

Kōloa Union Church

Hawaiian Identity • Island Hospitality

February 2016

A NOTE FROM KAHU AKANA

Dear Members and Friends of Kōloa Union Church:

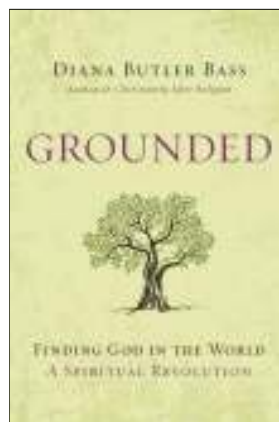
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10, and I am happy to announce that our Lenten theme this year will be “Getting Grounded.” On Ash Wednesday and each Sunday until Easter, I’ll be referring to Diana Butler Bass’ book *Grounded: Finding God in the World, A Spiritual Revolution*. During our worship services, we will consider one of the ways the author writes about grounding ourselves with God through all of the connections in our world. Then, each Wednesday evening during our Lenten Soup Suppers, our conversations will focus on the theme from the previous worship service.

I have read most of Diana Butler Bass’ nine books, and this one by far is my favorite—and I have really enjoyed all of them! I think the reason I have enjoyed it so much is because it has helped me to see God in everything. That’s right—*everything!* Our world and our lives are filled with God. God’s love is to be found everywhere and always. Knowing and

feeling God’s loving presence is what grounds us. It allows us to walk on this earth with confidence, trust and compassion. It enables us to live with peace during times of celebration and wonder, as well as times of pain and sorrow.

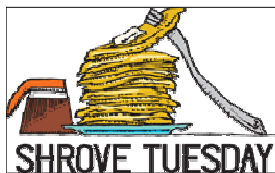
Feel free to buy the book online if you would like to follow along (or let me know and I will get it for you), or just come on Sundays and Wednesdays to hear, discuss, sing and pray. Either way, I invite you to come and GET GROUNDED! Please invite many friends, family members and neighbors to join us during this very special time of the year!

Aloha nui loa!
Kahu Akana



**Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras/
Pancake Supper/Fat Tuesday**

Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 6:00 pm
It is the day before Ash Wednesday marked by feasting and celebration before the observance of the Lent fast. Join us for a pancake supper. Let's celebrate by wearing your most creative costume! There will be prizes!



Lenten Soup Suppers

Each Wednesday in Lent (February 10 through March 16), we will enjoy a soup supper at 6 p.m. and then a time of reflection afterwards in Moore Hall. This year's theme is "Getting Grounded." Please sign up to bring soup if you are able.



ALOHA HOUR

- February 07—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning
- February 14—Ramos Moe Baptiste
- February 21—Machin Kunimura Brierley
- February 28—Giovanni Osuga
- March 6—Odo Honjo Foley
- March 13—Asahi Rebb Ito
- March 20—Smythe Chaffin McCoubrey
- March 27—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning

Annual Rummage Sale

Saturday, April 9, 8:00 am—12:00 noon

Donations can be dropped off at the church. Please do not drop off big items (furniture, etc) until later as we have storage problems. We will be asking for volunteers to stage all donations, volunteers to work the sale, etc. Leftovers? We need volunteers to haul them away.



USHERS

FEBRUARY

- Sheryl Ramos
- Kei Osuga

MARCH

- Phyllis Kunimura
- Graceleanor Baird

LAYREADERS

- February 07—Doug Duvauchelle
- February 14—Graceleanor Baird
- February 21—Phyllis Kunimura
- February 28—Larry Chaffin
- March 6—Virginia Dunas
- March 13—JoAnne Machin
- March 20—Kei Osuga
- March 27—Rosemary Smythe
- April 3—Edie Moe
- April 10—Kerry Mori

Our Prayers: prayers for healing and strength for Jackson Odo, Dollie Brierley, Chandler, Jo Duvauchelle, Francisca Padua, Debbie Gunning, Ted Asahi, Tiffany & Kimo Marrotte; prayers of comfort for the families of Glenn Hontz and Karen Johnson's cousin Terry; prayers of peace and comfort for Emiko Akana (Kahu's aunt), Miyeko Yamane, Al Moe, John Lustman.



Capital Campaign

Our Latest Projects!

Our Capital Campaign Chairperson, Dan Giovanni, has been busy moving things along, and anyone visiting the church since Christmas has certainly noticed many improvements! Since then, we have erected our arbor and placed our shiny (like new) bell on it; we have placed our beautiful new koa and quilted maple pulpit in the sanctuary; we have built a railing in front of the piano and organ and installed new stairs and a handrail; we have fully upgraded our sound system with all wireless microphones (so no more tripping on wires across the floor!); we have installed new blinds in Kahu's office. There will be a lot more changes in the months to come! Thank you so much to all of the generous donors to Maika'i Hana Hou! We are creating a more beautiful, welcoming and inviting space because of your generosity!

A Dinner for Snowbirds

Date to be determined

Kahu Alan Akana invites all of our snowbirds (those who "flock" to Kaua'i each year to escape the cold climates on the mainland) to the parsonage for a potluck dinner and social gathering. Our menu will be a "Taco Toss"—where each person brings something to share for "make your own" tacos, taco salads or burritos. Please invite other snowbirds who are your friends and neighbors, and let Penny know what you would like to bring. The parsonage is located at 3281 Waikomo Road in Koloa.

Henry 'Opukaha'ia Sunday

A Special Offering on February 21

We will honor the memory of the first known Hawaiian to convert to Christianity and who was instrumental in bringing the first Christian missionaries to Hawai'i. A special offering will be collected on Sunday, February 15, to provide educational scholarships for current and prospective pastors. The fund is administered by the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Ash Wednesday

Soup Supper & Worship Service on February 10

We will begin the evening with a Soup Supper at 6 p.m. in Moore Hall and then move into the sanctuary at 7 o'clock for the service of the ashes. This is an especially meaningful service as we remember and celebrate God's loving presence and our hope through our faith in Jesus Christ, even as we are reminded of our mortality.

Lenten Soup Suppers & Reflections

Wednesdays in Lent

From February 17 through March 16, we will spend Wednesday evenings enjoying a soup supper at 6 p.m. and then a time of reflection afterwards in Moore Hall. We will be focusing on Diana Butler Bass' book, *Grounded: Finding God in the World, A Spiritual Revolution*, as our guide on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Please sign up to bring soup if you are able.

Website Updates

www.koloaunionchurch.org

Did you know that our website gets updated every week? Did you know that Kahu Alan posts a weekly devotional message? Did you know that important announcements get posted?

Kauai Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Recently Kahu Alan invited us all to experience an inspiring event hosted by the Interfaith Roundtable of Kauai January 18. Many diverse religions were represented that day. A Muslim, Ishaq Mohammed, then an Episcopal Bishop, William Swing, were presenters.

Their message was as clear as a bell, but too many people in this world have become deafened to its call. We were reminded that Dr. King’s words are just as urgent today as they were when he said, “I have a dream: that one day people will be judged, not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

What has the world come to, when we see someone different from us and react with fear because we *don't* know them, instead of with peace because we *do*? Has each of us honestly tried to get to know people of other races or religions, so that we can see them as friends, not foes?

Do we really understand that we can stand UP for our own beliefs without putting DOWN someone else’s? Does the following anonymous quote speak to you? “The validity of your religion should not depend on the invalidity of anyone else’s.” Surely that thought could resonate with tolerant, accepting people.

As Bishop Swing proposed, what if all religions signed a non-violence pact that they would not kidnap, rape, torture or murder people of other religions? What a concept.

Peace in the world begins in each person’s heart, and it is time for each of us to decide that peace requires truly seeing each other as brothers and sisters who can share this earth despite our differences...as brothers and sisters who can use differences to build bridges, not walls. It is time for a sea change in our collective attitudes toward fellow human beings who are not like us. It is time for the tide to turn from fear to peace...may it be so.

Carole Pugsley



Fifty-five of us gathered from 10 Kauai Association UCC churches to welcome **Rev. Richard Kamanu** as our new Associate Conference Minister. There were lots of hugs, great food, great time to *wala'au*.



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.

Wanted to thank the **Sakimaes** for finishing up our Advent candle lighting. Thank you **Rosemary & Dollie** for the Advent wreath and its weekly maintenance. Am sure **Sharon** was happy to have **Shana** home for a holiday visit! Attendance to our *Christmas Eve & Christmas Day* services broke all records!! Was so nice having our "kids" home: **Braxton, Quincee, Qyla, Logan, Krystina, Kelsey, Spencer, Garrett, Sarah** and family. Sorry, am certain I forgot someone or two. Was fun having **Belinda** here for her annual visit! **Kim Sueoka** gifted us with her melodious voice and with the

afternoon to enjoy an 'ice cream party!' We have distributed the 2016 offering envelopes. If you did not get a set and would like one, please ask **Penny**. Our refurbished bell has been installed in our new arbor. **JoAnne** was



help of mom (**Jan**) & sis (**Stacey**) added some background music on glasses. Drum roll please...we had the "unveiling" (thanks, **Kaylee & Doug**) of our new, breathtakingly stunning koa pulpit. It is a piece of art! Had our annual "church at the beach" at beautiful Poipu. Broke another record of attendance—85!!!



the first to ring it! **Kaylee** 2nd! Such a cute picture of former member, **Donna Breazeale!** Spunky as always. I saw this double rain-



bow from the Kilauea Lighthouse! **Dan & James:** What project shall we tackle next? We are enjoying our new sound system. **Peter & Linda Baldwin** are thrilled to welcome grandchild #8!! Little Miss **Skye**.



Our hardworking *deacons* had a very productive retreat. They planned for the coming year and confirmed that they are moving forward in their vision and mission. **Kelsey** wrote a movie! She will be filming it here on



Kauai in March!!! Remember—she was on the *Red Carpet* last year at Cannes!



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The youth gathered at the parsonage on a Sunday



Dan and James assembling the arbor





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
kucpenny@gmail.com

Fay Bartels, Director of Music
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Newsletter - February 2016

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