

KANI KANI PELE

The Monthly Newsletter of Kailua United Methodist Church Volume XV, No. 1, January, 2012

1110 Kailua Road, Kailua, HI 96734

"Making Disciples of Christ from All Generations"

PASTOR'S PAGE



Hau'oli Makahiki Hou in the name of our Lord!

It is a blessing to begin a new year of ministry with you. God has blessed me in ways I couldn't have imagined in the time we've been together. In recent weeks Council Chair Ann McBirnie and I have spoken about our ministry priorities for the new year. Rather than try to break new ground and start from scratch, we believe that it will serve

us best to re-energize and continue the work that was begun in 2008. Through the Natural Church Development program, KUMC developed a Long Range Plan to chart the future of the church. This plan is still valid, workable and appropriate to where God is calling us as a congregation. In the coming weeks you will be furnished with more information about this plan.

I'd like to begin this conversation with the area of Evangelism. Evangelism was lifted out from the Natural Church Development evaluation as a weakness in our ministry. The emphasis to address this weakness is referred to as Need-based Evangelism. This form of evangelism is more than an effort to "recruit people for heaven." It is a relationship based model in which we start with the life and story of a person with whom we wish to share our story. From walking the path of life and faith with this other and hearing their story and understanding their life we can better know how to bear witness to Christ.

The one problem is that it is still "Evangelism". For many of us, evangelism is a difficult and foreign concept. We associate it with hard sell techniques that are very off-putting. We see the excesses of this sort of evangelism and we hear the skepticism that it has bred in our culture. On the other hand we look at the giants of the faith such as Billy Graham and recognize how meager our efforts are compared to his. With all of this it is small wonder that we experience some form of paralysis when it comes to evangelism, to sharing our faith in Christ with another person.

If these have been some of the concerns and hesitations you have harbored, you're in good company. I, and many I've served in ministry with, have held the same hesitation. This is why the Evangelism Conference that was sponsored by the District in September was such an important event. At this Conference we heard from two of the staff people from the General Board of Discipleship who shared ideas and strategies to help break through the paralysis regarding evangelism.

This is our "back to the future" moment. When we consider the first generations of the church and how they practiced evangelism we learn that they engaged in a simple practice. There were no special techniques, nor were there spiritual laws. They didn't have the benefit of well-worn theology and Scripture. They "only" had experience and the story of a relationship that changed their life. Through their relationship with Christ, the people of the early church recognized a turning point in their lives. They had their life before Christ and their life since knowing God through Jesus the Christ. This formula and the power of the life they lived was all they had; it was all they needed. This practice changed the world.

We live in a time where this practice will again make the difference. In our highly skeptical culture we have an opportunity. To live and share our relationship with Jesus and how we have more deeply connected to God through this relationship is a blueprint for us to follow. In a world that craves authenticity and integrity between our words and our actions, the church has not always been a paragon of virtue. However, we have a chance to change that. For the skeptics of the world we can show them a different picture. We can offer a path for others to experience the joy and the fulfillment we have known through faith. It begins with the simple act of sharing the food we have received with another. The world is hungry and we have what they crave. Let us share with them the bread we have found.

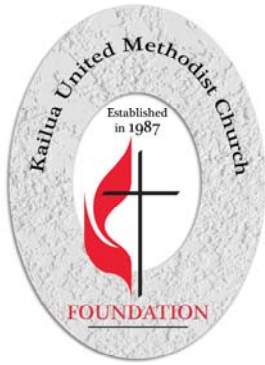
Aloha and Agape,
Pastor J.T.

***JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS***

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



*Malama Ana Hale—
The carehome of Saane and Albert
wish everyone here at KUMC a very
Happy New Year*



DID YOU KNOW? - YOUR KUMC FOUNDATION

Volunteerism is so important to any social needs organization....no more so than church groups like our own at KUMC. Our numerous office help, greeters, etc. ALL are volunteers and keep our church running

smoothly. Likewise, our KUMC Foundation volunteers serve ALL of us by making certain that financial legacies continue to grow in value while assuring that donors wishes are fulfilled so that ALL of us here at KUMC and in our community are best served.

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 donation or, please speak to or email Sarah Casken at sarahcasken@gmail.com or John Kojima at jakaloha@aol.com.

TAKING DOWN THE GREENS

We will be taking down the greens, cleaning and cataloging all Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 7th from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Please lend a hand and make the work light. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor J.T.

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR A.L. TEMPLE

A. L. Temple passed away on December 28th after a long illness. A memorial service will be held here at KUMC on Saturday, January 7th at 3 p.m. He has passed away but his memory and legacy lives on in our hearts and prayers.

HEAD USHER NEEDED

The church is in need of someone who will coordinate ushers and greeters each week and be in charge of the weekly teams including arrangement for substitute coverage when someone is not able to fulfill their obligation. If you are interested in this very important ministry, contact Pastor J.T. at 397-9191. Mahalo!



A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

FAITH IN PRACTICE IN A CONTEMPORARY WORLD
A workshop on The United Methodist Social Principles

This workshop will help participants to understand and become advocates for peace with justice from a biblical and theological foundation of our United Methodist tradition.

When: January 13—14, 2012

Time: Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Workshop: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Place: Harris United Methodist Church
20 S. Vineyard Blvd. (corner of Vineyard & Nuuanu)

Fee: \$12.50 includes lunch on both days

Deadline: Mail in registration form/payment by 1/4/12

RESOURCE PERSONS

Rev. Levi Bautista
Asst. General Secretary for United Nations Ministry— General Board of Church and Society

Rev. Neal Christie
Asst. General Secretary for Education and Leadership Formation
General Board of Church and Society

Registration for Social Principles Workshop Mail in registration form/payment by 1/4/12

Make check payable to *Harris UMC-Social Principles Workshop*

Mail to Attn: Leilani Zukemura, UMC Hawaii District Office, 20 S. Vineyard Blvd, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Name: _____ **Church:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

BRITT LECTURES

President's Day Weekend

February 17-20, 2012

First United Methodist Church of Honolulu

1020 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96814

Ph. (808) 522-9555

OUR 2012 BRITT LECTURER*The Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems*

A native of Mississippi, Dr. Weems is a graduate of Millsaps College; Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University; and Wesley Theological Seminary. He holds honorary degrees from Baker University and Central Methodist University.

His years in local church ministry in Mississippi were marked by emphasis on both evangelism and social concerns. His work in Mississippi led the distinguished Mississippi writer Willie Morris to describe him as "lone of the persons who added much to the growing civility of Mississippi."

He has been a clergy delegate to several General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

The author of several books published by Abingdon Press, his most recent include *Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results* (with Tom Berlin) and a revised edition of his classic *Church Leadership: Vision, Team, Culture, and Integrity*, described by Professor Rosabeth Moss Kanter of Harvard Business School as "an invaluable guide to leadership in the church." His book *Take the Next Step: Leading Lasting Change in the Church* is used by churches seeing revitalization. His books *Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit* and *John Wesley's Message Today* are used widely by the United Methodist laity and clergy. He co-edits the online newsletter, *Leading Ideas*, available free at www.churchleadership.com.

Schedule of Lectures

Friday, February 17: Special Music at 6:45 p.m. Worship and lecture at 7:00 p.m. A question and answer period follows.

Saturday, February 18: Special Music at 6:45 p.m. Worship and lecture at 7:00 p.m. A question and answer period follows. .

Sunday, February 19: Special Music at 6:45 p.m. Worship and lecture at 7:00 p.m. A question and answer period follows.

Monday, February 20: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Worship with clergy.

KEY DATES FOR JANUARY 2012

Jan. 7	Taking Down of the Greens 8:30 a.m.
Jan. 7	Memorial Service for A. L. Temple at 3 p.m.
Jan. 28	IHS Meal Prep and Serve
Jan. 13 & 14	Faith in Practice Workshop

THE LAST WORD

Wishing everyone much happiness, good health and prosperity in 2012! It's going to be a wonderful year!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED