

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*

LOOKING FOR THE GOOD

March 1 is World Compliment Day. We are making it "Compliment Month" in this issue of *FRESH Start*.

How refreshing it is to look for only the good in others. Even more, to not just see the good, but to emulate it. Our church family has been blessed with people who inspire us to live better lives each day.

"Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others." Philippians 4:8 TLB

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**SABBATH SCHOOL
LESSONS**](#)

[Click Here to **GIVE**](#)

The Pastor's Pages

by Dustin Hall, Senior Pastor

Poor Saint Patrick

Poor Saint Patrick! People have reduced his memory down to green beer, shamrocks, and leprechauns. Yet his life was an extraordinary example of a Christian hero. Patrick was actually British and as a teen was carried to Ireland as a slave. After a number of years there he escaped his captor and secretly sailed back home to Britain during which time he nearly starved to death. As a young man he felt the calling to ministry. Due to a lack of education he resisted the call. Over the course of several months he received a recurring dream in which he saw the plight of the people of Ireland and their need for Christ. There were months of agonizing and wrestling with the call until he finally accepted and set his mind to reach the people that had held him as a slave.

Upon arrival back in Ireland Patrick began to minister with confidence. He baptized many and even found local favor with political figures and dignitaries. Despite his loving and careful ministry he was always in danger and was imprisoned on a few occasions. His mission was specifically to the pagan people of the region. He taught them the gospel and how to leave behind their idols and to worship the Creator and not the creation. He would frequently use creation as an object lesson to teach people about their

loving Creator.

Patrick was known as honest, humble, and open. His writings are famously vulnerable and practical, surveying his own Christian walk. He had a habit of explaining deep theology with simple, everyday things. For example, Patrick is famous for using the clover as a symbol of the Trinity. There is also strong evidence that Patrick kept the seventh-day Sabbath and taught his followers to do the same. To this day, Christians in Ireland can probably trace their family lineage back to Patrick's ministry. He was quite a man and an exceptional servant of Christ.



“
***How easy it is to forget
to emulate our heroes
or find occasions
to live as they lived.***
”

We love heroes. We tear up when hearing of acts of valor or kindness. At nearly every funeral eulogy we hear how loving and caring the person was. But in a world

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

that seems more and more angry and selfish it becomes very easy to retreat within ourselves and just try to survive the day. How easy it is to forget to emulate our heroes or find occasions to live as they lived. What if they hadn't taken a risk on our behalf? What if that person who led us to Christ had just gone about their day and not made an effort to reach us? What if the world had scared them out of loving us?

I propose that we honor Saint Patrick and so many others like him by doing the things they did. No, we may not head to Ireland, but we can be courageous and step outside of ourselves to do great things in the lives of other people. Who would have predicted that simple acts of human decency and kindness could be such a powerful witness? Nevertheless, that is where we are in history. So my challenge to you is to be the hero in someone's life today. Repeat the actions that someone else has done for you.



"For daily I expect to be murdered or betrayed or reduced to slavery if the occasion arises. But I fear nothing, because of the promises of Heaven; for I have cast myself into the hands of Almighty God, who reigns everywhere. As the prophet says: Cast your burden on the Lord and he will sustain you."

St. Patrick



Newsletter Team:

Laura Dancek - Editor,
Photographer & Writer

Barb Goffin - Photographer &
Writer

Kathy Trumper - Writer and Copy
Editor

Contact us at:
pcsdacommunication@gmail.com

February Mystery Member - Richard Hayes

92% guessed correctly!



Interesting Facts About Richard:

He was born and raised in a small town in Western New York, with his three brothers - one is his twin.

He was diagnosed with diabetes when he was 12 years old. Also at that age, he had field cars and has loved cars and motorcycles ever since. This led Richard to his career choice.

He set the shot put record at high school his senior year and it stood for 42 years. He met his wife in high school when he was 16 and married her when he was 19. They have been married for 46 years and have 2 sons and 4 grandchildren.

Are you celebrating a special event?

Do you have a special celebration occurring in your family?

We'd love to list your milestone birthdays and anniversaries, weddings, graduations, and births in the church newsletter.

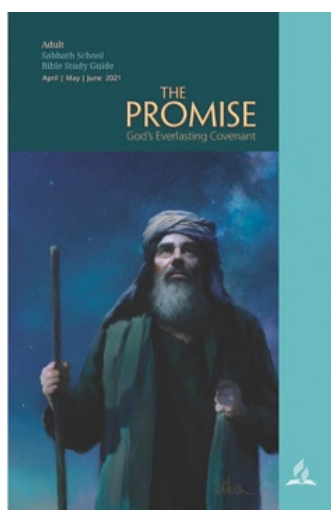
Send your info to **pcsdacommunication@gmail.com**.

Upcoming Events

March 6

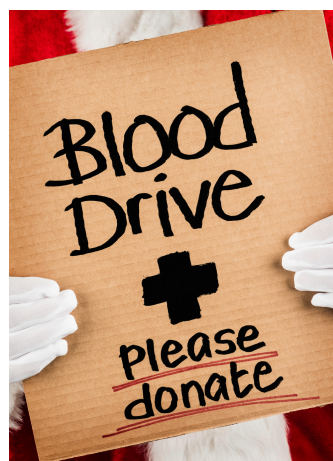
This will be a live/virtual event.

Pastor Dustin will speak at 1st service; the school will present a program for Sabbath School and 2nd service. Frank Runnels, from the conference office, will be speaking 2nd service. Sabbath School will be featuring past principals. Check the church website for the link to connect to teams for the afternoon session beginning at 3 pm.



Mar 14 and 21

Second quarter Sabbath School Quarterlies available via drive through 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.



March 27

THE BIG RED BUS will be in the church's back parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

Sabbath Morning Schedule

9:30-10:30 First Church Service

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

11:35 Second Church Service

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

*All services in the sanctuary will be livestreamed on our [**YouTube Channel**](#)



Lee and Barb Huff - Models of Virtuous Lives

by La Donna Blom-Antonio

The wisdom of Solomon as represented in Proverbs shares attributes of virtuous people. Proverbs 4 invites us to listen, pay attention and grow wise by following our Father's instruction thus developing good judgment. Never let loyalty and kindness leave you.

Give time to people, share kindness, provide respect, actively listen to others, and thereby grow wise. Much wisdom

circulates around the great room at the Huffs. Lee applies lessons from daily life and becomes a sage storyteller sharing experiences that can amuse and entertain listeners. Wise instruction emerges from the recliner throne for how to achieve positive outcomes or to not repeat the same mistake. Items are shared like the list in Proverbs 6: when to buy and sell, should you get a loan, do not procrastinate, avoid lies and liars. A

continued on page 7

continued from page 6

fountain of wisdom flows from Lee frequently mixed with a dose of laughter that adds to the knowledge bank & wisdom of the receiver while kindness and respect flow.

Huffs are lovers of animals and revere creation. Some of the wild animals learn to see them as friends. The sandhill cranes knock with their beaks on Barb's office window when the bird feeder needs filling. When they were raising goats, Lee built a playground for the baby goats and invited adults and children to play and experience the love of a baby goat snuggling into your arm and nibbling your clothes. Visits to the Huff Ranch were therapeutic. Life's troubles just seemed to melt as they shared their home sanctuary and provided healing wrapped in nature.

Service and giving back are part of their DNA. Huffs are missionaries at heart stepping up to do their part.

Huffs extend more than friendship. They sincerely hold up the hopes,

dreams, and concerns of others in prayer extending compassionate caring and kindness.

Life comes without pretenses with Huffs. You experience "the real sincere deal, not sugar-coated." Each one shoulders challenges in their life experiences. Huffs like others have positive outcomes, and other outcomes that are painful. However, the tenacity of Lee and Barb keeps moving them forward with a base of strong hope. It is the kind of hope that does not disappoint even in adversity and provides courage to others to press on.

Lee and Barb provide virtues of confident faith and remain diligent in praying for the needs of others. God's spirit flows through them as Ambassadors of Loving Kindness for Christ. They know who holds the future, and it is the same God who holds their hand today.

They have nothing to fear for the future, for they will not forget how God has led them in the past.



Lee and Barb,

*Thank you for the virtues you so
generously share that heal, inspire,
nurture faith, bind up wounds,
kindle hope, provide wisdom
and cause great joy to erupt!*

Community Service

by Laura Dancek

Serving the community has always been a part of the Port Charlotte SDA Church. In the past, our most consistent outreach to our neighbors has taken place at the Community Service building. Recent events led to closing that ministry, and brought to light the fact that food and clothing needs are already well met by multiple churches and agencies in our area - some even right down the street.

The church staff recognized this may be the time to reassess the way we meet our community's needs. But what are the needs of the community? Church board chairperson, La Donna Blom-Antonio, did some research on this and found a study recently done by the Health Department of Charlotte County. Surprisingly, the biggest underserved population in our area is children.

These findings were discussed in the February 7 church business meeting. With our current community services closed, we have an opportunity to reassess the best way to

use that space to benefit children and families. While we continue to explore those possibilities, there are ways we can immediately partner with the health department to help intervene in the early childhood development of our neighbors.

For the month of March, we will be collecting new and "like new" books for babies through early elementary ages. Each Sabbath we will have a table in the foyer to collect the books you buy. Let's overwhelm the health department with a huge variety of beautiful books to make an impact in the lives of children around us.

*"A book is like a garden,
carried in the pocket."
— Chinese Proverb*





We are collecting
children's books
during the
month of
March.

Children's Book Drive

Help meet the needs of children in our
community by giving new or like new books.
(birth to early elementary level)



Welcome to the Family

by Barb Goffin

Welcome Geraldine Miller, mother of our beloved church member Mark Miller. After she attended Zoom Bible studies led by Al Morgan, she was baptized by Pastor Art Grayman in a private, intimate service surrounded by her family.

Geraldine is originally from Jamaica but enjoyed living in England as well. She still has a child and grandchildren there and although she cannot visit them yearly as she once did, her face beams with joy when she talks of them. Her heart is full as she has a total of 10 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

When Geraldine came to the U.S. she settled in New York where she worked in the home health field for years. She is extremely happy with her move to Florida in 2013 and especially enjoys the winters. "I don't miss the snow at all." Well said, Geraldine! We look forward to getting to know you better.



Geraldine Miller

Welcome to the Family

by Barb Goffin

Although they recently became official members of our Port Charlotte Adventist Church family, George and Cynthia Edwards have been worshipping with us for quite some time. Before attending our church, they were active members at the North Port SDA Church.

Originally hailing from the beautiful island of Jamaica, the Edwards have called New York and Fort Lauderdale home as well.

They raised 2 children, a daughter who remains in Fort Lauderdale and their son Robert who lives here and attends our church. The couple have been married for 60 years and have been happily retired for the past 22 years.

George worked for many years at American Airlines and now at the wise age of 92 still enjoys working in the garden and being outdoors.

Cynthia is a retired registered nurse who still enjoys gardening, knitting and crocheting. Many have been blessed with her hand-crafted sweaters, scarves, and baby blankets. A real people person at heart, Cynthia has dearly missed attending church for almost a year now due to the COVID-19 pandemic. So church family, let's be ready to give them a warm welcome when they are able to walk through our church doors again!



Cynthia and George Edwards

Our Admirable Church Family

by Barb Goffin

**We asked the following people,
"What is something you admire or appreciate about someone
in your church family?"**

Anita Thompson - I admire **Fernlyn Martin** who uses her gift of singing to bless us with spiritual, inspiring messages in song.

Kendrick Thompson - I admire **Richard Hilton** for his dedicated service as a deacon.

Adell Claypool - **Sokol Lekic** is gifted with an eye for color and he uses that gift generously for God's church. In 2001 Sokol matched the color of the 2 new front beams in the sanctuary with the ones that had been there for many years. This God given craftsmanship strengthens my appreciation for the aesthetics in our sanctuary and deepens my worship experience.

Lavi Smith - **Mr. Cruz and his wife Yolanda** are like family to us. We can count on them to pray for us and to be there anytime we need to talk. We really appreciate how Al shares his musical talents to uplift God in so many ways.

Vangi Morgan - **Betty Pierson** is someone I admire because she is always giving hugs and has a big smile to share. So often she has encouraged me with kind words.

Lee Huff - Let me mention two. **Resty Antonio** is one I admire because of his willingness to help anyone, and he can do almost anything. I appreciate **John Rehak's** ability in

sharing the children's stories at church. I am wondering, however, how his story characters Prudence and Chester are doing. Because of the pandemic and not having children's stories at church, we haven't had a report for a long time.



continued on page 13

continued from page 12

Sandee Lawrence - "Oh Lauri! I really need your help. I know this is last minute, but could you provide special music this Sabbath?" Whenever I am in a jam, **Lauri Cross** is always willing to help. Many times she volunteers before I even ask.

Sharon Walsh - The person I admire exemplifies Christ's character in showing kindness and friendliness to all. I especially admire her ability to truly listen and empathize when speaking to others. Her love for Jesus shows in everything she does. This person is **La Donna Blom-Antonio**.

Shawneen Baker - What I am most thankful for are my Christian sisters and brothers in Christ. Their love, prayers, support, and growth in Christ-likeness through the various experiences in this world are a blessing. I look forward to us living in eternity with Christ.

Betty Pierson - Pastor Jaime is someone I really appreciate because he is so warm, and he loves people. He really encourages me.

*"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11 NRSV*

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 March 13, during church, we will reveal his or her identity!

Contact the
Port Charlotte SDA
Church at:



941-629-1333

2036 Loveland Blvd.
Pt. Charlotte, FL 33952

www.pcsda.net

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Sermon Schedule



Presented by
Pastor Dustin Hall

March 6, 13, 20 and 27