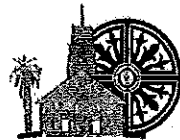


T h e C o n n e c t i o n

A publication of the Waimea United Church of Christ
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VOLUME XX

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My daughter Kimberly is reading *The Diary of Anne Frank* in her high-school English class at present. This is the story of a young Jewish girl in Holland whose family must hide away in an attic during World War II so as not to be arrested and removed to the death camps by the Nazis. This has stirred some feelings and memories in me.

As many of you are aware, I am of German decent on my father's side. And yes, my father was a *Hitler Youth* participant during the war. He had to be an adherent in order to attend school in Germany. My grandfather was a cartographer for the German military, and thus also by default a Nazi. He was fortunate to have been captured by the Americans in Greece and held in a P.O.W. camp in downtown Athens with a view of the Acropolis.

My father's adolescent commission during the war was to go door-to-door to collect scrap metal for forging bomb casings that Hitler had hoped would one day be dropped on the cities of America. My mother was on the other side of the Atlantic as a young proud American volunteer spotting German U-boats from the cupola of the old family mansion in Holbrook, Mass. Amazing that those two ever got together!

I recall vividly the first time a friend of mine came over for dinner in the fourth grade at our home in Los Angeles. Rather than saying the usual prayer in German before eating, my father stood at attention and sang the first stanza of the German national anthem: "Deutschland, Deutschland, ueber Alles in der Welt." My friend was from a Jewish family. Fortunately, he had no idea what was going on and even poked fun at me later about my "crazy dad who sings at the dinner table."

Later in 1979-80 when I was attending high school in Germany, I was taken aback at how much nazi-ism was still present. Not far from the house in Bavaria was an old concentration camp that had been used as a sorting area for those who would go on to the death camp at Dachau. A "boy scout" troop had taken it over to "preserve" it for "posterity." In fact they were rebuilding it to be used again, and they even flew a pseudo-nazi flag. Nazi rallies and parades were commonplace. Even the President of Bavaria at the time, Franz Josef Strauss, reportedly had Nazi ties. All this to say, we should not believe that the scourge is gone. The racism and hatreds die hard.

All my life, I have struggled knowing that my forbears were complicit in the Holocaust: Guilt is in my genes. The natural propensity to deny by stating "I wasn't even born then!" fails me by conscience. I am collectively culpable. I find taking this position preferable to the act of denial.

Am I also at fault collectively for the Crucifixion of Jesus? I was not even born yet. Is not the sin that brought Jesus' death still coursing in my veins? Even after so many generations? I think so. Again, I would rather take this position than to deny that I had anything to do with Christ's life and death at all. Something to pray about during Lent this year.

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.



Sermon Scripture Passages

- February 5 Ruth 1:15-18
"Complete Commitment"
- February 12 1 Samuel 1:19-28
"Giving Back to God"
- February 19 1 Kings 17:8-16
"Faith to Carry On"
- February 26 Esther 8:3-8
"Where's God?"

This new sermon series is focused on the women of the Bible! If you be of one particular gender, or the other, you may find the sermons to be spiritually uplifting as well as mildly jarring. The women of the Bible are truly a special lot!



The Tuesday morning Bible Study group meets in Baird Hall at 9 am to discuss the Scripture for the upcoming Sunday

sermon. Come share your inspirations and insights with the Pastor. Everyone is welcome.

The Sunday evening Bible study is hosted twice a month at various homes. Listen to the Sunday announcements for the location. We are continuing our study of the book of Acts.

BOOK CLUB



The February Book Club meeting will be in the Fireside Room at the Ed Center, hosted by Teri Sakai. We will discuss the book, "The Year of Living Biblically" by A.J. Jacobs. Everyone is welcome to join us for discussion.

8th Annual Mayor's Prayer Luncheon
Saturday, March 3rd
8:30 am-12:30 pm
Kilohana Luau Pavilion

Featuring Pastor Wayne Cordeiro, pastor of Hope Christian Fellowship in Honolulu, speaking on "Leadership Principles." \$25 ticket includes buffet lunch. There are still tickets left. Please see Pastor Olaf if you would like to attend.

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL AT WORK... **Thank you outgoing Council and Board members**

Moderator: Teri Sakai; **Vice-Moderator:** Margaret Kagawa; **Secretary:** Cinthy Kagawa; **Stewardship:** Helen H-P; **Personnel:** Jackie Matsumura; **Music and Worship:** Sally Molander; **Buildings and Grounds:** Mike Vidinha; **Cemetery:** Naoko Ogata



Ed Center Update: The Ed Center wishes to thank everybody for their donations of books to the library. It is beginning to look like a library again! Young Life youth ministries had its first

meeting (a dodgeball tournament) in December with some 35 youth participating. Young Life will start weekly meetings on Monday nights in the Library and special monthly gatherings on Friday nights in the Gym starting in March. Young Life director for Kauai Ward Niccore has promised to come into our worship on a Sunday morning soon to share with us more about this ministry. Also, the Boys and Girls Club is back in limited fashion, hosting a basketball team practice on Mondays and Thursdays afternoon. The volleyball teams, Food Pantry, and the like are all still with us as well. Book Club is meeting in Library this month, too. We are still looking forward to KPAL (Kauai Police Action League) and Hoike Community Television coming into the center in the coming months.

Pastor Olaf is looking for anyone who would like to volunteer to help be there at the center for the youth after school on weekdays. The kids have slowly discovered that there is a place for them to gather right after school. Many come into the gym to shoot hoops while waiting for the bus or to meet with friends. Just this last week a lady, whom the pastor did not recognize, came up to him on the street and personally thanked him for what the church is doing to help the youth! Good witness!

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when his boat was suddenly attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat in the air and opened its mouth to swallow both. The man cried out, "Oh, my God! Help me!" At once the scene froze and a booming voice came down from the clouds, "I thought you didn't believe in Me!" "Come on God, give me a break!" the man pleaded. "Two minutes ago, I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!"

WKMA LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday, 7:00 pm.

February 23	Hanapepe Salvation Army Pastor Matt Metzger
March 1	Hanapepe UCC Pastor Olaf Hoeckmann-Percival
March 8	Waimea Baptist Church Pastor John Zimmerman
March 15	Hanapepe Hawaiian Church Pastor Merv Walker
March 22	St. Paul's Chapel, Kekaha Pastor Rennie Mau



The origin of St. Valentine, and how many St. Valentines there were, remains a mystery. Whoever he was, Valentine really existed because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to Saint Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom. The first representation of Saint Valentine appeared in The Nuremberg Chronicle in 1493. Alongside a woodcut portrait of him, text states that Valentinus was a Roman priest martyred during the reign of Claudius II, since he was caught marrying Christian couples and aiding any Christians who were being persecuted under Emperor Claudius in Rome. Valentinus was arrested and imprisoned. Claudius took a liking to this prisoner until Valentinus tried to convert the Emperor whereupon this priest was condemned to death. He was beaten with clubs and stoned; when that didn't do it, he was beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate around 269.

One legend says, while awaiting his execution, Valentinus restored the sight of his jailer's blind daughter. Another legend says, on the eve of his death, he penned a farewell note to the jailer's daughter, signing it, "From your Valentine."

He is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travellers, young people.



The Church's Ministries

FEBRUARY 2012

Lay Reader: Annalissa Hartsell

Deacon: Mike Vidinha

Food Pantry Distribution:

Wednesday, February 22nd, 9:00 a.m.

Rummage Sale:

Saturday, February 11th, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Quilting Group:

Sunday, February 5th

Church Council Meeting:

Sunday, February 12th, 11:30 a.m.

Finance Committee Meeting:

TBA

Our Prayers: For Kathy Uyeda and the family of her brother, Dan Suga (his passing on December 25); continued healing prayers for Lynn, Susie Somers' sister; Robbie (Nora's son-in-law); Herbert Smith (ALS), Beth Hanashiro, Jean Thompson, Wayne (Lyndel Erdmann's brother), Satoe Oyama, Tomie Watanabe, Kikui Yamamoto, Mary Watanabe, Gladys Okada, Catherine Wilson, Nancy Jones, Jane Matsukawa, Sue Metivier, Jim Kimoto, Nelson Keller, Frank Watanabe, Nora Vidinha, Michael, Lance; Michael Nizo, Veronica Botelho, Sosei Chinen, Selden Burtch, Verna Kauahi, Desiree Kama'i-Santos; prayers of support for our graduates, the youth in Waimea, our local, state and national leaders and our troops overseas, our church leaders and programs.

BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK

A nurse on the pediatric ward, before listening to the little ones chests, would plug the stethoscope into their ears and let them listen to their own hearts. Their eyes would always light up with awe, but she never got a response equal to four-year-old David's comment. Gently, she tucked the stethoscope into his ears and placed the disk over his heart. "Listen," she said, "What do you suppose that is?"

He drew his eyebrows together in a puzzled line and looked up as if lost in the mystery of the strange tap-tap-tapping deep in his chest. Then his face broke out in a wondrous grin and he asked, "Is that Jesus knocking?"





**COMMUNITY
GARDEN
WORKDAY**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH,
AS EARLY AS YOU WANT
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH,**
If you like getting your hands
dirty and seeing new life
come from the earth. Bring
your favorite tools.

CALLING ALL SENIORS

The \$1,000 *Grace Scholarship* is awarded to two Waimea High School graduates every year. If you are interested in this financial aid for post-high school education, log on to www.waimeachurch.org, and look under "Links" for an application form and more information.



FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Tuesday, 7-9 pm at Baird Hall.
Come join in for all kinds of fun
board games and refreshment.
No experience necessary!



On Tuesday, February 21st, our church will open its doors to the public, to hear hymns sung in Hawaiian. This is part of the extended weeklong community hosted events leading up to the Waimea Town Celebration on 24th and 25th February. Watch out for more information about the event.



Congratulations to Kauai Bible Church, celebrating their 40th anniversary on February 25th.



This ministry is open to everyone in the church. It involves only about 1-1 ½ hours every 2-3 months and only requires you to be able to dust, sweep, and mop. Our church needs to be ready every week to receive its family and guests, and we want to make sure that God's house always looks its best for Sunday. Please talk to Sally Molander, or sign up for a time on the calendar in the church narthex. Donations to the Church Cleaning Fund are also welcome. Mahalo

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