

# FRESH Start

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT CHARLOTTE SDA CHURCH



Photo credit: Barb Goffin

## IT'S A NEW DAY AT PCSDA!

Monthly potlucks are back! See our photo gallery on pages 7 and 8.

### THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT

Albert Einstein said:

"If you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got."

We don't have to be geniuses like Einstein to come to that same realization. Yet we like doing what we've always done, regardless of the results. Let's keep our hearts and minds open to the leading of the Holy Spirit as He guides us into different ways of achieving the same mission: to go and make disciples for Christ.

### QUICK LINKS

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[Click Here for SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS](#)

[Click Here to GIVE](#)

**FOR BREAKING NEWS PLEASE READ THE BACK PAGE**

# The Pastor's Pages

## Coming Back Better

by Dustin Hall, Senior Pastor

It is so nice to be back to one service and to worship together. The singing and praise time is such a blessing when joining our voices in chorus. I missed the sounds and sights of worship so much while we were interrupted by COVID.

It is incredible how easy it was to take those things for granted. Most of us have been coming to church for many years, singing and going through the normal "churchy" stuff without giving it too much thought. Once it was taken away from us it made me realize just how important it was in my life. As they say, you don't miss what you had until it is gone.

Given the fact that we so easily take church and our even Christianity for granted, how much erosion do you think there could have been over the years? Think about it. If being a disciple of Jesus wasn't foremost in our minds and habits, is it possible that we have slowly let our passion for God's church erode? If so, in what areas would that erosion be visible? The answer to this question would probably be different for each of us personally, but what about our church and its ministries? Would we have seen them slowly declining?

Since the church is called the Body of Christ that has many parts, what happens to that

body if all of its parts start to get weak and distracted? Everything from our physical church building, to our ministries, to our community service, outreach, and soul winning would suffer. The most troubling thing is that this erosion would probably happen without us even realizing it. That's how erosion works -- the water eats at the shoreline little by little each year so that if you were there every day you wouldn't notice it but over time the ground is literally removed from under your feet.

I would like to make a proposal -- that we don't come back the same. The world has changed, we have changed. One thing is obvious, Jesus is coming soon. The time has come that we have a revival in our hearts, and maybe the word revival isn't even a strong enough word. A revival would be getting back what we once had. What if we let the Lord do a new thing?

*"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it will spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."*  
Isaiah 43:19

*continued on page 3*

We don't really want what we had before. We want what the Lord wants for us at this time. Let us reach those we couldn't reach before; worship with a new vigor and joy; love one another on a deeper, more meaningful level; be challenged on what needs to change; go full steam into the places God leads us.

We have felt both the losses of the last eighteen months, and the joy of getting back what we were missing. Now let us come back and discover how God wants to give us what we had and then some!

Courage,

Pastor Dustin



What if we let the Lord do a new thing?



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# JOIN OUR TEAM

Interested in writing or taking photos for the newsletter? We'd love to talk to you. Contact us at:  
[pcsdacommunication@gmail.com](mailto:pcsdacommunication@gmail.com)



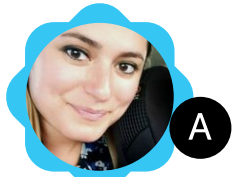
## Mystery Member Quiz

We've had seven mystery members since we started the newsletter in December 2020.

Below are their photos and names and some of the clues they gave us.

Can you match their information to the right person?

(Check your answers on the following page.)



Stephanie Gomez



Mark Wegand



Richard Hayes



Kaitlyn Penno



Andrea Williams



Almibar Cruz



Jady Boff

1. \_\_\_\_ Set the shotput record in high school, which stood for 42 years.
2. \_\_\_\_ Loves sharks and loves to draw.
3. \_\_\_\_ Was an acrobat in a youth circus and to this day can do a back flip!
4. \_\_\_\_ Has been singing since childhood & wrote poems trying to convert to songs.
5. \_\_\_\_ Was asked to join the local swim team, but couldn't because practices were on Sabbath.
6. \_\_\_\_ Never visited Rockefeller Center, despite living in New York for 34 years.
7. \_\_\_\_ Born and raised in Western New York, with three brothers - one is his or her twin.
8. \_\_\_\_ Favorite books include Pride and Prejudice and Little Women.
9. \_\_\_\_ Helped out as a puppeteer, VBS, children's church, children's outreach, teaching, and missionary work in Montana and Costa Rica.
10. \_\_\_\_ Was the national champion colporteur.

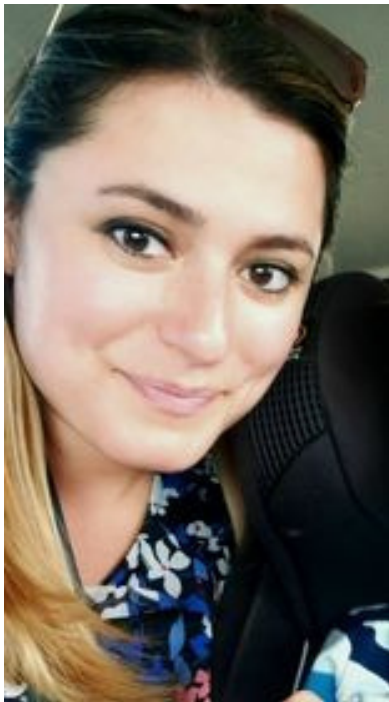


## August Mystery Member - Stephanie Gomez

In August, our mystery member was Stephanie Gomez. Here are some things about Stephanie that you may not already know:

She acted as Mary Magdalene and Mary, mother of Jesus in the annual Passion Play at Andrews University for 3 years.

She has been singing since childhood & even wrote poems in her teenage years trying to convert them into songs.



She enjoys partaking in ministry, especially children's ministry.

She enjoys adventure and many outdoor activities like nature walks, hiking, fishing, boating, etc. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

She trained as a line cook, griller, pizza maker, smoothie maker, breakfast cook and dabbled in each food department at the Andrews University Cafeteria for about 5 years.

She has a knack for pointing out great-tasting food.

She is very good at organizing and deep cleaning and has cleaned her friend's houses just because she enjoys it!

Answers to the Mystery Member quiz from page 4:

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. E  |
| 2. G | 7. C  |
| 3. B | 8. D  |
| 4. A | 9. A  |
| 5. D | 10. F |

**Are you willing to be a mystery member? Contact us at [pcsdacommunication@gmail.com](mailto:pcsdacommunication@gmail.com).**

# We Won't Be Overtaken

by Almibar Cruz, Principal



Photo credit: Almibar Cruz

Each school year, Port Charlotte Adventist School (PCAS) chooses a theme and a Bible verse as a focus for the school year. This year we chose “We Won’t Be Overtaken.” We chose this theme because we have seen God’s hand and protection during the ongoing pandemic and all the challenges it brought.

The theme Bible verse we chose is 2 Corinthians 4:8-9: “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed”. This is a great promise for these uncertain times.

We had a great start by having a teacher and staff dedication at the church the weekend before school resumed.

Our first day of school there was a lot of enthusiasm and students were welcomed with the yearly tradition of enjoying a watermelon treat.

It is our prayer during this school to represent Jesus in our words and actions.



Photo credit: Barb Goffin



## Monthly Potlucks are Back!

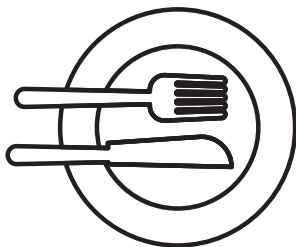
We are excited to be resuming monthly potlucks. August 7 was the first of these. They are intentionally planned for Education Sabbaths so that we can invite school families. What a great way to get to know everyone better!

The next potluck is on September 25. Please bring enough food to feed your own family and our guests.

Photo credits: Barb Goffin



*You're Invited!*









## *Baby Dedication*

On August 7, Samantha Somers and Eric Shirosky brought their beautiful daughter Nina Marie Shirosky to be dedicated to the Lord by Pastors Art and Dustin.



Photo credit: Barb Goffin

## *Elder Ordination*

On August 21, elders gathered around Rachel Selent, our newest ordained elder.



Photo credit: Resty Antonio



## Welcome to the Family

by Barb Goffin

On Sabbath of August 14, Jessie Wade Richardson was warmly voted into our church family. She was raised in an Adventist home on the beautiful island of Jamaica and has been visiting us here in Port Charlotte since 2018. Jessie's mother, sister and brother continue to reside in Jamaica, but she does have some family in Fort Lauderdale.

In the past, Jessie has been quite an active church member. She has served as a greeter, social coordinator, women's ministry leader, assistant treasurer, church clerk and choir member. She was recently married, and once she gets settled in, Jessie is looking forward to getting involved here as well.

If you get a chance to say hello, you might ask her for a recipe as she loves to cook or ask how her garden is doing. You might even challenge her to a game of scrabble. Welcome to the Port Charlotte SDA Church family Jessie!



Jessie Wade Richardson

Photo credit: Wave Williams

# Church Family News



**Happy Anniversary  
to Andrea and Wave Williams  
who celebrated their 41st in August**

Multiply Vodcast with Dustin Hall - "Present Truth Only Through Present Trust"  
from NAD Adventist

**MULTIPLY**  
A BEST PRACTICES VODCAST

**PRESENT TRUTH ONLY  
THROUGH PRESENT TRUST**

Click



In August, the North American Division Ministerial Association released a podcast featuring our senior pastor, Dustin Hall. You can listen to the podcast by [clicking here](#). This coordinated with the release of the book *Multiply* that the association is giving to every pastor and lay pastor in the North American Division. Pastor Dustin has written a chapter for this book, and you can read an excerpt by [clicking here](#).



## Service Projects

### Family Resource Center

Please pray for this new opportunity to serve families in the community. Currently plans are being worked on for the renovation of the building. Volunteers will be needed in the future. Stay tuned for updates.



### Book Drive for Babies

We are collecting new, and like new, books to give to families in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Bayfront Hospital. Please bring your donations of durable cardboard or plastic books to the church.


Thank you for caring for the needs of families in our community!



## Upcoming Events



**REFOCUS**<sup>†</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 17-25, 2021

You    [refocus.floridaconference.com](https://refocus.floridaconference.com)

 Seventh-day Adventist Church  
FLORIDA CONFERENCE

**Speaker: Orlando Lopez from the Florida Conference**

7:00 pm, Friday, September 17  
11:00 am, Saturday, September 18  
7:00 pm, Saturday, September 18  
7:00 pm, Friday, September 24  
11:00 am, Saturday, September 25  
7:00 pm, Saturday, September 25

**September 11: Spanish Church Openhouse - Room 115**

**September 25: Education Sabbath and POTLUCK**

**November 13: International Sabbath**

**November 14: International Fall Fest and School Openhouse**

# Please Read:

Due to more positive cases of COVID at the school, out of an abundance of caution, Sabbath School is cancelled for September 4 and the 11:00 sermon will be live on our [Facebook page](#).

Please watch our Facebook page or website for any future cancellations.

## Sabbath Morning Schedule

10:00-10:45 Sabbath School  
11:00 Worship Service

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

**Due to the increase in the spread of COVID, masks will be mandatory until further notice.**



IF AT ANY TIME, YOU OR YOUR FAMILY EXHIBIT ANY SYMPTOMS OF POSSIBLE COVID-19, i.e sore throat, fever, runny nose, loss of taste/smell, OR if you have been around individuals who have been possibly exposed, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE CHURCH. You may return to church after you have tested negative for COVID-19.



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## Sermon Schedule

**September 4**  
[Watch Online Here](#)

**September 11**  
Pastor Dustin

**September 18**  
Orlando Lopez  
Refocus

**September 25**  
Orlando Lopez  
Refocus