and dedication lead to accomplishment and service in every other area of life!” For more information, please contact TPAC at (978) 368-2100, tpac@auc.edu, or visit TPAC’s new Web site at tpacma.org.

Kathryn Kalmansson is a musician, author, the director of the Rose, Thorn & Fiddle and Celtic Chorus, and a member of the College Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts.

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YENE violinists discover Beethoven in TPAC’s growing resident youth orchestra directed by Connie Drexler.

A capacity audience attends one of TPAC’s community concert series featuring the Boston Cello Quartet (Boston Symphony Orchestra Members).
Final plans are underway in preparation for the 60th Session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. This year’s event, *Arise! Shine! Jesus is coming!* will convene July 2-11 in San Antonio, Texas, at the 70,000 seat Alamodome and the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Primarily a time to focus on the mission of the church and how to best accomplish that mission, there will also be time for inspirational worship, praising God, and fellowship with like-minded believers representing countries all around the world.

Around 2,600 nominated men and women representing their respective unions will come together to elect church officers and vote changes to the church’s constitution and manual. While only delegates and special invitees can speak on issues and only delegates can vote, anyone is able to observe and attend the session. It is an excellent opportunity to gain an understanding of the world church and how it operates.

GC Session is a time like no other to see people from more countries and language groups than any other church meeting—all at the same time. There is something for the whole family. With 60,000 to 80,000 people expected to attend the Sabbath morning worship services alone, and approximately half that amount in attendance during the week, if you are a first-time attendee, it can be very exciting and possibly a bit overwhelming. Here are some tips, suggestions, and links to help you plan your trip and make your visit more enjoyable:

❖ **Check out the official 2015 GC Session Web site** at 2015.gcsession.org for general information and directions, or to download the session brochure. The Web site features links to make hotel reservations and/or purchase meal tickets. For best availability and immediate confirmation of hotel assignment, it is suggested that you make your reservation by phone or the Internet. The deadline for reservations is June 3, 2015. Applications will not be accepted after this time.

❖ **Participate in outreach.** “Impact San Antonio” is a leadership and discipleship experience for young adults ages 18 and older concurrent with the 2015 General Conference Session. Discover opportunities for servant leadership and to experience discipleship. Participants will leave equipped and empowered to expand God’s kingdom in San Antonio and beyond. Registration is required. For more information, visit http://goo.gl/PKlwth.

❖ **Bring your comfortable shoes.** San Antonio is one of the most exciting cities in the state of Texas. Stroll the picturesque River Walk, observe aquatic creatures up close at Sea World, and step back in history as you tour the Alamo. Also, be sure to lace up your sneakers and help bring awareness to childhood obesity by participating in the Adventists InStep for Life 5K Fun Run/Walk. Register for the race by going to 2015.gcsession.org/attending/5k-fun-run.

❖ **Enhance your personal and spiritual growth.** In addition to the dynamic speaking and music presented for both morning and evening worship services in the Alamodome, there will be plenty of seminars and exhibits to visit in the convention center, as well. Join women from around the globe in women’s ministries seminars; attend a lunch or dinner workshop and learn how to enhance your Sabbath School and personal ministries skills; or participate in a variety of special programs emphasizing prayer, revival, and reformation. While there, also be sure to...
peruse the massive exhibit hall displaying products and materials from hundreds of ministries, artists, schools, charities, services, and businesses—all of special interest to the denominational mission and ministry.

❖ **Pack your camera.** Notwithstanding the photo opportunities as you tour the popular San Antonio tourist destinations, none will be as captivating as the nightly Adventist Mission stage and the grand finale, Mission on the Move (formerly known as the Parade of Nations). Like a mini camp meeting each night, the office of Adventist Missions features a fast-moving celebration of music, live interviews, mission stories, and more from across the globe. Mission on the Move is the most anticipated and photographed event of the GC Session that takes place during the closing ceremonies. Featuring a colorful display of flags and national costumes from every nation represented, it will be an event to remember.

If you are unable to attend, stay connected with the updates, proceedings, voted actions, and other coverage through Adventist News Network at news.adventist.org.

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**Debra McKinney Banks, communication assistant, Atlantic Union Conference**

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**Atlantic Union Conference Delegates for the 2015 General Conference Session**

- Donald King, Atlantic Union
- Carlyle Simmons, Atlantic Union
- Leon Thomassian, Atlantic Union
- Kenneth Manders, Bermuda
- Sydney Gibbons, Bermuda
- G. Earl Knight, Greater New York
- Orley W. Anderson, Greater New York
- Ephraim Pena, Greater New York
- Shirley-Ann Thomas-Laurencin, Greater New York
- Elias Zabala, Sr., New York
- Will Comley, New York
- Daniel L. Honoré, Northeastern
- Seanna-Kaye Denham, Northeastern
- Collete Dieujuste, Northeastern
- Carlos Moreta, Northeastern
- Robert (Bob) Cundiff, Northern New England
- Ashley Tardiff, Northern New England
- David Dennis, Southern New England
- Adilson DePina, Southern New England
- Sonia Valentin, Southern New England
Scores of educators boarded buses, vans, and cars as they wended their way last fall to Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York. This was the first time in the history of the Northeastern Conference that teachers and pastors convened for workers meeting. As they disembarked, cemented smiles glowed from the faces of friends and coworkers. This was the day that they anticipated.

The auditorium was packed to capacity as every worker sat in expectation of the day's activities. Our hearts were truly blessed with musical presentations by our high school students from the Brooklyn and Manhattan campuses. We were lifted away on angels' wings as Edward Jackson, pastor of the Macedonia church in Wyandanch, New York, reminisced about the past—the times when students were given an opportunity to gain an education through the industrialized programs that were conducted at our colleges. He spoke of his own experience when he had no money to pay his tuition, and how he survived and assisted others by the use of a lawn mower and his faith in God.

We were enthused by the message of Atlantic Union Conference education director Astrid Thomassian, who reminded us of our commitment and challenged us to keep the flame of the pastors and teachers burning in the Northeastern Conference. Some teachers and pastors expressed their frustrations about the system, but God has assured us through His inspired writer that although our schools might seem to sway in the direction of the world, He will stabilize them.

Our keynote speaker, Elissa Kido, professor of curriculum and instruction at La Sierra University and director for the Center for Research on K-12 Adventist Education, used data that was collected through CognitiveGenesis to inform us of the impact of Christian education on the life of a child. Ninety-one percent of students who received 11 years or more of Christian education remained in the church, in comparison to 58 percent of those with no Adventist education. Kido’s husband, Daniel, a product of Christian education from elementary to university, boasted of the support he received from his church to help him become a neurologist.

As spring ushers in fall and fall ushers in winter, so today, as recorded in Matthew 24, the signs all foretell that Jesus is soon to return. In the day of final reckoning, fathers and mothers will be asked what they did and said, to secure the salvation of the souls that they took upon themselves to bring into this world. The good done for others will not cancel the debt you owe to God for the care and education of your children. The spiritual welfare of your family comes first.

As the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness, they met several monuments, and they questioned the significance of the stones. They were told by their parents that the stones were left there so that they could find their way home.

Teachers, pastors, and parents, what stones are you leaving so that our children can find their way home? Let us all commit ourselves to Christian education. Rally then, rally then, stand by our schools!

Viola Chapman is the Northeastern Conference superintendent of schools.
St. George’s Church Gives Back to the Community

The St. George church in Bermuda hosted its first “Just Give Back” event on Sunday, January 25. Heidi Smith, a young adult from the church, shared the idea after seeing a similar event advertised on Facebook. “Just Give Back” is an opportunity for members to give back to their community by sharing items from their homes that are not being used, but are still usable by someone else.

The church suffered extensive damage when two hurricanes slammed into the island in October 2014 and they have been meeting in the church hall while repairs are being done to the sanctuary. Although members have been giving sacrificially to assist with restoring the damaged area, their generosity with donations in support of the “Just Give Back” program was overwhelming.

In addition to toys, books, clothing, and various household items, church members provided the visitors with sweet breads, cookies, and cake, as well as bags of fresh greens from the church’s garden—all free of charge.

Approximately 30 people visited the event during a four-hour time period. Items left over were taken to St. David’s, a sister church on the island that operates a twice-weekly service for neighboring families to obtain necessary items.

With the church situated on the outskirts of town, organizers feel they can reach more people at a closer location. Members were excited about the success of this first “Just Give Back” event and plans are being made to make this a recurring community outreach activity each quarter.

—Tammy Smith, communication director, St. George’s church

“Just Give Back” is an opportunity for members to give back to their community by sharing items from their homes that are not being used, but are still usable by someone else.
Scholarships Awarded to Greater New York Conference Schools

The Bronx-Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist School got the attention of the Maryland-based Commonweal Foundation after the school was featured in the PBS documentary The Blueprint by filmmaker Martin Doblmeier. The foundation’s mission is to assist underserved children and youth, breaking the barriers of circumstance to gain a quality education.

The Commonweal Foundation program manager Todd Gentilcore says the scholarship program “was established for students who are substantially below the poverty level and would not be able to afford to attend without a scholarship.” Over $100,000 in grants and scholarships was awarded to more than 50 students at the Bronx-Manhattan school. Marlene Romeo, Greater New York Conference superintendent of schools, says, “The scholarships have had a positive impact on enrollment” and she is “very happy knowing that scholarships will be made available to other Greater New York Conference schools.”

Parent Betsy Pineda says she feels truly blessed that her children received this scholarship and that without it, her daughters may not have had a chance at a quality Christian education, which will stay forever in their hearts. The parents know that it’s a matter of faith to send their children to the Bronx-Manhattan school and it is believed that the scholarships from the Commonweal Foundation came as a direct answer to the prayers of many, according to the principal Evelyn Chavez.

Over $100,000 in grants and scholarships was awarded to more than 50 students at the Bronx Manhattan school.

In the future, the Commonweal Foundation has promised to continue working with other Greater New York Conference schools, beginning with the Brooklyn Adventist school and then the Greater New York Academy.

—Kerriann Hayman, reporter GNYC Adventist News
Wakefield Church Celebrates Family Ministries Emphasis Day

The Wakefield church in Bronx, New York, celebrated Family Ministries Emphasis Day under the theme “The Connected Family.” Recognizing the importance of having and maintaining a healthy family life, and realizing how often this ministry has been overlooked in the church community, the family ministries committee saw the need to plan this event which, in reality, could minister to every member of the community, and more so the church.

The day started with the Sabbath School program, presented by the Singles Ministries department, with Doreen Hoffstead serving as superintendent. In her opening statement Hoffstead said, “Connecting with others is one of the single most important things we can do for our happiness.” When we are happy, we can establish and maintain better relationships.

The scripture passage of meditation for the worship service was taken from Ephesians 3:14-20. Rohann Wellington, Greater New York Conference assistant to the president for strategic planning and communication director, delivered the message in a sermon entitled “Beneath the Surface.” Wellington highlighted the necessity of a family prayer life, and reminded the members that love is the unconditional principle of commitment and that they needed to be filled with the fullness of God.

He made the point that great families can exist, but it takes the commitment of each family member for this to be accomplished. At the end of the message, an appeal was made inviting each person to first make a commitment to God and then to their respective families.

With the church decorated for a traditional wedding ceremony, six couples renewed their wedding vows, officiated by Wellington. After he gave the charge, the couples had the privilege of walking down the aisle a second time to renew their commitment to each other and to the Lord.

The celebration continued in the fellowship hall where the couples and members dined in a banquet setting. When all is said and done, love is alive and available to all because “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”—John 15:13.

—Simone Collins, communication team member, Wakefield church

May 1-3, 2015
Brotherhood in Christ
Men’s Prayer Convention
Honor’s Haven Resort & Spa
1195 Arrowhead Road, Ellenville, NY 12428

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
All Men’s Ministries Leaders
All Husbands, Fathers & Sons
All Single Men & Youths
SPECIAL PROGRAMS for Young Men

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SPECIAL FEATURES
Powerful Preaching, Dynamic Seminars
Plenary Sessions, Inspirational Singing
Youth Got Talent Parade
Morning Devotions
Prayer & Meditation

RECREATIONAL OUTREACH
Basketball * Swimming Tournaments * Movie

Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
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**Make You Smile Ministry Impacts the Community**

During the 2011-2012 school year, the students of Frontenac Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School began a new type of outreach ministry they call the Make You Smile Ministry. The goal of this ministry is to make contact with the local village community, make them smile in the name of Jesus, and leave a good impression.

The students hoped that this ministry would be a step in making their school a recognized part of the larger community. Over the years, students have engaged in many interesting Make You Smile Ministry activities, ranging from walking invisible dogs to giving free hugs and high fives outside the local supermarket and pizza shop.

The Make You Smile Ministry has led to other outreach activities. Once a month the students of Frontenac elementary host a family game night to which church and community members are invited. Students use the Make You Smile Ministry events as opportunities to hand out invitations to game nights and other events.

On October 31, 2014, the students went to the community with their latest Make You Smile Ministry event—an air marching band. The students walked down the sidewalk of downtown Union Springs with an American flag, a banner, and plenty of invisible instruments while their teacher, Mr. Jeremy Garlock, marched behind them with music playing from a megaphone. As people stopped to applaud, give candy, or supply drinks, the students handed out invitations for the family game night taking place the next evening.

The main event for the night was Turkey Bowling. Frozen turkeys were used to bowl at full bottles of soda. The winner of each division (child, youth, adult) was given a trophy. Around 50 people attended, some of whom were village residents who had received the invitation handed out during the air band parade the day before.

Other events the students of Frontenac elementary school held to benefit the community included the annual Thanksgiving dinner in November when they served 68 people. They also led out in worship for Thanksgiving and Christmas programs at two area churches—the Union Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Cayuga Methodist Church.

—Bradley Booth, communication director, New York Conference

**Union Springs Academy Offers Auto Detailing Class**

Students at Union Springs Academy (USA) have begun a new journey in practical education to prepare them to earn money, not only for tuition now, but also into the future.

Auto detailing has been around in some form since the invention of the automobile, but now it is becoming a huge, fast-growing industry. Virtually, every car, truck, van, SUV, boat, or plane will have some type of detailing repeatedly in its lifetime—from new vehicle prep followed by routine washing, polishing, and waxing to either maintain or restore its finish that will preserve its value for years to come.

The first 12 students to sign up for the class at Union Springs Academy are enthusiastically learning about techniques, environmentally friendly chemicals, professional detailing equipment, and how to eventually set up and operate their own business.

Following advice from the Spirit of Prophecy, students need to learn an occupational skill, not to merely be prepared to earn a living if circumstances require such, but also to add vigor to mental studies and to provide a special opportunity for character growth. Learning a trade helps produce a more elevated class of youth with stability of character, perseverance, fortitude, and courage to surmount obstacles (Fundamentals of Education, p. 40).

“Students will realize elasticity of spirit and vigor of thought, and will be able to accomplish more mental labor in a given time than they could by study alone”—Fundamentals of Education, p. 44.

The Auto Detail class has begun in hopes of opening a shop to employ students as one of the school’s industries within the year. It is one of several small busi-
nesses that will be housed in the industrial complex that is comprised of the industrial building (former broom shop) and greenhouse on campus.

Union Springs Academy is the only boarding academy in the Atlantic Union. Students at USA have an amazing love for their personal friend, Jesus Christ. All Adventist teens deserve an Adventist education and by growing the industry to provide additional student jobs, more students have the opportunity to earn more of their tuition and achieve greater satisfaction from their education in preparing them for life, both in this world and the eternal life to come.

—Will Froelich, business manager, Union Springs Academy

Campus Renovation Week At Union Springs Academy!

Are you passionate about Adventist education? Serve our students by donating your time, skills, and energy as we work together to renovate our campus facilities! During this six-day event in June, we will complete thousands of dollars in renovations. Visit our website to view our 2015 projects, sign up as a volunteer, or to make an online donation for building materials and other event expenses.

Working together, we can make a difference in the lives of young people every day!

June 7–12, 2015

www.unionspringsacademy.org

Union Springs Academy Annual Alumni Weekend

May 1-3, 2015

Honor Classes: '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '75, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05, '10

For more information, visit www.unionspringsacademy.org
God Walks Through Northeastern Academy

I t was during the fall Week of Prayer at Northeastern Academy, October 24 to November 5, 2014, that the Holy Spirit grabbed hold of the hearts and minds of more than 25 students as they took their stand to follow Christ.

Dudley Francois, pastor of the North Bronx church, had no idea how God would use him to penetrate the minds of the students to bring them to an understanding of how they could walk with God in a world full of digital distractions.

Prayer was another focus as teachers daily presented a biblical example of how various Bible characters prayed, and then followed up by personally praying over the students. This focus brings to mind the text found in 2 Chronicles 7:14, NIV, that says, “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” Truly we heard from heaven as God’s Spirit fell.

Francois first brought students to the realization that they were distracted and needed to make a personal change. He helped them to realize they were running from God without even realizing it. He helped them to realize their need to walk with God and accept...
The roof was not on fire on the day a battalion of firefighters came to visit the South Ozone Park church. The “little white church on the side of the road” had been planning for weeks to invite the members of the FDNY Ladder Company 302 “Vipers Nest” Firehouse to the church. The invitation would be the perfect way to thank the firefighters for helping save the church from a possible furnace fire a few months before.

With a few phone calls to New York City officials by Trevor Baker, the church’s pastor, a date was set for an official visit by Chief Batterberry of Ladder Company 302. The in-house photographer, Daniel Archie, was granted permission by the FDNY to visit the firehouse for a group photo.

The Sabbath worship service began with great anticipation. On Community Services Guest Day, members were expecting the entire firehouse to attend, but understood that their role as first responders could take precedence. At a moment during the service, two firefighters appeared at the church doors to represent Chief Batterberry, while the other firefighters waited outside in the truck. Baker greeted them and then introduced them to the congregation.

The Community Services and Sabbath School departments gave gifts and a very large fruit basket to the firefighters of the battalion. A photo plaque thanking the service men of the FDNY Ladder Company 302 for their fearless service to the church and the South Ozone Park community was presented to them.

Ganoune Diop, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty associate director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, offered a prayer of thanksgiving and blessings upon the firefighters and asked God to keep them safe as they work as first responders. The fire department representatives thanked the church for the plaque, gifts, and, most of all, for the first-time recognition of their firehouse by a church in the community.

A fire does burn at South Ozone Park church, not one to burn the roof or the building, but one that uplifts in prayer the first responders of the New York City Fire Department. The firefighters of Engine 302 and Ladder Company 155 that share the firehouse on Rockaway Boulevard in Jamaica, New York, have fought tens of thousands of fires, saved countless lives, and improved the safety of South Jamaica, South Ozone Park, and John F. Kennedy (JFK) Airport.

—Lorraine Archie, communication secretary, South Ozone Park church
TLTs: Amazing Kids Doing Amazing Things

Responsible, energetic, level-headed, spiritual, hard-working, and mature. Those are the words that bubble up out of Kurt Amos, co-leader (with wife, Karen) of the Teen Leadership Training (TLT) program for Northern New England (NNEC) Pathfinders, when he is asked to describe the characteristics of the teens that he works with.

“These are amazing kids,” said Kurt. “They are chosen on the basis of a few key qualities—their performance in Pathfinders, their leadership potential, and their spiritual commitment. They are simultaneously the product of the Pathfinder program and the future adult leaders of the program.

“The TLT program is a four-year experience that is designed for high school-aged youth, providing them with strongly demonstrated all the qualities we are looking for. And I have to tell you, watching these dedicated young leaders work with Pathfinders and hone their leadership support skills is an awesome experience.

“These kids are the ones who will one day lead existing clubs or will answer the call of God by starting a new club. And they are giving God a significant part of their life—at a time when they have a busy life—so that He can work on them while they are working for Him.”

TLTs don’t usually get the glamorous jobs when there is preparation to be done for camporees or area meetings or leadership meetings. Instead, they take on the long list of mundane but necessary tasks that underpin so many Pathfinder activities—things such as setting up meeting tents, getting displays and projects ready, learning and demonstrating specific outdoor skills, working with new Pathfinders, and working for Pathfinder staff. Their involvement with humble support work is intentional—by the time they graduate from the program they will know everything that is required to run a camporee. But TLTs don’t just deal with the little stuff. They also get to design the theme and activities at the annual fall camporee. And, in the words of Paul Watson, NNEC Pathfinder director, their work on planning and carrying out the fall camporee has been “superb.”

In the words of TLT Hannah Mott, who gave a devotional at the winter Pathfinder training session, the learning and the spiritual growth are both constant. “I learned that, as a TLT, kids are watching me all the time and will copy what I do, both good and bad. I learned that when it comes to serving the Lord, I need to be either in or out—and that if I am in, I need to be in wholeheartedly. And I am in—wholeheartedly—because we are told in Revelation that we are to be either hot or cold, and that the Lord will ‘vomit out of His mouth’ those who are halfway—those who are lukewarm.”

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

NNEC Planned Giving and Trust Services Gets Creative

Planned Giving and Trust Services (PGTS) departments around the North American Division have an important function: they help people plan to support the work of the Lord while also planning for major life changes by putting important documents in place, including wills, trusts, and more. But that is not the ministry of the department. The ministry is to help people grow in faith by coming to the point where they are willing to put everything they have on the altar before God and ask Him what He wants to do with them.

Even though the function and ministry of PGTS are both important, the departments have a problem: few people really want to talk with them. Most people simply are not eager to engage in planning for their passing away. The Northern New England PGTS department decided to address this problem by writing a series of engaging stories and publishing them in booklet form. The stories feature Pastor Derecho Williams and, to date, they have proved very effective. People who read the stories have a much better grasp of what the department does and how it can be of assistance. The stories help people overcome barriers to preparing and planning ahead.

The stories have proven so useful that the Atlantic Union recently adopted them for use. One supporting ministry is considering turning the stories into a video series for DVD or television. Other conferences and unions recently began to evaluate the stories for use in their areas. There are four stories in the series, two that have been completed and two more that are being written and will be released later this year.

According to NNEC department associate director Jennifer Hernandez, the most important thing is the way the stories support the department’s ministry. “We’re just delighted to have more people calling us and to have them better understand what we do. It means we can spend more time on our ministry and, praise God, that is exactly what we want to do.”

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

Pictured are the TLTs who attended the winter training program, along with program co-leaders Kurt and Karen Amos. Front kneeling: Joy Atherton. Front row, from left, are Steven Maringka, Adhey Waworuntu, Cindy Bojoh, and Karen Amos. In the second row are Jordan Harris and Hannah Mott. On the third row are Baxter Tardiff, Anthony Harris, Conner Banfill, and Doris Farley. On the back row are Mike Kinney, Koda Schlager, Autumn Mott, and Kurt Amos.
Bath Church Starts “Non-food Bank” Ministry

Everyone, it seems, has heard of food banks—they are a vital and meaningful service for people in need, and a number of churches within the conference serve as distribution points for regional food banks. Distributing food is a wonderful ministry, but what about the people who need much more than food?

People who are restarting their lives and have nothing appreciate the food, but their needs far surpass just food. For these people, the Bath church is trying something new—they have started a “non-food bank” that gathers and distributes exclusively non-food items. They are calling the effort “The Little Flock Non-Food Bank.”

According to one of the co-leaders of the project, Roxanne Profenno, the new effort is being very well received by its intended clients. “People are thrilled to find out about us,” she said. The ministry is being run from the Bath church and is open once every two weeks. They try to stock basic items, including toilet paper, hand soap, cream rinse, toothpaste, razors, dish detergent, laundry detergent, dry dog and cat food, paper towels, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, shaving cream, pot scrubbers, all-purpose household cleaners, baby shampoo, baby powder, disposable diapers (all sizes), boys and girls hats, mittens, and gloves.

The ministry is only able to operate because it receives either donated items or cash donations, which it uses to purchase needed items. So far, both support and use of the non-food bank have been brisk. The members of the Bath church plan to do as much with the ministry as they can, relying on God to bring to them the people they can best serve and the goods they need to provide.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

NNEC Annual Spring Prayer Retreat

May 21-24, 2015
Camp Lawroweld
Weld, Maine 04285

“Prayer and Worship”
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Download Registration Form at: www.nnecprayerministries.com
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Heather Cook Commissioned to the Gospel Ministry

On the evening of January 9, Heather Cook, associate pastor of the College Church in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, was commissioned to the gospel ministry. Cook's ministry in the Adventist Church includes serving as the youth pastor at the Connecticut Valley Church, as an ethics and religion teacher at Hong Kong Adventist College, and in her current position as associate pastor at the College Church.

Many family members, friends, church members, and Southern New England Conference pastors attended the commissioning service. They came to affirm Cook’s call to pastoral ministry. Heather’s father-in-law, Michael Cook, a pastor in Ball, Louisiana, offered the prayer of dedication.

Many thanks to Kristie Stevenson and the team of College Church members who worked to put together this Spirit-filled worship experience.

Pictured following the commissioning service are, from left, Heather Cook, associate pastor of the College Church; her husband, Dustan Cook; twin girls, Elizabeth and Emmeline; Jose Alarcon, Southern New England Conference executive secretary, and John Amoah, Southern New England Conference ministerial and evangelism director.

Adventist Community Services Purchases New Trailer

A few months ago the Southern New England Conference Association—using dedicated funds—made the decision to strengthen the support to the Adventist Community Services programs throughout the conference territory. They purchased a new 16-foot trailer that can serve as a mobile command post, and be used to haul supplies and equipment around to the various churches who need the support of a generator, stage and sound equipment, display tents, and more. The possibilities are limitless. Frankie Vazquez, Southern New England Conference Adventist Community Services director, has a vision to help the local churches. And as you can see—the trailer is a rolling billboard.

—David Dennis, communication director, Southern New England Conference

The new Adventist Community Services trailer will serve the needs of this vital ministry in the Southern New England Conference in many ways.

David Dennis

—David Dennis, communication director, Southern New England Conference
**GREATER BOSTON ACADEMY**

100th School Year Celebration

**April 10-12, 2015**

**Speaker**
Larry Blackmer
Vice President of Education
North American Division

**Friday, April 10**
Vespers – 7:00 p.m.
Lunch – 1:00 p.m.
Concert – 3:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 11**
Sabbath School – 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.
Old Fashion Social – 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, April 12**
Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.
International Fair – 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Come out for an amazing, spirit-filled worship experience Friday night. Join us Sabbath morning and afternoon as we praise God for a century of blessings. Please, stay around as we fellowship together Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. We look forward to seeing past and present teachers, administrators, parents, students, alumni, and friends.

**For more information**, visit: www.greaterbostonacademy.org or call Greater Boston Academy at (781) 438-4253.

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**Web site:** auc.edu/alumni
**E-mail:** alumni@auc.edu or **Call:** (978) 609-3677

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atlantic union gleaner, march 2015
Ye Olde Cedar Lake Academy Reunion ‘35, ‘45, ‘55, ‘65. Details will be forth-
EMPLOYMENT

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEEKS A VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: The applicant must possess a doctoral degree from an accredited institution of higher education that demonstrates a successful record of academic administration. Values consistent with the Seventh-day Adventist mission and tradition of the college. Classroom experience, preferably at the college level. Submit cover letter, including a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, résumé, copy of transcript, and three professional letters of reference to roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details, visit www.auc.edu.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE SEEKS VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES. The applicant should have a least a bachelor’s degree in business or a related area. Professional designation and master’s degree preferred. Computer business applications skills essential. Candidates should have a proven record of management of non-profit organizations and/or businesses. Values consistent with the Adventist mission and tradition of the college. Submit cover letter, a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, résumé, copy of transcript and three professional letters of references to roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details, visit www.auc.edu.

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The applicant must fully support Atlantic Union College’s global Community Engagement Mission and the teaching of the Adventist Church. Submit cover letter, a statement addressing the specific minimum and preferred qualifications, CV, a copy of transcript, and three professional letters of references to roberto.reyna@auc.edu. For details, visit www.auc.edu. (Part-time, transitioning into increasing hours, leading to a full-time/salaried position.

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a Dean, School of Education, responsible to the provost for the administration of that particular school. He/she is the agent of the school for the application of its educational policies. Qualified person should have a terminal qualification in Education, Administration or Counselling/Psychology. For more information and to apply, visit www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_4.

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SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY’s BUSINESS DEPARTMENT seeks faculty to begin Fall 2015. Master’s degree required, Ph.D. preferred, with emphasis in Finance, Marketing and Accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses and providing service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses mosesa@swau.edu.

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SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time faculty to teach Health and Wellness on the main campus. Doctorate degree is required. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources office. Must have some teaching experience. Contact Mr. Vesal Outkarien at (817) 202-6694 or vnoutkari@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Education and Psychology Department seeks full-time qualified psychology professor beginning July 1, 2015. Doctorate degree is required. Please submit CV and cover letter to Dr. Marcel Sargeant at sargeant@swau.edu.

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ADVENTIST RODDERS CLUB GC MEET-N-GREET: Members and those interested in joining/starting a local chapter join us for refreshments and car talk Sunday, July 5, 2015, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Roosevelt Park, 331 Roosevelt Ave., San Antonio. For info, e-mail nomadder55@gmail.com. Bring your specialty car.


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at www.atlantic-union.org

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Atlantic Union Gleaner
What have YOU done for HIM lately?

“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink”—Matthew 25:34, NIV.