

# FRESH Start

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT CHARLOTTE SDA CHURCH



## IT'S A NEW DAY AT PC SDA!

"The Lord's loyal kindness never ceases; his compassions never end. They are fresh every morning; your faithfulness is abundant!" Lamentations 3:22, 23 *NET*

### TRANSFORMATION

This month we celebrate Easter. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection is much more than just another Bible story. Not only did Jesus die and rise again, but He asks us to die to ourselves and to live for Him. He gave us the promise of His Holy Spirit, which is our source of power to be the best versions of ourselves - to be transformed.

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**LESSONS**

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## The Pastor's Pages

by Dustin Hall, Senior Pastor

### Transformation

The resurrection of Jesus is the most important event in the history of the world. Most people would think of the Crucifixion as being that event but without the Resurrection the cross would mean nothing. Paul says, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." (1 Cor. 15:17). Think about it - if Jesus isn't alive why are we worshipping Him? If He has not risen does God actually have power over death?

Even as important as the Resurrection is, what makes it effective in our lives is what Jesus is doing right now for us. Jesus has titles like Mediator, Advocate, Judge, and Intercessor. These words get tossed around a lot in music, and Christian conv-



ersation but seldom do we really try to grasp what they actually mean.

In Romans 6, Paul teaches us that we can be united with Jesus in His resurrection. That's right! The Apostle Paul says that by faith (or through a close relationship with Jesus) we are buried with Him like He was in the tomb and we are raised to new life in Him. This is like our very own resurrection. The above titles for the roles that Jesus performs on our behalf are terms that reflect the fact that He is working in Heaven right now to make us like Him. He is working to make our hearts like hearts from Heaven. He is rewiring our minds to make them ready to understand eternity and God's Kingdom. Jesus is using every lesson learned, and experience here, to help us grow into brand new people.

We are being transformed - and that sounds like great news! The end result of transformation is wonderful but the process can be trying. We start that journey by accepting what Jesus has done for us and we are baptized, but that's just the beginning. From that point our role as a Christian is to allow God to work on us. To tinker with our thinking. To rewire our eyes so that we may really see. To take our mouths and make them vessels of praise and not death. This comes with

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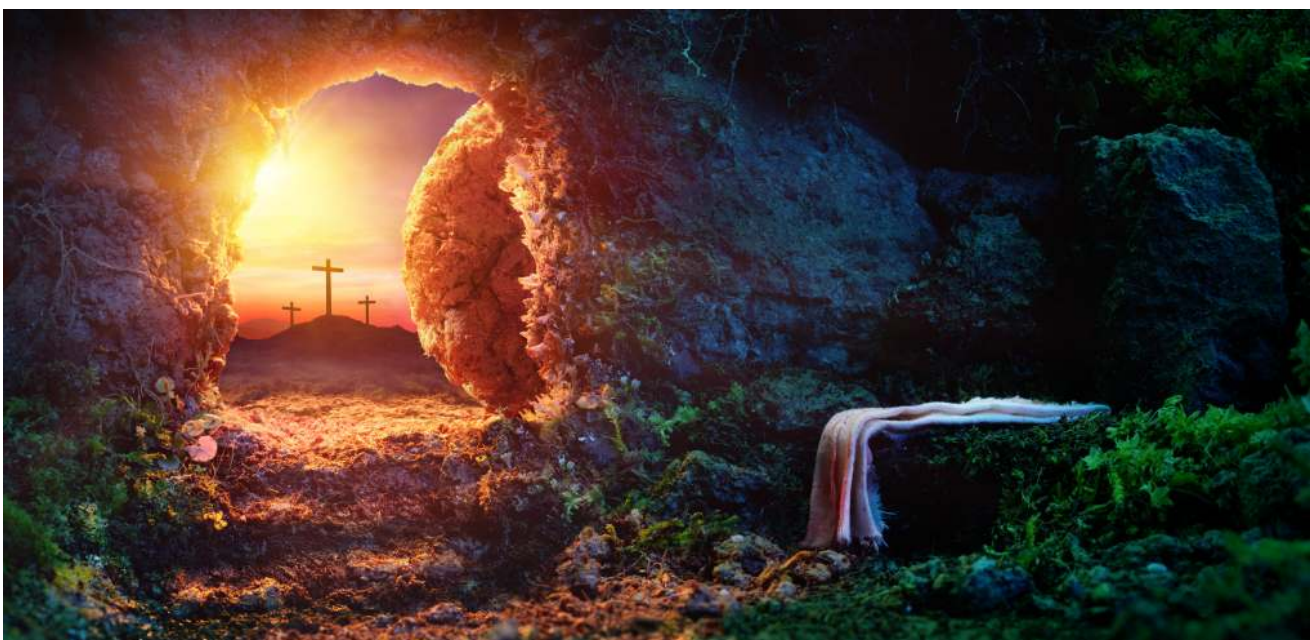
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twists and turns, victories and failures but Jesus never removes His love or takes away His work. He just keeps on working, and it lasts a lifetime. The changes show up in our words, actions, thoughts, motives and dedication to God's work.

Perhaps the most wonderful part of this truth is that God says He is literally living within us. The Holy Spirit lives in our minds and hearts and is leading and guiding us as Jesus assimilates Himself into our lives. This is such great news because that means God knows exactly what we are going through. God literally feels our personal heartache, struggles, pain, sorrow, and joy. Jesus then, from Heaven, immediately can identify with those feelings, having lived as we do. At that point Jesus goes directly to the Father

and all three Persons can send personal, specialized treatment directly to our hearts and minds. Wow, what a God! He can inject Resurrection power directly from Heaven into our hearts.

Yes, the Resurrection is the most important event in the history of the world. But it is the most important event in our personal lives, too. It is the power of the specialized work that Jesus is performing in anyone who loves Him and wants to be like Him. He won't stop and He won't ever give up. So get ready! Change is coming! It is the most wonderful and challenging source of power from Heaven which will transform us into the version of ourselves that God always intended.



## *My Personal Transformation Story*

by Joe Francis

I was born in Jamaica but moved many times. We lived in four different countries by the time I was 16. I spent my early childhood in England and later childhood in Toronto. School was not a pleasant experience because I had a severe stutter. Almost daily after school my older sister met me after class and we ran to the bus to avoid being beaten up. She once pulled me inside the bus doors to safety, away from the taunting and racial name-calling.

My mother ran a strict Seventh-day Adventist home that was strongly based on the Bible and Ellen White's teachings. Although I was raised in a Christian home, by the time I was a teenager, I resented the early morning and evening worships. Sabbath after church was a time of endless readings, during which we didn't dare doze off because sleeping on Sabbath afternoon was forbidden.

Frankly, I did not have a personal relationship with Jesus and was not sure I wanted one!

Our family lived in a neighborhood riddled with crime and gangs. In a gang, I found acceptance and friendship even with my imperfection. At night I would sneak out of my bedroom window to raise havoc with my friends. I always managed to stay on the fringes and not get in any serious trouble. I recognize now that God was always protecting me.

”

*The importance of speaking encouraging words to young people cannot be overly stressed!*

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One night there was a fight set up with a rival gang in a park. We used chains, bats, and brass knuckles. No one I knew had access to guns. By the time we got to the park at the appointed time the police were there waiting. Someone had tipped them off. The police told everyone that if we just left and went home there would be no charges. Both gangs retreated.

Through all this I felt God pulling at my heart but I resisted the urge to give in. I just could not live the "perfect" life. Every Sabbath we went to church and I pretended nothing was wrong in our family. Sometimes I thought of running away but would feel guilty about leaving my mother and sisters alone.



One day after a fluke accident in which I could have been seriously injured or have died, the pastor of my church visited me in the hospital. He told me he saw something very special in me. He told me that God had a great work for me to do. Those words were like an arrow that went straight to my heart. For the first time, I felt God wanted me and loved me for who I was: gang member, bully, stutterer and all! The importance of speaking encouraging words to young people cannot be overly stressed!

With those simple words my life was turned around. I quit the gang and withdrew from the "friends" I had. It was a challenge, because of my upbringing about perfection, but I forged a trusting relationship with Jesus. It took time to understand that God never expected me to be perfect--that's HIS job!

In my late teens I met the love of my life, Debbie, who has been a support and true partner in all aspects of my life. Together we have raised a family and were blessed to have served singing in a Crusade Ministry and multiple singing groups in the Adventist church.

God really did have a plan for my life and I know He has one for every child of God!

## March Mystery Member - Jadyn Boff



Learn more about Jadyn:

She has been a student PCAS since Kindergarten.

She loves to draw.

She has three sisters and one brother, but only one sister lives close by.

She loves sharks.

She was baptized in our church when she was eight years old.

She serves on the Audio-Visual team.

She is shy but stands up for what she believes.

Give Jadyn a warm "hello" and "elbow bump" when you see her.

50% guessed correctly - **THANK YOU for guessing!**

## Farewell, Kathy

Since moving to Pt. Charlotte in 2009 to take the position of principal of PCAS, Kathy Trumper has devoted herself to our school and church.

Kathy retired in 2017 to care for her late husband, Richard. This past year she homeschooled her three grandsons, and helped us get a start on this church newsletter.

Kathy and her family, the Wegands, recently sold their homes and are relocating to Calhoun, GA.

Kathy, you will be missed! We know, wherever you are, you will be serving the Lord and He will bless you. Come back and visit soon!



Kathy's new address:  
120 Mariner Cove, Adairsville, GA 30103

## *Greenleafs on the Move*

by Diane Sedgwick

Floyd and Betty Greenleaf are heading for the beautiful mountains of NC in April.

After 30 years at Collegedale where Floyd taught history and served as Academic Dean, they came to Port Charlotte in 1998, bringing years of wisdom and skill. Here, Floyd served as Church Elder, School Board Chair, taught several SS classes, and even donated his own drawings of several early SDA pioneers.

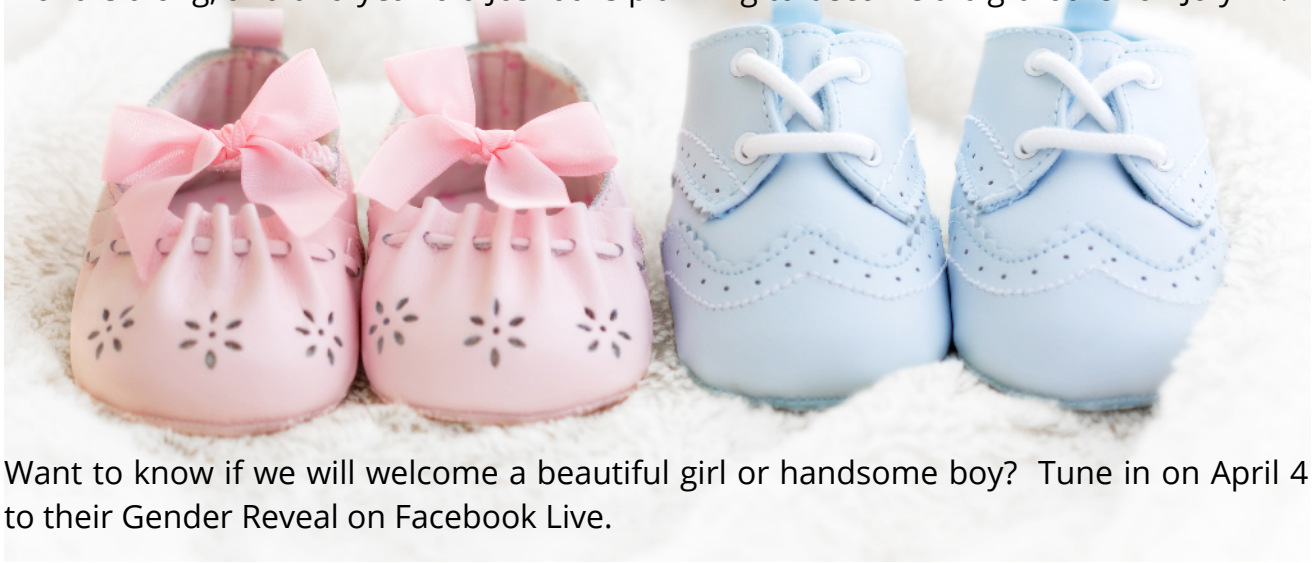
The author of several books and articles, and editor of our Church Newsletter "Cross Currents", Professor Greenleaf's love for PCAS students has helped hundreds of young people and their families - spiritually through his prayers and financially through his leadership with the tuition assistance and endowment programs. They have enriched us and blessed us and we thank them so much!

Their new address is Fletcher Park Inn, Apt 311, 150 Tulip Tr, Hendersonville, NC28792.



# Pombo Press Release

In case you haven't been to church to see the latest development, you'll be excited to learn that Pastor Jaime and Michelle are expecting their second baby! Michelle is five months along, and two-year-old Joshua is planning to become a big brother on July 24.



Want to know if we will welcome a beautiful girl or handsome boy? Tune in on April 4 to their Gender Reveal on Facebook Live.

Are you celebrating a special event?



Do you have a special celebration occurring in your family? We'd love to list your milestone birthdays and anniversaries, weddings, graduations, and births in the church newsletter.

Send your info to [pcsdacommunication@gmail.com](mailto:pcsdacommunication@gmail.com).



*Happy*  
**ANNIVERSARY**

March 30 -  
Phillis and Duane Morauske  
celebrate their 52nd  
wedding anniversary





# THE KING'S HERALDS



**Coming to the Pt. Charlotte SDA Church**

**7:00 Sabbath, April 10**

A love offering will be taken.

CDs and other items will be available for sale after the concert.

Masks and social distancing will be required.

# *Port Charlotte Adventist School Celebrating 50 Years of Christian Education*



# 50

by Laura Dancek

On March 6 a golden anniversary celebration began with a warm welcome by event organizer and school board chairperson, Sandee Lawrence. Sandee holds a school record for her 30 years of teaching at Port Charlotte Adventist School (PCAS).

On the platform for a special Sabbath School program were past students and principals who shared significant, and sometimes humorous, memories of their time at PCAS. Todd Lang provided a rich and unique background of the school, having been one of its first students. He and his three siblings were students when PCAS began and represented almost 40% of the total enrollment. Alumnus Kevin McNeil, and past principals (Ed Dancek 1984-1989; Kathy Trumper 2009-2017; Theresa Martinez 2017-2019) recounted their history at the school. As they shared, it became apparent that PCAS has consistently grown and improved over the years through God's blessings.

Current principal, Almibar Cruz 2019 to present, gained applause with the announcement that within the next two school years PCAS hopes to offer 11th and 12th grades – a first in the history of the school!

During the worship service the congregation was blessed with praise music by two alumni, Ingrid Suero and Jafet Baxter, and the school's marimba band and chime choir.

Frank Runnels, vice president and superintendent for education in the Florida conference, shared stories of faith and answers to prayer, reminding the listeners of the school's eternal impact on all the children who have attended it. The 50th anniversary commemoration closed with the uplifting song "I am a Promise" sung by all of the school's current students.

PCAS has survived turn over in staff, Hurricane Charley in 2004, roof leaks, and much more. Through all of its history, it has thrived because it is God's school, and this was a very much a celebration of His great blessings on Adventist education in Port Charlotte, Florida.



Frank Runnels presented the sermon

Photo credits for photo on right, and pages 10, 12 and 13: Barb Goffin

Photo credit for photo below: Laura Dancek

Pictured below, left to right are Principals Almibar Cruz, Theresa Martinez, Kathy Trumper and Ed Dancek





Todd Lang recounts his time as PCAS's first student



Diane Sedgwick visits with PCAS alumnus David Paulson

Sister and brother, Ingrid Suero and Jafet Baxter lead the praise singing



Former PCAS students Ingrid Suero and Sam Essue





## Let the Adventure Begin!

The Adventurer Club is a program for young children created by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1972. Inspired by its "older brother", the Pathfinder Club, the Adventurer Club is a program focused on education of children aged four to nine years. David and Aixa Molina lead our local club.

On February 20 the Adventurers headed to Venice to earn their "Buttons" award (see photos below - taken by David.)

This group has another event planned for March 28 at 9:30 to earn the cyclist award.



## Thanking Frontline Workers

by Barb Goffin

In keeping with our church's mission to reach out to our community, some of our young people did just that. On October 31st, during our outdoor Sabbath School, children of all ages decorated and colored a thank you banner for a Port Charlotte Fire Department, then kids and adults signed it. When the banner was finished, Crystal Saylor and her daughters, Erin and Rachel, helped deliver it, along with some cupcakes, to our devoted firefighters as a symbol of our appreciation. The firefighters were so pleased with the gesture, they gave the Saylor girls a tour of a fire truck and said, "We are going to post the banner in the dining room for all to see."



What can YOU do to thank frontline workers?

**Newsletter Team:**

Laura Dancek - Editor, Photographer & Writer

Barb Goffin - Photographer & Writer

Contact us at:

pcsdacommunication@gmail.com

In the March issue:

Resty Antonio deserves the photo credit for the photos of Lee and Barb Huff.

# Sabbath Morning Schedule

**9:30-10:30 First Church Service**

**10:40- 11:20 Sabbath School (kids classes will end at 11:30)**

**11:35 Second Church Service**

Members are asked to please exit the sanctuary after Sabbath School for cleaning.

We suggest that our older and more vulnerable members attend first service as it will be a safer environment.

\*All services in the sanctuary will be livestreamed on our [YouTube Channel](#)



## Mystery Member



We think that MANY of you will be able to guess who this month's mystery member is. [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#) to find the clues.  
THANK YOU for clicking to read the clues.  
On April 3, during church, we will reveal their identity!



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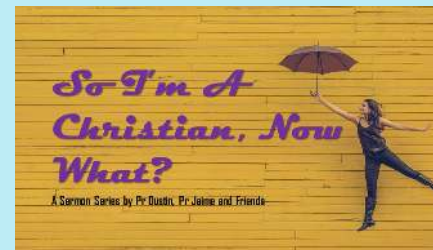
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## Sermon Schedule



- April 3 -**  
Pastor Dustin
- April 10 -**  
Pastor Jaime
- April 17 -**  
Pastors Jaime and Brent
- April 24 -**  
Pastor Dustin