

### The Big 6-0

As I am celebrating the Big 6-0 this year, I have been encouraged by the new phrase I've been hearing lately, namely, "60 is the new 40". I suspect some aging Baby Boomer, like myself, made that up in hopes that it might become a reality. I have to admit, I found it encouraging, especially since it doesn't seem all that long ago when I used to repeat that other popular saying, "never trust anyone over 30".



Pastor Bob Zoba

However, my "60 is the new 40" delusion was short-lived after reading a recent op-ed article in the New York Times by Gerald Marzorati. He writes:

*Sixty is not the new 40. Fifty isn't either. Your lung capacity in late-middle age is in steady decline, as are the fast-twitch muscle fibers that provide power and speed. Your heart capacity has been ebbing for decades. Your sight has been getting worse, your other senses, too, and this, along with a gradually receding ability to integrate information you are absorbing and to then issue motor commands, means your balance is not what it used to be. (Your flattening arches aren't helping.) Your prefrontal cortex where the concentrating and deciding gets done has been shrinking for some time, perhaps since you graduated from college. More of your career (more of your life) is behind you than in front of you. Do not kid yourself about this. You are milling in the anteroom of the aged.*

*You can have something done with those sags and creases deepening on the face that greets you in the mirror each morning, but I'm not sure whom you are fooling. You can do the crossword and mind puzzles, stretch, take long walks: There is evidence that these activities correlate with keeping memory loss and, you know, death at bay, for a while longer: two, four, six years. Maybe.*

I must admit that such a sobering assessment of reality is not very encouraging. In fact, I am now more inclined to admit that Christopher Strong's perspective is closer to reality, when he informed me this week that, "60 is the new 59". (Thanks Chris...that's the least you could do;-)

However, as a Christian, I am reminded and comforted by the words of the Psalmist where s/he writes, "The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away....So teach us to count our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Ps. 90: 10,12 NRSV)

JUNE  
2016

#### 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  
Ave. Apolo esq. Mileto  
Guaynabo, PR 00969  
787-720-4423  
secondunion.org

Rev. Robert Zoba

This is a good word. Perhaps this why Solomon tells us that it is better to go to a house of mourning rather than a house of mirth (Eccles. 7:2). The reason: to make a more accurate assessment of own, individual mortality. That is, contrary to our age-defying culture and all of its Botox treatments, nips and tucks, and anti-aging potions, the fact of the matter is: our time here on earth is actually pretty short. At age 60, I am suddenly realizing that 70 is now in sight and I, for much of my life, never really thought I would ever be that old.

So, on the occasion of my sixtieth year, I am truly going to celebrate life to the fullest, celebrate my beautiful, wonderful, (and younger) wife, my fabulous kids, and the fact that I can still play a couple of sets of tennis without a cardiac arrest.

However, I am also going to remind myself of that old saying:

Only one life, twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.

So, with a heart of wisdom, I will seek to use my time more deliberately for those things that will survive me and will, in fact, carry me through to eternity itself. For as someone once said, "eternity is a long time... especially toward the end".

Blessings!  
Pastor Bob

### 2UC Church Council & Staff

Pastor  
Rev. Robert Zoba

President  
Brenda Ferer

Vice President  
Maylie Colón

Treasurer  
Stan Pinkerton

Secretary  
Humbelina Treviño

Worship  
Michael Strong

Outreach  
Julio Rivera

Property  
Chris Strong

Christian Education  
Nicole Delíz

Staff-Congregation Relations  
James Martínez

Membership  
Madelyn Vega

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  
Jeff Penn

Youth Pastor  
Gustavo Gonzalez

Office Manager  
Mabel Varela

Newsletter Editor  
Website Administrator  
Christie Curie Zoba



**Noah James Martinez**, son of proud parents, Coralie and James, turned 2 yrs old on May 12th, and he had his first



“Dias de Logros” Times flies! He is so great. We are so happy and blessed to be his parents. We love him very much!

**Brother Joe Calculli** recently spent a week with his two sisters in Brooklyn N.Y. Joe says “It was wonderful being surrounded by the love of my family. That’s why I feel so at home at 2UC”.



**Pastor Joe Ramos** writes: Elilda and I will be moving to Palmas del Mar this coming September. After 4 years of ministry, God has called us to be at Palmas Community Church full time. We are saddened by the move away from friends and family, yet excited about seeing God’s hand at work in the congregation and in the community.

**David & Laurie Yost** will be back on the island for a visit as Dr. Dave will be pursuing matters for the CDC and Laurie will be catching up with all her 2UC friends.

**Gil & Marlene Williams** will be relocating to Tampa. We will miss them both. Marlene has been so very generous to 2UC, to our Outreach Ministry and especially our Backpack Ministry. We are grateful to them both for their presence among us.

**JB Wilcox** is grateful to God for a successful laser surgery of a small tumor in his brain. He experienced no pain and was even out golfing the next day. God is good!

**Rosa Trinidad** will be traveling to England to stay with her dear daughter, Ivette, who will be giving birth to Rosa’s first grandchild. Congrats Rosa!

**Von & Janie DeLoatch** will be traveling to LA, Hawaii (for a big anniversary celebration!), Atlanta, and Maryland this summer. Wow!

**Nicole Tester** will soon be a Chicago Cubs fan as she will be relocating to the Windy City to pursue a new job opportunity. We will miss her...especially her super, amazing children’s sermons!



**Livia Roman** is going back to NYC for the summer. However, she hopes to sell her house up in New York so she can live in Puerto Rico for most of the year. (And we are glad about that!)

**David Roman** recently finished his fourth term as President of our 2UC Council. We have been blessed to have someone serve in that capacity who is so gifted, wise, legally trained, and gospel-centered. We have been blessed.

**Sariana Mendez** will be attending the Rochester Institute of Technology! Congratulations!



**Javier Rodriguez** recently graduated from the American Military Academy and will be attending the Carlos Albizu University. Javier has been such a blessing to our Backpack tutoring program, the students will miss him!

**Cadiz Rodriguez** is back home for the summer and is now officially a junior in college. (How time flies!)

**Jeff & Tamara Penn** are off to Norway for a vacation and then a stay in their cabin in the backwoods of Georgia for June & July.



**Christopher and Becky O’Meara** will be visiting the island in early June along with **Pito & Josette Droz**, **Carlos & Debbie Garcia**, and **Rashel Krankovich**. It will be like old home week here at 2UC.

**Sylvia O’Connor** is a master crossword puzzler.

**Alysha Jackson** will be attending Daemen College near Buffalo. Alysha has been attending 2UC since she was just a kid and we have watched her grow and blossom into a wonderful young lady who loves the Lord. We will certainly miss her smiling face here at 2UC. (If you want to bless her, send her mittens ;-)

**John Fisher** recently traveled to the great state of Iowa to visit his dad.

**Eva and David Román** are enjoying the brief visit of their youngest son, Ronald, who recently graduated from Illinois State University with a Masters of Fine Arts Degree. Next month, Ronald will join the touring cast of the American Shakespeare Center (Virginia) where he will travel the East Coast performing various roles in several plays of their repertoire.



**Harry Delacruz** did a fine job as our Nominating Chair to select our new slate of Council Members. We want to especially welcome Brenda Ferrer as our newly elected President.

**David, Kailie, Sam, and Ryleigh Benson** will be relocating to Norfolk, VA. We will miss this wonderful family. David has been one of our best and brightest Sunday School teachers for many years and has also been something of an institution at our Men's Breakfast.

**Kris Adams** will be doing internships for the next five months as a part of her optometry program. One of her stops will be in the land down under, i.e. Australia. Fortunately, Tim's pilot status will allow him to make frequent visits to most of her stops.

**The Alberts** have almost ended their grandchildren tour and we hope they will be back to PR soon.

**David and Val Banderman** are in the process of adopting a baby! They have created a YouCaring page for an adoption fund. They are trying to get the word out and share with as many friends as possible. If you would like to read about their story and consider helping them by making a donation, copy and paste this link <https://www.youcaring.com/babybanderman>



**Four McMurrays--two George's and wives Joan and Andrea--**vacationed for a week in Isabela. Weather was near perfect., food good "island-style" menus, and conversations "non-stop." George, Jr. (Mackie) and Andrea live in San Jose, CA. and love their second home in Puerto Rico.

**Jesse Sargent** writes: Hello Second Union Church, number one on the program and number one in my heart. Its been a long time since I sat in your pew, my favorite place by the window. Thinking of you often and how your new roof protected me on Christmas Eve and your pulpit is occupied by my favorite preacher and teacher of the gospel on Sunday morning Your meeting and kitchen area is missed specially the great food that seemed always available. The abundance of the Holy Spirit that most assuredly abounds within your walls! I am working two to three days a week at local golf course, ha, ha, some work and I get to play free golf anytime I want. Ivonne is working everyday as a Project Mgr. at a Lighting Rep. Co. in St Petersburg, Florida and has a 40 minute drive each way. She sees the beauty of God's paintings every morning and evening as she drives across the Skyway Bridge as the sun is rising and setting over the Bay. Blessings!

**The Candias (Ed & Irma)** are expecting two grandchildren as both Sara and Lauren are great with child.

**Tom & Patricia Engfer** donated a new computer to our church office, **Alta (& Attie) Goosen** donated a new Casio Keyboard, and **Edwin & Conchi Perez** donated a new van for use in our Outreach ministries. Thanks soooooo much!!!

**Madelyn Vega** just presented the book "Fanti"; her fourth installment of a series of children's book. The event took place at Interamerican University Metropolitan Campus on May 16. The successful team of Mom Madelyn and son Xavi had the opportunity to read to a group of kids who loved the stories! This new collection of stories is about a young elephant "Fanti" who learns about the Christian principles of faith and loving one another. It also approaches topics like how to deal with bullying, and prejudice. Congratulations, Madelyn!



Anyone who has spent more than five minutes in a Christian bookstore or flipping through a Christian magazine can attest that worship is a word much bandied about in our circles. We have books written about “worship wars,” chronicling the battle between contemporary and traditional music. We have worship conferences focused on music and sensing the spirit. We have even created a profession, “worship leader,” to denote that individual who does anything from administering a music ministry to leading singing on a Sunday morning. Somewhere in all of these the true meaning of worship has been obfuscated. It’s a word we all know the meaning of, but if asked to define it, would struggle to do so articulately. So what is it?

Most simply put, it is showing that God has worth. The Christian word “worship” is an English catch-all devised to represent a variety of Hebrew(H) and Greek(G) words, some of which have definite meanings, others of which are more conceptual. Among them:

- Aboda (H) and latreia (G) describe the act of performing service in the temple, or making sacrifices there (Rom 12:1)
- Leitourgia (G) is used by Paul to describe a monetary gift made to the Jerusalem Christians (2Cor 9:12) and in numerous other instances to denote acts of selfless service.
- Schahach (H) and proskyneō (G) depict postures of submission, i.e. acknowledging God’s sovereignty; schahach is the act of bowing down (Gen 22:5), and proskyneō is kissing towards (Jn 4:20ff). Proskyneō specifically comes from the Greek practice of kissing the ground in deference to deities.
- Homologia (G) is often associated with corporate worship – “being of one mind with God,” i.e., agreeing with God about who he is and who we are (1Tim 6:12-13).
- Thusia (G) is a specific reference to the thank offerings of the Old Testament, and is used in Paul’s writings in the context of self-sacrifice (Eph. 5:2, Phil 2:17)

Romans 12:1-2 says “I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God which is your spiritual service of worship [latreia]. And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable, or well pleasing and perfect.”

We can conclude from this verse that God’s mercy motivates our worship. All that we don’t deserve impels us to respond in thanksgiving and praise. We can also determine that we worship by “present[ing our] bodies as a living and holy sacrifice” – in other words we surrender our humanness to God and we give him control. This is done by “the renewing of our minds” – saturating our brains with truth. We renew our minds by God’s word – the ultimate truth – and by knowing, believing, and holding convictions about the word of God.

Music is a vehicle for expressing that very truth. It is a way to give expression to all that we think and feel about God. It allows us to combine poetry with the power to provoke emotions and unite us in expressions of truth. It is indeed a powerful force, but it is not in itself worship - worship is what we do.

Worship is when we subordinate our goals to God’s goals by prioritizing service towards His Kingdom. Worship is when we express gratitude and praise towards God. Worship is proclaiming the truth about God to each other and to the lost. Music can inspire us, motivate us, and even aid us in doing these things, but Biblical worship is much more about our actions than our words.

Jeff Penn, Worship Leader

May 19, 2016 Fifty one years ago today we arrived at JFK, our point of entry into the "land of the free and the home of the brave," our "promised land" flowing with milk and honey.

We were met at the airport by a group of Christians from the Central Baptist Church in Wayne, PA. This church, still in existence but with a very different mission geared toward inclusiveness and progressiveness, sponsored us during the time we lived in Madrid, Spain while we waited for the visa waivers to come through. Only then would we be allowed to enter the USA, the greatest and most powerful nation in the world that welcomed us with open arms on May 19, 1965. I can only say "God bless America" for the role that she has played through out its young history in being the springboard for sending missionaries into all parts of the world to fulfill the Great Commission.

Prayers of thanksgiving to God for the deliverance from communism and religious persecution were the first words to roll off my lips this morning. How amazing is God when His children are willing to obey and follow Him.

My maternal grandfather, Victor Lobaina Gell, was of Belgian descent. It was his parents I believe, French-speaking Catholics, who were the ones who made their way to Port-au-Prince, Haiti after leaving Belgium. The reason for their departure isn't clear to me, but it must have been something other than religious persecution since they weren't Protestant. Some time after, they went to Cuba where they settled permanently. I don't know much about how my grandfather was converted, yet I know he was a great man of God who taught the Scriptures with great zeal, boldness, and passion. He pastored the church in Bayamo for close to 50 years before Castro's regime closed down the church and adjacent school, and forced him to retire when he still had so much left to accomplish for the Lord.

Everyone in the family, my mother included, worked and taught at El Colegio Bautista. My mom is credited for having penned the music and the lyrics to the school anthem. To this day, I remember my aunt Eunice teaching me to read using a children's Bible. She was my teacher, and a very stern one at that, and there was no special treatment for the family children. On the contrary, more was expected out of us for we were supposed to set an example for others to follow. It was almost like being a preacher's kid. It was like living in a fish bowl, and I did not relish the constant attention and scrutiny I had to live under. Out of necessity, we lived with my grandparents during the last three months of our time in Cuba. When we said our good-byes, some of those we left behind we will never see again this side of heaven since they have gone home to be with the Lord.

I often grieve for my mom for our freedom came at a tremendous personal loss to her. Only through the grace of God has she been able to make it through what must have been devastating for her: to leave behind all that was dear to her to start over in a brand new home so far away from the place she had called home for 40 years. I admire her courage and determination, her willingness and humility to place aside all of her plans in order to follow the One who was calling her to step out of her comfort zone in obedience to Him. She, the youngest of five children, was the first to leave Cuba. God used her as the bridge to bring twelve other family members to freedom three years after our arrival in PA.

How did the Lord orchestrate all of His plans for our lives, "plans for welfare and not for evil, to bring us a future and a hope?" The church my grandfather pastored was part of the Northern Baptists with headquarters in Valley Forge, PA. My grandfather was in constant contact with the missionary men and women who visited Cuba, specifically Dr. Wilbur Larson and his wife, who were instrumental in our ability to leave Cuba when the US broke off ties completely with Castro's communist Cuba. These men and women became our bridge to freedom, and the reason that we, four very poor Baptist, Cuban refugees went to live in Wayne, PA not Miami, FL. The Lord had it all planned out, His master plan for our lives. In His infinite wisdom, He took us to a predominantly Protestant country where we would live and train to continue to fulfill the Great Commission.

As I look back through the years and take stock of my life, I understand and see the providential hand of God in my life. First and foremost, I was privileged to be surrounded by godly people ever since I was born who taught me to love God above all things. That is a rare gift. My aunts and uncles were my mentors

through the years, specially after I left the fold to come live in PR. I still often discuss the things of God with my one remaining aunt, "tía Dora," who continues to encourage me and pray for me when I become faint and discouraged.

My life in retrospect is not much different than that of my grandfather in Cuba, and his calling to be a disciple and fulfill the Great Commission. I have not been called to pastor a great congregation like him, but I have been called to fish for men, one at a time, here in PR, a predominantly Catholic island situated in the Atlantic Ocean, far from the place and people I grew up with. Now I fully understand, and have come to terms with it, that all along, this is precisely where God wanted me to fulfill His command to be a disciple and to be a "Priscilla," fifty one years after having left Cuba while still a little girl who loved to play with dolls. When we are obedient to His call to discipleship, He has amazing things in store for those who heed His call of "Come follow Me." He never ceases to amaze me.

May the Lord bless you,  
Mayra Chipi



## 2UC Players Presents

Dinner theater makes its return this summer Second Union! June 17 and 18 the 2UC Players present "The Flower Queen's Daughter", a fairy tale play told all in rhyme! It is a story of adventure, dragons and fairies.

You will not want to miss seeing some of the church family as you have never seen them before! Dinner and a play is a summer tradition at Second Union Church.

Mark your calendars:  
June 17 and 18 at 7pm.

Tickets are available Sundays and at the church office.  
Adults \$12 and children 10 and under \$10.

## Summer Bible Study

During the summer, our Bible studies continue to meet, so we urge you to make every effort to participate in one or all!

Sunday morning Adult Sunday School: 9am  
Tuesday Ladies Lunchtie Study: 12-2  
Tuesday Evening Bible Study at the Rivera's home at 7pm  
Wednesday Morning Men's Breakfast at 7am  
Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study at Anita's  
Thursday morning Bible study at Coffee Shop on Paraná at 8am.

For more information call Christie at 787-717-4001.



**Angelika Swaboda:** Angelika was born on November 15, 1956, in Germany. Raised primarily in Wurzburg, in Northern Bavaria, Angelika was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church. Her father, Richard, was an active council member in the local Lutheran Church, and a member of the church choir. A talented musician, he also saw to teaching his children to play musical instruments, and taught Angelika how to play classical piano.

Having lived in Germany, France, Italy, Panama, the United States, and in the Caribbean, Angelika considers herself a citizen of the world, and speaks five languages. A mother of three children, Joseph, Ariane, and Nicole, who also is a member of Second Union Church, Angelika is now a grandmother. After attending Grace Lutheran Church for many years, where all her children were baptized, Angelika began seeking a church that was closer to home, and began to attend Second Union with her children.

Angelika is happy to have found a new place to call her spiritual home (and we are too!)

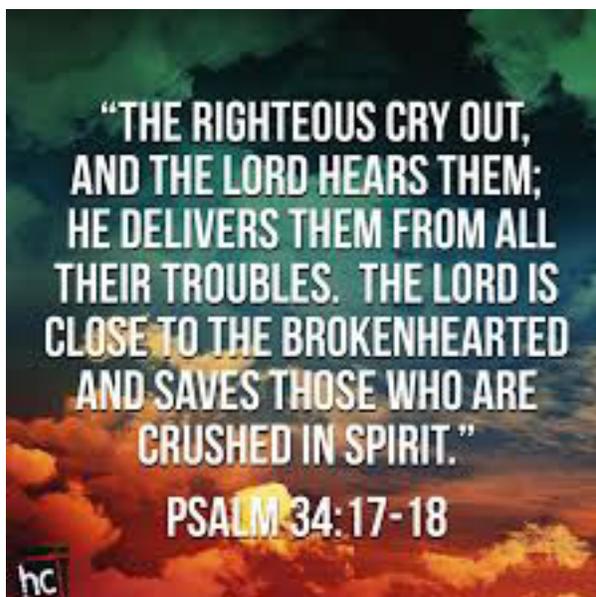
**The Guevara Family**

**Dra. Maria Isabel Sanchez Rivera:** Maria was born in Santurce. She attended elementary and high school at Academia San José in Guaynabo and studied Arts and Political Science at the University of Strasbourg in France (1978). She graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Biology in 1979 and studied Medicine at the State University of New York. She continued postdoctoral training in Ophthalmology with a fellowship in Ocular Pathology at The Wilmer Eye Center, The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland and a subspecialty in Vitreoretinal Surgery and Laser for Ocular Diseases from the University of Puerto Rico (1990). She was the first woman ophthalmologist with a subspecialty in Retinal Surgery to practice in Puerto Rico. She worked as an associate professor at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine in Rio Piedras for more than 10 years and has been in private practice in Bayamon since 1990.

Dr. Rivera is married to Jose Guevara and they have two children. In her free time, Maria is an ardent tennis player and enjoys travelling.

**Jose L. Guevara Fuertes:** Jose was born in San Juan PR and grew up in a family with a strong Roman Catholic commitment. In fact, Jose attended and graduated from the San Juan Catholic High School, the Catholic University of PR, and received his law degree at the Catholic University of Ponce Law School. He has since worked as an attorney in private civil law.

He is married to Maria I Rivera Sanchez and together they have two children. In addition to spending time at their home in the campo near El Yunque, Jose enjoys photography, music, travel, stamp, coins and art collecting.



**Maria Isabel Guevara:** Maria is the dear daughter of Jose and Marie Isabel (see above). Both Marias, i.e. mother and daughter, initially came to Second Union as artisans at our annual Christmas Bazaar. More recently, Maria started to attend our worship services and discovered we had a drum set. Since she is trained and gifted drummer, she started assisting Jeff and Luis in worship. We are glad that she has done so and thus we are joined today by almost the entire Guevara-Rivera family. God works in mysterious ways!