



THE MERCURY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

467 NORTH JUDD STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

“Where Faith, Families & Friends Come Together”

10:30am Worship • (808) 536-8418 • Fax: (808) 522-1731 • www.uccjudd.org

The Rev. Darren T. Galindo, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Harold Jow, Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Michael Grogan, Pastor of Senior Life Ministries
Mr. Randy Reynoso, Director of Youth & Young Adults
Mrs. Amanda Tafel, Director of Music Ministries

Ms. Trudie China, Moderator
Ms. Joy Gordon, Church Secretary
Mr. Herbert Lum, Admin. Assistant
Mrs. Abigail Nickell, Editor
Ms. Nancy Moore, Pali Preschool Director

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A History of the United Church of Christ

by Margaret Rowland Post

All Christians are related in faith to Judaism and are faith descendants of the first apostles of Jesus who roamed the world with the good news of God's love.

Christianity dominated the Roman Empire until A.D. 1054.

At that point, the Eastern Orthodox Church established its center at Constantinople (Istanbul), the Roman Catholic Church at Rome.

During the 16th century, when Christians found the church corrupt and hopelessly involved in economic and political interests, leaders arose to bring about reform from within.

Protestant reformers such as Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin held that the Bible,



not the Pope, was sufficient authority as the word of God. Paramount was the message of Paul that persons are justified by the grace of God through faith alone. Such faith did not lead to rank individualism or moral indifference, but to good works out of love for God. Protestantism spread throughout Europe. Lutheran and Reformed churches were planted in many countries.

The United Church of Christ traces its roots back to those movements to proclaim the good news based on biblical truths led by the Spirit of God. It presently binds in covenant nearly 6,500 congregations with approximately 1,800,000 members. One of the youngest American denominations, its background also makes it one of the oldest in Protestantism.

Welcome to Our New Church Secretary!

We welcome Joy Lee Gordon on staff as our new church secretary. Joy recently moved back to Oahu in September 2011, after being on the mainland for three years. She and her 7 year old daughter, Faith, are happy to be back on island and reuniting with old friends. Together they enjoy hiking and the beach.

The family of the late Francis Yat On Yee

wish to express its appreciation and gratitude for our kind sentiments and tokens of sympathy received during its recent bereavement.

Pastor's Perspective: "Taking One for the Team"

by Rev. Darren T. Galindo

Some time ago, I had a colleague say to me twice, "Thanks for taking one for the team." It didn't register at first what he meant, and then I finally figured it out. In one instance it was a reference for not saying anything about not getting the proper credit, and the other instance was for receiving a "snub" and not making a big deal about it. I was making sacrifices and didn't even realize it.

When we invest ourselves into the lives of others, sometimes it means taking chances, and the same can be said for investing ourselves in the church. Some times we are taking one for the team, and we don't even know it. Sometimes we don't feel like we're a part of the team so we ask, "Why should I take one for the team?" It's no secret that we hold off on getting involved or offering our talents to the church because of fear of rejection, fear of not pleasing or doing things right, or fear of not getting along with others. We need to remember that God's power is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). To set aside our pride and fears is a form of self-sacrificing. It's taking one for the team. Self-sacrificing is the backbone of this church, and it often comes in the form of outreach and service, and Christ is our model. God took the chance of being rejected by sending his son Jesus Christ. To love someone and not be loved in return is a deep hurt.

It is said that most of us live by the false narrative that strength is found in domination and control, but these are not the highest forms of power. The power of God is demonstrated most clearly on the cross. God's Son entered the world in the lowest of all conditions, lived an utterly ordinary life for thirty years, experienced everything we experience, pointed the world to God in his teaching and in his life, and then willingly performed the ultimate sacrifice: He gave his life for all of the world, taking away our sins. The glory of God lies in his sacrifice. (Phil 2:6-11)

It's not easy to give of yourself because we still battle the fear of rejection, not being appreciated and of not being loved by others. However, the one person whose love counts the

most is our Lord God almighty. If we want to experience a greater love we've got to raise our standards of giving and forgiving.

"In our best moments, those times when we willingly sacrifice our own needs for the good of others, we are participating in the image of God. The more we come to know God, and the more we understand our true nature, the more natural self-sacrifice will become for us."

People "in whom Christ dwells" learn to live and to give as Jesus did. Jesus is not merely a model to emulate or imitate (Lk. 13:1-17); He is a source of strength to rely upon. "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us" (Philp. 4:13). Taking one for the team isn't a requirement for being on the team, but don't be surprised when it's your turn. (See Facts & Lessons from the Flying Geese).

Pastor's Book Review



Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White; Thoughts on Religion, Morality and Politics, by Adam Hamilton

This is an excellent book that tackles some of the most difficult topics of our time. Some of the chapter titles are; Apes, Evolution, Adam and Eve, Will There Be Hindus in Heaven? Homosexuality at the Center, and the Question of War. You may not agree with all that is said in this book, but it sure helps you to form or reaffirm your own personal opinions and beliefs. Adam Hamilton is pastor of the 14,000 member United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.

Facts & Lessons from the Flying Geese

Fact One

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By following the "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

~Lesson~

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the trust of one another.

Fact Two

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

~Lesson~

If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

Fact Three

When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

~Lesson~

It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts, talents and resources.

Fact Four

The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up with their speed.

~Lesson~

We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, production is much greater. Individual empowerment results from quality honking.

Fact Five

When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation to follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

~Lesson~

If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

Birthday Greetings for February 2012

by Membership Committee



Your birthday is a blessed event for you are God's gift. Your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ wish that your special day be filled with joy and happiness.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. Nancy Soohoo | Mr. George Lau |
| Mrs. Muriel Char | Mrs. Liza Galindo |
| Mrs. Jaclyn Lum | Ms. Sara Tseng |
| Rev. J.P. Sabbithi | Ms. Stephanie Taniguchi |
| Mrs. Barbara Chun | Mr. Bruce Asato |
| Mr. John Chun | Mrs. Nancy Lau |
| Ms. Alison Leong | Dr. Franklin Young |
| Mr. Carl Yoshimura | Mr. Michael Chun |
| Mr. Creighton Mow | Mrs. Betty Chang |
| Mr. Dana Sato | Ms. Jazmin Matapua |

Thank You from The Pension Board

The Pension Board of the United Church of Christ sent us a thank you for our \$1,156.88 gift to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund.

\$5,000 Gift Received

In January we received a gift of \$5,000 from the Edith Lee Lau Trust. Brother Jimmy Lee presented the check to the executive officers, and it was received with much gratitude. This is a wonderful reminder for all of us to remember our church in our wills and bequests.



Stewardship Challenge 2012 - Consider Yourself Blessed!

by Yvonne Nakata, Stewardship Chair

In a recent Star Advertiser Article on "5 Things We Love", number three listed "Donations pinch less when they're done in installments." It went on to state that although the writer lives on a

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budget, there are causes she is able to support because they allow “installment plan” contributions. She describes giving \$10 a month which is not so hard on her pocketbook, but by year’s end \$120 was donated which would have been difficult to give all at once.

As people of God we are called to serve the world around us. We often respond to that call with time and money for the work of the church beyond its walls – in our city, our country, and in communities in need around the world.

We also need funds to maintain our church facilities, staff, and programs:

- Utility bills such as telephone, electricity, mail, copier, office supplies
- Insurance; Fees & Taxes
- Repair and upkeep of the buildings (Sanctuary, MacKenzie Memorial Hall, Parish Hall, Manse); yard service; equipment and maintenance
- Salaries for the pastor, music staff, administrative staff, support staff
- Missions such as “Our Church’s Wider Mission”, Family Promise, Oahu Association UCC, River of Life Dinners, Thanksgiving Ministry, Penny Carnival, etc.
- Christian Education material and workshops
- Membership and Evangelism
- Special Activities
- Worship Services and Daily Devotionals
- Music and supplies

I’m sure I’ve forgotten many items our church supports either through your help of time, talent, or treasure. You have a crucial role in keeping our church’s life and mission strong. If you are not already doing so, please come and participate in the many church fellowship, mission, and church service events.

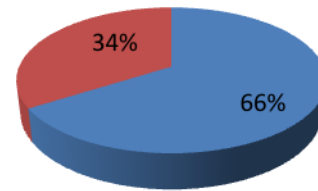
For those who haven’t done so, please help us plan for the new year by submitting your pledge for 2012. Pledge cards can be found at the back of the sanctuary or call the church for one to be mailed to you.

For information on donating to current gifts (such as an IRA Charitable Rollover) and/or planned gifts (such as Wills and bequests, Life-income gifts, Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts, and Pooled Income fund) more information will be forthcoming.

As of January 3, 2012, 43% of members have pledged 56% (\$113,813) of our goal (\$260,000). Please see the pie charts to the right.

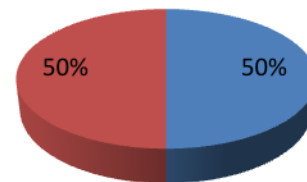
Percent \$\$ pledged GOAL \$250,000

■ \$ Pledged ■ Balance Needed



Members pledged

■ Pledged ■ Pledges Needed



News from our Youth and Young Adults

By Randy Reynoso, Director of Youth Ministries

January brought with it a fantastic opportunity to bring our Youth, Young Adults, families and church members together. It took many hands, and power drills, to complete our Library Project for The Children’s Program at The Next Step Shelter. To all who came out and helped in whichever way you could – we want to say a very big **MAHALO!**

February will bring more opportunities to celebrate God’s love. We’re going to make bedside care packages for the children in long term care at Kapiolani Hospital. These care packages will include games, puzzles, coloring books and other bedside activities the children of Kapiolani can do during their stay. We’ll be presenting these gifts to the hospital on February 19th. All youth and young adults are welcome to join this project.

February also brings in the season of Lent and as of this writing we’re still in the planning stages for what our Lenten Series will entail. It will, however, allow us to reflect on how much our Christ loved us and the suffering he went through to prove that love. It will also be a time when we’ll grow our relationships with God. Through our actions I’m sure we’ll find a way to reflect that same love to others as well.

Youth Talks are every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the multi-purpose room and all youth ages 12–17 are welcome. Young Adults are also welcome to join.

Q & A on "Open & Affirming"

by Pastor Darren

As was announced earlier, the Missions Committee is hosting an "Open and Affirming" study session that started in January. Below is a brief Q & A to help answer some questions members may have regarding the study group.

What does "open and affirming" mean?

Within the UCC denomination, some churches have chosen to adopt a public covenant that welcomes Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered people fully into the church's life and ministry. Other churches, though welcoming, have not necessarily adopted this public position. The UCC provides a study program on the topic for those wishing to better understand and discuss this issue.

Why is the Missions Committee studying this issue?

The ongoing O & A study is being led by the Missions Committee to give people in our congregation an opportunity to explore the issues around LGBT. It is an educational and growth opportunity for those who agree or disagree with the various issues. More importantly, it's an opportunity to share stories about friends, family and church members who are personally affected by this issue. It provides a safe, respectful and trusting arena for people to come and share.

Is the Missions Committee deciding on whether our church will adopt an O & A covenant?

No. As previously announced, the Missions Committee has invited members interested in objectively studying the O & A issue to their study group. The study program takes about a year. At the end of that time, the Missions Committee may or may not decide to recommend to the board that the same study program be offered at the congregational level. If they do, then the board will consider it. The UCC-Judd Covenant titled "My Covenant", adopted by our members and found in the back of our sanctuary hymnal, states that we are "To be tolerant and compassionate towards those whose beliefs and theology may differ from mine." Our covenant makes it possible to have these conversations.

Family Promise Dec 26 - Jan 1, 2012

by Dwight Ovitt, Chair

Our last Family Promise gathering for 2011 went quite smoothly with only a couple of incidents. One four-year-old child had to go to Emergency at Kapiolani medical center, but it didn't seem to help. The mother was told to take her to see her regular doctor after the New Year. We also had a hit-and-run accident of a family with four children on the way from the shelter to church on New Years Eve. No one was hurt but the mother chased after the driver and caught him a few blocks away and the police came. The only damage was the bumper of the car fell off, but the children were fine.

A total of 45 volunteers put in a total of 215 hours of work that included spending the night, cooking, playing with the children, a magic show, playing bingo, setting up and taking down, and washing bedding following the event.

A new family, who have recently started coming to church, cooked a delicious meal of salmon and the boys played with the children after dinner. Robin and Michelle Hashimoto and their sons Kai and Trae spent Monday evening with our three families. This was their first experience in helping with Family Promise.

Those who spent an evening with our families included Terrilynn Lau and son Cory, Brett Kurashige, Westley Mow, Dennis Lee, Edison Chong and yours truly.

Those who prepared dinners included Yvonne Nakata and her sisters Jeri Tsuha and husband Darren, and Daphne Ikeda; Choi Yuk and daughter SN Lum; Dennis Lee and Edwardo Imperial; Dawn and Richard Young and daughters Kristen and Laura, mother Margaret Young; the Hashimotos mentioned earlier; and yours truly using leftovers on Saturday. Food varied from Chili to Jook to noodles to lots of chicken. Plenty of Jook made it around to volunteers as it has become a favorite with both our Chuukese families and our many volunteers.

Those who helped set up or take down included Gwen, Ken and Liam Nishimura; Andrew and Barbara Chun and son's Andrew and Ben; Fran Alip, Wendy Mow-Taira, Mica and Richard Morinaga, Jeff Ching and yours truly.

At the very end I saw several folks pick up bedding to be cleaned that included Alison Leong, Cynthia Lai, Gwen Nishimura, but know at least

three others helped as well. Let me know who you were, but thanks anyway.

Donations were received from Jane Bacon, Ellen Lum, Margaret Mau, and Gwen Nishimura. Rev. Don Asman came on Friday night with Judy to do the Magic Show that is always so popular with our guests.

Our next cycle to help with Family Promise will be the end of March. We have another church who is offering to cook a meal or two. This is Kaunakapili Church and our contact person is Rev. Dean Fujii.

Mahalo to all who made this cycle of Family Promise a great success.

Open and Affirming: January 8, 2012

by Dwight Ovitt, 1st Session Leader

Ten members of church, three of who were visiting the Missions committee, started the discussion of Open and Affirming today. The Missions Committee has tasked itself the effort to review materials prepared by the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ. All participants were asked why they were attending the sessions and what they hoped to learn. Most members wanted to learn more about the process and how we as a church could be more open to including the Lesbian/Gay/ Bisexual/Transgendered (LGBT) community in our church. Many members indicated that they knew friends and family who were gay.

An article that we reviewed was written by the mother of a gay son and her dilemma in communicating this information to her pastor and others within the congregation. This was a young man raised in the church and the mother being a leader of the church. This church struggled with the issue and we asked ourselves if UCC Judd Street was prepared to deal with the issue any differently than this church in Minnesota. The consensus from our small group was it depends who the woman spoke to. At least one member said that we are not prepared to deal with this issue.

We have agreed to keep personal information confidential within our small group. We have all agreed to read assignments before our monthly meetings and several additional resources have been available for our group members to read and review. These will be made available to all church members after our committee members have reviewed them.

Senior Moments

by Mike Grogan, Pastor of Senior Life Ministries

Aloha! I am so excited to be a part of the church family here at UCC Judd Street. I began my ministry with you on January 1 of this year. I have had opportunity to meet quite a few of you already, and I look forward to meeting more of the congregation in the weeks and months ahead. Even though my primary duties will be to minister to and with the “Senior Saints” of Judd Street, I know that I will have chances to meet with many of the other folks of all ages in our church.

One of the things I will do in this new ministry is this monthly article. The title of my “column” is poking a little fun at those moments we ALL have had when we forget a name, misplace our keys, or forget why we came into the room, or what we were looking for! We have all had those “senior moments” no matter what our age.

In this space each month, I will try to highlight ministries, events, ideas, opportunities, or other items of interest to the people of our church who are retirement age. My title, Pastor of Senior Life Ministries, is a brand new one. This part-time position has been created to help Pastor Darren, and to especially work with the large number of people in that category.

In the weeks since I began ministering to and with you, several people have asked me just what it is I will do at Judd Street. Here is a brief “capsule” from my job description:

- Develop, plan, and implement programs/presentations to address needs of senior members.
- Visit in homes, hospitals, long-term care facilities, Hospice, etc., in coordination with Membership Committee.
- Assist Pastor Darren to provide pastoral care to grieving families, and to perform such funerals as may be necessary.
- Participate, and lead in activities, gatherings, events pertaining to our seniors.
- Recruit and train members to assist with visitation, elder care, etc.
- Work in a variety of areas dealing with health, wellness, aging, estate planning, and planned giving – just to name a few.
- I will also lead the 9:30 am Wednesday group now titled “Faith Walk”.

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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**FEBRUARY 10:30AM WORSHIP CALENDAR
“Beautiful God, Beautiful People”**

Pastor Darren T. Galindo, revgalindo@gmail.com and twitter.com/pastordgalindo

February 5, 2012 God is Generous; Romans 5:12-17, Matthew 20:1-15
February 12, 2012 God is Love; Matthew 9:9-13, John 3:16-17, Luke 15:20
February 19, 2012 God is Holy; Romans 11:22, Leviticus 11:44, John. 3:31-36
February 22, 2012 Ash Wednesday Service, 12 p.m.
February 26, 2012 Christ's Passion for Our Personal Transformation; Mark 19:41-44, Psalm 122:1-2,
126:1-2, 132:13-14

Deadline for the March Mercury: February 15th