



Kōloa Union Church

Hawaiian Identity • Island Hospitality

December Newsletter 2015

A NOTE FROM KAHU AKANA

BRING AN ADVENT PRESENT TO CHURCH

Advent means “coming,” and it is the time of year when we celebrate the coming of Christ into our world. We remember his coming as the infant Jesus, son of Mary and stepson of Joseph, and most importantly Son of God. We also look to the many other ways that Christ shows up in our lives and in the world: through acts of grace and compassion, the stories that connect us to God and one another, and through Jesus’ message of peace on earth.

Since the coming of Christ is the foundation of our faith, I have a request for all of the members and friends of Kōloa Union Church. This year, I invite you to bring a very special gift to the church during the holiday season: a friend or family member who has never been to our church for a worship service. You can also invite someone who has not been here for awhile, but I would really like you to consider someone who may not know about our church. Invite them to join us on one of the Sundays in Advent, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. You might also invite them to one of our Christmas caroling events, our Christmas party, or helping to serve lunch at the Salvation Army in Hanapepe. I know there are people out there who would be so grateful to discover our amazing congregation

and the message that we bring to the world; and if you don’t invite them, who will?

As we spend the coming weeks together, I look forward to meeting the “gifts” that you bring to church! I also look forward to introducing you to the “gifts” I plan to bring. (I’m already making my “Holiday Gift List”!) I also anticipate experiencing the many ways that Christ will come to us during this special time of year! May you experience his coming every day!

Aloha nui loa!

Kahu Alan Akana





As each of us submitted our “pledge cards” for the coming year, we were given the opportunity to write “our dreams for Koloa Union” on little “dream cards” that were then hung from the banner above. These are some of the “hopes and dreams” submitted: continued member contentment; actively fulfilling God’s directions; active Sunday school; continue being a nurturing & welcoming church; more youth activities; more flowers and plants; tastefully refurbished church filled with fully committed, spiritually thriving people of all ages; Kahu remains embraced by this fabulous church family for a very long time; continued prayers for each other & for the world; continue to extend love & mercy; continue working for social justice; increased membership.

ALOHA HOUR

December 06—Asahi Rebb Ito
 December 13—Smythe Chaffin McCoubrey
 December 20—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning
 December 27—Ramos Moe Baptiste
 January 03—Machin Kunimura Brierley
 January 10—Giovanni Osuga
 January 17—Odo Honjo Foley

ANNUAL SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

It is never too early to start gathering items around your home for our annual spring rummage sale. We are accepting items to pre-sort and organize. Please do NOT drop off LARGE items until the spring. Storage room is an issue for us. Thanks.



USHERS

DECEMBER

Sheri Fu
 Doug Duvauchelle

JANUARY

JoRae Baptiste
 Debbie Gunning

LAYREADERS

December 6—Phyllis Kunimura
 December 13—Larry Chaffin
 December 20—JoAnne Machin
 December 27—Kei Osuga
 January 03—Rosemary Smythe
 January 10—Dollie Brierley
 January 17—Edie Moe
 January 24—Kerry Mori
 January 31—Debbie Gunning

Our Prayers: prayers for healing and strength for Dollie Brierley, Glenn Hontz, Suzanne (& her dog, Georgie), M/M Gonzales, Chandler, Rich (Sharon Price’s grandnephew), Jan Sueoka, Remie Farnum, Jo Duvauchelle, Francisca Padua, Debbie Gunning, Al Pugsley, Ted Asahi, Luke Rita, Tiffany & Kimo Marrotte; prayers of comfort for the family of Ed & Rose Ah Lin (Akana) Horwatt; prayers of peace and comfort for Emiko Akana (Kahu’s aunt), Emily (Kerry Mori’s sister-in-law), Miyeko Yamane, Al Moe, John Lustman.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Farewell Party for Donald Schmidt

Associate Conference Minister Resigns

Members and Friends of the Kaua'i Association of the United Church of Christ are invited to a farewell party for Rev. Dr. Donald Schmidt, who has resigned as Associate Conference Minister and will be returning to Canada. His last day in the office will be January 1. You are invited to come and bid him farewell before he leaves. Here are the details of the party:

Sunday, December 13, at 5 p.m.

Lihue Christian Church Fellowship Hall (2943 Kress Street)

Potluck Dinner: Bring a Favorite Main or Side Dish to Share

Drinks, rice, paper goods, utensils provided by LCC

Dessert provided by the Association

RSVP with number from each church to Russell Maeda (russmaeda@gmail.com) and Karen Nakamura (lcc@hawaiiink.net) by noon on December 7th.

The Season of Advent

Let Us Prepare Our Hearts

Advent means "coming." On the four Sundays before Christmas, we light a special candle to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ into the world. Today's candle represents HOPE, for Christ came to bring hope to the world, and continues to bring us hope along every step of our journey. Let us give thanks for the coming of Christ and for hope!

Christmas Invitation Postcards

Inviting the Community to Church

Postcards from Kōloa Union Church will be mailed to every mailbox in the 96756 area code, inviting the community to attend worship services during Christmas week, including Sunday, December 20, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. If you know someone visiting over the holidays or a resident living outside the zip code, please pick up extra postcards at church on December 13 or at the church office during the following week.



Christmas Caroling at Hale Kupuna

Bringing Christmas Cheer to the Elderly

Join us on Thursday, December 17. Meet in the church parking lot at 5 p.m.

Christmas Caroling at Sueoka's

Fundraising for the Salvation Army

Join us on Wednesday, December 9 & 16, from 5-7 p.m. in front of Sueoka's Store.

Christmas Party

Dinner! Christmas Carols! Holiday Fun!

You are invited to our annual church Christmas party at the parsonage on Friday, December 18, beginning at 6 p.m. Sign up with Penny to bring something for the potluck. The parsonage is located at 3281 Waikomo Road, just around the corner from the church.

Christmas Eve Service

A Service of Candles & Carols

Our Christmas Eve service will begin at 7:30 on December 24th. Join us for Christmas carols, Scripture readings, and the traditional lighting of the candles.

Christmas Day Service

A Service of Candles & Carols

Our Christmas Day communion service will begin at 10:30 a.m.

The Christmas Fund

Special Offering

Each year at Christmastime, congregations of the United Church of Christ across the country take up a collection to provide pension and health premium supplementation to lower-income retired church workers, and emergency assistance to clergy and lay church employees in need, as well as "Thank You" gift checks to hundreds of faithful retired church workers. The fund is administered by the UCC Pension Boards. We will collect the Christmas Fund offering on December 20, 24 & 25. Please give generously to help faithful church workers who are experiencing difficult times.

Poinsettias

Advent and Christmas

Please help us add color to our sanctuary during Advent and Christmas by donating a poinsettia plant.

Update

Generosity and Commitment

As the year winds down, we are in good shape to close our financial books for the church's general fund in the black, as long as people fulfill their annual commitments and continue to be generous. We are also ahead of schedule for our income to the capital campaign, and plan to complete some major projects by the end of the first quarter of the new year! Our giving to our denominational special offerings is also up this year, including \$560 to Neighbors In Need in November. ***Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the vision and mission of Kōloa Union Church!!!***

By the end of November, we collected 29 commitment cards from generous members and friends of the church. Our commitment total for 2016 (so far) is \$99,000. This is an increase of 14% over this year's commitments! Thank you to all who turned in commitment cards: this has been super helpful to our finance committee and Council as we prepared next year's budget.

Year-end Christmas gifts to the church are always appreciated and help assure us to close our books in the black and begin the new year with money in the bank!

Mahalo nui loa once again for your generosity and commitment!!!

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY was on Saturday, November 14. Once again, our church *menehunes* showed up to accomplish more than we had expected! Thirteen members came to work hard and clean! Keiki Co-op parents came to help move the organ and baby grand piano! Most of the chores on our list were done! Such a “feel good” day. Lunch and dessert were served to finish up a very productive morning! Thank you.



That's Becky cleaning under the piano and being photo-bombed by Krayson!!



Krayson worked really, really hard, got so much done AND he smiled the entire time!!



Dollie, Naomi, JoAnne cleaning the kitchen



Moving the organ and baby grand piano with the parents of Keiki Co-op!



Another happy volunteer



Are we having fun yet??



Kei power washing the walkways

Kahu Akana was the “Author & Artist in Residence” at the Moana Surfrider Hotel. There was a “book & art presentation” and a “meet & greet.”



AUNTY NIELE'S NEWSY NOTES

By Penny Osuga

NOTE: Penny Osuga is Auntie 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 Auntie Niele at the church office @ 742-6622 or through her church email address: kucpenny@gmail.com.

There was a wonderful article in the *Garden Island* about **Kahu's** time in Salt Lake City attending the *Parliament of World's Religions*. A



few of us celebrated birthdays — thank you, **Dollie**, for the delicious cake. It was wonderful having our former pastor, **Susumu Yamane**, in church—it is especially exciting as

we are making major improvements on our church and the church was built



when **Rev. Yamane** was our pastor. **Kahu's** sister and sister-in-law, **Allison** and **Juli**, were



on island for a visit! Thanks to everyone's generosity! Our *Neighbors in Need* contributions totaled \$560!!! Impressive! **Sarah & baby Jayden**

were home for a visit! **Debbie's** son, **Andy**, was home for a visit! Always wonderful having our 'kids' home. Our son-in-law & daughter, **Chris & Tara**, were also home for their annual Thanksgiving vacay.



They helped at our *Art & Book Reception* held at the parsonage. And, you must check out **Debbie's** new car! Very cool!!! She and **Bonnie** flew to *Cancun* to surprise a friend on her birthday! **Pastor David Rivers** & his wife (from *Central Union* on Oahu) were on island and came to church on Sunday. Was great meeting them. Our Kauai 'Aha Mokupuni was a success! I think more than 20 attended from **Koloa Union**! Kauai's 'Aha was the largest in the state! Great job, everyone!!



Graceleanor Baird traveled to the mainland to visit family! Who is this dude?

Please consider ending this year by serving lunch at the *Salvation Army* in Hanapepe on Wednesday, December 30. We need volunteers. Had a wonderful and productive *Art/Book Reception* at the parson-



age. All of Kahu's books and art work were on sale, half of proceeds to go towards our *capital campaign*! Another great Thanksgiving lunch



under our belts!!

Thank you, **JoAnne** and **Judyth** for serving



lunch at the *Salvation Army*. Thank you to our Sunday School children for the cute songs sung in church. They did such a great job!!



Hummm, better not to ask.....



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
revdocakana@gmail.com

Penny Osuga,
Administrative Assistant
kucpenny@gmail.com

Fay Bartels, Director of Music
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