

FRESH Start

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT CHARLOTTE SDA CHURCH



IT'S A NEW DAY AT PCSDA!

"The Lord's loyal kindness never ceases; his compassions never end. They are fresh every morning..." Lam. 3:22,23 NET

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

"How, then, are we to be saved? "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness," so the Son of man has been lifted up, and everyone who has been deceived and bitten by the serpent may look and live. 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.' John 1:29. The light shining from the cross reveals the love of God. His love is drawing us to Himself. If we do not resist this drawing, we shall be led to the foot of the cross in repentance for the sins that have crucified the Saviour. Then the Spirit of God through faith produces a new life in the soul."

Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 175

QUICK LINKS

**[Click Here for
SERMONS](#)**

**[Click Here for
SABBATH SCHOOL
LESSONS](#)**

[Click Here to GIVE](#)



Ice Cream Social and Game Night

You are in for a real treat on Saturday, April 2!

At 7:00 we will close Sabbath together in the sanctuary.

Immediately following vespers, make your way to the grand hall where we will begin scooping ice cream and playing games. If you have a few board games at home, please bring them to share.

When the ice cream service is done, we will begin "Friendly Family Feud" for everyone to watch or play.

This will be a fun time for everyone, and we'd love to have you bring your friends and see you in your church shirt!





Blood Drive

The Big Red Bus will be in our parking lot on Sabbath morning, April 9.

If you're a blood donor, you're a hero to someone, somewhere, who receives your gracious gift of life.

Thank you for supporting this community ministry.





Easter Service

We will have a sermonette with special music program and prayer groups during the worship service on April 16.

From 1-4:00 pm you'll find Pine Price, Al Cruz and a praise team at the pavilion at Gilchrist Park. They will bless passersby with music, and handing out nutrition bars and Easter treats. You are invited to come enjoy the music and support this outreach to our community.



Photo credit: Lynn Price



Kids' J.A.M.

Join us on April 23 from 9:45-10:45 at the school ballfield for our next Kids' "Jesus and Me" (J.A.M.)

Learn how Jesus changes us into new creations, just like the caterpillar changes into a beautiful butterfly. We will have songs, Bible study, crafts and games.



APRIL | 23

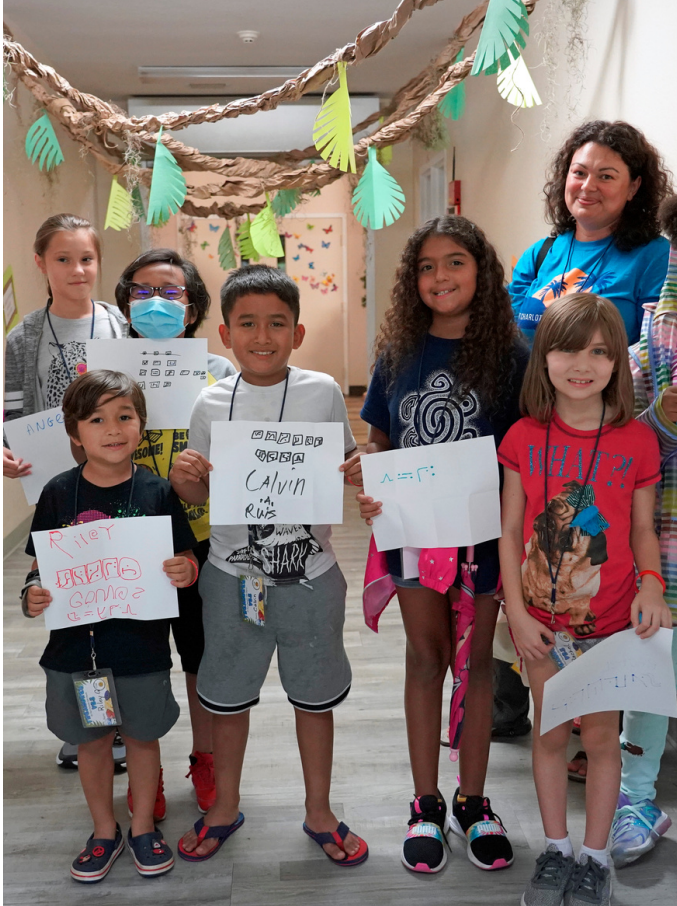


Photo credit: Barb Goffin

Registration for VBS

Vacation Bible School will be held
on July 18-22 from 6-8:30 pm.

Registration for participants and volunteers will begin on Sabbath, April 23rd in the church lobby.

Elementary school children completing K through grade 5 this school year are invited to attend. Teens and youth who are completing grades grade 6-12 this school year are invited to be student assistants/volunteers. Adult volunteers for various positions.

Training will occur prior to VBS. Online Verified Volunteer training will need to be completed for those 18 and older.

For more information, email us at:
Funvbs@gmail.com



APRIL | 30



Photo credit: Barb Goffin

Church Potluck

Thanks to Joe and Debbie Francis, and Wave and Andrea Williams, our monthly church potlucks have resumed.

We hope to see you, and your favorite dish to share, on April 30.





FINDING PEACE IN

PSALM 23

New King James Version

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures: He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies: You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



THANK YOU!

You can feel joy from giving to the recent diaper drive. Because of your generosity, 2945 diapers, and a bit of baby formula, were donated to single mothers in our community. These moms are moved and touched by the knowledge that strangers care about their needs. When you give to those in need, you are being the hands of feet of Jesus.

Photo by Laura Dancek

FOR OUR MAY NEWSLETTER

*Honor
Your
Mother*

SEND US SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR MOM

Tell us what you appreciate about your mother for the upcoming Mother's Day issue of the newsletter.

If you'd like, please include a digital photo of you and your mom. We need first and last names of your mother and you.

Submissions should be sent by April 24 to: pcsdacommunication@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

BY LAURA DANCEK

On February 5, new member Michelle Wood was voted in to join our congregation by profession of faith. Michelle was ill and unable to attend that day.

Danielle Roye (pictured on the following page, left) and Noadia Estel (pictured on the following page, top right) joyously gave their lives to the Lord in baptism and became official members of our church family.

On March 19, we welcomed Yury and Yuliia Zhomiru into our family. Dima Poperechnyy translated from English to Russian as they were voted into membership by profession of faith, pictured below.

Reggie Abraham was baptized by Pastor Jaime on March 19, pictured on the following page, bottom right.

On February 4, the Moses family dedicated, family members, Trinity and Kalea. These little lambs are pictured on the bottom of the following page.



Photo credit: Resty Antonio



Photo credit, top left and top right: Wave Williams

Photo credit bottom right: Resty Antonio



Photo credit: Wave Williams



LIFE GROUPS:

BE A SHEPHERD

BY LAURA DANCEK

Years ago, while educating our daughters, I attended a homeschool convention in Orlando. One of the speakers shared a story that stuck with me. He told about moving his family to a farm that had sheep and goats. With no prior experience and little knowledge of how to care for them, he had a real challenge in getting them to follow him.

For years he had no luck in being followed by his flock, yet they easily followed his daughter.

After several lambs died during a storm, his daughter informed him that he was not a good shepherd. So he decided that when lambing season came around again he would live in the barn with them to make sure none of

the babies died. He bottle fed, immunized, and sheered them. After weeks of living with and caring for the flock they began to follow the sound of his voice. Once they knew he really cared for them, they began to follow.

Life groups has multiple purposes, and one of them is missional. Life groups give us opportunities to



Photo credits: Wave Williams

build relationships with people inside, as well as outside, the church. In building those friendships, we are able to show God's love and care for the other group members. When they know we care, and that God cares, they are more apt to follow.

On March 7, twelve ladies gathered for the first "Fellow Stitch" life group afternoon. The group, initiated by Andrea Williams, Barb Goffin and Debbie Francis was created for anyone interested in sewing, knitting, crocheting, scrapbooking,

or other types of crafts.

Fun was had, not just in stitching, but with games, prizes and refreshments.

The name "Fellow Stitch" was chosen to be a take-off on the word "fellowSHIP," which is a clear indicator of the goal - to enjoy fellowship with each other.

Come with your supplies to work on the project of your choice. The group meets every Monday at 1:00 in the grand hall.



Whenever there is an exchange of genuine caring, it is as if the roots of your soul are getting fed.



John Ortberg, *The Me I Want to Be: Becoming God's Best Version of You*



PCAS

Third Through Sixth Venture to the Outside World

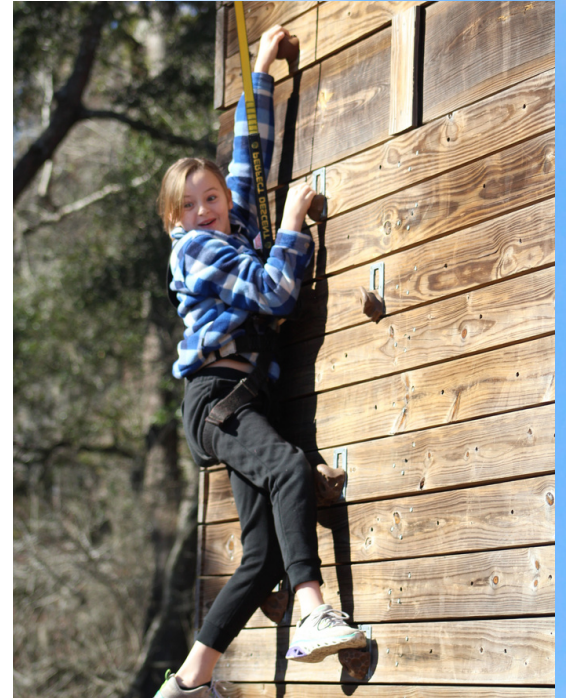
by Xelia Capote and Theresa Martinez

After what feels like a decade of kids being locked away in their classrooms. PCAS students in grades three through sixth were finally exposed to the outside world again. The third and fourth classes began their adventure sleeping with the fish at The Florida Aquarium. They arrived at the aquarium at 7:00 pm and were given a tour of the fish and animal displays behind the scenes, including the kitchen that is used to prepare the food for the next day. The students participated in a squid dissection before feasting



on pizza and cupcakes. The evening came to a close with students tucked into bed under the large fish tanks of sharks, sea turtles, and other sea life. The next day was filled with a scavenger hunt throughout the aquarium and caricatures being drawn of each of the children.

Meanwhile the fifth and sixth classes were on their own adventure by spending an eventful week at Camp Kulaqua with other fifth and sixth graders from around Florida Conference. By 3:00pm that Tuesday, they were making claims on bunks and settling in. Each of the following days they took turns in various activities that allowed them to be archeologists, bakers, equestrians, go-cart racers, stunt doubles, forgers, and explorers. Some of the favorite activities were conquering the Leap of Faith and raiding the camp store. PCAS lead out in the final raising of the American flag and just like that we were headed home again.





BETTY DODDS



PIONEER AND INSPIRATION

BY LAURA DANCEK



Photo submitted by Betty Dodds

Betty Dodds has attended our church for over twenty years, and if you have not had the chance to get to know her, you should! Betty has been an adventurer, entrepreneur, wife and mother during her 88 years of life.

Betty grew up on a farm in an Adventist home in Indiana. She met her husband, Bill Dodds, during high school. It was 1950 and the Korean War was just beginning. Young men who were married were drafted later than those who were single, and fathers were drafted even later. They decided not to wait to get married and

and were wed when she was only 16 years old, with her parents' approval.

Betty and Bill managed their Schwinn bicycle business, while they raised their three boys. Betty always had a desire to fly a plane, but that wasn't something Bill had an interest in, and she preferred that they do things together. However, while Bill was on a vacation in Florida with some of his buddies, she decided to try out flying lessons. By the time Bill returned a week or two later, she had taken so many lessons, while the boys were in school, that she was almost ready to fly



Photo credit: Laura Dancek

solo. Three months later she was a licensed pilot.

The Dodds did a lot of flying in a private plane that Betty piloted just for their own recreation and travel. At some point, she decided to create a business to fly other people. A real pioneer, she was one of the first women to have a licensed air taxi business, which she initiated in Florida.



Photo submitted by Betty Dodds

In speaking of the uniqueness of her endeavor, Betty said “Women were discriminated against. Men discouraged women more than they encouraged them.” It took quite awhile for the FAA to figure out how to handle the fact that Betty was not a man, because they didn’t have another of these businesses in Florida run by a woman.

Once Betty’s business got off the ground, so to speak, she had a team of five female and two male pilots. They usually flew their Floridian customers to the Bahamas in twin

engine planes, but they were licensed to fly anywhere. Their longest charter was to South America. The name of Betty’s business, “Safe Air International”, was well-deserved, because in all her years they had a perfect safety record.

During the fifteen years that Betty flew charters, she had the chance to transport Jimmy Buffet from Key West to his home in Alabama. She also had the privilege to fly a few astronauts from NASA, which would intimidate most of us. Betty felt that being a woman pilot meant she

had to be all business, even with such celebrities, but she laughingly recalled “I talked their ears off!”

When asked if she misses flying, Betty replied, “Not anymore. I still do a lot at my age of 88,” which is an understatement. In 2018 she, and close friend, Connie Emmons, purchased a Class B recreational vehicle and drove it to Alaska together. The Dodds had that trip on their bucket list, but they didn’t achieve this together. While his health was deteriorating, Bill told her he wanted her to go to Alaska someday without him. They celebrated their 66th anniversary together before Bill passed away.

Last year, Betty lost her son of 65 years to Covid-19. Despite her losses, she is grateful for a wonderful life, one which has always been Christ-driven. A life very well lived.



Photo credits: Art Grayman

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

BY ART GRAYMAN

On March 12, the ladies at the Spanish church celebrated "Women's International Day of Prayer."

Prudence Grayman planned the program. Angela Najera delivered the message. Ada Felico was honored as "Woman of the Year." Prayer was the focus of the morning, which included children.





BE PART OF THE TEAM

BY LAURA DANCEK

The nominating committee has just started the process of finding people with the right abilities and talent to serve in roles that help our church function optimally.

Thank you to those who have already accepted volunteer positions.

We need all hands on deck, so please continue to pray about how God shaped you to serve.

"If others don't use their gifts, you get cheated, and if you don't use your gifts, they get cheated."

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*, p. 237



Pray for Ukraine

We are moved whenever we turn on the news and hear about the lives lost in Ukraine. We're touched even more deeply because of the families within our church family who have come from Ukraine and still have loved ones there. We need to continue to pray

for their safety and for all those whose lives have been devastated by this war.

To give toward the relief efforts provided through Adventist agencies, you can click on the links below, which includes the giving page on our church website.

[Give through ADRA](#)

[Give through ASI](#)

[Give through our website](#)

Let us remember to also pray for those impacted by the many other conflicts taking place around the world. There are civil wars and terrorist insurgencies currently occurring in much of Africa, and the mid-east. There continue to be drug wars in Mexico and Columbia. These are claiming hundreds of thousands of lives each year.



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