

# Waves of Faith

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



NOVEMBER 2016

Volume 31

Issue 11

## In the Interim

Here we are in the middle of Consecrating Stewards. Both Debbie Fong and Nancy Arakaki have shared as Witnessing Stewards, and we look forward to hearing from Dan Jessee November 6. I hope you were able to attend the Stewardship Dinner with Rev. Wayne Ibara. My hunch is that his emphasis on “Stewardship of the Word” was both insightful and challenging. I look forward to hearing from him in Worship November 13 as our Guest Steward. Stewardship is more than what we do with our financial gifts or even our time and talents. Stewardship is living faithfully in God’s rule.

One of the differences I find about being an interim pastor is dealing with “vacation.” I learned long ago that taking vacations was about personal stewardship of my whole being—rest for my body, spiritual renewal and focusing on family relationships. As a “settled” pastor, I frequently stored up my vacation so that I could take as much as one month vacation. However, interim contracts can be ended with thirty-days-notice because congregations call pastors or the interim responds to a different call. As a result, I have been trying to take one week vacation every three months although I did store up the two weeks for a trip to Europe. It is also a good financial decision for the church because filling the pulpit for one Sunday is less costly than paying the interim an amount equal to one week at the conclusion of the interim’s service.

That’s a long introduction to the announcement

that I will be on vacation at home on Maui November 17–26 (including Thanksgiving and a regular day off). Pastor Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa has graciously agreed to be on call to handle any pastoral emergencies. In addition, the Deacons have made arrangements with Scott Furukawa to be our guest preacher. Scott is a “Honolulu Boy” who is a member of Central Union Church. In May 2016, Scott graduated from Vancouver School of Theology. He is a “Member In Discernment” with the Oahu Association UCC.

A “Member In Discernment” is a person who senses God calling them into “authorized ministry.” The home churches of Members In Discernment examine them and request the Association to receive them. Discernment is a process of working with a home church, Association and a mentor to “figure out” the specific nature of the call—a call to chaplaincy, Christian Education, Music Minister, etc.—and the kind of learning that will help the person reach competency. The Members In Discernment ultimately work with a committee to prepare for an ecclesiastical council in which they are examined and hopefully authorized for ordination, commissioning or recognition.

Scott will go through that process that leads to ordination. In the United Church of Christ, candidates for ordination must have a call to a recognized ministry (pastoral ministry, teaching, missionary service, or specialized ministry) before they can be ordained. The Deacons are looking forward to meeting and working with Scott as he leads in worship and shares the message. Plan to be in worship November 20

not only to meet Scott but also to share in Thanksgiving Sunday. I will be thinking of you and praying for you as I get to worship with my home congregation after being away for more than a year.

Your servant in Christ,



Jack E. Belsom, Interim Pastor

**(Biography provided by Scott)**

I am Scott Furukawa, a “local boy,” third generation (*Sansei*) Japanese American born in Honolulu. I grew up in the working class neighborhood of Palolo Valley, attended public schools, and graduated from the University of Hawaii. At the turn of the twentieth century, my grandparents, *Issei* (first generation), immigrated to Hawaii from Fukuoka, Japan to seek a “better” life. My paternal grandfather worked as a talented landscaper of Japanese gardens. He designed the garden at Lau Yee Chai, a well-known Chinese restaurant in Waikiki. My maternal grandparents owned a small neighborhood grocery store in Manoa Valley. My father was a *Kibei*, which is a term given Japanese Americans born in the United States who returned to America after receiving their formal education in Japan. While in his early twenties, he served as a Japanese language teacher and taught school-age children in Honolulu. This would lead to his arrest and four-year internment after Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor. After WWII, he spent the rest of his work life as a mechanic for the Honolulu Gas Co. My mother worked as seamstress at the old Alfred Shaheen garment factory. This is my family. This was the sphere in which my older brother and I would learn the standards and values that would guide us the rest of our lives.

I spent most of my working career (30 years) in the corporate world as a branch manager in Honolulu for a major Wall Street investment firm. Seeking a new direction for my life, I took the unconventional path of a second vocational career in church ministry, serving as Director of Community Outreach at Central Un-

ion Church, a 183 year-old church steeped in history with missionary roots. My main responsibility was to lead a weekly worship service for the homeless communities living at Ala Moana and Kaka’ako parks. For many of the people living in the park, this was their only contact with church.

I completed my seminary studies at Vancouver School of Theology’s Indigenous Studies Program in Vancouver, British Columbia. It is the only degree program in North America engaged in ministry with indigenous communities in Canada and the United States. I graduated with honors receiving the outstanding student award in Reformation and Church History.

I am currently working towards my ordination with the O’ahu Association of the United Church of Christ.



**MODERATOR’S NOTES**

We were fortunate to have Pastor Wayne Ibara, senior pastor at Makiki Christian Church, speak to us at our recent Stewardship kick off dinner. He gave us many things to think about but a quote that said “If you want to know what the health of a church is, find out what kind of conversations are going on in the congregation” left me thinking. During the last year we have been hard at work trying to understand who we are as a church and where God wants us to be. Financial positions and human resources are the most obvious markers of the health of the church and your Trustees and Council have had many conversations regarding those two resources. The conversation element was a new marker to me and I’ve spent some time thinking about it. Upon reflection over the past 15 years, I’ve observed that conversations have taken place but they were not universally shared. The result seems to be that concerns about our theology, pastor, members, etc. did not have a chance to be shared. I believe that the result was that the congregation did not have a chance to grow. Instead, splits occurred and people left. It is ironic that the polity of the

UCC denomination allows so much flexibility and range in its churches that however KCC evolved in all aspects of its life, it would have found support and resources within the denomination.

In gathering the data on our church in this interim period, I've found that we are 47% of Japanese ancestry. Being part of that culture myself, I know that it is very conservative when it comes to communication. Be respectful, don't make waves, be humble, you know what I mean. So I can see as a congregation, why we may have not had broad conversations expressing our concerns, fears, and hopes. The counter to this cultural tendency is our Christian faith and how we live it in our community at KCC. I believe that our faith leads us with love; compassion, forgiveness, and understanding which should help us overcome whatever cultural biases and conflicts that might lead us to fracturing as a group.

My last observation regarding conversations is that of theological ("the study of religious faith, practice, and experience: the study of God and God's relation to the world") conflict. Churches have clergy and in the case of the UCC denomination, these individuals are vetted and most have educations of at least a masters level or higher in some area of ministry. I could never understand why any member of our church, faced with a theological question or conflict would not seek out the advice and council of our pastor. I can speak from experience that our current interim and our past pastor would never try to convert a congregant to one way of belief or another. Their main goal was and is to support that individual where ever that person was in their faith journey. I do not believe that any of us has "arrived" but are on a continuous journey in understanding Jesus and through him gaining broader insights to our relationship with God.

Peace,

--Roy Yamauchi ☩



Dear members and friends,

I would guess that you are familiar with the "Three T's" of Stewardship: Time, Talent and Treasure. Makiki Christian Church used to base its annual campaign on this understanding of stewardship. But through the years, our understanding of Christian stewardship grew and expanded. We began making a shift in our perspective.

For example, time, talent and treasure all focus on the individual. They ask each one to consider what his or her talent might be, how much time they might give and how much money. So from this stewardship perspective, *our* stewardship is essentially *my* stewardship. First change of perspective: *Stewardship is congregational. Not just about my choices, but ours together.*

So what are we, the Body of Christ, stewards over? Second shift in perspective: *We are stewards of God's good gifts to us, not just what we own personally.* This makes stewardship a congregational and spiritual issue—not just a personal and practical question. The list of God's gifts might begin with the Good News of Jesus Christ, as well as the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit. And what about your tangible resources, like your buildings and property? What about your human resources? What about your children? What sorts of stewarding responses do these gifts call for?

Stewardship is such a rich subject that seen properly, it encompasses our whole life and our life together, our whole response to live a life of faith. The stewardship of Time can be seen not just as a commitment to give so many hours a week or month to the church. It can also be seen as a commitment to discern when we stand at a critical moment, a key opportunity—what the writers of the New Testament called *kairos*: God's time. The Church—*your* church as well as *my* church—are at such a crossroads. It is a challenging time for all of us, but it is also an exciting and creative time.

At such a time as this, I am honored and privileged to serve as your Guest Steward. I look forward to seeing you on Nov. 13.

Sincerely,

Pastor Wayne Ibara  
Makiki Christian Church

**PRAYERS & PRAISES**

Please keep in your prayers

- ~ Blanche Keahi
- ~ Sue Nakashima
- ~ Ruth Lum
- ~ Lowell’s sister and cousins
- ~ Myra’s sister, Sylvia
- ~ Winnie & George Nakamura
- ~ Mitsi Higashida
- ~ Jennifer Lee (Jenn’s daughter)
- ~ Hazel Chow
- ~ Akiko & Stanley Nakamura
- ~ Family of Flora Murakami



Pray for all our homebound KCC Ohana and those who have not been able to join us for whatever reason. May they know that they are sorely missed.

Continued prayers for our Search Committee members who has begun meeting Mahalo for their commitment of time and energy to complete this process to select our new pastor.

**DEACON NEWS**

As noted in last month’s newsletter article, we celebrated World Communion Sunday on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. We hope those of you who were able to attend the service enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on our “monthly ritual” in a deeper more global perspective and I’m curious how many of you enjoyed the Portuguese sweet bread element over the Senbei?!



Pastor Jack and a deacon shared communion with a homebound member on this first Sunday after worship. Let your deacon know if you

would like to be served Communion at your home.

We’ve received two requests for taxi service and have matched drivers and passengers together. Please let us know if you can serve as a driver as we continue to develop this ministry. We encourage you to also let your deacon know if we can be of help to you.

The Deacon Fund Offering was received on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be used to help Benevolence Fund applicants. Thank you to all for your generous support of this ministry!

As a reminder, should you have any changes in your address, phone number or any other special requests you have relating to your KCC membership record, please contact one of us and we will insure that the church records are up to date.

Praise God for giving us continued strength to serve others all the time!!

Peace,  
Myrtle Terada, Deborah Fong, Sharon Mon, Bryan Gomes, Paul Grable and Diane Lee Pilla†



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



- Susan St. John
- Kayla Halloran
- Carla Cummings
- Katie Gomes
- Heidi Cummings
- Blanche Keahi
- Diane Lee Pilla
- Carl Nemoto

- Henry Halloran
- Bea Jacobson
- Rev. David Turner
- Sharlene Yamauchi
- Emily Peters
- Bryan Gomes

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- Harvey & Sherie Oga
- Minoru & Kay Teruya
- Winchell & Lily Lee
- Vernon & Jennifer Pang
- James & Pua Todd

Please inform the office of any corrections and/or updates re. your personal information in this area.



**KCC SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

| Date: | Adults | Children (under 12) | Visitors |
|-------|--------|---------------------|----------|
| 10/02 | 63     | 05                  | --       |
| 10/09 | 65     | 05                  | 03       |
| 10/16 | 59     | 07                  | 01       |
| 10/23 | 57     | 04                  | --       |

**TRUSTEE’S TIDBITS**

Under the diligent stewardship of Trustee Gary Nham and Pastor Jack, KCC has been treated to a Consecrating Steward experience. On Tuesday, October 18, a group of over 30 members and friends of KCC met, over dinner with Guest Consecrating Steward, Reverend Wayne Ibara of Makiki Christian Church. The group also shared the dinner prepared for our River of Life guests. Pastor Ibara read a fable from “Translating the Word,” from *The Orthodox Heretic: and Other Impossible Tales*, by Peter Rollins. He asked the group to consider this thought, “Therefore it is impossible to affirm God’s Word apart from becoming that Word, apart from being the place where that Word becomes a living, breathing act. This divine Word cannot then be rendered into an object that is somehow separate from the subject who hears it or reads it, for the Word of God is an incarnated Word that is lived. Its call is heard only by those who inhale the aroma of the words and who exhale life, liberation and love.” Debbie Fong, Nancy Arakaki and Dan Jessee was also willing to share their personal commitment to the living Word. Pastor Wayne will return on Sunday, November 13, a Sunday we have declared to be “Consecration Sunday”.

Contained with this newsletter is a letter from Pastor Wayne. It will encourage you to consider what God has done for you and how we each live the Word. A revised Time and Talent sheet is also enclosed. This and a pledge card (to be distributed during worship on Sunday, November 13) will be received during that worship service. A potluck lunch will follow the

worship service. As some of our members and friends may not be at worship on November 13, pledge cards will be mailed to those who usually pledge, providing a second opportunity to respond to God’s call of support for the church.

Your Trustees are simultaneously working on the operating budget for 2017. This will be distributed before our budget discussion meeting, scheduled for Sunday, November 20. This budget includes a proposed compensation scale for a settled pastor. Congregational vote on the budget and election of officers for 2017 will take place during the Congregational meeting on Sunday, December 4. A letter regarding the content of the Congregational Meeting is forthcoming. Installation of Officers for 2017 will be held on Sunday, December 11 with the understanding that their responsibilities will begin on Jan. 1, 2017. Please mark your calendars and plan to join in the conversation.

**CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY**  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016**

Hope to see you from 8:00 a.m. to about noon, as we prepare KCC for the holiday season!

Please bring buckets, rags, and your favorite cleaning solutions! Lunch will be provided.

**HCUCC Strategic Planning**

The Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ is conducting an assessment study this fall and winter in order to better understand the viewpoints of pastors and lay leaders across the Conference related to a number of initiatives and issues. The findings will help Hawaii Conference and Foundation leaders to enter into a strategic planning process for 2017. HCUCC has retained the services of Reverend Al Oliver, a pastor of 23 years in the Presbyterian Church USA and for the past 16 years, serving as a consultant directing similar studies and church missional discernment in 14 different denominations.

In addition to individual interviews to be conducted on all islands, Reverend Oliver will hold focus groups. If you are interested in participating in any of these, meetings on Oahu will be held as follows:

Friday, November 11 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Community Church of Honolulu

Saturday, November 12 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Pearl City Community Church

For more information, view the online HCUCS newsletter, the Coconut Wireless. This can be found on the HCUCS website. Subscribe to the Coconut Wireless to learn more about other UCC churches in Hawaii and on the mainland.



A BIG MAHALO TO YOU

September was another amazing month in which so many of you "Gave" Aloha!! Although our membership numbers are smaller than they've been in the past, we were still able to finish among the top 100 organizations (statewide). Our donations, combined with Foodland's and Western Union's donations, equaled \$14,777.22! That's incredible! The "intentional" effort that so many of you put forth, going to Foodland and making donations for the benefit of God's church, is truly cause for exclamation!! Especially if you don't normally buy your groceries from Foodland!



MISSIONS NEWS

by Kammy Grable

Our Transitional Housing Ministry is doing well. Ella and daughter, Jolyn are settled in and even with the bus ride challenge to and from Campbell High School each day, things are moving along. Ella is looking for a part-time job, and in the meantime will be working the polls on election day. Please keep them in your prayers as they try to get back into the mainstream of things.

While she is job hunting, maybe we can encourage Ella to sell her delicious lumpia, like the ones that she so graciously brought to re-

freshments after worship. I know I'd be first in line...

Jayasudha P. was featured in our Missions Moment this past month. She is our 15 year old sponsored child in India. We welcome anyone

who may want to write to her to contact the church office for more information.

More detailed information is available on the Missions Board regarding where she lives and her life story. Please keep her in your prayers.

We support Jayasudha through Global Ministries/the Wider Church Ministries UCC.

KCC THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Each year we designate where the funds of our Thanksgiving Offering will be directed. We will receive this offering on Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 20. This year we have directed these funds to support the work of Hale Ola, an abuse shelter located in Kailua and the UCC Transition House who is also a shelter for victims of domestic abuse. If you are aware of someone who need their assistance, please contact the church office or call 528-0606 or 949-2220. Mahalo for your consideration.



KCC Canned Goods Drive Collection through Nov. 20, 2016



Food Drive



Friendly reminder to support the KCC Canned Goods Food Drive going on right now. This project will again assist the St. Anthony's Food Bank and be distributed near Thanksgiving. Please respond by being generous for those in need. We will receive food items through Thanksgiving Sunday and then deliver them to St. Anthony's before Thanksgiving Day.

**NA ANELA SUPPORT GROUP**

**Holiday Celebration – Saturday, Nov. 19**

November is our last meeting time for this year, we hope you will make it a point to join us. On Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016 (third Sat. of the month) join us for our HMSA’s Music and Health Christmas Special with Steve McCall. This promises to be a nostalgic holiday sing along experience. A potluck lunch will follow.

A big mahalo goes out to Dave & Charley Del Rosario, friends from Anchor Church in Kaneohe who shared simple exercises put to music for people suffering with Arthritis. We had a good turn out and the fellowship and lunch was great!



**A New Year Beginning – Sat. January 28**

Please mark your calendars to begin the new year with a healthy start. Our favorite HMSA guest speaker, Steve McCall will present, LAUGH-SING-MOVE. Studies show that Americans are snacking on about 570 calories more each day than in the 1970s. Discover calorie-free alternatives to snacking. You’ll be invited to laugh out loud, sing with vigor, and move!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Special thanks to Debbie Fong** for her uplifting stewardship testimony on Sunday, Oct. 23. We are grateful for her reminders of how much we matter in each others lives and how God provides for all our needs. Physical and Spiritual!



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

| November 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 |    |    |    |

- 01 -Tues. Bible Study on Romans, 7 p.m.
- 02 – Wed. Bible Study on Romans, 9 a.m.
- 05 – Sat. KCC All-church Workday, 8 a.m.
- 06 – Sun. Communion in Service, 10 a.m.  
Stewardship Testimony, Dan Jessee  
Deacons and Missions Meetings.  
Proposed 2017 Budget distributed.
- 08 – Tues. Bible Study on Romans, 7 p.m.
- 09 – Wed. Bible Study on Romans 9 a.m.
- 11 – Fri. Veterans Day Holiday. Office closed.
- 12 – Sat. Men’s Breakfast at Dennys, 8 a.m.
- 13 – Sun. Consecration Sunday w/ guest speaker, Pastor Wayne Ibara. Pledge Cards distributed and returned. All-church Potluck to follow.  
Family Promise Week hosted at KCC
- 15 – Tues. Bible Study on Romans, 7 p.m.
- 16 – Wed. Bible Study on Romans, 9 a.m.  
Council Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
- 17 – Thurs. Pastor Jack will be on vacation through Nov. 26.
- 19 – Sat. Na Anela Support Group, 9:30 a.m.  
Special Guest, Steve McCall, 10:30a.m.
- 20 – Sun. Thanksgiving Sun. Guest speaker, Scott Furukawa. Discussion Mtg. on 2017 Budget following worship.  
Blessing of Food Drive Donations.
- 21 – Mon. T/H Mtg. w/ HIS, 9:30 a.m.

- 22 – Tues. Study on Romans, 7 p.m.
- 23 – Wed. Windward Coalition Thanksgiving Eve Community Service 7 p.m.
- 24 – Thurs. Thanksgiving Day. Office closed.
- 25 – Sat. Hanging of the Greens, 10 a.m.
- 29 – Tues. Four C/KCC Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 30 – Wed. Bible Study on Romans, 9 a.m.

***“Give thanks to the God in Heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever.” Psalm 136:26***

Kailua Christian Church (UCC)  
 317 Manono St. Kailua, HI 96734-2211  
 Ph: (808) 261-0125 fax: (808) 262-8457  
 Email: [kcc-ucc@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kcc-ucc@hawaiiantel.net)  
 Website: [www.kailuachristianchurch.org](http://www.kailuachristianchurch.org)

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



**WORSHIP LEADER**  
 Myrtle Terada

**AUDIO**  
 Barney Pilla  
 Grace Glenn

**USHERS**  
 Gary Nham

**VISUAL**  
 Debbie Fong  
 Diane Lee Pilla

**DEACON GREETER**  
 Bryan Gomes

**LIGHTS & SCREEN**  
 June Tom

**PIANO**  
 Jenna Han

**CHILD CARE** Jennifer Pang, Coordinator  
 06 - Carol Soma and Jennifer Pang  
 13 - Sharlene Yamauchi / Susan Morita  
 20 - April Jessee / Nancy Arakaki  
 27 - Susan St. John / Jennifer Pang

**FLOWERS**  
 06 – Lowell & Myrtle Terada  
 13 – Ruth Masuno  
 20 – Roy & Sharlene Yamauchi  
 27 – John & Mildred Sakamoto

**KING’S COMPANY**  
 Youth Group

**AFTER SERVICE REFRESHMENTS:**

(Deacon Group: Diane Lee Pilla)  
 We welcome any refreshments for the hospitality hour following worship. Diane’s undershepherd group will host for Nov. all-church Potluck on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>.

**HIGHLIGHTED REMINDERS**

**KCC Workday**  
**Sat. Nov. 5, 2016 - 8 to noon.**

**Sun. Nov. 6. Dan Jessee shares testimony**  
**2017 Budget to be distributed.**

**VETERANS DAY OBSERVED – Fri. Nov. 11**  
**Let us honor all our veterans for the sacrifices they have made. May they know that they are truly appreciated.**

**Consecration Sunday – Sun. Nov. 13, 2016**  
**Guest Steward, Rev. Wayne Ibara**  
**Time and Talent Sheet and 2017 Pledges will be received. Potluck lunch to follow worship.**

**Thanksgiving Sunday – Sun. Nov. 20, 2016**  
**Guest Speaker, Scott Furukawa.**  
**Blessing of Food Drive Donations.**  
**Discussion Meeting on 2017 Budget.**  
**Thanksgiving Offering will be received.**



