

FRESH Start

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT CHARLOTTE SDA CHURCH



IT'S A NEW DAY AT PC SDA!

"The Lord's loyal kindness never ceases; his compassions never end. They are fresh every morning; your faithfulness is abundant!" Lamentations 3:22, 23 *NET*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's a new year AND a new day at our church! Find out what has been going on at church, and how all of us can make 2021 the best yet in showing God's love as a church family.

Look for all the links that are **underlined and in bold.**

QUICK LINKS

[Click Here for](#)
SERMONS

[Click Here if](#)
You Set New Year
Goals

[Click Here for](#)
SABBATH SCHOOL
LESSONS

[Click Here to GIVE](#)

The Pastor's Pages

by Dustin Hall, Senior Pastor



You are probably expecting to read your standard New Year article on setting a resolution aren't you? Well that's exactly what you are going to get, sort of. So often we set goals in the new year to lose weight, read more, give up a bad habit, or get out of debt, but what might happen if we all collectively decided to set a resolution together? I wonder how many of us have ever thought about setting a resolution for our whole church? What if we all together chose a goal and worked together to meet it?

What resolution would we even choose? A fundraiser? Boring. A service project? Noble but cliché. I think I may have a suggestion. What if we spent a whole year working to be the kind of church we would never want to leave? Probably all of us at some point have visited a church (or even been a member at one) that when we attended all we really wanted to do was leave. The people were critical or dismissive, the worship service was uninspiring, the programming was poorly planned, or worst of all, Jesus was the last topic in people's minds.

I want to suggest that we all take those negative memories and make them positive by living out the exact opposite experience that left us with a bad taste in our mouths. What if we refused to make the same mistakes that had a negative impact on us? If the youth were falling through the cracks, we step in and make sure that doesn't happen here. If we have ever felt unwelcome, we become a champion for hospitality. One of the best ways to eradicate negativity from our lives is to replace bad habits



with good ones. If we have ever felt unwelcome, we become a champion for hospitality. A wonderful result of this commitment in 2021 would be that a real difference is made in our lives and in our church.

I love Proverbs 24:16 which says, *"The righteous falls seven times and rises again while the wicked stumble in times of calamity."* According to this verse it isn't the number of times you fail; it's the fact that you keep getting up and trying. Rather than rolling over and going belly up because of past experiences, what if we rise up instead? Let us make 2021 the year that we rise up from the pain and hurt we may have endured in past church experiences and seek to be the difference here. What if we all worked our hardest at being the kind of church no one ever would want to leave? Courage!



Church Business Meeting

10 a.m. Sunday, January 24

IMPORTANT: Please attend.
Included on the agenda is the future of
the community service center.

NEW Sabbath Morning Schedule

Beginning January 9

9:30-10:30 1st Church Service

10:40- 11:20 Sabbath School (kids classes will end at 11:30)

11:35 will be 2nd church service

Members are asked to please exit the sanctuary after SS for cleaning.
We suggest that our older and more vulnerable members attend
1st service as it will be a safer environment.

*All services in the sanctuary will be livestreamed on our **YouTube Channel**

The Survey Says

Last month we asked how can we make our church family the most loving group of people in Florida?

Here are some of your responses:

"The easiest thing anyone can do is smile. If everyone just committed to smiling more what a happy church we could be. Right now with masks on this is more difficult but do you know that even your eyes smile!"

"We can NEVER make anyone, whether member or visitor, feel like they are not welcome because of how they may look or dress or anything else. Jesus welcomed everyone and we must do the

same. Next, we need to lose the "self importance" many of us have and look to the needs of others. Jesus met physical needs as well as spiritual needs. Mentoring and friendships need to be a huge part of what we do. It is not enough to meet and greet on Sabbath, we should be in touch during the week."

"Spend personal time with Jesus everyday, so we may become more like Him, loving towards everyone."

"Partner with him to eradicate negativity, criticism, and any other spirit-crushing attitude from our hearts, lives, and our church."

THANK YOU for your participation!

December Mystery Member Mark Wegand



Grew up in California.

First met his wife when he was 10 years old.

Was one of 3 boys.

Worked his way through Adventist high school and by the time he graduated the school owed HIM money!

Was an acrobat in a youth circus and to this day can do a back flip!

Participates in triathlons.

Likes blue as his favorite color (but NOT baby blue!)

Worked for the NFL during a Green Bay vs. Broncos Super Bowl game in San Diego.

Has gone sky diving twice.

Volleyball is his favorite sport.

He is a deacon for our church.

54% guessed correctly!

A Note from the Communications Team

FRESH Start is an electronic newsletter, which includes links to other websites. It is best viewed on a computer, or other larger screen display, rather than a phone.

We will send an email with these two different options to view the newsletter. We recommend using both options, as they each have different advantages:

1. As an attachment (PDF attachment). This is the only option that will allow you to click on the links. It will also be larger on your screen and easier to read, but you view just one page at a time and must scroll down to read it.
2. As a link that you can click on in the email. This option allows you to view the newsletter like a magazine, with the two page layout. **You will not be able to click on any links** with this option, but you can read it in its two-page layout, and turn pages like a book. Nice viewing option on a computer, or other large screen.

We will not be aware of technology glitches until we have distributed the first few issues and receive your feedback. Please contact us to let us know if you have encountered any technical issues, and we will do all we can to assist you.

Thank you for your patience as we strive to create a newsletter that you enjoy.

Laura Dancek, Editor, Photographer & Team Leader

Barb Goffin, Photographer & Writer

Kathy Trumper, Writer and Copy Editor

Contact us at:

pcsdacommunication@gmail.com

Podcast



Did you know our church has a podcast? You can listen to past sermons on these clickable links: [Apple](#), [Spotify](#) and [Anchor](#).

We are reaching people who may never come to our church! The podcast has had a total of 1,391 all time total plays, from 24 U.S. states and 23 other countries, including Ireland, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Ghana, Peru, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Philippines, Czech Republic, Japan, Germany, India, Qatar, Turkey, Indonesia, Belgium, South Africa, New Zealand, Tanzania, Netherlands, Guatemala, and Russia.

Life Groups

The leaders of the Port Charlotte Seventh-day Adventist Church would like to share with you an initiative we have begun called Life Groups. God made us to be social individuals and everyone wants to have a sense of belonging of some sort. The life groups are formed by finding common interests between our church members and then using those interests to reach out to people from our community that also have the same interests.

Are you interested in joining a life group? Better yet, are you interested in starting a life group? What are some hobbies that you are passionate about or want to learn? We currently have a breakfast group, a young adult group, a quilting group, different Bible study groups and prayer groups, etc. We realize it's harder to do this in the middle of a pandemic, however when done with the right precautions, it is totally possible. Please consider either joining one or starting your own.

At the Port Charlotte Seventh-day Adventist Church we want to create a loving community that we can all be a part of and you are the crucial piece for that.

In Christ,

Pastor Jaime
Associate Pastor



God made us
to be social
individuals and
everyone
wants to have
a sense of
belonging..



Life Groups

by Kathy Trumper

Breakfast Life Group



Mmmm! Who doesn't enjoy going out to breakfast? It is something that both Candy Bedford and Sandy Lawrence had in common and just like that, a new Life Group was formed! See how easy that was? Every Friday morning at 9:30 you can meet up with these ladies and others of many faiths that get together for good food and conversation. Be sure and be prompt so the restaurant knows how

many to seat. They alternate restaurants between Peter's Family Restaurant on King's Highway (January 8 & 22) and Cracker Barrel (January 15 & 29) so put these dates on your calendar. If you forget or have questions, call Candy Bedford at (941) 268-9565 or the church office (941) 629-1333. Consider this your personal invitation to come and make new friends!

Prayer Meeting

Art and Susan Brooks know the power of prayer and they have felt the calling to lead out in this particular worship group. Every Wednesday evening at 6 pm in the Primary Classroom of the church (come in the front church door and go down the hallway) the group begins praising God with singing then transitions into studying the entire week of the adult

Sabbath School lesson in short 6 minute segments. Each person has previously committed to a particular day that they will study and share that night and it inevitably leads to great discussions. At prayer time, they each pick someone who is in need - physical or spiritual - and pray specifically for them. Later in the week the



members call the person they were praying for, asking if they have any needs the group can help with and praying with them over the phone. It is a very personal and meaningful ministry for both the members of the group and those whose lives they pray over as they experience answers to their prayers. If this ministry is one that you would enjoy, they would love to have you come. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Art or Susan Brooks or the church office.

Ice Cream Resolutions

by Kathy Trumper

My husband's family loved ice cream. I mean LOVED! When he was growing up, they would buy a half gallon container and just divide the whole thing between the four of them. In one sitting! Now I'm sure they didn't do this every day, but if an ice cream treat was ever warranted, that was how they did it. I found this out when we were dating. He had come to Miami to meet my mom, grandparents, and extended family. After dinner, my mom brought out the champagne glasses that we used for fancy desserts each with a single delicious scoop of ice cream. Richard politely accepted it and looked at me with a quizzical grin. Later that evening, he told me how he had struggled not to laugh and how HIS family did it!

Years later, he and I both had had a little too much ice cream a little too often and were wanting to lose some weight and of course, be healthier. As the New Year hit, we decided to make a resolution to go a whole year without eating ice cream. If both of us did it, it would help us be

strong, right? At first, it wasn't too bad. I just never had it in the house. There were times I was sorely tempted to stop at Sonic, of course, but I held firm. If Richard could do it, I could do it!

At the time we both worked at Highland Academy and once a week one of us would have supervision duty in the school cafeteria. One June evening when I was on duty, the cook brought out ice cream for dessert and thoughtfully set a bowl in front of me. I told her, "Thank you, but no" and explained the New Year's resolution my husband and I had made. She looked surprised and said, "Well he eats it every week!" I was shocked! It couldn't be! I had only made it that far because I was trying to be as strong as he was!

As I read the resolution that Pastor Dustin has challenged us all to take on, this incident immediately came to my mind. Two things strike me: First, to make a change, you really have to want to do it. The easiest thing in the world

will be for us as a church to carry on as things have always been. Walk into church, smile and say hello or even hug those you know in the lobby, enter the sanctuary and sit where you always sit, listen to the sermon, then exit, smiling and hugging those we know and love. There's nothing wrong with any of that. But I believe Pastor Dustin is asking for more. He's saying look for those you DON'T know (even if they are a member!) and introduce yourself and make a new friend. Sit with someone whom you've noticed is usually alone instead of where you've been sitting for the last 10 years. Be genuine and friendly. Remember, we want people to love coming to our church - and they will because of the way we make them feel when they walk through our doors. Plus, of course, they will enjoy the amazing sermons our pastors give!

Secondly, accountability partners help us follow through! So talk about how you might want to make some changes with your spouse or your family and do it together. It's so much easier when I



have my daughter working with me to be more conscientious about reaching out to others. And maybe as a whole church, we can hold ourselves accountable. We can keep revisiting our resolution, asking if we're seeing real warmth in our atmosphere and making sure we keep the vision of what we want to look like ever before our eyes because change - getting out of our comfort zone - is hard.

By the way, I made it the rest of the year without ice cream.

[Click here to say:](#)
["Yes, I want to work my](#)
[hardest to make our church](#)
[a place no one would ever](#)
[want to leave!"](#)



Looking Forward to 2021!

by Barb Goffin

It doesn't matter who you are, I am sure that we can all agree on this one thing: 2020 was a difficult year. On the bright side, it is coming to an end. Being the optimist that I am, I know that good things are in store for us in 2021. On that note I asked some church members what they were looking forward to in the upcoming year and here is what they said.

Danielle Roy- I am excited to continue working on my Business and Marketing Degree. I'm also hoping for more peace in the world.

Tina Steinbacher- I can't wait to sing together in the church again. I also have a big trip planned to St. Louis for a BeachBody Coach Summit event.

Joe Francis- With everything "out of sorts" I am looking forward to some normalcy. Like simple things I took for granted - going out with friends, going to church, and vacationing!!

Brent Sedgwick- I am looking forward to a vaccine that will save innumerable lives.



Art Brooks- I can't wait to see an end to this virus so that my wife and I can continue our search for a home in Tennessee.

Barb Huff- I am looking forward to a new great grandchild in May and a new grandson-in-law as Leah is getting married in March!

Laura Dancek- No more Presidential campaigning!

Richard Hilton- We've had some health issues this year, and we are hoping for good health next year.

LaDonna Antonio- A breath of fresh air for our church so that we will find our place in the community to serve as we have never done before.

Rachael Selent- Not having to wear a mask and to travel again is what I am looking forward to.

Lincoln Lloyd- Good health and winning more souls for the church would be good. Also relief from this COVID-19 virus so that our church family can worship together again.

Tracy Morency- Sharing Jesus and the message from the Bible in the community, like handing out tracks or publications - separate from what I do at church. The Women's Ministry is looking forward to focusing on the community as well, rather than just being a social group. But if you want to socialize with us you are very welcome to join us in our efforts to share Jesus' love.

Flora Ashley- For the new year I would really like to see us all be able to resume our lives like before, be able to visit/see friends and relatives, be able to attend church services, do all the things that brought joy and comfort. Really looking forward to a better new year and God's continued blessings for all of us and our nation.

BIBLE READING PLANS

Would you like to read the entire Bible?

We've gathered some links to help you get started. Explore the plans below:

[Amazing Facts](#)

[Bible Gateway](#)

[Bible Study Tools](#)

[Revival and Reformation](#)

[Sabbath School Net](#)

[Voice of Prophecy](#)

A Blessing in Disguise

by Laura Dancek

On December 5th you may noticed Christmas trees, snowmen, and gigantic Christmas presents in the school yard. You may have enjoyed listening to the large group of children, parents and helpers singing Christmas songs. This was a fun-filled, festive holiday event planned for the children's Sabbath School.

Fulfilling our church mission, while taking appropriate pandemic precautions, can prove to be a challenge. But Donna Judy, Children's Ministry Leader, found a way to make the new restrictions become a blessing!

This outdoor program for kindergarten through youth classes was the second such event planned with the goal of keeping our children safe by being in the open air. But these other benefits were realized by being outside:

- *Children and their families had a fun time socializing together while participating in the activities.
- *Teens and youth had an opportunity to help lead out.
- *The new church service schedule left a 45-minute gap between Sabbath School and second service, and the outdoor event was a great way to fill that gap of time.
- *Neighbors felt comfortable to join the festivities – which is evidence that our ministries are better able to fulfill



Debbie Francis led out in the activities

our mission when conducted outside the four walls of our church.

Donna is praying that these events will “provide the children/youth with memories of a dynamic and fun Sabbath School, experiencing Jesus in a new way that they will remember throughout their life.”

Both of the outdoor events have been so successful that another one will be coming soon. Grab your friends and some lawn chairs and join us in the fun!





Holiday Basket Distribution

by Barb Goffin

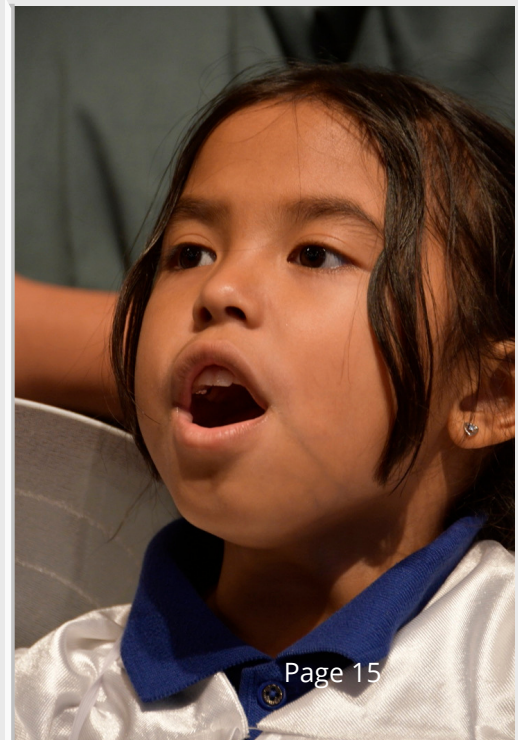
It took a wonderful idea and many individuals to pull it off, but the church's Thanksgiving Food Basket program was a huge success. Altogether 27 baskets were assembled with typical Thanksgiving food items. The women's ministry team was responsible for putting the baskets together and making the arrangements while the men's ministry was responsible for delivering all the meals. It was a way to reach out to some of our church members and let them know that we care about them as we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus. A big thank you to those who donated the food, organized, and carefully delivered.

Masked Volunteers for the Women's Ministry Assemble Food Baskets





PCAS Christmas Program



Esther Ryan Shares Her Gift

by Laura Dancek



When you go to church, it is easy to take for granted the many people who serve behind the scenes. People who put in hour after hour during the week to bless us on Sabbath morning deserve our gratitude. Esther Ryan has quietly blessed our church with her artistic skills over and over again during the twenty years since she moved here.

Esther was born to be an artist. In elementary school she got in trouble for distracting herself with drawing trees. And at the age of twelve she painted her first oil painting with the mentoring of a neighbor. She majored in commercial art at Andrews University for two years, but her real love was landscape art. This came in handy when she painted murals in two of our Sabbath School rooms.

Esther has spent countless hours decorating for VBS, special programs, and the



"There are different kinds of gifts. But they are all given to believers by the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve. But they all come from the same Lord. There are different ways the Spirit works. But the same God is working in all these ways and in all people."

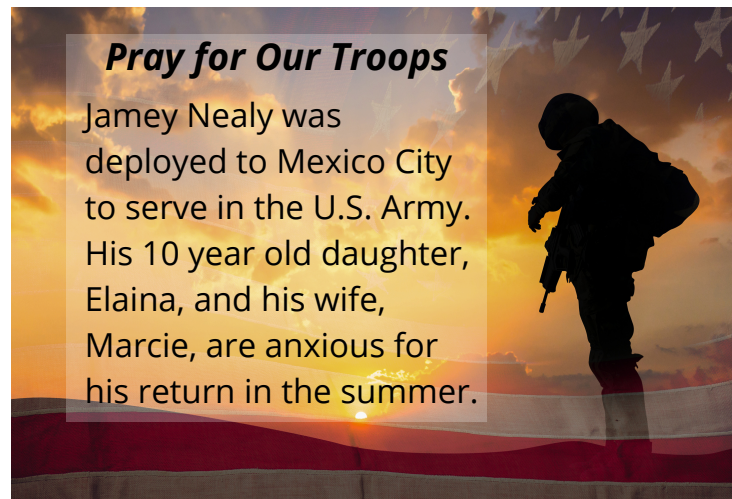
The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all. All the gifts are produced by one and the same Spirit. He gives gifts to each person, just as he decides."

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11

church, especially for holidays. Our recent holiday season is no exception. The church looked beautifully festive for Thanksgiving and Christmas, thanks to Esther's dedication and hard work. Even though she has been able to call on a few individuals to assist when necessary, she hopes to build a regular team. Being artistic is not necessarily required. People with energy and strength can lend a hand to help make Esther's creations come to life.

It can be easy to overlook the thought and time spent on the decorations in the church which change seasonally. We don't think about the hours spent taking those decorations out and packing them back up – but if you do it at your own home you know that is not a fun job! Next time you see Esther let her know how much you appreciate all she has done through the years to help us celebrate the holidays and worship each week in beauty.





Welcome to the Family

Let's all welcome Xylia Capote (Zillia) , a new member of our church family and 5 & 6th grade teacher across campus at the Port Charlotte SDA School.

She is a first generation Canadian (hailing from Oshawa Ontario) whose father immigrated from Cuba and mother from Salvador. Xylia completed her bachelor's degree in Education at Union College.

She enjoyed taking a year off to study spanish in Argentina, where she found the culture very inclusive. Her happy memories of the school there were due to their very spiritual- mission minded environment. Some of Xylia's hobbies include walking, reading and always being up for an adventure. So far she is enjoying living in FL with its lovely weather and diversity.



Out With the Old, In With the New



The old sign being removed. Photo credit: Donna Judy



The new sign at Loveland Blvd.

The church sign at Kings Highway welcomes new people at the start of our new year! These are two of several messages being displayed on our electronic sign.



Mystery Member



Every month a different Mystery Member will be featured. **CLICK HERE** to read the clues and try to guess who the member is. On January 9, during the announcement period in church we will reveal his or her identity!

Contact the
Port Charlotte SDA
Church at:



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Sermon Schedule

January 2
Pastor Jaime Pombo

January 9
Pastor Dustin Hall

January 16
Pastor Dustin Hall

January 23
Pastor Dustin Hall

January 30
Pastor Dustin Hall