

FRESH Start

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT CHARLOTTE SDA CHURCH



"The Lord's loyal kindness never ceases; his compassions never end. They are fresh every morning..." Lam. 3:22,23 NET

TRANSFORMATION

Butterflies remind us that we serve an all-powerful, creative God. If He can turn a caterpillar into a chrysalis, and miraculously a beautiful butterfly emerges, then we can believe He has the power to transform the ugliness that sin has stamped on our characters into something beautiful, by His grace. Each day God gives us a fresh start. We can lean into His love and surrender to His creative power within us.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

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SABBATH SCHOOL
LESSONS](#)

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ZOOM PRAYER AT
6:30](#)

1

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We Are All Under Construction

BY LAURA DANCEK



My husband, Ed, has been building a log cabin in Georgia for more than six years. It's been amazing to see his progress. Initially, for months I watched him just working with graph paper, a ruler and a pencil. He watched, and still learns from, YouTube videos. As he did all this, he created the cabin in his head and on paper. He gave thought and research to every detail.

Eventually, Ed broke ground, plotted the footprint, placed tubing on the ground which would one day heat the first floor, pipes for electrical lines and for the plumbing. After the slab was poured, I could get a feel for the general size of the footprint. And once he started putting up the studs for exterior and interior walls, I had a better idea of where and how large the rooms would be on the first floor. But that was not all he had in mind. The cabin is two floors with a small 3rd level loft. It took quite awhile before I could wrap my mind around how that would look.



Kids Under Construction

by Bill Gaither

*Kids under construction -
Maybe the paint is still wet.
Kids under construction -
The Lord may not be finished
yet.*

*Dear Jesus, please make me
more patient and kind,
And help us to be more like You.
And make room for all other
children of Yours,
For they are still growing up, too.*



"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:10 NKJV



Years later, even though it is still an unfinished construction zone, it is much easier for me to imagine the final product. The cabin has a roof, windows, walls, stairs and railings. It is equipped with electricity, wifi, indoor plumbing, heat and air conditioning, a full kitchen with cupboards and appliances, a washer and dryer, and a beautiful, stone fireplace. All it needs now is trimming, painting and sealing, but as I look around I still see it as it is. When Ed looks at his creation he sees it as it will be – he sees the design that has been in his head all along.

Isn't that how God is? He designed each of us uniquely and when He looks at us, He looks beyond the parts that still need sanding, or fixing. He sees the "you" and "me" He designed us to be. We tend to judge one another as if what we see is the final product. We are all unfinished construction zones, in the process of transformation. We have rough edges He needs to sand, and things for Him to work on. Jesus is the author and the FINISHER of our faith. He has the power to create beauty in anyone who surrenders to Him.

"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6; NKJV

SPECIAL EMPHASIS WEEK



'COMING OUT' MINISTRIES

Out of darkness into His light - 1 Peter 2:9

BY LAURA DANCEK

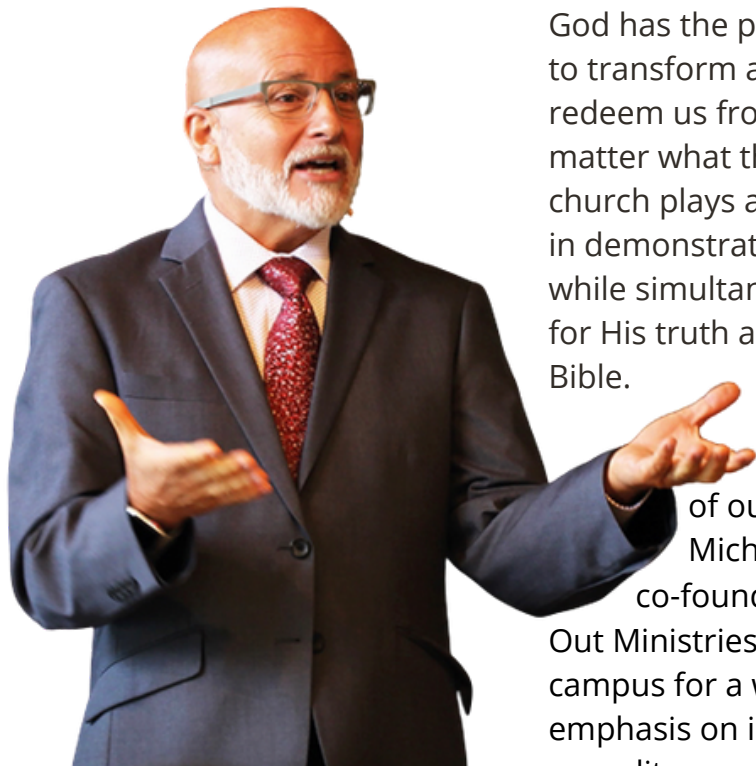
God has the power and desire to transform all of us and redeem us from our sins, no matter what they are. The church plays a significant role in demonstrating God's grace, while simultaneously standing for His truth as stated in the Bible.

At the invitation of our church staff, Michael Carducci, co-founder of Coming Out Ministries, will be on our campus for a week of special emphasis on issues of sexuality.

Michael, and a female presenter, Yaneesha Wanchope, will be the Week of Prayer speakers for our school, beginning with a parents' meeting on Sunday night.

On Wednesday night, they will give an important presentation for parents in our church, regarding social media and the internet and its impact on even our very young children.

Every man in our church is strongly encouraged to attend on Friday night when Michael presents "Men of Honor."



Michael Carducci, Co-Founder
and Senior Presenter

Sunday, April 23 - Q & A evening meeting with parents of our church school students. Time TBD.

April 24-28 - Week of Prayer for PCAS Students

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 - "Social Media, the Internet, and Your Children"

The stories and statistics in this presentation will be a wake up call for parents in our church, and they can learn how to protect their children. You may benefit by watching this video prior to the meeting: [click here](#).

Friday, April 28, 6:30 - "Men of Honor"

This presentation is designed to address the men in the church about the struggles they face regarding sexual purity and leadership in their home and church. We identify the problem and offer practical solutions for finding freedom from the onslaught of sensuality in society and how it has crippled their capacity to be examples of godly, honorable men.

Saturday, April 29, 11:00 - "Whose Salvation is it Anyway?"

This presentation addresses the current crises that are happening in fulfillment of prophecy and how to cope with the demands of secular society and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Also addressing the infiltration of modern secular sexuality and the effect it has on our culture inside the church and the need for a primitive gospel experience.

Saturday, April 29, 12:45 - POTLUCK in the Grande Hall

Saturday, April 29, 3:00 - "LGBTQ & The Church"

This presentation will address the monumental movement of LGBTQ rights and the effect it will have on the church. To meet the profound responsibility that the church has to finally address the issue openly but with compassion that doesn't compromise the Word of God. Changing old responses from the church that have shaped the current reputation of Christianity in secular culture and also address the deconstruction of the Word of God to meet the growing pressure of culture through government and social demands.

This presentation will be followed by a Q & A session. A question box will be available for you to submit your questions throughout the week to be answered in this final session.



Yaneesha Wanchope and Michael Carducci will be our presenters



Michael utilizes the rainbow to share God's original definition of His love and protection for His creation.



The mission of Coming Out Ministries is to share their personal journeys, compassion, and the truth of God to bring restoration and liberty to those struggling with sexuality, identity, or brokenness.

UPCOMING
EVENTS



Larry Ford Concert

11:00 a.m. April 8 during the worship service.



Coming Out Ministries

April 26, 28 and 29



Kids' J.A.M.

9:45 a.m. May 6

GAVIN FORBES

This summer we will welcome our new associate pastor.



On March 21, the pastoral search committee participated in a virtual meeting with Steven Jencks from the Florida conference, and Gavin Forbes, their top candidate for our associate pastor position. The committee quickly decided to ask the conference to invite Gavin to join our staff.

Gavin is currently completing his bachelor degree in theology at Union College. Following graduation he will

work at Camp Kulaqua before his first official day at our church on July 1.

Gavin's passion in ministry is discipleship. "It sounds like Port Charlotte has a strong community of people who love to love. I want to explore that and expand upon it." Gavin spent a semester as an intern at Forest Lake Church, where he grew up. You can get a preview of his preaching by [clicking here](#).

If you check out his [Instagram account](#), you'll see that Gavin believes in the power of testimony.

In his free time he enjoys playing pickleball, writing, listening to music, watching movies and spending time with his girlfriend, Hannah Moraga.

JANUARY 28

Kids' J.A.M.

BY DONNA JUDY
PHOTO CREDITS: WAVE WILLIAMS

On Sabbath morning, January 28, the Children's Ministry sponsored an outdoor Sabbath School event for children up to twelve years of age. Forty-five children, along with parents, gathered on the PCAS field.

Using the theme "God's Wonderful Winter" Lyam Agosto taught those present that each snowflake is formed differently as it makes its way through space, falling towards the ground. Each of us also develops differently as we travel through





The construction of the igloo was under the direction of Brian Gammon and assisted by Connie Hockman.

Pine Price, Brent Sedgwick, and Vic Meliti led in the music.

Crafts included making a snowman's face, and a STEM challenge of making a snowflake with marshmallows and toothpicks was enjoyed. A relay game of dressing a snowman, and a snowball fight gave children a chance to enjoy a winter activity. Snacks of snow cones, fruit cups and crackers rounded out the morning.

A big thank you to the twenty volunteers who made this a success.

Our next Kids' J.A.M. event will be May 6.

Kids' J.A.M. (Kids' Jesus and Me) events are sponsored by the children's ministry of our church.

life, but unlike the snowflake we are not left to float through life alone. Jesus is by our side throughout our life. He never leaves us or forsakes us.

The winter theme was enhanced by icebergs with polar bears, penguins and an igloo made from donated empty milk jugs. A total of 289 jugs had been collected with church, and school donations and the Kings Highway Starbucks, which provided 198 of the jugs. A big thank you to all!



A TRIBUTE TO

BY LAURA DANCEK

Prudence Winifred Grayman, born on February 15, 1934 went to sleep in Jesus on January 31, 2023. She passed away very unexpectedly, leaving our church family with sudden pain and loss. A beautiful service was planned in her honor and held at our church on February 9. It was well attended, and distinguished with five pastors who served here included in the ceremony, as well as two visiting pastors. They were present to show honor and love for Prudence, as well as for Pastor Art, who has been our associate minister and pastor for the Spanish congregation for many years. Please continue to keep Pastor Art and his family in your prayers.

Prudence Grayman

Missing Pru

What do you think of when you remember Prudence? For many it was her kindness, love, laughter, smiles, energy, mischievous spirit, patience, zest for life, joy, enthusiasm, and faithful service. Some think of her hats and her devious smile! Described by Pastor Ben as a "firecracker," Prudence definitely was one of a kind.



Prudence supported Art, in all of his ministries, for 66 years. She raised their children Tim, Leonora, and Sheila.

She took care of everything so that Art could minister. They lived and served in Panama, Costa Rica, Columbia, Massachusetts, New York, Michigan, Curacao, and Nebraska prior to moving to Port Charlotte, Florida. She was a true servant of the Lord.

Prudence was a prayer warrior. During her memorial service, some of the entries she wrote in her prayer journal were read aloud.

Prayers to her "Dear, Sovereign Lord" were raised for her family and those she knew were in need. Your name was in her journal if she knew you needed prayers. She often wrote about the Lord's second coming, not knowing how soon her life on earth would be over.

Perhaps the best tribute one can give Prudence is something she texted to me for the February

newsletter. When asked "What is one powerful way you can show God's love to others?"

Prudence shared "The most powerful way I can show God's love to others is by forgiveness. When someone has hurt your feelings you need to forgive them. God's love is in you and He wants you to love everyone and forgive them as He has forgiven you for His sake and His honor. I show

God's love to others by forgiving just like Christ has forgiven me."

Within our church family, Prudence is survived by her devoted husband, Art, her two sisters Pearl Boyd and Flora Ashley, and her nephew Kevin McNeill and niece Kimberly DeGuglielmo. She leaves behind many more who love and miss her.





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JOIN US IN NIGHTLY PRAYER

Our church has a Zoom prayer line and everyone can participate. Every night* at 6:30 you can join via Zoom online on your computer, tablet, or phone. Or you can use the Zoom phone app. This is an audio meeting only, and you don't even have to think about how you look!

To connect online go to <https://zoom.us/j/91380160609>, or click [here](#).

You can also use your phone and call 1-305-224-1968 or 1-309-205-3325. Or you can download the Zoom app on your phone.

For any of the above ways to connect use the following meeting ID:
Meeting ID: 913 8016 0609#

Short on time? That's ok, too. You can join any time before 7:15 and you will be added to the prayer group. Or, if you need to leave the group early, there is no problem. Can't do it every night? Most people can't. Just join in as often as you have the opportunity.

*On Wednesdays we pray together at 6:30 in person at the church.

Sermon Schedule

April 1

Pastor Ben
 Communion

April 8

Pastor Ben

April 15

Pastor Ben

April 22

Pastor Art

April 29

Coming Out
 Ministries

FRESH Start Editor:
Laura Dancek