

The Book of Kells

On our recent trip to Ireland we got up early one morning and scurried off to the library at Trinity College, Dublin to see that nation's greatest national treasure: The Book of Kells. With nearly 1500 visitors daily, this 1300-year-old copy of the Gospels in Latin is considered the finest surviving example of medieval manuscript artwork in the world. What makes this even more remarkable is that it was never intended to be seen.



St. Patrick began his evangelization of Ireland around 400 AD. It didn't take long for the gospel to spread in a Celtic culture that already believed nature was imbued with wondrous spiritual qualities. Patrick contextualized the Good News to clarify that the spirit the Celts worshipped and respected was God the Creator, whose beauty was reflected in His creation. The newly converted responded by not only celebrating this beauty, but by learning as much as possible about His world. Copies of scripture, as well as the Greek and Roman classics, flowed westward to the Emerald Isle as Patrick's monks carried the Good News east into Dark Ages Europe. Monks faithfully copied these works by hand, taking it as their divine duty to oversee, even rescue, the traditions of learning and scholarship – to shine the light of truth into a continent being darkened by the barbaric destruction of books, libraries, and civilization.

Manuscripts took a long time to copy – perhaps as long as a year for a single book. The need for accuracy and durability was paramount; Kells' survival 1300 years later testifies to the monks' mastery of the practical aspects of manuscript production. But for the Celtic monks their books needed to be more than functional – they needed to be beautiful. The idea of adding illustrations to – or “illuminating” - books did not originate in Ireland. Patrick's legacy, however, was to change the motive for this art. Whereas a wealthy patron may pay to have his personal copy of a volume aggrandized with gold leaf illustrations and ornate calligraphy, Christians saw it as an obligation to make their works beautiful to honor their Creator. God was beautiful, God dwelt in beauty, creation reflected His glory, and the works of their hands should as well. Creating works of beauty, making the ordinary extraordinary, was therefore seen as an act of worship.

To see for yourself, have a glance at what is called the “Chi-rho” page, which contains the first words of Matthew 1:18: “Christ” in English. Find an image of this on the internet. Study the intricate details – the knots, the geometric patterns. Note the use of color, and the whimsical-yet-symbolic incorporation of animals, humans, and other figures. Today this single page is considered the finest example of an illuminated manuscript in the world. It is viewed by millions of people a year both in person and online. Yet when it was created the illustrator – who is unknown, and would wish to remain so – knew full well, even intended, that very few people should ever see it.



**JULY
2017**

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

**Adult Sunday School
9:00am**

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

**Choir Practice
on summer break**

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

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Rev. Robert Zoba
Pastor

Gustavo Gonzalez
Youth Pastor

This is the artistic equivalent of Jesus' instructions in Matthew 6 to do your good deeds in secret. At that time in history very few people could read. This artist did not create a masterpiece for the adulation of men. He did it solely to the glory of God.

Our lives are filled with ordinary moments. Our routines can often seem as dull as the task of copying word after endless word must have seemed to monks in times gone by. The lesson of The Book of Kells is to make the ordinary extraordinary – to bring the divine into the mundane. Perhaps we do that by smiling at the grumpy cashier or waiter. Maybe we practice that extra hour or run that extra mile just to be sure we have done our very best. Perhaps we create our own artworks, or experiment with new recipes to explore new aspects of the beauty of God and his creation. We are called to add the calligraphic flourish, that splash of color, to a world caught in the mundane. Bring the extraordinary into the ordinary, and in so doing, make it an offering to the Author of Beauty.

For more on this subject Thomas Cahill's short but readable *How the Irish Saved Civilization* documents the history of Celtic Christianity and its foundations in nature and the arts. The animated film *The Secret of Kells* provides a fanciful telling of the origins of *The Book of Kells*.

2UC Helps to Build the Plumbing For Revival!

We can't fabricate a revival, but we can set up the plumbing and plead with God to open the faucet! -Greg Stier



Can you imagine 59 churches across the nation gathering about 50,000 teenagers and leaders to be inspired, equipped, and to unleash the message of the Gospel! 1 day, 1 message, 1 hope. Is not just an imagination or a dream, not anymore.

That is Dare 2 Share Live coming to churches all over the United States and Puerto Rico as a unique simulcast event with live teaching from Denver, Colorado and live hosting (by yours truly) and worship band at each of the local churches. This is an event designed to spark a movement of Gospel conversations throughout the nation, primarily through teenagers. This one day will ignite a movement within youth ministry and within the church at large.

Nothing transforms a student like seeing someone respond to the clearly articulated gospel. Once they experience this, it's a game-changer. Their excitement is uncontrollable and their energy makes them an unstoppable force. Now imagine 50,000 teenagers using all of their social media power to tell the story and engage their classmates and teammates online with a movement of gospel conversations!

In Puerto Rico, La Catedral de la Esperanza will be 1 of the 55+ host sites. With teaching in English by Greg Stier, Zane Black y Propaganda, thousands of teenagers and adult leaders will be inspired and equipped to share the good news of the Gospel...and then, at the EXACT same time...released into their communities to share the message and serve with love.

A ticket for a student is \$20! That's about the same cost as seeing an IMAX 3D movie or playing laser tag. Dare2Share Live registration is open: <https://goo.gl/te4gDs> Let's make history together!

Gustavo Gonzalez, Youth Leader
 "Juntos hasta ver las redes llenas" / "Together until the nets are full"

About Dare 2 Share

Founded in 1991, Dare 2 Share's mission to Energize the Church to Mobilize youth to Gospelize their world, has led them to train and provide resources to hundreds of thousands of students and youth leaders. The focus on relational evangelism training has made Dare2 Share the go-to teen evangelism training resource for youth leaders and churches in the United States who want a Gospel Advancing Ministry that accelerates the spiritual growth of their teens and impacts their communities with the good news of Jesus Christ.

A NATIONAL TEEN-LED MOVEMENT OF GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS

SEPT 23, 2017

[CLICK HERE TO GET TICKETS](#)

Pastor Rev. Robert Zoba	Property Rob Grosek	Women's Ministry Anita Rodriguez
President Brenda Ferer	Christian Education Wanda Billoch	Men's Ministry Joe Calcolli
Vice President Maylie Colón	Staff-Congregation Relations Jose Guevara	Pianist Luis Manuel Tirado
Treasurer Stan Pinkerton	Membership Nilda Román	Choir & Worship Leader Jeff Penn
Secretary Humbelina Treviño	Fellowship Julio Rivera	Youth Pastor Gustavo Gonzalez
Worship Risa Tobin	Nominating Michael Strong	Office Manager Mabel Varela
Outreach Irma Torres	Forward Planning Harry de la Cruz	Newsletter Editor Website Administrator Christie Curie Zoba

Bible Study & Small Group Opportunities at 2UC

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

Second Union Church

David and Val Banderman recently celebrated their 5 year anniversary in April by going to a cute little town in Texas called Gruene (pronounced green). It was a little town that got started from a cotton plantation along the Guadalupe River.



Did you know that **Brian Tester** Preach at Palmas Community Church June 25? Title of the message was "Is God your BFF".

Did you know that 14 youth from Humacao (Palmas del Mar) went to the Young Life Camp in Colorado the week of June 25?

Did you know that **Joe Ramos** has been serving Palmas Community Church as their Pastor for five years as of July 2017? Happy Anniversary, Joe!

David and Laurie Yost are in Barcelona, Spain perfecting their Spanish. They are visiting the area with their son, **Aaron and his wife Joni**, who are completing a year in Madrid where they have been teaching English and learning Spanish. David and Laurie's daughter, **Emily**, is also joining them! ¡Qué disfruten mucho!



Montserrat-Aeri

Silvia O'Connor writes, "Thank you, Second Union, for your prayers and concern for my brother's recent cancer surgery! When I left New York last week, he looked and felt great, and the doctors gave him a clean bill of health. Thank, thank you. God is good!"



Wendy Heath writes: "This is **Claudia** on her 2nd solo flight to London. I am working in New York and I will be going to London in July for my sister's wedding."



Brenda Ferrer writes: "Really missing my church family, but enjoying myself very much. I've spent time with my daughter and son-in-law, as well as cousins and a niece in Atlanta.



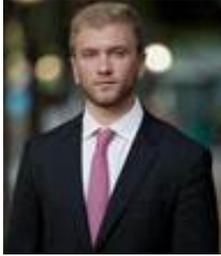
Also visited the Martin Luther King Center and surrounding area. Celebrated my birthday at a restaurant I had visited with Dr. Lillian Strong back in 1984. Next stop was New Orleans. While in the "Big Easy" had lunch at a fabulous Cajun Restaurant called Neyow's. On my way back to New Orleans after a trip to Biloxi MS to have lunch at the Beau Rivage. Don't know when or where the next stop will be.



Pastor Bob and Christie are doing a little 'dividing and conquering' this summer! (when you have six children, it's often the only way)! Pastor Bob is traveling to Beverly, Massachusetts to spend time with his sons, Jon and Ben and daughter-in-law, Christina. They spent a morning fishing with the Old Man of the Sea out of Gloucester, Mass! They returned with a very healthy catch of bass and lobster! Then he's heading to his hometown, Warren, Ohio to visit with friends and family.



In the meantime, Christie is in Key Largo with her mom. Sons, J.J. and Robbie will join them for the pre-4th of July weekend.



Speaking of **J.J. Valdés**, he recently achieved the President's Club at ADP, a very prestigious accomplishment, and he was given a promotion. He is now a Sales Executive and has nine salesmen reporting to him. Christie, who prays constantly for him, is very grateful to God.

Mike LaLlave writes: Irma and I will be flying to Union NJ on July 6, to visit with our daughter Diana and her family --grandchildren Julie Marie and Sean Michael. We are also planning to take a car tour to Exeter, NH to visit with our friend and former Second Unioner Joy Dill and her family. We will stay in NH for a week, where Irma usually enjoys at least one Maine lobster dinner, and then return to NJ to spend a couple of weeks again with Diana. Michelle and Bianca will join us in NJ. On the return trip, we will spend a week with Michelle in Miami Beach and then back to PR on August 8. We ask for traveling mercies.

Harry De La Cruz writes, "We celebrated the graduations of both Adrian (8th grade New Generation School) and Naomy (Kindergarten, Wesleyan Academy).



Naomy graduated with awards for Math and Languages and Adrian graduated with the medal for best academic improvement for his class. Congrats to the graduates!



Casa Ulrich, one of the recipients of our Outreach committee donations shared a special thank you to Second Union. "We thank you for the special, refreshing day at your church and the financial gift to the ministry" . . . "We were able to bless a young man who is trying to get on his feet, after leaving dysfunctional home situation. We re also in the process of turning two more rooms in the house into guest rooms to meet the needs of the community. We pray for those who will come and experience the peaceful presence of God as they sleep and as we extend His love - trusting the Holy Spirit to reveal light and truth to each soul. Our motto is: "Un Lugar Para Refrescar Tu Alma."



Mariner's Ministry Father's Day Barbecue

A special Father's Day barbecue was held at the docks down in Puerta de Tierra to bless the fathers who work on the cargo ships. Christopher Strong, Chaplain to the mariners, provided a meal and extended the hand of fellowship to these men who work on the boats for months at a time without seeing their families.



In addition to great food, Christopher presented each of the men with handmade Father's Day cards from children of Second Union Church. Michael Strong, Pastor Bob and Christie were all on hand to spend time with these men on this occasion.



I can't believe it's been almost a year since Pastor Bob offered me the Christian Ed Coordinator position. I have to admit that I wasn't sure about this even though I had some experience in my previous church . . . but it was only with 0-5 year old kids - no VBS included. This position which he was offering me seemed too much of a challenge and a huge responsibility for me. First of all I'm not a teacher; second, I'm not that creative when it comes to planning and coordinating activities and programs; that's my sister Dely's area. Oh my! I was really concerned that this was going to be a mess. You know, my father always told me that when I decided to do something in life, to make sure I did it in a great manner" no hagas porquerías, para eso mejor no hagas nada!" That's what he would say.

Accepting the Christian Ed Coordinator position included planning and organizing Vacation Bible School. I remember telling Pastor Bob: "Ok, I have no problem with Sunday School, but VBS . . . I'm just not good at. I need somebody else to help me!" I was hoping that he would say "Ok, don't worry I'll ask somebody else.", but that didn't happen, did it Pastor Bob?

I have to say that for my surprise Sunday school has been much more challenging than VBS. VBS was amazing. Everything was well organized and the week went smoothly; but I also have to say that, that other person that I needed to help me and push me through all this showed up as well, HE showed up! I mean it's not a surprise He is always there. We are the ones that just don't trust as we should. Thank you God that you are in control! Because when we feel unfit for your works, You always prepare us and give us the tools to accomplish Your will.

So how was God in control of this? Let me tell you: He provided a group of prayer warriors, they prayed for months for this event to happen, He provided the budget, He provided the volunteers (30 of them) and prepared them, and just when we thought we had to cancel VBS He provided the children. After all the planning, and the buying, and the meetings we only had 13 kids the Wednesday before VBS and just that very day in a couple of hours it went up to 25. At the end we had 31 kids, praise God! Out of those 31 kids 11 of them accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior isn't that amazing! I mean do you imagine if we would've canceled VBS? These eleven kids would've missed that amazing opportunity. Through all of this I learned and God convinced me that as a Church we cannot let the regular camps take over. Every year we compete with all of these amazing camps that offer dancing, sports, cooking, swimming and a whole bunch of other skills and yes it is great that they learn all of this and it is fun, but we have so much more to offer. I mean we are offering them the opportunity to meet their creator, have a relationship with Jesus and receive the most valuable gift of all eternal life. It doesn't matter if its 15 or 60 kids all of them need Jesus. I invite you all to pray for these kids, that where ever they go they remember what they learned during that week and for that seed to keep growing.

Through VBS we also had the opportunity to help a local family from Toa Alta by donating school supplies. The couple already had three boys and because of family problems, they had to take in two of their nephews who were removed from their home by Family Services (Departamento de la Familia). So now they are five boys. They are very grateful for all of the donations.

To all 2UC members: please evaluate if you can and would like to be a part of our Sunday school team and VBS team. Children Ministry is always in need of volunteers. The kids really need us. For them to grow and become godly men and women, we need to be involved in their lives today. God bless you all!

And once again thank you VBS crew and donors you were amazing it takes a lot of hands and good hearts to serve our community. Love you all! It's been a blessing working with all of you and serving our kids. I really hope to see all next year.

Sasha Seda

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10



To all of our wonderful, dedicated and loving volunteers, Second Union Church thanks you for sharing Jesus Christ!!

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ Matthew 25:40



God knows us individually and experience His love in personal and unique ways. I recently approached our prayer warriors as my husband was faced with some health struggles. What are prayer warriors? They are individuals who intercede on our behalf. To intercede means to come between, so prayer warriors are, in effect, coming between God and the trouble in another person's life.

Not only were we faced with health issues but we were also dealing with insurance. We needed our private insurance to approve for Javi to travel to Texas to have his procedure(s) performed by the same team who transplanted him. We know and trust the surgeons and the transplant team at the Methodist Hospital in Dallas. So, I approached our prayer warriors and asked for them to intercede on our behalf to deal with the health insurance. That was our first hurdle.

Our prayer warriors dropped to their knees. They were like defense attorneys, appealing to the Higher Court on behalf of their defendants. We're all guilty before God, but God is merciful. Prayer warriors recognize that quality of God's personality and call on Him for intervention. We received a response in less than 24-hours.

The next step was surgery. Again, our prayer warriors approached God on our behalf. We traveled to Texas, were admitted into the hospital and with God's armor, we endured June 9th. After a near four hours, the surgeon gave up as he could not find what he was looking for. We were stunned yet both my husband, who endured the surgery, and I had energy. Hope was not lost.

June 12th rolled around and a new surgeon - who we had never met before - walked into the room two days later to introduce himself. His name was Dr. John Jay. He was a cardiothoracic surgeon and he was going to saw my husband's chest open to explore the area and remove a hyper gland. The image taken earlier that day indicated it was nearer to his heart than the original evaluation.

It was time to sit down. This was not what I expected. We discussed the procedure and alternatives. Leaving the gland was not an option. Not only was it hyper but it was anatomically in the wrong place. Again, I go to my prayer warriors and ask them to intercede on our behalf and explain how things have changed drastically. We're now faced with an "open-heart-procedure".

June 13th - I am sitting in a room filled with other families who are also waiting on their loved ones who are in surgery. I didn't have any friends or family to physically accompany me that day yet I never felt alone. I felt God's warmth and unconditional love as I sat there. He lifted my spirits and gave me strength to endure the situation. As I sat in the room, I looked around and could not help feeling compassion for those sitting around me. Several people were seriously distraught with the reason that drove them there. Others were surrounded by their family. Each case was unique - not one more special than the other.

I woke at three a.m. on June 13th and spoke to God quietly for a while. I then got up, showered, dressed, put on a set of heels, applied some lipstick and off we went. In the meantime, Javi was being prepped by his nursing staff for his surgery. Was I being vain by applying lipstick and slapping on a pair of heels as if going to work? I think not. First, I trusted that God was going to take care of Javi. No matter the outcome - Javi was in God's hands. God was going to use Dr. Jay's hands to remove the gland. He was in excellent hands. I wanted my husband to fall in love with me again when he opened his eyes that day. The vow I made to God in 2012 was "in sickness and in health".

Our prayer warriors interceded not only ON Javi's behalf but also on my behalf. They went to "battle" for us. And, it was because of them that I experienced a sense of peace which under normal circumstances, would have put anyone over the edge.

God is real and all around us. He is omnipresent and ever present! I felt His peaceful, true, eternal and amazing love. Not only from God but from my sisters and brothers in Christ. I was not alone. We were not alone - ever. For that I am eternally grateful to them for being there.

One final note to our story. The Dallas roadway is under serious construction. The construction is so heavy that none of the GPS devices are able to keep up with the series of changes. Javi and I visit the Methodist Hospital annually for his post-transplant post-op so we have a general idea of where it's located. When GPS took us down the wrong streets, both Javi and I said to our drivers, "look up. See that cross on top of that building? Yes? Follow the cross and leave us there. That's our final destination."

Submitted by Humbelina Trevino

