

Northern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

CoNNECTION

Fall 2025 - Volume 43 Issue 3



GIVE BIG, LIVE BIG

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From the Editor, Linda Dayen

Recently, I had a wonderful chance to go white water rafting with my fellow pastors in ministry while at Pastor's Retreat at Camp Lawroweld. Eight of us plus our encouraging guide, nicknamed "Nugget," careened down six miles of class three and class four rapids of the Kennebec River. Working together as a team, none of us was injured or fell out of the boat. God is good! It was a hot blistery day of 90 degrees, but we stayed cool (unlike the others who went golfing!) as the water splashed over us. The last seven miles were peaceful as we floated in the raft or on the water. At the end of the trip as we helped each other back into the raft, we laughed about falling on each other or hitting each other with our paddle. We told our guide that she was like Jesus guiding us through life's "rapids." Overall, it was an incredibly good experience. A special "thank you" goes to Gary, our NNEC president and his assistant, Michelle George, for making this trip a reality.



CoNNECTION

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Linda Dayen Editor

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& Layout



Northern New England Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

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OUR VISION

The Northern New England Conference strives to demonstrate the Eternal Gospel to every hamlet, home, and heart in New England and then Jesus will come.

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GOD LOVES
A CHEERFUL GIVER!

Cheerful Giving is Not a Requirement!

Times are hard and it can be a real leap of faith to be a cheerful giver.

Especially when we are experiencing “more month than money” and struggle even to provide for our necessities--mortgage, rent, food, clothes, electricity, gas, etc.

But here are ten reasons we should return a faithful tithe and offering anyway.

- 1). It provides for God’s house.
- 2). It tells God I trust Him.
- 3). It creates margin in my life for God to fill.
- 4). It reminds me that I am not my source.
- 5). It connects my money to a kingdom purpose.
- 6). It gives my job eternal significance.
- 7). It transforms my money into a seed.
- 8). It breaks greed and self-reliance off my heart.
- 9). It lets everything else in my life know that God is first.
- 10). It is being obedient because of God’s generosity toward me (Malachi 3:8-10).

These ten reasons were taken word for word from a recent sermon preached by Russell Johnson of The Pursuit NW Church in Snohomish, Washington.

Which reason resonates the most with you?

What other reasons for giving would you add to the list?

Although “God loves a cheerful giver,” (2 Cor 9:7), giving cheerfully is not a requirement. When times are financially tough, giving 10% and beyond of our money can be downright frightening.

So, it is good to know God does not require us to be cheerful about it!

In fact, if being cheerful about giving was a requirement, I would probably opt out most of the time (just keeping it real with you).

But Erica and I have discovered two precious truths about giving. First, God will more than supply our needs when we obey him with our financial resources. Second, there is always joy in giving but it usually comes AFTER we have been faithful. This is because God always keeps His promise to “open to you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, and there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:10).



By Gary Blanchard
NNEC President



Women Embracing Jesus

On a September weekend forecasted for showers and thunderstorms, perfect weather welcomed women from across New England and beyond to the annual Women’s Ministries fall retreat at Camp Lawroweld. More than one hundred women came seeking rest and renewal around the theme “Peace, It Is Well.” Guest speaker Jill Morikone of 3ABN encouraged attendees to flood their minds with the truth of their identity in Christ as an anchor for peace. Walking through the promises of Ephesians 1, she showed how to apply Scripture practically when circumstances threaten to unravel us. Her messages—honest, humorous, and heartfelt—moved listeners to both tears and laughter.

During morning devotionals, Jackie Howard offered practical, Bible-based counsel on cultivating a healthy mind by replacing distorted thinking with truth. Each day began with seasons of prayer in the chapel led by Kelly Vellieux. Without prayer, many of the weekend’s blessings would not have been possible. A Sabbath highlight was a remarkable panel featuring former conference Women’s Ministries leaders Louise (Lulu) Sanders, Lyn Ortel, and Kelly Vellieux, who joined Jackie Howard and Felecia Lee, the current leader, to answer tough questions from attendees.

Chef Miguel Larcher delighted everyone with delicious plant-based meals. Spring rolls, fragrant curries, crispy potato wedges, and moist chocolate cake were among the favorites. On Saturday evening, the women spent time connecting and making new friends. For months, the retreat planning team met together to pray and plan, ensuring an unforgettable weekend. We thank God for their unwavering commitment. One attendee summed it up simply: “I wasn’t planning on attending, but I am so glad I did!” Another, invited by a neighbor, remarked, “This weekend was so perfect, I can’t wait for next year!”



By Felecia Lee
NNEC Women’s Ministry Director



Webb River SDA School



Forestdale Christian School



Estabrook Christian School



Riverview Memorial School



Capital Christian School



Pioneer Junior Academy

Adventist Education is Precious to God

How important is Adventist Christian Education in the Northern New England Conference? When asked who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven Jesus said, "Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18: 4. Children and their education are precious to God and central to His Kingdom because it leads our young people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and prepares them for a life of service.

We are creating a fund to raise money for financial aid for students across the NNEC. Our goal is \$100,000. For more information or to donate please contact Mark at mbugbee@nneec.org.

By Mark Bugbee
NNEC Education Superintendent



Pine Tree Academy



Praising God on “Cliff Island Day”

On Sabbath, August 16, 2025, about 70 Adventists set sail on the Casco Bay Ferry to spend the day on Cliff Island, Maine. With picnic supplies and light jackets in hand, the group gathered for a day of worship and exploration on this quiet island, home to around 60 year-round residents. In the summer, the population swells to 200, despite the island’s lack of paved roads. Upon arrival, families shared picnic lunches before gathering for Sabbath School, taught by Dr. Peter DiPietrantonio. The worship service featured musical selections by the Krueger family, followed by a sermon from Linda Dayen, Associate Pastor of Brunswick Church. Joan Canulli, a descendant of the island’s early settlers, shared the history of the island’s Seventh-day Adventist church.



Cliff Island was first settled in the early 1800s, with the Griffins arriving in 1848. Originally named Crotch Island, it was renamed in 1892 and has remained a close-knit fishing community. In 1899, land was purchased for the Adventist church. Over the years, local families contributed materials like shingles, pews, an organ and hymnals. A church school, added in 1903, accommodated 17 students until it closed in 1934 as families moved off the island for education. Today, this space houses the caretaker, Lila Johndrow’s apartment. Longtime residents such as Paul MacVane, Chester and Louise Pettengill, and Mark and Lena Lumbard are fondly remembered for their service to the community. After a blessed day of fellowship, many returned on the 7pm ferry, savoring a breathtaking sunset as the island’s peaceful beauty lingered in their hearts.

By **Linda Dayen**
Editor





Baptismal Waters Flow at the Brunswick Church

This summer has been a season of joy and renewal at the Brunswick Church. In June, Oleksandr Pastukhov and his wife, Yuliia Pastukhova—both members of the Ukrainian Group that meets at the church—were baptized. Their special day was witnessed by ten Ukrainian Adventist leaders from the Ukraine Union, along with their spouses, who were on an Adventist Heritage tour en route to the GC session. Their presence made the celebration even more meaningful.



But God had more blessings in store. Over the following weeks, seven young people gave their hearts to Jesus and joined the church family. Campbell and Beckham Trubey were baptized by their grandfather in Wallowa Lake, Oregon on July 24, followed by Chloe Pinette on August 2, Jeffrey, Hayden, and Jacob Johnson on August 9, and Anna Larsen on August 15. Each baptism was the joyful result of many hours spent studying the Bible together. What a blessing it is to see children choose to follow Christ after witnessing the faith and love of their parents. The summer's final blessing came when Carol Butts, a faithful viewer of the Brunswick livestream services, recommitted her life to Jesus and joined the congregation by Profession of Faith. Truly, God has poured out His blessings on the Brunswick Church in Maine.



By Linda Dayen
Editor and Brunswick Associate Pastor





Camp Lawroweld Keeps on Giving

So many memories flood our minds as we walk the grounds of our beloved Camp Lawroweld. Families and friends have reunited here, and children have given their hearts to the Lord in the refreshing waters of Lake Webb. This year 90 volunteers of the Maranatha group with retired skilled craftsmen and helpers are now gracing our camp to remodel, rebuild and fix many spots that we camp in most of the year. In years past





New!

Stewardship Plan

Phase 1: Sanctuary in the woods (new amphitheatre) - **Goal: \$100,000**

\$4,150.00 of \$100,000.00

Phase 2: New waterfront cabins for year-round use

Fundraising Plan

- Corporate Church Giving
- Individual Giving

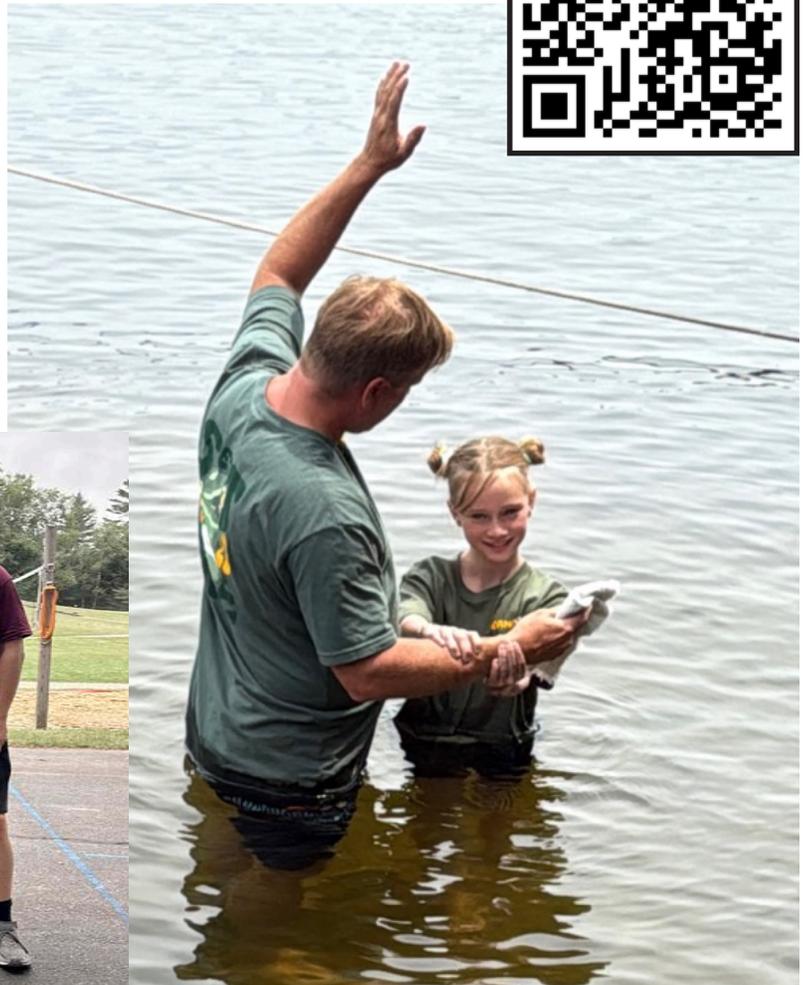
[LEARN MORE & GIVE](#)

Screenshot from the Website ↑

this group has remodeled upstairs in the Lodge, the Boys' and Girls' bathhouses, the Medical Building, other cabins, and the Staff House, to name a few. They are only limited by the money that has been donated for materials.

If 300 of us would pledge at least \$300 per year, these needs would be met. Ask God if He wants you to be a part of this project. There is a master plan for building near the water and for winterizing some facilities that can be used all year round. Thanks for your giving in the past and when you are inspired to do so in the future. Contact Trevor Schlisner, Camp Director, for more information.

To donate to Camp Lawroweld, go to www.camplawroweld.org/give.





Men's Ministry Retreat Challenge for 2025

At this year's retreat at Camp Lawroweld, Marty Miller, founder and president of "Blueprint for Men", challenged us to be "All in" for God. "Blueprint for Men" is a disciple-making ministry that empowers men to live, love, and lead like Jesus. The website www.blueprintformen.org is jam-packed of FREE resources for men! Marty's teachings focused on four key areas:

1. "All-in for Christ"
2. "All-in for brothers"
3. "All-in for mission"
4. "All-in for legacy"

The retreat was a blessing for all, bringing together men of all ages. From morning prayers in the chapel to deep discussions in sessions and meaningful moments "walking with God,"

everyone experienced spiritual growth. Saturday evening's testimonies by the lake added to the retreat's rich fellowship. There was plenty of time for fun too! Some men hiked Tumbledown Mountain, others kayaked on the lake, and many simply enjoyed each other's company. We are truly fortunate to have Camp Lawroweld, and I'd like to thank Mark and Kristina Demers for maintaining this incredible space. Of course, no retreat is complete without great food! Chef Christina and her crew, Kristina and Jessica, kept everyone well-fed throughout the weekend. Your efforts were deeply appreciated—thank you!

Men's ministry is growing here in the Northern New England Conference, and we're excited to announce a new initiative: "Men's Power Hour". This virtual gathering, once a month, will bring men together for prayer, devotion, and praise. More details will follow soon! As the steward of this ministry, I am committed to making it a safe and welcoming place for all men. Please reach out to me with any ways I can better serve you. I would love the opportunity to speak at your church! Whether it's about men's ministry or another message God lays on my heart, I'm available to share. You can contact me through the conference website. God bless.



By Doug Berrill
NNEC Men's Ministry Director



Memories of Camp Meeting 2025



Pastor's Ordination



Hispanic Tent





Good News from the Augusta Church



On Sabbath, September 6, Pastor Samuel Nzoikorera had the privilege of baptizing Stacy Zimmer and Stephen O'Brian in Sheepscoot Lake, Palermo, Maine. Both had been faithfully studying the Amazing Facts Bible lessons in preparation for this special day. Stacy's grandparents, Pat, and Greg Keene, lovingly nurtured her faith, showing her the love of Jesus in their home. Stephen's journey began when he searched online for answers about "The Mark of the Beast" after hearing Mark Finley and Brian Hindman share the message of truth. His curiosity led him to the Augusta Church, where he began attending regularly. During the baptism service, Stacy and Stephen shared heartfelt testimonies about their love for Jesus and their decision to follow Him. The Augusta Church family is overjoyed to welcome them both into fellowship.



Earlier this summer, at Camp Meeting, Jemuel and Violette Sarabia from Augusta were also baptized, along with two teenagers from the Ark church in Lewiston. Pastor Samuel, who also shepherds the Farmingdale and Lewiston congregations, rejoices in seeing lives transformed by God's Word. The members of all three churches are deeply grateful for Pastor Samuel and his wife, Dorothea. Their passion for Jesus and His Word is evident to everyone they meet, and their ministry continues to inspire and bless their church families.

By Dawn Doak
Augusta Church Leader



El Salvador Mission Trip

Ten members and friends of NNEC left on May 26th for a 12-day mission trip to the rural Yucuaiquin municipality near San Miguel, El Salvador. In spite of the devil's attempts to put roadblocks in our way including a family crisis, illness and predicted heavy rains that would hinder people from attending, our God prevailed miraculously, and all of the ministries continued as planned. The local people were so excited to have the team there, as nothing like this program had ever been held in that place. Cars, vans, and pickup trucks loaded with folks from other surrounding villages joined those who walked to the La Canada Church and completely filled it for all eight of the evangelistic meetings.

In addition to the nightly meetings, a sewing class for twenty ladies, a free reading glasses clinic, a children's program and house to house visitations, the church building was scraped, sanded, and painted inside and out. The friendly, hard-working, dedicated church members endeared themselves to each member of the NNEC team. This was a wonderful experience for all involved!

By Judy Sabnani





The Corinna Church's Recent Joy

On a bright sunny Sabbath afternoon in August, the Corinna SDA church family along with out-of-state family, friends and neighbors gathered at the Sebasticook River. What a high day it was to celebrate three souls being baptized and giving their lives to Christ. Pastor Roger Belanger baptized Diana Shorey, Faith Confrey and Daniyal Gusmanov.

After the baptism, Barbie and Joe Poirier opened their home for family and friends to enjoy lunch and share the joy with our newly baptized members

of the Corinna Church.

We pray this commitment will start a lifelong journey of faith as we are reminded in Matthew 28:19 "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."



By Robin Doody
Head Deaconess at the Corinna Church

Little Lad's Café Blesses the Community

In Corinth, Maine, Little Lad's Café and Bakery offers a warm, plant-based haven for the community. Owner Maria Fleming opened the café four and a half years ago during COVID, after purchasing a former bank building with a drive-thru window. Today, it serves 50 to 80 customers daily, providing wholesome food with grace and care. The Little Lad's name has been a staple in Maine for 30 years, with nine locations in the past. The Portland café, had to close its doors after 18 years. Beyond food, Maria and her team view the café as a ministry, sharing the love of Jesus with all who are receptive. The Café has become a true "Center of Influence" in the area, offering support for the spiritual, as well as the physical needs of the community.

By Linda Dayen
Editor



Family Fun

M O O R B D O B S I O A
W C E V I L O S A D A C
W E F L A O A L N E M A
O R I D A R Y I D E U C
R O G C D L N S L L S I
K M C E D A R R E T T A
O A D O P O C D W K A O
I C N K R A R O O D R E
V Y O O W I L L O W D K
A S M A C D S M D O O C
K O L U M M Y R T L E A
N A A A Y D M N V I B A

Many people can tell what kind of tree they are looking at by the leaves that tree has. Others can tell what kind of person we are by our fruits too like love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, cheerfulness and self-control. Those are fruits that don't fall away as long as we stay close to Jesus!!

MUSTARD	FIG	MYRTLE
OLIVE	ACACIA	PALM
SYCAMORE	WILLOW	ALMOND
BROOM	CEDAR	
OAK	SANDLEWOOD	

By Patti Kneller
Brunswick Church Clerk

Our New Executive Secretary



Our new executive secretary is Larry Kirkpatrick. Pastor Larry has served in God's Church since 1994. Besides publishing books on grace and the cleansing of the sanctuary, he has also written numerous articles. Most recently he pastored

Muskegon and Fremont churches in Michigan Conference. One of his areas of interest is empowering members and congregations not only to actively engage in ministry but to resist the misuse of power by spiritual bullies of whatever sort. Pastor Larry has stated his belief that God's people are living in the last remnant of time and that Heaven has ordered His church so that when its different parts labor together for the kingdom God's blessings will fall upon His Church in power.

Pastor Larry is drawn to New England and the suggestion that a powerful revival will arise in the east. "In the very spawning ground the Seventh-day Adventist Church, anything is possible," says elder Kirkpatrick, "when we cooperate with the Holy Spirit!"

Along with Larry come wife Pamela, son Seamus (19), and daughter Mikayla (18). When the family began serving in Michigan, Mikayla was disappointed at the lack of mountains. She is looking forward to our majestic skylines gracing Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

By Matthew Farley
Administrative Assistant to Executive Secretary & HR

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Age	Payout Rate*
70	5.9%
80	7.6%
90	9.7%

*Actual rate varies based on age and annuity type. Not available in all states.

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