

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*

PARADIGM SHIFTS

Have you picked up any flawed perceptions, mindsets, beliefs, or habits over the years?

It's time for a FRESH Start! We need to live with open arms, open minds, and open hearts.

*"Let your ears listen to wisdom.
Apply your heart to understanding.
Call out for the ability to be wise.
Cry out for understanding."
Proverbs 2:2-3*

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The Pastor's Pages

Deep and Wide

by Dustin Hall, Senior Pastor

Most of us want to grow up, but few of us want to grow out. I mean everyone wants to be taller, but wider? That's a completely different matter. Now before you get the idea this is a pro weight-gain article let me tell you what I'm talking about. In our walk with Jesus we love to think that we are being called up higher everyday- vertical growth. We like the idea that our depth of knowledge makes us taller or closer to heaven. But, just like the old children's song, we are called to a faith that makes us grow deep and wide.

So what is this width we are supposed to attain? Think of it as horizontal growth (no not in our waistline.) It's a broadening of our minds that helps develop our person to person connections. There is something remarkable about our interactions. God has designed the human race to learn more about Him through our relationships with each other. We all are made in the image of God. Looking at Him through others helps us understand Him better. Sadly, for some folks, a narrow view of God



creates a narrow view of humanity and it works the other way, too. A narrow view of humanity creates a narrow view of God.

An old proverb says that there are some people who can float on the ocean and be in awe of its vastness and beauty, and there are others who believe the entire ocean can fit between their ears. The knowledge we gain in church and personal experience with God should allow us to be in awe of the vastness of God. This growth translates into showing grace to others and seeking to learn more about them than we are concerned with making them fit our mold. By knowing Jesus more closely we can patiently wait to see how God can reach His arms around a person wherever He finds them and work in ways we could have never



dreamed. This is the width of our faith: being able to extend love and mercy to a very wide range of people and not trying to force them into our own personal vertical growth. This trust in God's grace toward others allows us to minister to them in a loving way that allows them to feel safe around us. This awe of God provides us with an opportunity to open our minds to different kinds of people, from different places and cultures, because we know how big God really is.

Some have said that Christians can be so heavenly minded they are no earthly good. But as we look at history it is the people who are most heavenly minded that have the greatest earthly impact. Having our minds set on heavenly things shows us the power, vastness, and greatness of God that creates such awe that it makes us lifelong learners and people who seek to embrace the worldwide family of God.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and, love your neighbor as yourself."

Luke 10:27

"The church is called to live with arms open wide. We cannot do that alone because in a dangerous world that leaves our vital organs exposed. If the church stands shoulder to shoulder with our arms open wide we welcome the weary traveler and protect the person next to us." Dustin Hall



April Mystery Member - Al Cruz



Al has lived an interesting life!

- He is the eleventh of thirteen siblings.
- He did prison ministry for 3 1/2 years.
- He was the national champion colporteur.
- He has been teaching for 27 years.
- He sang with some famous TV singers.
- He plays 15 musical instruments.
- His favorite sport is soccer.

Being a school principal and teacher, Al grades papers every day, and he gives everyone who guessed

100%

THANK YOU for participating!

The newsletter staff will be taking a summer break.

August will be the next issue of the *FRESH Start* newsletter.

Laura Dancek - Editor, Photographer & Writer

Barb Goffin - Photographer & Writer

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Welcome to the Family



Pastor Art baptizes Daniel Najera; photo by Ed Dancek

On April 17, twelve year old Daniel Najera became the newest, official member of our church family. This son of Adelfo and Angela Najera, who are members of the Spanish group, has already been helping Donna Judy by assisting in the primary Sabbath School. Welcome, Daniel!

Tender, Loving Care

by Laura Dancek



Plumeria is one of my favorite flowers due to their remarkable fragrance and because they remind me of Hawaii. When our family attended Pine Island's Mango Mania eleven summers ago, my mother, sister and I each bought a cutting of plumeria. We were told that all we needed to do is go home and stick them in a pot or the ground.

My mother stuck hers in a mulched mound in front of her home, where it had full sun. She never watered it, but did have it fertilized regularly. We just stuck ours in a pot, with no thought about the soil we stuck it in, and then we forgot about it. Years later it was still just a stick, so my husband planted it in the ground where it finally started to grow. We were spending most of our time in Georgia during those years, and we gave no attention to it at all.

To give my daughters and sisters a good laugh, last week I sent these photos of mom's plumeria (one with Ed to give a perspective on the size and one with just the plumeria) and mine. Mine is on the next page. I hope it gives you a good laugh, too!



...and...here is mine. Sad, right?
Last year it had
two blossoms... the entire year.

Definition of *tender loving care*

: extra attention to make someone
or something look or feel better



Now that you are done laughing at the contrast, there is a life lesson to be learned.

If our church is going to grow and thrive, each of us needs to grow and thrive, because WE ARE the church. Failure to thrive is a term used to describe inadequate growth or the inability to maintain growth, usually in early childhood. It is a sign of undernutrition, and many biologic, psychosocial, and environmental processes can lead to undernutrition. I think it is safe to say that my plumeria has failed to thrive in the eleven years we've had it. Whatever my mother has done for hers that we did not do for ours led to vastly different results!

Wouldn't it be sad if one of us ends up looking like my plumeria? Look around you. What do the people around you need from you? Is there someone you can affirm, encourage, support? Is there someone you who is failing to thrive? Is there someone who can benefit from your tender, loving care?

None of us really wants any one to fail to thrive. But we don't always recognize that it is the responsibility of each of us to be intentional in the lives of all of us to give the tender loving care needed to grow. Everyone is fighting some type of battle. We need to get to know each other better and establish a safe environment so we can start to uncover what kind of loving care is needed. We need to keep our minds off ourselves and be intentional to pay extra attention to each other so we all feel better – so we all grow better – so we all thrive.

Yes, it will take time and energy and God can give us both. We can nourish each other in the ways that He has gifted us to do so, in the situation He has us in right now. He is the One who will guide us in our quest to show His tender loving care to others.



Ann Monville at the Charlotte County Health Department

Working with the Community

by Barb Goffin

“Diaper drive,” “book drive,” “bring in baby items,” are things we frequently hear at church lately, but what is this all about? Where are these items going and who is getting them to where they are needed?

To answer these questions, you need to meet Ann Monville. Ann was born in Illinois to a medical family. Her father was a physician who practiced family medicine and her mother was a nurse. One of nine children, Ann took a different path at first but found her passion in nursing after all. She has been a registered nurse for 18 years. Her specialty is Mother-Baby

Nursing, and she holds certificates in Maternal Newborn and Lactation.

Six years ago Ann accepted the challenging job of running the Charlotte County Health Department’s Growing Strong Families program. Although there are other programs in town where nurses do home health visits for a specific issue, Ann’s program is based on patient-driven care. This means she is not limited to one area but can assess each case individually and really find out what is needed. She sets out to accomplish goals she makes with her patients. Whether the need is medical, food, housing, income, transportation, or education she finds the resources to meet the needs on a prioritized care system.

With basic needs like food and diapers, books are an extravagant item that most of Ann’s 40 families just do not have, so when the church donated a significant number of books, she was very moved. “The books the SDA church donated are often the only books in the house,” she stated.



Ann's passion for her patients and their families is very evident. She shared, "It is a privilege to go into someone's home, but you never know what need you will find". That is why Ann is so appreciative of the partnership she is developing with our church family. When she delivers a beautiful basket made by ladies of our church, filled with donated items along with diapers and diaper wipes, her families are thrilled and shocked. Ann tells her patients where the items come from and some have asked, "Why are they doing this for me?" She simply answers that we care.

So friends, let's keep on caring! We are making a difference in the lives of many Charlotte County families, showing them the love of Jesus. Thank God for people like Ann Monville who love without judgment, serve daily, and make a difference one person at a time.



News from the Church Family

**The Byards will be celebrating special birthdays this summer.
On June 12, Evelyn will be 92.
On July 5, Don will be 90.**



Upcoming Birthdays:

May 1 - Lincoln Lloyd

May 30 - Kay Lloyd

July 5 - Wave Williams

Chelsea Dancek Wedding

Chelsea Dancek will marry Micah Chaiprakorb on Tuesday, June 15 in Fort Myers.

Chelsea grew up in our church until she attended Georgia-Cumberland Academy, followed by Southern Adventist University (SAU). Although she attends the School of Dentistry at Loma Linda University (LLU), she is a member of the Port Charlotte SDA church.

Chelsea and Micah met at the end of their junior year at SAU. They spent a year apart while serving as student missionaries in separate countries before they began their LLU education, where Micah is a medical student. Micah was born and raised in Oahu, Hawaii. They both will graduate from Loma Linda in two years.



*Happy Anniversary
to Ann and Ted Collins
who will celebrate their 13th on May 18.*

News from the Church Family

My Unexpected Journey

by Susie Hilton



On November 3, 2020 this unexpected journey came into my life! I was outside picking up some things out of the yard, Then as I was coming through the back lanai door with my hands full, it happened! The door hit my back side. It threw me off balance. This is when my unexpected journey began. I started falling, then I hit the concrete floor. I knew I had a broken hip! The pain was unbearable. My brother, Cort , called 911. Just minutes later the ambulance was at my door. The EMT guys were wonderful. I call them my angels in human form. Before I knew it I was on my way to Fawcett Hospital ER. The doctor determined, with the help of X-rays, that I had shattered my right hip bone. By 5:00 p.m. I was in surgery. The doctor put in my hip a rod and two screws to hold my hip together again.

On January , Pastor Jaime came to our home. He always comes with much love in his heart. He anointed me. Pastor Jaime had the most wonderful prayer on my behalf. I know, starting on that day I felt healing! Pastor Jaime also came to our home when Rich had his quadruple bypass heart surgery and anointed Rich also. How blessed we are to have Pastor Jaime and Michelle in our church family.

Now I'm walking! I didn't realize how wonderful walking was till this happened to me and it was taken away from me. I'm so thankful for all my church family's prayers that went to God's throne on my behalf.

I want all of you to know how much I love all of you. You are my family. The power of prayer I have experienced first hand. It really works!

Now my unexpected journey is over. Looking forward to the journey to heaven!

Aixa's Kitchen

Looking for a new and exciting way to boost your cooking? Want to make more vegetarian and vegan dishes when you have company? One of our very own, Aixa Molina, has started her own YouTube channel and she is bringing a cool and different twist to healthy cooking and lifestyle. If you would like to explore more of these options go to www.aixaskitchen.com and also subscribe to her YouTube channel [Aixa's Kitchen](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAU-D82O7b9KnnLgYaF54rA/featured) at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAU-D82O7b9KnnLgYaF54rA/featured>

Here's a little bit more from our Youtuber:

Hello! My name is Aixa. I am a mom, wife and homemaker. In this space, I intend to share my experience as I create new recipes and explore the fascinating world of cooking. You can expect two new posts every week. I hope I can inspire you to try new foods and expand your horizons. Always remember that you can recreate any meal and adjust it to your liking. Whether is the protein, the liquids (broth, milk, sweeteners), the flour, the grains, the nuts, there is always a way to achieve great results. So grab your apron and let's have fun!



News from the Church Family

130 Years of Marriage

by Barbara Huff

Even half of 130 is a lot of years to be married! And that is the case with Don and Betty Pierson and Lee and Barbara Huff. On June 17 both couples will have been married 65 years.

When they were first married, both couples lived in the trailer court at Emmanuel Missionary College (EMC), which is now Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. They didn't know each other then and first became friends here at the Port Charlotte SDA Church after retirement. Betty Collins Pierson was born near Towar, MI and Don near Gatzke, MI. They met in the cafeteria at EMC. Both were late to dinner one evening and ended up sitting together. They began talking, and that's how it all began! Don and Betty were married in the Cedar Lake Academy Chapel in Michigan.

Lee, who was born and reared in Poplar Bluff, MO and Barbara, who was born in Hinsdale, IL, met at Sunnysdale Academy in Missouri when they were seniors. They were married in Decatur, IL.

After pastoring for 20 years and being a church administrator for nearly 20 years, Lee took his "bride" with him to serve as missionaries in Russia. Lee was president of the Euro-Asia Division and Barbara had various communication projects. By this

time, their two children were grown and into their own careers.

On the other hand, Piersons served as missionaries in Africa and one of their three daughters was born in Nigeria. They also served in Ghana, England and the Ivory Coast. Don's work was always in accounting and finance. Betty jumped in where she could help.

That is still the case: Betty jumps in where she can help. In the past it was in the official position as a leader in the Primary division. Now she helps with the kids when she can. She has also served the church as a deaconess and Don



Betty and Barbara in Betty's Kitchen; photo by Resty Antonio

continues to use his talents in accounting in our church. Often he is with a team counting the money from our offerings.

Lee was church board chairman and head elder at the Port Charlotte church for many years. It seems that he could take the title of "senior advisor" at this time.

Barbara has enjoyed being a Sabbath

school superintendent, communications director, and vespers coordinator at the Port Charlotte church.

Since retiring in Port Charlotte in 2000, there is one thing the couples share in common which isn't pleasant. They have both lost an adult child to death. This only strengthens their faith in the Blessed Hope of Christ's second coming.



Anniversary Couples, Don and Betty Pierson and Lee and Barbara Huff; photo by Resty Antonio

Upcoming Events

May 1
Congregational singing resumes for second service.



Diaper Drive
Now through May 15



WORKSHOP

May 15
3:00-6:00pm

An in-person Children's SS Workshop will be held at the Port Charlotte SDA Church for leaders and teachers of Cradle Roll through Youth classes. Judy Smith from Florida Conference Child and Family Ministry Department along with her team of experts will be presenting. Area churches are also being invited.



May 22
Adventurers' Investiture during SS time in the sanctuary



May 27
PCAS Pre-K and 8th Grade Graduations in the sanctuary



July 11-15 Virtual , interactive VBS is coming!

Sponsored by Florida Conference

Children who have completed grades K-5 will love the stories, activities and crafts while learning how "Treasured" we are by God. Watch the church website and weekly announcements to find how to register and receive the crafts and goodies you will need for that week.



Homecoming Event on June 12

We know it's been much easier to attend church online sitting in your recliner eating breakfast. It's time to take those pajamas off and come in person!

We miss seeing you!

A special event is being planned to welcome you back to church. Watch your email and listen to the church announcements for more details as they develop.

We can share this news: everyone who attends church that day will receive a complimentary church t-shirt!



Young Adult Life Group

Fun in the Great Outdoors

by Jaime Pombo, Associate Pastor

The Covid-19 pandemic surprised all of us a little over a year ago. With it came numerous unfortunate events. Lives departed, jobs were lost and families were torn apart because of it. One of the things that we have not paid attention to is that the virus also brought issues in mental health all around the globe. According to scientists, one of the main reasons for this is lack of social interaction. We were made to interact and socialize.

So how can we be social individuals in the age of social distancing?

Here at Port Charlotte SDA, we want to be very intentional about connecting young families to our church, so our young adult life group has remained active despite the pandemic. Because of Covid we limited our interaction to outdoor activities. We camped in the great outdoors, celebrated birthdays, went on bike rides and had Bible studies at the park.

If you want to learn more about the young adult ministry at church, or would like ideas on how to form your own life group, contact Pastor Jaime at pastorjaime@pcsd.net.



The young adult life group enjoying outdoor activities; photos submitted by Pastor Jaime



BRIDGING THE GENERATIONAL GAP

by Barb Goffin

Delia Mercado- I look forward to gaining spiritual growth and wisdom from our senior saints.

Kaitlyn Penno- Wisdom is definitely what the younger generation could use. If the older generation could share their life experiences with us then we could learn from their mistakes.

Flora Ashley- We could pair up with some of the younger generation, mentoring is a good idea. I'd like to see comradery between the generations, so everyone feels loved.

WE ASKED:

WHAT CAN THE OLDER
GENERATION DO TO
MENTOR THE
YOUNGER PEOPLE OF
THE CHURCH?

WHAT WOULD THE
YOUNGER GENERATION
OF THE CHURCH LIKE
TO LEARN FROM THE
OLDER GENERATION?



Mark Miller – We should show them love and respect- accepting them in whatever stage they are in with their walk with the Lord.

Xylia Capote - I like the idea of making home made bread. Learning a new hobby or skill from the older generation is neat. They have so many interesting hobbies, I love to hear how they got into them.

Candy Bedford - I really believe in partnership- I have seen it work in other churches where an older member partners with a younger person to gain insights and blessings from each other.

Alex Rodriguez - I'd like to learn how to avoid making mistakes, learning from their life experience.

Duane Morauske - One thing we can do as the older generation is be more open to



younger people's suggestions on how to do things. We should not be telling them things have to always be done a certain way- just because that is how it has always been done in the past. We should be flexible and not force our ways on them.

Donna Judy - Most importantly we have to build friendships and relationships. Then you can invite the younger people to help out and be involved in activities like outdoor Sabbath school, helping out in sabbath school classes or even Vacation Bible School. Then the young people feel needed and included.

Al Morgan - What we should not do is be judgmental. The young people need space to grow. We need to have listening ears! Instruct the young people by our examples of action, not lectures.

Church News

Thanks to the hard workers pictured below, a new gate was installed to prevent intruders from driving to the back parking lot. In the past we have had people using our electricity, water, parking behind ladies' cars to prevent them from leaving, and others just trying to take a short-cut to Rampart.



Left to right: Joe Francis, Duane and Ron Morauske, and Wave Williams in front of the finished gate; photo by Wave Williams



Left to right: Duane Morauske, Joe Francis, Ron Morauske, and Troy Peterson begin the gate project; photo by Wave Williams

On March 28 the Adventurers earned their cyclist award at the Rothenbach park at Sarasota, starting with a devotional about the story of David and Goliath. They enjoyed donuts and learned some basics about how to ride bikes and how to take care of them. A fun day all in all!



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 (with congregational singing)

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](#)

"Love one another deeply.

Honor others more than yourselves."

Romans 12:10 NIRV

Mystery Member



We know that MANY of you will be able to guess who this month's mystery member is.

CLICK HERE to find the clues.
 THANK YOU for participating.

On May 8, during church, we will reveal their identity!



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Sermon Schedule

May 1
1st Service
 Pastor Dustin
2nd Service
 Education
 Sabbath

May 8
 Pastor Dustin

May 15
 Pastor Dustin

May 22
 Pastor Dustin

May 29
 Pastor Dustin
 Communion