



**AUGUST
2018**

Are We A Tough Crowd?

So often when stand-up comediennes are having a tough time getting a laugh, they will quip, "Wow, this is a tough crowd." I even saw a clip where Jerry Seinfeld was doing stand up in a dinky, little comedy club and no one was laughing. And he was reminding them that "Hey, folks, listen, I'm Jerry Seinfeld. If you're not going to laugh at me, who are you going to laugh at?"

This last week Christie and I led the Bible Discovery class at VBS. Thus, I have new-found respect for our intrepid Sunday School teachers since primary school-age kids can be a "tough crowd". The reason? Well, there are several,



Pastor Bob Zoba

First of all, our kids have been preconditioned by modern media to resist thinking in a linear fashion. Atlantic Magazine carried an article entitled, "Google is Making Us Stupid" in which it showed how use of the Internet has made us into expert multi-taskers who tend to think tangentially. We are conditioned by hypertexts in news articles that carry us off in a dozen different directions. Add to that the pop-up ads, email alerts, and instant message notifications which distract us from our task, and we can understand why we have trouble thinking in a straight line. Therefore, kids these days are preconditioned to get you off topic, or become disruptive if you don't.

In addition to that, today's kids are a lot like the crowd in a comedy club, i.e. they are not shy about heckling you, or complaining that your material is not funny (or entertaining) or they just might happen to disagree with you and thus, they are not shy about letting you know.

This makes for a tough crowd. Thus, I think doing a 20-minute Bible lesson at VBS is a lot more challenging than preaching on Sunday mornings. (So, I've decided not to give up my day job;-)

But all those factors aside, I also believe that some comics react to a tough crowd because they may be saying the same string of jokes to them that they just delivered the night before at another club where the crowds were rolling in the aisles.

And what makes the difference?

It reminds me of the sermon that Jonathan Edwards delivered back in the 18th century that launched the First Great Awakening as his audience responded with tears of repentance, cries of joy, and changed lives that went on to change a nation. But ironically, this same sermon that sparked the First Great

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

**Adult Sunday School
9:00am**

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

**Choir Practice
Thursdays 7:30 pm**

Weekly Activities

Ladies Bible Study
Tuesdays 12-2

Small Group
@ the Rivera's
Tuesday 7pm

Men's Breakfast
Wednesday 7am

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

Awakening was the very, same sermon Edwards had preached before at his home church where he had gotten very little reaction. So, what was the difference?

Obviously, it was the receptivity of the audience. Like the Parable of the Sower, some soils are more responsive to the sowing of the Word than others.

Thus, my challenge to you is to not look on Sunday morning as the sole basis of your spiritual instruction for the week. Instead, I challenge you to be in the Word every day during your personal devotions and to become involved in one of our many small-group, Bible studies during the week, so that come Sunday, you arrive with a heart watered, fertilized, and receptive rather than a heart that is hardened, weedy, and rocky.

Indeed, I love the story of the two women who left Sunday service together, and one said to the other, "You know, Hazel, I didn't get anything out of that sermon today."

"Well," said Hazel, "maybe that's because you didn't bring anything with you to carry it home."

Thus, this new academic year, I challenge you to come to church with a heart and mind prepared to receive what God has to say to you, so that you can respond with the amen of obedience and take home with you a week's worth of direction in His ways.

Pastor Bob

Second Union Church Council & Staff

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What do you find most valuable in a relationship?

This is a question that may seem simple, but when you take time to truly think about it, it is actually very profound. For some reason this question has been coming to my mind frequently during the past few weeks. There are so many attributes that are important in our relationships: honesty, kindness, generosity, authenticity, wit, compassion, patience, communication, integrity, respect? What is it for you?

All of those qualities are important, but I've come to the conclusion that for me the most valuable is reliability. This is not a word you are likely to find in the Bible, perhaps a more biblical term is 'faithfulness' or even 'steadfastness'. As I reflect on the relationships in my life, I realize that those friends and acquaintances that mean the most to me are those who are reliable - those who I can truly count on - the ones who show up. Bob often quotes Woody Allen's famous line "90% of success is showing up", and that for me really resonates with my soul in terms of relationships.

Back in they day when Ana McGuire Johndrow used to do her cultural adaptation seminars for newcomers to the island, she spoke about a trait that many in our culture have which is the desire to please and to say 'yes' to commitments or invitations that they may, in fact, not intend to fulfill. When I first moved to Puerto Rico, I was in the process of remodeling an apartment, and I remember how difficult it was to count on workmen showing up to complete a job. As they were leaving for the day, I would ask them if they were returning the next day, and the response was often 'Sí, si Dios quiere!'. I began to dread that phrase, because on so many occasions they didn't return the next day. They had said 'yes', because they wanted to please; yet in all probability they had other customers that were also waiting on them to show up. The same thing happens with party invitations as many of you know. People accept an invitation, yet they often just don't show up - no call, no text, they simply don't come. And the unusual thing is that they don't feel bad about it. They would rather say 'yes' and not show up than just say 'no'. After almost thirty years in Puerto Rico, I've gotten used to this and I expect it and even have come to understand it, but it does tend to disappoint me.

For me reliability has to do with trust and respect. When someone isn't reliable - and there is usually a pattern of unreliability - I have a hard time respecting them. So I have come to appreciate and really value people who are reliable in my life. My husband is the most reliable person I know, and my mom is as well. If they tell you they are going to do something, you can count on them - no matter what.

Actually I've been blessed with a lot of people in my life who I can count on. At church, what a blessing it has been for me to work with Loraine Colón, Raúl Díaz, Christopher Strong and Laurie Yost in the Backpack Program. I truly value and respect them for their authenticity and reliability. They have all donated their time and energy so selflessly and so faithfully. So many others help in so many ways, and I'm not underestimating their contributions, but these people have been so consistent and so steadfast, and I respect them so much. I don't tell them enough how much I value them, but I am very grateful to God for them!

Bible Study & Small Group Opportunities at 2UC

Day and Study	Location	Contact
Sunday 9am Adult Bible Study Matthew	2UC Conference Room	Lizzette Kelley: Howard01@prtc.net
Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study (12-2) Hezekiah	2UC Fellowship Hall	Christie Zoba: zoba129@gmail.com 787-717-4001
Tuesday Evening Bible Study (7-9pm)	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
Weds. Evening and Thursday Morning Women's Study (8am)	Cafe del Alma - Paraná Street	Anita Rodriguez: anita00926@aol.com

Second Union Church

Madalyne Vega writes: It was a great summer vacation for Xavi, Raymond and me! We were all able to visit Málaga and Granada in Spain and spend a day at the Alhambra! Xavi is doing great at college and made the Dean's List. Madelyn is also working at California State University where Xavi attends and Raymond teaches, so it's all in the family. Xavi also is an accomplished barista at Starbucks. Xavi and Madelyn are planning to come to Puerto Rico soon and will come to visit their 2UC family! PTL!!



Madelyn, Raymond & Xavi

John & Evelyn Alberts recently returned from their latest grandchildren tour. John initiated our first-ever, Men's Breakfast World Cup pool where the winner gets a free Richard's Rueben's sandwich at Bottles. (Who says there's no free lunch?") No one picked France to win it all, but our overall winner was Mauricio Gomez. Since he, Daniela, and Lucas have relocated to south Florida, the prize will go to Edwin Perez (if he ever returns from Turkey;-)

Emilio Almeda, son of Jaime and Brandi, represented Puerto Rico in a junior World Cup competition in Spain this summer.

Victor & Maricella Alvear traveled to Germany and the DR this summer.

Our VBS program was a great success this year and we thank all of our helpers who made it possible. We had amazing decorations, snacks, and Bible messages for our kids. Thanks to all!

Marion Calcolli went to visit family up in NYC this summer.

Carlos & Mayra Chipi also traveled to Germany this year and have recently enjoyed some quality time on the beach in Dorado with their many kids and grandkids here in PR.

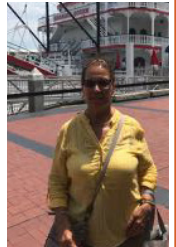
It was great to see Maylie Colon back this summer. We sure do miss her and Maria. Dalan Decker has a very successful recording business for Books on Tape. Congrats Dalan!

Nicole Deliz will be teaching literature at Commonwealth High School this year.

Mike & Irma LaLlave made their annual summer tour of the east coast, ending up in Maine to celebrate their respective birthdays with a fresh lobster dinner. Yum!!! They stopped in Gainesville, Savannah (Irma loved Savannah), Charlotte NC, Harrisonburg VA (spent time in Shenandoah valley and drove a section of the Skyline Drive in VA), Alexandria VA and Wash DC, Union NJ, Exeter NH, and York ME. Celebrated my birthday with our daughter Diana in Union NJ and Irma celebrated hers with Joy and her friend, and I, in York ME, where she polished off the 1-1/2 lb lobster. On the way spent a week with Joy Dill—former 2UC'ier— (she lives 1/2 year in Exeter NH, the other half in Ft Pierce FL), and 2 weeks in Union NJ with our daughter Diana. Flew back through Miami and spent some time with our younger daughter Michelle—she lives in Miami Beach. Now we need a vacation from our vacation. Both Mike and Irma celebrated their birthdays!!



Mike & Irma



Irma's Birthday Lobster Dinner

Raul Diaz continues to be a great help with our backpack program. So too, he and Jean Marco Montalvo posed as Roman guards who carried Jesus away to trial for VBS. Raul is strongly considering attending the missions trip to the DR in January.



Former 2UCer Joy Dill & Irma

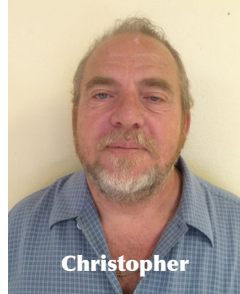
This summer, Tom & Patricia Engfer have made trips to Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong. Then they traveled home to Bolivia to visit family!!



Tom & Patricia in Hong Kong

2UC and the San Juan Community Library were blessed by a youth group that came down from Florida to help us out with outreach and maintenance. The youth group leader was Jason Pridmore, the son of Charlie, the former pastor of Union Church.

Christopher Strong was a big help with the mission team from Florida as he was the driver and tour specialist.



Christopher

Speaking of Union Church, they will be celebrating their 101st birthday next Saturday, August 11. (See Mabel for tickets.)

John & Carol Fisher will soon be leaving us as John has taken a new position in Fort Collin, Colorado;- (We certainly will miss this wonderful couple who have the biggest hearts this side of the western hemisphere.



John & Carol

Muriel Francis is visiting family in NY and in Canada.

Dennis and Linda Glenn are doing well up in Estero, Florida. Dennis is playing tennis and working with GPS and the Gideons.

Attie & Alta Goosen are rejoicing that their Green Cards are pretty much a done-deal so they are well along the path of full citizenship.

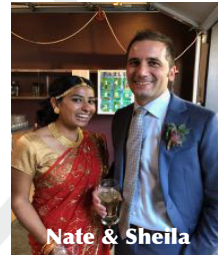
Denise Hill hosted a visit from her dear sister who lives in Mexico.

Steven Johnson is ecstatic with his Red Sox as they are leading the American league in nearly every category. (Carlos Sepulveda is not as happy with his beloved Yankees.)

After a business trip to Indianapolis, Chelsea Mohler returned with a suitcase full of corn-on-the-cob and green beans which were hand-picked the day before on Justin's family farm. She treated her family and neighbors to a delicious meal featuring this midwest treat! If you've never had just-picked corn-on-the-cob, you don't know what you are missing. And since it's impossible to get in PR, the Zoba's were delighted!! We are grateful for Justin's help at VBS with our Kid Video station.

The McMurrays are still doing well in Cupertino, CA, just next to the Apple campus. Joan is teaching a class on Shakespeare and they are both teaching students who want to improve their English.

Elsa Melendez is faithfully caring for her beloved husband Pablo. She is presently our longest standing member at 2UC.



Nate & Sheila

Pastor Bob and Christie attended two very special weddings this summer.

The first was at the end of May in Los Angeles for their oldest son, Nate, who married his long-time

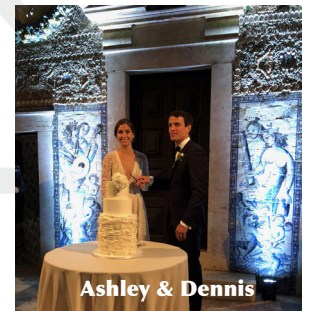


sweetheart, Sheila. It was a wonderful opportunity for families from very different backgrounds to come together in celebration!



Steve, Jane, Jon, Christina, Ben, Christie, J.J., Bob & Rob

Then in mid-July, Bob's niece, Ashley, was married in Portugal for another very memorable event. The groom was half Brazilian and half British but raised in Singapore, so you can imagine the international nature of the wedding. They were married by Pastor Bob in a 13th century monastery in Sintra, Portugal and the reception was held in a 17th century Palace in Lisbon. We all felt like royalty!!



Ashley & Dennis



Pastor Bob and Christie were also able to visit Porto and the Algarve in Portugal, as well as Sevilla and Madrid!



Amarilis Lebrón's tennis team made it to the finals . . . against all odds! Amarilis is a very dedicated and wonderful captain!



Second Union Church



Yvette & Sebastian

Christie Zoba's step-daughter and son-in-law, Yvette and Jake are expecting their second child this August. And they just purchased and moved into their first home in Wappinger Falls, NY - about an hour north of NYC!!

Becky and Christopher O'Meara were in Puerto Rico in July! It was so great to see them again,



Anita, Colleen, Becky, Chris, Silvette & Cadiz

even though the occasion was a sad one. They came for Thelma Rivera's memorial service. What an encouragement they were to Anita and family. Christopher's tour of duty with the Coast Guard ended in the Middle East and he is now stationed in Miami and will hopefully be traveling frequently to Puerto Rico. Becky and Christopher found a great apartment in downtown Miami and Becky will continue to work remotely with the non-profit organization she was with in Virginia.

Pastor Bob and Christie visited with Pastor Joe and Elilda Ramos in Palmas del Mar - they received the royal tour! It was wonderful to be with such great friends, but it was heart breaking to see the lingering effects of hurricane Maria in Palmas.



Dely Seda is now working with CREE Women's Ministry. CREE offers pregnancy testing and counseling services for women who may be considering an abortion. Their first center is located near San Pablo Hospital close to an abortion clinic. Talk to Dely if you'd like to support this ministry.

Debbie Garcia writes from their new home: Greensboro is beautiful, the people are lovely and the pace of life is much easier than Houston. We moved into a townhouse and are very happy to have a place to call home and host guests. We really love the trees, pace of life and the sense of community here The nature surrounding everything here is inspiring. We found a Baptist church nearby and think we finally found a church home in the U.S. Tina came to visit 2 weekends ago and we had a splendid weekend. Carol and her family should be here during the month of August. Then Ilia Maria soon to follow. We see Melissa every week (so happy about that). She got a job at High Point University and found a lovely apartment. Tina came for a visit last weekend and we had a great time seeing the local sites in Greensboro. We miss all of you!!!!



*.. A sweet friendship
refreshes the soul.
Proverbs 27:9*



On Father's Day the men of Second Union came together to serenade the church family.

2UC Member and Council President, Brian Tester, a co-judicial chairperson for a national organization called the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI). The ABI coordinates educational programs for lawyers, accountants and judges. Every 3 years they put on a very well attended program in PR, which was supposed to be this last February. Due to the effects of the hurricanes on the local hotels, the event was canceled. Instead the ABI did a one-day fund-raiser in Miami to raise money and awareness for hurricane relief in PR. They raised almost \$17,000.00! After the event, the Executive Director was looking for the best group to give the monies to help the hurricane victims. After several months of due diligence



Attached is a photo of Brian presenting the check from the ABI Endowment fund to Mabel, Julio and Stan in the amount of \$16,685.00

(and with a little help from Brian), the ABI selected Second Union Church. Their primary criteria was an organization who donated 100% of funds received for Hurricane Relief and Recovery directly to the recipients of families and individuals who are in great need.

Second Union Church is very grateful to Brian and to the American Bankruptcy Institute for their generosity! We know it will provide much needed materials for those who are still recovering from the hurricane.



A Tribute to the Organizations Supported by 2UC

At the end of May, the Outreach Committee invited all of the organizations that our church supports financially to a special activity held in their honor. Special music was provided by cellist, Hazel, Carlos Rivera and the University of PR - Arecibo Bell Choir, María Cristina Ramirez (wife of Pastor Johnny Ocasio from Mar Azul, and our very own Luis Manuel Tirado. The organizations were presented with checks by Outreach Chair, Irma Torres and Don Julio Rivera. A lovely reception for all was held after the program concluded.



And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16

Ladies' Luncheon

The Women's Ministry team hosted a simple and delightful lunch following the July 22nd worship service. Getting involved in women's ministry at 2UC gives you the opportunity to get connected and to get involved through Bible studies, outreach visits, crafting, prayer & praise breakfasts, the Backpack Program, and our upcoming Christmas Bazaar. Stay tuned as Women's ministries has several upcoming events and we would love to have you join us!



Second Union Church

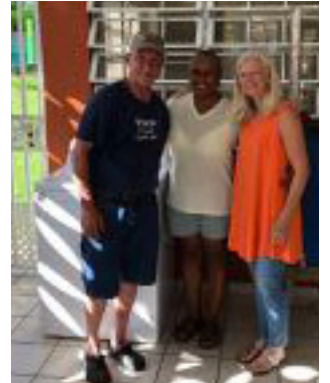


Doña Gladys of Posada la Victoria & Joe

Second Union continues to play an active role in providing support to families who were severely affected by Hurricane Maria. Thanks to the new donations we have received, we continue to reach out to families who are still living in somewhat precarious situations. For anyone who has flown in or out of Puerto Rico in the last few months, it's heart-wrenching to see the number of blue tarps in the metro area. There are so many people who have yet to replace their roofs and they are still

living under tarps that were supposed to provide only a temporary shelter. A lot of our work has focused on the Yabucoa area as we have a great contact at the municipality who works with faith-based groups.

We have been blessed to have the opportunity to collaborate with different groups who have come from the States to provide ongoing support. Building Goodness Foundation is based out of Charlottesville, West Virginia. A group of dedicated and skilled volunteers primarily from the construction industry travel to different areas of the world where they . . . build goodness! They have worked extensively in Haiti, Nicaragua, Honduras and now they have added Puerto Rico. The first project that we will be working on with them is the re-purposing of an abandoned school that will be the new home for Posada La Victoria, a spiritual rehabilitation program for women who have addiction issues. Their facility was damaged severely, and they have been awarded this new facility which will allow them to grow their ministry. The guys from Building Goodness spent two weeks here taking measurements and discussing material requirements for this project and they will return to begin work within the coming months. While they were here, they helped us install a dishwasher that we purchased for Sandra, a lovely Christian woman in Toa Baja. Sandra was also the grateful recipient of a beautiful bedroom set that Eli and Serena Lozano donated prior to leaving the island. She is such a sweet, sweet person with a strong faith in the midst of tremendous trials - she is going through chemotherapy and she was recently diagnosed with MS.



Ed and Sandra with her new dishwasher - and below with her bedroom set



Another group that came to the island, was a mission team from Palm City Presbyterian Church in Florida. Jason, the youth pastor of this church is the son of Charlie Pridmore - you may have met him while he was the pastor at Union Church in Punta Las Marias. Jason and his wife Sherry along with several other

adults
and
twelve



Hurricane Recovery

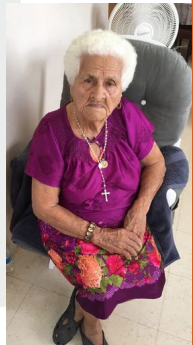


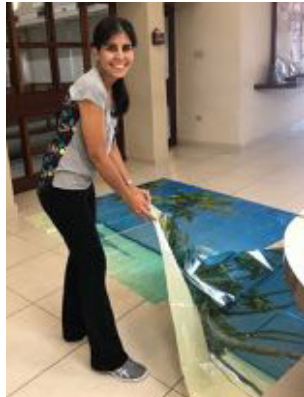
teenagers came to take on various projects. They worked for several days at The San Juan Community Library, painting and repairing things, and then they went with Christie to Yabucoa where they removed rotten and insect infecting ceiling and paneling from Alicia's home. At the age of 3, Alicia was struck with polio and has been wheelchair-bound ever since. 2UC had previously purchased new windows and roof sealant for her home, and this group from Florida went with Christie to Yabucoa where they removed rotten and insect infecting ceiling and paneling from Alicia's home. At the age of 3, Alicia was struck with polio and has been wheelchair-bound ever since. This was

a very dirty job, but this crew rolled up their sleeves and worked so hard. We also visited the home of another elderly couple who were dealing with a leaky roof, and the teens power washed her roof in preparation for the application of sealant which was purchased by 2UC. This group also worked a day with the Lutheran Retreat Center, painting and getting it ready to receive other groups.



Below are just a few pictures of the individuals and families we have continued to help from Yabucoa, Aibonito and Juncos. We continue to provide roofing materials, appliances, windows, doors, roof sealer, and more.



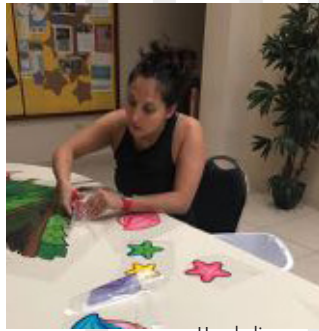


Sasha Seda, VBS Director



Javier & Sasha

Our annual Vacation Bible School was a week of Bible stories, fun, games and great food for our 45 'campers'. But months of planning and organization went into ensuring the success of this great endeavor. We are so very grateful to our VBS Director, Sasha Seda, who did an outstanding job. Though we had many amazing volunteers, we are very especially grateful to Risa Tobin, Jean Marco Montalvo and Catalina Montalvo who put in so much time making incredible creative decorations and nutritious and yummy food for the campers and the 'staff'. Mabel Varela and her team also contributed an inordinate amount of time and dedication to this year's VBS. We thank God for you! Here is a list of all of the volunteers - and we want you to know how much we appreciate all that you have done!! Enjoy these pictures of our wonderful VBS kids and volunteers!



Humbelina



Joshua & Kiara

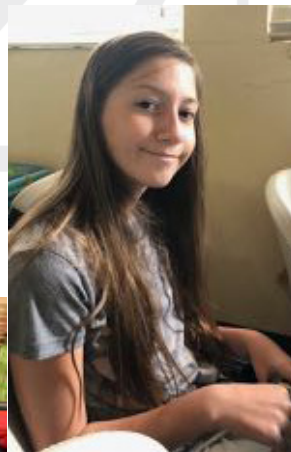


Jean Marco



Sheila, Pre-K Leader

Alistir



Victoria



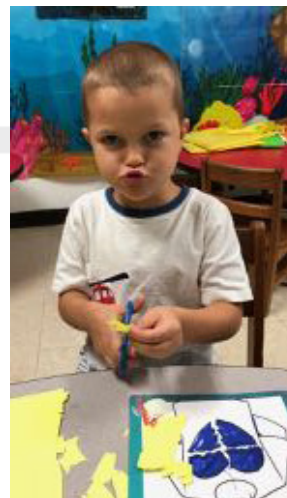
Pablo, Judah & Mateo



Rosabella



Alana and Catalina, Crew Leaders



Arlin

**VBS
Volunteers**

- Sasha
- Loraine
- Justin
- Wanda
- Sheila
- Kamali
- Ramon
- Kevin
- Brian
- Emilio
- Irma
- Dely
- Grecia
- Kiara
- Alondra
- Arianna
- Catalina
- Jean Marco
- Jean Michael
- Keshawn
- Alana
- Gian Carlos
- Joshua
- Risa
- Gina
- Christopher
- Humbelina
- Javier
- Ana
- Fabiola
- Pastor Bob
- Christie



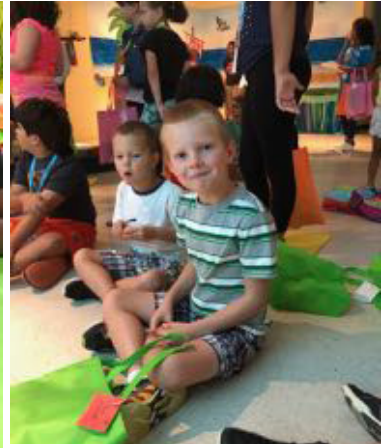
Sasha & Irma



Naila, Dylan & Dely



Julio & Kevin



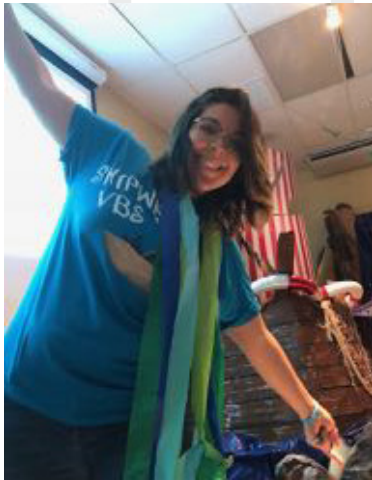
Mabel, Fabiola, Loraine & Wanda



Jean Marco



Natalia & Iamira



Fabiola



Joshua



Keshawn



Sheila



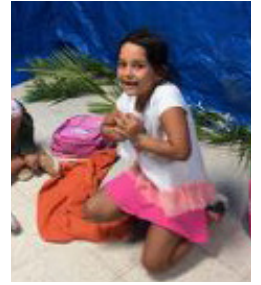
Second Union Church



Lorraine & Justin



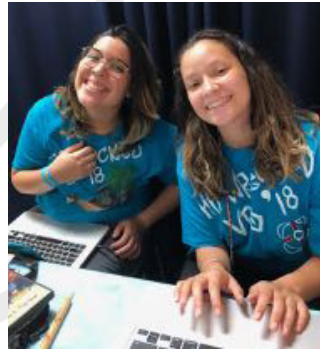
Ethan



Naiomi



Christie, Irma, Sasha, Risa, Mabel, Kiara & Fabiola



Fabiola & Kiara



Emilio



Fabiola & Kamila



Mabel, Fabiola, Lorraine, Wanda



Kevin & Fabiola



*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old
he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6*



Rose, Rosa, Mike & Irma



Niki, Maguy & Iris



John & Jose



Alistir & Justin



Arlin, Adelaide & Chelsea



Dr. Johnson & Irma



Atti, Seigneu & Alta



Ramon, Jose & John



Dely & Carol



Alanis, Damaris & Alexandra



Lizzette & friend



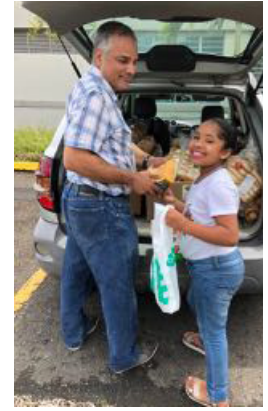
A Visit to Centro Medico Chaplaincy Program



The Backpack Program ministry keeps on keeping on! We deliver backpacks of food every week - 52 weeks a year to students at the Escuela Elemental La Urbana in Guaynabo City! We are so grateful to those who generously donate to our program: El Banco de Alimentos de PR, our dear friend, Yoav Cohen, the bakery at Costco, Ivelisse Torres and the MCS Foundation Brenda Ferrer, and Adasa, a wonderful woman from New York, who found out about this program from our website over a year ago and has sent food via Amazon and 40 new backpacks for the coming school year along with school supplies! We are so blessed through these wonderful people.

In addition, we have a core group of phenomenal, reliable individuals who consistently show up - if it weren't for them, this program would never be successful: Loraine Colón, Chris Strong and Raúl Díaz. You guys are angels!!

The new academic year begins in just two weeks. It is our desire to provide tutoring in the afternoons for the backpack students. In order to do this, we need volunteers that will be willing to work one-on-one with the students. Please see Loraine or Christie if you might possibly volunteer.



At the end of July, we took a group of Backpack students and their moms to La Placita in Plaza Las Américas. They participated in a cooking demonstration, they received lunch and then they were treated to a very special show with the cast of Atención, Atención! Thanks to Loraine and Raul for accompanying us and to Chris Strong for agreeing to be the chauffeur!



Beach Baptism

August
2018

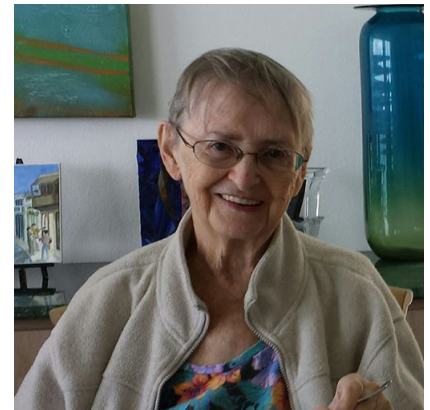
In June, Second Union Church celebrated a very special event - a beach baptism for eleven individuals. What a beautiful backdrop of God's amazing artistry and such a sense of joy and wonder as we witnessed this outward sign of an inward commitment. We give glory and honor to God for the way He is at work in our lives and we celebrate the decision these brothers and sisters in Christ have made. The Bible tells us that the angels in heaven are celebrating with us!!



Thelma Rivera was one of the pillars of our church, and she touched so many of our lives. She passed away on June after a brief illness.

Thelma Louise Roupp was born on August 7, 1932 in Wichita, Kansas. She was preceded by two older siblings, Dorothy and Albert. She graduated from Goshen College in Indiana, but it was while she briefly attended Heston College in Kansas that she met her husband-to-be, Julio Rivera. Julio was born in Puerto Rico and had been adopted into a Mennonite missionary family and they sent him to study at Heston College. Thelma and Julio were married in 1954 just six days after her graduation from college.

Thelma was raised in a Mennonite household which fostered her love of music. She arranged the music for her wedding, she played the cello, and of course, she sang in the 2UC Choir for many years. Thelma was an accomplished seamstress and she loved figuring out how to make things work – she learned to reupholster furniture, rewire lamps and other small appliances and build things. She taught art at a junior high school, then she began working on her Masters in Art Education at St. Francis University in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She and Julio then moved to Ponce where Thelma completed her masters degree at The Catholic University. She taught school at the Episcopal Cathedral School.



After 30 years of teaching she retired and found a new career and passion as a watercolor artist and teacher. She helped many people find their talent. Many of her watercolor paintings adorn the church and the homes of 2UCers here and abroad. She loved painting, she loved playing games and she loved to help her family achieve their dreams. Whether it was sewing costumes for her children, leading flower arranging workshops, building sets, painting scenery, cutting letters for the church bulletin boards or making and teaching the art of creating pie crusts, Thelma was always caring for others.



What a great loss to all of us, but especially Don Julio, Anita, Joaquin, Cadiz and the rest of the family. Please lift them up in prayer. We will miss Thelma, and we give God thanks and glory for her life.



*Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her;
Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gates.*

Proverbs 31:28-31