



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,

One of the perquisites of being a pastor is that pen companies send samples to me in the mail to see if I want to purchase en masse for the church as a form of advertisement. This last month I got two free pens. This is good. I am always giving my own pens away or simply losing them. This helps to replenish the loss.

These last two pens, however, were rather odd. In the past when I got a free sample pen, it had the church's name on it. This time one pen came with a completely different church's name. It was a church that is not even on this island. I thought to myself, "Why would I want to purchase a pen with somebody else's church name on it?" I wondered if some other church on the Big Island got our pen by mistake, and perhaps its pastor was pondering, "Where is the Waimea United Church of Christ?"

On the pen from the wrong church, a church in Waipahu actually, was its motto: "You have a right to be free!" Okay, I will take the "free" pen because it is my right. Someone else is probably scratching his or her head with our church's motto "E komo mai. Hookipa olu-olu." I hope that person reads enough Hawaiian to understand that they may also keep his/her pen.

The second pen I received was quite unique as there was a light on one end. Try to picture it: one end was a ballpoint pen; the other end was a miniature laser pointer. The light did not work. I took it apart and put it back together. The battery must have died during shipping. The device was supposed to work by "gently pressing the tip with the light on it." Hmmm. What good is a light if you have to put your finger over it to make it come on? Did anybody really think about this? Nobody lights a lamp and puts it under a bushel. That is even biblical.

This is the world in which we live. Things often do not make sense or even function frankly. While we have been going through the Gospel of John in our worship, I cannot help but recall that Jesus once proclaimed, "The world hates me." Jesus then testifies against the world (Check John 7:7). When I get pens in the mail with the wrong church's name and lasers that do not work, I want to testify too, "The world hates me." Well, maybe "hate" is too strong. The world and I are at odds at times.

My faith, on the other hand, never fails. Christ is infallible. Things break apart and are running down all around me; however, Christ remains and the faith only ever strengthens. That means that Christ cannot be of this world! His light always shines and the battery never needs to be replaced. You do not have to cover the light in order to make it shine—just the opposite indeed. His name is not just right by me, but the most righteous name ever.

When the world starts getting you down, just look up to God and Jesus.

...Yours in Christ, 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
March 2011**

Mar. 6th John 8:31-38
"Freedom in Christ"
Mar. 13th John 8:48-59
"Christ's Transcendence"
Mar. 20th John 9:1-10
"God's Works Revealed"
Mar. 27th John 9:35-41
"First to Worship"

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 MARCH 20, 2011, AT 3PM, AND WILL BE HOSTED BY JACKIE MATSUMURA. WE WILL DISCUSS THE BOOK "THE HELP" BY KATHRYN STOCKETT. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

COUNCIL NOTES

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

- Graffiti at the Marshallese Church was painted over. The broken glass in the sign at the Marshallese church is being replaced. The boy who broke the sign was asked to pay for repairs. Pastor Olaf repaired the broken windows in Baird Hall's women's bathroom (breakage occurred after WAFF carnival) using salvaged glass from the old Sunday school classroom B.
- The church van, 2003 Chrysler with 60,000+ miles, is in need of many repairs: window actuator motor burned out, new front struts, accessory belt, spark plugs, radiator flush, and timing belt change. Pastor is able to do most of the repairs but will seek estimates from various local mechanics for the strut and timing belt change. Pastor suggested that the Finance Committee think ahead to the time when it is no longer feasible to keep repairing the van and consider other kinds of vehicles.
- Pastor will be away from March 14-19, participating in the KAUCC Youth Retreat at Waineke.
- Information was shared about the Mayor's Prayer Luncheon, "All Nations Under God," on March 12 from 8:30-12:30 at Kilohana. Featured speaker is Krish Dhanam from Zig Zigar Corp. Sally Molander will post information about this event in the newsletter and the Sunday bulletins. Tickets are \$25.
- Waimea High School students have started to apply for the \$1,000 Grace Scholarships (from HCUCC Custodial Redress Funds).
- Jackie Matsumura will update and distribute the responsibilities for the funeral committee, which includes church cleaning. It is not the responsibility of Music and Worship which takes care of regular church cleaning. Jackie will update the responsibilities of one committee per month hereafter and report to the council.
- James Beardmore thanked the council for the opportunity to attend the HCUCC's Leadership Training on Feb. 12. He briefly shared the conference's theme of 'Trends vs. Trendy.' A noted trend is that churches are becoming less theologically literate and more theologically illiterate. Pastor noted that churches that systematically study the Bible increase in theological literacy, and those that follow a lectionary do not.
- Sally Molander brought up a concern regarding whether there is a need for flowers on Communion Sundays. Pastor said the floral arrangements are not necessary; in fact, they sometimes 'get in the way.' The sign-up sheet for flowers will be corrected to say "Not Needed" rather than "Optional" for Communion Sundays.
- It was agreed that the fourth Saturday of every month be designated as 'Garden Work Days.' This will provide all interested persons opportunities to help tend and extend the garden. Margaret purchased a mini-pavilion and sink, which she'd like to place in the community garden.

GARDEN WORK DAY!

If you like working in dirt and nurturing plants, then please come to the Community Garden on Saturday, March 26th for a workday. Come early to beat the heat. The Church Council has agreed to set every fourth Saturday of each month as Garden Work-Day.



Kaual Association UCC
Spring Youth Retreat 2011
March 14-17th

Waialae Cabins, Kokee

Cost: \$26 per camper

Space is limited. Register with Pastor Jeannie
at Kapaa UCC 822-9241

Or log on to

www.hawaiiink.net/~kauccl/youth.htm
for registration and additional info

The Church's Ministries

Food Pantry:

Packing- Tuesday, Mar. 29th

Distribution-Wed., Mar. 30th

Rummage Sale: Saturday,
Mar. 13th, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Quilting Group:
Sunday, March 6th

Finance Ministry Meeting:
Sunday, Mar. 27th, 11:30 a.m.

Church Council:
Sunday, Mar. 13th, 11:30 a.m.

March Lay Reader:

Mary McKinney

March Deacon:

Sally Molander



WAIMEA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Our Prayers

For the Robison family (loss of Warren), and the Okino family (loss of Tadayuki), Vidinha family for the loss of Mike's brother John; 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.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary

Everyone Welcome!

LENTEN SERVICES

Mar. 10 – Hanapepe Hawaiian Church
Anointing at Bethany
Lt. Sarah Smuda

Mar. 17 - Kauai First Marshallese UCC
Betrayal by Judas
Pastor John Mills

Mar. 24 - Kaumakani Methodist Church
Gethsamane
Speaker: TBA

Mar. 31 - Kauai Bible Church
Jesus' Arrest
Pastor Mary Lindquist

April 7 – Place TBA
Peter's Denial
Pastor James Merritt

April 14 – Place TBA
Trial
Pastor Phyllis Meighan



Broom & Mop Ministry



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.

Adam's Counter Offer

God looks down and notices that Adam is all alone, while all the animals have companions, so God decides to create a companion for Man as well.

God comes to see Adam and says to him, "Adam, you are my greatest creation and therefore I am going to create for you the ultimate companion. She will worship the very ground you walk on, she will long for you and no other, she will be highly intelligent, she will wait on you hand and foot and obey your every command, she will be beautiful, and all it will cost you is an arm and leg."

Thinking a few moments, Adam replies, "What could I get for a rib?"



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