



# Kōloa Union Church

Hawaiian Identity • Island Hospitality

September Newsletter 2015

## A NOTE FROM KAHU AKANA

Eighteen of our church leaders met on August 22 at our Leadership Retreat in Koke'e to take a good, hard look at our new Vision Statement. We brainstormed, imagined, prioritized, and planned. As we envisioned a bright and meaningful future for Kōloa Union Church, we focused on two questions: "What would bring me the greatest joy?" "What would bring US the greatest joy?" By the end of the day, we decided to focus on four key areas during the next year:

1. Youth: We plan to have at least monthly gatherings this fall and weekly gatherings by summer; we want our middle school and high school youth to have a safe and enjoyable place to gather and bring friends so that they can have fun, connect with caring adults, learn, grow in Christian faith, become more involved in the life of our church, participate with other UCC youth, and help others.
2. Christian Education & Formation for All Ages: We plan to have learning opportunities for all ages, beginning with a nursery area in Moore Hall for the youngest ones, a thriving Sunday school program for Pre-K through 5th grade, youth confirmation and learning opportunities, additional adult groups.
3. Music and Arts: On Sunday mornings, we plan to enhance the size of our choir, engage in the services of an accompanist while retaining our choir director, have more special music, have more children and youth music, have more Hawaiian culture and music as part of the worship service. During the week, we plan to have more opportunities to celebrate music and art for all ages.
4. Mission/Outreach: We plan to find at least a couple of opportunities to help people on an ongoing basis, so that every member of the church can participate throughout the year.

We especially considered children, youth and families in our community who have needs.

Council members and Deacons will be working on the details of these four areas in the coming weeks and keeping everyone informed of plans and asking for assistance.

5. Of course, we will continue to focus on the capital campaign projects and make our campus welcome, inviting, beautiful and more able to fulfill our entire vision statement.

Now that we have some clarity of focus for the coming year, I have a request for every member and friend of Kōloa Union Church: Would you consider one of the five areas listed above where YOU would find the greatest joy and commit yourself to helping in that area as your time and abilities would allow?

Aloha nui loa!

Kahu Alan Akana



**POSTAGE STAMP RECYCLING PROJECT**

A little goes a long, long way—even a cancelled postage stamp! Let’s get into the habit of tearing off every cancelled stamp from our daily mail and placing them each Sunday in the BIG JAR which will be available in the entry to the church, beginning next Sunday.

I will regularly pack the entire collection and send them to the Women’s Board in UCC headquarters in Honolulu. From there they will be sent on to several European Villages for Adults with “special needs where groups of the residents will sort them, prepare them and eventually sell them to stamp collectors all over the world. The village participants gain self-respect by participating in this worthwhile distribution of this valuable commodity...and we will gain the knowledge that we have been part of this unique, worthy project.

**STAMP OUT CANCELLED STAMPS!!!**



*Graceleanor Baird*

**ALOHA HOUR**

- Sept 06—Smythe Chaffin McCoubrey
- Sept 13—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning
- Sept 20—Ramos Moe Baptiste
- Sept 27—Machin Kunimura Brierley
- Oct 04—Giovanni Osuga
- Oct 11—Odo Honjo Foley
- Oct 18—Asahi Rebb Ito
- Oct 25—Smythe Chaffin McCoubrey



**CHOIR SEASON BEGINS--Aloha Hour Potluck**

Koloa Union Church Choir begins weekly rehearsals on Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m.

Visitors and Snow Angels are invited to join our choir for easy anthems, good fellowship and a chance to participate in our worship services while they are on island. Also visitors and snow angels are welcome to take part in our island life at Koloa Union Church by participating in the Aloha Hour Potluck following every Sunday service. Come everyone, share your faith as an active Christian.

**DEACONS ON DUTY**

**SEPTEMBER**

- JoRae Baptiste
- Debbie Gunning

**OCTOBER**

- Sheryl Ramos
- Kei Osuga

**LAYREADERS**

- September 06—Debbie Gunning
- September 13—Doug Duvauchelle
- September 20—Phyllis Kunimura
- September 27—Graceleanor Baird
- October 04—Larry Chaffin
- October 11—Jo Anne Machin
- October 18—Kei Osuga
- October 25—Rosemary Smythe

**Our Prayers:** Prayers of healing for Eugene Jimenez, Jan Sueoka, Holly, Phil, Blake, Andy, Maria, Tiffany Marrotte, Edward (Virginia’s brother), Jo Duvauchelle, Francisca Padua, Debbie Gunning, Al Pugsley, Ted Asahi, Luke Rita and Kimo Marrotte; prayers of condolence for the Tanaka, Ueunten, Summerville, Cannon and Soto families; prayers of peace and comfort for Miyeko Yamane, Al Moe, John Lustman; the Koloa Union Church ohana and all who are lifted in prayer.



## **Kahu Akana's Other Commitments——The Blessing of Our Church Council**

The Church Council is happy that our Kahu is involved in organizations of the wider church and ministries that benefit us indirectly. Since this kind of involvement is part of Kahu's Call Agreement with us, we have given our blessing to Kahu Akana to serve as the President of the Kaua'i Association of the United Church of Christ, a member of the Hawai'i Conference Council and Board of Trustees of the United Church of Christ, and his most recent appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Pacific School of Religion (PSR), which is located in Berkeley, CA. We are especially happy that Kahu is becoming involved with PSR as they are expanding theological education in Hawai'i so that residents here can continue training for ministry while remaining in the islands! Please pray with us for his effectiveness and also his health and safety as he travels to occasional meetings and events around the island, on O'ahu and in California.

### **Vision Statement**

In June 2018,  
 Kōloa Union Church is filled every Sunday  
 with people of all ages;  
 every chair is filled inside the sanctuary and we are overflowing.  
 People are inspired by the sermons, prayers, music and arts.  
 We have a thriving music and arts ministry  
 with a choir of 15-20 regular singers,  
 small group ensembles performing  
 contemporary and Hawaiian music,  
 an ukulele band of primarily children and youth,  
 and hula dancers who perform in our worship services.

When people pass by our church, they notice its beauty  
 and feel a sense of invitation and welcome.  
 When they visit, they feel God's unconditional love  
 and a sense of beauty and peace everywhere on our campus.  
 When they return, they find it effortless  
 to connect spiritually and emotionally with others  
 and to become involved in the life of the church in meaningful ways.

We have a thriving Christian education ministry for all ages,  
 including Sunday School for children through 5th grade,  
 active middle school and high school ministry  
 with dozens of youth attending every week  
 and small & large groups for adults.

We are known throughout the island for being a church  
 that reaches out to our community and island  
 by spreading God's compassion to people in need.  
 We have ongoing mission and outreach programs  
 in which new people easily become involved.

## **Christianity after Religion——Book Group Extended**

The summer book group will continue meeting on Wednesday evenings until September 9. They are reading Diana Butler Bass' most recent book, *Christianity after Religion*. The group meets on Wednesday nights from 6-8:30 at the parsonage for dinner and discussion. Please sign up if you are interested in attending.

## 2016 Stewardship Celebration——“Trust in the Promise”

What a wonderful year we are having! In fact, 2015 is a year to go down in history in the records of Kōloa Union Church: an amazingly successful capital campaign, a significant increase in giving to the general fund, higher attendance, a clear vision for the future, and a vitality that is felt every week! In order to continue the momentum, we have chosen the theme, “Trust in the Promise,” for our annual stewardship celebration. According to Jeremiah 29:11, God promises to give people **a future with hope!** As we look forward to the coming year, we do so with a sense of excitement and hope. We will celebrate the past, present and future over a 4-week period: September 13 through October 4. You are invited to join us during this time as we celebrate this year and the next!

## Maika‘i Hana Hou——-Capital Campaign Projects

Thanks to additional gifts and commitments, we now have a total of **\$292,357** in our capital campaign total! Most likely, we will break the \$300k mark within the next three years! This gives us a bit of wiggle room to expand upon our current projects, offer a bit more to the youth fund and the permanent funds. What an amazing success, thanks to all of the generous contributors!

Dan Giovanni has been busy working with architects, engineers, designers, color experts, county officials, and others, in order to make plans for our capital campaign projects. He has also been doing a great job communicating with the Church Council and congregation. The most recent project has been fixing damaged wood on and around the large cross and window on the east wall of the church and painting the entire area. We are still waiting for permits for the parking and front landscaping areas and should hear something by next month.

In the meantime, MAHALO NUI LOA to everyone who has been faithfully fulfilling their commitments to Maika‘i Hana Hou so that we are able to move forward on these projects! Don’t forget to write “Capital Campaign” on the note section of your check or put cash in the “Capital Campaign Donations” envelopes available at church. And finally, if you have any lava rock, plants or trees that you would like donate for our landscaping around the church, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board, and Dan will be in touch with you. (He’ll even come to your home and do all the work!)

## Kaua‘i Association Events——-An Ordination and ‘Aha MokuPuni

### ORDINATION OF MARY HERBIG

You are invited to join us on Sunday, September 27, at 3:30 p.m. at Church of the Pacific in Princeville for the ordination of Mary Herbig. As President of the Association, Kahu Akana will be involved in Mary’s ordination and says, “No one seems to remember the last time a person was ordained into Christian ministry on Kaua‘i, so this really is a special occasion for us!”

### ‘AHA MOKUPUNI

You are invited to join us at our fall island-wide gathering of UCC churches on Sunday, November 1, at 3:00 p.m. at Church of the Pacific in Princeville. Join us for worship, inspiring music, fun and great food on the north shore. Details will follow!



# AUNTY NIELE'S NEWSY NOTES

By Penny Osuga

*NOTE: Penny Osuga is Aunty Niele, our reporter for this column. Niele is the Hawaiian word for "nosy." If you have any news to share in this column, please contact Aunty Ni'e le at the church office @ 742-6622 or through her church email address: [kucpenny@gmail.com](mailto:kucpenny@gmail.com).*

Thanks to **Bonnie & Missy** for the Sunday altar flowers. Congratulations to **Bruce & Becky Sakimae** on the birth of grandson, **Jayden Chi!!!** So darn adorable! Well done, Dad and Mom: **Peter & Sarah**. Check out **Lee & Carol**—looking mighty dapper!! Had a fun movie night at church, 20 of us, hotdogs & popcorn!



Island titled "Translating into a Career." She is amazing!!! WOW!! **Becky and Debbie** brought the house (church) down with their duet of the "Lord's Prayer." **Logan Baptiste** flew to the 'big city' of Honolulu to attend *Kapiolani Community College!* I guess it is inevitable that our "kids" grow up, huh? Yippee!! **Mike & Fran Johnshoy** are back from their other home in Minnesota. **Dan & Naomi** are just back from 3 days in Napa and a weekend at The Palace Hotel in san Francisco!! Now, please enjoy pictures from the Leaders Retreat in Kokee:



**Toyo** celebrated his 99th birthday! We honored him with leis and a special cake. **Kahu** had relatives visiting from SoCal. This is cousin **Ana** from Australia! Nice to have the **Cortezan** aunties visiting:



**Jeannie & Mamie (Jo's sisters)**. Look who popped in for a short visit...all the way from the Big Island...**Clyde & Sarah Shiraki!** There was such a fabulous article about **Aunty Chito Isonaga** in the *Garden*



about **Aunty Chito Isonaga** in the *Garden*



Thank you, Uncle Diki, for the delicious breakfast & lunch!!





**KOLOA UNION CHURCH**  
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KOLOA, HAWAII 96756



## **KOLOA UNION CHURCH**

### **SUNDAY EVENTS**

10:30 a.m. Sunday School and  
Worship Service

#### **STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Alan Akana, Pastor  
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Penny Osuga,  
Administrative Assistant  
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