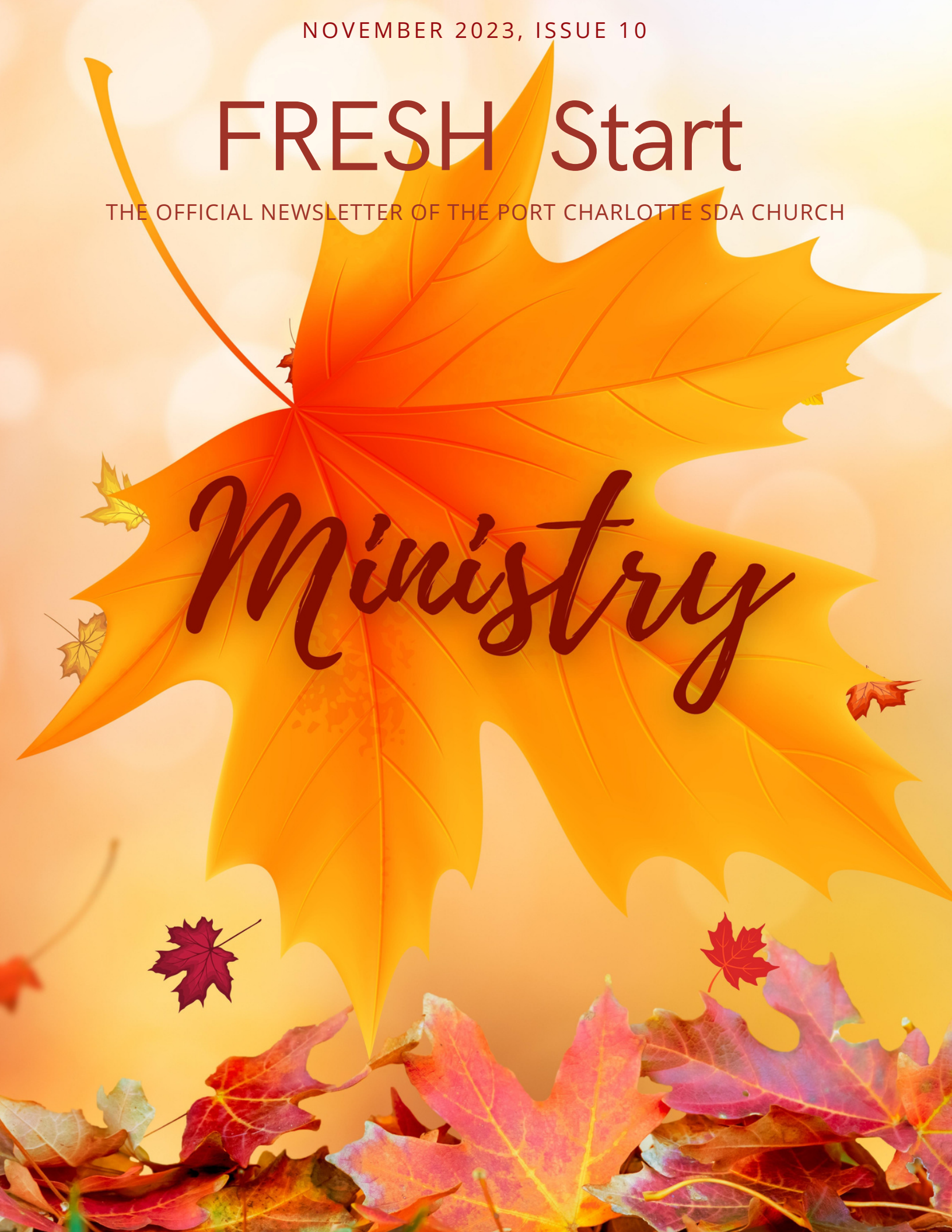


NOVEMBER 2023, ISSUE 10

FRESH Start

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT CHARLOTTE SDA CHURCH

Ministry





EMBRACING GRATITUDE: FINDING BLESSINGS IN EVERY MOMENT

By GAVIN FORBES, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

This is one of my favorite times of the year. It's when the leaves change color, the breeze gets colder, and the people get friendlier. Or, for us Floridians, the temperature goes below 80 degrees every once in a while. I love this time of year because it hosts one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving. I've always loved this time of year. The meaning of this holiday has changed over the years. It used to be a very patriotic holiday to celebrate the friendship between the Native Americans and the Pilgrims. But the more I learn about history, the more that doesn't seem to be the case. However, I think it is still worth celebrating. If you were to join my family for Thanksgiving, one tradition would be to go around the table and say one thing that we are all thankful for. This would usually end in all of the parents crying and all of the children poking fun at them, but this is one of my favorite traditions. I remember dreading it when I was younger because I had a hard time coming up with things I was grateful for.

However, the older I get, the more I realize how much I have to be thankful for. I have a family who loves me, a beautiful fiancée to call my own, an amazing church family (humble brag), and a God who woke me up this morning so I can be with Him just one more day.

One verse that I think is a fan favorite is 1 Thessalonians 5:17. It's a very simple verse but a powerful one: *"Pray without ceasing."* In other words, don't stop praying. I've heard many interpretations of this verse, but I don't think we'd be doing it justice if we don't read all around it. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* Paul is telling his readers to rejoice in prayer. He even goes as far as to say that it is the will of God.

Now, I think it's important to address the elephant in the room. I am not you. "Gavin," I hear you saying, "it's easy for you to say this when your life seems pretty good. After all, I haven't spoken to my parents in years" or "I am single and I will probably remain single for a while" or "my mental, physical, or emotional health is declining. FAST." etc.

Dear reader, I'd be a fool if I were to pretend this is an easy thing to do. In my lifetime, I've seen my fair share of valleys of death and I'd be lying if I didn't say that all I wanted to do was find those short dopamine escapes in those hard times. However, what I am saying is that I learned something in those moments. I learned to count my blessings. When I would do this in those moments, the days would get brighter. I could feel God's warm embrace around me.



Something I've noticed is that during the springtime, allergies hit me super hard. My nose basically is nonexistent from March to May. I would not realize how much I appreciated my nose until it wasn't there. I couldn't smell flowers. I couldn't breathe during the night. I couldn't smell Hannah's amazing cooking. However, one day I would wake up a little less tired. The air would feel a little fresher. The food on my plate would smell better. I knew my nose was back. There is always something to be grateful for. Sometimes we don't realize it until it's gone.

If you're going through a hard time I'd love for you to try this: Stop. Breathe.

Think of one thing that you are grateful for. If you're having a hard time finding one, maybe just the fact that you can think is something to be grateful for. It doesn't matter how big or small it is.

Close your eyes and pray a prayer of gratitude. Take as long as you need. But pray until you feel His warmth around you.





Photo credit: Laura Dancek

Ministry

Focus

DAVID MOLINA AND
ADVENTURER CLUB

BY LAURA DANCEK

In case you haven't noticed, Dr. David Molina and his team have taken our church's Adventurer Club to a whole new level. For the past five years, David has dedicated himself to build the club from just two members to its current enrollment of 40, with fluctuations during the pandemic.

Due to the young age of Adventurer members, most events are attended by parents and other

siblings as well and it truly has become a family ministry with 26 families currently participating. David understands that his ministry not only benefits our young families, but also the future of our church.

Surprisingly, David did not grow up as an Adventurer or a even Pathfinder. Yet, he has taken his role seriously and he has created something our entire

church can be proud of. This year the club, which includes pre-K to fourth grade students, earned their second "Club of the Year" trophy, and last year they won a trophy for "Honor Club."

The Adventurers meet twice a month. Once for class and once for a fun event.

The Molinas moved from New York and became members of our church in 2014. Initially, David was motivated to lead the club because his son Brandon, five years old at the time, was asking to be an Adventurer, but there was a gap in leadership. To give Brandon, and later Noah, the benefits that come with being in such a club, he agreed to be its leader. As of this year, David is not only the leader of our club, but he has been asked to be the Florida Conference South Zone D Cluster Coordinator #9 to help get other clubs started and support clubs that are already active.

Asked what he will do when his youngest son outgrows Adventurers to join Pathfinders he shared that he wants to continue supporting the club so that it continues in the direction it has been going.

"David has invested a lot in the Adventurers' ministry for the children of PCSDA family; his time investment probably being his most important and biggest investment. His love for this ministry and the people he interacts with is infectious. He is a responsible, laidback, and caring leader that gets a lot done without expecting much in return."

~ Gabriel Mercado

Dr. Molina is a leader who exemplifies qualities wanted for a ministry:

- He loves and is committed to the Lord.
- He is intentional to build something that helps grow and sustain the church. He knows how important it is to attract and keep young families in our church.
- He wants to answer any call the Lord gives him, and does God's work to the best of his abilities.
- He builds a team and loves them, as well as the families that join the club.
- He is responsible and reliable.
- He is passionate about his ministry.
- He plans to support this ministry toward it's ongoing success even after it no longer benefits his children.

"The Adventurer club is a haven where children get to know God and build friendships. A gathering of families who desire to be with the Lord. Dr. Molina 's leadership continues to be a blessing to the club. He is a humble servant of God, with his beautiful wife Aixa working with him. The club has many worthwhile activities where all the families gather to enjoy life, each other's company and above all learn God's ways. Such a wonderful blessing indeed."

~ Louren Toboso



Fall

IN LOVE WITH

Ministry

SABBATH, NOVEMBER 11


Come to the Grand Hall right after the church service on November 11.

Visit almost 30 booths to learn more about their ministries.

Explore how you can be part of a ministry team.

Learn about your Spiritual Gifts.

Light food will be available so you won't have to rush home for lunch.



“The church of Christ is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. Its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. And the obligation rests upon all Christians. Everyone, to the extent of his talent and opportunity, is to fulfill the Saviour’s commission.

Many have excused themselves from rendering their gifts to the service of Christ because others were possessed of superior endowments and advantages. The opinion has prevailed that only those who are especially talented are required to consecrate their abilities to the service of God. It has come to be understood by many that talents are given to only a certain favored class to the exclusion of others who of course are not called upon to share in the toils or the rewards. But it is not so represented in the parable. When the master of the house called his servants, he gave to every man his work.

You are not to wait for great occasions or to expect extraordinary abilities before you go to work for God.”

Excerpts from Ellen G. White, Steps to Christ, Chapter 9

Do you believe this quote?

Attend the ministry fair and visit
Pastor Gavin to find out more
about how God is calling you to serve.

Visit Pastor Ben to explore your ideas
for new ministries.



SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER

ADOPT A FRIEND

BY DIANE SEDGWICK



Looking for a new way to share Jesus' love this Christmas? Please consider "adopting" one of our homebound members this season. Your gift of a loving prayer with them, a visit to their home or rehab with some goodies, or a remembrance by a special card with your personalized greeting would bring a ray of sunshine to both their lives and YOURS!

Just sign up at the elders' booth at the ministry fair, and then be sure to follow-through. It is especially fun if you don't know them well! Get to know someone through Jesus' eyes.... Listen to their journey that they would love to share with you. See them through the lens of caring and sharing.... Best Christmas gift ever!



The church board recently approved working with World Vision, a global humanitarian Christian organization, to sponsor children in Guatemala.

World Vision has adapted a new method of matching donors to children. On Sabbath, December 2, you will have an opportunity to have your photo taken. Photos will be sent to Guatemala where children there will choose their sponsor, instead of the other way around. On December 9 you will discover who has chosen you!

For more information, watch this short [YouTube video](#).

A NEW VISION FOR

WORLD VISION

BY LAURA DANCEK



UPCOMING

Events



November

Diaper Drive

Help single moms in our community. All during the month of November bring your donated wipes and diapers (size 1-5) to the church foyer.

Nov
2023



Thursday and Friday, 6:30 pm

Gervon Marsh

DECLARE:
Building the Kingdom of God

November 11 at 11:00 worship service

Nov
8 & 9
2023



Sabbath, after worship service

Ministry Fair

Come to the Grand Hall and find out how you can serve in a church ministry. Light refreshments available.

Nov
11
2023

UPCOMING *Events*



Sabbath, 1:00-5:00

Christmas in the Park

Bring your lunch to Gilchrist Park, join in the singing, and sharing the good news of Jesus' birth to people passing by.

Dec
9
2023



Sunday, 6:00 pm

Christmas Light Cruise

Tour the canals of Punta Gorda Isles on the King Fisher fleet at Fishermen's Village.

Contact Tracy Morency for ticket information.

Dec
10
2023



Saturday evening

Christmas Caroling

Spread holiday cheer to our homebound members. Share your voice and smiles to bring warmth, light and love to their lives.

Dec
16
2023

KIDS' J.A.M. Harvesting the Fruits of the Spirit

Donna Judy and the Children's Ministry team carried out another special outdoor Sabbath School on October 28. Children learned about the fruits of the Spirit based on Galatians 5:22,23 through songs, sharing, games and crafts.



Photo by Ted Stringer







Photos by Laura Dancek





PCAS

MONTHLY UPDATES FROM OUR
PORT CHARLOTTE
ADVENTIST SCHOOL

BY BEN BOBBITT
FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE TEACHER

<https://pcadventistschool.com>

Hello Church Family! We had quite the eventful month in October. There were field trips, music concerts, and lots of fun in and out of the classroom.

Ms. Dani's Kindergarten class got to enjoy a beautiful trip to Hunsader Farms Pumpkin Festival. The kids had a wonderful time petting the animals and riding on the hayride.

Mrs. Wainwright's class also had the opportunity to go to "Painting with a Twist." They brought back some beautiful paintings that now adorn the halls of the school.

Finally, a handful of students from 3rd-10th sang for the Night in Italy fundraiser. They did an amazing job and worked hard on preparing for their performance.

Pathfinders and Adventurers



The Pathfinders have had two special days recently. On August 16 they celebrated World Pathfinder Day, and took part in much of the church service. On October 7, the Adventurer Club joined them for an induction ceremony. Our church is blessed with phenomenal children's ministries! To see more photos, visit our [website photo gallery](#).

Photos by Wave Williams





Photos by Ted Stringer



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



SAMANTHA PROCTOR

Baptized on August 12

Photo by Ted Stringer

VITALI AND LIDIYA TYMKO

Joined by Profession of faith
September 9 and 16

Photo by Wave Williams



DANIEL BAZ

Baptized at North Jetty Beach in Nokomis
September 30th

Photo by Viktor and Alla Baz

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

BRIAN NAJERA
Baptized October 7

Photo by Ted Stringer



PHOENIX LIDIK

Baptized at Camp Kulaqua in 2021;
Voted in on October 28, 2023

Photo by Tina Steinbacher

COLIN STRINGER
Baptized October 28

Photo by Ted Stringer



WELCOME LITTLE ONES



Dahlia Iva Pamphile and Isabelle Rose Pamphile

Dedicated on August 12

Mother: Sabina Bellegarde

Father: Dominald Pamphile

Photos by Ted Stringer

Honore Ghibaudy

Dedicated on August 19

Mother: Richelle Price Ghibaudy

Father: Joe Ghibaudy

Photo by Laura Dancek





*Thank you
so much*

**Thank you to Errol Long
for replacing the kitchen
faucet!**



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**Sermon
Schedule**

November 4
Pastor Gavin

November 11
Gervon Marsh

November 18
Pastor Ben

November 25
Pastor Ben

December 2
World Vision

December 9
PCAS Christmas
Program

**Thank you to
Duane & Phillis Morauske
for cleaning up and
organizing the library.
It's available to use again!**



We have the new organ!

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