

KANI KANI PELE

The Monthly Newsletter of Kailua United Methodist Church Volume XIV, No. 12, December, 2011

1110 Kailua Road, Kailua, HI 96734

"Making Disciples of Christ from All Generations"

PASTOR'S PAGE



Greetings in the name of the Expected Christ!

Is Advent about the past, the present or the future? That is actually a very good question! Over the history of church there have been a number of opinions given on the subject. Certainly the season is a look-back at the past. We use

Scriptures that range from 2,000 years old to Scriptures that are about 2,700 years old. These Scriptures chronicle the hope for a deliverer and Messiah that the people of Israel held. Through all of their trials and tribulations the prophets spoke God's word of hope that a King would come to restore them and reconstitute them as a community of faith, a covenant people. The Gospel accounts speak to the fulfillment of that hope in the birth of a child born in Bethlehem. In this we believe that God was present in a unique and unprecedented way. In his Gospel, the Apostle John speaks of it this way: "The Word became flesh and dwelled among us." In short, the very heart, essence and presence of God came bodily into our world. This gift is the gateway to a restored relationship between humanity and God. This gift is the ground of our hope and faith today.

If our only relationship with Advent is the nostalgic looking back, then Advent has no power for our life and faith today. Remembering and immersing our self in this Advent season is an opportunity to evaluate our life in the light of Christ's birth, death, resurrection and presence in our life and world today. In remembering and rehearsing the familiar stories of Advent in the light of the whole Christ event, we retrace the events of

Luke 24 and the Walk to Emmaus. (It's an excellent read...I commend it highly). In this passage, two disciples who were having a bad day, who had more questions than they had answers, encountered Jesus, but didn't recognize him. As a way of helping them recognize him and answer their questions Jesus began at the beginning and walked them through their faith. When they finally stopped and broke bread their eyes were open. This is important for us.

Advent takes us on this journey. Through all of our trials we seek deeper understanding and meaning in our faith; yet sometimes we lack the perspective to put all the pieces together in meaningful ways. Advent's rehearsing of the promise and coming of Christ is a way for us to regain that perspective. It is a time to prepare our self. It is a time to pray. It is a time to reflect. We spend four weeks on this journey and then on Christmas as we remember Christ's birth, our eyes can be opened once again.

With renewed and deepened faith, we begin a new year. We take one step further into a future that God has been preparing for us. It is a future of faith and hope. It is a future of service and sacrifice. It is a future that is about now. It is a future about eternity. Every step along the way Christ walks with us. He teaches us and guides us. He reveals to us the power and promise of the Scriptures. He draws us into deeper relationship with Him and with each other.

May this Advent season be a reminder of God's grace in this journey of faith.

Aloha and Agape,
Pastor J.T.

**KUMC OFFICE CALENDAR
DURING THE HOLIDAYS**



Friday, December 23—8 a.m.—noon
Monday, December 26—closed
Friday, December 30—8 a.m.—noon
Monday, January 2—closed

*Mele Kalikimaka
Hau'oli Makahiki Hou*

***DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS***

*If anyone is interested in
the December birthdays,
please call the church
office at 261-6238.
Mahalo!*



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES



**6:30 p.m. Family Service with Special
Music and multimedia**
11:00 p.m. Service featuring brass and choirs

*Candlelight circle on the lawn
at both services.*

GIVING TREE



Watch for the Giving Tree names, available starting the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Paula Ress will have names of families on Molokai who have difficulties meeting everyday financial needs and for whom special help at Christmas will give them practical and spiritual support. These people range from newborns to senior citizens who have needs that range from basic food, bedding and household items to toys they see other children have and have dreams of owning themselves.

Deborah Tom will have families served by the Mobile Therapy Team. These are families with children on the island of Oahu with special needs and/or medically fragile.

If you would like to help but have no time to shop, we will shop for you, and your monetary contribution will fulfill some specific wishes or provide certificates to the grocery store.

Please come to the Giving Tree table to see how you can help.

Mahalo for your continuing support. For more information, call Paula Ress at 384-9439.

DID YOU KNOW? - YOUR KUMC FOUNDATION



Commonly trusts are arranged to benefit the mundane, general building and maintenance needs. Gutters, toilets, termite treatment for example, are not frequently a topic of discussion yet are none-the-less very important in maintaining any structure. Just as frequently more specific requests are made by fellow KUMC individuals and groups. Funding requests are petitioned to

your church peers on the KUMC Foundation board. Input is always desired.

It's easy to fund an existing trust or start a new trust. You will find an envelope in the back of each pew to make a tax deductible donated or please speak to or email Ann McBirnie at amcbirnie@hawaiiintel.net or Jerry Allen at Jerry-Allen@hawaii.rr.com. Thank you.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

Catholic Charities Hawaii is seeking Therapeutic Foster Parents. This foster parent program takes in youth who have trouble functioning in their homes, schools and communities due to their emotional and behavioral difficulties, as well as the trauma that most of these kids have unfortunately experienced in their lives. Catholic Charities is in the process of trying to recruit new foster parents.

Youths in therapeutic foster care:

- Are usually between 12-17 years old
- Have emotional and behavioral problems
- Often have experienced trauma
- Are in need of a nurturing, structured environment that will allow them to thrive

Therapeutic foster families:

- Must include two foster parents
- It is preferred that one foster parent not work outside the home
- Must have a flexible schedule and an available car

Therapeutic foster placements are short-term (typically 1-2 years). Initial and on-going training along with 24-hour consultant support is provided.

For more information, contact: Valerie Cruz, Intake Coordinator, email:

valerie.catz@catholiccharitieshawaii.org

Phone: 527-4941

KUMC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM—PRIMETIME CHRISTMAS



Please join us on Sunday, December 11th during worship for our annual church Christmas program. This year's show is a blend of traditional and contemporary views of Christmas. It is a variety show format that will have three comical skits intertwined with commercials, live music and the children's choir. The skits include the talk show "Oprah", Game show "The Question" and a Reality show called "Look Who's Watching". The thread that runs through the whole program and pulls it all together is Santa Claus and Facebook. The children's Choir should have approximately 30+ children.

Kevin is hoping the youth will drive this with the help of some "youthful adults". Practices will be following worship service each week. Dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 10th in the morning and the show on Sunday, December 11th. So far Kevin has cast Briggs Christie as Santa Claus and Jane Marcum as Mrs. Claus. There are still many other very fun roles to fill so if you are interested, please call Kevin Lockette at 228-0340.

Immediately following the Christmas program, please join us in and around Holman Hall for our 2011 KUMC Christmas Party. It will be a potluck meal with a chocolate fountain table for dessert. Some of the festivities include: a bake sale, gingerbread house decorating, a craft sale, and live KUMC entertainment. For more information on the party, please see Michelle Librie or email her at mray922@gmail.com.

KUMC FOUNDATION 2011 YEAR END CONTRIBUTION



Here is an opportunity to make a contribution to your favorite KUMC Foundation Trust. In addition to the great blessings this gives to programs and ministries which the Foundation funds, your gift can benefit you in the form of a year-end tax deduction. A Foundation handbook is available for your review upon request in the KUMC office.

Please designate all gifts/checks made out to KUMC FOUNDATION by December 31st with your trust specifications. Please use the red-bordered KUMC Foundation envelopes in the back of the pews in the sanctuary. You can put the envelope in the collection plate on any Sunday to find its way to your trust choice. MAHALO!

SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

What a rousing success Operation Christmas Child was this year! Kailua United Methodist Church provided 150 shoe boxes to the final collection count of 2,950. Amazing! Each gift laden box sent will allow another child to hear and feel the word of God. Thank you to all who helped, especially Jim and Margaret Orrick, Jennifer Gonzalez and Kauvei Ahokovi. They all worked so hard for over a week collecting and packing the many shoe boxes that came from all over the Windward side.

As the shoe boxes are on their way to Nepal, we look forward to having more volunteers assistance with the collection, packing and heavy lifting for next year.

Thank you all for contributing Christmas shoe boxes to the children of Nepal!



Jim Orrick busy packing boxes



KUMC shoe boxes sitting on the altar



Kauvei Ahokovi and Jennifer Gonzalez



Working hard in the pod, Simeon David, an 11th grader from Trinity

MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM

Sunday, November 20th we were pleased to receive into membership five new people. We welcome them into our KUMC Ohana:

- Eric and Meredith Clawson
- Christy Hagen
- Sally Greenleaf
- Brandon Chauvaux

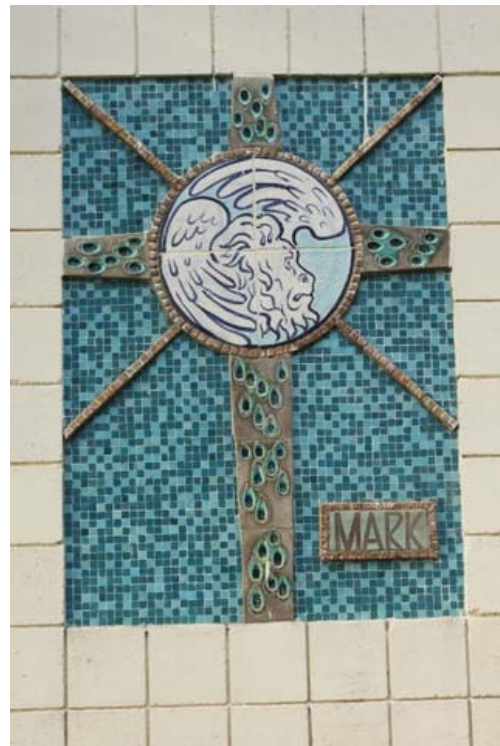
Our Eat and Green luncheons have been a great success so be sure to keep the second Sunday open for Eat and Greet in Holman Hall. Our December 11th luncheon will be a special Christmas party potluck following our annual Christmas program with our keiki. More info can be found in the Sunday bulletin.

TREE TRIMING AND REMOVAL



In conjunction with annual preventative tree trimming maintenance, the Board of Trustees has authorized that the two coconut trees, the one on the great lawn and the one near the meditation garden, be removed due to safety concerns.

Original ceramic panels of the four gospels by world-renowned painter and graphic artist, Jean Charlot in conjunction with Ceramics Hawaii owner/operator, Claude Horan. These panels grace the outside of our sanctuary. They are truly beautiful works of art and were installed November 9, 1958. All photos courtesy of Jim Orrick.



KEY DATES FOR DECEMBER 2011

December 11	KUMC Christmas Program and Church Christmas Potluck
December 11-18	Family Promise
December 24	IHS Meal Prep and Serve
December 24	Christmas Eve Services 6:30 & 11:30 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day Service
December 26	Christmas Holiday Observed Church Office Closed
January 2	New Year Holiday Observed Church Office Closed

THE LAST WORD



*MELE KALIKIMAKA!
HAUOLI MAKAAHIKI HOU!*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED