



THE CONNECTION

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Waimea United Church of Christ

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since the evening Bible Study on Sunday is delving into the Book of Revelation and the sermon series is focusing on Daniel we are very much in an "apocalyptic mode" in the church right now.

The term "apocalyptic" literally means to "take the lid off." What does it mean to uncover a pot when talking about God? Remember in Jeremiah 1 when the prophet sees a pot boiling over? It is a sign that something is about to spill over Israel. I like to think about it as a miracle that is about to happen or is happening right now, but we do not understand it yet. God is always cooking something up; "apocalyptic" is when we get to lift the lid and see what is about to spill out over us.

Apocalyptic is what a miracle looks like before it happens. Strangely enough, that can be quite terrifying. Think of all the great miracles in the Bible, and then consider what happens leading up to the miracle. Slavery and plagues come before the deliverance of the people of Israel out of Egypt by the parting of the Red Sea. Evil possession and insanity come before Jesus casts out of the legion of demons from the man at Gerasa. The death on the Cross comes before the resurrection of Jesus. Miracles tend to come when only a miracle will do! That can be a very scary place to find one's self in life.

The Books of Daniel and Revelation both share prophetic visions of the last great miracle of all, the coming of the heavenly Kingdom of God. This will be the time of our final redemption and salvation. The time leading up to this last great miracle over earth is tumultuous. It is scary.

Our comfort is that we are able to sniff out what is boiling in the pot already precisely because we have such Books as Daniel and Revelation. And, we have our faith in Christ to steady our hearts through the turmoil ahead. We know that the miracle is coming even though the rest of the world is in doubt.

When I walk my dog on the beach, he is able to sniff out the crabs under the sand. He runs to the crab's hiding place and starts digging with his front paws. He knows what is there. He can smell it. My dog merely needs to uncover the crab below. Apocalyptic writing is much the same idea: One must sniff it out, dig a little, and know that the truth can be uncovered.

I hope and pray that as we look at Daniel and Revelation respectively, that you will find new and greater faith in the apocalyptic discourse within the Word of God. Keep focused on the miracle that God is about to do!

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf



MONDAY

PASTOR'S DAY OFF



Sshhh...Please do not disturb. If you wish to leave a message for Pastor Olaf, please call the church office at 338-9962.

**Scripture & Sermon Titles
May 2010**

May 2nd Daniel 3:19-30
"Faith in Fire"
May 9th Daniel 4:34-37
"Heaven Rules"
May 16th Daniel 5:24-31
"Writing on the Wall"
May 23rd Daniel 6:19-28
"Lion's Den"
May 30th Daniel 7:23-27
"Thy Kingdom Come"

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, May 16th, 3 pm at the home of Sally Molander. We will discuss the book *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls.



PRAY FOR MARGARET



We really need to pray for Margaret Kagawa and her community garden project. A huge undertaking like this is scary, especially if you have little to no experience. The empty lot next to the cemetery has been just sitting there for 20 years. I guess everyone felt it was too big to tackle.

On Monday, April 19th, 6 days prior to the big workday on Saturday, April 24th, Margaret confessed as we walked to the car, "I'm scared."

We had just had a wonderful dinner whipped up by Margaret with two of the resource people from the *Growing Food* seminar at Kauai Community College. They had graciously offered their help. Mike Zelko and Melissa, his assistant, have vast experience in this area. Mike was born and raised on the Big Island. His dad was an old fashion country doctor. Mike said only half of his dad's patients paid with money; the other half paid with offering things they made or grew: like vegetables, poultry, pork or beef, and the like.

Mike's passion is helping Kauai become more self-sustainable. Growing more of our own food is important, but just as important is learning to share all our natural resources, to provide for every one the basics, less for profit, more for providing for all.

More like how his father operated, he said the family always had enough. Mike said that it was all about relationships.

I am so glad God gave Margaret the courage she needed. It opened up so much more than she dreamed or imagined. She is thrilled at what has happened. What has happened is far more than she expected. People who expressed grave doubts before are now offering their resources, skills, talents and experience. They are now wanting to help the development of the project. As Margaret said, "Isn't this what it is all about?" People coming together. A community garden is about relationships. Margaret also found out that the more you know the more you discover you don't know.

When you take the first step God opens up more doors.

The Bible says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 1:1)

Let us give thanks to God and keep praying for Margaret. She says she needs lots of prayers.

Submitted by Joanne Watanabe

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

THEME: "KULEANA"

Kuleana can mean many things. It has meant **right, privilege, territory, property, responsibility, concern, authority, claim, and ownership.** And it also means what we in the church refer to as "stewardship" - - that is - - what we have, own, possess - - is essentially what God has placed within our care - - to guard, protect, enhance, cultivate, be responsible for in the deepest and most sacred ways.

Kuleana is the theme of this year's Aha Mokupuni.

We have asked a number of lay members of our congregations to speak briefly on this theme as it applies to the life of our churches. An older adult and a younger one will be speaking, during our Workshop Time. We will hear from their heart a reflection on . . .

- What is the kuleana of the Pastor of a UCC congregation here on our island?
- What is the kuleana of a member of a UCC congregation here on Kauai?
- What is the kuleana of a Christian?

These presentations will be followed by conversation as we divide afterwards into small sharing groups.

Please come to our Mokupuni and share your mana'o with all of us. This is an important way that we learn and become even more the Church that Christ wants us to be.

Friday, May 14th

5:00 pm - 'Aina 'Ahi'Ahi (Supper)
6:00 pm - Aha Mele & Hoike
8:00 pm - Pule 'Ohana

Saturday, May 15th

7:30 am - Continental Breakfast
8:30 am - Celebration of Life
9:00 am - Kauai Council of Hawaiian Churches meet
9:45 am - "What's Happening at Your Church?"
(Powerpoint Presentation)
10:15 am - Ho'omaha (Rest)
10:45 am - Discussion on theme: KULEANA
12:00 noon - 'Aina Awakea (Lunch)
1:00 pm - Workshop on KULEANA
2:30 pm - Ho'omaha
3:00 pm - Workshop Continues
4:30 pm - Celebration of Faith
(Welcome Koloa Marshallese Congregation,
Installation of newly-elected officers,
Offering for Youth Ministry Initiative,
Celebration of Communion)
5:30 pm - 'Aina 'Ahi'Ahi

The Church's Ministries

Food Pantry:

Packing- Tuesday, May 25th

Distribution- Wed., May 26th

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

Quilting Group:

May 2nd after worship

Church Council:

Sunday, May 16th, after worship

May Lay Reader:

Mike Vidinha

May Deacon:

Marlene Matutino

Our Prayers

For the family of Craig Beaver, Kalani Hillstrom, Lynn (Susie Somers' sister), Robbie (Nora's son-in-law), Marina Galiza, Ruth Cassel, Gladys Okada, Catherine Wilson, Nancy Jones, 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 Burch, Verna Kauahi, Desiree Kamai-Santos, the Lanai project, the Community Garden project, our local, state and national leaders and our troops overseas.

**MOTHER'S DAY
BREAKFAST**



Sunday, May 9th

8:30 AM

Baird Hall

Menfolk, if you can help with the breakfast to honor our womenfolk, please talk to Pastor Olaf.

Dear Pastor Olaf,

I cannot begin to thank you enough for the beautiful service and then renewing John and Maureen's wedding vows.

We have just returned and suffering a great deal of 'jet-lag.' I trust you won't have too much of problem when you visit later this year!

Our memories of the Islands are always treasured and this time more than ever. Please thank your congregation for their wonderful welcome; they were so kind and generous in their congratulations to Maureen and John and we felt that we had become part of this wonderful group of people. I do hope we can keep in touch and that it won't be long before we return to the lovely island of Kauai and the people who make it so special.

-Sally Fuller

It is "tent"-a-tively planned to tent the Sanctuary and Columbarium against termites on Wednesday, May 5th. The Sanctuary will be off limits until Friday, May 7th. The people in the Columbarium can stay there. Thanks to the Kahu Richard Wong Fund for a grant of \$4,000 to help defray the cost of the tenting.



NEWS FLASH: The church council has accepted the honor of sponsoring the First Marshallese Church of Kauai to become the newest member of the UCC. We are about to help give birth to another church again!



Thanks to everyone for the great Easter and pre-Easter celebration. Kudos to the choir for the WKMA Lenten cantata, *Shadow of the Cross*. Thanks to the Somers Family for the beautiful job of decorating the Sanctuary for Palm Sunday (See the pictures on the back of the calendar page or on the website.) Thanks to all those who brought flowers for Easter for the Easter Cross, to the Sunday School for the egg gifts, the Fellowship Committee for the special Aloha time, and to the choir again for the beautiful music.



Special thanks to the anonymous person who removed the fallen palm crown that fell in the parking area. What a great surprise to see it removed!

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