



THE CONNECTION

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Waimea United Church of Christ

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www.waimeachurch.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As many of you know, every Tuesday afternoon I am away in Lihue at the Regency Pua Kea retirement center leading a Bible Study with the faithful there. We meet upstairs in one of the buildings in a little lounge area that also boasts a pool table. Every week as I pass by the pool table to set up for Bible Study, I notice that someone has set the billiard balls in order on the table. Every Pocket will have two balls placed squarely before them. Three balls, including the eight ball will be in the center. I always just assumed that this was a set up for the start of a game that I did not know.

Recently, however, I noticed that the balls were not just placed in front of the pockets in twos, but that specific balls were placed together. By one pocket I saw the 9 and 13 balls. The next pocket had 10 and 14. The next had the 11 and 15 balls. Around the table, the two balls before any pocket were separated numerically by the integer of 4. In the middle, the 4, 8, and 12 balls repeated this pattern. I concluded that this was a very unique set-up indeed. Someone had gone through great trouble to create this. What could it mean? Is it a sign?

As we delve into the Book of Revelation in our Sunday evening Bible Study with the help of the book *Breaking the Code* by Bruce Metzger, I think about all of the stories in the Bible that are mysterious that raise the question of how we are supposed to interpret what we read. Why do the seven churches in Revelation have lamp stands? What does it mean that they should be put out? Why four horsemen? What is the second death? What is the lake of fire? Surely all of these things have

specific meanings, but what those meanings are can be cloudy. We are left with the understanding that such images in the Bible tend to mean what they mean, and not always what we may think that they mean. Are you confused? I apologize.

Let me explain, also at the Pua Kea retirement center is a lady who has lost the ability to speak. She communicates with hand and foot. For instance, when she stamps her feet to an imaginary rhythm that means she wants to go to dance instruction in the activities room. However, unless I know this ahead of time, I only see a woman stamping her feet, and I would not know to take her hand to lead her to the activities room. Foreknowledge and context are everything in this case and also in the case of reading the Bible for meaning. That is why we have Bible Study classes in the church!

No, we will solve the mystery—not until the Revelation actually comes when all things are revealed. Yet, we can move closer to the Truth in our own lives as we find it manifest in the Word of God. Join in the mystery.

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

Thank you for your generous donations to the Haiti relief effort through OGHs of the United Church of Christ. The national UCC reports that the response to the Haiti earthquake disaster has been the most generous in the history of the church. Thank you. Also, our missionaries Kim and Patrick Bentrutt and their adopted son are well. You can read their amazing story of the disaster and the aftermath on their blog at <http://www.kimandpatrick.blogspot.com>

**Scripture & Sermon Titles
February 2010**

February 7th
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
"Point of Views"
February 14th
2 Corinthians 10:1-6
"In, Not Of"
February 21st
Galatians 3:1-5
"Flesh Acts"
February 28th
Ephesians 4:25-32
"Put Away Falsehood"

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 Revelation. Listen to announcements for the location each time.

CALLING ALL BOOK READERS!

The Book Club will meet on Sunday, February 21st, 3 pm at the home of Jeannine Asquith. We will discuss the book *The Testament* by John Grisham.



Congratulations to Helen Masaki and Tom Montanus on their recent marriage. May God bless your new life together!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE SERVED THESE PAST 2 YEARS ON THE CHURCH COUNCIL!

Moderator: Teri Sakai **Vice-Moderator:** Jackie Matsumura
Treasurer: Lee Miller **Asst. Treasurer:** Marlene Matutino
Secretary: Sally Molander **Deacons:** Nora Vidinha
Buildings & Grounds: Mike Vidinha **Cemetery:** Naoko Ogata, James Beardmore
Christian Education: Cinty Kagawa
Music & Worship: Helen H-P **Missions:** Margaret Kagawa
Fellowship: Kathy Uyeda, Kim Okino **Representative to the Hawaiian Church Council/Food Bank:** Grace Kamai
Personnel: Graceleanor Baird **Stewardship:** Helen Masaki



THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 31ST, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP, AT THE WAIMEA NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER. THERE WILL BE A POT-BLESS LUNCHEON BEFORE THE MEETING. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND, AS WE WILL BE VOTING TO ADOPT THE REVISED CHURCH BY-LAWS, PASS THE 2010 BUDGET, AND ELECT NEW CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Don't forget: Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 17th. The West Kauai Ministers' Association will host the annual Lenten series with a service every Thursday evening, 7 pm, at different locations, with preaching by WKMA pastors.

- Feb. 18 - Hanapepe Church of the Nazarene - Pastor James Merritt
- Feb. 25 - St. Paul's Episcopal, Kekaha - Pastor Olaf Hoeckmann
- Mar. 4 - Hanapepe Salvation Army - Pastor Rachel Schwab
- Mar. 11 - Hanapepe UCC - Pastor Manny Predas
- Mar. 18 - Sacred Heart, Waimea- Lt. Sara Smuda
- Mar. 25 - Kalaheo Missionary - Matt Metzger



Kent Keith, author of the *Paradoxical Commandments* and member of the Manoa Valley Church, will be the keynote speaker at the 18th 'Aha Pae'aina on Kauai, June 8-12, 2010. From June 8-10, will be the Aha Iki at Anahola Church; and from June 10-12 will be the Aha Makua at the Lihue United Church. There will also be the Youth Gathering from June 6-12. All UCC churches on Kauai are involved in the planning for this event. Our church is in charge of Hospitality and we will be asking for help in preparation for the event. We will also be participating in the Friday evening, June 9th, "Kauai Cooks" event, which will feature different ethnic foods from our island. Our church will serve Filipino food.

***MAHALO** TO THOSE WHO CAME OUT ON MLK DAY, TO WORK ON THE CHURCH PARKING LOT. GRASS SOD PLUGS WERE PUT IN AND WILL (HOPEFULLY) FILL IN THE BALD SPOTS IN THE LOT IN DUE TIME. THANK YOU ALSO TO THOSE WHO BROUGHT FOOD FOR THE WORKERS!

***MAHALO** TO PASTOR OLAF AND JAMES BEARDMORE FOR THEIR CAR ADVICE AND EXPERTISE ON "JESUS IN THE HOOD" DAY.

***MAHALO** TO JAMES BEARDMORE FOR INSTALLING A NEW SINK AND STAND AT THE COLUMBARIUM.

***MAHALO** TO OUR OFFICE SECRETARY, VERNA, FOR PUTTING TOGETHER THE ANNUAL REPORT BOOKLETS AND FOR PRINTING ALL THE EXTRA DOCUMENTS.

***MAHALO** TO THOSE WHO FAITHFULLY SERVE THE CHURCH DURING THE SERVICE, IN SUNDAY SCHOOL, IN THE COMMUNITY, FOOD PANTRY AND RUMMAGE SALE.

***MAHALO** TO SALLY MOLANDER FOR TAKING PICTURES OF CHURCH MEMBERS FOR THE "CHURCH OHANA" BULLETIN BOARD.

DO WE KNOW YOUR NAME?

That's what visitors and returnees ask. To help our visitors know who we are, we have started a "Church Ohana" board in the Narthex. If your picture is not up yet, please bring one or ask Sally Molander to take one of you. We would like to get as many faces up there as possible.

SPRING 'AHA MOKUPUNI FRIDAY, MAY 14-SATURDAY, MAY 15 HANAPEPE HAWAIIAN CHURCH

THEME: "KULEANA"

The gathering will begin with a Supper at 5 pm on Friday, after which will be the Aha Mele/Hoike. On Saturday, the Mokupuni will start at 7:30 am with breakfast, followed by the Annual Business Meeting, and then the presentation by

Rev. Jim Fung on the theme. This will be followed by a workshop, and the day will conclude with the installation of newly elected Association officers, and Dinner. Please plan to attend the event if you are able.

Intoxication: Euphoria of getting a tax refund, until you realize it was your money to start with!

The Church's Ministries

Food Pantry:

Packing- Tuesday, Feb. 23rd

Distribution- Wed., Feb. 24th

Rummage Sale: Saturday,

Feb. 13th, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Quilting Group:

Sunday, February 7th

Church Council:

Sunday, February 14th

February Lay Reader:

Kimberly Hoeckmann-Percival

February Deacon:

Nora Vidinha

Our Prayers

For Yuki Okino, Lynn (Susie Somers' sister), Robbie (Nora's son-in-law), Marina Galiza, Ruth Cassel, Gladys Okada, Catherine Wilson, Nancy Jones, the Chronister family, Jane Matsukawa, Gayle Mizukami, Sue Metivier, Jim Kimoto, Nelson Keller, Elmo Douglass, Frank Watanabe, the youth in Waimea High School, Nora Vidinha, Loddy, Michael, Lance; Michael Nizo, Veronica Botelho, Sosei Chinen, Selden Burtch, Verna Kauahi, Glenn Kagawa, Desiree Kamai-Santos, the Lanai Committee and project, our local, state and national leaders and our troops overseas.

Naoko Ogata is looking for glass or plastic jars to replace the flower vases in the cemetery.

If you have any you can donate, please see Naoko, or leave it in the white plastic bag in the Narthex. Mahalo.



“Death, by its dark finality, poses the final unknowable test of faith. All of us are left standing on this side of that threatening door with the fear that when we do pass through we might not find God waiting for us on the other side.

Author Albert Y. Hsu gives us this perspective on death and grief:

‘Christians sometimes think that we are not supposed to grieve, because our faith and theology provide us with confidence about heaven and eternal life. But while 1 Thessalonians 4:13 says that we are not to grieve as those who have no hope, we grieve nevertheless. Those without hope grieve in one way; those with hope grieve in another. Either way, grief is universal and not to be avoided. It is a legitimate response to loss.’

The Fall that ushered lament into the world is a dark cloud, a cloud of unknowing. When death and disease come we are enveloped for some time in the cloud. As it blows over us, we fear it might cut us off from the healing, resurrecting Presence. For one confused moment we misunderstand, thinking its very existence is the ultimate contradiction to *hesed* (loving-kindness). For one brief instant we cannot see the face of our Father. Through lament we push into and through (not around) the cloud. Only then do we completely reach the other side, the place where we find Jesus waiting for us.

If you think about it, there isn’t much in life that isn’t “life threatening.” We all carry deep within ourselves a pressurized reservoir of tears. It takes only the right key at the right time to unlock them. The lock can be forced or the unlocking can happen prematurely, to our ruin. But in God’s perfect time, through lament, when these tears are released, they can form a vast healing flood.

Excerpt from “A Sacred Sorrow” by Michael Card

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