

THE CONNECTION

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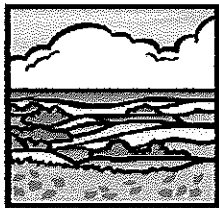
Number XI

From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I was sitting in the kitchen watching the morning news and eating my typical peanut butter and jelly bread when a most amazing thing happened. The fridge clicked off. Mind you, it is supposed to do that. It is an "energy star" appliance. I had become inured to the sound of the whirring fan and compressor. Mmmmmmm. I turned off the overhead fluorescent light that was buzzing. Next, I turned off the television. I could not switch off the clucking hen outside the kitchen window, but I was startled at how much I was enjoying the peace of that moment without all of the mechanical noise around me. It struck me how distracting all of the noise could be.

The other Sunday morning I was walking to the church very early and was taken aback at how peaceful the church grounds were. A feeling of calmness swept over me. The peace of Christ shone down like the sun. In that moment my life seemed extremely focused as I walked to the church. Without any distractions, I could narrow in on the Way before me.



Later that very afternoon I was walking back to the parsonage after walking the dog at sunset. In the park I saw a man sitting at a picnic table under a giant rain tree. The man was a homeless gent that had gathered all his possessions about himself in shopping carts. He had been there for some weeks; however, at this moment I focused in on him because there was a shaft of light bearing down on him from the setting sun. His head was down on the picnic table as the sun warmed his back and the underside of the branches of the tree. Turn off the distractions and see. It was quite a beautiful picture.

This is a beautiful life. We are a beautiful church congregation. God's light is shining down upon us. We need to turn off the distractions that cause us to miss the grace that God is imparting over our lives. At this time of Thanksgiving especially, we need to focus our lives sincerely on what God is showing us. We have so much to be thankful for in this world.

Christ gave us a very specific commandment before he left us. He told us that we were to love God and to love our neighbors. Christ also gave us the commission to go out and make disciples of all nations. These are the central points of our faith and the work that has been set before us. I know how easy it is to become distracted by other things, but I know that when we focus sincerely on the Word that God has given us, everything else falls into place and peace takes over our hearts again.

I invite you to turn off the distractions and find your peace with Jesus. Focus in on the love of Christ. Teach the Word of God to all.

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

November 2011

Nov. 6th Haggai 1:1-11

"Church First"

Nov. 13th Zechariah 9:9-17

"Visions of Christ's Coming"

Nov. 20th Malachi 3:1-4

"Refiner"

Nov. 24th Thanksgiving Service

Hanapepe UCC

Nov. 27th Mark 13:24-27

"Waiting on God"

We are looking into the lives of the minor prophets of the Bible right up to Malachi's foretelling of the coming of the Messiah! From that launching point we can then jump into Advent in the Fall, realizing how Christ's coming had been foretold for centuries.

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 Acts. Listen to announcements for the location each time.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOOK CLUB WILL BE ON NOVEMBER 20, 2011, AT 3 PM, AND WILL BE HOSTED BY LUCIA LAIDLAW. WE WILL DISCUSS THE BOOK "STILL ALICE" BY LISA GENOVA. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

COUNCIL NOTES

Here is a summary of the October Church Council meeting:

- Margaret is seeking nominations for committee chairs and officers for Church Council.
- Pastor recommended that we end our Kauai Visitors Information Channel commercial. It has not generated much response.
- Council is looking at other insurance companies as our current provider is raising its rates.
- The response to the \$32,400 grant application for the Ed Building is due in December.
- Pastor is asking for donations of books for the Ed Center library.
- The Ed Center Board has met, and will continue to meet monthly to discuss maintenance issues and use of facility. Minutes of the meetings will be kept in the church office.
- Sally will generate a list of "quick cleaning steps" for volunteers who clean the church every other week. A volunteer cleaning sign-up sheet will be posted on the cleaning closet door.
- Music and Worship will look into songs used in worship.
- Food Pantry will distribute fifty \$25 gift cards (to be used for food only) this Thanksgiving.
- Pastor Appreciation Sunday is on October 30. There will be a pot-bless luncheon.
- Lanai Project—architect Randy Pascua is doing the drawings to submit to the County Permitting Department.
- Christmas programs and dates:
 - Sunday, Dec. 4th - Christmas Tea @ Margaret's*
 - Sunday, Dec. 11th - Christmas Cantata*
 - Saturday, Dec. 17th - Waimea Christmas Light Parade*
 - Sunday, Dec. 18th - Sunday School Program*
 - Caroling*
 - Saturday, Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm*
 - Sunday, Dec. 25th - Christmas Day Service, 10am*

†A Note From Graceleanor Baird†

"Dear Pastor Olaf and members and friends of Waimea UCC, This is the only way I have to thank you and everyone in the Waimea UCC for the many gestures of friendship and generosity expressed to me, and my family, at this time of my sister, Mary, passing on to her Eternal Reward. It is the time of year when we all are looking forward to Mary's spending the winter with us. We find comfort, however, in knowing she left this life surrounded by her beloved home in the mountains of Washington.

My family and I sincerely appreciate the many ways you helped her feel the Aloha of Waimea UCC.

-Graceleanor and family"

*"As therefore you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so live in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in **THANKSGIVING**.*

-Colossians 2:6



Ed Center Update: The after school program has had a "soft start" with the gym being open after school everyday. We have yet to advertise the program with the exception of a banner out in front of the building. The most youth we have had so far on any given day is only twelve; however, word is slowly getting

out. We are still waiting to hear about funds coming in from a grant application that will allow us to get two part-time workers. Right now, the supervision of the program has been by James B. and Pastor O.

The clean-up and repair of the building is also underway. Many hours have been put in already. Some electrical repairs and plumbing fixes have already happened. Painting has been completed to hide the graffiti that was left and also some termite damage.

The new Ed Center board has met twice and is working to coordinate a viable business plan for future use. The board represents the current users and the wider community.

One particular need is books to fill up the shelves in the library (Fireside Room). If you have any books that you could donate, please bring them to church or to the Ed Center in the afternoon.

By next month, our Food Pantry will be moved over to the room next to the kitchen in the Ed Center.

**KAUCC FALL MOKUPUNI
"FROM SEED TO FRUIT"**

Growing mature Christians through Christian Education

**Sunday, November 20, 2011
3pm-5pm, followed by Dinner
Kapaa First Hawaiian Church**



Thanksgiving Service will be at the Hanapepe UCC at 9am on Thanksgiving Day. Pastor James Merritt of the Baptist Church will be preaching. Please bring canned goods to donate. The monetary offering will go to the WKMA Kokua Fund to help the needy.

Nana's House 15 Year Anniversary will be celebrated on Friday, November 4th, from 2-6pm. All are welcome. Our church will be providing chairs for the event. Please let Pastor Olaf know if you can help load and unload chairs that day!

**SUPER RUIIMAGE SALE!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12
8:00 A.M. - 11 A.M.**

All items sold at incredibly low prices. Tell everyone to come out and check out the bargains. If you can help that day with the Sale, please talk to Grace Kamai.

The Church's Ministries

Food Pantry:
Distribution-Wed., Nov. 23rd
Rummage Sale: Saturday,
Nov. 12th, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Quilting Group:
Sunday, November 6th
Church Council Meeting:
Sunday, November 13th
Finance Committee:
Sunday, November 27th
November Lay Reader:
Janice Oyama
November Deacon:
David Somers



Our Prayers

For the Baird family (passing of Mary McKinney), Ueno family (passing of Sheila), the Douglas family (passing of Elmo); the Kamai family (passing of Grace's daughter, Kawai); Nora (passing of her brother, Loddy); Lynn, Susie Somers' sister; Robbie (Nora's son-in-law); Beth Hanashiro, Jean Thompson, Wayne (Lyndel Erdmann's brother), Satoe Oyama, Nobue, Kikui, Mary Watanabe, Ruth Cassel, Gladys Okada, Catherine Wilson, Nancy Jones, Jane Masukawa, Gayle Mizukami, Sue Metivier, Jim Kimoto, Nelson Keller, Frank Watanabe, our graduates, the youth in Waimea High School, Nora Vidinha, Michael, Lance; Michael Nizo, Veronica Botelho, Sosei Chinen, Selden Burtch, Verna Kauahi, Desiree Kamal-Santos, our local, state and national leaders and our troops overseas.

"1882 report: Kauai churches are reported as having highest pastor's salary in all Associations, at \$249.36 per annum!"



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!

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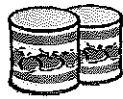
Neighbors in Need offering was
the most we have ever collected!

Thank you for your generous
giving to the cause of helping
those in great need in our own
country!

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Thank you to our Choir Director
Bill Woodall and to everyone in
the choir for sharing music at the
recent choir festival at Holy Cross
Catholic Church in Kalaheo. It
was so beautiful.

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Our community- wide Christmas Parade Food

Collection will be starting in
November. Please bring canned
or dried foods to put in the box
in the narthex on Sunday
mornings. Your donations will be
added to those of the schools,
other churches, and Christmas
Light Parade donations. The
proceeds will be divided out to
our Food Pantry, the Salvation
Army, and Nana's House.

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Broom & Mop Ministry

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 needed.

Mahalo.

The Dress

The poor country pastor was
livid when he confronted his
wife with the receipt for a \$250
dress she had bought.

"How could you do this!" he
exclaimed.

"I don't know," she wailed, "I
was standing in the store
looking at the dress. Then I
found myself trying it on. It was
like the Devil was whispering to
me, 'Gee, you look great in that
dress. You should buy it.'"

"Well," the pastor persisted,
"You know how to deal with
him! Just tell him, 'Get behind
me, Satan!'"

"I did," replied his wife, "but
then he said, 'It looks great from
back here, too!'"

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