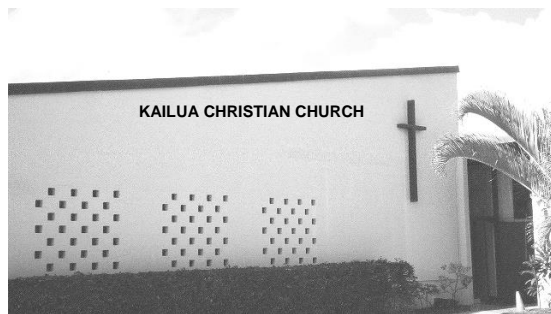


Waves of Faith

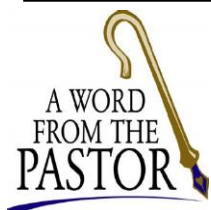
Kailua Christian Church (United Church of Christ)
317 Manono Street, Kailua, HI 96734-2211
Chartered 1959 –



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Volume 36

Issue 01



“The Holy Spirit Helps us to Look Back to 2020 as we Look Ahead to 2021”

“It had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.” Luke 2: 26, N.R.S.V.

December 31st is a time to light firecrackers as we welcome the new year on January 1st. The cultural diversity of Hawaii invites us to pay our bills, clean our homes and complete unfinished tasks before the clock strikes 12. As the sound of fireworks reaches its zenith, some eat long noodles before retiring. Upon waking, new clothes may be worn, a special meal prepared, and gifts shared. As followers of Jesus the Christ, the story of the righteous and devout Simeon from Luke 2: 25 - 35 provides a way to living our lives looking back or ahead.

Jo-Ann Komori shared this illustration she heard at a funeral. The minister spoke of driving our car, looking through the windshield but sometimes glancing in the rear-view mirror. This is the challenge as we live our lives. As 2020 ends and 2021 begins, the life of Simeon is an example we all can emulate. Guided by the Holy Spirit, he goes into the temple where Jesus’ parents carefully handed Jesus over. Taking him in his arms he says, *“my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.”* As members and friends of Kailua Christian Church UCC, we have seen God bless us with the calling of Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson!

1. **Looking Back.** Beginning in mid-March,

the Church Council voted to close the church as the COVID-19 Virus hit Hawaii. Each of us have faced different challenges including times of depression and grief due to loss. The church had been in interim mode since mid-2005 that also included a very painful 2017. Just as we experienced these difficult times, there have also been bright moments, creative insights and joyful celebrations.

2. **Looking Ahead.** Now that 2021 has arrived, we have much hope in the distribution of a new vaccine. Despite the possibility of reverting back to Tier 1, there is the expectation that schools and businesses will eventually be allowed to re-open as we move to Tier 2, 3, 4 and 5. With a new pastor who had previously served as the Youth Minister and the Senior Pastor in years past, there is much anticipation for what he and his family will bring to our congregation.

3. **Living in the Present.** This is the challenge each of us faces. There is always the Past that at times, pulls us back into memories, both wonderful and painful. Just think of Christmas as we celebrated the birth of Christ on December 25, 2020 but there were times when Christmas’ past drifted into our consciousness often prompted by songs and carols of the season. But the future always comes into view as we have appointments, deadlines and events to look forward to on any given day. At times, our view of what could happen next may cloud our perspective of living in the present. But this is the only way to live: **to take each moment and each day as it comes.**

Conclusion. From age 3, I attended a Pentecostal church with my mother and siblings. As a teenager, when friends came to visit our church, it was a little embarrassing during worship as congregants would stand, raising their arms in the air with eyes closed, praising the Lord. But the story of Simeon reminds all Christians that **the only way to live is to listen to and follow the leading of God's Spirit.** When we experience sadness, the Holy Spirit will comfort us. When we need guidance, the Holy Spirit will show us the way. When we don't know how to pray, the Holy Spirit will pray for us. And when we get stuck by looking back to 2020 or have fears about 2021, simply pray to God for the Holy Spirit to fill us! Perhaps this can only take place when we "empty ourselves" of worry, anxiety, painful memories, fears and doubts.

Happy New Year! With Love and Aloha, Pastor Chris

Mahalo from Pastor Chris

How do I express my appreciation for the many gifts given to me? I feel overwhelmed by the generosity of members and friends and the Kailua Christian Church UCC as Pastor Appreciation was celebrated last month before Thanksgiving and Thank You's for Serving as Our Interim Pastor were extended to me prior to Christmas.



When I lived in Seattle and served the Japanese Baptist Church, I learned to say the Japanese phrase, "**Domo Arigato Gozai Masu**" when presented with a gift or acknowledging some kindness or hospitality. Beneath this phrase which is translated, "**thank you very much**" in English is another feeling. It is this: "**I am not worthy of your gift or act of generosity.**" This is part of what I am experiencing now. And despite this, I've learned to graciously accept the expressions of appreciation!

I felt the Holy Spirit calling me to serve KCC after Susan Morita and Dean Wakuzawa asked me to

consider being the interim pastor. It has been an amazing experience, the first for me as your interim minister. God has done wonderful things for our church as exemplified in various individuals who responded to an invitation: to be baptized; to become a member; to serve the church; to be a faithful steward...it goes on and on. I am happy that the purpose for which God called me has been fulfilled! Thank you, members and friends of KCC. **Praise be to the Lord!**



MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:14-15

Hello KCC Members and Friends! Happy 2021! A new year is upon us with so many possibilities. If you haven't heard the exciting news, the congregation overwhelmingly voted (there were 89 ballots returned out of 131; 88 out 89 votes were YES) to have Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson called as our settled pastor. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! What a blessing that God called someone to KCC who is known and loved by so many.

The 2021 budget and list of officers were also approved. It is a joyful time for KCC. We have all been praying and waiting for God to reveal his plans for KCC. At times it was difficult, but God knows when it is best to reveal HIS plans to us. It's a perfect way to end 2020, with the promise of joy and hope we have, where we will be able to grow together with Pastor Dale, knowing that he has been called to be our settled pastor. Your leaders are currently working on a contract for Pastor Dale and have not determined an exact start date at this time. This should be resolved by early January 2021.

We continue to be blessed with Pastor Chris serving as interim pastor. He has done so much for KCC during the last 2 years plus. Five new members were welcomed during this interim period. PTL! Our eyes and hearts have been opened up to God's word through his sermons. Pastor Chris is gifted with an abundance of compassion and kindness that has helped us heal and look introspectively at how God impacts our lives and continues to do so each and every day. Thank you, Pastor Chris, for leading us!

Thank you to all of the volunteers on the Pastoral Search Committee (Paul Grable, Dennis Fong, Reggie Yamada, Nancy Arakaki, John Sakamoto, and Pamela Morikawa; also, former members June Tom and Diane Lee-Pilla). You all worked so hard on this process and to see the fruits of your labor become reality is awesome. PTL!!!

Thank you to the zoom worship team (Aaron Tanaka, Paul Grable, Gail Yoneshige, Susan Morita, and Pastor Chris) that has allowed us to worship together during this pandemic time. Thank you to June Tom who led this team earlier this year. Thank you to all who have participated and felt called to read scripture or ask for prayers or shared joys. Worshipping together has been wonderful. Being physically separated due to covid-19 has been difficult but seeing and hearing our members and friends has helped ease the sadness of not being together. We are together in spirit!

A very BIG THANK YOU TO KAMMY!!! Kammy does so much for us at KCC. She has been the rock that has kept us connected during the past 5 years without a full-time pastor. Kammy is instrumental in ensuring that your leaders are aware of the necessary tasks that need to be managed. Thank you Kammy for all you do above and beyond at KCC. You are such an amazing person that is full of God's love.

Thank you to all the leaders and volunteers at KCC. Your service to the church is very much appreciated. I have been honored to serve along with you these past four years. I will continue to serve as a leader at KCC, but in a different role. I will be the Treasurer for the next two years. I am excited

for the future of our beloved KCC. Please continue to pray for our leaders as we move forward together in a new chapter in the life of KCC with Pastor Dale leading us. Please also continue praying for Pastor Chris as he assists us in this transition. Stay safe and healthy!

Happy New Year!
Dean



DEACON'S MESSAGE



KISS the Lord in 2021

KISS is an acronym for keep it simple, stupid. The KISS principle states that simplicity works best, therefore unnecessary complexity should be avoided.

The concept of less is more is based on the value of simplicity and that by having less, you can actually create a life of more. You can still feel secure and happy with less because you are focusing on quality rather than quantity in your life.

In my research I found these simple teachings of and about Jesus Christ that can make your life more joyful:

Love God and your neighbor

When asked which commandment was the most important, Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:37—39). When you replace hate with love and anger with kindness, you'll feel closer to God and notice more peace in your life.

Live the Golden Rule

Jesus taught the Golden Rule during his Sermon on the Mount: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye that men would do to you, do ye even so to them" (Matthew 7:12). In other words, treat others the way you want to be treated. As you do so, you will strengthen your relationships and be happier.

Have faith in Jesus Christ

In John 3:16, we read, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Having faith in Jesus Christ means believing in Him and His teachings. Having faith in Jesus Christ will bless you in this life and in the life to come.

Communicate sincerely with God

Jesus taught by example that we should pray to God often. God loves you. As your Heavenly Father, He stands ready to help you. Communicate with Him through prayer, express gratitude, and ask for things you need.

Freely forgive

While Jesus was on the earth, Peter asked him, “Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?” Jesus responded, “I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:21—22). When we freely offer forgiveness to others, we can invite more peace and forgiveness into our own lives.

There you have it, nothing complicated. No long-winded explanations. No hard sell. Just the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His body, given into death for our sin. His blood, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sin.

With all this being said, please do not forego your spiritual growth. Continue your incessant search to understand God’s word and become a wise Christian thru practice.

In closing I would like thank Pastor Chris for a job well done serving as our interim pastor for KCC. We know him by his deeds. I’m pretty sure God is reserving a place for him at his right side.

Vernon Pang – Your KCC Deacon



PRAYERS & PRAISES

Please keep in your prayers

~ Pastor Warren Nakano

~ Dean’s friend, Wes

~ Howard Jackson

~ J. Yano

~ Coreen & Tony Sarabia ~ Clifford Sakamoto

~ Sharon Nishihira & Steve Hammann

~ Larry & Sandra Siu

~ Wayne O.

~ Maureen & Dennis Nakashima ~ Jennie Lee

~ Ally T.

~ Pastor J. Salle

~ Diane & John Mendenhall

~ Dick Grable

~ Beverly & Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson

~ Jiggs Tamashiro, Hazel Chow, Ellen Chew, Lowell & Myrtle Terada, Walter Yeda, Alice Esaki, Brian Nakashima, Harry Imai, Hazel Masuda, Carl Nemoto, Jean Kanazawa, Ada Kaneoka, Natsuko Matsushima, Hideko Mumaw, Akito & Annie Sagawa, and Ruth Lum and family dealing with high risk factors along with our entire church family dealing with this challenging time.

~ Pastor Chris Eng and our Zoom Worship Team

~ All Medical, Healthcare, Emergency Need and Caregiving providers.

~ Family, neighbors, and friends who care for each other as the needs arise.

~ All businesses trying to survive.

~ Staying safe as we welcome tourists back

~ All children and teachers dealing with in-person and online education.

~ For churches to respond to the needs of their neighbors by keeping them safe during pandemic.

~ For the proper and speedy distribution of the vaccine.



Sincere Condolences goes out to the family of:

Mr. Howard Pang, a dear friend of KCC and husband to the late Faith Pang our Organist who unfortunately died unexpectedly, several years back. We send our warm aloha and condolences to his children and the family of our dear friends Ruth and Harrison who cared for brother-in-law, Howard, while he tried to stay faithful to the Lord while attending KCC.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Ellen Chew
Jean Kanazawa
Lucy Khem
Miley Khem
Judy Yoshioka
Hideko Mumaw
Akito Sagawa
Susan Stewart
Hazel Masuda
Randall Imai
Nathan Nemoto
Jo-Ann Komori-Takumi

Mary Watanabe
Thomas Gomes
Ada Kaneoka
Nathan Ching
Brian Nakashima
Liloa Hagmann

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

02 – Joan & Terry Gerber
05 – Robert & Romona
Maeshiro



TRUSTEES NOTES

Happy 2021. The year of the Ox! It is still 2020 as we write the newsletter for 2021 and we are still facing challenges, hardships and COVID-19, but with hope and God's promises we look forward to 2021, which will be more hopeful and less fearful as we await the miracle of the vaccine.

KCC has much to be joyful about as we welcome aboard Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson. As we look forward to our new journey, we are saddened to say goodbye to Pastor Chris. He truly cared and inspired us with his compassion, love, and messages.

We give thanks to all of you for responding to our tithing and time and talents sheets. We are grateful to announce that 25 pledges were received with a total of \$95, 676. Thanks to you all for your generosity and continued faithfulness despite the challenges and hardships that came with the pandemic.

Be encouraged that we serve a God who sees all, and who is faithful to those who love him!

Serving as your Trustees this year will be Maureen Wakuzawa, Dennis Fong, John Sakamoto, Michelle Morikawa, and Susan Morita.

Thank you to Myra Yamada for all that she did serving as a trustee. She has a heart of a Deaconess and that is exactly what she will be doing. Your time and dedication to doing Kingdom work is greatly appreciated.

We pray that God continues to keep you and provide for you and fill your hearts with an overflowing joy and hope for 2021! We all know that no matter what our plans are, it is God's plan that will prevail.

Faithfully in service, Susan Morita

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) is very happy to report that our Search and Call task has been completed. Pastor Dale Vallejo Sanderson has heard the call and responded and has agreed to be the Settled Pastor for KCC. Our congregation has very recently overwhelmingly approved this selection.

This PSC was formed in the fall of 2019. After we completed the KCC Church Profile it was approved by the Council and the HCUCC and it was published online. When we received some applicants, we were able to meet via Zoom for interviews and a few of us met in person. Against all odds we were able to complete the task during this pandemic. Thank God.

Our thanks also go out to the PSC committee members for their time and effort. This includes Dennis Fong, Reggie Yamada, John Sakamoto, Nancy Arakaki, Pam Morikawa, June Tom, Diane Lee Pila and Paul Grable. Pastor Chris and Dean Wakuzawa are also to be thanked as they have also been involved through much of the process as non-voting leaders of KCC.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and remember Kahu Richard Kamanu who was our Search and Call Team Coordinator from the

HCUCC. He has guided us through this process for the last five and a half years up until his untimely passing in October 2020.

We are looking forward to a very good New Year and seeing each other again in person in 2021.



NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA (Angels in the Works for God)

Happy, Healthy New Year 2021!! Hope all of you enjoyed a Covid-19 safe and health-filled Christmas and New Year's celebrations.

As Council continues to monitor the status of the Covid-19 situation and has indicated that we may continue to stay closed until maybe Tier 4 as encouraged by health officials and/or when maybe many of us will be vaccinated. That being said, when KCC does open its doors, then we will be blessed with Mrs. Miki Morita's (Head Pharmacist at Queen's Medical Center) presentation on:

Medical Adherence (when to take your medications, how to take medications and medication access)

Concerns/Issues (use of over-the-counter medications, herbal products and dietary supplements)

Immunizations (which ones are recommended and when should they be administered).

I'm sure that many of you will also have questions on the new Covid-19 vaccines.

During this time of limited social gatherings and meetings, please continue to safely **LEARN, LEARN and LEARN!** I highly recommend taking free, Zoom classes from **AARP/WCC's FAST, HEALTHY AND "ONO"** series featuring Chef Daniel Swift, WCC's newest Workforce Development Coordinator. Chef Dan's classes can be found at www.aarp.org/hi, by clicking on **UPCOMING EVENTS**. Scroll to the classes that you are interested in and click on the **Join the Webinar** link.

Another great source of health and wellness classes is the St. Francis Healthcare System's Caregiver Education and Wellness Series. Contact Maylynn Wong at 808-547-8138 or mwong@stfrancishawaii.org. Once you are on

her mailing list and in the system, you will receive monthly updates on classes, where you can register just by clicking.

Jan 4 and 18: 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Make it Happen (crafting)

Jan 13 and 17: 10-1045 a.m.; Positive Synergy in Mind & Movement

Jan 16: 9-11 am; Strategies for Healthy Relationships & Violence Prevention

Jan 19: 5-7 pm; Kidney Care Series I: Meet Your Kidneys

Jan 22: 5-7 pm; Understanding Hawaii's Long Term Care Options

Jan 26: 5-7 pm; Kidney Care Series II: Nutrition

Jan 30: 9-11 am; Mobility Training for Caregivers

If you have any questions, please contact me at yamadamyra@hawaii.rr.com or call (808) 348-2297. If you want the recipes, please send me an email. Stay safe, be well and hope you can participate in one or two Zoom classes! It's an awesome learning experience!

Mahalo and God Bless!

Myra

Special Note: We thank God for inspiring this wonderful ministry of Na Anela which started as an idea in Fall 2001, when encouraged by the small group leader's ministry. Myra submitted a proposal to Council and proposed this ministry and then asked Mary Ann Ishikane to participate as a co-facilitator. From Jan. 2002, they grew this ministry. taking turns every month until Mary Ann passed away in 2009. Myra continued to facilitate this monthly ministry with the help of many members and friends. In about 2014 we began meeting every other month. As we celebrate 19 years of service... we are grateful for the vision and compassion these women had while dealing with their own health challenges – they faithfully served God in providing support to those dealing with life threatening illnesses. This ministry is one wonderful example of how God blesses and uses us when we trust him with our lives and faithfully serve him. Today this ministry is focused on Healthy Living and Wellness and together with many volunteers, we continue to grow and develop this ministry. Mahalo to all who have participated and supported this ministry through the many years.

MISSIONS OUTREACH

A big Mahalo to our KCC ohana for your generous donations to the Thanksgiving Offering. We were fortunate enough to send canned goods, cereals, juices, rice and pastas and \$250 to St. Anthony's Outreach and food pantry. Val and staff were appreciative of our ongoing support that assists with the needs of their clientele. IHS was also appreciative of the \$325 we were able to send them, and Family Promise was grateful for the \$600 and River of Life was sent \$600 which also included funds from the budget for the last meal we were to feed them. Thank you KCC for the ongoing blessings in our community. May God continue to use us in mighty ways.

**“NAME THAT AUTHOR”**

Here are the answers to December's quotations for *Name That Author*, plus two new quotations for January. For those who cannot wait a month for the author's name, contact Steff at 218-3324 or at bonsaocats1@gmail.com. If members wish to submit a quotation, submit to Steff who will relay it to Kammy by the 20th of each month.

**December's authors:**

Answers to December quotations:

#1— Psalms 103:1-5 NIV

#2—Mother Teresa

January quotations:

#1—Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in **love**.

#2—"Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?" ...



Special thanks to Gary Yamamoto and Walter Miyamoto for resurfacing our second-floor walkway and stairwells and bringing by donated furniture.

**KAILUA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2021 APPROVED SLATE OF OFFICERS**

(Year term ends)

CHURCH LEADERS

Moderator: Paul Grable (2022)
Clerk: Reggie Yamada (2022)
Treasurer: Dean Wakuzawa (2022)
Worship: Aaron Tanaka (2022)
Missions: Pamela Morikawa (2022)

BOARD OF DEACONS:

Lily Lee (2022)
 Winchell Lee (2022)
 Myra Yamada (2022)

Vernon Pang (2021)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Dennis Fong (2022)
 Susan Morita (2022)
 John Sakamoto (2022)

Michelle Morikawa (2021)
Maureen Wakuzawa (2021)

Italicized officers are returning to complete their second-year term

Mahalo to our faithful officers who have served us so well and completed their commitment and is now released with our deepest gratitude.

Dean Wakuzawa: Moderator
 Dennis Fong: Clerk
 Pam Morikawa: Treasurer
 June Tom: Worship / Paul Grable
 Kammy Grable: Missions
 Nancy Arakaki: Deacon
 Paul Grable: Deacon
 Lily Lee: Deacon
 John Sakamoto: Trustee
 Susan Morita: Trustee
 Myra Yamada: Trustee



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KAILUA, HI 96734
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Return service requested

Rev. Christopher Eng, Interim Pastor

A REASON TO CELEBRATE!

We will welcome our new pastor soon!



Dear Kailua Christian Church family,
From when Bev and I began our life as husband and wife over 40 years ago, we have been moved by the loving encouragement to grow as His family at home and with you. Our journey in Pastoral ministry has been generously shaped and received by you over these many years wherever God has led us. That we get to begin a new year and a new season of learning to live, love, and serve together with you brings us humble joy. We thank God and we thank you. Pastor Dale, Bev, and family.

EPIPHANY

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Epiphany, also called Feast of the Epiphany, Theophany, or Three Kings' Day, (from Greek *epiphaneia*, "manifestation"), is a Christian holiday commemorating the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, and the manifestation of his divinity, as it occurred at his baptism in the Jordan River and at his first miracle, at Cana in Galilee. Epiphany is one of the three principal and oldest festival days of the Christian church (the other two are Easter and Christmas). Roman Catholics and Protestant churches observe the feast on January 6, while some Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate Epiphany on January 19, since their Christmas Eve falls on January 6.

