



# Second Union Church

## A SENDING CHURCH

For those of you who are new to Second Union, you may have noticed that we say good bye to people just about every month. This is not something that we like to do since the people we are saying farewell to are people who we love and who have become like family to us. Indeed, we much prefer receiving new members than saying good bye to old members.

However, as a Union Church, we have the unique responsibility of providing a church home to people who come to the island for a short time, who don't speak Spanish well enough to attend a PR congregation, and who long for a congregation that will provide them a home away from home. I believe we not only fulfill that responsibility at 2UC, but we do it with excellence. Likewise, as sad as it is to say good bye to so many, so often, this sadness is more than compensated by the joy we receive of meeting, befriending, and connecting with some of the most interesting, dynamic, well-traveled people on the planet. As a result, we are constantly getting a new mix of congregants with unique gifts, talents, perspectives, experiences, traditions, and priorities. This influx keeps us fresh, challenged, and malleable.

In light of this reality, we, as a congregation, are better able to avoid the seven-deadliest words of a dying congregation, namely, "we never did it that way before", or its equally deadly parallel, "we have always done it that way". New members help keep the so-called fossilization process in check.

Likewise, I always like to say to new members, "If you are just joining us, you better get involved quickly in a ministry or a small group because otherwise, you may be relocating before you ever get started." Indeed, a prime example of what every new member ought to aspire to are Dennis & Linda Glenn. They stated from the beginning that when they join a church they believe they want to be all in, i.e. they want to try and get involved in as many church activities as possible.

And they have. As a result, they are already quite well known and a part of the 2UC family. They attend Bible studies, they help with the Backpack program and they serve the homeless with us in Old San Juan. It's been great to see the way they have integrated into the fabric of our church life.

So too, Dennis has a vision to offer an eight-hour workshop called GPS Life Journey for Second Union folk that will them identify their spiritual gifts and

## Second thoughts

JAN-FEB  
2017

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

**Adult Sunday School**  
**9:00am**

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



Pastor Bob Zoba

**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 Miletto  
Guaynabo, PR 00969  
**787-720-4423**  
**secondunion.org**

Rev. Robert Zoba  
Pastor

Gustavo Gonzalez  
Youth Pastor

# Second Union Church

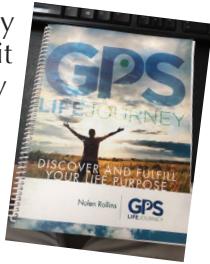
natural talents as well as their personal mission in life. I am very excited about this ministry as I believe it will replicate the incredibly positive effects that the Emmaus Walks. That is, it will energize and inspire lay leadership to step forward and serve in new areas of ministry in the local church.

So, God is good for every time we say good bye to another irreplaceable church member, the Lord seems to send someone else to fill the gap and take us in an entirely new direction of ministry and service.

So, being a sending church has its downside. I simply hate saying good bye to so many good people, and I wish we never had to do it again. However, when we do, I must remind myself of three things: a) often times some of these great people come back, b) I now have people all over the world I can visit, and c) God will be faithful to send even more wonderful people to bless our church family in the future just as He has done in the past.

God is good!

*Pastor Bob*



## Second Union 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**

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

## **Men's Ministry Breakfast**



Saturday, February 4th was the Men's Ministry breakfast. Guest speaker Rev. Neyda Albaran gave a motivating talk, which made many of the attendees think about stepping up our commitment to Christ. John Fisher made a sausage and biscuit breakfast which was outstanding. But I digress.

The new men's Ministry project was rolled out. It is as follows:



We are asking our members to please check their closets, in order to see if they have any used blankets, which are no longer in use. These blankets can be brought to church where they will be donated to homeless people at the Fondita De Jesus Homeless Ministry.

Please consider helping us to spread "The Love"!

Brother Joe

## **Women's Ministry Team**

A Women's Ministry Team meeting was held on Sunday, February 5, and the budget was set for the year. It was determined that the funds raised throughout the year, particularly the proceeds from the Christmas Bazaar which amount to \$12,400 will be allocated to the following organizations:

- David Ocasio Kidney Transplant Fund
- Young Life San Juan
- Young Lives
- Vida Joven
- Jovenes en Riesgo
- Hogar Ruth
- United World Mission
- Love the Nations - CREE
- Compassion International

We welcome Livia Roman to the WM Leadership Team!

A Women's Ministry Team Leader retreat in El Yunque will be held on Saturday, March 4th.

We welcome all to join our team! For more information contact Anita Rodriguez or any of the WM Leadership Team members: Irma Torres, Colleen Comer, Silvette Candelario, Loraine Colon, Shirley Baker, Christie Zoba, Sasha Seda, Dely Seda, Mabel Varela.

## **Women's Ministry Praise & Prayer Breakfast**



Madelyn Vega writes: Xavi keeps making us proud! He was chosen to represent his school University Gardens High School with his project for the Science Fair. He won 3rd place! Dad Raymond also made his mark as he represented California State University Long Beach as a keynote speaker at the invitation of the Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica. Mom Madelyn is also very happy since she published the third edition of the series Letters to my Son!

On a sad note, Madelyn & Xavi will be leaving 2UC this month as they will be moving to sunny southern California. We will certainly miss them in so many ways as they have provided us with such wonderful music and so many great children's sermons.]

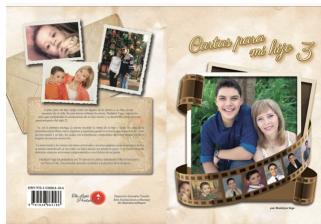
Joe Calcolli writes: John Fisher cooked a scrumptious breakfast for the Saturday Men's Ministry breakfast. Comments were made that this was the best breakfast they have ever eaten. All I can say is "John you've got the job."

Kris Adams is looking at optical internships across the country for the next academic year. Tim is still flying high here in PR.

David Benson is ecstatic over the Pats win in the Super Bowl..as are Pito Droz, Ron Seely, Billy Franki, and Pastor Bob.

Former members, Ed & Irma Candia, sent a very generous gift to 2UC last December. Thanks Candias! (We are so grateful for the support of our alums all across the world.)

Ramon Chinea is starting another football season with his team, the Dolphins.



Colleen Comer has been hosting her dear mom, Shirley, from Syracuse for several weeks.

Mike & Irma LaLlave are up in Florida visiting their daughter.



Lt. Col. Eli Lozano successfully came through thyroid surgery and hopes to be back in PR soon. Praise the Lord. The day after the 7-hour surgery, Eli was cracking jokes and entertaining the hospital staff!

Joanne Marx was back on the island for a two week visit. It was so great to see her again. Unfortunately, Don had to stay in VA due to the Zika threat here.

Hector Pages was back recently for a quick visit with his mom. It sure was great to hear how he and Susan are enjoying their grandbaby.

Look who else is an 'abuelo'! Omar Haedo and his precious grandson; Nicolas Andres, 4 months old!



Speaking of grandchildren, Pastor Bob's son, Ben, and his wife, Christina, are expecting to adopt twins in May. They will be here for a visit in two weeks.

Pastor and missionary to China, Daryle Parker rocked the house again here at 2UC as he preached on how to determine God's will for your life. He and Kim will be in Harbin, China for at least another 18 months where Daryle teaches English to university students at the MIT of China. Kim welcomes students into her home on a regular basis and teaches them baking . . . as well as sharing a lot of other things with them!!

Edwin & Conchi Perez recently returned from a trip to Columbia.

Sadly, JB & Audrey Wilcox will be leaving us at the end of the month as JB is being transferred back to headquarters in Pittsburgh. We will greatly miss this amazing couple who has been such a blessing to so many in so many ways. We have high hopes that they will be back in December, as we need Audrey's invaluable assistance!!

Thomas Van Hillebrandt is the latest addition to our well-attended, Men's Breakfast gathering. Welcome aboard Tom!!!



## Did You Know . . . ?

JAN-FEB  
2017

David & Laurie Yost will be back to PR to visit in the middle of March. It has been so great to see David during his periodic visits, while Laurie had teaching responsibilities back in AZ. However, mid-March will be spring break for Laurie so we will get to see her as well. Praise the Lord!!!



At the same time, Christie was in Key Largo, Florida celebrating Jane's 85th birthday. Christie's mom is amazing, she plays bridge and Mahjong and is an avid fisherman. She is also working to perfect her golf game. She's a joy to be around, and everyone in our family loves to spend with her!



Dennis and Amarilis Gonzalez spent three weeks traveling all around Spain over the Christmas holidays! Dennis was thrilled to see two Barça matches.



We said a sad farewell to Brooke and Allison Schaaf who are returning to Austin after having been in PR for just over a year. We will miss them but look forward to their return visits to the island of enchantment.



Pastor Bob and Billy Franki, along with Dennis and Amarilis Gonzalez watched Puerto Rico 2016 gold medalist, Monica Puig and former #1 ranked Maria Sharapova battle it out at an exhibition match

at the Coliseo in December.



Pastor Jonathan Ocasio will be hosting a comedy show to raise funds for his father's kidney transplant. For more info, see page 6!

The students at Antilles High School continue to meet on Thursday mornings around the flagpole for morning prayers. Youth Pastor, Gustavo and Loraine are always on hand to encourage the students. In December they had a special visit from one of the 'founders' of the prayer group, Andy Leonard!

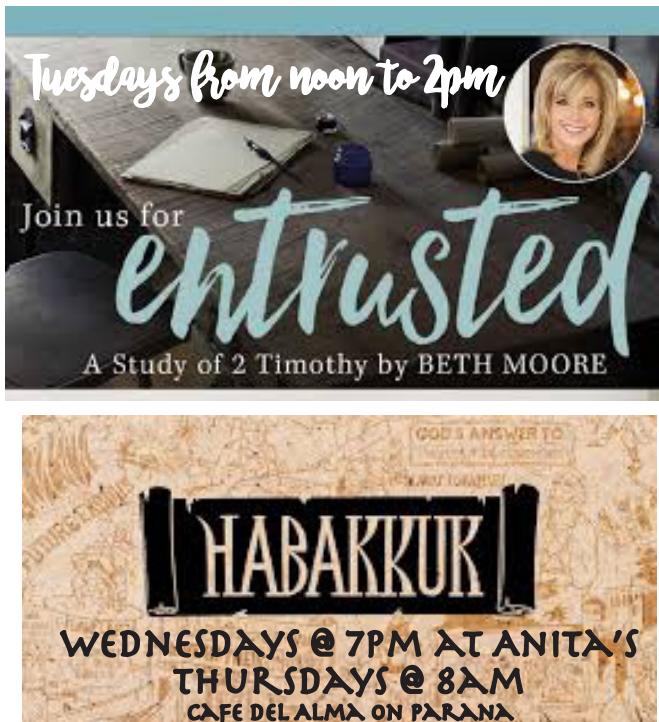


La Festival de la Esperanza was a huge success! What a blessing that members of 2UC contributed to this event. (For more on this, see page 12.)



# Second Union Church

## Women's Bible Studies



For more info contact Christie 787-717-4001  
or Anita at [anita00926@aol.com](mailto:anita00926@aol.com)

## Weekly Bible Studies

**9am Adult Sunday School in the Conference Room at 2UC led by Lissette Kelly.**

**7pm Tuesday evenings at Luis & Loraine Rivera's home in San Francisco**

**7am Wednesday Men's Breakfast @ 2UC Fellowship Hall**

**Condado/Isla Verde Bible Study**

for more information on any of the studies, contact the church office or  
Christie Zoba 787-717-4001

## Leave Your Lights On

The first story that I ever published was about a town that refused to take down their Christmas lights in January. To these towns' people Christmas was all year long. In this story other towns thought these people strange and some odd. Who else would keep Christmas lights on all year?

Now here we are and Christmas 2016 is just a memory. But wait, maybe not. Maybe we can be that town. Maybe we can keep the Christmas spirit alive all year long.

We can celebrate the birth of Christ not just on Christmas, not just on Sunday, but any time all year long. At first glance this might seem like a typical feel good Christmas story, but in fact it is really a story about commitment in the face of opposition.

The people in this town never shut the lights, even when others disagreed.

Our commitment to Jesus Christ is unshakable even when the evil one will try to make us appear odd and out of touch with our culture and society.

Never go under the assumption that it is easy to follow Christ. It is not! You will receive opposition from your family, friends and co-workers.

Just look them in the eye and say "my God is real and my light always shines".

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16*

Brother joe



**WHEN**  
Saturday,  
April 1st 2017  
**WHERE**  
TPC Dorado Beach  
<https://tpc.com/doradobeach>  
**COST**  
\$350/golfer  
Includes two meals, on course non-alcoholic beverages, logoed premium golf balls, brand name logoed golf shirt & prizes to winners of contests and tournament and more!

#### PROGRAM

- 7:30** - registration and driving range opens, breakfast
- 8:30** - in carts for welcome & rules
- 8:45** - shotgun start
- 1:30** - lunch and awards

Celebrity Host  
**Ivan Rodriguez**



REGISTER AT: [www.ylgolfclassic.org](http://www.ylgolfclassic.org)

## Young Life Golf Classic April 1, 2017

The Young Life Golf Classic is just two months away! They still need whole sponsors and foursomes to sign up!

The golf tournament will be held at Dorado Beach East which is a beautiful course. In addition, Pudge Rodriguez, a major league baseball Hall of Famer, will be hosting the event.

If you are interested, please see Pastor Bob or Christie. Let's support this great organization which includes Young Life of San Juan, Young Life of Dorado, Young Life of Humacao; Vida Joven and Young Lives, a ministry to pregnant teens and teen moms.

## Me Flosharon February 25, 2017

Looking for a great Valentine's Day gift for your loved one? Why not get them seats to a wonderful evening at the theater. "Me Flosharon" (They flushed me!) is a hilarious yet meaningful look at getting dumped. It may seem tragic, but believe me you will laugh and you will learn!

And the best part of this gift, is that the proceeds go to a foundation which has been established on behalf of the father of Mar Azul's pastor Jonathan Ocasio who needs a kidney transplant. So you will not only enjoy a great show, you will be contributing to a very worthy cause.

If you don't understand Spanish, but would like to support this foundation, please see Christie or Pastor Bob.



PROPUESTA  
PRO TRASPLANTE  
DE DAVID OCASIO

FEB 25  
**M E**  
**FLOSHARON**  
TEATRO INTER METRO  
\*\*\*  
JONATHAN OCASIO  
7:30PM

LA CAUSA

LA META

EL EVENTO

## Mission Trip to Hato Mayor, Dominican Republic

In January, Pastor Bob and Christie joined a 125-member mission trip to a small town in the center of the Dominican Republic. The trip consisted of a variety of individual missions including: dental, medical, optical, evangelization and prayer, construction, sewing and seed planting. Pastor Bob had been invited, by his cousin, Pastor Todd Jaussen, to join this group to teach area pastors who don't have the means for more formal seminary training yet are anxious to grow as leaders in their respective communities. Christie spent most of her time translating for the medical and dental clinics as well as leading the pastors' wives in a study on Strategic Prayer (thank you so much, Loraine for your help in this endeavor!)



Pastors' conference



This was somewhat of a reconnaissance mission, as we are looking for opportunities for mission for our congregation. This organization, "MGM": Meeting God in Mission, operates several facilities in the D.R. which can host up to 150 missionaries at a time. Since 1998 MGM has facilitated short-term mission trips to the Dominican Republic with the goal of encouraging participants into a closer walk with God while serving the needs of the poor in the DR. People of all



Pastor Todd & wife, Jan

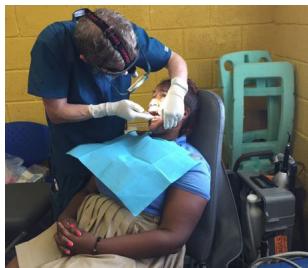


ages have come away from an MGM mission trip with a renewed sense of faith and a deeper passion to serve those in need. They provide transportation, boarding and meals as well as amazing worship each morning before breakfast and the opportunity to attend local churches in the evenings. Bob's cousin, Todd, has worked with MGM for over 10 years; annually traveling to Hato Mayor to equip area pastors.

In addition, MGM works very closely with Compassion International, and Christie had the opportunity to visit one of the Compassion Intl. supported schools in Hato Mayor along with sponsors of children who were part of the mission trip. It was so moving and so rewarding to see how meaningful the sponsor-child relationship was to the students, and how much involvement the sponsors can have in the lives of these children.



Compassion International School



We feel this would be a wonderful match for Second Union

Church members who are interested in serving the Lord in this way. It's a short 40 minute flight to Santo Domingo or La Romana and then an hour and 30 minute drive to the site. We would feel very confident leading a group from 2UC!



morning worship and quiet time

**Christmas Presentation****Parranda at Heart to Heart****Christmas Eve Candlelight Service****Young Life Christmas****Gifts for the Mariners****Blessing of the Boats**

# Second Union Church

Prior to the Christmas holiday break, the Backpack Program students came to Second Union for a special Christmas celebration. They received presents from their prayer pals, played games and watched a special Christmas video! We were grateful to have Gil Cohen join us. His father, Yoav Cohen, has provided so many fresh fruits and vegetables to our program week in and week out, and we are so grateful. Gil is in the upper left picture next to Christie!

We are also grateful to Omar Dilbey at Costco Los Filtros for his generous contributions of baked goods. If you ever shop at Costco, please ask for Omar in the bakery area and thank him on behalf of the Backpack Program.

And of course, we are so blessed by the Banco de Alimentos de PR (Food Bank of PR). The majority of our food is donated through their efforts and we are grateful to them and to Valerie Martinez, the coordinator of the Programa Mochila Alegre.

We thank all of our individual donors as well: Ivelisse Torres - (she's our end-of-the-month lifesaver,) Brenda Ferrer, Tim and Kris Adams, John and Evelyn Alberts, the Deakins family, Denise Hill, David & Laurie Yost, and so many more who purchase food. We couldn't do it without you!

**Raul and mom, Mayra**

**Joshua**

**Lydianise**

**Raul**

**Ariana**

**Benjamin & Nebdiel**



## Tutors

We need help! If you would be willing to help tutor our kinder through 5th grade students on Wednesday afternoons from 3-4:30pm, please speak with Loraine Colón Rivera or Christie Zoba. We tend to spend most of our time helping them with their homework (figuring out what their homework is can be quite challenging in and of itself!) We really try to have one-on-one tutoring, because these students need hands-on supervision.



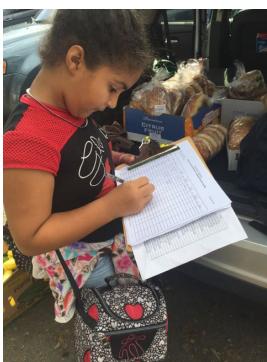
Aneishka S.

## Prayer Pals

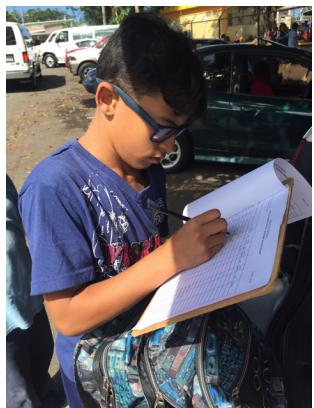
Don't forget to pray for your students on a daily basis. Thanks to Humbelina Trevino for doing such a great job at reminding everyone that their students' birthdays are coming up. The kids are so excited to receive gifts and we also let them know that you are praying for them.

## Special Prayer Support

We need your prayers for the future of this ministry. We have sensed God's leading in terms of growing this ministry by possibly adopting a second school - one in the Camarones sector of Guaynabo. Please pray for God to open the doors if that is where he wants us to go. We need more warehouse space and more volunteers to make this a reality, but we know that God can do all things through those who trust in Him.



Lydianise



Joshua

# Second Union Church

