

“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World”

1020 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 ♦ Volume LXIII ♦ Issue 52 ♦ May 2017



PASTOR'S PAGE

So much to do and so much to say. As we prepare for a transition of pastors, there's just so much to do...visiting with members, tying up loose ends, preparing for worship, cleaning up my files and office. And through it all, I am very grateful for all I have learned from you and for all we have accomplished together. I truly believe God is faithful.

In the month of May, my last sermon series with you will be "What I've Always Wanted to Say."

May 14—About Prayer

May 21—About Repentance

May 28—About Unity

Looking forward to seeing you and preparing for God's bright future wherever it leads us!

Amy

Church Council/Charge Conference/Tongan Cultural Committee

On Tuesday, May 30, the Church Council and Tongan Cultural Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Maile Room. In addition to the regular meeting, we will be having a mini charge conference to approve the new pastor's salary package. We will also be reviewing the first draft of our Visioning Report and Plan. For more information, please see Pastor Linita.

Ohio Trip Report

This article is based on the trip that 7 members took to Dayton, Ohio. It was an amazing journey and I am very thankful for the opportunity to be part of a wonderful trip. The conference theme was based on "ROOTED", how to grow and restore an individual church when they are

almost dying.

The seminars that I attended were on Tuesday and Wednesday. I learned that Pastor Mike Slaughter has lead the Ginghamburg UMC, a mega church located in Ohio, for more than 30 years and has a growing membership. There are many branches that affiliate with Ginghamburg UMC which helps their own memberships grow. I was impressed that a lot of churches that only started with just 5 or 6 members now have more than 1,000 members. Ginghamburg UMC also operates a preschool. We also visited the Medway Church where the pastor shared his message on how he leads his church and how he brings people to church. His mission is to encourage the members to feast on the words of Jesus and to increase their faith in His teachings. Since 2010, Medway church has served many families (6,290) through food pantry and clothes closet. In the last 13 years, they have had 508 new member baptisms. His ideology is that we exist to BUILD deep-rooted followers of Jesus Christ. We also visited a New Hope church. They had the same concerns with their membership. Their pastor helped to rebuild the membership. He walked around the neighborhood and invited them to church. He also handed out bags to the people he visited.

I have gained much knowledge through this conference experience. I know we all had a great and fun time. Thank you so much for the sponsorship (Dottie McNeil Fund) and to the church for allowing me and the rest of our members to participate in this vital conference.



- Kepueli Tupou

Appointment News!

Congratulations to Rev. Freda Baliao who has been appointed to West Kauai UMC. Pastor Freda is a retired pastor from the Philippines and she and her family have been worshipping with us for several months. We will miss you but all our prayers and joy go with you.



Thank You...

- Pita Vi & Matakaiongo for replacing the ceiling tiles on the 2nd floor office, hallway and Foodbank, and repairing the broken tables
- Vuni Li for donating custodial supplies
- To the volunteers at Pancakes & Praise breakfast services.
- Altar Flowers: A gift from Constance Deming and Tom & Lucy Low
- Aloha Refreshments: Fijian Fellowship and Ikata'ane & Sue Veikoso.

In Our Prayers

Our shut-ins: Momi Schneider,



Shigeko Yamaguchi, Ruth Kiehm, Evelyn Shon, Alice Johnson

Those with continuing concerns:

Ma`u Ikahihifo, `Aunofo Koloamangi, Wilma Wilson, Jo Toxvard &

son, Ann Bystrom, Ben Timmerman, Peni Tau`alupe, Fa`aui Taumoepenu, Jeff Thomas, Soni Loholoho, Paini's brother Kaiongo, 'Eikilau Veikoso, Finau Lolohea, Johann Leverenz,

Those receiving treatment for cancer:

Valerie Leverenz, Roman's sister-in-law Amanda, Justin Wong, Kesa Finau, `Anapela Cocker

Our hearts and prayers are with:

- Temaleti Mafileo, health concerns
- Baby Ember Lolohea, recovering from surgery
- Fuia Ika, health concerns
- Finau Lolohea, rehabilitation
- Beverly Aiwohi and family for the loss of her father.
- The family and friends of David Walter for

their great loss

- The family of Buster Scott for their great loss
- Shriner's patients from Tonga: Teu Katoa, 'Isileli Vea, Fala Kaitu'u, Sione Havea, Lisia Havea, Viliami Havea, and from Fiji: Luisa, Adrian, Seramaia, Ropate, Tirisa, Taniela, and Saula.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Every first Sunday, we are making available clothing, slippers, shoes, and toiletries for our friends at Pancakes and Praise. If you have any donations, please drop them off at the church office for P&P!

Building Committee Report Sanctuary Renovation

Our current status on the renovation work is as follows:

- Asbestos abatement has been completed and cleared through the Dept. of Health.
- Re-roofing of the Sanctuary is complete.
- Initial removal of "spalled concrete" has been completed to minimize/eliminate the danger of falling debris. A sealant was applied to prevent further damage.
- A "Request for Proposal" has been sent to three Electrical contractors for "preliminary pricing" on the work as defined in the documents. A "walk-thru" was conducted on April 13th, explaining to the potential bidders what was expected for the "initial" pricing so that the Committee could make a proper assessment of the bids that comes in from the contractors-everyone is bidding on the same thing. Earlier bids had come in too expensive or too vague, so we started over with new contractors.
- The shoring required for the temporary support of the overhead truss systems has been designed. The layout of the shoring is the best we can get that will provide the structural support needed, as determined by our structural engineers.
- The one setback that we now have is that the Committee has decided to not use the previously selected spall contractor for the investigative demolition/repair work on a column to determine the extent of the work.

Our Construction Manager has been in contact with other "Spall Repair" contractors, had a "pre-bid walk-thru" April 25, and will provide more information to those contractors, in conjunction with the engineers and architect, for a method on providing bids for the work.

•We still have a lot of work ahead of us and some inconvenience as well, but will continue to look after the best interest of the congregation and the practical use of our facilities during this renovation process.

Tom Low

Chair-Building Committee

Reminder: Farewell Party for Pastor Amy

As you all know, we are having our "Farewell Party" for Pastor Amy on June 3rd, from 2 pm—6 p.m., and it is fast approaching! I am calling a meeting for all members of SPRC, on Thursday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. Along with SPRC members, I am inviting leaders from each group: Tongans, Fijians, Pancake and Praise group, Youth & Young Adult leaders, Sprouts Sunday school, Fijian Fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 522-9555, Pastor Linita 782-2753, SPRC co-chairs Judy Olson (309) 255-8412 and 'Ungatea Vehikite @ 469-7055. See you all Thursday!

Pastor Linita.

Fijian Missionaries



Rev. Dr. Jerusha and Rev. Wes Neal and their family will be joining us in worship on Sunday, June 4 at the 10 am joint worship service. They are returning to the US and "retiring" from mission work. They will

give us an update on their ministry and future. Let's welcome them with open arms and loving hearts!

Immigrant Welcoming Congregations Gathering and Training

Saturday, May 20, 2017

9:00AM—2:00PM

Nuuanu YMCA

**1441 Pali Hwy, 2nd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813**

**Parking at Harris UMC
20 S. Vineyard Blvd.**

(Corner of Nuuanu and Vineyard)

\$10 Donation includes lunch

(please indicate if vegetarian)

Register by May 13 at the link below

<https://may20immigrantwelcoming.eventbrite.com>

- Sponsored by Hawai'i District UMC
- Faith Action for Community Equity
- Harris United Methodist Church

For all churches engaged or interested in ministries with the immigrant community!

Please send a delegation of 3 to 5 persons from your church to join in a day of learning, strategizing, mutual sharing, and spiritual support as we seek to live out the Biblical call to welcome the sojourner and to be the church with and for our immigrant and refugee sisters and brothers. Workshops include:

- Church-based welcome centers
- Cal-Pac Neighborhood Immigration
- Clinics
- Legal issues
- Developing a rapid response network
- Ways of providing sanctuary
- The Matthew 25 Movement
- Legislative Action
- Building multi-ethnic church
- Partnerships
- Biblical and theological foundation

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Newsletter editor: Sandra Mactagone

Church Leaders & Staff

Resident Bishop:

Bishop Grant Hagiya

District Superintendent:

Rev. Dr. Se Hee Han

Co-pastors:

Rev. Amy C. Wake

Rev. Dr. Linita 'U. Moe

Church Secretary/Office Mgr.

Paini Harris

Choir Directors:

Tupou Seini Kelemen, Fololiena Maka

Pianist:

Mia Lin

Custodians:

Heamasi Koli, Pat Sheppard.



**Everyone is invited to share our
Appreciation with Pastor Amy
for 13 years of ministry
at First UMC!**

**☐ Saturday June 3rd
First UMC
2 p.m. — 6 p.m.**