

# Waves of Faith

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



JANUARY 2016

Volume 31

Issue 01

## IN THE INTERIM

Advent and Christmas 2015 were difficult. Of course there was the barrage of bad news that filled the airwaves and pages of print. Killings in California, natural disasters in Washington and Oregon, the increasing anxiety the world feels about terrorism. But the difference I am thinking about is more personal.

Advent and Christmas were different from what we remember from previous years. That was true for me being away from family and from the church that I had celebrated 23 Christmases with, and it certainly was true for Kailua Christian Church. Of course the stories and the carols were familiar, but the pastor, the musicians, and the style of the service were different.

For the first time, I attended a Blue Christmas Service. Somehow, I never felt the need for a service that let me deal with sadness, but this year I needed that. Perhaps you did, too. I finally realized that I was grieving the loss of part of my life that was very important to me. Was it like that for you? At times I had to force myself to get up and do what I was supposed to do. Yes, even pastors sometimes have to push themselves out of bed and into the sanctuary. Other times emotions like anger, sorrow, and even disorientation tried to take over.

Then Myrtle Terada said, "We are all grieving." She is right. At least, that diagnosis fit for me, and I realized that Kailua Christian Church may be grieving the loss of a pastor, dear friends, comfortable ways of relating, and familiar patterns

of worship. We all grieve in different ways, but failing to

grieve simply puts off the necessary work of finding healthy ways to express that grief and eventually to re-engaging with life.

If the past filled with its memories and relationships were not good, we would not be grieving. One going away party, one funeral service, or one trip to the cemetery is never enough. The sadness springs from the good that was. Now the challenge for all of us is to build on the strong foundation of the past and to find ways to carry the passion, the values and the joy into the present and the future.

I always remember these words from John 14 spoken to disciples who realized they would lose their teacher and friend: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (v. 27 NRSV).

May we find Christ's peace though the sorrow and troubled hearts and discover the Risen Christ among us leading us into God's future. Amen.

*Jack E. Belson*

--Jack E. Belson, Interim Pastor





### BEATITUDES IN JANUARY

What is it that really makes a church? Some will say it professing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Others will say Christians must affirm the trinity. Recent reflection has said that churches are made and shaped by their “practices.” Traditionally those have been scripture reading, corporate worship, prayer, service, working for justice, etc. The consensus among those who study the church is that the church is shaped and defined more by its practices than by any covenant or statement of faith. We will be “practicing” on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.



The Wednesday morning Bible study group has decided to study *The Beatitudes: the Practice of Christian Community* by Inagrace Dietterich. You can find two versions of the beatitudes in the gospels: Matthew 5:1–12 and Luke 6:20–26. We usually translate the word for “Beatitude” as “blessed,” but it can mean “congratulations” or “How happy you are!” The beatitudes you find in Matthew and Luke are a bit more than saying “Bless you,” when someone sneezes.

Some want to read them as another set of “commandments,” but you will find no “commands” there. In fact, what you do find is more puzzling.

How do we deal with them as a church? How can they shape the life of this church when we use them as practices? The Directors of the Center for Parish Development are working to redesign this resource so that it leads into a season of discernment about God’s vision for KCC (4-5 sessions) and lays a foundation to use Lent (February 10–March 27) for that Discernment. In

adult learning (or any learning for that matter) what you get out of a study is directly proportional to what you put in.

With the redesign of the course, the exact cost has not been set. In the past, the church has asked for \$5.00 per participant and subsidized any additional cost. Please make a commitment to be at the first session Tuesday, January 5 or Wednesday January 6 for an introduction to the study and a copy of your book. Sign up after worship or by calling the church office (261–0125). It’s time to practice.

### MODERATOR’S NOTES

CHANGE, have you ever thought about it? Sometimes it happens to us and we can’t control it, like when Pastor Tim decided to support Pastor Diane in her call to the Conference position in northern California. What could we have done to dissuade Pastor Diane from that call so that we could keep our pastor and prevent change from happening to us? Most of us were conflicted by the joy of Pastor Diane’s call and the sadness of our loss of Pastor Tim. I would think that no one thought our “call” would trump that higher “call” that Pastor Diane heard, felt and obeyed.

Sometimes we can be in control if not influence how changes happen to us. We can be part of the process so that the change reflects the wants, hopes and desires of the group at large. If we do not, change will happen to us, and we will not be able to direct it in the direction that we would like.

Some would say that change is too hard, “I’ll just find another place that I’m comfortable with and go there”. Affecting change requires communicating. Unless others understand what makes you comfortable, uncomfortable or an effort too great or confusing, we cannot craft the change in a manner that accommodates as many of us as possible. In any organization, positive change is a collective effort. Our current UCC status and Congregational heritage allows us to be in control of this process as a congregation.

Positive change requires a sense of openness, a willingness to “give it a try”, a willingness to ask what is this all about. As an example, the use of a “new” Doxology in our recent service startled me.

If it was any music in the Church, the Doxology had a tight emotional hold on me going back 50 years. I did not even know this, but on attending my first service in 40 years (at KCC), singing the Doxology literally brought me to tears...to my utter surprise. The second week when we sang the "new" Doxology, I paid attention to the lyrics and found them refreshingly appropriate for the season that we were in, Advent. I'm sure this change is not permanent.

We are in a transition phase in our current effort to discern where God wants to take us. I would

encourage all of you to sign up for either the Tuesday evening Bible study or the Wednesday morning Bible study of the Beatitudes that we have planned. I also encourage you to engage in conversations with the leaders of our church that you have selected. I do believe this will take us all to a place of deeper faith and understanding as followers of Jesus Christ.

Peace,  
--Roy Yamauchi †



**DEACONS MESSAGE**

A New Year with New Beginnings



Happy New Year from your 2016 Board of Deacons! Last year was a busy year. To start, the Under shepherd groups were realigned to allow for better communication and support; the KCC Membership update was finally completed after 3+ years; fellowship hour responsibilities were shared by the Under shepherd groups; and Pastor Tim's departure started us on our new faith journey which included the arrival of our new interim Pastor, Jack Belsom.

We begin the new year with a new committee. Members on the 2016 Board of Deacons are Myrtle Terada, Paul Grable, Debbie Fong, Sharlene Yamauchi, Sharon Mon and Bryan Gomes. We will continue to look for new ways to improve communication and support to all of you. If you have something you would like to discuss, please grab one of us after church or email us and

we will do our best to help. The committee will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January to see what, if any, changes in the configuration of the Under shepherd groups are needed. Soon after the meeting, we hope to send out a letter that will let everyone know which Under shepherd group they are on. The annual Meet Your Deacon Luncheon will also give you an opportunity to fellowship with your KCC family.

Thank you for the support you have given to the previous Deacon committees! We encourage you to share your ideas of how this 2016 committee can better support you. The coming year will be filled

with opportunities to help KCC find answers to many questions. Please join us on the journey!

In Christ' service,

--Bryan Gomes †

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**



- ~ Wendy and Jiggs Tamashiro
- ~ Pastor David Turner's Dad
- ~ April Jessee's father
- ~ Myrtle's Aunt, Sue
- ~ Alice's neighbor, Jonah
- ~ KCC Transition Team
- ~ Winchell Lee



**TRANSITION TEAM**

The team will meet on Sunday, January 10 for some training and organizing. Please talk to Pastor Jack or any of them about concerns you have with the transition.

- Debbie Fong - Dan Jessee - Karel Ling
- Ron Myers - Vernon Pang - Rebecca Weible

Waves of Faith is a monthly newsletter of Kailua Christian Church  
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Lillian Sakaguchi, Stella Wakamatsu,  
John & Mildred Sakamoto & Kammy Grable

**KCC SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Date:	Adults	Children (under 12)	Visitors
12/06	86	11	00
12/13	64	11	02
12/20	93	11	10
12/24	61	13	13
12/27	69	03	03



*We celebrate Epiphany on Wednesday, January 6. Epiphany comes from the Greek word that means "appearance" or "manifestation." The feast*

*day celebrates the Magi's visit to the infant Jesus and the first "manifestation" of Jesus to the gentiles.*



**TRUSTEE'S TIDBITS**

2016 welcomes new Trustees Karel Ling, Shane Soma and Dean Wakuzawa and those who served in 2015, Susan Morita, Lowell Terada, Vernon Pang, Gary Nham and Joan Sakaba. Members of KCC are invited to share their concerns as it relates to the work of the Trustees with any of the above individuals. The church benefits from the eyes and ears of all members and their observations. The Trustees will meet for the first time in 2016 on Sunday, January 3.

Still on the agenda for the Trustees will be the photovoltaic system. With changes made to the net metering system by the Public Utilities Commission, the GEMS program is re-configuring its program. The Trustees have received a proposal as well from Kumu Kit for alternative funding. A meeting with the Kumu Kit representative is being scheduled, while the church waits for word from GEMS on the status of that program.

Projects for 2016 include looking at trimming the monkey pod tree, changing sanctuary drapes, improving lighting in the upstairs storeroom and KCC's telephone system. Consideration will also be given to the audio-visual system in the sanctuary. Trustees are also busy completing contracts required to maintain KCC facilities and programs. Support will be given to the development of an effective website for KCC.

**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**



Mahalo to Robert St. John, Pastor Jack and the KCC youth and parents for the wonderful Christmas play! Our youth also participated in the Christmas Eve worship service. Mahalo!

KCC will be hosting an Oahu Association youth gathering on Friday, January 15, 2016. Dinner, games, singing, conversation will be part of the program.

Tickets are still available for the fundraiser sponsored by HI2NYE, the Oahu Association committee of volunteers raising funds to send Oahu youth to the United Church of Christ National Youth Event in July in Florida. fundraising dinner and silent auction. The dinner is set for Saturday, January 30, 2016 at the Community Church of Honolulu. Tickets are \$20. Please kokua by joining the youth at this spaghetti dinner. OAUCC youth will be providing entertainment. Silent auction items are also being received. Please see Joan Sakaba if you can share something to be auctioned or if you can buy a ticket or two to attend the event.

Finally, new youth group leader Rebecca Weible begins her year with the youth this month. (Pending action by Congregation).

--Joan Sakaba, Trustee ☩

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- FEB. 10 – Ash Wednesday
- FEB. 14 – FEB. 21 Family Promise Week
- FEB. 28 – KCC Annual Meeting
- MAR. 03 – River of Life Outreach
- MAR. 19 – KCC All Church Workday
- MAR. 24 – Maundy Thursday Service
- MAR. 27 – Easter



A Spring Garage Sale is tentatively considered for Sat. April 2, 2016. We hope you will be doing some Spring cleaning before that and able to save your goods for this event. In the meantime, if anyone is aware of a good working stove, our KCC Transitional Housing Unit is in need of one. Please see Kammy for more info.

**MISSIONS NEWS**



A special thanks to all of you for your generous giving to the Thanksgiving Offering in 2015. As you may know, Missions has normally disbursed this offering to ministries that we were moved to help. The committee (which you are all welcome to participate in as ongoing members) offer their thoughts and help make things happen – on behalf of all of you at KCC. Unlike the Christmas and Easter Offerings that are collected and stay to support KCC and its ongoing ministries, the Thanksgiving Offering goes out to the wider community to ministries that have been lifted up. This is also the case for the five of five UCC offerings that we have been so generous to each year. This is in addition to any specific disaster offerings that we may collect and direct to relief efforts through the UCC when disasters happen. Please refer to the giving figures posted in the annual report (that will be out in February) stating how much has been donated by KCC’s generous donators. Your missions team is honored to assist in the support of these efforts as you continue to be faithful to God with the blessings you have received from him.

We would like to invite more members to join the Mission’s team and be actively involved to the

wider ministries that we serve as the Mission Team of KCC. Please see Kammy for more information.



**NA ANELA SUPPORT GROUP**

“The Journey with Cancer”

Happy New Year to all! Our first meeting of Na Anela I Ka Hana A Ke Akua (Angels in the Works for God), a support group for those with life threatening illnesses is on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016; 9:30 a.m. in Room 3. At 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jack will be the special guest speaker and will share as a fellow cancer survivor. Hope to see you there!

--Myra Yamada



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- Carl Sakata
- Ellen Chew
- Jean Kanazawa
- Ethel Davis
- Evan Higashi
- Judy Yoshioka
- Hideko Mumaw
- Akito Sagawa
- Susan Stewart



- Janet Okumura
- Hazel Masuda
- Nathan Nemoto
- Jo Ann Komori
- Mary Watanabe
- Thomas Gomes
- Ada Kaneoka
- Nathan Ching
- Brian Nakashima

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- Joan & Terry Gerber
- John & Huiyin Halloran

**LOVE SHINES THROUGH****The UCC Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund**

The Christmas Fund is one of four Special Mission Offerings of the UCC and provides us with a means to directly assist those who have so faithfully and selflessly served and now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. Through the generosity of so many UCC congregations and individuals across the country, a total of \$1,538,531 was received in last year's Offering. This enabled the Pension Board's 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.

We invite you to prayerfully consider and support this year's appeal to give to this special offering that we at KCC will receive on Sunday, January 17, 2016.

Note: One of the unique aspects of this Fund is that the funds provide direct financial assistance to UCC clergy and lay church employees in their time of need. Here is one story of how you have blessed someone in need. (continued on page 6)

**Charles Busch****A Calling to the Small and Rural**

Growing up in a small Congregational church in rural Nebraska shaped the life and ministry of the Rev. Charles Busch, though it was years before he realized just how much. He had been working in Manhattan in the business world and writing a novel when he went on retreat at a Carmelite hermitage in Nova Scotia for the quiet he needed to finish his book. It was there he encountered the words of Canadian theologian and humanitarian Jean Vanier, "If you want to meet Jesus, go where no one else wants to go." This was Charles' clear call to ministry: "For me, it meant small rural parish work. I'd been raised in a small parish. At the time, I was single, so it was an easy choice."

After completing his studies at Harvard Divinity School, Charles was ready to start parish ministry.

He first went to a UCC congregation of about 35 members in Tombstone, Arizona, which was about to close. But over the next six years, the church grew and thrived. Then, it was on to another small parish on the coast of Oregon, where he served for 14 years. It was there, following a bullying incident in the local high school, that Charles founded Peace Village ([www.peacevillageinc.org](http://www.peacevillageinc.org)), an educational experiment to teach nonviolence to children. Today there are Peace Village camps in 11 states across the country.

At the age of 65, after 20 years of active small-church ministry, Charles wanted time with his family. His wife was suffering with chronic illness, and their son with a challenging disability. He also continued his peace ministry by serving on the Board of Peace Village Inc., and founding "Fields of Peace," an interfaith program to help busy clergy emphasize the message of peace and nonviolence according to their tradition.

Retirement, though, was challenging: "There were ongoing medical bills. Most of my years in ministry we had been a one-income family. And of course, there wasn't much in reserve from serving small parishes."

Charles recalls meeting with his Annuitant Visitor and their conversation about how tight finances were with his reduced income and bills. Thinking Charles might qualify for assistance, the Annuitant Visitor connected with the Rev. Krista Betz at the Pension Boards, and Charles has received Christmas "thank

you" gift checks ever since. "I remember taking the Christmas Fund Offering each year in my churches, and now I am the recipient of that heartfelt gift. The dollars matter, but even more, it is the impact of being remembered by my wider church family."

**NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING****Sunday, January 17, 2016/After Worship**

Upon the recommendation of the KCC Christian Education and Worship Committees, a Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2016 after worship. Candidates Rebecca Weible and Jenna Han are being recommended to fill the positions of Youth Leader and Music Leader, respectively.

Upon the request of the Christian Education Committee, Rebecca began working with the youth group by leading Sunday School classes since September 2015. She also met with the youth, their parents and Pastor Jack on November 15 to talk about the youth group and their desires for activities to plan for the youth for 2016. Rebecca has been using the Christmas break to plan for 2016. If approved as the Youth Leader, Rebecca's contract allows for compensation of \$400 per month, with a \$200 annual mileage allowance. The contract will require her to continue Sunday School classes and to plan and carry out at least one to two youth group meetings and/or activities per month. She will report directly to the Christian Education Committee and the Pastor.

Jenna has served as interim pianist at KCC since Sunday, December 20, 2015 when she provided impromptu music accompaniment during worship service. She also played at KCC's Christmas Eve worship service and has been present at Sunday worship since then. Contract details for Jenna will be provided prior to the Congregational Meeting as June Tom, the chairperson of the Worship Committee will be meeting officially with Jenna to go over the terms of her contract on January 7. (June has been on the mainland and will not return until January 5. June has however been in contact with your church leaders, Pastor Jack and with Jenna during her vacation regarding Ms. Han's hiring.)

Please plan to stay after worship on January 17<sup>th</sup> to learn more about the candidates for these positions, the proposed contracts, and to vote on hiring these individuals.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

January 2016						
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						

**JANUARY**

- 01 – Fri. HAPPY NEW YEAR! Church Office will be closed.
- 02 – Sat. 4 C Church using facilities for Pastors Gathering, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- 03 – Sun. Communion Sunday.  
Deacon's Monthly Meeting, New Orientation for new Deacons.  
Trustees Meeting in Nursery.
- 05 – Tues. Beatitudes Evening Study, 7:00 p.m.
- 06 – Wed. Epiphany observed.  
Beatitudes Morning Study, 9:00 a.m.
- 10 – Sun. Transition Team Meeting following worship.  
Annual Reports for 2015 due in office.
- 12 – Tues. 4 C/KCC Monthly Meeting, 1:00 p.m.  
Beatitudes Study, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 – Wed. Beatitudes Study, 9:00 a.m.
- 15 – Fri. UCC Youth Fellowship Event at KCC
- 17 – Sun. UCC Christmas Fund Offering received  
Congregational Meeting following worship re: Youth Leader and Music Leader positions. Members will be asked to vote.
- 18 – Mon. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Holiday observed. Church office will be closed.
- 19 – Tues. Beatitudes Study, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 – Wed. Beatitudes Study, 9:00 a.m.
- 23 – Sat. Na Anela Support Group, 9:30 a.m. meeting, 10:30 a.m. guest speaker, Rev. Jack on *The Journey with Cancer*.
- 24 – Sun. Missions Meeting following worship in the Library.
- 26 – Tues. Beatitudes Study, 7:00 p.m.
- 27 – Wed. Beatitudes Study, 9:00 a.m.  
Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 31 – Sun. Guest Pastor, Rev. Richard Kamanu sharing the message.

We look forward to having our Hawaii Conference

UCC Interim Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Richard Kamanu share in worship this month.



**WORSHIP LEADER**

Myrtle Terada

**AUDIO**

Jane Masuno  
Barney Pilla

**USHERS/GREETER**

Roy & Sharlene Yamauchi

**VISUAL**

Saeko Yoshida  
Debbie Fong

**DEACON GREETER**

Sharlene Yamauchi

**FRIDAY,**  
**JANUARY 1, 2016**



**Good Health  
and Great Joy to all.**  
Church Office will be closed.

**LIGHTS & SCREEN**

June Tom & Barney Pilla



**PIANO & ORGAN**

Jenna Han & Ruth Masuno

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**PRAISE SINGERS**

Diane Lee Pilla & Rebecca Weible

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2016**

Four C Church will use facilities for Pastor's  
Gathering. 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**CHILD CARE Jennifer Pang, Coordinator**

- 03 – Carol, Shane, and Cera Soma
- 10 – Lara Higashi, April Jessee, Stone Jessee
- 17 – Alice Esaki, Jennifer Pang, Grace Myers
- 24 – Nancy Arakaki, Carol Soma, Rayn Jessee
- 31 – Susan Morita, Jennifer and Emily Pang

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016**



- ~ Communion Sunday.
- ~ Deacons Orientation Meeting in the library.
- ~ Trustees Meeting in Nursery.

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**FLOWERS**

- 03 – Lowell & Myrtle Terada
- 10 – Paul & Kammy Grable
- 17 – Nani Oda
- 24 – Richard & Alice Esaki
- 31 – Howard & Saeko Yoshida



**TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**  
**ON THE BEATITUDES**

**Jan. 5 through Feb. 2**

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Pastor Jack will facilitate this class.

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**KING'S COMPANY**

April Jessee

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**  
**ON THE BEATITUDES**

**Jan. 6 through Feb. 3**

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Jack will facilitate this class.



*The Altar Flower ministry welcomes your support. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday, the flower calendar is posted in back. Instructions are available*

*as to how you can provide your own flowers or order from the florist who will have it delivered. See Kammy or Alice for more information. Mahalo!*



**KCC TRANSITION TEAM MEETING**

**Sunday, January 10, 2016**

Meeting in the Library following worship.  
Pastor Jack will facilitate some training and organization for this team as they prepare us during this transitioning time.

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**TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016**

**KCC and Four C Church Monthly Meeting**

**1:00 p.m. in Room 3**

All are welcome to attend this gathering time to get better acquainted. A light lunch is shared in this very informal time.

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**KCC YOUTH HOST UCC YOUTH EVENT**

**Friday, January 15, 2016**

KCC will host a fellowship event for the youth of UCC Oahu Association Churches. Please see Joan and Rebecca for ways you may be of help.

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**KCC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, January 17, 2016**

Immediately following the worship service. Please join us as we discuss and vote on our Music leader and Youth Leader positions.

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**NA ANELA SUPPORT GROUP**

**Saturday, January 23, 2016**

9:30 a.m. Prayer Support Group  
10:30 a.m. Special Guest Speaker:  
Rev. Jack Belsom will share on  
“The Journey With Cancer”