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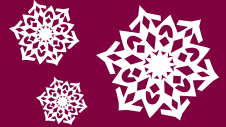
Northern New England Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

Volume 33, No. 4
October/November/December 2014



A JOYFUL! Opportunity

By: Ted Huskins



When you think of the Northern New England Conference what comes to mind: a building in Westbrook, Maine? Or perhaps, the phrase, “a sisterhood of churches?” Or how about Camp Lawroweld? Maybe you think of ministries such as community services, evangelism, church schools, prayer ministries, women’s ministries or men’s ministries? Or do you think of individuals – pastors, teachers, Bible workers, conference office staff, officers or administrators? Maybe you think of children coming to know Jesus at the feet of a caring adult. Perhaps you think of a pastor visiting the sick or praying with the discouraged, or maybe you think of a new person coming to faith in Christ. The Northern New England Conference is all of these and more. The conference is a sisterhood of churches with a common theological point of view – a common vision from the Lord and a common mission to reach people for Jesus and prepare them for His soon return.

Today I want to invite you to do something extra special: I want to invite you to give to every single one of the ministries and missions listed above. “How can I do that?” you might question. I’m so glad you asked! Whenever you pay tithe or contribute to the conference advance or the evangelism fund you are contributing directly to the ministry of your local congregation and are enabling the ministries of sister churches in our conference. Every time you contribute a dollar to tithe you are funding the pastors, teachers, office staff and administrators who make ministries possible. There would be no church schools without tithe, nor would there be a pastor in your pulpit or a guest speaker at prayer retreat. Without tithe there would be no Camp Lawroweld and no youth director to plan the activities there. Not only is our tithe a sacred obligation, it is a joyful opportunity to hasten the return of Christ!

(continued on pg. 10)

CONSTITUENCY REFLECTIONS

By: Bob Cundiff

Let’s talk about our recent constituency meeting. I understand that there was some frustration among delegates about the fact that the Executive Committee recommended the agenda for the session. Delegates had questions on the subject: Why was it done that way? Why not allow an open forum where any person can talk about anything they choose? After all, aren’t the delegates representing members of the conference and shouldn’t they be allowed to bring ideas and concerns to the officers of the church?

The answer to the last question is a resounding “yes.” All members, and this means you, deserve a forum where you have access to leadership and can share any idea, complaint, or concern that you feel is important. You should also be able to brainstorm with church leaders to achieve a brighter future. But here is the more relevant question – is the constituency meeting the most productive place to do that?

(continued on pg. 10)

150 Years Old and Growing Again

By: Scott Christiansen

The Bordoville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Vermont is the oldest known purpose-built Adventist Church. That is to say, it is the oldest church that was built as an Adventist church.*

On October 18, 2014, the 150th anniversary of the church was celebrated in what could only be called a “High Sabbath.” The church pastor, NNEC Conference President, the President of the Union, the President of the World Church, and some 280 guests from far and wide were on hand to participate in the celebration.

But only 20 years ago, such a celebration seemed unlikely. The historic Bordoville church closed in 1995, due

(continued on pg. 8)





Conference Adopts New Email Etiquette Policy

By: Bob Cundiff

Have you ever been hurt or confused by an e-mail? If not then you are likely new to the world of e-mail communication. It seems that people are a little bolder when sitting in the comfort of their home behind a computer screen

than they are in face-to-face communication. How frequently a rift between friends, family members, church members or committee members can be traced back to an e-mail gone afoul. Sometimes the person who sent the e-mail had no idea of how the message would come across, and is often surprised to learn of the relational damage it caused. Other times messages are sent with intentions that are less than noble and have an equally negative effect.

Part of the problem is the inherent weakness of written communication, especially when it comes to sensitive matters. For instance, when you are reading you don't have the benefit of listening to things like volume, tone, subtle nuances of joy, sadness, disappointment, approval or sarcasm. Likewise, written communication does not allow you to watch as a person speaks. We pick up a lot from watching hand gestures, facial expressions, body language and what a person's eyes are saying when they speak. Without this data, it's easy to misunderstand and be misunderstood.

In recognition of this problem the NNEC executive committee recently voted an e-mail etiquette policy for our conference. This is a policy that our employees are expected to adhere to and our churches are encouraged to adopt.

Our e-mail etiquette policy states that inappropriate use of e-mail includes:

1. Any action or intention to harm others, gossip or threaten the unity of the Body of Christ
2. Emotionally charged issues
3. Complaints against others or programming
4. Conflict
5. Sharing of 'concerns' that may reflect poorly on others whether intentionally or unintentionally

6. Forwarding e-mails with the intent (or result) of building a case against someone or trying to make them look bad. Forwarding is often damaging because it separates the e-mail from the context of the broader discussion and, thereby, changes how the message will come across or be understood. Forwarding often violates the principle of allowing others to speak for themselves.

7. Attempting to speak for others
8. Blind Carbon Copying (BCC)
9. Forwarding sensitive or problematic information without others' knowledge or consent

The appropriate use of e-mail includes:

1. Inquiry (particularly of a non-personal, non-conflicting nature)
2. Sharing of information such as: Appointments, meeting notification, details, requests, minutes, calendar and scheduling items

I hope you can see by the wording of the policy that there is a genuine desire for unity in our conference. We long to see e-mail used as a tool to accomplish our mission and build up our churches. Our hope is that every e-mail will jealously protect the relationships in the body of Christ.

Let's revisit forwarding. Technically speaking I can forward a questionable e-mail and still be within the guidelines of the policy. In his book, *The Measure of a Woman*, Dr. Gene Getz recommends that prior to forwarding e-mail we ask these 10 questions:

1. Is this information pure?
2. Will it contribute to the building up of this person or persons?
3. Will it create harmony and peace in the body of Christ?
4. Is it the most merciful thing to do?
5. Will it produce good fruit?
6. Does it reflect a submissive attitude on my part?
7. Am I truly sincere and unselfish in wanting to share this information?
8. Am I being impartial and objective?
9. Do I really have the facts?
10. Am I truly being considerate of this person in sharing this information?

I believe that if we all adhered to the principles and guidelines above, we would be a healthier, happier and more unified conference. Won't you partner with us to that end?

A HIGH SABBATH AT TURNER CHURCH

If you have not worshipped in the sanctuary that the Turner church calls home, then you have missed a treat. Well designed and solidly built, the church was erected in 2005, and was the first Adventist church in Turner, which is located about ten minutes north of Auburn, Maine. The church is one of the newest in the entire conference. The bright and spacious church was meant to be a light to the community and a place where people could come and experience fellowship, support, love, and acceptance. Things, however, didn't turn out as planned.

Not long after the congregation was settled in its new building, Satan worked skillfully to stir up division and conflict among the people. The church became a place where fear and accusations flew. Charges were made against the Conference and, finally, the church decided to leave the Conference entirely. Those were sad, dark days. However, God had a plan for His people in the Turner Church; slowly but surely, error was rooted out and animosities were discussed. The Holy Spirit patiently worked on the hearts of all involved. Some people left the Turner congregation; others joined. Positions were re-examined. Meetings were held between the church and the conference until, in late 2013, conference lay-pastor, Frank Donald, was invited by the congregation to be their pastor. In spring of 2014, the church officially rejoined the conference.

A celebration of unity was held at the church on October 4, featuring music, a recounting of some of the history of the



Henry (L) and Geri Parlin share a personal testimony while Pastor Donald (R) listens.

church, and personal testimonies of God's love, guidance, and providence. Tears flowed among many in the audience, and even Pastor Donald was overcome with emotion several times while speaking. The personal testimonies were especially moving, as members gave accounts of a difficult journey accompanied by spiritual growth and the Lord's blessings. Conference treasurer, Daniel Battin, along with his wife and daughter, represented the conference at the celebration.

Conference executive secretary, Ted Huskins, summed up the feeling at the conference when he said, "We are so delighted to have the Turner church solidly back in

the sisterhood of churches in Northern New England that together make up the conference. The Lord has calmed the waters that were stirred by evil. The congregation in Turner now has a precious opportunity to focus on witnessing to the community and proclaiming the soon coming of the Lord."

CALEDONIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CONTINUES TRADITION OF HOLIDAY-SEASON SERVICE PROJECTS

By Sue Trecartin

The students, teachers and parents at the Caledonia Christian School in Saint Johnsbury, Vermont, have big hearts and a desire to serve their community in the name of their Savior. They also have a sense of tradition. For some time now, they have organized a food collection in their neighborhood, have added fresh vegetables to that collection, and made Thanksgiving baskets for families in need in St. Johnsbury. Caledonia this year, worked with Vermont's Department of Children and Families (DCF) on the project, and distributed some 55 baskets.

The effort amounted to a food "ingathering" of sorts, where the success of the project depended in part on the generosity of people in the neighborhoods surrounding the school, and in part on the willingness of students, teachers, and parents to go door to door and make a compelling case for helping others. This year, the effort was very successful. "The neighbors were very generous, thanks be to God," said Michelle Kendall, who led the project.



Many hands make for light work! Caledonia Christian School students helped gather in donated food and then helped pack Thanksgiving baskets for families in need. Back row: Abby Conner, Andrew Konkel, Isaac Dagesse, Asher Chapman. Middle row: India Choudhury, Aliceah Silver, Kaylee Powers, Sadie Chapman, Kay Conner, Hannah Silver. Front row: Jack Kendall, Oliver Choudhury, Kaya Kendall, Morgan Kendall. Not pictured: Griffin Wright.

(continued on pg. 11)

LAURA UNDERWOOD'S TESTIMONY

By Cheryl Johnson

The following is Laura Underwood's testimony as to how she came to the decision to join the Concord Seventh-day Adventist church by Profession of Faith.

"When I was 19, I was working three jobs, and I'd had a boyfriend for over 5 years. Things seemed to be going pretty well. It was at this time that I started to feel God calling me to seek Him. I sought out a church in my area and chose a Pentecostal church because of their enthusiasm, dedication and the joy they had for the Lord. It was at this church that I accepted Christ as my personal Lord and Savior.

I was concerned for my boyfriend because I knew he needed Jesus also. If he would not come to Christ, although I loved him deeply, I might need to let him go. The Lord provided Carl with just what he needed to build his faith in the Bible and in Him. The church I was attending hosted a creation science seminar. Much of the information Carl had read in magazines over the years, and it was like this seminar was made just for him. He soon gave his life to Christ as well.

We had a very dramatic change in our lives. Foul language, worldly friends and weekend partying dropped off. I was delivered from an eating disorder, and we burned music that was worldly and satanic. We wanted to grow and continue on a journey to knowing God more. We married, and shortly after were baptized.

Our church gave us wonderful new friends and Bible studies. However, many times things would feel awkward and uncomfortable in services when the "spirit was moving." We figured we were uncomfortable because we lacked understanding or were missing something. Some of these outpourings of the spirit had some manifestations like uncontrollable laughing, yelling out, singing a new song, and passing out.

I remember Carl mentioning that hell seemed to end in a second death but when he asked questions there seemed to be no one who agreed so he figured he must not understand the text. Over the years we had questions about the resurrection and prophecy but felt we just were not going to understand everything. The last



(L-R) – Pastor Cliff Gleason of the Concord Adventist Church, Laura Underwood, Carl Underwood.

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because he did not operate in the Holy Spirit (which was code for not praying in tongues). So, I thought my faith was small and my understanding little. Even so, I rested in the fact that I loved the Lord and His word with all my heart, and that He would lead me, little by little, into truth and understanding.

In 2012, my sisters, who live in Florida, called and emailed me, and they were asking me to listen to a series of sermons on the computer. I put it off but they would call again saying, "Laura, you've got to watch these and tell us what you think!" Out of concern for what my sisters might be getting into, I thought I would watch them with a discerning ear. As I listened to Doug Bachelor on Amazing Facts, my husband, who was working behind me at his desk, listened as well. One after another I watched. There were many new ways of thinking, some of which reaffirmed what I had thought before. Some things were troubling like the Sabbath. The sermons on Revelation rang true. Things were falling into place and questions I'd had started to get satisfying answers. I was so excited to hear correctness in theology that I was watching and studying for hours upon hours.

I set out to look for answers from my church family, and soon discovered that no one wanted to hear about it, and that this was not even to be questioned. My uncle sent me a 38 page document on why we don't need to keep the Sabbath, which only convinced me more because of the weak argument it made. My husband tried to get help on the subject from our pastor but he too gave no good rebuttal for keeping the Sabbath today. The pastor's anger was shocking. When Carl asked him for help he said "I am not going to subject myself to that.

I found the Concord Seventh-Day Adventist church and started attending church on Sabbath and my church on Sunday. I also began to study with Concord pastor, Cliff Gleason, and went to a prophecy seminar. One of the things that impressed me about the Seventh-day Adventists was how much they studied the Bible, and their willingness to answer tough questions. I was very nervous about this church because the doctrine was so different. I needed to be sure that it was a biblically sound church. The more I studied I began to realize that they were more biblically sound than the church I was attending.

This was causing me trouble with my church and with my older son. Our pastor was telling my son to separate himself from me and my husband. After meeting with my pastor and asking to be removed from membership, my son told Carl and I that he could not align himself us. He moved out of our home and in with a family from the church. This hurt me deeply.

I had to be sure that this was the church God was calling me to so I took time and continued studying. Carl, too, was studying with online sermons with Amazing Discoveries and with a bible study with Pastor Cliff Gleason. Carl and I noticed our faith increasing and finding God to have a more loving character than I

ever thought before. I noticed I was more at peace and cynicism was going away. We began to realize that much of what we had felt uncomfortable about in regard to events and doctrine from past churches was from the Lord. With some time and study and many questions being satisfied, we decided to join the Concord Church on Sabbath, October 4th."

IN THE MANCHESTER DISTRICT, HARVEST FOLLOWS LABOR IN THE FIELD

By Robert McMurray



The Manchester baptismal candidates as they prepare their hearts before the ceremony.

The Manchester, Nashua and Derry churches received a rich blessing this fall. Each in turn prepared for and then hosted a two-week long evangelism series, and each has seen the Holy Spirit working on people's hearts as they have attended.

The Manchester Church was the first to open its doors for the nightly evangelism series. Preceding the series at Manchester, and in fact at all three churches, was an intense door-to-door literature campaign carried out by church members. Door-to-door campaigns can be intimidating to carry out, but they can also be very effective. The members of the Manchester District churches are today celebrating because the evangelism campaign has thus far brought eleven new members into the faith, with several more studying and preparing to make a decision.

The evangelism campaigns were led by Pastor Carl Behrmann and his wife, Jeannette, both of whom shared their love with all while investing profound amounts of energy into every step of the preparation for and presentation of the evangelism series. The Lord used Carl and Jeannette and the members of the district churches in a powerful way, rewarding the labor invested with a rich harvest of souls!

A YOUNG MAN IN CONCORD DECIDES FOR CHRIST

By Cheryl Johnson

Adam Smith settled in New Hampshire with his parents several years ago when he was a teen. The family attended the Concord Church. Adam's parents, Warran and Christina, began Bible studies with Pastor Cliff Gleason and were baptized. Adam began to participate in Pathfinders and became a member of the Youth Sabbath School class. There, his sense of humor and talent for drawing became known and appreciated. The leadership of Sandy Cheney in youth

class, and Cheryl Johnson and Jim Thomas in Pathfinders had an impact on Adam sensing God's love for him.

About two years ago Adam's parents led him to a complete surrender to the Lord and he experienced the rebirth in Christ. He soon began Bible studies with the pastor. After months of careful study and growth in a heart relationship with the Lord, he felt ready to take the step of baptism. It was his desire to be baptized in an outdoor setting. That opportunity came on the warm Sabbath afternoon of September 4, 2014, at the Suncook River in Epsom, New Hampshire.



Pastor Cliff Gleason (L) and young Adam Smith (R) on the day of Adam's baptism

Surrounded by family, church members, and the youth class attendees, he sealed his complete surrender to Christ by being plunged into a watery grave and coming up to the new life in our risen Lord. There was great rejoicing by all attending, and by faith we can be sure there was also great rejoicing in Heaven.

SERIES OF BAPTISMS SWELLS THE NORRIDGEWOCK/WATERVILLE DISTRICT

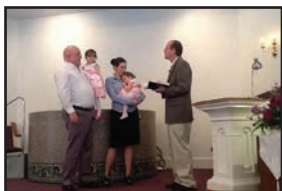
By Michelle Milano

The Spirit has been working in the Norridgewock Church. Praise God! The resulting string of baptisms has increased both the size and the enthusiasm of the church family!

Some of the baptisms came from Bible studies followed by a Revelation of Hope evangelism seminar conducted by conference evangelist, Rick Kuntz. Barbara Jean Barstow and Lacey (Bartlett) Cormier were among those who came into the church this way, celebrating their rebirth in Christ through baptism in the Sandy River, with Pastors Robert Farley and Brian Milano conducting the baptisms.

The Poissonnier family also came into the truth from the Revelation of Hope seminars. Elizabeth and Jamie, after the seminars and with the encouragement of Adventist friends, made the decision to follow Christ in the waters of baptism and became members of the Waterville Church. Son, Ethan Poissonnier, decided to be baptized with his parents, as he felt this was the best way to begin his new life with bride-to-be, Erica Manning (not pictured). A major influence for Ethan's decision came as a result of 12 years of Christian education at Riverview Memorial School. Ethan was married the following day at Camp Lawroweld, and is now a member of the Norridgewock church.

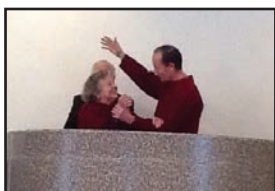
The Riverview Memorial School (RMS) was also pivotal in the process of young people deciding for Christ. In the past year, two students have stood for Christ: in 2013 then-seventh-grader, Isaac Cobb, was



Bill Bray (L), his wife, Naome (R) with their children, prepare their hearts for baptism with Pastor Brian Milano



L-R – Pastor Brian Milano, Barbara Barstow, Retired Pastor, Bob Farley, as they prepare to baptize Barbara Barstow



L-R - Marilyn Caouette and Pastor Brian Milano



Lacy Cormier (L) being baptized by Pastor Brian Milano (R) in the Sandy River.



Isaac Cobb (L) and Pastor Brian Milano (R)



L – R: Ethan, Jamie and Elizabeth Poissonnier descend into the water preparing for baptism.

baptized, followed by Academy student, Wayne Feener (not pictured). Isaac and Wayne, in addition to learning Bible truths through their parents, showed interest in learning more about Jesus, and the enduring truths found in His word during Bible class at RMS with then-school Principal and teacher, Trevor Schlisner. Both Isaac and Wayne were anxious to study more, and voiced this interest individually to Pastor Brian Milano during Friday morning worship at the school. Pastor Milano continued one-on-one studies with Isaac and Wayne. The students at RMS were asked to write an essay on what salvation meant to them, and Wayne's essay was read at his baptism.

Others came in response to the urging of the Holy Spirit, including Bill and Naome. Though Naome was raised in the church, situations in life led her away. After Bill and Naome married, circumstances brought them to search for God. Naome knew that the Seventh-day Adventist Church was the only option for her so they searched out the Norridgewock Church and started attending. The first week at the church they heard Pastor Milano mention Bible studies. Naome was excited and asked when they could start the studies. Bill came from a Catholic background and after starting the Bible studies was convicted of Bible truths, saying, "The other religions don't make sense since they don't follow the Bible." The Bible studies also led Naome to see how all the pieces of the puzzle fit perfectly together. After completing the studies, both decided to be baptized and to have their two daughters dedicated to the Lord. They are now both very active in teaching Bible studies.

Finally, Marilyn Caouette came into the truth as a result of a team effort. Marilyn became interested in Bible studies after attending an in-depth series on the Sanctuary that was held at the Norridgewock Church. Marilyn spent several months thoughtfully completing Bible studies with two women Bible workers from the church.

Through outreach seminars, the church, school, and everyone working together for God's purpose, new souls are added to the Kingdom!

A CLIFF ISLAND BAPTISM

By Pastor Donna Holland

Valerie Colhon is from Romania, and grew up in the Orthodox faith. Some years ago Valerie came to the United States and settled in New Hampshire. Valerie got a job and struck up a friendship with a coworker who told her about the Bible and studied with her.

Valerie was startled one day when her four-year old son told her that they should be going to church on Saturday. She explained to him, "No, we go to church on Sunday, not Saturday." But Valerie kept thinking about what her son said, and she told her coworker about the incident. Her coworker said, "Let's look at the Bible."



(L) Valerie Colhon and Pastor Donna Holland (R)

Sure enough, the Bible did say that Saturday was the Sabbath! Surprised and confused, Valerie wondered what she should do. Her coworker asked her to come to church with her – on Saturday – at the Manchester Seventh-day Adventist Church. Valerie said she would go one time, and if there were any Romanian families there she would go back. Well, as God arranged it, there were other Romanians there, and Valerie kept going to church there with her coworker.

After attending the church for a while, Valerie started studying with the pastor of the Manchester Church, Carl Behrmann. After careful study with the Pastor, Valerie was ready to make a commitment for Christ and was baptized at Cliff Island, Maine, on the annual Conference Cliff Island Day in August. Mark Lombard, a long-time member of the Cliff Island Church, said this was the first baptism on the island in 20 years. It was a high day for everyone there!

One Lord, one faith, one baptism...

Ephesians 4:5

CONNECTed We Make A Difference

CONFERENCE CONNECTION

HARRY SABNANI RETIRES

*From Over
Four Decades of Conference Work*

It is hard for a workhorse to step out of the harness. While in the harness, the workhorse knows exactly what to do and what is expected of him. Outside the harness, there is still work to be done but everything is less clear and less structured. But just ask Harry Sabnani – he has been a workhorse for the Lord for many years, and as he looks at imminent retirement, the prospect brings as many uncertainties and anxieties as it does attractive opportunities. “We’ll still be serving the Lord, of that there is no doubt,” says Harry, referring to his wife and ministry partner Judy, “but we’ll be serving Him outside an organization, and that is a very big change for us.”

Harry grew up in Pune, India, the second of five children in a Hindu family. When Harry was about 10 his father, a businessman, moved the family to Singapore. There was just one problem with their new home – since Harry had not been born in Singapore, he was not eligible to go to the government-run schools. The family had to find him a private school to go to, and the one they found was a Seventh-day Adventist school. At the school – and for the first time in his life – Harry was exposed to Christianity.

By the time he was in his mid-teens, Harry knew he wanted to be a Christian. Further, he knew he wanted to be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. Harry prepared for baptism knowing that his father would be unalterably opposed. Harry was right – when he told his father of his plans to be baptized, his father responded with a terse “Absolutely not.” What surprised Harry, though, was the even stronger opposition that he encountered from his older brother. From the time he was 15 until the time he left home at 21, Harry lived in an environment where his Christian lifestyle and especially his Sabbath-keeping was the focus of constant (and often clever) opposition by his father and brother. “My brother and father tried everything – everything – to get me to turn away from Christ,” said Harry.

But Harry could not be turned away from the Lord and thus it was that, after a difficult and circuitous path, he found himself on his own and enrolled as a theology student at Atlantic Union College (AUC). “I didn’t plan to be a theology student, but the Lord had other plans and the Holy Spirit guided me into the right friendships and associations that, eventually, helped awaken in me a fire for serving the Lord,” said Harry.

It was at AUC that Harry met Judy. They were married immediately after graduation and started their new life together at Andrews University, where Harry was a student in the seminary. “It was hard,” said Harry.



“We weren’t sponsored (meaning that a conference was not paying them a part-time salary to go to seminary) and I had no family help so it was really, really hard to survive and pay the bills. Fortunately Judy did find some work as a nurse, so the Lord prepared a way.” The Lord prepared a job, too, because Harry was hired on by the Wisconsin Conference before he had even completed the seminary program. Harry and Judy spent 15 years working in other conferences in positions from pastor to evangelist before they came to NNEC, where Harry initially worked as ministries director, with an emphasis on evangelism.

It wasn’t until a couple years later, when the youth ministries director position opened up, that Harry was asked if he would take the position. “I accepted,” Harry says with a wry smile, “with great reluctance.” Harry was not sure if he could be an effective recreation leader and camp director. He assessed his gifts and found room for doubt. But Harry answered the call and threw himself into youth ministries. Soon he realized that he had at least two groups to minister to – the campers, with whom Harry found he could build rapport, and the late-teens camp counselors, whom Harry built very strong relationships with and to whom he was able to strongly witness. “Those kids, the camp staff, over the years became my extended family. I love them all, and together we witnessed to each other and to the campers for almost 20 years.”

Harry also found purpose in rebuilding Camp Lawroweld. “The site was excellent,” said Harry, “but the facilities were very poor and needed a great deal of work.” There were buildings to be refurbished, new buildings to be built, a waterfront to be improved, equipment to be added – and there were funds to be raised to get it all done. “The camp needed new life breathed into it,” said Harry. “Some of the camps were only attended by somewhere between a dozen and twenty campers. The camp could not survive as a ministry at that rate, so there was work to be done

(continued on pg. 10)

150 Years Old and Growing Again (cont.)

to the need for a complete new floor in the building as well as other renovations. The small congregation meeting there just did not have the funds to complete renovations. The treasured pews and the podium from which Ellen White and other pioneers spoke were all sent to Andrews University to become part of a historic display. But then, in 1999, a core group of volunteers decided that such a historic church needed to be preserved and restored, and they set about to do just that, working slowly but steadily. Over the years they have made excellent progress, though they still have much more work to do before the building can be used year around, including insulating the walls and installing a new heating system.

On this particular Sabbath when the meeting took place, the weather was warm enough that no heat was needed. The crowd present for the celebration overflowed the limited seating



The church was full so extra guests were seated in the overflow tent.

in the church, and filled a tent that had been set up on the lawn, participating in the service via speakers and video monitors. The slight rain was ignored by all. People focused instead on the joy of fellowship, the inspiring messages, and the sweet presence of the Holy Spirit.

Preparations for the day began in 2011, when the core group working on the church – led by Virginia and Erwin Eckson – decided that a real celebration in 2014 was needed. In late 2012, the Ecksons sent an e-mail to World Church President, Ted Wilson, and in early 2013 he accepted. Pastor Cornel Preda and his core Bordoville team moved into a higher gear, making further repairs to the building and making a detailed plan for the events of the day.

The logistics planning was difficult as there was no way of knowing how many people would come. They prepared for 300 guests. A nearby field was “borrowed” and mowed for overflow parking. Using volunteers from around the district, a team to handle parking was set up. A team to provide food was set up. Chairs were brought in.

For Pastor Preda and for the volunteers from his district, there was some pressure that accompanied having three presidents attend. Pastor Preda admits that, if he stopped to think about it, he would have felt considerable pressure. “But,” he says, “I just focused on the tasks at hand and enjoyed the blessing of working

with the leaders in the church. Each of the presidents was very appreciative. Praise the Lord that everything went smoothly!”

Pastor Preda said about the message delivered by Elder Wilson, “It was a Biblical message – a message of encouragement and optimism. The message made the district feel that they could have a strong Bordoville church in this secular area. It encouraged and emboldened us. Now we feel even more strongly that Bordoville is living history – history that has a future.” The Bordoville church has seen three baptisms and one profession of faith in the past three years and currently has several prospects preparing for baptism. The goal is to have a year-round, fully functioning church made up of souls who are eagerly awaiting the coming of Christ.

Pastor Preda and the core Bordoville group plan to keep working on the church, which needs a heating system for winter months, as well as insulation and fresh paint. An organized group is forming to work on the church next year, including people not just from the district or conference, but also outside the conference. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Pastor Preda at cornelpredasda@yahoo.com.

**The Washington, New Hampshire church is older still, but it was not originally built as an Adventist church – it was purchased from another denomination by early Adventists. The Northern New England Conference is fortunate to have these two historic churches within its territory.*

OUTDOOR SCHOOL

By Ryan Pierce



What does one gain from Outdoor School, besides a handy water bottle? To name just a few things: spiritual enlightenment, new friends, backwoods knowledge, and various lifelong skills. NNEC Outdoor School was founded about 19 years ago at Camp Lawroweld, giving students the chance to get out of their metal desks and get into the, well, outdoors.

Teens in the academy spent four days working on service projects to improve the camp grounds. Some of those tasks included digging ditches, building the new nature center out of 800 lb. pinewood beams, drilling wells, and cleaning up the approximate 3+ mile trail system. I assisted the crew working on the nature center this past year, which dealt with pinewood beams that could only be moved by tractor or 15+ teenagers grunting and groaning. Not only was the immense weight surprising, but so was the fact that we actually had the chance to make irreversible cuts in the wood. These beams not only cost the conference money, but would cost more to replace if we

messed up! Luckily, with the "Project Leader" Seth Harris' watchful eye, we cut each beam with near 100% accuracy... though the broad-axe gave us some deeper issues...

In the mornings and evenings, everyone gathered in the lodge to eat and talk about their day. Then we all huddled around a fireplace, sang songs, and listened to the President of Northern New England Conference, Elder Bob Cundiff, who shared from God's Word. It didn't feel like preaching; he told stories that tickled our funny bones, using "Teen's English," instead of what he referred to as "church speak," and imparted wisdom that we could apply in the lives that we have yet to live.

You might wonder, "What makes learning in the outdoors better than learning in a warm, dry, solid cinder-block building?" I offer an explanation, "But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind." (Job 12:7-10) Going to the woods and working with nature (God's creation) beats just reading Genesis.

Besides the relatable "Teen's English," worship talks and the chance to experience God in His workshop, we got to bond with friends. Because students in school are divided by grades, we don't get the best opportunities to mingle with members of other classes. Teachers don't exactly allow student's texting or talking during class. But the open atmosphere at camp fosters socialization, meeting new people, or getting to know an acquaintance from a different grade or school. Haley Johnson, a senior from Pine Tree Academy, summed it up well when she said, "Outdoor School is always a great opportunity to spend time with friends outside of the normal school setting."

Zach Owen, a close friend of mine from Pine Tree Academy, described the Outdoor School experience quite well: "Outdoor school was unlike my other camp experiences because of the community service. Although it was different, camp never seems to lack in the area of learning and growing closer to God. I feel that Outdoor School gave me a chance to bond with my new friends on a different level with God in the center."



STUDENT WINS NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE ESSAY CONTEST

By Rachel Kinne

On the evening of September 4, 2014 an award banquet was held at Estabrook Christian School in recognition of Hunter Matthew Buchanan's essay, "What the American Flag Means to Me." The writing contest was sponsored by the Lion's Club of New Hampshire as a state wide competition for students in grades 5-8 in both public and private schools. The Lion's Club divides New Hampshire into two regions; Hunter's essay was chosen as the winning entry for the Western Region of the state. The award is a great honor for both Hunter and Estabrook Christian School.

A medal for Patriotism and Citizenship was awarded to Hunter by Mr. Harry Armstrong, chairman of Lion's Youth Services of New Hampshire. The award banquet was well attended and included a patriotic sing-along led by music teacher Glee Charlestream. The meal featuring lasagna, salad, green beans and garlic bread was catered by Chef Eddy Travis and was served by the students of Estabrook Christian School. Below is Hunter Buchanan's winning essay.

What the United States Flag Means To Me

By Hunter Buchanan

What the United States flag means to me is freedom, which is one of the most expensive things ever. You really can't replace the feeling of being free after you look at and understand what people go through in war-torn countries. It is just irreplaceable. We, the people of the U.S., should cherish and enjoy being able to lie in bed at night, go to sleep, and wake up the next morning hearing birds chirping, and not gun fire. I like to think that the reason why terrorists can't sleep peacefully at night is the same reason why we can.

The soldiers overseas cannot get enough respect for their courage, their dedication, their strength and most of all their bravery. I personally don't know many people who would be courageous or brave enough to sleep through the sound of gun-fire, and not know what they'll wake up to. However, there are brave men and women out there who are willing to live for something, rather than die for nothing.

The red on the flag should be very meaningful to others like it is to me. I've heard people say it means or stands for different things. However, in my opinion, it stands for the blood of the brave men who gave everything for us today. They stood up for what they believed in, with every ounce of strength they possibly could. Though the men, who fought in the Civil War, in wars before, and in wars after, and even in present day wars, may be gone, they are and will never be forgotten.

HARRY SABNANI RETIRES (Cont.)

on every front.”

Every year there were challenges, too. “I think,” said Harry, “that perhaps one of the hardest things was to try and meet the expectations of three or four generations simultaneously. The campers needed to be met where they were and needed to experience Christ for themselves. The parents had an agenda they wanted us to follow. Grandparents had an agenda they wanted us to follow. My staff and I were trying to change what kids were thinking, while others wanted us to change what kids were doing, like the music they were listening to. We could only fight so many battles simultaneously, and it was important to keep the support of parents and grandparents. So every year, that was a very, very big challenge that required the wisdom and guidance of the Lord. Praise the Lord, every year we saw changes in kids as they let Christ into their hearts.”

If Harry has one disappointment, it is not being able to build the all-season lodge and conference center that the camp needs. “We have such a beautiful place and we could do so much more with it with an all-season lodge and conference center in place. Such a facility would bless the members of the conference, but that challenge will have to wait for the energy and vision of the next person.”

When asked if he is ready for the transition to retirement, Harry gives a small, ironic smile. “It is a huge transition; an intimidating transition. I don’t know exactly what we will be doing or where, but I do know that we will be led of the Lord and that He will keep us busy.” For a workhorse like Harry, there is peace and comfort in keeping the same Master even as the work changes.

A Joyful Opportunity (Cont.)

In our world it is often more exciting to give to something tangible such as an orphanage in India. But I want to challenge you with the idea that there is nothing more tangible or important than giving to reach a person far from Christ who lives right next door to you or even under your own roof! We live in the new mission field! What an honor, what an obligation, for God is calling us to a higher degree of involvement, a higher degree of sacrifice and a higher commitment than ever before.

Between now and the end of the year I present two challenges: first, I invite you to prayerfully and sincerely ask the Lord what He would have you do in

relation to your tithe. Some have gotten into the habit of donating their tithe to other endeavors. Others have stopped giving of their tithe altogether because of fear, lack of faith or discouragement. Ask God what He wants from you moving forward. Will you be faithful? Will you trust Him even when you are discouraged? Joshua 24:14 says, “Choose you this day who you will serve... but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.” For my second challenge, I invite you to give a generous year-end contribution to our conference advance. Every single dollar you give to this fund goes directly to support the ministries and activities in the Northern New England Conference. No gift is too small, and every gift will be invested in eternity. Matthew 6:19 says, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”

As you think and pray about your conference, please know that you are always in the thoughts and prayers of your conference staff. Each of you is significant to us. You are in our hearts. If we can serve you, pray for you or encourage you, feel free to call us. Thank you for praying for us. We look forward to the amazing things God is going to do as we work together anticipating His return.

CONSTITUENCY REFLECTIONS (Cont.)

In answering those questions, let me first say that the Lord calls for us to edify and lift each other up. We received significant feedback as we prepared for the session. It became clear that many members of the sisterhood of churches were quite frustrated with the tone of previous sessions. In fact, some churches were so frustrated that they said they would not be sending constituents to the session because they could not find anyone who would attend. Many reported that the argumentative and angry dialogue of previous sessions was so hurtful that they vowed never to return. In addition, some felt that the same people would repeatedly come to the microphone with what seemed to be petty politics and personal agendas. Still others perceived a lack of transparency and the presence of ‘back stories’ that lowered the quality of the dialogue to the point that the integrity of the process had been lost.

Your conference officers and executive committee very much wanted everyone involved to have a more positive experience in this session. With this goal in mind, engaging the executive committee to set the agenda ahead of time seemed prudent. After all, the executive committee is a ‘mini constituency session’ as this group is elected by the full constituency when in full session. However, I believe there is still a more important reason for the agenda to be recommended by the executive committee, and that reason is transparency.

I’ve heard a lot about the need for transparency among our leaders since I’ve been in NNEC. I, and the other officers, have done our best to practice transparency, and

we feel we have made significant gains in building trust and credibility with both the executive committee and our constituents. However, it is not possible to be fully transparent from the floor of the session. I'll save you the trouble of having to re-read that last sentence by stating it again. It is not possible to be fully transparent on the floor of the session. No doubt you are asking, "But how could that be?"

Simply put, the rule of Christian Charity restricts the quality of the dialogue. Leaders cannot be fully transparent when such transparency would require the sharing of information that reflects poorly on a person, a family or special interest groups. In short, many times there are personal matters surrounding certain issues that leaders cannot share in the constituency session because it would be a violation of Christian Charity. This is not an abstract point; several times at our October meeting, leaders were restricted on what they could say because of Christian Charity.

The more appropriate venue for discussions restricted by Christian Charity is in the executive committee board room. In committee work, there exists the privilege of going into executive session, which means that dialogue is confidential, and not to be shared or repeated outside the room. This makes the committee room an emotionally and spiritually safe environment. Facts can be grappled with in a way that minimizes relationship damage and protects both the innocent and the guilty. In the church we care about both.

One of the important principles of how groups and social systems work is that the larger the group, the less safe it is to share and discuss personal information. This means that in large groups there is a higher potential for hurt and damage to others. Large groups should only discuss the facts of a situation, avoiding discussion of the people, personalities and politics in which wounding so often occurs. In short, we can have a more open, charitable, honest and transparent dialogue in the committee room than we can on the floor of the session.

So, you may ask, where do you go to have an open forum to discuss concerns? If they are of a personal nature that would be hurtful to others it's best to do that in a one-on-one setting, or perhaps with a small group of leaders. In addition to personal appointments you can ask to be placed on the agenda of a committee that deals with that particular type of concern. Of course there are also phone, e-mail and snail mail options for accessing leaders and committee members. I interact with our constituents through these venues daily, and we often have a high quality dialogue that would not be proper in a larger group setting.

In closing, please let me say that your leaders would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and complete the dialogue for the agenda set forth at the session. Unfortunately, the agenda was cut short and certain critically important items were not addressed. Those items were: 1). the 5-year vision development, 2). the

Education Report, 3). Parkview Adventist Medical Center Report. To that conference leaders will be holding a series of eight (8) town hall meetings throughout the conference over the coming months. The meetings are strategically placed so that no one will have to drive an unreasonable distance to participate. Please add this appointment to your family calendar and come to the meeting. We want to hear and talk about your thoughts on issues that are important to you. These meetings are an opportunity for that dialogue.

All meetings will take place at 7 PM on Wednesday evenings in the following locations.

1. January 07 – Barre SDA Church (for Barre, Randolph, St. Johnsbury, Morrisville, Newport, Bristol, St. Albans, and Williston churches)
2. January 14 – Drewsville SDA Church (for Drewsville, Keene, W Townsend, Mountain View, Claremont, Plainfield, Rutland, S Newbury, and Bennington, churches)
3. January 21 – Manchester SDA Church (for Manchester, Derry, Nashua, Concord, Conway, Laconia, Greater Manchester Company, Harrison, and Indonesian churches)
4. January 28 – Portland SDA Church (for Portland, Freeport, Limington, Portsmouth, Rochester, Saco, Portland Hispanic, and Cliff Island churches)
5. February 18 – Bangor SDA Church (for Bangor, Dexter, Ellsworth, Lincoln, Norridgewock, Waterville, and Searsmont churches)
6. March 04 – Topsham SDA Church- Topsham, Auburn, Bath, Brunswick, Camden, and Augusta churches)
7. March 11 – Oakfield SDA Church (for Oakfield, Caribou, Presque Isle, Calais, Three Angels)
8. March 18 – Turner SDA Church (For Turner, Berlin, Dixfield, Carthage, Farmingdale, Farmington, Jay, Oxford, and Woodstock churches)

If you are unable to attend the town hall meeting to which your church has been assigned, please feel free to attend any of the others.

CALEDONIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CONTINUES TRADITION OF HOLIDAY-SEASON SERVICE PROJECTS (Cont.)

The Thanksgiving basket project is not the only traditional holiday service effort the school undertakes. During November, and for the second year in a row, the students, teachers, and parents got together to pack shoeboxes for their second annual Operation Christmas Child effort. The people at Caledonia Christian School are delighted to be a blessing to people in need both near and far!

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Calendar of Events

January

- | | | | |
|---------|--|---------|--|
| 1 | NNEC Closed
<i>New Year's Day</i> | 4 | Town Hall Meeting
<i>Topsham Church</i> |
| 7 | Town Hall Meeting
<i>Barre-Montpelier Church</i> | 7 | Northern Bible Bowl
<i>Dixfield</i> |
| 14 | Town Hall Meeting
<i>Drewsville Church</i> | 11 | Town Hall Meeting
<i>Oakfield Church</i> |
| 7 - 17 | 10 Days of Prayer
<i>Prayer Line</i> | 18 | Town Hall Meeting
<i>Turner Church</i> |
| 16 - 17 | Pathfinder Leadership Training
<i>Dixfield</i> | 26 - 29 | Music Clinic
<i>Pine Tree Academy</i> |
| 19 | NNEC Closed
<i>Martin Luther King Day</i> | | |
| 21 | Town Hall Meeting
<i>Manchester</i> | | |
| 28 | Town Hall Meeting
<i>Portland Church</i> | | |

February

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 5 - 7 | Art Clinic
<i>Pine Tree Academy</i> |
| 16 - 20 | School Winter Break |
| 18 | Town Hall Meeting
<i>Bangor Church</i> |
| 21 | Southern Bible Bowl
<i>TBD</i> |

March

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 4 | Town Hall Meeting
<i>Topsham Church</i> |
| 7 | Northern Bible Bowl
<i>Dixfield</i> |
| 11 | Town Hall Meeting
<i>Oakfield Church</i> |
| 18 | Town Hall Meeting
<i>Turner Church</i> |
| 26 - 29 | Music Clinic
<i>Pine Tree Academy</i> |

Art Clinic 2015

FMI and to register
for Art Clinic,
please visit us at
www.nnec.org
under Education/
Events/Art Clinic.

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Heaven is my home

Music Clinic 2015

March 26-28



**Final Piano registrations due
January 15, 2015**

**Final registration for all
others March 1, 2015**

Student and Sponsor Participants \$45
Non-Participating Sponsor \$25*
*(early-bird discount does not apply)

Hosted by
Pine Tree Academy, Freeport, Maine
FMI & to register, please visit us at www.nnec.org.

**Early-bird
Deadline Extended!
Register by
December 22, 2014-
you save \$10!**