

THE CONNECTION

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From the Pastor's Desk...

Last month I was outside mowing the lawn at the parsonage when all of the sudden I felt a sharp pinch on the back of my left arm. I did not think much of it and kept on mowing. Then, that spot on my arm felt like a piece of hardened glue was stuck to the skin. I looked at it, but I did not see anything. I just rubbed it a little. There was seemingly nothing there. I started up the mower and finished the lawn.

By the time I was washing down the mower blades and putting the equipment away in the shed, my arm was beginning to sting severely. I looked at it again. Had I been stung by a flying insect? I did not see a stinger. No, the original sensation was a pinch not a jab. My arm was visibly swelling now. I was having difficulty moving my fingers. I went in to shower and realized I could not hold the soap with my left hand anymore.

That night I cooked macaroni and cheese for dinner and could just barely hold the panhandle while stirring the cheese for the noodles. I ate with my right hand rather than my left at the table. As the evening went on I began to feel a little dopey, too. Well, more dopey than usual. I went to sleep with the one numb arm hanging on the edge of the bed, thinking I did not want to rollover onto it in the middle of the night. I prayed that it would be better by morning and that I would not have to go to see a doctor.

By morning, I was relieved to experience free movement in my fingers again although the arm was still swollen and was becoming itchy. As I scratched it, I could feel a twinge all the way to my fingertips. I hoped this was a good sign. By the following evening, I decided to share with my wife the fact that I had been bitten by something in the garden so that she might avoid a similar fate.



Helen figured out a scenario in which perhaps a spider on the lawnmower itself had run up the handlebar and onto my arm without my knowing it. That could have been possible. Then, she wondered aloud if after having been bitten that I would turn into a Spider Man. Did I have any proclivity towards hanging upside down on a web? Was I now a hundred times stronger than before? She started humming the Spider Man theme song around the house.

Happily I am not a spider man today. I have no arachnid abilities or "spidey senses." Truly I have only ever been changed by the bite of the Holy Spirit that has transformed me into "Christian Guy." Look out! Christians do have superhuman power! And, we know how to use it!

It is just before Easter as I write this, and I do have a strange urge to leave eggs out in the garden—spidery!

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
May 2011**

May 1st John 11:25-27; 38-44
"Lazarus"
May 8th John 12:1-8
"Mary Anoints Christ"
May 15th John 13:1-20
"Jesus Washes the Feet"
May 23rd John 13:31-35
"New Commandment"
May 30th John 14: 1-14
"Ask in Jesus' Name"

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 MAY 15, 2011, AT 3 PM, AND WILL BE HOSTED BY DEBBIE SANTMYER. WE WILL DISCUSS THE BOOK "THE GOOD WIFE" BY STEWART O'NAN. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

COUNCIL NOTES

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

- Susie Somers presented 4 plans for the Lanai project. The majority of council members preferred Plan C, which includes storage space, church offices on the mauka side of the extension, and maximum use of floor space for group functions. Funding was discussed. Given the lengthy permitting process it was agreed that Susie work with Mike Faye to draw up full plans to submit for permitting although construction will most likely occur in phases. The council approved authorizing the Finance Committee to proceed with contracting for drafts of the Lanai Project plans. The cost of these plans can come from the \$13,000 in the Lanai Project Fund. The Council and Finance Committee will explore further financing options for construction. The council expressed deep appreciation for Susie's hard work drawing various plans over the years.
- Pastor will be attending the 'Aha 'Iki on June 8-9 representing the Council of Hawaiian Churches. Teri and Helen will be attending the 'Aha Pae'aina 'Aha Makua on June 10-11 at the Nuuanu Congregational Church. Registration deadline is May 6th.
- We have not received the increased Facility Reimbursement payments from the Boys and Girls Club retroactive from January 2011. Monthly payments were increased from \$400 to \$500 and will go towards insurance costs. It was also happily noted that as of March we were operating under budget.
- Helen will ask, at Pastor's suggestion, that the Finance Committee consider presenting Kaumakani Methodist Church with a special Easter (monetary) gift in appreciation of the wonderful breakfasts they have been serving for the past four years following the Easter sunrise services
- One Great Hour of Sharing collection for Japan ministries has been over \$900. Next Garden Work Day is Saturday, April 23.
- Kathy expressed gratitude for all those who contributed to the refreshments after the Lenten Service on April 7th that WUCC hosted. There was wonderful fellowship following the service. The fellowship committee also provided help with Rebecca Niheu's memorial service and will be coordinating the following events: April 16 – All Church Cleaning Lunch and May 8 - Mother's Day breakfast provided by the men.
- Helen reported that the Spring Golden Shower Craft Fair may be canceled. Despite her publicity she received 5 responses from crafters/vendors which are not enough to make it a viable event. She felt this was a good way to 'test the waters' and get a sense of community interest.
- Trash cans to be placed outside Baird Hall need to have lids and be secured so they won't be displaced by strong winds.
- We are still waiting on the WECA (Waimea Educational and Cultural Association) grant to purchase a wood chipper.
- Helen, Margaret, and Cinthy will provide cookies and water to those who use the church yard for parking on May 20, Waimea High School's graduation.
- Helen will be the contact person while Sally is gone from April 20 to September 20 and Debbie Santmyer is available to call on for help.

Moderator: Teri Sakai; Vice-Moderator: Margaret Kagawa; Treasurer: Sheila Ueno; Asst. Treasurer: Mariene Matutino; Secretary: Cinthy Kagawa; Deacons: James Beardmore; Fellowship: Kathy Uyeda; Music and Worship: Sally Molander; CE: Lissa Dunford; Cemetery: Naoko Ogata/James Beardmore; Missions: Margaret Kagawa; Stewardship: Helen H-P; Buildings and Grounds: Mike Vidinha; Personnel: Jackie Matsumura; Finance Committee Members-at-large: Grace Kamai, Boyd Thompson



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 at 9 am. See the poster in the narthex for more info.



Congratulations to Jacob Matutino and Lance Cacal, seniors at Waimea High School, for being the first recipients of the Grace Scholarship offered through our church. Both will be on hand in worship on May 15th to accept the award checks. Both will receive \$1,000.

© Congratulations to Garry and Michele Higgins, on accepting church membership on April 17th. Please make it a point to get to know them if you have not already welcomed them personally!



Mothers' Day Breakfast

May 8th at 8:30am
 Baird Hall
 (Men, be there at 7am for set up and cooking!)



BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY

Sunday, May 15th, 10 a.m.

Please join us in congratulating and blessing our graduates from High School and College: *Jacob Matutino, Malia Kaliikuli, Cherie Kawahalau, Melissa Kagawa, Carolyn Hoeckmann-Percival, and Tori Kagawa.*

Ice Cream Sundae Aloha Hour will follow.

The Church's Ministries

Food Pantry:

Packing- Tuesday, May 24th
Distribution-Wed., May 25th

Rummage Sale: Saturday,
May 14th, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Quilting Group:
Sunday, May 1st

Church Council Meeting:
No meeting—Mother's Day

Finance Committee:
 TBA

May Lay Reader:

James Beardmore

May Deacon:

Marlene Matutino



Our Prayers

For Virginia Aguilar (knee injury), the Niheu family (loss of Rebecca), Robinson family, Okino family, Vidinha family; for Sheila, Marlene; 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 AT 7:30 PM
CHURCH SANCTUARY
 All voices welcome!

Waimea UCC Goes Global

Worship is now being live-streamed on the Internet at www.hoike.org at the same times as the regular broadcasts. If you have any cousins in Timbuktu that would like to worship on-line with us, please let them know!

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GOLDEN SPRING CRAFT FAIR

Unfortunately, due to lack of response from vendors, the Craft Fair for May 7th is cancelled. We will work on re-scheduling one for later in the year. Thank you to everyone who offered your suggestions and help.

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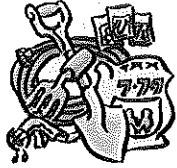
Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments to the Lenten Service on April 7th. The food was ono and the fellowship warm.

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Thank you to the choir, Bill Woodall, Ruth Cassel, Rev. James Merritt, David Somers and Kimberly H-P for putting on the *Shadow of the Cross* Maundy Thursday cantata. It was a truly blessed and moving service.

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Thank you to everyone who brought goodies for the Aloha Hour on Easter Sunday. What a glorious way to celebrate the victory on the cross!



DON'T FORGET:
SATURDAY, MAY 28TH IS
GARDEN DAY.

Come down and get dirty in the Community Garden, by helping weed, trim, plant, and harvest. Bring your own gardening implements. Lunch will be provided.

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God couldn't be everywhere—so He made mothers.
Happy Mother's Day.

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