



Life Goes On



Pastor Bob Zoba

Last year, I turned 60. That was a major milestone that caused me more than a little bit of anxiety leading up to the big day. Fortunately, Christie, my wonderful wife, mitigated the pain by planning a wonderful birthday trip to the Jersey Shore that involved all of our kids and time with my family.

I am happy to say that after a decade of anticipatory dread, turning 60 wasn't all that bad.

However, I have to admit that a couple of weeks ago, I had this strange and sudden realization. I suddenly realized that in about a month, I was going to be 61. Now, I know what you are thinking: Duh, pastor! What did you expect? And admittedly, I should have assumed that 61 was next.

But somehow I didn't.

You see, I had been fixated on the big 6-0 and the dawning reality that I really was getting old. I mean, let's be honest, in your 50s you can still pretend to be young (or at least convince yourself so), but once you hit 60, that illusion is over. You have definitely crossed the line into the senior state of existence. But to add insult to injury, I began to realize that 61 leads to 62 and 62 to 63 and before you know it, I will be 70. In fact, since time is relative, the next decade will fly by even faster than the last one. For example, when you are just five years old, ten years is twice your life span. At 20, it is half your life span. At 70, just one seventh of your time on earth. Thus, ten years at 70 will seem like the same amount of time as one year at seven. Now, that's a sobering thought.

Therefore, I have realized that what I must do now is to truly believe what I believe. And one thing that I believe is that a human lifespan is but a blink in time compared to the expanse of eternity ahead. Likewise, if I truly believe that Christ has gone ahead to prepare a place for me, then I have something to hope for that goes way beyond a quiet retirement in a nursing home somewhere. Or as Keith Green once observed, "If it took God just seven days to create the wonders of the earth, and it has taken him over 2,000 years to prepare a place for us in heaven, then our future abode with Him is going to make this place look like a garbage dump."

Indeed, as we have just come out of our Lenten journey and celebrated the wonders of our resurrected Lord, we are assured that since He was resurrected, we, who are in Christ, will one day be resurrected as well. And that, my friends, is not just pie in the sky. That's an historic fact from the past that gives us real hope for the future. So, let us truly believe what we say we believe. And in so doing, let's remember that the best is yet to come!

Blessings!

Pastor Bob

**MAY
2017**

**Sunday Services
10:00 a.m.**

**Adult Sunday School
9:00am**

**Sunday School
PK-12
10:30am**

**Choir Practice
Thursday 7pm**

Weekly Activities

Ladies Bible Study
Tuesdays 12-2

Small Group
@ the Rivera's
Tuesday 7pm

Men's Breakfast
Wednesday 7am

Women's Study
@ Anita's
Wednesday 7pm

Women's Bible Study
Thursday 8am

Prayer Service
Thursday 7pm

Second Union Church

2109 Calle Mileto
Guaynabo, PR 00969

787-720-4423

secondunion.org

Rev. Robert Zoba
Pastor

Gustavo Gonzalez
Youth Pastor

We are so sad to announce the death of a very dear 2UC member, Shanna Duff. She was tragically killed in a head-on collision in Indianapolis. Shanna, her husband, Jason, and their three daughters attended Second Union for over five years. They were involved in Bible studies, small groups, couples' ministry and more. Pastor Bob and Christie enjoyed playing tennis and Euchre with them. Shanna was funny, fun-loving, joyful and a joy to be around. She loved the Lord and was a wonderful mom to her three daughters and wife to Jason. The Duffs returned at least once a year to Puerto Rico and we were so blessed to have dinner with them just weeks ago.

We will miss not having her in our lives, but we know without a doubt that she is in the arms of our Savior, and we will be reunited in Heaven. In the meantime, we ask you, our church family to pray for her family: her husband, Jason, her daughters: Taylor, Shaely and Lexi and her parents and siblings. She will be terribly missed by all who knew and loved her.

LORD, be gracious to us; we long for you. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in time of distress. Isaiah 33:2

The Duffs
1144 N. Creekview Dr.
Greenfield, IN 46140



March 2017

Second Union Church Council & Staff

Pastor
Rev. Robert Zoba

President
Brenda Ferer

Vice President
Maylie Colón

Treasurer
Stan Pinkerton

Secretary
Humbelina Treviño

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Outreach
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Staff-Congregation Relations
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Membership
Nilda Román

Fellowship
Rosa Trinidad

Nominating
Harry de la Cruz

Forward Planning
Anthony Cordero

Women's Ministry
Anita Rodriguez

Men's Ministry
Joe Calcolli

Pianist
Luis Manuel Tirado

Choir & Worship Leader
Jeff Penn

Youth Pastor
Gustavo Gonzalez

Office Manager
Mabel Varela

Newsletter Editor
Website Administrator
Christie Curie Zoba



As kids search the visible to discover the invisible, they will discover that the God who created everything there is wants a relationship with them!

Kids will learn that God had a plan from the beginning to restore the relationship He knew we would break.

Exploration begins:

June 12-16th
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Second Union Church of San Juan

We need lots of help from our church family!

For more information, contact the church office 787-720-4423 or our VBS Coordinator, Sasha Seda at sedasasha@yahoo.com



Bible Study & Small Group Opportunities at 2UC

Day and Study	Location	Contact
Sunday 9am Adult Bible Study 2nd Kings	2UC Conference Room	Lizzette Kelley: Howard01@prtc.net
Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study (12-2) Women of Easter	2UC Fellowship Hall	Christie Zoba: zoba129@gmail.com 787-717-4001
Tuesday Evening Bible Study (7-9pm) Revelation	Loraine and Luis Alberto Rivera's home in San Francisco	Loraine & Luis 787-370-2448
Wednesday Men's Breakfast (7-8am)	2UC Fellowship Hall	Pastor Bob: PastorBobZoba@gmail.com
Wednesday Evening Study (7pm) Book of John	Anita Rodriguez's home in Rio Piedras Heights	Anita Rodriguez: anita00926@aol.com
Thursday Morning Women's Study (8am) Book of John	Cafe del Alma - Paraná Street	Anita Rodriguez: anita00926@aol.com
Condado Bible Study		Lynn McCarley: lmcCarley@cantrelldrug.com Laurie Foster: lauriejfoster@yahoo.com

Wendy Heath and family recently made a trip to San Antonio, TX. (Don't mess with Texas!) Wendy's daughter, Claudia, was at work picking grapefruits at her aunt's and uncle's house



Speaking of San Antonio, Mar Lopez has successfully relocated there. We will miss her.



Becky O' Meara writes: Please share with everyone that Christopher arrived safely in Bahrain to begin a 12-14 month deployment. He will take command of USCGC ADAK in May. I am so proud of him, his service, and his leadership. I am staying in Portsmouth, continuing my work with The Planning Council. I know we don't need to ask for prayers, because you are always so faithful to remember us in prayer! Much love to all!



Audrey Wilcox writes: We miss all of you!! We are spending this week in Jacksonville with all our children and Little LC, celebrating Hannah's graduation from college!!

Jared Adams is happy about the Browns #1 pick. So too, he will be helping with another Dave Ramsey series this fall.

Brian Tester got to hang out with Tommy LaSorda, the legendary manager of the L.A. Dodgers at a baseball game in Chicago while visiting Nicole.



John & Evelyn Alberts have wrapped up their "North American Grandchildren Tour" and will be heading back to PR soon.



Cadiz Rodriguez will be back on the island this summer. She will be leading worship for our VBS program and she has an internship in the film industry. We can't wait to see her!

Joe Calcolli got a new Jeep and a new walker, all in one week.

Mayra Chipi just returned from PA where she spent some quality time with her mom.

Mary Logwood and her daughter Sherry Davis have joined our church family. Mary is originally from the great state of Mississippi, but is here helping with the grandkids will Sherry works as accountant with Eli Lily. Welcome to the 2UC family!

Harry Delacruz and his Nominating Committee have been working hard to put together a new slate for our upcoming, Semi-Annual, Congregational meeting when we will elect a new Council.

General Von DeLoatch attended Eddie and Isabel's recent wedding in his military dress blues. Impressive!!! Brenda, Shirley and Muriel were looking great as well!



Carlos Cordero was named Athlete of the Month for Baldwin School and was also awarded the Top Swimmer Award for the highest scoring swimmer of the Puerto Rico High School Athletic Alliance (PRHSAA) Boys JV Swimming Championships for the 2016- 17 season Carlos and the Baldwin JV Swim Team captured First place of the PRHSAA Swimming Championships for the 2016-17 season. During the meet Carlos scored first place in three events. This accomplishment broke a first place tie thereby firmly establishing the first place for the Baldwin Boys' JV Swim Team.



Mannie Fernandez is an expert on high-end basketball shoes which become collector's items. Mannie will also be graduating this June, and his mom, a former 2UC member, will be visiting from Jacksonville, FL.

Sadly, Matt & Laurie Foster (and William & Jane) will be returning to the States soon. We will miss them soooo much, but we are glad that Matt's original two-year assignment became a five year sojourn.

Dennis Glenn will be offering another round of GPS classes soon. If you haven't signed up yet, don't delay. It's great stuff.



Rob Grosek recently took his family to Disney. Welcome back Rob!



Maria Isabel Rivera & Christie Zoba are on the same tennis team this summer.

Rashel Krankovich will be wed this May and a number of 2UC members will be attending the ceremony in Columbus, OH. Congrats Rashel (and Keith)!

George & Joan McMurray are up near Atlanta, GA attending a southern wedding. They will also be making a stop at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL for a check up.

Grayden Klope has been voted Backpack student volunteer of the month! Grayden spent an afternoon in the Backpack room helping to organize the room and store the food. He did an excellent job! Grayden is a ninth grade student at Baldwin School.



Jesse Quijano donated a boatload of pancakes to 2UC for our Easter brunch. In fact, we received so many, our Men's Breakfast has feasted on them twice.



Armando Rivera, Luis Alberto and Loraine's son, has announced his wedding date with Lizbeth. It is July 15. Congrats!

Faviola Velazquez has decided to go to Rochester Institute of Technology where Sariana Rodriguez attends. We are so proud of you!!!

Jesse Sargent and his wonderful wife Yvonne recently made a visit to PR. It was great to have them back, albeit for a brief visit.



Steve & Loida Spivak report that home reconstruction has begun afresh up north, so they won't be back to PR for awhile. But we look forward to their return.

Joanne Marx writes, doing as well as possible with MG. Joanne and Tina will be back in PR during the first two weeks of June!



Tom & Patricia Engfer are on safari in Africa! It looks like they are having an amazing trip!



Isabel and Eddie Candelario are now husband and wife! In a beautiful ceremony at San Cristobal fort, Eddie took Isabel's hand in marriage. Many from 2UC were on hand to witness this event and celebrate this milestone in their lives. Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Candelario!

Evelyn and John Alberts are in the final weeks of their Spring Grandchild Tour. After visiting the older two grands in Chicago, they and daughter Sara's family loaded into her van for a road trip to son Will's house in Connecticut. The highlight was the first meeting of all four granddaughters. Daughter Nadine came up from Baltimore, so it was a near full family reunion with three of their four kids. (Jeff, in Alaska, did join in by FaceTime). After Connecticut, they visited family in New York, New Jersey, and Maryland, visiting Philadelphia (Liberty Bell), Baltimore, and D.C. (African-American Museum). Evelyn and John will be back in PR soon, after a stop in Florida.



VBS is just over a month away. We still need volunteers to help throughout the week, and we need donations of materials and food. Our VBS Coordinator is Sasha Seda, so please see her and she will give you information about the exciting week that is planned for the children of our church and community.

Lynn McCarley is the new Chairperson of the Young Life of San Juan committee. The committee provides support and direction for the staff and volunteer leaders of Young Life. Young Life is an amazing worldwide ministry that reaches out to youth in high schools for God's kingdom. We are grateful to God for Lynn's leadership!



Favorite hymns: we've all got 'em. And when it comes to the seasons of the church calendar, we all have our hopes and expectations about what will happen during corporate worship. Pity the church musician who must decide which songs do, or do not, get sung in a particular year. For example: we have four Sundays of advent, the season of longing, during which it is inappropriate to sing Christmas carols (Christ hasn't yet been born and we focus on the coming, not the arrival). How do we fit all of those carols into the one or two Sundays that actually focus on Christmas? Choices are made, and inevitably someone's disappointed. And, unfortunately, certain songs become unused, forgotten, and lost.

Fortunately Easter need not present us with such a problem. Yes, it is true that decisions must be made as to which of the many Easter carols we actually sing on Easter Sunday (did you know our hymnal alone features 30 such songs?). But in the liturgical calendar Easter continues for six more Sundays, ending when Pentecost arrives. To acknowledge this our services will close with an Easter carol during each of the Sundays of Easter.

With words penned between 40 and 1600 years ago and music spanning the last 6 centuries, some will be familiar and some won't. Some were written in France, others in America, but all carry the message of hope and joy that the resurrection brings, and specifically, brought at a particular time in the history of the church. So as we sing to celebrate in these coming weeks take some time to have a look at the bottom of the hymnal page. Find out who wrote the song, where, and when, and savor the wonderful diversity that we enjoy in the body of Christ.

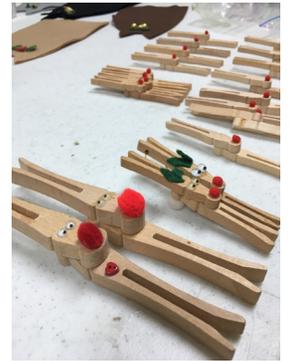
Submitted by Jeff Penn, Worship and Choir Director

Crafting



There is a bustle of preparation going on in room 3 every Thursday morning at Second Union Church. For many people the Christmas season is a long way off, but for those diligent crafters at 2UC it is approaching with alarming swiftness.

These ladies work all year long crafting items for the Women's Ministry annual Christmas Bazaar. Besides the regular assortment of ornaments, Christmas decorations and stylish gifts, the ladies are hoping to have elegant hand crocheted afghans for sale as well.



Why not stop in Thursday morning? Any level of expertise is well from the beginner to the master crafter. We have something for every skill level. And if you don't want to craft but crave the company, come have a cup of coffee and chat with us. We enjoy the flow of folks through the door!



Mark your calendars! Bazaar Crafting every Thursday at 9:30am. The Christmas Bazaar is December 2nd beginning at 10am.





During the month of April, Second Union was blessed to welcome nine new members: Sarai & Sam Martens, Steve Johnson, Shirley Baker, Colleen Comer, Dely Seda, Dennis & Linda Glenn and Jose Guzman. We are so thankful to the Lord for bringing them into our church family, and we are grateful for the way



that the Lord is already using them in ministry! If you have not met any of these people, please take a moment and introduce yourself to them. You will be glad you did!

If you are considering church membership, please speak with our Membership Chair, Nina Román or Pastor Bob. As a child of God, we should all desire to find significance for His kingdom - and that comes through fellowship and service. As a member, we can help you find your purpose!



Easter Sunrise Service

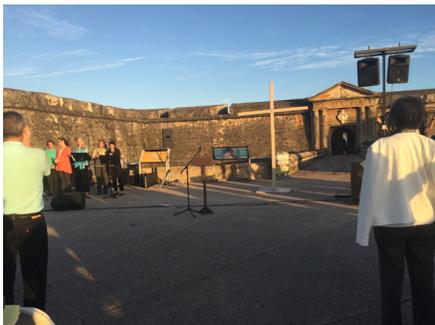
What an amazing backdrop God provided for this year's Sunrise Service at the entrance to El Morro Fort in Old San Juan.



This annual ecumenical event is organized by the ESPN (English Speaking Pastors' Network) ministry. People from local churches gather to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior as the sun rises through worship and the Word. It is truly a unique and glorious experience.



If you missed it this year, make sure to save the date for next year and experience Christ's resurrection in a new and rewarding way.



What Would You Love for Second Union Church?

The need to develop a clearer vision and mission for Second Union Church was suggested at a recent council meeting. As chairman of the Forward Planning Committee I realized that this was something that a team from our diverse community could work to develop.

So this is a HELP WANTED ad seeking members who are interested in envisioning, charting a path; or better yet, beginning the process of visioneering for Second Union Church with the aim towards becoming a dynamic, vibrant, creative community enthused with joyfully serving God. This needs to be a dynamic collaborative effort in order to solidly anchor this for Second Union Church.

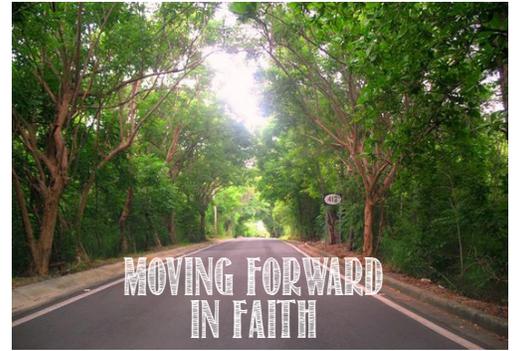
Examples of some ideas among the many that need to be pondered upon and defined include where or what would we love for Second Union to be in the next 5, 10, 25 or even 50 years. There may not be answers that we will know with great certainty but if we have a vision or path charted and are aligned with God's will I have faith we will moving in the right direction.

I have recently had the experience of realizing that we are truly and gracefully endowed with free will. For the longest time I have been asking God what does he want from me. I have realized that I have had it all backwards all along. What I truly should be asking is what do I want to do for Him! I need to align myself with His will, make a decision, but most importantly create a team and take action for nothing is in world is properly accomplished alone. I always remember Jesus said "wherever two or three are gathered together in My name I will be there."

So here is my Call to Action: looking for enthused dynamic people who are interested in supporting this process for the Church. It would be best to get together after the service but you can call or text me at 787-309-3663. I can also be reached via email at AnthonyCord@gmail.com but send me a short text message so I can review it in a timely fashion.

Thank you very much, I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Anthony Cordero



Young Life Golf Fundraiser



Team 2UC with Ivan Rodriguez (center): Brian Tester, Pastor Bob, Eduardo Canella, Tom Engfer

The first annual Young Life of Puerto Rico Golf tournament was held in April at the Plantation Golf Club in Dorado, Puerto Rico. It was a very well organized and entertaining event. Congratulations to the Young Life team and volunteers for their hard work!

Baseball Hall of Famer, Ivan 'Pudge' Rodriguez, was on hand for photos and each participant received a signed baseball!

"It was one of the most enjoyable golf tournaments that I have participated in!" 2UCer, Tom Engfer.

Don't miss next year's tournament and the chance to support this wonderful organization. Young Life is a worldwide organization that is primarily volunteer driven. Their mission is to reach youth for Christ through interactions with students in schools. If you'd

be interested in getting involved with Young Life, contact Anne Snow at agoch5992@gmail.com



Do you have a clear sense of vision and direction? Are you fulfilling God's purpose for your life?

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11



There is no doubt that God has a purpose for you - a powerful one. The question is whether or not you are aware of it or not. That is why the GPS seminar is such a valuable tool. Through a process of self-assessment you can discover what God is calling you to do for His kingdom. Maybe he wants you to get involved in a ministry or maybe he wants you reach out to a neighbor with support or mentor an associate at work.



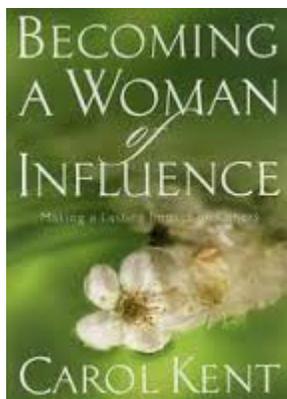
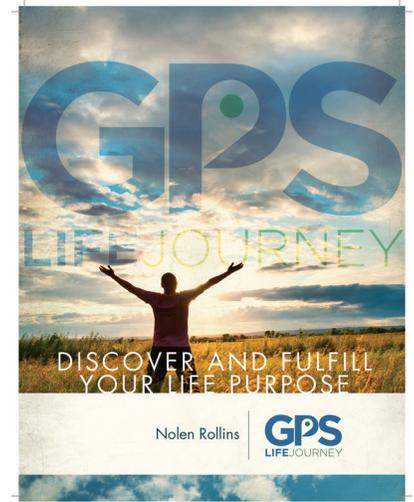
"GPS is an opportunity to discover what your gifts are - God's gifts to you and what your purpose in life is. I encourage every member and friend of our church to participate in this workshop. Don't delay." Pastor Bob Zoba

"I believe everyone should go through the GPS workshops. It will help you aim your type of personality, spiritual gifts, passions and talents in a powerful way to play your part in the work God is doing in the world." This course added an exceptional amount of clarity to my life! Now I know myself better, allowing me to lower the amount of procrastination and allocate my time to what I'm passionate about and good at." Gustavo Gonzalez, Youth Pastor

"I found the GPS process to be an excellent tool in determining my next steps in terms of serving God's kingdom. I wish everyone at Second Union could go through this course, as I think it reveals a clear path for them and helps them identify their gifts and how they can use them." Christie Curie Zoba

Dennis Glenn is offering this seminar for just \$15 which is an incredible opportunity. The online assessment alone is worth much, much more. The next courses begin this month, but the groups are limited to twelve participants, so you are encouraged to get in touch with him today to reserve your spot. Many area churches are enlisting him to lead this workshop at their churches, so take advantage of the opportunity you have for the next session here at Second Union.

You can contact him at glennnden@comcast.net or 239-293-4208. Or see him this morning at church.



Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study

We have just begun a new study, "Becoming A Woman Of Influence". I would encourage all of you who are available from noon to 2pm on Tuesdays to join us. The study is extremely pertinent to all of us, regardless of our place in life. We can all use our influence to make an impact on the lives of those in our midst. Through video sessions and meaningful reading, you can put to use the gifts that God has give you. See you on Tuesday! Bring a lunch, or you can buy one from Anita at \$10.

Contact Christie for more information at 787-717-4001.



When I wake up to brush my teeth in the morning, I glance at my reflection in the mirror, and I look presentable. And so begins my morning ritual, a cup a coffee, time reading the Bible, updating the Bible-reading and Spanish Facebook groups, etc. Then it's time to get ready for the day and as I put my contact lenses in, I glance in the mirror for a second time, and . . . whoa, what happened? The person looking back at me an hour or so ago looked fine, but now with clearer vision, I realize the sight is not very pretty - and I am not quite as 'presentable' as I had thought. I definitely need to do something with my hair and to be honest, a bit of makeup would certainly help. The funny thing is that this happens almost every day, I'm always taken by surprise at the contrast between what I see in the mirror with and without corrective lenses.

Our perception of our walk with the Lord is a bit like this. As we consider our relationship with Jesus, we can kind of mentally 'check off' the necessary components: going to church √; prayer √; time reading the Bible √; journaling √; serving others √; etc. Yet when we take the time to truly reflect on our relationship with the Lord, when we put on our 'spiritual' contact lenses, we can see a different panorama. Maybe we aren't really demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit - we realize we are short-tempered, impatient, critical, even resentful. And when we get the magnifying glass out for a little introspection, we may be surprised that the spiritual disciplines we practice may not in fact be contributing to that sense of oneness with God and devotion to Him that He desires. We may unintentionally be short-circuiting our connection with our Lord and Savior by not truly focusing on our relationship with Jesus.

So what do we do? Spiritual contact lenses would be great, if only . . . but . . . wait a minute! That is exactly what the role of the Holy Spirit is in our lives. The Spirit was given to us to help us focus on the Lord. It serves as an internal compass, to help us discern God's path for our lives. When truly relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we can see God in His creation, we can sense His presence in our lives, we can hear Him speaking to us through His Word, through others, through open doors.

So if for any reason, you are feeling somewhat of a distance between you and God, then it's time to grab that life line! Call on the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit to help you bridge the gap between an unfocused view and a clear vision.

And you will reap the benefits of the purpose-driven life in Christ!

Second Union Church



Outreach Corner

Eyeglasses, blankets, clothing and rice were just a few of the ongoing drives during the Spring at 2UC. The Outreach committee and the Men's Ministry committee are anxious to help you find a good home for no-longer needed items.

If you have anything you would like to donate, please see Don Julio. We do ask that donated items are clean and in good condition!



April has been busy months for the Backpack Program . . . but then again, every month is a busy one for the Backpack Program! We received a new rack to store donated food which has contributed significantly to our aim to consolidate products and make the backpack room more efficient!

Anthony Cordero has graciously accepted an invitation to help organize and provide more structure to the program!

Thanks to all who volunteer so selflessly: Mike and Chris Strong, Loraine Colón, Amarilis and Dennis Gonzalez, Pastor Bob, Dennis & Linda Glenn, Humbelina Treviño; Brenda Ferrer, Janie Deloatch, Mike Lallave, Rosa Trinidad, Ivelisse Torres, Loida & Steve Spivak, the prayer pals, Yoav Cohen, and so many more. We are very grateful.



Soon we will be having a Backpack Ministry meeting, so if you are interested in becoming an active part of this ministry - please let Christie know. We welcome all who have a heart to serve!!



Así lo decimos: Spanish Conversation Group



El dicho del domingo:
Borrón y cuenta nueva.
Let's start afresh - put the past behind. / Turn over a new leaf.
/ wipe the slate clean

Note: Un borrón is actually a smudge, a blot, but in this case it's like - erase the smudge and start anew. Borrón, comes from the verb "borrar" to erase, to delete.

those who have a basic knowledge of Spanish but are looking for an opportunity to practice in a non-threatening environment. We met every Tuesday from 10am to 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to join us, you just need to bring a notebook and pen, an open mind and a willingness to speak! There is no cost. Contact Christie for more information: 787-717-4001.

The translation of the image above is:

Today, God gifts you with / a pencil with which to make beautiful plans
An eraser so you can erase a sorrowful past / and a crayon so you can color a new day.
¡Borrón y Cuenta Nueva!



The Outreach Gala was held on Saturday, April 29 with the purpose of recognizing and blessing the many organizations which Second Union Church supports each week through your tithes and offerings. These are some of the best people on the island doing some very important things as they feed the homeless, bring sight to the blind, give "hearing" to the deaf, liberate those who have been abused, nurture those who have been abandoned, and bring good news to a world that needs to receive it.



Don Julio Rivera, Outreach Committee Chair, led the program which included a concert from our own Luis Manuel Tirado and guest cellist, Hazel Thais Rivera. Each of the agencies was recognized and presented with a check from Second Union. Isabel Fernandez Candelario closed the service with a beautiful rendition of "How Great Thou Art - Cuan Grande Es".



Second Union faithfully gives over 10% of all income from tithes and offerings to organizations and individuals in Puerto Rico and around the world who are serving on the front lines for God's Kingdom.

Thanks to the Outreach committee and all who helped make this event a success. Irma Lallave, Irma Torres, Edda Sustache and Rosa Trinidad provided a beautiful reception for all of those attending.

