

# Waves of Faith

Kailua Christian Church (United Church of Christ)  
317 Manono Street, Kailua, HI 96734-2211  
Chartered 1959 –



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Volume 32

Issue 01

## In the Interim

As much as we might like our world to be sure and predictable, we are always surprised. Who can predict what 2017 will hold for us? Will there finally be an end to conflict in Syria and Iraq? Will the next President and Congress work together for the good of the country and the world? Will the Pastoral Search Committee present a candidate in the first part of the new year?

We want to say, “God knows!” Sometimes that is a sincere statement of faith, and other times it is an admission that the future is beyond our comprehension. I like to think that it is also beyond our imagining. I remember reading the Dick Tracy comics and marveling at his wrist radio and later his wrist video communicator. On Christmas Evening our family gathered in a video conferencing call. We were in different places, and we could see and hear one another. Twenty years ago, I would have had to settle for long distance phone calls that were very expensive.

Since January 1 is the first Sunday of the New Year, we should take time to give thanks for all that 2016 brought us and offer hopes, dreams, and wishes for 2017 as heartfelt prayers. Like our Jewish sisters and brothers, we believe that God is moving everything toward God’s promised future. We may have trouble discerning that movement, but we trust in God’s promises.

Perhaps the appropriate song for New Year’s Day is one you know. You might want to use it as your affirmation of faith:

This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that’s gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
God’s mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference,  
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings—  
our God is making all things new.

May the newness and surprises of 2017  
inspire us with wonder and praise for the  
one who is both the Alpha and the  
Omega—the beginning and the end.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

*Jack E. Belsom*  
Jack E. Belsom, Interim Pastor



**MODERATOR'S NOTES**

I wanted to first thank you for granting me the privilege of serving Kailua Christian Church as your moderator for the last two years. I'd also like to thank Pastor Tim, whose example of compassion and caring was a testament to what it is like to be and to live in KCC's Christian community. Thanks also to Pastor Jack, whose deep Biblical understanding has helped those of us attending his Bible study classes to see how its message is still relevant to us today, especially in the life of our church as we go through this time of transition. Your leadership team has benefited greatly from his training, experience and continuous effort to broaden his own knowledge. The energy and commitment that he has dedicated to all of us has been outstanding.

During my tenure, I was able to explore some of the issues that have caused tension in our church. A crucial issue is how we view the Bible. At our last Congregational meeting, there were two Statements of Faith that were read, one, the current version in our By Laws and the other, the version used in our church's Charter of Incorporation document dated 1969. In the 1969 version, the term "inerrant" is used to describe "original writings" of the Holy Scriptures. In that same document (section VII) it states, "This church acknowledges Jesus Christ as its Head and finds in the Holy Scriptures, interpreted by the Holy Spirit through faith, reason, and conscience, its guidance in matters of faith and discipline." This statement seems to be inconsistent with the term "inerrant" when used in reference to the Holy Scriptures (Bible). It is also interesting to note that the term "inerrant" is not used in our current By Laws. For the By Laws to be amended, it takes a 2/3 vote of the congregation, so it is a higher standard than other motions and suggests to me, the current understanding of Bible interpretation.

I believe, if our church is to move into the future and flourish, this issue has to be resolved as it impacts how our church will address and confront all of the social justice issues that surround us today, or we could avoid this issue and live in

isolation, ignoring Jesus' teachings of addressing the injustices in the world.

As I have worked with you over these past two years, I believe we can only do this together, through studying the Scriptures together, praying together and having conversations together as we do all of these things. I would invite you to begin this process with conversations with me and I'll share with you what I've learned.

I would like to thank, Dean Wakuzawa who has agreed to serve as your moderator, Aaron Tanka, who will serve as Clerk and Myra Yamada who will serve as a Trustee. Please pray for them that they will seek God's will for the future of KCC.

Mahalo and Peace,

--Roy Yamauchi †

*Waves of Faith* is a monthly newsletter of  
Kailua Christian Church  
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Newsletter staff:  
John & Mildred Sakamoto & Kammy Grable

**Your Slate of Officers for 2017**

Moderator: Dean Wakuzawa (2018)  
Clerk: Aaron Tanaka (2018)  
Treasurer: Joan Sakaba (2018)  
Christian Ed: Patti Myers (2017)  
Worship: June Tom (2018)  
Missions: Kammy Grable (2018)  
Deacons: Nancy Arakaki (2018)  
Debbie Fong (2018)  
Paul Grable (2017)  
Sharon Mon (2018)  
Myrtle Terada (2017)  
Trustees: Karel Ling (2017)  
Susan Morita (2018)  
Vernon Pang (2017)  
Lowell Terada (2017)  
Myra Yamada (2018)

**Pastoral Relations Committee (Not Officers)**

Dan Jessee (2017), Susan St. John (2017)  
John Sakamoto (2018)

**PRAYERS & PRAISES**

Please keep in your prayers

- ~ Winnie Nakamura on the loss of her husband, George.
- ~ Sats & Carl Nemoto
- ~ Lowell's sister and uncle & Myrtle's sister
- ~ Hazel Chow
- ~ Akiko & Stanley Nakamura
- ~ Mitsi Higashida (call office for new address)
- ~ Search Committee and Church Leaders



Mahalo Jennie, Lily, and Dot for sharing in our advent readings.

**DEACON NEWS**



The Honor of Serving as Deacon

It has been an honor to serve as a fill-in deacon at Kailua Christian. In the short amount of time, I was able to witness the wonderful leadership of Myrtle Terada and the heart that goes into the work as Deacons. The Deacons take very seriously their work as spiritual leaders of the church. They model good Christian service for the Lord, as exemplified by the new transportation program and home communion. Their thoughts are with the needs of our aging congregation.

Continuing from past experiences, I was able to see how Deacons steward well the monies to help people in need. This is the church meeting the needs of the surrounding community for housing, help with medical expenses, etc.

My favorite responsibility as deacon is serving communion. To be able to present the bread and say: Joan, this is the body of Christ broken for you. I count it a special blessing and honor each month to participate in communion and to bring communion into the homes of those not able to come to church.

Our church is definitely a caring and warm church. God bless you in the coming new year. And please call upon the Deacons if you are elderly and need transportation assistance to and from church and church related activities and medical appointments.

Blessings, Diane Lee Pilla and your Deacons Myrtle Terada, Deborah Fong, Sharon Mon, Bryan Gomes, Paul Grable, and Nancy Arakaki ☩



**FRIENDLY REMINDER**

2016 Annual Reports are due by January 20. You may email your report to the office at [kcc-ucc@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kcc-ucc@hawaiiantel.net). Mahalo!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- Ellen Chew
- Jean Kanazawa
- Ethel Davis
- Judy Yoshioka
- Hideko Mumaw
- Akito Sagawa
- Janet Okumura
- Diane Weible
- Hazel Masuda
- Randall Imai



- Nathan Nemoto
- Curtis Lau
- Jo-Ann Komori
- Mary Watanabe
- Thomas Gomes
- Ada Kaneoka
- Nathan Ching
- Sadie Hayes
- Brian Nakashima
- Liloa Hagmann

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- Joan & Terry Gerber
- John & Huiyin Halloran



*Please inform the office of any corrections and/or updates to your personal information for this area.*



**KCC SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Date:	Adults	Children (under 12)	Visitors
12/04	61	05	01
12/11	64	10	00
12/18	68	09	02

**NA ANELA SUPPORT GROUP**

As we are blessed to experience a new year together, we can look forward to the LAUGH-SING-MOVE presentation to be given by HMSA's awesome guest speaker, Steve McCall. Steve enlightens us in the joy of using all these gifts for a better healthier lifestyle.

Na Anela support group will begin gathering at 9:30 a.m. to update and pray for all our friends dealing with life threatening illnesses and at 10:30 a.m. our special guest speaker will begin. We will conclude the event with a healthy potluck lunch and fellowship time. Please join us!

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**TRUSTEE'S TIDBITS**

New Year's greetings from your Trustees! As we enter 2017, your 2016 Trustees – Lowell, Shane, Vernon, Dean, Susan, Karel, Gary and Joan are hopeful that the year will offer KCC opportunities for examination and growth. Your 2017 Trustees are Susan Morita, Karel Ling, Lowell Terada, Vernon Pang and Myra Yamada. It will be a challenging year for this group of individuals as KCC continues in its transition toward the calling of a settled pastor. Your prayers for these and all KCC's leaders are welcomed!

While entrusted with the physical care of the church – its facilities and equipment and the management of the church's finances and day to day operations, the Trustees handle the counting of offering each Sunday and entering this data into a computer database called Church Windows. This computer program keeps donor data and assists the Trustees in preparing statements of giving each year. Many thanks go out to Susan Morita and Dean Wakuzawa who faithfully, from Sunday to Sunday completed these data entries. We are also grateful for the work of our Bookkeeper, Stacey Edralin.

Pledge cards were also received for 2017, with a total of 33 pledges received to date and a pledged amount of \$98,000. We are grateful for the stewardship efforts of Gary Nham; Pastor Jack Belson; our three stewardship speakers – Nancy

Arakaki, Debbie Fong and Dan Jessee; and Reverend Wayne Ibara for their sharing this year. KCC operates almost entirely from offerings received throughout the year thus a huge MAHALO goes out to all who have provided this support.

Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

Your Trustees

**New Study Offered in January**  
**Surprised by Hope**

Christians normally think of the future in terms of 'Heaven', but the promised reality is far greater: a new heaven and a new earth, a whole new creation. Once you grasp this biblical vision of God's future, it will transform your understanding of life in the present.

In six transforming, faith-inspiring sessions, premier biblical scholar N. T. Wright opens your eyes to the amazing full scope of what God's Word has to say about the world to come and the world that is. N.T. Wright is one of the world's top biblical scholars, a prolific author, and Bishop of Durham in the Church of England.

Study will begin on Tuesday night, Jan. 10 at 7:00 p.m. and again on Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. Please notify Pastor Jack if you would like to participate so he can be sure to have enough resources. The participants' guides will be ordered and partially subsidized by the church. That will guide us through the six sessions.

Based on the bestselling book *Surprised by Hope*, this course will help you explore with others:

- What is heaven really like?
- Is our main duty as Christians simply to help non-Christians get into heaven?
- What hope does the gospel hold for the present life?
- In what ways does God intend for us to experience that hope personally and spread its healing power to the world around us?

We look forward to having you join a study group on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. or Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.



## MISSIONS NEWS

By Kammy Grable

Bible Institute of Hawaii will offer their Winter Quarter (6 week course) on Proverbs, Wisdom for Everyday Living. This course will be facilitated by Dr. Martha Stinton, Kailua resident and co-pastor of New Hope Kailua. Course will begin on Fri. Jan. 27, in Room 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and will continue each Friday through Mar. 3, 2017. Proverbs is a goldmine packed with nuggets of God's wisdom. The Holy Spirit inspired the book with a very practical purpose: that we would live skillful lives. The class will explore God's wisdom for every area of our lives: marriage, parenting, friendships, speech, work, finances, and more. Registration now in progress. KCC members and friends who have not participated in BIH courses before are being offered a free course as we encourage your introduction and participation with this ministry. Please see Kammy in the office for more details.

It's great to see two previous pastors of KCC currently on the faculty of BIH. We hope to participate in their classes in the future.

*And do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2*

## A BIG MAHALO KCC



Your generous and compassionate donations of \$1800 to our Thanksgiving Offering will be shared evenly and deeply appreciated by the UCC Transition House and Hale Ola, the Windward Abuse Shelter, our recipients this year. Both of these shelters attend to the needs of victims of domestic abuse. If you are aware of someone in need of their assistance, please contact the church office or call 528-0606 or 949-2220.

## The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund



For 115 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love. One of the four Special Mis-

sion Offerings of the United Church of Christ, the Christmas Fund provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in loving compassion, providing assistance to those who have so faithfully served our Church and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.

In 2015, UCC congregations and members generously contributed \$1,528,481 to the Offering. This enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance program to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to individuals and families in need.

The theme of the 2016 Christmas Fund Offering is God's Love Colors Everything, and our goal is to raise \$1.7 million to help support these ministries of love and care. In the spirit of love, we invite and encourage you to prayerfully consider and support this year's appeal, and to spread the word so that others will also join in this vital ministry.

We will receive this special offering on Sunday, January 15, 2017. Mahalo for your support.

## ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL GATHERING

The Oahu Association of the UCC invites your prayers for and your presence at the Ecclesiastical Council for the Purpose of Examining Scott M. Furukawa for Ordination into Christian Ministry. Sunday, January 22, 2017, 4:00 p.m. at Manoa Valley Church, UCC 2728 Huapala St. in Manoa. Please contact our church office if you are interested in attending and being a support for Scott.



### 2017 ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY

The new altar flower sign up calendar is now available for all who would like to provide flowers for the worship service on Sunday mornings. If you would like to make this a donation, given *In Memory of*, please notify the church office. Mahalo for your continued support.

Special thanks to Susan Tamashiro, Blossoming Hope Florist for their generous support this year. We look forward to their kind assistance continuing in 2017. When you sign up to provide altar flowers, you can bring your own arrangement or have Blossoming Hope provide one at the cost of \$30.

We would like to thank Alice Esaki for graciously coordinating this ministry through 2016 and helping in the new year again. Alice welcomes others to join her in this ministry effort. Checks can be made directly to Blossoming Hope or Susan Tamashiro. Address is available on floral calendar.



\* \* \* \* \*



Special thanks to our Deacons for sharing in the lighting of the Advent Wreath Candlelighting.



Mahalo to the cast of our 2016 Christmas Program, Michael Mouse: Maia Payne, Narrator; Grant Jessee, Michael; Carolina Payne, chicken; Seren Payne, Sheep; Bryan Gomes, Sheep; Madelene St. John, Cow; Robert St. John, Director; Stone Jessee, Owl/Angel; and Katie Gomes, Cat.



***“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.” Isaiah 41:10 - (NLT)***

January 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- 01 – Sun. Happy New Year!  
Communion Sun.
- 02 – Mon. Holiday observed. Office closed.
- 08 – Sun. Deacons Meeting. Missions Meeting.
- 10 – Tues. Surprised By Hope Study, 7 p.m.
- 11 – Wed. Surprised By Hope Study, 9 a.m.
- 12 – Thurs. IHS & Transitional Housing Mtg.
- 15 – Sun. Missions Moment with BIH guest speaker, Leilani Zukemura.
- 16 – Mon. Martin Luther King Holiday. Office will be closed.
- 17 – Tues. Surprised By Hope Study, 7 p.m.
- 18 – Wed. Surprised By Hope Study, 9 a.m.  
Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 – Fri. Annual Reports due for 2016.  
Deadline for Feb. Newsletter articles.
- 21 – Sat. Men’s Breakfast at Dennys, 8 a.m.
- 22 – Sun. OAUCC Ecclesiastical Council for Pastor Scott Furukawa, 4 p.m. at Manoa Valley Church.
- 23 – Mon. Pastor Jack goes on vacation, back in office on Mon. Jan. 30.
- 24 – Tues. Surprised By Hope Study, 7 p.m.
- 25 – Wed. Surprised By Hope Study, 9 a.m.
- 27 – Fri. BIH Class on Proverbs, 9 a.m.
- 28 – Sat. Na Anela Support Group, 9:30 a.m.  
Prayers and updates, 10:30 a.m.  
special HMSA guest speaker, Steve McCall will present, LOVE, SING, MOVE. Potluck to follow.
- 29 – Sun. Rev. Tom Fujita will be guest pastor at Sunday morning worship.
- 30 – Mon. Pastor Jack back in office.
- 31 – Tues. 4 C Church and KCC meeting, 1 p.m.  
Surprised By Hope Study, 7 p.m.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**WORSHIP LEADER**

Joan Sakaba

**AUDIO**

Barney Pilla  
Grace Glenn

**USHERS**

Dan Jessee

**VISUAL**

Debbie Fong  
Diane Lee Pilla

**DEACON GREETER**

Paul Grable

**LIGHTS & SCREEN**

June Tom

**PIANO**

Jenna Han

**CHILD CARE** Carol Soma, Coordinator

- 01 – Happy New Year. No Nursery
- 08 – Jennifer Pang & Debbie Glenn
- 15 – Carol Soma & Susan Morita
- 22 – Shane Soma & Alice Esaki
- 29 – Carol Soma & Nancy Arakaki

**FLOWERS**

- 01 – Paul & Kammy Grable
- 08 – Richard & Alice Esaki
- 15 – open
- 22 – open
- 29 – open

**AFTER SERVICE REFRESHMENTS:**

Our Undershepherd group led by Deacon, Myrtle Terada will graciously begin 2017 as our hospitality team in providing refreshments for the month. A special thank you goes out to their group.

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. *Jeremiah 29:11(NLT)*

**CONGRATULATIONS COLLEGE GRADUATES!**

Rebecca Weible  
Katelyn Wakuzawa  
Jenna Han



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Return service requested

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Jack Belsom, Interim Pastor



SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017

Communion Sunday

A Very Happy New Year Greeting to you!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 08, 2017

- ~ Deacons Meeting
~ Missions Meeting

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Study on Surprised By Hope by NT Wright
Beginning Jan. 10 - All are welcome.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Surprised By Hope by NT Wright
Study begins on Jan. 11, 2017
9:00 a.m. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017

- ~ Mission Moment with Bible Institute of Hawaii
~ UCC Christmas Fund Offering received.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Holiday Observed. Office will be closed.

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, January 18, 2017
7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017

- ~ Annual Reports for 2016 Due
~ Newsletter Deadline for February Due

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, January 21, 2017
8:00 a.m. at Denny's in Kaneohe

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017

- ~ OAUCC Ecclesiastical Council examine
Scott Furukawa for Christian Ministry.
Manoa Valley Church, 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017

Pastor Jack will go on vacation. He will be back
in the office on January 30. Please contact your
deacon in case of an emergency

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

Rev. Tom Fujita will be our guest pastor and
share the morning message.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2017

Four C Church & KCC Meeting - 1:00 p.m.