

2014

2nd Thoughts

JANUARY
2014

Happy New Year!

Second Union Church

The name for the month of January is derived from the Roman god Janus. Janus was a two-faced god. That is, he looked both ways, forward and back. This is an appropriate image as most of us take the occasion of a new year as an opportunity to look back and evaluate last year and make plans for the year ahead. There is much that we can learn from the past, or, as one sage put it, if we don't learn from history then we are damned to repeat it. Likewise, it was Einstein who said that the definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over again and expect different results. If you have been getting poor results from last year's behavior, don't expect any different results this year, unless, of course, you change your behavior. A new year is a good time to evaluate and make some of those changes.



However, as Christians we must also remind ourselves that in Christ the past is forgiven. It was the apostle Paul who said in his epistle to the Philippians that he forgets that which is past and presses on toward the goal. The goal, of course, is to be conformed to the image of Christ. Thus our main focus is to that end: to be like Christ. One way that we might do that is to fill our hearts and minds with His revelation. That is found most clearly in the Bible, the Word of God. Therefore, if you have not done it already, enlist in Christie's program to read through the entire Bible in the next year. It is not too late to do so. The results will be astounding. I guarantee it.

By reading God's Word every day, He will speak to you about behaviors that you need to change. Your changed behavior will lead to new and wonderful results. So too, as the old saying goes, as we look to the future, we do not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future. God's Word will assure you of that reality the more you read it. Therefore, you will be able to enter into this New Year with a sense of security, direction and optimism that the world can never know.

Happy reading and Happy New Year!

Pastor Bob

Sunday Services
10:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School
9:00am

Sunday School
PK-12
10:30am

Choir Practice
9am & 11:30am

Weekly Activities

Ladies Bible Study
Tuesdays 12-2

Small Group
@ the Rivera's
Tuesday 7pm

Men's Breakfast
Wednesday 7am

Women's Study
Wednesday 7pm

Prayer Service
Thursday 7pm

Second Union Church
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Rev. Robert Zoba

2nd Union Church, "Evangelical in Service"

Our church is run by the people. The congregation will from time to time be asked to vote upon questions affecting our community. One of these questions will be addressed during our next corporate meeting, to be held on January 26, 2014.

The question that I am referring to requires a simple "Yes or No": Should we adopt the byline: "Evangelical in service" after our name. The legal name of the church will remain "Second Union Church" this will not change.

The reason for this unofficial slogan after our name, is to help non members to distinguish this church as a Christ-based mainline protestant Christian church. There will be no changes in our mission or day to day activities in our church life. It is hoped that nonmembers will be afforded the knowledge of who we are and therefore become members.

We all want our church to grow. We want to spread our message throughout the world.

Please pray over this matter because your vote counts.

It is my hope and fondest desire that the will of the congregation be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Blessings to each and every one of you, Your servant in Jesus,

Brother Joseph Calcolli
Forward Planning Committee Chair

2013-2014 2UC Church Council & Staff

Pastor
Rev. Robert Zoba

President
Luis Alberto Rivera

Vice President
John Alberts

Treasurer
Stan Pinkerton

Secretary
Ana Victoria Guzmán

Worship
Maylie Colón

Outreach
Julio Rivera

Property
Juan Gonzalez

Christian Education
Elsy Perez

Staff-Congregation Relations
Efraín Droz

Membership
Debbie Garcia

Fellowship
Christie Zoba

Nominating
Carlos Garcia de la Noceda

Forward Planning
Joe Calcolli

Women's Ministries Team Leader
Anita Rodriguez

Youth Pastor
Ricardo Jusino

Office Manager
Mabel Varela

Minister of Music
Luis Manuel Tirado

Choir Director
Dave Virginia

Newsletter & Website Editor
Christie Zoba

We know from Scripture that Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham seated on David's throne. Both gospel writers Matthew and Luke go to great length to trace Jesus' genealogy (Matt. 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38). In Genesis 22:18, God promised that all nations would be blessed through the house of Abraham. The prophet Isaiah prophesied that Christ would reign forever on David's throne. Both of Messiah's genealogies show that He alone could claim direct lineage from both of these great men of God.

After 400 years of absolute silence, a period of time known as the silent years in which no Biblical prophet spoke or wrote, the New Testament opens with the genealogy of the long awaited King of the Jews: "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1).

Matthew has broken the silence. Messiah's birth has been proclaimed. Israel's long awaited King, the One whom the prophets of old prophesied would come hundreds of years before His birth, made His quiet, unassuming entrance into human history ; "A Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12); the Word made flesh.

There are two genealogies in the Synoptic Gospels: one traces Messiah's ancestry through Joseph (Matt. 1:1-17), the "oft-forgotten man" in the Christmas story; and the other through the virgin Mary (Luke 3: 23-38), "the human vessel of the Divine incarnation." Why two genealogies which are identical between Abraham and David, yet radically different from that point forward? Why the inclusion of 5 women in Matthew's genealogy, and some with quite "colorful pasts" as Pastor Bob would say?

Both genealogies reveal that Mary and Joseph were directly descended from David, an Old Testament requirement for kingship (2 Samuel 7:16). It is logical to assume that Joseph was the heir apparent to David's throne. At the time of Jesus' birth, the Jews were under the iron rule of imperial Rome, and no man from "the house of David" had been allowed to sit on the throne for over 600 years. Herod was not the king of Israel, but a governor of Judea appointed by the Emperor of Rome. The man who really had the throne rights of "the house of David" was Joseph, yet God had placed a curse on his royal bloodline since the time of Jeconiah (Jeremiah 22:30). The curse precluded his descendants from ever sitting on the throne. The purpose of Jesus' genealogy in Matthew is to show that had Joseph been Jesus' father according to the flesh, Jesus could never have occupied the throne for God's word barred the way. Hence Messiah's ancestry as told by Luke. Luke traces Jesus' ancestry through Mary, back to David through Nathan (son of David), not Jeconiah (Luke 3:31). There was no curse on this royal line, therefore demonstrating Jesus' legal inheritance of the throne of David.

Today, Jesus the King of kings sits on the throne of our hearts. Let us "prepare Him room."

Peace,

Mayra Chipi

Second Union Church

Lisa Gervitz Defendini and Daniel Defendini gave birth to Sophia on November 21st. She is so precious in God's sight - and in ours! Many blessings to Lisa, Daniel and big sister, Daniela.



Edda Gonzalez Benz and husband Fernando Benz dedicated their newborn son, Lucas.



Our very own, Joellen Ramon was married to Michael Segal on December 14th. It was a beautiful wedding - Joellen looked stunning in her beautiful dress surrounded by her bridesmaids including sisters, Angela, Adrienne and Jennifer, in red!



Bill Stowell, roving reporter, (and very proud father) sends in the following:



WORLD NEWS RELEASE:
Second thoughts: AP Bill Stowell's Four Children "Make it!"

Daughter Cristina Michelle now has Commercial Pilot ranking. She graduated from Emory-Riddle Aeronautical University with honors.



Son Billy Stowell, MBA specializes in helping children with Autism, (He and his mate have provided Bill Sr. with three grand children.)

Cherish Lexvold was engaged to Hector Gonzalez on the shores of Lake Michigan. We are so happy for the two of you - may the Lord bless you!



Lawyer daughter Nicole just past the Federal Bar.

Daughter Giselle is excelling in Real Estate, a graduate of U of Miami, with honors. Soon to begin her studies in nutrition and physical fitness.



Christie and Pastor Bob spent a week in Florida with Christie's family. The newest addition to the clan, baby Sebastian, was on hand to provide an extra-special dose of Christmas joy!



Heart to Heart Serving the Homeless in Old San Juan: Paranda-Style

On the third Monday of December, the Second Union team descended upon Plaza Ballaja with not only a delicious meal, but also a musical production. As the men and women ate they were serenaded by Puerto Rican Christmas carols. Thanks to all who came to serve: Bill Stowell, Jannette Quiles, Yolanda Cruz, Conchi Gonzalez, Maria Cristina Gonzalez, and Ari Tester
Thanks also to those who came to per-



form: Luis Alberto Rivera and Freddy Becker on the guitars and singers Lorraine Rivera, Brian Tester, Edwin Perez, Michael Strong, and Pastor Bob. And of course this monthly event could not take place without the cooking, clean-up and transportation crew: Rosa Trinidad, Irma Lallave, Edda Sustache, Chinye Mordi, Mike Lallave, Franki Cruz, Carlos Sepulveda and of course to our Head Honcho, Don Julio Rivera!



Second Union Church serves a meal to the homeless on the third and fifth Mondays of each month. If you'd like to be a part of this ministry, see Don Julio Rivera, Outreach Chair.



Second Union Church



On December 21st the Christian Education Committee hosted its annual Happy Birthday Jesus party. The turn out was excellent with over 40 kids in attendance. The kids enjoyed the jump house, crafts, games, snacks and a whole lot more. Edith Perez kicked it off by reading the story about Jesus' birth. We sang the traditional "Happy Birthday" song to Jesus and enjoyed some birthday cake. It was such a blessing to see so many kids enjoying themselves and learning about Jesus' birth.





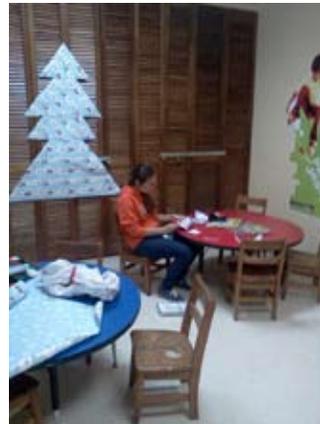
Thanks to all who helped make this a great event! Edith, Elsy, Jannette, Paloma, Jose, Andrea, Dalia, Brenda, Milly and others.

On the day after the party, the children gathered in front of the congregation during the Children's sharing time and sang the "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" song!

Upcoming Events

We are hoping to launch the 2UC Family Support Group in February-March. More details to follow in the next month.

Second Union Church



This year's theme for our Second Union Church annual Christmas Bazaar was "Prince of Peace" and it was surely an ac-

tivity that was blessed with the peace of Christ. The most important element of the annual Bazaar is prayer, and the Women's Ministry Team made this 'the' priority from start to finish. Preparations for the Bazaar began in January with our crafters working on homemade Christmas decor throughout the year under the watchful eye of Thelma Rivera. A special thanks to Alta Goosen for her artistic flair, industriousness and provision as well as Irma Torres who was a constant source of joy and creativity! There was a crew of other crafters helping throughout the year, and what a blessing they have been!

All of our 'elves' kicked into gear in September as the final planning is put into place. This year's Bazaar was extra exceptional as our sales and proceeds surpassed previous years in spite of a dismal economy. There are so many people to thank for their hard work and hours of dedication; it would be impossible to thank everyone. We are very grateful to our Women's Ministries Team Leader, Anita Rodriguez as she was our Bazaar Coordinator and Encourager, not to mention a baker par excellence.



Our 2014 Bazaar was blessed with special performances by the Evangelical School for the Deaf Bell Choir. Our favorite teen musical diva, Natalia McCormack, graced us with two sets of Christmas pop music. What a beautiful voice she has!



Cadiz Rodriguez did a fabulous job in charge of the Tombola - it's the first time that we've had a teenager head up one of the major areas of the Bazaar!



We are grateful to our kitchen crew! Running the Bazaar Bistro may not be the most glamorous job, but the results were delicious! Mayra Chipi and Marisela were our master prep chefs and we couldn't have done it without Milly, Evelyn, Rose, Rosa and so many more.

The Bazaar Bake Table was a huge hit - thanks to all of you who volunteered to bake and to staff the table.

And of course, we were so blessed by those strong 'young' men and women who showed up to set-up and tear-down. Pastor Bob, Michael Strong, Chris Strong, Julio Rodriguez, John Alberts, Freddy Becker, Dennis Gonzalez, Amarilis Lebrón, Ramón China. Joaquín Rodriguez and others. And thanks to our financial gurus: Stan Pinkerton, Scott Woodward, Ana Woodward, Adurey Wilcox . . . the list goes on and on!



I guess you can see that the Bazaar is a well-oiled machine, because of all the intelligent and capable people who step up to the plate to help out.



So many others were instrumental to this year's Bazaar success - too many to name. We thank you so much for your hard work and we congratulate you for such a successful event. Our proceeds go to the ministries that Women's Ministries support in Puerto Rico and around the world!

This year's Christmas Cantata was truly a blessing. It went very smoothly from beginning to end. Thanks to our director, Carlos Rivera, our expert pianist, Luis Manuel Tirado and our wonderful choir.



Backpack Program

Our Backpack Program is going strong as we provide backpacks of food each week to 30 needy children at a Guaynabo area public school.

This program, sponsored by the Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico and the Women's Ministries, provides nourishment to children who have been designated as 'food insecure'. If you'd like to be a part of this ministry, please see Christie Zoba, Laurie Yost or Anita Rodriguez.



A big thanks to all who have contributed financially and with their time to make this ministry a blessing.





Thursday Evening Prayer Meeting

We are all called to serve the Lord, and praying is one way that you can perform a mighty ministry for Jesus. Each Thursday evening at 7pm, a handful of committed 2UC members meet to praise our Lord and lift up the prayers of our congregation and beyond. We meet in the Conference Room. We encourage you to join us and pray with us for our church, our ministries and the concerns on our hearts.

Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study

The Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study is now 20-strong and growing! Our next study, "Discerning the Voice of God" by Priscilla Shirer will begin on January 13. Lunch is available for \$8, or you can bring your own. If you'd like more information, please contact Christie Zoba (787-717-4001 or zoba129@gmail.com). We'd love to see a few new faces! Childcare is available.



2UC Youth

We were able to remember God's blessings for the past year and celebrate together in the Jusino home with a Christmas dinner. We ate a lot and played fun games together.

Also some of our youth helped in our annual bazaar with their talents and service. We are very proud of our three kings who collected the offering during the Candlelight Service.



1 de enero del 2014



El mundo esta en cambio. De hecho, hay un dicho de que lo único constante es el cambio. Las computadoras, los teléfonos celulares, el internet, los video juegos etc. son algo que ha cambiado nuestro mundo.

Con todo el cambio, un gran porciento de nuestra población no conoce los tiempos en que la gente dependía del teléfono de línea, las cartas a través del correo, el televisor análogo, la música en disco de 45 revoluciones de "agujita" etc.

Todos nosotros que tenemos las canitas tenemos un sin numero de recuerdos de esos tiempos anteriores. Hoy 1 de enero me estaba recordando de algo que quiero compartir con ustedes.

Desde el 1979 al 1981 vivimos en la base Ramey en Aguadilla. Yo estaba a cargo de la construcción de las tuberías troncales de Rincón, Aguada y Aguadilla y una planta de tratamiento de aguas usadas en Aguada.

El 1ero de enero era un día especial porque ese día se celebraban 4 juegos de futbol colegial. Se jugaba el Cotton Bowl en Dallas Texas a las 1:00PM, el Rose Bowl en Pasadena California a las 4:00 PM, el Sugar Bowl en Nuevo Orleans y el Orange Bowl en Miami a las 10:00PM. El problema era que unos de esos juegos lo transmitía una estación de televisión de Mayagüez y otros juegos lo transmitía una estación de Aguadilla.

Usualmente mi antena estaba orientada hacia Mayagüez pero en ese día yo tenía que subirme al techo de mi carro para subir al techo y rotar la antena para buscar la señal mas clara de la transmisión. Yo tenía que rotar la antena y decirle a mi esposa que estuviera pendiente de la señal en el televisor para posicionar la antena en la dirección correcta. Luego tenía que subirme otra vez para ver el otro juego que venia en otro canal. Así tenía que hacerlo 3-4 veces ese día para disfrutar de todos los juegos importantes. Después conseguí un rotor eléctrico donde pude girar la antena desde mi sala.

Jamás pensé que ese trabajo se eliminaría en el futuro con el "cable". La tecnología ha cambiado todo eso para la gran mayoría de esta generación, pero me acuerdo con alegría de eso tiempos y las maniobras que tuve que hacer para ver mis juegos favoritos.

Dennis González

Happy
New Year!

