Adventist Youth on the Move in Bermuda

Willing hearts perform random acts of kindness
Contents

4 Adventist Youth on the Move in Bermuda
The Bermuda Conference celebrated its third annual compassion event on the weekend of March 28-29.

6 The Big Picture
Two Adventist youth share their experiences about participating in church activities.

8 Atlantic Union College Opens Fall 2015
Starting in the fall semester of 2015, Atlantic Union College will offer degree programs.

19 SNEC Pathfinder Clubs Bring Home PBE Gold
Five Pathfinder teams from the Southern New England Conference went to Keene, Texas, to participate in the division-level Pathfinder Bible Experience.
The story of Jesus’ feeding 5,000 men and, in addition, women and children, is familiar to many. The crowd was fed because of the generosity of one little boy who offered his lunch of five loaves of bread and two fishes. On the surface, it seemed impossible that the boy’s meager meal could be used to satisfy the appetites of all those hungry people. But it was a story with a “heavenly twist.” Only God could have looked at the heart of the young boy, understood his faith and commitment to the service of others, and after blessing it, used what the boy had to feed all those people, and still have lots more left over than when they started.

There are examples in the Bible of committed young people who were willing to be selfless in their desire to do God’s work. Throughout the history of the Adventist Church there are also examples of young people who displayed their love for God through service to Him. That is no different today. However, too often we underestimate the compassionate heart of today’s youth and God’s ability to work with and through them to accomplish great things for Him. Their commitment to service should not be ignored or suppressed, but embraced and encouraged.

In the Atlantic Union there are many examples of young people who are shining their lights for Christ, and in this month’s issue of the Gleaner we are sharing a few of them. From early childhood and up, young people are involved, representing Jesus in their churches and communities through random acts of service to others. The Bermuda Conference youth held Compassion 2015, spreading compassion throughout the island. About 200 children between three and six years old showed how they are growing and walking in God’s footsteps. And in conjunction with the Adventist Church’s Global Youth Day, youth from the Beverly church participated in several service activities in their community. These are just a few of the examples of Atlantic Union youth in action.

Even though we have access to better ways of communicating with the use of today’s technology, the work of many of the youth goes unnoticed. Think of the number of stories that have not yet been told. Think of the lives that have been touched by these young people that no one will ever know about.

Never has this Adventist movement been about how much one gives or gets. It’s about whether or not one is moved with compassion for the needs that are present, such as the boy in the story with the loaves and fishes. It is about developing a culture of generosity within oneself, the family, and the community.

In just a few weeks, the General Conference will hold its 60th Constituency Session in San Antonio, Texas. Several of the delegates representing the Atlantic Union are youth. We pray for them, the entire Atlantic Union delegation, and the session as a whole as the delegates participate in business of the church.

As leaders we should be excited to take on the challenge of working with our youth as they share their loaves and fishes in their churches, neighborhoods, and the larger communities.

Ednor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union Gleaner and assistant to the president for communication in the Atlantic Union Conference.
Adventist Youth on the Move in Bermuda

The Bermuda Conference celebrated its third annual Compassion event on the weekend of March 27-28. Thirty people from the Atlantic Union Conference left their homes on the east coast of the United States and traveled to Bermuda to accompany more than 230 local youth and young adults in spreading compassion throughout the island.

The event was spearheaded by Bermuda Conference’s youth and young adult director, Cyril Millett, and consisted mostly of young people going into the community and performing random acts of kindness throughout the island. Some of these random acts included distributing flowers, candy, and kites, and displaying motivational signs on the roadside.

Compassion participants also teamed up with such agencies as Keep Bermuda Beautiful, Meals on Wheels, the Bermuda Police Service, Habitat for Humanity, The Coalition for the Protection of Children, and many more. Through these partnerships with businesses, schools, other registered charities, and community agencies, youth and leaders were able to assist people with needed food hampers, perform health assessments, visit two senior residential care facilities and two elementary schools, clean parks, and brighten people’s day. “We only wish we could have reached more people and met more of their needs,” said one youth leader.

Using the motto “actions speak louder than words,” the goal of the Compassion Weekend was to portray Christ’s character. The joy of selfless service exploded this year as a result of sponsorship from the Atlantic Union Conference and collaboration from community businesses, social agencies, schools, and the government.

With the full force of the Adventist teens from island public and private schools, along with Bermuda Institute’s middle- and upper-school students, Compassion 2015 took to the community on Friday, March 27. The youth were backed by Adventist church members from across the Atlantic Union who took time off from work to join the cause of Christ.

Among the projects undertaken were reading to students at the Victor Scott Primary School, tidying classrooms in West Pembroke School, and collecting more than a truckload of garbage at Clearwater Beach and Cooper’s Island. Millett says, “We had our youth serving in places they might not think to serve. For the cause of Christ, we must be...
willing to go everywhere if we are to take His message to everyone.”

Students served willingly and they were given high commendation from the Bermuda Police Services, Park Services, and other organizations with which they partnered. One lady called the Bermuda Conference office to say, “Thank you for the flowers given in the Washington Mall. Your kids are terrific!”

Days before Compassion Weekend, youth from the island’s 11 churches launched a Week of Prayer. Together they petitioned God for good weather, for the words of encouragement He wanted them to use for those in need, for courage to witness for Christ, and for the general needs of the world. The evening prayer services came to a crescendo when Raymond Alcock, Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries associate director, delivered a powerful message on the eve of the Sabbath. He challenged the youth to do that which pleases “Daddy,” our God.

Sabbath saw youth, their leaders, the youth directors, and those from the Atlantic Union join in service for their Creator. Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference president, also joined the youth as they served as the hands and feet of Jesus. Together, young and older members of the church were the sermon in action.

The rain came and went and smiles never left the faces of the young people as they shared flowers and cards of encouragement with the people from Somerset on the western end of the island to St. George’s on the eastern end of the island. They sang songs with seniors and offered prayer with strangers. The youth helped to attract pedestrians to the health screening table in the Washington Mall, a major shopping and business complex in Hamilton, the capital city of Bermuda. At the table, professionals conducted health assessments and encouraged people to live healthier lives.

Because of a marked increase in participants, for the first time Compassion initiatives were spread out around the island and not just in a central location. Youth leaders were determined to show the love of God to people in communities closer to their home churches. These same leaders have pledged to continue the work of compassion throughout the year, using their churches as bases from which blessings flow to their communities.

After a soggy start to the Sabbath service to others, the youth gathered for praise and worship with a powerful message from José Cortés, Jr., North American Division associate ministerial director for evangelism, who introduced the Compassion initiative in the Atlantic Union while he served as youth ministries director.

In the afternoon, Josué Feliciano, Southern New England Conference Youth Ministries director, conducted a seminar on how to foster compassion at the local church level. This helped the participants to see the value of service for Christ as a lifestyle that impacts people and encourages them to consider the Giver of all good gifts, as their Redeemer, both from sin and the shambles of this world.

In the aftermath of Compassion 2015, the leaders are listening to the youth and their encouraging sentiments are heard in such phrases as, “Let’s do this again,” “I have an idea!” and, “Don’t wait until next year!” One American guest said, “Invite me back in two years and I’ll come!” Another said, “Compassion has taken on a whole new meaning for me. We need to do this everywhere.”

The Compassion Week ended with a resolve in many hearts to press forward in service, even when obstacles are presented. The compassion of Christ knows no limit and the compassion of the youth of the Bermuda Conference seems to be just as boundless.

A collaborative effort by Cyril Millett, Bermuda Conference Youth Ministries director, and Dasha Caines, member of the Hamilton church and a Bermuda Institute student, who enjoys writing and serving in the community.
A Part of His Plan


Shanique Meyler, AYS leader, requested my assistance in putting the care packages together for the homeless. We assembled more than 100 care packages. I was tired, but I felt like a million bucks because I had taken a big portion of my day to do something that was bigger than my usual narcissism and me.

At 6:45 a.m. the next day, my group took the care packages to our designated area—34th Street, Penn Station. As we gave out our care packages, it felt good to give to these individuals. There was one guy I gave a package to whose resemblance to me was surreal. That stayed with me throughout the entire experience.

It was a blessed morning to have given so much to others without expecting anything in return for once in my life. It was an experience I won't soon forget. I was reminded of the value of a home, of people who love you and take care you, and the value of a God who smiles on us all and gives us what He sees fit.

I've never been a great Christian. I've never put my duty to God first, and that's because I've never really embraced my duty. I don't know if those two days were the start of something that God has planned for me, but I know that even when I am consciously not in tune with His plan, He still finds a way to reach me and remind me that I am on His course, one way or another.

The beautiful thing is that we never know His plan. I feel like I'm becoming a part of His plan, but, in actuality, I was always a part of it. It was up to Him when my eyes would be opened to see just a small part of the role He has set up for me to play in His grand plan.

Kamar Stephenson is a member of the AYS at the Kingsboro Temple church.

Why I Remain in the Church

Often times my peers will ask, “Why do you continue to go to church? They don't have music, the old people are miserable, and they are so unorganized; it's a mess!” Why do I stay in the church? If I were to respond to this question with one small answer, it would be because God has been way too good to me for me not to be thankful and give what I can back to Him.

Even though it sounds like a typical clichéd answer, it's the truth. If I am able to give up my time during the week to go to work and attend school and cater to the needs of others, why should I find difficulty in setting aside one day out of my week to honor the One who gives me health and strength to attend to all the other chaotic aspects of my life? It only makes sense, right? True, you can still honor Him on your couch in front of some gospel television station. However, does your boss pay you to sit in front of the television during the day? So why does God deserve any less? I have decided to give back in one of the only ways I know how—education. God has blessed me with a sound mind and a solid education. These are His gifts to me and my gift to Him is to return to Him that which is already His—my talents and skills. As a part of the education department, I am working with other individuals in the church to establish the groundwork for a GED preparatory program.

So when asked why I remain in the church and remain active at that, the answer is simple: God has blessed me way more than I could ever expect. It would be a shame not to acknowledge His mercy and kindness toward me and thank Him through my worship and service.

Meshel Clarke is a member of the Hyde Park church in Massachusetts. Her favorite scripture is Psalm 27.
In appreciation of those who serve in the important field of early childhood education, the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education sponsored a special celebration on May 2 in recognition of these frontline workers. Held at the Community Worship Center in Queens, New York, approximately 200 children between three and six years old shared their talents under the theme “Growing and Walking in His Footsteps.”

“It was very important to come together as one unit and one family to support and celebrate early childhood education,” says Marlene Alvarez, Atlantic Union Conference Early Childhood Education assistant director. “This is a segment of our church that is sometimes forgotten; a population in our church that also needs to be nurtured and supported.”

Alvarez, along with early childhood advisory members Ena Richards (Northeastern Conference) and Lorna Sterling (Greater New York Conference) coordinated the first-time event.

A total of 12 schools in the Greater New York and Northeastern conferences were represented at the afternoon program. The children performed songs, recited scripture, and presented a skit to a standing-room only crowd of parents, supporters, and teachers. The diversity and international influence of the student body was also highlighted as presentations were made in various languages including Spanish and Creole. For the grand finale, the students sang “A Gift to You” together as a mass choir.

Early childhood programs are often a means for churches to generate additional revenue. Alvarez also sees this as a ministry and a prime opportunity for a much loftier goal. “It is evangelism in its simplest form,” she adds. “This is the very group that Jesus said, ‘Suffer the children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of God.’ When we reach the little ones, we can reach the parents. At this age, we can get them for life and for eternity.”

—Debra Banks, communication assistant, Atlantic Union Conference
Atlantic Union College Opens Fall 2015

Atlantic Union College (AUC) is a Christian liberal arts college in the Seventh-day Adventist tradition, serving a diverse learning community. We focus on the development of the whole person by inspiring faith in a loving Creator, God, which encourages a passion for knowledge, truth, and Christian service to humanity.

In our environment, Jesus and His love are interwoven with all the educational activities and daily living experiences on campus. We emphasize preparing students for the joy of Christian service to God and professional service for mankind.

From the college’s inception, faculty hold high standards, spiritually and intellectually. Our staff are also embedded in our religious beliefs. As a result, our students are surrounded by Christ-like influences as examples of instruction in the duties of life.

Starting in the fall semester of 2015, Atlantic Union College will offer degree programs for a Bachelor of Arts in Theology/Religion, and a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences/Biology. The first day of classes is August 24, 2015. Registration will take place August 10-21.

Tuition, room, and board are $17,998 per year for the first five years for those who enroll in the fall of 2015. The cost of books, up to $400 per semester, is included. For commuter students, the tuition per year is $9,998, plus fees of $1,500.

Atlantic Union College is authorized by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education to offer the B.A. in Theology/Religion and B.S. in Health Sciences/Biology. The college is in the process of seeking national accreditation. Students who graduate after the college is accredited will graduate from an accredited college.

The national accreditation will allow eligible students for federal financial aid to use that award toward their tuition costs. As an alternative, the students attending Atlantic Union College and requiring financial assistance will be able to participate in the college’s payment plan.

Students will have the option of making payment arrangements for the costs of tuition, room and board, and books.

In addition, we have certificate programs, including the Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) program and the English as a Second Language (ESL/ESOL) program. For a full list of other certificate programs being offered, please consult the Web site at auc.edu.

B.A. and B.S. Degree Programs

Become an Intercultural Minister With a Degree in Theology/Religion

The Atlantic Union College Department of Theology’s mission is foundational to this Christian college’s structure and curriculum: to be a distinct agent of spiritual leadership on the AUC campus, guiding students toward spiritual maturity while helping them integrate their future disciplines into their lives of faith. The department works to integrate students’ theoretical learning with practical parish-based experiential learning, equipping them for intercultural pastoral ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The faculty at AUC is specifically intended student body. All intended faculty have served in various parish ministries and know the importance of community involvement and service orientation. Faculty will be required to be members in good and regular standing with the sponsoring denominational organization. The program will be aligned with the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in that students will have the ability to serve in internships within local churches as well as churches throughout the North American Division. Additionally students may have spiritual mentors and advisors to work with them, allowing for unique service projects. This will allow the mission to be “lived” across the campus. For more information about the theology program, call (978) 368-2470, e-mail: theology@auc.edu, or visit the Web site at auc.edu/theology.

Better Serve Humanity With a Degree in Health Sciences

The Health Sciences program seeks to fulfill the college's mission through varied courses in biology, chemistry, community engagement, humanities, math, physics, religion, and social sciences that develop the whole person. In the classes, by example and teaching, the faculty will inspire faith in a loving Creator, God. The department seeks to excite students with a passion for teaching and learning and knowledge and truth. The program is designed to help the student to better serve humanity through whatever means, but especially through specific healthcare careers. For more information about this program, call (978) 368-2160, e-mail: health.sciences@auc.edu, or visit the Web site at auc.edu/healthsciences.
Certificate Programs

English as a Second Language
Your KEY to more opportunities!
The English as a Second Language program (also known as English for Speakers of Other Languages) provides an opportunity to improve your English skills. The program has experienced and caring teachers and a curriculum to fit you. Classes generally have 8-12 students. There are three English-learning programs. All core programs include: Listening, Speaking, Conversation, Vocabulary, Reading, Grammar, and Writing. All students will participate in assemblies, field trips, and community activities. For more information in most major languages, call (978) 368-2250, e-mail: esl@auc.edu, or visit the Web site at auc.edu/esl.

Thayer Performing Arts Center
Central Massachusetts' premier community music school since 1972!
The Thayer Performing Arts Center (TPAC) offers applied lessons, chamber music, chorus, orchestra, band, and percussion ensembles. In addition, world-class guest artists regularly present public performances and masterclasses. TPAC’s mission to provide expert instruction and outstanding performance opportunities in a Christian environment extends far beyond Massachusetts as we seek to enrich our world through music, one student at a time. TPAC offers music of diverse genres to musicians of all ages, believing that persons who study music learn that perseverance and dedication lead to accomplishment and service in every other area of life. For more information, contact TPAC at (978) 368-2100, e-mail: tpac@auc.edu, or visit auc.edu/tpac.

Soul Winning Training Through the NETS Program
The Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) is a four-month certificate course that prepares soul winners who are cross-trained in Bible work, health evangelism, and public evangelism. Upon completion, the graduates are prepared for an entry-level career in lay ministry or to more effectively serve God in their own churches, communities, or schools. The course will also serve to provide academic credits toward the B.A. degree in Theology/Religion at Atlantic Union College. For further information, contact NETS at (978) 368-2638, e-mail: nets@auc.edu, or visit auc.edu/nets.

Avis D. Hendrickson, president, Atlantic Union College

Highlights of AUC’s Alumni Homecoming Weekend

- The vesper program on Friday, April 17, featured Beverly Burton '02 and Kirosha Huggan '07, who provided music for both Friday evening and Sabbath worship services. The weekend theme song was “We've Come This Far by Faith.”
- Friday's vesper message was presented by Winston Silvera.
- At the Sabbath services, the Alumnus of the Year award was presented by Pete Christoph ’52 to Fred Suckert '60.
- The consecration of Atlantic Union College president Avis Hendrickson was done by Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president and AUC board of trustees chair.
- Former professor, D. Robert Kennedy, presented the Sabbath sermon entitled “Walking On Water.”
- Lunch was provided by Henry Livergood ’71 and his wife, Dot ’70 in the Chan Shun Dining Commons.
- A Faculty and Staff Recognition program was held in Machlan Auditorium on Sabbath afternoon and hosted by AUC president Avis Hendrickson.
- A “Reconciliation and Unity Forum” was led by Roger Bothwell with many present and participating.
- Representatives from the Northeastern Evangelism Training School (NETS) presented a closing program highlighting AUC’s mission and future.
- Saturday night activities included volleyball and pizza in the college gymnasium.
- Sunday morning brunch included inspirational music by Bonnie Koval '80 and Marcio Candido, and was followed by the alumni annual meeting.
- The AUC Alumni Association Fundraising Project is “Adopt-A-Room” at Thayer Performing Arts Center. Alumni are asked to provide funds for repairing and or renovating a room in the Thayer Performing Arts Center. Each room funded for repairs and or renovation in the amount of $5,000 or more will have a plaque or brick placed in the Thayer Performing Arts Center with the name of the person(s) contributing the funds to repair and or renovate the room(s).

Alumni and supporters can donate funds online using the AUC Web site, auc.edu, and clicking on the tab “Give to AUC.” In addition, alumni are encouraged to support AUC’s recruitment efforts by attending events. All interested should contact Chris Tulloch at (978) 368-2251 or e-mail chris.tulloch@auc.com.

For more information and to view pictures of the 2015 alumni weekend, visit auc.edu/alumni.
—George Odell, Alumni Association president, Atlantic Union College
North American Division Prayer Ministries Leader Visits Bermuda

North American Division Prayer Ministries director Ruthie Jacobsen, and her husband Don, visited Bermuda the week of March 22-28 as guests of the St. David’s church. Within hours of arriving, the husband and wife team were sharing their message of prayer with the congregation.

One of the highlights of the Week of Prayer was their ministry of “Praying the Word.” To do this, a passage of Scripture is shared and a thought is highlighted and emphasized. Within minutes the congregation falls to its knees and prayer is offered. Prayer happens individually or in twos or threes to provide variety throughout the season of prayer.

Even before the first meeting began, Ruthie Jacobsen got the “early birds” to conduct prayer walks around the church (inside the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and hallways, as well as on the outside). Throughout the week, members expressed their joy of having Ruthie Jacobsen with them. “I’ve waited for nearly 20 years to have her come to be with us. Thank you,” said Charles Baker, St. David’s church member. Participants enjoyed the nightly giveaways of the couple’s book.

Each evening there was a book to go along with the nightly message. Several members of the Bermuda Conference Prayer Ministries Department joined them nightly as they “got their prayer praise on.” Michelle Hill, Bermuda Conference Prayer Ministries coordinator and interim pastor of Pembroke church, joined them on Monday evening, traveling all the way from Somerset. St. David’s church is the first church on the island to share the “Pray One Million” banner throughout the week.

On Sabbath afternoon, March 28, the Jacobsens traveled to the Pembroke church where Ruthie Jacobsen met with the conference prayer ministries team leaders. Gerald Burgess, a member of the Hamilton church Prayer Ministries team and leader of the Monday-to-Friday midday prayer, was among two persons who received special prayer during this time, and before long, each person in attendance received the special anointing of the pastors (Hill and Wilson), who then anointed the Jacobsens and then each other to continue the ministry of prayer in Bermuda. It was a Spirit-filled afternoon.

The Jacobsens were invited by the conference administrators to meet with the pastors during their bimonthly meeting at the Hamilton church. Prior to arriving at the conference office they stopped to see Bermuda “ambassador” Johnny Barnes. They visited Bermuda Institute, the Gibb’s Hill Lighthouse, and St. David’s lighthouse, just to name a few spots.

After a week of ministry in prayer, the Jacobsens left to return to the U.S., vows to return to fellowship with their brothers and sisters in Bermuda. St. David’s members pray that the Lord will continue to bless them wherever prayer ministry takes them.

—D. Randolph Wilson, pastor and associate communication director, Bermuda Conference
Members from 22 Churches Attend VBS Training

Forty-four people from 22 churches found their way to the Greater New York Conference (GNYC) office in Manhasset on March 29 to learn how to have a vibrant Vacation Bible School (VBS) in their local church. It was a cold morning, yet the spirits of the participants and the eight advisory team members were high and they were ready to spend four hours investigating VBS 2015—Investigation Station: Destination Paradise.

The participants became as children while the VBS team facilitated each section of the program. Interspersed between activities, children's ministries bags, pins, and books, as well as segments of the DVD that accompanies the program were given away.

Although this event consisted of fun, laughter, and much learning, there was a tinge of sadness as the GNYC Children's Ministries director for the past nine years, Barbara Hyde, bid farewell. At the close of the session the advisory team spent a few moments in prayer for her, said their goodbyes, and shared a cake made in her honor.

Though this was Hyde’s last official workshop in this capacity, she still thought ahead to schedule the Children's Ministries Track 3 Certification Program in May at the Adventist Community Services Center in Woodside. Her devotion to children remains clear and unwavering, even during this closing of just one part of her time in God’s service. She will be missed and remembered by all whose lives she has impacted. She is truly a “Jolly Good Fellow.”

—Ventryce Thomas, Children’s Ministries advisory member, Greater New York Conference

Barbara Hyde has served as the Greater New York Conference Children’s Ministries director for the past nine years.
NYC Votes New Superintendent of Schools and Youth Ministries Associate Director

The New York Conference Executive Committee, at its April 23 meeting, voted Jeremy Garlock as the conference’s new superintendent of schools and youth ministries associate director.

Garlock has served the New York Conference for the past 14 years as a teacher, trainer, principal, church planter, camp youth pastor, and youth ministries leader. He will now use his extensive experience to help the youth, young adults, and the Education department move forward in increasing its effectiveness at training young people for service in this world and the next.

The conference administrators say, “Congratulations, Jeremy! We pray God’s blessings on you as you begin this new chapter in your ministry.” The administrators expressed their gratitude and thanks to Bradley Booth, the former superintendent of schools, for his service and dedication to the young people of the New York Conference. Booth has accepted a call to the Minnesota Conference, where he will serve as a pastor. We pray for God’s blessing upon him and his wife, Maribel. Congratulations, Pastor Booth. We pray and fully expect God to do mighty things through your ministry.

—Miguel Crespo, executive secretary, New York Conference

Dexterville School Receives Six-Year Evaluation Rating

The Dexterville Seventh-day Adventist School in Dexterville, New York, had an evaluation on March 19 for school accreditation purposes. The preparation process during the preceding months was a challenge for a one-room school, but the school board put together an excellent team.

Heartfelt thanks to the school board chair, Lisa Bailey; school treasurer, Don Mayer; Dexterville church pastor, John Livergood; and Eleanor Ingersoll, Lisa Ingersoll, Windy Visser, Dan Hunnicutt, and John Adolli for their support and aid in preparation for the evaluation.

The visiting evaluation committee of conference personnel included Fred Burghardt, evaluation committee chair; and Joel Klimkewicz, pastor of the Union Springs church district.

Some of the individuals who participated on the Dexterville school’s evaluation committee include, from left, Joel Klimkewicz, pastor of the Union Springs church district; Fred Burghardt, evaluation committee chair and teacher for grades 7-9 at Parkview Junior Academy; Sharon Pitcher, principal and grade 1-4 teacher at Rochester Bay Knoll Adventist School; Monica Sargeant, principal and head teacher; and Bradley Booth, former superintendent of schools for the New York Conference.

The board, school administration, and teachers were commended for making the Bible the foundation of the curriculum, which is reflected in the school’s mission, philosophy, and instruction. Everyone was pleased when the school received a six-year accreditation score with a three-year interim visit. Monica Sargeant, principal and head teacher, says she can testify that God is good, and though the Dexterville school is small, it does not lack in giving its students a quality education.

—Staff, Dexterville school

Jeremy Garlock is New York Conference’s newly-voted superintendent of schools and youth ministries associate director.

Jeremy Garlock is New York Conference’s newly-voted superintendent of schools and youth ministries associate director.
The 52nd annual Union Springs Academy (USA) Alumni Weekend was held May 1-3 at the academy campus. Well over 300 were present, including more than 200 registered alumni.

Alumni came from as far away as Washington, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Indiana, and even one from Brazil and one from Taiwan.

Activities began on Friday afternoon with an off-campus excursion to nearby MacKenzie-Childs posh decorative arts production center and store in Aurora, New York, and continued with an on-campus history and update tour back in Union Springs.

The vesper program included the Senior Induction ceremony and a presentation on Jesus’ crucifixion by Conrad Demsky ’55. Other members of the Class of ’55 also assisted with Friday Vespers.

Sabbath School was presented by members of the Class of ’90, with Rick Bianco ’90 teaching the general lesson study.

Following the annual roll call, members from the Class of ’65 presented the worship service. Delbert Gilman ’65, preached a sermon entitled “Daniel, a Little Different Twist” during which he tucked in inspiring tidbits of memories from his school days attending USA. He concluded with an appeal for all to be faithful to the Lord as Daniel had purposed in his heart at such a youthful age.

The alumni were treated to a free meal in the gymnasium, hosted by USA in appreciation of alumni support throughout the year. Various honor classes gathered in assigned rooms in the Newmyer Administration Building to eat together, as friends rekindled old bonds while exchanging warm memories.

Principal Todd Coulter shared welcoming words with the alumni at the end of the meal, updating them regarding highlights from the current school year, noting the academy’s appreciation of the alumni’s financial assistance and encouraging their continued support and prayers. The alumni were invited to participate in the upcoming USA Renovations Week by volunteering their time and/or donating money to help pay for materials. A generous benefactor has again agreed to match all donations for this Maranatha-like project up to a total of $25,000.

In 2014, the first year such a program was implemented, more than $58,000 was raised in combined donations and the matching grant, and a total of over $100,000 was realized in financial gifts, donated materials, and volunteer labor. Many improvements were implemented on campus, such as a new roof on the boys chapel, a refurbished gymnasium, newly-painted rooms, and remodeled bathrooms.

An old-fashioned handshake mixer was held at the gymnasium, followed by a program honoring alumni who are currently serving in the military or who have done so in the past. Special tribute was given to the memory of alumnus Corp Forrest Ward ’65, who was killed as a medic during the Vietnam War. His sister, Wendy (Ward) Buck ’61, read a brief biography about him, highlighting his heroic actions of saving soldiers’ lives at the time of his unfortunate death.

A highlight of the weekend was the unveiling and dedication of the Circle of Friends Walkway. This new fundraising venue offers an opportunity to commemorate favorite memories, events, or people from USA via engraved bricks purchased by alumni and friends.”

More Than 300 Attend USA Alumni Weekend

at www.atlantic-union.org  Atlantic Union Gleaner, June 2015
Northeastern Academy Students Participate in Oratorical Contest

The Edward D. Herndon Legacy Foundation, Inc., sponsored its second annual Oratorical Contest for students at Northeastern Academy (NEA) in memory of the 40 years that Herndon served as the school’s Bible teacher.

Colet Coke, NEA graduate, coordinated the logistics of the Oratorical Contest. Support of the NEA staff and administrators and contest mentors/coaches, pastors Bernard Penn, Audley Allen, Cameron Bowen, and James Bennett helped to reinforce the importance and high quality of this youth leadership development initiative.

There were 12 contestants, from sophomores to seniors, who prepared their speeches under the guidance of pastors and mentors. The winners were as follows:

- Second Place: Savannah Mays, an NEA senior
- Third Place: Willanna Caruth, an NEA senior
- Fourth Place: Naomi Lewis, an NEA senior

Each week at the Northeastern Conference various departments and office staff members facilitate morning worship. During the week of April 27-30, the worship service was provided by several schools from around the metro Northeastern Conference area, including the Bethel, Flatbush, Hanson Place, and Hebron schools.

The children took total control of worship by providing special music, scripture, the welcome, and the devotional thought.

Third-grader Brandon Bailey from Bethel school spoke on success. He said that “True success for me is to be taught the ways of Christ, and it begins with faith in God.”

Lin Laihing, a fifth-grader from the Flatbush school, spoke on being jewels in God’s kingdom. Although we are different, Jesus died for all of us and loves us all the same.

Joshua Ramos, a fourth-grader from the Hanson Place school, provided timely thoughts on practicing what you preach. Ramos said, “You can know all the scriptures, have all the Bibles you can reach, but when push comes to shove, do you practice what you preach?”

Seventh-grader Alix Rouchon from Hebron school gave an inspiring devotional thought about the importance of Christian education. “Children are on the front line of evangelism.

When you educate the child, you educate the family. Education is the key to success, and Christian education is the key to spiritual success,” he said.

Marcia Daniel, principal of the Bethel school, said, “We need to know how Christian education impacts children. Our purpose here is to cement in your hearts the importance of Christian education.”

—JeNean Johnson, communication director, Northeastern Conference

Northeastern Academy Students Participate in Oratorical Contest
On March 28, four enthusiastic and well-prepared young orators assembled to present their stirring orations at the Mount Vernon church in Mount Vernon, New York. Three of the contestants are graduating seniors: Naomi Lewis, Willanna Caruth, and Savannah Mays, and the fourth, Joel Williams, is a sophomore.

Naomi Lewis discussed the challenges of using social networking to communicate positive messages. She warned that some younger and older individuals abuse social media by posting negative information about others. She encouraged the use of this technology as a tool to glorify God and to lead others to Christ.

Willanna Caruth spoke passionately about the real fear that has been instilled in many African-American young men. She cited several national incidents involving the questionable circumstances that have led to recent deaths of several African-American young men. She made a call for all “to stand united and together to break the curse of fear in the community.”

Joel Williams selected Etiquette and Manners for his oratorical presentation. He described etiquette and manners as the “backbone of character.” He asserted that “Jesus was the epitome of a gentleman, demonstrating proper etiquette and manners, even while reprimanding the Sadducees and while being led to the cross.”

Savannah Mays took a pragmatic approach to her oration on fear. She said fear is a “normal, unconscious response that occurs in the brain.” She argued that how we let fear affect us is a choice we make. She noted that Satan uses fear to deter us from trusting God. She concluded her oration by reminding the audience that through prayer and God’s grace, we can overcome anything—even fear.

The three-judge panel scored the essays and orations on content and delivery. Co-chairperson of The Edward D. Herndon Legacy Foundation, Inc., and NEA graduate, Myra Franklin-Smith announced Savannah Mays as the first-prize winner—$500.00; Joel Williams, second-prize winner—$300.00; Willanna Caruth, third-prize winner—$150.00; and honorable placement, Naomi Lewis—$50.00. All contestants received a Certificate of Leadership.

—S. A. Herndon, member, Mount Vernon church

Trinity Temple Members Plant New Church

The members of the Trinity Temple church in Poughkeepsie, New York, under the leadership of their pastor, Vernon Jordan, celebrated the beginning of a new church plant in Hyde Park, New York. It has been a dream of the Trinity Temple church members for many years to start a church in the Hyde Park area. Hyde Park is home of the Northeastern Conference campground, Camp Victory Lake.

After much prayer and planning, the Trinity Temple church, a predominantly African-American/Caribbean congregation, decided to venture out in faith to establish this church plant in Hyde Park, a predominantly Caucasian community. The church plant is located at the St. James Chapel, 10 East Market St., Hyde Park, New York.

On Sabbath, April 11, the founding members, who volunteered to move from Trinity Temple church and become part of this new congregation, met for worship at the new location. The church solicits the prayers of the members throughout the Atlantic Union that God will bless and prosper this new endeavor. The church members strongly believe that God will move in a mighty way.

—Mirlande Jordan, member and pastor’s spouse, Trinity Temple church

Trinity Temple church members who will work with the new church plant in Hyde Park, New York, are, front row from left, Bernard Daissy, Kimora Grant, Warren Griffiths, Lisa Soto, Elaine Griffiths; back row from left, Dwight Brooks, Rosso Grant, Verell Williams, Philemon Corrodus, Tondgu McClinton, Nancy Sterling, Vernon Jordan, the church’s pastor, Rashawn Grant, and Desmond Dorsett.
Camp Lawroweld Gets a New Gator

If you have been to Camp Lawroweld in Weld, Maine, in the last few years, you have no doubt seen camp superintendent Rocky Schlager attending to his rounds and going from place to place in a dilapidated John Deere Gator. This small utility vehicle has served far beyond its expected service life and has pretty much started to fall apart.

When Gary Blanchard, director of the Friends of Lawroweld, heard about the need, he decided to raise money for a new John Deere Gator. It took a while, but Blanchard patiently reminded people of the importance of Camp Lawroweld and the need for a new Gator. Eventually the funds were gathered and the Gator was purchased.

Recently the Gator was picked up from the Hall Implement Company in Windham, Maine. In the picture on the right, you can see Gary Blanchard handing the key for the vehicle to Northern New England Conference president Bob Cundiff (who has on a John Deere hat) while Hall Implement representative Don Hall looks on. Hall Implement gave a deep discount on the Gator, allowing it to be purchased for use during the upcoming season.

The new Gator has four-wheel drive, which will take some adjustment on Schlager’s part, since the old Gator had six wheels (four in back). If you happen to go to Camp Lawroweld this summer, you’ll know Schlager when you see him. He’s the guy on the new Gator with a really big smile on his face.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

How Do You “Reboot” a Church to Give it Passion for Ministry?

Ted Huskins, secretary of the Northern New England Conference, is a man of many talents. He has worked with distinction as a pastor. For years he ran his own consulting company—a company that helped churches with capital campaigns (fundraising) while simultaneously working to strengthen their ministry. As an outgrowth of that activity, Huskins also came to specialize in helping to “reboot” churches that for one reason or another have become “tired” or “in a rut” and have lost not only their core mission of serving the community, but have also lost their passion for ministry to their community.

“When a church loses its focus and passion for serving its community, it becomes stagnant. When that happens, the mission of the church no longer holds members or attracts new members, and it slowly declines. Having a core mission directed toward service to the community—and having a passion for that service—is critically important, especially for the kind of smaller churches that we have in Northern New England,” says Huskins.

But how does a church reignite their mission and passion? What if the members are old and tired? What if there are no funds available? And who decides what the core ministry to the community should be? When asked these questions, Huskins just smiles and tells a story.

“Some years ago an Adventist church out west was on the verge of closing,” tells Huskins. “Membership had dwindled to three members—all women—two of whom had retired and one of which was on the verge of retiring. Conference officials met with the women and suggested that perhaps it was time to close the church. The women agreed that closing the church made sense, but they asked for a few months in which to pray and seek the will of the Lord in the matter. The women had been trying to fill all the offices of the church between themselves, and had been trying to have both a Sabbath School and a divine service. After praying over the matter extensively, they decided to cancel church and to focus exclusively on children as their mission. They would have a Vacation Bible School every Sabbath.

“The women canvassed their town, telling parents that there was going to be a regular program every Saturday that would teach their children about Jesus. One of the women recruited
her brother to drive his van, and the women told parents that their children would be picked up and delivered at set times each Sabbath. The first Sabbath, there were 12 kids attending. Their kid-church grew and grew, until parents and grandparents were also coming. That church never closed. In fact, they had to build a new church and a new school and a new gymnasium. Today,” says Huskins with a smile, “that church has over 200 members and everyone in that town knows to send their kids there to learn about Jesus.”

The process for “rebooting” a church is close to what those three women did. The church seeks the guidance of the Holy Spirit and then goes through a visioning process. It identifies its capabilities, its keen interests, and its passions, and ends up with a clear vision, mission, and core values. And, of course, everyone has a role to play in supporting the vision that is developed cooperatively.

“The process needs two things to work,” says Huskins. “It needs to be blessed and guided by the Holy Spirit—that is first and foremost. Second, it needs to have the participation and prayer of all the members in the church, or the vast majority at any rate. What has to happen is that the congregation must form a vision and coalesce around that vision, and then both pray and work to carry it out in conjunction with the Holy Spirit. “Then,” says Huskins, “Watch out, because enthusiasm and growth and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit will all take place.”

In the Northern New England Conference, Huskins is working with churches to complete a visioning process and “rebooting.” A report on the results of that effort will be carried in these pages in the future.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference

Country Cupboard Farm: A Name With Growing Recognition

The farm will sell produce at farmers markets and the roadside stand. But the innovation that the farm will bring to the community is the selling of harvest “shares,” whereby customers can pay a lump sum for a weekly delivery of a portion of the summer and fall harvest. The weekly delivery contains a wide variety of produce and weighs anywhere from seven to 20 pounds. This model has become very popular on mostly organic farms throughout the country.

Country Cupboard is not yet certified organic, but intends to achieve that designation. In addition to the regular summer/fall share, there is a winter roots/squashes share and a winter salad share. There is also a winter citrus share and a bread share that delivers a variety of fresh-baked breads each week.

If the Country Cupboard Farm succeeds as envisioned, it will provide a significant source of revenue for the school and could serve as a model for other schools.

—Scott Christiansen, communication director, Northern New England Conference
Beverly Church Embraces Global Youth Day

The youth of Beverly church in Beverly, Massachusetts, participated in the Seventh-day Adventist World Church’s Global Youth Day initiative on March 21. The young people took an active part in the day’s activities and experienced what it is like to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

The day started with a continental breakfast, followed by song service, prayer, and a lively Sabbath School panel discussion on “The Humility of the Wise.” Ben Corriette, Beverly church’s youth leader, facilitated the discussion that stimulated thought-provoking contributions from both the youth and their elders. At the conclusion of the Sabbath School program, Donna Natie, an elder, held a special giveaway of prizes for all who attended.

The worship service was led by the youth, assisted by Donna Natie and Ben Corriette. Natie delivered a message entitled “Be the Sermon,” that highlighted the theme of the day and the congregation was encouraged to live out their Christianity. In the afternoon, the youth assembled 20 gift bags for the residents of a nearby assisted living community.

Once at the facility, they sang to the residents on the cognitive impairment floor. One of the youth, Roy Galang, and his father, Cleofas, played two renditions on the violin and the guitar. Maegan, Roy’s younger sister, sang for the residents. After the musical program, they distributed the gift bags. The residents and staff expressed their gratefulness for the uplifting music and the thoughtfulness of the gift bags.

—Youth department, Beverly church

Quinebaug Church Ordains First Female Elder

On May 2, while surrounded by friends and family, Esther Hamel was anointed as a new church elder at the Quinebaug church in Connecticut.

Hamel was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in an Adventist home. “Both my parents were Seventh-day Adventists,” Hamel says. “My father, now 97, still is one, and lives in Loma Linda, California, with my sister and family.”

Hamel attributes her strong faith in God to her upbringing. She says, “I attended private schools and attended an SDA high school. Worship time on Friday nights is one of my favorite memories from home. The church is another great influence in my life, from Sabbath School programs, music, Pathfinders, the door-to-door evangelistic programs, and youth programs to friendship with the Christian family, [all] would reinforce the knowledge from home and strengthen my faith. Then, my daily walk with God got me closer to Him.”

In Hamel’s youth, her faith was tested. “When I was 14 years old, my mother passed away. That was the moment when I realized I had to use all the Bible promises mother taught us. One of these verses was Joshua 1:9, ‘Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.’ And that promise is still with me till this day. His patience, endurance, kindness, love, and faith just shows me that our God is an amazing God!”

Hamel feels that today, technology has brought many challenges and distractions for children, but it can also be a tool to share and to learn about the Good News of Salvation.

Hamel’s vision for Quinebaug church is to “Preach the Word! Be prepared in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.’—2 Timothy 4:2. The practical side of this is serving others.”

Hamel says, “We are servants of God. Therefore, we are here to support the church as a whole, its members, and the community. With God’s grace, I want to explore new venues to reach out to people. We started with VBS (Vacation Bible School), so let’s wait and see what the Lord has in store for us.”

—Ken Maynard, communication director, Quinebaug church
After months of diligent studying, memorization, drills, trial tests, and fundraising, 127 teams of Pathfinders traveled to Keene, Texas, for the final round of the fourth annual Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). After placing first in the Atlantic Union level PBE held in March, five teams from the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) made the trip and came back victorious, with three teams in first place and two in second.

More than 750 Pathfinders, representing all nine unions in the North American Division, and the British Union, gathered in the gymnasium on the campus of Southwestern Adventist University to tackle 90 questions from the New Testament book of Matthew. "This is a remarkable performance by all these clubs," says SNEC president, David Dennis. "The goal of PBE is to have our young people studying their Bibles and learning to have a relationship with Jesus."

Many hours were spent by the 10- to 16-year olds to prepare for and win conference and union level competitions in order to make it to the finals in Keene. Three levels of prizes are awarded based on teams that correctly answered a certain percentage of questions of the top team's score. First-place was awarded to teams that answered 90 percent of the top team's score correctly; second-place was for 80 percent; third-place was for all other scores. First-place prizes were given to a total of 92 clubs including SNEC’s Brockton (Brockton, Massachusetts), Merrimack Valley (Dracut, Massachusetts), and Worcester/Northboro (Worcester and Northboro, Massachusetts) teams. The two remaining SNEC clubs—Rockville-Tolland (Tolland, Connecticut) and Connecticut Valley (South Windsor, Connecticut)—brought home second-place awards.

The questions were all announced by PBE coordinator W. Gene Clapp and were available in English, Spanish, and French. The final question of the evening, worth eight points, was: "According to Matthew 28:19, Fill in the blanks: '_____ therefore and make _____ of all the _____, _____ them in the name of the _____ and of the _____.' "

Clapp emphasized to all the Pathfinders, leaders, and supporters in the filled gymnasium, "This particular text should be your life commission, and because of that I invite everyone to read the answer off the screen." The auditorium was filled with the swell of many voices reading as one: "GO therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

"Many clubs in our conference involved themselves in the PBE," Dennis says. "Let us pray that the message of Matthew's gospel lives strong in the hearts of the Pathfinders, their leaders, and their parents."

—Debra McKinney Banks, communication assistant, Atlantic Union Conference
Annual William Miller Day

July 25, 2015

Featured Speaker
Barry Taylor
Ministerial Director/Pastor
Montana Conference

Advent Hymns ...................... 9:45 a.m.
Sabbath School ..................... 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service .................... 11:15 a.m.
Afternoon Program .................. 2:00 p.m.
Children’s program provided!

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July 25, 2015 • 1:00 p.m.

SPEAKER
Bob Cundiff
President
Northern New England Conference

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Returns to Casco Bay: 3:50 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Lunch is eaten upon arrival and then the services start at
1:00 p.m. Bring your own lunch. There is a pavilion in
which to eat, as well as the yard outside.

The church is very small. Those going should plan to bring
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outside of the church if one chooses to sit outside.

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Animals: $4.10
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For more information about the ferry, visit
**Obituaries**

**Andreu, Kimberly**—21; b. Dec. 18, 1993, in Worcester, Mass.; d. Mar. 23, 2015, in Barre, Vt. She was a member of the Lancaster Portuguese church in Lancaster, Mass., and the Pioneer Pathfinders Club. She later moved to Atlanta, Ga., and was a member of the Berean church. She is survived by her twin brother, Kevin Andreu; two aunts, seven uncles, six nieces, and seven great-grandchildren.

**Kriegelstein, Carlene R.**—89; b. Apr. 14, 1925, in White River Junction, Vt.; d. May 3, 2014, in Klamath Falls, Ore. She was a member of the Union Springs church in Union Springs, N.Y. She graduated from Union Springs Academy (USA) in 1943 and from New England Sanitarium in 1946. An avid supporter of USA, she volunteered to keep a record of its history and donated her collection of artifacts to the Alumni Association. She is survived by two daughters, Cheryl Tremer of Union Springs, N.Y. and Nancy Smith of Klamath Falls, Ore.; two sons, H. John Kriegelstein of Cherry Valley, Calif.; and Nancy Smith of Klamath Falls, Ore.; and adopted son, Rudy Wright; two nieces, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**Wright, Irene**—109; b. Apr. 28, 1909, in Ferguson, N.C.; d. Apr. 21, 2015, in Goshen, N.Y. She joined the Seventh-day Adventist church in 1939 and was very active in such positions as deaconess, Sabbath School teacher and superintendent. She was a member of the Middletown church in Middletown, N.Y. She is survived by nine children, Peggy Barnes of Middletown, N.Y.; Charlotte Johnson of Florida; Jean Caldwell of Arizona; James Wright of Florida; Marie Randell; Charles Wright of New Jersey; Rudy Wright; David Wright of Campbell Hall, N.Y.; and adopted son, Wayne Rhames of Campbell Hall, N.Y.

**Wright, Irene**—109; b. Apr. 28, 1909, in Ferguson, N.C.; d. Feb. 4, 2015, in Goshen, N.Y. She joined the Seventh-day Adventist church in 1939 and was very active in such positions as deaconess, Sabbath School teacher and superintendent. She was a member of the Middletown church in Middletown, N.Y. She is survived by nine children, Peggy Barnes of Middletown, N.Y.; Charlotte Johnson of Florida; Jean Caldwell of Arizona; James Wright of Florida; Marie Randell; Charles Wright of New Jersey; Rudy Wright; David Wright of Campbell Hall, N.Y.; and adopted son, Wayne Rhames of Campbell Hall, N.Y.

**Ferguson, Barbara Ann**—79; b. Jan. 8, 1936, in Long Island, N.Y.; d. Jan. 18, 2015, in Barre, Vt. She was an active member of the Sterling church in Sterling, Mass., and worked with the Pathfinder club for years. She is survived by her twin brother, Richard Mooney; two children, Kathy Charlestream (Glee) and Thomas Duncan Ferguson (Cynthia); two nieces, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**Kriegelstein, Carlene R.**—89; b. Apr. 14, 1925, in White River Junction, Vt.; d. May 3, 2014, in Klamath Falls, Ore. She was a member of the Union Springs church in Union Springs, N.Y. She graduated from Union Springs Academy (USA) in 1943 and from New England Sanitarium in 1946. An avid supporter of USA, she volunteered to keep a record of its history and donated her collection of artifacts to the Alumni Association. She is survived by two daughters, Cheryl Tremer of Union Springs, N.Y. and Nancy Smith of Klamath Falls, Ore.; two sons, H. John Kriegelstein of Cherry Valley, Calif.; and Nancy Smith of Klamath Falls, Ore.; and adopted son, Rudy Wright; two nieces, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**Wilson, Courtney Lee**—34; b. July 17, 1980, in Boston, Mass.; d. Jan. 4, 2015, in Atlanta, Ga. He attended Berea Academy and Berea church in Boston, Mass., where he was active in the Orion Pathfinder Club. He later moved to Atlanta, Ga., and was a member of the Berean church. He is survived by his parents, Claudell and Cheryl Wilson of Dorchester, Mass.; two children, Kayla Wilson and Courtney Wilson, Jr., both of Atlanta, Ga.; four siblings, Claudell Wilson, Jr. (Crystal) of Lithonia, Ga.; Youlanda Bowie of Shreveport, La.; Cherrell Clement (Elgin) of Abington, Mass.; and Curtis Wilson of Dorchester, Mass.; maternal grandmother, Eva G. Webb of Dorchester, Mass.; 10 aunts, seven uncles, six nieces, and one nephew.
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