



# 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,

While watering the papaya trees in the garden one morning at sunrise, I noticed a dragonfly hovering about two feet from me. The early morning sun made its wings glisten. The dragonfly held perfectly still in that position while its wings fluttered rapidly to keep airborne. It was expending so much energy to just stay in that one spot by me.

I wondered how long the dragonfly would last while expending so much energy. The truth is that the average dragonfly has a lifespan of only a few months. Yet, dragonflies themselves have been on this planet more than 300 million years. In contrast, humankind has only been around some 200,000 years according to anthropologists. And, there are still more dragonflies than humans on this planet. In other words, in spite of all the energy they expend and their short lifespan, they are one of God's success stories.

Do you feel like a dragonfly? Are you putting out all your energy just to stay in one place? I think about my own lifespan and those who went before me. I think about Jesus, the early church leaders, the Pilgrims, the missionaries that came to Kauai, the hands that built the Great Stone Church of Waimea, the Reverends Whitney, Ruggles, Rowell, Higuchi, Smith, the laity that are now buried in the cemetery... dragonflies whose wings are now glistening in heaven.

In the Book of Hebrews, Chapter 12, we read about the "cloud of Christian witness." This is not the "cloud" that people talk about in terms of computer Internet use, which is just server-side functionality. No, this is the cloud that connects us to the larger purpose of our being. If we just focus on our own lives, then we beat our wings to death—end, we are no more. However, if we look to those who went before and to those who will come after us, then we can see the success that God is working through us.

The church here has been through fire (the first two churches in Waimea burned down actually), flood (the White Church was moved up to the cliff because of flooding), two world wars, the Great Depression, hurricanes, abandonment, church splits (thus creating the Waimea Hawaiian Church in 1869), and through all of this so much energy was expended just to keep the church in the same place—just to have a Christian presence here.

When I start feeling tired or unable to keep up, I do remember the witness that has gone before. I remember all the hardship that has been suffered already just for me. I compose myself because I know that the success of my life is tied to theirs. One day I will rest. The tombstones in the churchyard remind me of this fact. Today, I have to fly.

*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  
October 2011**

Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> Obadiah 1:1-4  
"Prideful Gloating"  
Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> Micah 2:1-11  
"The Dawn"  
Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> Nahum 1:1-9  
"Nineveh Revisited"  
Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> Habakkuk 3:16-19  
"New Heights"  
Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> Zephaniah 3:11-20  
"Humble Home"

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.

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**EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

The Evening Bible Study and fellowship meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 6 pm. We are studying the book of Acts. Listen to announcements for the location each time.

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**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOOK CLUB WILL BE ON OCTOBER 16, 2011, AT 3 PM, AND WILL BE HOSTED BY GRACELEANOR BAIRD. WE WILL DISCUSS THE BOOK "MUTANT MESSAGE DOWN UNDER" BY MARLO MORGAN EVERYONE IS WELCOME.**

**PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS NOTICE  
TO DISCUSS A MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM  
FOR WAIMEA AND KEKAHA**

Waimea and Kekaha residents are invited to participate in public input meetings scheduled from **6 to 8 p.m.** at the following locations:

**Waimea Theatre: Monday, October 3  
Kekaha Neighborhood Center, Wednesday, October 5**

At meetings, residents will work in small groups to discuss possible options for a multi-use trail for the communities of Waimea and Kekaha, and complete individual questionnaires. Light refreshments will be provided.

If residents cannot attend these meetings, questionnaires will be made available at the Kauai Path website at [www.kauaipath.org](http://www.kauaipath.org) on Friday, October 7, 2011.

Meeting facilities are wheelchair accessible. Anyone with special needs requiring an American Sign Language Interpreter or an auxiliary aid to participate in the meetings should contact Randall Blake at (808) 635-8823 or [oneislandguy@mac.com](mailto:oneislandguy@mac.com) at least 7 days in advance.



**SEPTEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES**

Members of the Church Council met briefly to discuss changes/updates in responsibilities of church ministries. They also approved setting up a Board to oversee the Christian Education Center (formerly Boys and Girls Club).

**"ED"**

In the year 1896 the community of Waimea gathered together to create a public hall. Property was bought from the Knudsen family at a reduced price of only \$125. People volunteered their time, money, and labor and built what we now call the Waimea Christian Education Center (formerly the "Boys and Girls Club").

In 1949 the Japanese Church in Waimea, which had been located on Halepule Road near the Hawaiian Church, elected to move its building onto the property by securing a long-term nominal lease from the Public Hall Association. The church did this because of the



1949 flood that had devastated the downtown area. The public hall became the fellowship and Christian Education building of the church. In 1969 the lease was extended until 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023. It was at this time that the church set up the Waimea Christian Education Center, Inc., to receive the lease on behalf of the "Larger Waimea Parish" (The former Hawaiian, Christian, and Foreign churches). In 1997 the Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the church effectively subletting the building.

Six weeks ago the church received written notice from the Boys and Girls Club that they would be vacating the agreement, and hence the building at the end of September.

Rather quickly the church has had to come up with a new plan on how to keep the space open to the community and serve Christ's ministry faithfully. The Church Council has decided to seek new users of the building to help defray costs while at the same time seeking a grant to help pay for staff to keep an effective after-school program running. A new Ed Center Board of Directors has been formed. The grant has been written and submitted.

Going back in time once more, in 1995 there was a "visioning" retreat at the church that was to come up with long-term goals. The first goal that was recorded was to have an active youth ministry. Sixteen years later it seems that that goal is becoming a weekday reality through an after-school program. This is indeed an opportunity to show the love of Christ to the youth in the community and change lives for the Kingdom. Perhaps that vision from yesteryear can become a reality today!

We need to pray. We need volunteers to work with youth. We need the support of the community. We need the Holy Spirit to give us strength to meet this challenge!



**COMMUNITY GARDEN  
WORKDAY**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup>. COME  
EARLY TO BEAT THE HEAT.  
Weeding, Harvesting, Planting**

**ALL-CHURCH CLEANUP DAY**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup>, 8 AM**

**BRINGS YOUR FAVORITE! CLEANING AND YARD TOOLS  
AND FOOD TO SHARE AT LUNCH**

*Kimberly H-P has tickets for pies from Kauai Bakery. Proceeds will go to Waimea High School Bowling Team. Please see her if you would like to buy a ticket.*

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know your name is safe in their mouth." *Billy, age 4*

*The Church's Ministries*

**Food Pantry:**

*Distribution-Wed., Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>*

**Rummage Sale: Saturday,**

*Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.*

**Quilting Group:**

*Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>*

**Church Council Meeting:**

*Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>*

**Finance Committee:**

*Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>*

**October Lay Reader:**

*Graceleanor Baird*

**October Deacon:**

*Helen H-P*



*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.*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO VICTOR AND PRISCILLA AGUILAR, WHO BECAME GRANDPARENTS ON SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>!**





### **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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### **Sunday School Teed Off**

Thank you to all of the Sunday  
School teachers for treating  
the children to mini-golf at  
the Lawai Beach Resort after  
the first Sunday of Sunday  
School. On par, it was fun for  
everyone both tall and small.  
We are not sure who actually  
won the tournament—oh  
wait—we were all winners!  
(Pastor got the highest score  
for sure!)

### **KVMH Thank-You Tea**

On the Thursday right after Labor  
Day, our church hosted the first-  
ever "Thank-You Coffee Hour"  
for the staff at our local hospital.  
The staff there work tirelessly to  
help to save and heal the people  
on the West side, and so we  
offered them our thanks in the  
form of cakes, fruits, and coffee!  
The spread was enormous. Thank  
you to all who brought in food!  
Pastor Olaf made Bavarian Apfel  
Strudel. Joanne Watanabe made  
pumpkin crisp. Elaine Ganeko cut  
up enough fruit to feed a small  
army. Others brought in cookies  
and brownies. Surely there was  
too much? As the line of health  
workers filtered through the  
table was cleared to the last  
cookie! Thank you also to the  
Sunday quilting group that made  
a beautiful thank-you quilt with  
all of our signatures on it to  
present to the hospital. The quilt  
is still on display there.

### **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

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