



THE CONNECTION

*A Publication of Waimea United Church of Christ
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From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My thoughts keep returning to the recent youth retreat up at Kokee. The event was blessed with good weather, great youth, and profound adult leadership. During the nature walk, the great Holy Spirit of God also manifested. We experienced one of those unplanned moments that have to be given back over to God. Specifically, ten youth went so far ahead of the rest of the group on the hike that they were out of earshot and inadvertently ran off the trail. The way back to camp was almost due south. They were headed east—towards Kukui Grove Mall, perhaps a natural homing instinct.

As a matter of fact, the ten youth had diverged from the proper course only about two or three minutes' walk from the end of the trail itself, where the trail met the road back to Waimeke. The rest of the group made it back to the main road and looked for some sign of the others, hoping that they were still ahead of them. No sign. They were lost in the wilderness. What to do? Pastor Phyllis led the one group back to camp while I, "I took the road less traveled by." I hustled back to find the lost ten.

I was happy to find some definite footprints in a few muddy spots. Two candy wrappers confirmed their course. Soon I would also find a very nice Canon digital camera on the ground. In other words, they were rather easy to track, but how far ahead were they? They had been moving so quickly. I tried to shout out to them but to no avail.



The trees were rustling overhead as it was somewhat windy. Then, almost as if God had heard my complaint, the wind stopped. It was perfectly still and time to raise my voice. I did not venture a friendly "hello" for they might not respond, not knowing the call to be for them. Instead I yelled out as loud as I could "Come back!" towards the direction I assumed they had gone.

Faintly, a response came back over the air: "Pastor Olaf?" "Yes, come back! You are lost! You are going the wrong way." I kept on shouting at regular intervals in the case that they could not follow their own trail back. Every time the wind died down I yelled to them again. It took them twenty minutes to make it back to me. I could see it in their eyes and hear it in their voices that they had been truly scared. I took them back out to the main road, at which time they were surprised at how close they had been to the end when they made the wrong turn.

Aunty Sally Molander soon arrived with her SUV to pick them up to take them back to camp. Thank you, Sally!

Those youth had not even known they were to be lost when they made that wrong turn down that pig's trail in Kokee. They had not known how close they were to finishing the path. Somebody had to go after them and bring them back. Of course, that is what ministry is all about!

Jesus came down to let us know that we were on the wrong path. He came to show us the way. Likewise, we are called to go out in His stead, as His body in this world, to help those lost people—even when that means doubling back and going partly down that wrong path ourselves. For, how could anyone leave ten scared youth lost in the wilderness?

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

The mission of the Waimea United Church of Christ is to provide, through Jesus Christ, the means by which people grow spiritually, thereby preparing and empowering them to witness to God's love, to identify the needs of the community, and to minister to them.

Scripture & Sermon Titles
April 2011

Apr. 3rd John 10:1-21
"Good Shepherd"
Apr. 10th John 10:22-42
"Small 'g'"
Apr. 17th John 12:12-29
"Umph"
Apr. 24th John 20:11-23
"Tri-Umph"

The pastor is continuing to lead us through a study of the Gospel of John. This gospel is known as the message of Love and Light from Christ to the world and is quite different than the other three gospels. Please feel encouraged to read the scripture ahead of the sermon in preparation.

The Tuesday morning Bible Study Group meets in Baird Hall at 9 a.m. This group studies the upcoming Sunday's scripture and sermon topic and gives input for the sermon. All are welcome to share in the lively discussion and prayer.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Evening Bible Study and fellowship meets every 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6 pm. We are studying the book of Ezekiel. Listen to announcements for the location each time.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOOK CLUB WILL BE ON APRIL 17, 2011, AT 3PM, AND WILL BE HOSTED BY LUCIA LAIDLAW. WE WILL DISCUSS THE BOOK "HALI'A: LEGACY OF A LANGUAGE" BY FRANCES FRAZIER. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

COUNCIL NOTES

Here is a summary of the March 2011 Church Council meeting:

- The Garden Isle Disposal Co. sent a note saying that they no longer accept green waste in their bins. Since most of the trash we've been placing in the bins has been green waste, the Council approved a motion to terminate services from the Garden Isle Disposal Co. starting in April. The following were suggested for taking care of our rubbish: 1) Purchase a chipper/mulcher for green waste, 2) Compost, and 3) purchase different containers for recyclable items. The council agreed to have two trash cans with lids anchored behind Baird Hall for non-green waste trash and that we will implement a 'remove your own trash' policy for those who utilize our facilities. Pastor would like to see us aim for 'Zero Waste' status. Non-green waste will be removed every Sunday after Aloha Hour by either Pastor or Lissa.
- Pastor informed the council that the church video camera needs replacement. Mike Matutino is doing research into a new camera with optical zoom lens rather than digital zoom. Projected cost may be about \$900.00. A motion was passed to have Pastor Olaf pursue Waimea Educational and Cultural Association grants to purchase equipment for mulching/composting (pending decision of Building & Grounds and Finance committees) and to replace the church's video camera.
- Pastor reported on the cost of repair work for the van: \$225.00 for the timing belt and \$760.79 for the front end strut work. Council approved Pastor's entry into a contract with J & T Towing to have the repairs done. "Vehicle Maintenance" funds will be used.
- WUCC has been asked to host the State Council of Hawaiian Churches' lunch on April 15th at the Kapaa First Hawaiian Church. Pastor is agreeable to providing lunch for the approximately 10 people. Council passed a motion to reimburse Pastor Olaf for the cost of the lunch.
- There will be no pulpit exchange this year as the Sunday after Easter is a communion Sunday and there is a shortage of pastors on island.
- A motion was made and passed to accept the offer made by the Waimea Boys and Girls Club of \$500 per month for Facility Reimbursement, going towards the cost of insurance for the facility, retroactive to January of 2011. The offer includes \$100 increase per year up to \$800 in 2014, with a review in 2015 or at any time as requested by either party. The Finance Committee also needs to approve this offer. A suggestion was made for future consideration: establish a percentage of whatever the insurance cost is as the Facility Reimbursement amount. The Boys and Girls Club has complied with WUCC's requests to provide us with their Child Care Protection Policy, a summary of their events from recent years, and quarterly reports.
- Fellowship Committee will ask for help with providing light refreshments, to be served after the April 7th Lenten Service. On Sunday, May 15, Ice Cream sundaes will be served following service in honor of graduates, and Sunday School promotions.
- The May 15 worship service will include Baccalaureate liturgy. Sunday School students will be recognized for promotion. Graduating high school seniors Malia Keliikuli and Jacob Matutino, and college senior, Carolyn Hoeckmann-Percival will be honored. Pastor reported that the WUCC Grace scholarship recipient will also be announced during the service.
- Lanai Project – Margaret will email council members with the 3 proposals for the Lanai project. Members are asked to note pros and cons of the different proposals and be prepared to share their thoughts.



Spring Aha Mokupuni
May 13th and 14th
Church of the Pacific, Princeville
"JOURNEY TO OUR ROOTS"

We are invited to camp overnight on the church campus, if we like. The Friday program includes a tour to sites where churches once stood on the North Shore. The Aha Mele hosted by the Kauai Council of Hawaiian Churches will be on Saturday the 14th after lunch. See the poster in the narthex for more info.

Hula Jam Youth Retreat Wrap-Up: Seventeen youth from our Association went up to Waineke (UCC camp) at Kokee during the week of Spring Break at the schools. Pastors Olaf and Phyllis (Hanapepe UCC) were the camp directors, and Andrea Kaohi (Hanapepe Hawaiian) as Camp Cook. Sally Molander went along as additional adult supervision from our church. Thank you, Sally. Some of the highlights included Ken Makuakane coming in from Oahu to share testimony and help the youth write their own music. Joanne Parangao taught the youth the hula moves to the song "Kanaka Wai Wai," the story of the rich man being told by Jesus to give away all his possessions. The bus was late picking up the youth at the end of the camp, so the youth had about forty minutes waiting on the side of the road at which time they yelled to cars passing by, "Honk for Jesus." This was really a lot of fun evangelism. Thank you to everyone who made this the best Spring camp ever! Check out the pictures on the picture page or KAUCC website at <http://www.hawaiilink.net/~kaucc/youth.htm>

New "Zero Waste" Protocols for the Church

Last month the church got the notice that we can no longer use the garbage bin for green waste. Of course, that is mostly what we have used it for in the past. So, the Church Council has decided that we will now collect and mulch all green waste. A new compost collection site and compost pile is being erected in the back of the cemetery. We have also applied for a grant for a chipper. We will be stopping the bin service altogether shortly. Non-biodegradable refuse will be collected and removed for curbside collection at the parsonage. To this end, a garbage can will be kept behind Baird Hall. Please reduce non-biodegradable refuse at the church. We already recycle paper. Perhaps you would like to bring in your own coffee mug for Aloha Time? Bring your own service for pot-bless meals? Let's see if we can become a "zero waste" church!



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

The Church's Ministries

Food Pantry:

Packing- Tuesday, April 26th

Distribution-Wed., April 27th

Rummage Sale: Saturday,

April 10th, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Quilting Group:

Sunday, April 3rd

Church Council Meeting:

Sunday, April, 10th, 11:30 a.m.

Finance Committee:

Sunday, April 17th, 11:30 a.m.

April Lay Reader:

Janice Oyama

April Deacon:

James Beardmore



Our Prayers

For the Robison family, Okino family, Vidinha family; for Lynn, Susie Somers' sister; Robbie (Nora's son-in-law) Beth Hanashiro, Jean Thompson, Wayne (Lyndel Erdmann's brother), Satoe Oyama, Nobue, Mary Watanabe, Ruth Cassel, Gladys Okada, Catherine Wilson, Nancy Jones, Jane Masukawa, Gayle Mizukami, Sue Metivier, Jim Kimoto, Nelson Keller, Elmo Douglas, Frank Watanabe, the youth in Waimea High School, Nora Vidinha, Loddy, Michael, Lance; Michael Nizo, Veronica Botelho, Sosei Chinen, Selden Burtch, Verna Kauahi, Desiree Kamai-Santos, our local, state and national leaders and our troops overseas.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Marty and Cindy, on the recent birth of their daughter, Lehua Grace Nani, in Florida. The church family shares in your joy and the joy of grandparents, Mike and Nora.

LENTEN SERVICES

April 7 – Waimea UCC
Peter's Denial
Pastor James Merritt

April 14 – St. John's Church
Trial
Pastor Phyllis Meighan

April 21 – Maundy Thursday
"Shadow of the Cross"
Cantata by Choir
7 pm, Waimea UCC



Sunday, April 24
EASTER SUNDAY
Kaumakani Methodist Church
"Looking for Life"
Luke 24:1-12
Pastor Olaf preaching



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◇The Fellowship Committee is asking for help in providing refreshments after the Thursday night, April 7th, Lenten Service hosted by Waimea UCC. Please see Kathy Uyeda if you can help.

◇Congratulations to Joel Taylor on his being baptized by the Spirit on Sunday, March 20th, during worship. His accepting the Lord was the dying wish of his dear wife so that they would be together in heaven again one day. We welcome him warmly to the fellowship of believers!

◇GOLDEN SPRING CRAFT FAIR is scheduled for Saturday, May 7th, from 9 am-2 pm at the church. We're looking for crafters and helpers. Talk to Helen H-P if you want to help.



Cat and Mouse

There was a missionary going to the Philippines whose wife had a cat she could not part with. There was a hole in the wall of the house they moved in. A mouse lived in there and the cat loved to chase it.

Everyday the cat would chase that mouse, but he couldn't catch it and the mouse would laugh at him. One day the cat just waited outside the mouse hole. The mouse was very scared because he could hear the cat meowing outside the hole.



Eventually, the meowing stopped and the mouse heard "woof, woof, woof." The mouse, full of joy, came out of his hole and was quickly captured and eaten by the cat. Smiling, the cat said to itself, "It pays to be bilingual!"