



An Encouraging Word

Someone once said that the calling of a preacher is to “afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted”. This is good advice as each of us, at some point, either needs to be exhorted, challenged, and convicted of sin or we need to be encouraged, comforted, and assured in our salvation. Unfortunately, we preachers often find it more tempting to afflict the comfortable with fiery preaching rather than comfort the afflicted with encouraging words.



Pastor Bob Zoba

Therefore, in order to guard against that tendency, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage our congregation for its wonderful response to the needs of our good brother, Stan Pinkerton. Stan, as most of you know, has been living in Puerto Rico for many years as a single adult and apart from any family. So too, all of us, who know Stan, are aware of his commitment to the Lord, his willingness to serve as our Treasurer, lead our adult Sunday School class, participate in the Emmaus Community, and even donate one of his own kidneys to a friend in need. Therefore, since Stan has no immediate family here, we, as a church, serve as his spiritual family. And that is part of our calling to the many expats among us.

I am so happy to note that 2UC certainly fulfilled that part of our calling during Stan’s recent emergency. After feeling chest pains late one evening, Stan made a visit to Ashford Hospital for help. During testing, they informed him that he was having a heart attack. As an aside, if you are going to have a heart attack, what better place to have one than in a hospital? By God’s grace, the Ashford medical staff was able to immediately tend to him and transport him to Pavia Hospital for an emergency, cardiac catheterization.

Now, remember, since Stan has no family here, he was totally alone in this process. And by now, it was past midnight. By God’s grace, one of the nurses from the Presby accompanied Stan to Pavia and was able to get some contact information from him en route. Thus, the call I received in the middle of the night was from her. Unbeknownst to me, however, she had also called our good sister, Livia Roman, for help. Since Livia does not drive, she felt compelled to call Brenda Ferrer, who does drive, for assistance. Since Brenda figured Stan would need a second driver to get the car that he left at the hospital, she secured the help of our other dear sister, Hilda. Consequently, shortly after I arrived at Pavia Hospital at about 2am, I was promptly joined by Livia, Brenda, and Hilda. Never in my pastoral career have I ever seen so many church members respond so quickly to someone in the hospital in the

Sunday Services
10:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School
9:00am

Sunday School
PK-12
10:30am

Choir Practice
Sundays 12pm
Thursdays 7pm

Weekly Activities

Ladies Bible Study
Tuesdays noon-2pm

Small Group
@ the Rivera’s
Tuesday 7pm

Men’s Breakfast
Wednesday 7am

Women’s Study
Wednesday 7pm

Prayer Service
Thursday 7pm

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Rev. Robert Zoba

wee hours of the morning. I was impressed. And I believe the attending physician was equally impressed, and maybe a little bit intimidated by such an entourage.

Immediately after his surgery, we were all able to visit with Stan briefly and assure him that his church family would take care of his personal effects, his car, and whatever else he needed. Brenda Ferrer, in particular, did a heroic job of cutting through the legendary red tape of hospital admissions to make sure Stan was properly matriculated since he had come via the emergency room in distress. Likewise, in the hours and days that followed, Stan was showered with prayers, phone calls, care packages, and numerous hospital visits from 2UC members. I have to believe the hospital thought Stan was some sort of VIP because of the attention he received. And he is a VIP... in the Lord.

But the bottom line is: I was so very proud of the response of our 2UC congregation to the needs of our brother in need. I believe we, as a church are called to be a family to those without a family. Until Stan's dear daughter, Peggy, arrived, we were called to be that family. May we be encouraged by the fact that we lived up to our calling as the family of Christ to one another. May we also be encouraged to be what we are called to be: a family to all who have need.

Blessings!

Pastor Bob

Presenting our New 2UC Church Council

At the May 25th Congregational Meeting, the new Second Union Church Council Chairpersons were unanimously voted into their respective positions. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and their commitment to Second Union Church.



It is our duty to pray for them and to support them and encourage them as they lead the administrative and ministry functions of the church. Take a moment to prayerfully consider serving on one of the Council committees. We are all called to use our gifts and talents for God's kingdom, and serving on council committees is a great way to answer that call.

Each month, in this newsletter, we will feature one of our Council members. Please check out this month's bio of Janette Quiles, our new Nominating Chairperson (page 9).

2014-2015 Second Union Church Council & Staff

Pastor
Rev. Robert Zoba

President
David Román

Vice President
Julio Rodriguez

Treasurer
Stan Pinkerton

Secretary
Ari Tester

Worship
Maylie Colón

Outreach
Edda Sustache

Property
Juan Gonzalez

Christian Education
Elsy Perez

Staff-Congregation Relations
Efraín Droz

Membership
Eze Ebube

Fellowship
Rosa Trinidad

Nominating
Janette Quiles

Forward Planning
Joe Calcolli

Women's Ministries Team Leader
Anita Rodriguez

Men's Ministry Team Leader
John Alberts

Office Manager
Mabel Varela

Minister of Music
Luis Manuel Tirado

Choir Director
Carlos Rivera

Newsletter & Website Editor
Christie Zoba

Small Group Study Opportunities

<u>Time</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Description & Subject</u>	<u>Place</u>
9:00 am	Sundays	Adult Bible Study	Bazaar Room at 2UC
noon-2pm	Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study: Gideon	Fellowship Hall at 2UC
7pm	Tuesdays	Adult Bible Study: Genesis	Rivera's home in San Francisco
7am	Wednesdays	Men's Breakfast	Fellowship Hall at 2UC
7pm	Wednesdays	Women's Bible Study	Anita Rodriguez' home Rio Piedras Hts.
7pm	Thursdays	Adult Prayer Meeting	2UC Conference Room

Preventing Home Invasion

A Special 2UC Men's Ministry Workshop

Date: Wednesday, July 2, 2014
 Place: Second Union Church, Fellowship Hall
 Time: 6:30 pm
 Subject: Preventing Home Invasion
 Speaker: Lieutenant Pablo Santiago of the Guaynabo Police Department



You are invited to attend this special workshop which will address strategies and techniques to protect your home against crime. Please RSVP by contacting the church office at 787-720-4423. For more information contact Joe Calcolli at 787-504-5118.

Men's Ministry Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 14, 2014 • 8:30 a.m.
Rio Mar Country Club

Volunteers Needed:

Help greeting players at arrival
 Helping register participants
 Helping in giving out breakfast sandwiches (By Subway) & lunch
 Directing traffic (making sure players know where they're going)
 Help with award ceremony

Sponsors Needed:

Hole Sponsor: \$500.00
 Two (2) Spots for play
 Logo on a specific hole
 Breakfast and lunch included
 Mention at the award ceremony
 Non-hole sponsor (\$\$\$ or items for raffle or goody bags)
 Mention at the award ceremony



All monetary donations should be: **Check or Money Order in name of (Second Union Church.)**

All proceeds will be divided for: Palmas Church (building fund), Young Life, & Puerto Rico American Football Club Corp.



Noah Martinez is the newest addition to the 2UC family. He is the son of proud parents, **James and Coralie!!!** Have you ever seen a more beautiful mom just hours after the birth?? Congrats!!

Ohio native, Jared Adams, is happy that the Cavs got the number one draft pick and that the Browns picked up Johnny "Football" Manziel? (And so is Pastor Bob.)

Kris Adams was an exchange student to Switzerland and thus is fluent in French?

The **Men's Ministry** had a successful Saturday morning kick off breakfast? (And yes, there was bacon ;-)

Freddy Becker proved his weight in gold at the church fix up day as he and Tim Adams were able to fix just about anything that needed fixed.

David Benson did an outstanding job with our teen Sunday School until Gustavo came on board? Thanks, David, for your great work with the kids?

Gustavo, Sasha, Dylan, and Nailah May have been a wonderful addition to our church family? Gustavo is jumping into his ministry as our youth leader and we are blessed by his compassion for the Lord and youth



Joe Calcolli is putting together a Christmas CD featuring the great musical talent of 2UC?

Willie Chin's job has brought back to PR more than he originally expected and we sure are glad?

Jose, Paloma, and Raul Aymat will be relocating to Florida on June 6th;-(We sure will miss these sweet and wonderful folks.)



Ramón Chinaea is an excellent organizer as he was very instrumental in setting up the recent fund raiser for Youth Life at Escambrón as well as our upcoming 3d Annual Golf Tournament at Rio Mar? (If you haven't signed up yet, there's still time.)

Carlos & Mayra Chipi are traversing the super-highways of Europe? Carlos is the Porsche driver and Mayra is the navigator. (check out Mayra's article on page

Yadira de Jesús made a return visit to 2UC recently and we immediately put her to work as she sang a very powerful offertory song for the congregation?

Dennis "Speedy" Gonzalez will be racing around the brickyard at the Indy 500 and **Amarilis** will be leading her tennis team to another Nationals tourney? Congrats!



Manny Fernandez and **Pastor Bob** share a love for the Miami Heat and hope they go all the way to win the National championship?

Rashel Krankovich passed her boards and will be working at a great children's hospital in Columbus, OH? For those of you new to our family, Rashel was our youth pastor from 2005-2011!

Audrey Wilcox was able to pull off a surprise for **JB** by flying down their daughter Hannah? JB thought they were at the airport to pick up the Fosters and found daughter Hannah there instead.

Steve & Loida Spivak recently made an amazing trip to Turkey?

The **Fosters** and the **Zobas** have decided that the **Yosts** cannot not leave the island...at least not anytime soon? The reason: Pastor Bob would miss David as his tennis partner (and medical consultant) and Christie would miss all the help Laurie provides in the Backpack program (and so many other areas of service). So too, the Fosters' little William would be without his adopted grandparents.



J.J. Valdés graduated from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas on May 17th. A contingent of 9 traveled to the big D for this momentous occasion! J.J. begins working for ADP on June 2nd. Congratulations J.J. (and Christie!)



Anita & Cadiz Rodriguez recently made a trip to Washington, DC where they linked up with **Christopher** and **Becky O'Meara** and **Circe Torruella**?



Ron & Raquel Seely have a matching set now as God has blessed them with little **Leah Victoria**, born on May 24 at 9:30 p.m.? Raquel writes that she looks just like her brother Abraham, except her hair is

brown! We all loved seeing the video of Abraham dancing to his sister's heartbeat during a recent sonogram!

Debbie Garcia is doing an excellent job in leading the home Bible study at Luis Alberto & Lorraine's house? They are studying the Book of Genesis.

Susanne Myles loves the challenge of making and baking just about anything from scratch?

George and Joan McMurray are doing an excellent job of leading up our 50th Anniversary committee?

Cherish Lexvold and Hector are counting the days until their upcoming wedding at the swanky Casa de España?



Isabel Fernandez is very proud of her daughter, Akeelah, who received "Alto Honor" with a 4.0! Praise the Lord!



Edwin Perez just returned from a trip to Scotland?

Elsy Perez' daughter, Cuqui graduated from kindergarten!



Julio Rivera, Mike Strong and Chris strong recently made a trip to Hogar Santa Ana to deliver some much needed items?

Mother and son duo, **Xavi and Madelyn**, performed a beautiful duet on Mother's Day Sunday!



IF YOU ARE A PARENT OF A 7TH TO 12 GRADER . . .



AND REGISTER WITH THE NEW YOUTH PASTOR
 YOU CAN TEXT OR EMAIL:
 YOUR NAME - CHILD'S NAME - EMAIL & PHONE NUMBER
 @
 787-634-4776 OR gagonzalezrod@gmail.com

The Adolescent Years

By: Elsy Perez

The most challenging area of growth for an adolescent is the process of individualization. Chap Clark, a well-known practitioner, adolescent and family scholar, and author informs us that adolescence is the period of life between childhood and adulthood. An adolescent has to let go of his childhood, where perhaps they were completely dependent on their parents and begin embracing the fact that they are becoming their own independent person. This is challenging because as they go through this process they may struggle with their identity and how they can become their own person. Identity is just one of three tasks that adolescents go through. The second task is that of autonomy. With this task, adolescents are trying to figure out just how much power or control they have over their own choices. Third is the task of belonging. An adolescent may realize that they are no longer a child and as they mature and they may wonder where their place is at home and in their community.



Clark also states that for the parent of the adolescent, the most challenging area is acknowledging that the journey into adolescence is not about them. It is important for parents to understand the journey their adolescent is going through. The parent's role should be to support their adolescent throughout the process by asking them questions and having the patience to wait for their response without trying to jump in and solve their issues for them. Listening to their adolescent is also very important. An adolescent may feel the need to talk about what they are going through, whether it is puberty, sex or any other emotional issue during their transition and it is important for the parent to just listen to them so they can feel validated. Finally, parents must communicate with their adolescent. Parents should let their kids know that they love them and that they are their number one supporter.

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4



2013]. The whole team was mesmerized by the powerful speaking and teaching. We were challenged and encouraged to continue our pursuit of following Jesus and making disciples. Since that time the Tuesday bible study class has delved into three of her books and one she co-authored with Beth Moore and Kay Arthur.

Christine Caine remained a little more elusive. I saw posts of hers popping up on friends' Facebook pages and curiosity drove me to find out more about her. She heads up an organization called A21 that is dedicated to stopping human trafficking around the world.

This conference began to look more 'meaty' and less cheesy. I asked God if this was something He wanted me to participate in. After much prayer and a lot of saving [thanks, Dave Ramsey!], airline tickets were purchased and travel plans were made.

Now it's May 20th and I'm sitting in my seat as the house lights go down. The worship and praise band hit the stage. From this moment on, nothing is like anything I've ever experienced, sure I've sung upbeat, toe tapping Jesus loving songs before. Yes, I've listen to powerful speakers who spoke with authority and conviction of the Holy Spirit. But I have never had such amazing answers to questions I've put before God come with such rapid fire clarity and precision.

I have followed Jesus for many, many years, with many mountain top experiences as well wilderness or desert times. I have served Him with the gifts He has given me and with His special provision for those tasks I was not especially gifted. I have walk along side Him with my eyes on the "prize", with my eyes shut tight, and with my eyes open and not seeing a thing. I have walked by Him with confidence, with panic, with doubt, and with fear, trusting Him to continue to lead me on. I have also dug in and stood firm when He has told to me stay put. I have rebelled, obeyed, submitted, and dragged my heels. Through all of this, asking Him if I was on the right path, if I was still holding onto His hand.

During those two days at the conference I found out that "It is time to move on, to get ready, to remember, and to stand firm." Move on from a point of insecurity and fear to place of trust and confidence in His promises. To get ready, because everywhere I set my foot He is going to give over to me. "Do whatever He tells you to do" [how often do I need to hear this before it takes root in my heart and is acted out daily??], and do not be discouraged.



About a year ago I was invited to a women's conference in DC. I was warned these events tend to be a bit "cheesy" but if I could overlook that I might enjoy the speakers. At that time I did not recognize the names of the speakers, Priscilla Shirer and Christine Caine, but as the year sped passed me, these two names popped up over and over.

Christie Zoba introduced me to Priscilla Shirer when she brought a video of Priscilla speaking at a conference in Australia [Hillsong church] to the 2UC women's ministry team leaders retreat [August



Get ready. "The Lord your God will give you rest after we do battle" To remember, because we've forgotten what we've been freed to do. Fear can be a great paralyze. And finally, we are to stand firm. Not allowing ourselves to be swayed by each gust of criticism or adversity, but to stand firm because we stand on the solid rock of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit seems to ask me, "Are you ready?" Well, get ready, because the adventure begins now.

Anita Rodriguez

Rahab

Rahab was a prostitute, a Canaanite, a Gentile, who lived in the city of Jericho at the time the Israelites were preparing to destroy the city and conquer the land. The Canaanites were descendants of Canaan, son of Ham, one of Noah's three sons by whom all the earth was populated following the great flood (Genesis 10:15-20). The Canaanites were a wicked, idolatrous people whom God had warned during the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, yet they had failed to pay Him heed and turn from their wicked ways. Now God was preparing to destroy their power and give the land to the Israelites.

Rahab's story is a beautiful story of salvation through faith, a salvation received and lived by faith alone. She had heard of the God of the Israelites and His mighty deeds. How He had parted the waters of the Red Sea for their safe passage in the exodus from Egypt, and what He had done to their enemies beyond the Jordan river, and she believed: "The Lord your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below" (Josh. 2:11). Not only did Rahab believe in the God of the Israelites, but she also trusted in Him and acted on her faith.

We're introduced to Rahab in the Old Testament Book of Joshua. She is mentioned three more times in Scripture, all in the New Testament: in Matt. 1:5 as an ancestor of Jesus' Christ; in Heb. 11:31, the "Faith Hall of Fame" chapter, listed among the giants of faith; and in Jas. 2:29 as a woman justified by works, the fruit of her great faith. Both in Hebrews and James she is referred to as "Rahab the prostitute." It is amazing how God uses those whom we would tend to frown upon or judge for their lack of moral character to accomplish His divine purposes.

As the exodus comes to a close and Moses is dead, the Israelites prepare to enter the promised land under Joshua's command after forty years of desert wandering. Two spies are sent to spy out the land, specially the city of Jericho to assess its military strength. Jericho was the first military stronghold the Israelites would have to defeat in their conquest of the promised land. "Then Joshua son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies saying, "Go view the land, specially Jericho." So they went, and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and spent the night there" (Josh. 2:1). What were these spies doing in a prostitute's house while on the job? Scripture doesn't tell us, but it must have been God's providence that led them there. The Israelites were seeking to destroy Jericho, and Rahab could have stopped them. She could have turned them over to the authorities, yet she chose to act on her faith in the God of the Israelites and instead betrayed her people. Rahab didn't know how this would turn out for her, yet she chose to step out in faith and trust God with the outcome. She hid the spies under bundles of flax that were spread on the roof of her house, and spared their lives. She also reported to them that the entire city was in terror of them, and that God had already delivered the city into their hands. In return for her acts of kindness and faithfulness, Rahab asked the spies to make her an oath that they would spare her and her household when the city was taken. They agreed to her request, "Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the outer side of the city wall and she resided within the wall" (Josh. 2:15). She sent them on their way, promising to reveal the purpose of their visit to no one, "Then she tied the crimson cord in the window" (Josh. 2:21) as she had been told to do by the spies. The scarlet cord would mark her house so it would be spared during the city's imminent destruction.

The crimson cord here speaks of safety through the blood. Rahab wasn't saved as a result of her deeds of kindness, but through the blood of Christ, the precious blood of our Savior and Redeemer. Through the blood of the Lamb, we are also marked and spared the destruction that is to come in the last days, the "time of Jacob's trouble," the Great Tribulation, upon the sons of disobedience, those who have

heard of the Son of God yet rebel and refuse to believe in His name. Because of one woman's faith, her and her household received salvation. Because of her faith, Rahab is included in Jesus' royal lineage; she became the mother of Boaz, king David's great-grandfather. Because of our faith in Him, our names will be written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Like Rahab, we have received salvation through faith in the One who bled on Calvary to make atonement for our sins for "...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Heb. 9:22).

A faith that is vibrant and alive. A faith that produces works of righteousness out of gratitude and love toward God. A faith that says "Yes Lord, I will follow where You lead" out of an obedient heart. A faith that will never count the cost but look forward with anticipation to what awaits in heaven, "...the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Tim. 4:8). That was Rahab's faith. That is our faith. Like Rahab, let us also tie a crimson cord in our window, the window of our heart.

Contributed by Mayra Chipi (part 4 of the series)

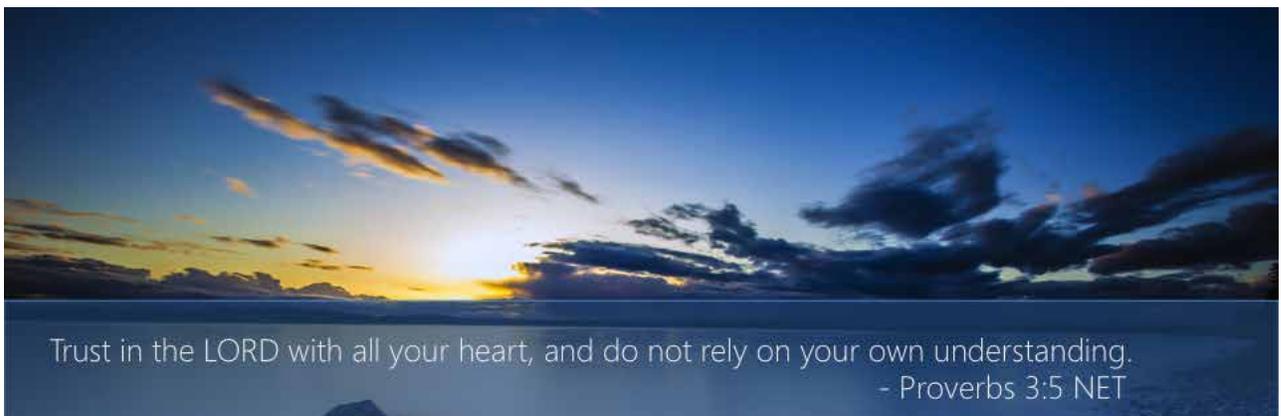
Council Spotlight: Serving the Lord at 2UC

Meet Nominating Chairperson Janette Quiles.

Janette is from San Juan and has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Information Technology. She manages a call center for computer support at EVERTEC. She is in the middle between two brothers. She lives with her four-legged baby, Bruno! Janette has been a member of Second Union Church for about 17 years after accepting Christ as her savior in 1994. Janette has been a faithful member of the church choir for many years, serves the homeless on Monday evenings in Old San Juan, and is always quick to lend a helping hand!



Janette writes, "It is with great joy that I accept God's calling to work for Him through our church. Your support of the different committees is very important to achieve our goal which is to glorify God's name inside and outside our church. I put my trust in the Lord that this upcoming year will be a year of many blessings. Thank you for your confidence! The Lord be with you!!" "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." Proverbs 16:3 **Janette Quiles, Nominating Chair.**



We receive a great deal of the food for the program from el Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico, and we are extremely grateful for the donations which are provided at no cost. We also supplement the donated product with additional food that we purchase from the food bank at a cost of \$.19 per pound. Once a month the Banco de Alimentos prepares the order for the entire month, and it is our responsibility to go to the food bank and gather all of the products, place them on pallets, load them into our cars and transport them to Second Union, where the merchandise is unloaded and stored in the shelves designated for the Backpack Program. This is not an easy task. What a blessing that Ramon China and Josh came to help at the Food Bank. We were able to complete our task in about an hour. Once we arrived at church, we were blessed to have many strong young teenagers assist us in unloading and storing. Many thanks to all who helped: Ramon, Josh, Jorge, Louis, and Gustavo!

I am hoping that in the future, the Men's Ministry can commit to helping us out with this task. If you would consider donating 2-3 hours of your time, please contact Christie at 787-717-4001.

I also want to especially thank Laurie Yost who stood in the pouring rain last Friday distributing the backpacks to the students and their parents. And thanks to all the women who help pack up the backpacks on Tuesday afternoons! We were especially grateful to have Noah and Savanna Siebert help us out last week with the packing of the bags!



Finally, I am very grateful to all who so willingly donate food to the program. This is a tremendous blessing, because we never know how much or what kind of food we will receive from the Banco de Alimentos. They can only provide us what they receive as donations, so it is a blessing to be able to supplement with nutritious food. I know there are many who donate regularly, but I want to especially recognize our 'platinum' donors: Susanne and Derek Myles, David and Laurie Yost and Brenda Ferrer! It's always such a wonderful surprise to see them carrying in bags or boxes!!



The summertime is a great time to help out - so if you would like to help distribute the bags to the students, we always meet at church to pack up the cars around 11am and we are usually back at 12:30 at the latest. We'd love to have you join us - and bring your children.



Prayer Pals

We are very grateful to those of you who signed up to be a prayer pal for one of our Backpack Program students. We have two new students, so if anyone is interested in being a prayer pal, please see Laurie Yost or Christie Zoba. Our newest students are Yamil and Kaichdali. We ask you to pray for your student and their family daily and to provide them a card and possibly a small gift on their birthday!





Second Union Church



Outgoing Council President, Luis Alberto Rivera
Incoming Council President, David Román



May Congregational Meeting



Irma LaLave



Cadiz, Hannah and friends!



May Congregational Meeting



Susanne, Laurie, Dalia, Rosa and Audrey
packing for the Backpack Program



2014 VBS Camp Counselors



Mike, Chris Strong & Julio Rivera
packing up for Hogar Santa Ana



Cadiz, Hannah and friends!



Bill Stowell, Serving the Homeless



Childcare Leader, Cadiz Rodriguez



May Couples' Ministry Gathering



Audrey Wilcox & Livia Román Serving the Homeless



Leo and Gabriel!



May Couples' Ministry Gathering



1,000 lbs of rice!