



Scopes & Snopes

I recently read somewhere that the instigators of the Scopes trial of the 1920s were so eager to produce a test case that they were willing to pay the expense of the prosecution. The ACLU advertised for a volunteer and found one, John Scopes, a football coach and science teacher, willing to take the rap. He later admitted he was not sure whether he'd ever even taught evolution.



Pastor Bob Zoba

I would guess that this is not the only example of a trumped up legal case used to promote someone's private agenda. The spin doctors and publicists of our day have grown extremely adept at manipulating the media and convincing the masses that much of what they believe is a minority view, when in fact it is not. As a reader of the MSN web page, I am often fascinated by the results of random polling questions that are asked of MSN subscribers. By most accounts, MSN would be regarded as a fairly left-of-center news source. Accordingly, one would assume that most of its readers are a tad left-of-center as well. However, when polling questions related to social mores such as patriotism, discipline in schools, religious values, etc., are asked, more often than not the results are overwhelming in favor of traditional values.

What is the explanation behind this phenomenon? I suppose there are several, but I believe that one of them might be thing called "coercive tolerance". That is a phrase that my son, Ben, introduced to me recently. If it sounds like an oxymoron, there's a good reason for that. It is. Tolerance by definition is not coercive. It is tolerant. That is, it assumes the notion that you and I may not believe what others believe, or we may not believe in how others choose to live and act, but that does not mean we are going to coerce others to live and believe as we do. However, coercive tolerance is something entirely different. It tells us that we must not only tolerate other people's beliefs and lifestyles, but we must celebrate them as well. And if we do not, then we are shunned, ostracized, boycotted, and/or coerced. Or as Gary Gutfeld writes, those who practice coercive tolerance are folks who put out ads in the major media outlets condemning bullying, then "they spend the rest of their time turning persecution into an art form." They are "just bullies with stylists and publicity".

2nd Thoughts

OCTOBER
2014

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

Second Union Church
Ave. Apolo esq. Mileto
Guaynabo, PR 00969
787-720-4423
secondunion.org

Rev. Robert Zoba

So, as Christians, what should our response be to this disconcerting phenomenon?

Well, #1, stop being so easily duped. We should realize that everything we see, hear, or read in the media must be taken with a large grain of salt. And that applies to reports from both sides of the political fence. The Scope's Trial may have been a bogus set up, but the Snope's website (www.snopes.com) reveals how much of a set up so many other media stories are as well. Remember what the Bible says, "the Devil masquerades as an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14). So, don't believe everything you read.

#2 Don't be afraid of bullies. Your mother was right. The best way to deal with a bully is to stand up to them. Remember too, we are not to fear men. We are to fear God alone. Fear Him, and He will take care of the rest of our fears.

#3 Be encouraged that we are not fighting this fight alone. We are a community of believers whose God is still on his throne in heaven. So too, on many issues, we still have a majority here on earth. So, exercise your vote and express your voice. Remember what the prophet said to Elijah when he despaired due to the bullying of Jezebel. "Seven thousand have not yet bowed their knees to Baal" (1 Kings 19:18), In other words, Elijah, contrary to what you think, you are not alone in this fight. In fact, there are more on your side than you could ever imagine.

#4 Remember, we are "not fighting against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, and the rulers of this dark world." (Eph. 6:12 KJV). So, if we are going to win this battle, we must win through our prayers as much as our powers.

May you and I be encouraged to fight the good fight and win that fight by a love that the world does not understand through a power that it does not yet know.

Blessings!

Pastor Bob

2014-2015 Second Union Church Council & Staff

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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



50th Year Anniversary

2015 marks the year of Second Union Church's 50th Anniversary! A committee has been formed and is being chaired by George and Joan McMurray to commemorate this great event.

We are interested in connecting with all who have been a part of our church. A Facebook page has been created and all are welcome to join the page and submit pictures, memories, anecdotes, etc. If you are still in contact with someone who has attended Second Union at some point, please ask them to join the group.

The committee is planning several activities including a concert and a gala banquet! All ideas are welcome. Please share yours with Joan and George!

FB Page: Second Union Church 50th Reunion

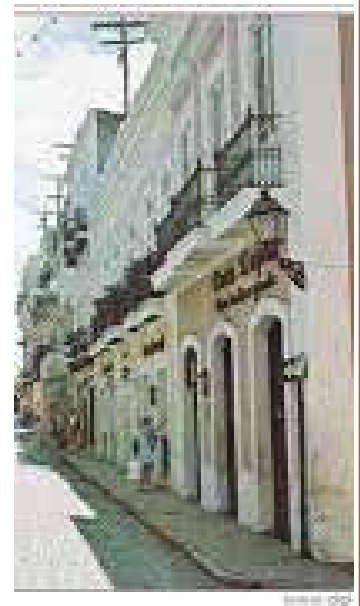
Yesterday When I Was Young

The Puerto Rico I remember . . .

We would go to a club in Old San Juan called "El Primativo". Instead of bar stools this bar had swings hanging from the ceiling. As patrons relaxed, a performer, man or women, would sing their hearts out. Much to the entertainment of clients, who were gently swinging while listening. This venue came to be known as "Bohemia".

But the big spot for "Bohemia in OSJ" was called "Ocho Puertas" or eight doors in English. Owned by two continentals named Thor and Bern, the famous Ocho Puertas, was located at the corner of Old San Juan's Cristo Street and Fortaleza Street. All of the eight doors were always opened during their shows so people could peek in from outside to see the famous performers such as Danny Rivera, Lisette or Glenn Monroig starring on the small stage. A story once circulated that Liza Minelli adopted a dog in OSJ, which she promptly named "Ocho". Today the club has closed, but of course the building still stands. I can't tell you which business is there now, because these eyes of mine still see OSJ as it was in the day. Just yesterday.

Brother Joe





Pito, Jossette and Sebastian Droz are all settled in their new apartment in Houston, TX. Pito is working for Allianz Insurance Co and Sebastian is attending Stratford High School and running

for the school's x-country team? Pito writes: we are attending Memorial Drive United Methodist Church (service almost identical to 2UC except the sermon. Still like Pastor Bob's better!). Sofia is still in PR finishing college. We miss her terribly but hope and pray that she'll end up in TX for her Master's Degree. (For their address and phones, contact Christie or PB!)

Rob Valdés, Christie's son, was home for a quick visit at the end of September? He had mofongo three times while in PR. It's hard to find good Puerto Rican food in D.C.!



Jesse Sargent writes: I am attending Men's Bible Study, Wed. mornings at 7AM. Ivonne and I attend the worship service at St Thomas Episcopal Church. I love the Communion Service, but no one and I mean no one does a sermon like PB. We have about the same number of men at Men's Bible study as 2UC, no food though. No church eats as good as 2UC. I have to straighten the boys out once in awhile with some good ole Pentecostal words from the Bible. PB always told me we do not change, interpret as we see fit, or ad lib anything written in God's word. These are words of iron to live by daily. It looks like Ivonne will be closing on a new home in Ruskin, FL in early November this year. God is so good to us and I know I do not deserve His love and all the daily blessings He gives us.

My daughter Scarlett (beautiful red head) and family are doing great in Albuquerque, NM. Two grandchildren placed third and other places in the recent NM state swim meet. They also excel in playing the violin and piano. I am invited to help minister to seafarers at the Port of Tampa from time to time by the Seafarer Center Director. They do not have very many ships that dock at this port. Not even close to PR's port business. I really miss ministering everyday and still pray that God will give me the opportunity to do more here if that is His will. A big HELLO to all my buddies, miss you!

Matt and Laurie Foster have a new addition. She is sweet **Jane**. She was born on September 10th!



Bill Heffley writes: I departed from the lovely island of Puerto Rico September 2nd to return to the States. Currently I am enjoying time with family and friends in Northwest Indiana, close by Lake Michigan. I have enjoyed attending my sister's church called Liberty Bible Church located South of Chesterton, Indiana.

I left without a formal goodbye to everyone. Well, I am kind of shy that way. I miss everyone at Second Union and have benefited from time with friends at church. Many of you know Chuks and me as the 2nd Union sound guys. I have enjoyed assisting with that, singing with the choir, and working alongside some very talented people. Do email me at: BillHeffley1@gmail.com

Bill Stowell writes: Aviator daughter, **Cristina Michelle**, has been awarded all of her required Commercial Pilot ratings at Embrey-Riddle Aeronautical University at Daytona Beach, Florida.



Son **Billy**, who excels in treating and helping young people with Autism is now working with children in both Greenwich, Connecticut and Puerto Rico. Lawyer daughter **Nicole** is "trying" her first case starting this week. Her tennis-playing (He beat Pastor Bob twice) "**Betrothed**" **Diego** is Chef at Miami's leading restaurant.

Daughter **Giselle** who studies at UPR to become a Nutritionist, keeps her cash flow up through selling real estate....said to have sold multiple homes this last month.



LYKA, the Stowell' black Cocker Spaniel is rumored to recently have turned down a lucrative offer to head up the Secret Service at the White House.



Jared Adams has taken on a new job with the Aon Corporation.

Dennis Gonzalez writes: **Amarilis** will be going to the USTA National Championship in November 2014. Before the competition, we will be going with the team on a hot air balloon ride in Sedona, a 4-hour antique train ride in the canyons of Sedona, and we will walk part of the way down to the 3 mile station and back up in Bright Angel Trail in the Grand Canyon. After all this, the team will be too tired to play competitive tennis, but who cares?!!

Judge Brian Tester teaches a graduate school Law course once a week at Interamerican University.

Ari Tester is the principal of the high school of her old alma mater in Cupeyville.

Christopher Strong is the new chaplain to the Mariners and Fisherman ministries. He has taken over from Jesse Sargent, who is now in Tampa!



Ron and Racquel Seely we're back for a visit and for the dedication of their newest addition, little **Leah**?



Leah was sound asleep until Raquel handed her over to Pastor Bob! She smiled and smiled, and big brother, Abraham behaved like an angel!

At long last we were able to replace our air conditioning system. Our thanks to **Mike LaLlave** and **Juan Gonzalez**.

We discovered that **Stanley Pinkerton** can serve as our Treasurer for another year. Praise the Lord!

Mauricio and Bernice Solano are expecting a little girl. Congratulations!

John Doncel is up in Pennsylvania visiting his daughter, Kathryn and enjoying his new granddaughter, Dina!



Pastor Bob and Christie recently went to San Francisco for Bob's nephew's wedding? They added a visit to Napa where they spent time with **Emily Yost** (David and Laurie's daughter) who is in a management training program at R&D Restaurant and Rutherford Kitchen in the Napa Valley? And they spent two nights in the beautiful Yosemite National Park? What an amazing display of God's creativity!



FOR SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN
no ear has heard
no eye has seen a
GOD LIKE YOU
who works for those
WHO WAIT FOR HIM
ISAIAH 64:4

It is such a joy when people come up to me and ask how I am recovering and to know they are still praying for me is such a blessing, a wonderful gift. It has been five months since my thyroidectomy surgery and I wanted to share with everyone my journey and the many ways I felt God with me whether through sensing His presence or His love through others. My decision to have this surgery was because of the inconclusive biopsy report. I had a tumor on my left thyroid but was it benign or malignant? . . . that is where this journey started.



I began to wonder if this was the cause of many of my health issues I had been having for four years. So, after much prayer and consultation I made the decision to go ahead and proceed with the recommended surgery. I knew I would be healed, whether on earth or in heaven, no matter what... I would be healed! While waiting for my surgery date, I was blessed to have spoken to Jo-sette (thank you Pastor Bob for leading me to her). I hadn't really spoken to her before, just friendly smiles. It was a comforting feeling to speak to someone who had gone through what I was about to go through. It felt as if I had known her for a long time. She was sincere and cared to take the time to educate me about the process she had been through and even asked for me to call her anytime if I had any questions or just wanted to know more. She was a gift given from God and now we have friendship. During this time, others came out and shared with me their thyroid issues which made me realize I was not alone. I even met a girl who said to me, she was glad she had met me because it made her feel as if she wasn't alone in this type of situation. However her biopsy said she did not have cancer she made the decision to remove her thyroid anyway and in that process the doctors discovered she did in fact had cancer and needed radiation after the surgery. Praise God as she is healed now.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to every one of you who prayed for me during this time and still continue to do so. There are even those who I don't even know but I am very grateful for your prayers, you are all a huge blessing to me, With Gods great planning, my stepson Taylor due to his work schedule, could only come the week of my surgery, Janovic's birthday and Mother's Day (what a blessing to me!). God is good!

The day of surgery I felt God with me in the waiting room, in pre-op and in the recovery room. When it was all over and I was moved to the recovery room I could see how concerned my husband was because of the way I looked and felt after the surgery, but still I felt God with me the whole time. Taylor stayed with Janovic at home while my husband, Jan, and I were at the hospital from 4:30am till 3pm. He played with Janovic the whole time, tended to him and fed him. Brother bonding!



When I returned home from the hospital, Taylor continued to care for Janovic while Jan tended to me since I was very nauseated from the anesthesia. I stayed in bed and slept as much as I could because if not I would get sick. I was blessed to see Taylor put his little brother to bed and he even prayed with him. He tended to Janovic almost the whole vacation time he was here, and never once did he complain!

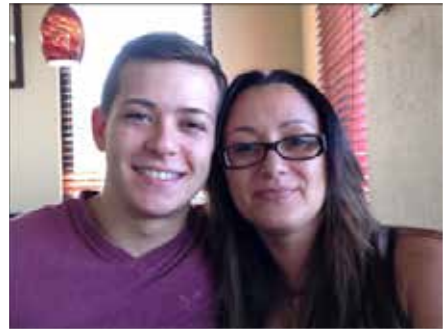
Though my week was very hard as far as recovering I felt God there every time I saw my boys smiling, singing worship songs and praying. Thank you Taylor for using your vacation time to be there for us, you are truly a wonderful stepson. I am very grateful Pastor Bob and Christie called me during the week to see how I was doing (even if they couldn't understand what I was saying). Thank you to all of those who texted or called me that same day to make sure I was okay. I am blessed that my husband was able to be



there to tend to me and answer all those calls even though he had to work from home the same day (God bless him). It was not easy but thanks to Taylor he managed.

Since my surgery, my body has reacted negatively to the stitches, which is why I have gauze on my neck while it is draining. Oh, and my voice, well, the nerve on one of my vocal cords became paralyzed from the surgery and it is not moving which is why I feel winded at times and my voice is hard to understand. According to my ENT, all I can do is wait for the nerve to react again. There is no specific time frame as to when that will happen but with much prayer it will come back. However, I believe this whole process wasn't really about my health for God could heal anyone in a heartbeat and at any time. I believe this was to teach me to see Him, rely on Him, find comfort in Him and trust in Him and most of all to grow stronger in love for others, for He made us to need each other!! He brought so many loving and caring people to my side and endless amounts of prayers (prayers from people I've never even met) filling that bowl in heaven with incense. He taught me that the love I saw from everyone was Him!!

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit" 1 John 4:11-13



Come With Me

Come With Me
is a mini prayer retreat designed to
help you find a way to be alone with
God. The goal of this retreat is to
help women develop a deeper faith
and work on the skills we need to BE
STILL.

Wednesday, October 15
10 a.m.

Offered by Women's Ministries

**Christian Community Church
Presents
Apologetics Conference
with
Mary Jo Sharp**

**October 17 & 18, 2014
Donation: \$35
Info: 787-720-2595**

Bathsheba: The Struggle for the Throne

(Part 2 of 2)

Fast forward many years and we come to the second episode in Bathsheba's life. I have to admit that I was not familiar at all with this story. I had just assumed that Solomon had ascended to the throne through hereditary succession as was the custom in Israel. I had been totally unaware of the existence of Adonijah, David's oldest surviving son and rightful heir to the throne, or any of Bathsheba's children except Solomon. Again, intrigue, scandal, sex, and murder surround the adulteress Bathsheba, a woman highly honored by God and chosen to be included in Christ's bloodline.

By this time in Israel's history, David is an old man, probably in his 70's, and has lost his ability to reign over the kingdom effectively. We would probably say in today's jargon that he was a decrepit old man who had lost his marbles. He was so far removed from ruling the kingdom that he didn't know what was going on behind his back! Well, apparently the problem wasn't upstairs. By all accounts, David had lost his virility and therefore his ability to reign over Israel. According to ancient Middle Eastern societies, the sexual potency of a king was directly related to the state of a nation. Plain and simple. If David was impotent he couldn't be king. His inability to perform sexually with the beautiful Abishag, a young woman from Shunem chosen to be a helper and servant to David in his old age, was a clear sign that a co-regency needed to be instituted in the kingdom. This meant that someone would rule the nation alongside David until he died or abdicated the throne. It was assumed that after the sitting king's death or abdication, the co-regent would naturally ascend to the throne and become his successor. Who do you think was the rightful person to become co-regent? Adonijah of course, David's oldest surviving son. Power hungry and impatient, Adonijah staged a coup d'état in the kingdom and proclaimed himself king and heir to David's throne, all before his father's death, or abdication, and without his knowledge. This bold act of defiance enraged the queen and her son, Solomon, who was also a contender for the throne. Although not specifically recorded in Scripture, David had promised Bathsheba that their son Solomon would be Israel's next king. Acting on this promise, this shrewd woman knew she needed to act quickly and decisively in order to prevent Adonijah from ascending to the throne.

Solomon was Bathsheba's youngest son with David and beloved of God. God had sovereignly chosen to place the kingly crown on Solomon, not Adonijah, and make him the successor to David's throne. Advised and backed by Nathan the prophet, Bathsheba made her way to the aging king's chamber to plead her case. She informed David of Adonijah's self-proclamation as king behind his back, and that of all his sons, Solomon alone remained loyal to him. She reminded him that he was still the reigning monarch in Israel, not Adonijah, and of the promise he had made to her concerning Solomon's ascension to the throne. She even appealed to the king for protection out of fear for her very life. Bathsheba was quite aware that if Adonijah became king, he would kill all rivals to the throne, and that included Solomon, and that she would suffer this same fate. David must have really loved Bathsheba for when the dust settled and all was said and done, Solomon had been proclaimed heir to the throne.

After David's death, Solomon ascended to the throne and bestowed on Bathsheba the title of Queen Mother making her the most powerful woman in Jerusalem. ! David, a total failure as a father and unable to discipline any of his children, had allowed Adonijah to live. With Solomon now on the throne, Adonijah posed a very real threat to the throne and the Queen Mother knew it. She needed to do something to secure the throne and her position as well, and the ambitious Adonijah provided her with the perfect reason to have him killed. Yes . . . killed. In a bold, calculated move on the part of Adonijah, he presented himself before the Queen Mother asking for assistance in procuring Abishag's hand in marriage. Abishag was considered one of David's wives, and marriage to the widow of a previous king was Adonijah's way of staking his claim on the throne. It was known in the time of the monarchy that having sex with the former king's wife or concubine was a way of proclaiming oneself as the new king. Wasn't Adonijah clever? No, not really. He had just signed his own death sentence and didn't know it. I'm sure he thought himself quite clever, but he was

no match for the astute Bathsheba who once again out-maneuvered this young upstart. She knew that Abishag could never marry Adonijah, so she went to report this request to the king and in the meantime gave Solomon some motherly advice. She persuaded him to kill his half-brother in order to solidify his claim on the throne. Prodded and enticed by his mother, Solomon had Adonijah killed without so much as a trial. With a swift execution, Adonijah's life was snuffed out, Solomon's throne secured, and the Queen Mother's position safe. Truly, she was the power behind the throne!

Praise God that He is no respecter of persons. He shows no partiality or favoritism toward anyone, and chooses "...the foolish things of the world to shame the wise...the weak things of the world to shame the strong" (1Cor.1:27). In His awesome mercy and grace, God chose to honor a sinful woman, an adulteress, throughout the history of His chosen nation Israel by including her in Messiah's bloodline. It was through her descendants, Joseph and Mary, that Christ's royal and legal right to the throne were established making Him the sole and rightful Heir to the throne of David. Even though we are children of a Holy and Righteous God, we will falter and fall. we will yield to temptation, and we will sin against the Almighty because we have inherited our parents' sinful nature; that of Adam and Eve. Thanks be to God that there is extended to us forgiveness through the precious blood of the Lamb for we have the beautiful promise in Scripture that "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). The only requirement is that we must confess our sins thereby acknowledging our need of a Savior. When we confess our sins before Him, He is Faithful to forgive our sins, Compassionate to cast them all into the depth of the sea, and Loving to restore us to a right relationship with Him. Salvation is one of forgiveness. right relationship with Him.

Salvation is one of forgiveness.

Submitted by Mayra Chipi

IF MY PEOPLE . . .



. . . will humbly pray and turn back to me and stop sinning, then I will answer them from heaven. 2 Chronicles 7:14

**2UC PRAYER SERVICE
THURSDAYS 6 PM
Conference Room**

Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study

Tuesdays from noon - 2pm
Fellowship Hall

We are finishing the "Shout of the Bridegroom" which has been a fascinating study about Jewish wedding traditions and how it relates to us as Christ's bride.

We begin a new study on October 14, entitled, "The Christians Secret of a Happy Life". The books are in and will be available on Tuesday. Please contact Christie to reserve your copy. We are blessed that these studies are being led by Lynn McCarley1

As always, lunch is available through Anita for \$8. Contact her at anita00926@aol.com if you would like to order or feel free to bring your own.

XEROX Corporation Donates to the Backpack Program

God has abundantly blessed the Backpack Program at 2UC!

On Wednesday, September 10, a crew of employees from the Xerox Corporation of PR, led by Marlene Williams, took our program to a new level! Xerox held a month-long food drive which they brought to the church and then they surprised us with a beautiful, stainless-steel shelving unit. The Backpack Room is so organized and looks great. We had a surprise monitoring visit from the Banco de Alimentos, and they were very impressed!

Thanks to the Xerox team and especially to Marlene!



Marlene Williams, third from left and the Xerox crew



Backpack Student-Parent Activity

On Friday, September 19th, the Backpack Program held an activity for the students and their parents thanks to the support of many willing volunteers. It was a great success.

Most of the students in the program came to the event and several brought their siblings along.

Valerie Martinez, the Mochila Alegre program director from the Banco de Alimentos addressed the parents, and Aidy Silva did an outstanding job giving makeup demonstrations.

We were able to offer vision screenings courtesy of the Interamerican School of Optometry for all of the students and some of the parents. Thanks to Kris Adams for organizing this event! Kris, who is in her second year at the Optometry School brought six other students and two professors, including our very own John Mordi! It was a real blessing to the families.



Kris Adams performing a vision screening with Leishmar



John Mordi, Kris Adams and Interamerican Optometry students



Aidy Silva



Nahomie & Kaichdali



Gustavo and the BP Program students!



Dayeli, Nayeli, Audrey & Dayeille



Tim Adams and Joshua



Parents of Backpack Students with Valerie Martinez of the Banco de Alimentos (in front of poster)



Audrey & León

Thanks to Tim Adams for taking pictures of the students. We are grateful to have the faces to go with the names! We will be presenting each student with a framed picture! You can see the pictures of the students on the bulletin board in the Narthex at church!

Our Youth Leader, Gustavo Gonzalez, did a great job entertaining the students with games and activities - what a gift! And a special thanks to León, Regina and Sofía, (Christie's neighbors) who were on hand to help out with the activity and who have been a big help in packing and distributing the backpacks!

We are indebted to all who help with the program - Ramon Chinaea, Mike & Chris Strong, John Alberts, Joshua Estremera, Pastor Bob, Gustavo Gonzalez - (they do the heavy lifting!). Also we are grateful for those individuals who regularly leave food (we know who you are Brenda Ferrer, Susanne & Derek Myles and Laurie & David Yost!). And of course, thanks again to our angel, Marlene Williams.

Finally, our heartfelt gratitude goes out to Laurie Yost and Audrey Wilcox who together with Anita Rodriguez have been the heart and soul of this program.

It's been a blessing to see God at work in our midst right here at Second Union Church. We see this evidenced through the many rich relationships that are nurtured here. Yet every once in a while there is a very special friendship that develops which there can be no other explanation than God's grace and provision.

This is a story of William and David. These two couldn't be more different, yet they have a friendship that is precious. So how are they different? William is very short and David is very tall. William is very young and David is not so very young. William is very vocal and David is relatively quiet. William is a student and David is a doctor. Yet they have developed a bond which is a wonder to witness. On the surface this appears to be a grandfather-grandson relationship, yet it is more than that because if you ask William who his best friend is, there is no hesitation when he responds, "David". And though I have never asked David the same question, there is little doubt that he could have a best friend that would surpass little William.

I'm pretty sure, "David" was one of William's first words. Right after 'mama' and 'dada'! His first 'sentence' might have been, 'where's David?'! David and William met just shortly after the David and Laurie Yost arrived in San Juan and were introduced at church to another Laurie and her husband, Matt. At the time, Matt and Laurie's son, William, was just beginning to walk. And something between David and William just clicked. I wouldn't call it



a coincidence! They became fast friends and ever since, when you see William at church on Sundays, he is either on David's shoulders or they are walking hand-in-hand. Outside of church, this friendship has grown through time spent together watching TV, hanging out at the pool, shared meals and even a trip to St. Johns. David and Laurie have provided much appreciated babysitting (to William's delight). When they aren't spending time together, William often calls David on his play cell phone and invites

him to come over. As Laurie Y. says, 'with William, if David is around, the rest of us could be chopped liver!'

Laurie and David have become part of Laurie and Matt's family here in Puerto Rico, and I'm sure the Fosters will be the first to let you know how much this relationship has blessed them. Now that the Fosters have welcomed a second child, beautiful baby Jane, into their family, there's no doubt that the Fosters and the Yosts will grow even closer and William will rely on his 'best friend, David' all the more!

For those of us who are on the sidelines watching all of this, we can't help but feel an amazing joy in our hearts knowing that God is absolutely amazing!

And I challenge the rest of you to look around and see where your friendship can make a difference in someone's life – right here at Second Union Church!



Laurie F., Matt, William, David, Laurie Y.