

The Beacon

The Newsletter of the Waialua United Church of Christ
67-174 Farrington Highway Waialua, Hawaii
PO Box 663, Waialua, HI 96791
April 2019, Vol 2



Message from our Pastor

Dear Members and Friends,

Traditionally during Lent, we often hear people greet each other by asking: "so what are you giving up?" The practice to those unfamiliar with our faith may sound more like a self-improvement program. We focus on the bad things we need to forgo in our lives only to pick them up again once the season is over. But the focus is not on us. We lost sight of the fact that the Lenten practices are to draw us closer to God and help us find joy in this season leading up to Easter Sunday. Joy? You may have thought Lent was meant to be serious, especially after smearing ashes on your forehead on Ash Wednesday, then hearing the words, "Remember you are dust, and dust you shall return." Sounds like serious business.

We can, however, find joy in this season of Lent. To that purpose, a group of twelve dedicated church members has been engaged in a Lenten Bible study using Max O. Vincent's book, "Because of This I Rejoice." It is based on the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians. This letter contains the word joy more times than any other letter of Paul's. We read

and meditate on Paul's devotional practice of finding the joy in prayer, witnessing, humility, hospitality, asceticism, and giving.

For Paul, it is all about Jesus' life, death on the cross, and the resurrection. Living during Jesus' time, the cross would be synonymous with torture and cruel punishment. What was once a symbol of shame the cross is now a symbol of Christian joy. As this Lenten season draws close to an end, we can look towards Easter as our ultimate source of hope and joy.

Join us for Holy Week to celebrate in word and song how Jesus still changes our lives today.

- Palm Sunday: April 14th, 10:30 a.m.
- Good Friday: April 19th, 6:30 p.m.
- Easter Sunday: April 21st,
 - Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m.
 - Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
 - Regular Service, 10:30 a.m.

Blessings in the Name of Our Risen Savior,

Pastor Scott

Scott M. Furukawa, Pastor



Evelyn Miyata, Pastor Scott Furukawa, and Hanako Takahashi visits Miriam Sakumoto



Who once were youth reunite on stage during offertory: Michelle Sagaysay, Imelda Baguio, Florence Tamane, Carol Pactol, Tony Agsalda, Romelia Calaro, Marvin Pactol, and Jason Agsalda

SCRIPTURE OF THE QUARTER

Philippians 1:4. "Constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you."



The Van Drei family played the roles of the Holy Family in the Christmas Play in December of 1989. Photo taken by David Lee.

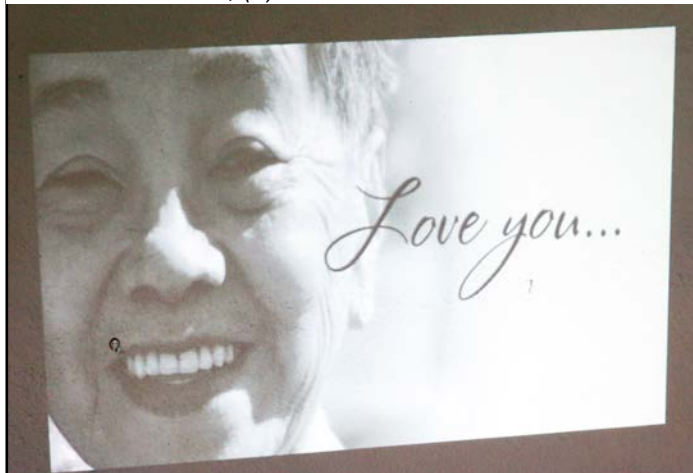
For **Larry Van Drei**, memories of WUCC started in 1982 when Waialua librarian **Angie Lee** invited him to attend church on Puuiki in Mill Camp. He followed up and by 1984 became a church member. He became involved when **Herschel Chenoweth** appointed him to be on the Property and Grounds Committee and asked him to help with the huli huli chicken sale. **Joshua Lee** put in a good word for him at the sugar mill, and he was hired by **Bill Paty** to be a machinist at WACO.

In 1987, Larry met and married **Mercy** who was from the Philippines, and they started a family. Oldest son **Joshua** was born on November 12, 1989. And at about six weeks old played the role of baby Jesus with Larry and Mercy as Joseph and Mary in the traditional Christmas Program. Larry remembers that Joshua slept through the whole thing! **David Lee** snapped a picture of the "holy family" and gifted it to them. That was the first holiday program in our present sanctuary because we had just moved from Puuiki Street into our brand new, current church on Farrington Highway.

Sons **Caleb** and **Joseph** rounded out the Van Drei family and all three boys took part in WUCC Sunday School and Daily Vacation Bible School as they were growing up. Over his 35-year membership of WUCC, Larry has been serious about serving God and the church. He has been a willing volunteer and helped on various committees such as Christian Education and Pastoral Relations. Recently he told Deacons Chair Cil Andres that he would help with a current program of visitation of church members. Thanks Larry, for all your years of good service. He is now retired from the US Post Office.



(1) Special Song by Aaron & Jaron Banes; (2) Hula by Aolana Banes; (3) Gloria Banes - from slide show



(4) Special Song by Lisa Banes accompanied by the Cantata and congregation; (5) Piano Tribute by Kaimana Banes; (6) Pianist: Eileen Hirota

Living Treasures of Waialua United Church of Christ Coordinated by Cecilia Andres



Youth Group by Dale Andres

As the holidays came to an end, the WUCC youth group looked forward to the new year 2019 to serve the church and grow in the Lord. The year started with the youth meeting to plan the years' activities. Each youth was given a new calendar to fill in with their school and personal activities to accommodate the future youth activities and meetings. With these calendars, time management and commitments will become an easier task as our youth become better stewards of their time.

The youth extended their well wishes to Peter and Marlina Tibbetts at the end of January as they left their Waialua ohana to start their new life chapter in Kansas and be closer to Marlina's family in nearby Missouri. With their absence, elections were held to elect new youth officers. The new slate of officers is Ian Tamane, President; Haley Pactol, Vice-President; Hope Rosenbush, Recording Secretary; Mira Olivas, Corresponding Secretary; and Elizabeth Ramones, Treasurer. We pray for God's strength and guidance upon them in their new leadership roles.

One of the activities planned for the near future is a Youth Event in April with the Pearl City Community Church youth. The event will be held at our church on a Saturday with youth participating in praise and worship, games, fellowship and sharing lunch.

Hopefully this will lead to more fellowships with other local church youth.

Another future activity is a possible neighbor island trip to build relationships with each other and the Lord and to fellowship with neighbor island youth. Fundraisers will be held throughout the coming months, so keep an eye out for these events and we thank the congregation in advance for their support.

We also ask for prayers as we look forward to the anticipated high school graduations of three of our youth members, Angel Calaro, Haley Pactol and Ian Tamane. By the next printing of the Beacon, they will have graduated from Waialua and Mililani High School respectively. Senior year can be a stressful and exciting time as they attempt to meet school deadlines and anticipate their futures after graduation. It is comforting to know, as in Jeremiah 29:11, that the Lord has promised plans for them that will give them hope and a future.

The youth had their first Youth Sunday of the year with Elizabeth Ramones sharing her testimony. Many activities to look forward to as the youth celebrate with friends and the church family, and the resurrection of our Lord and the true meaning of Easter!

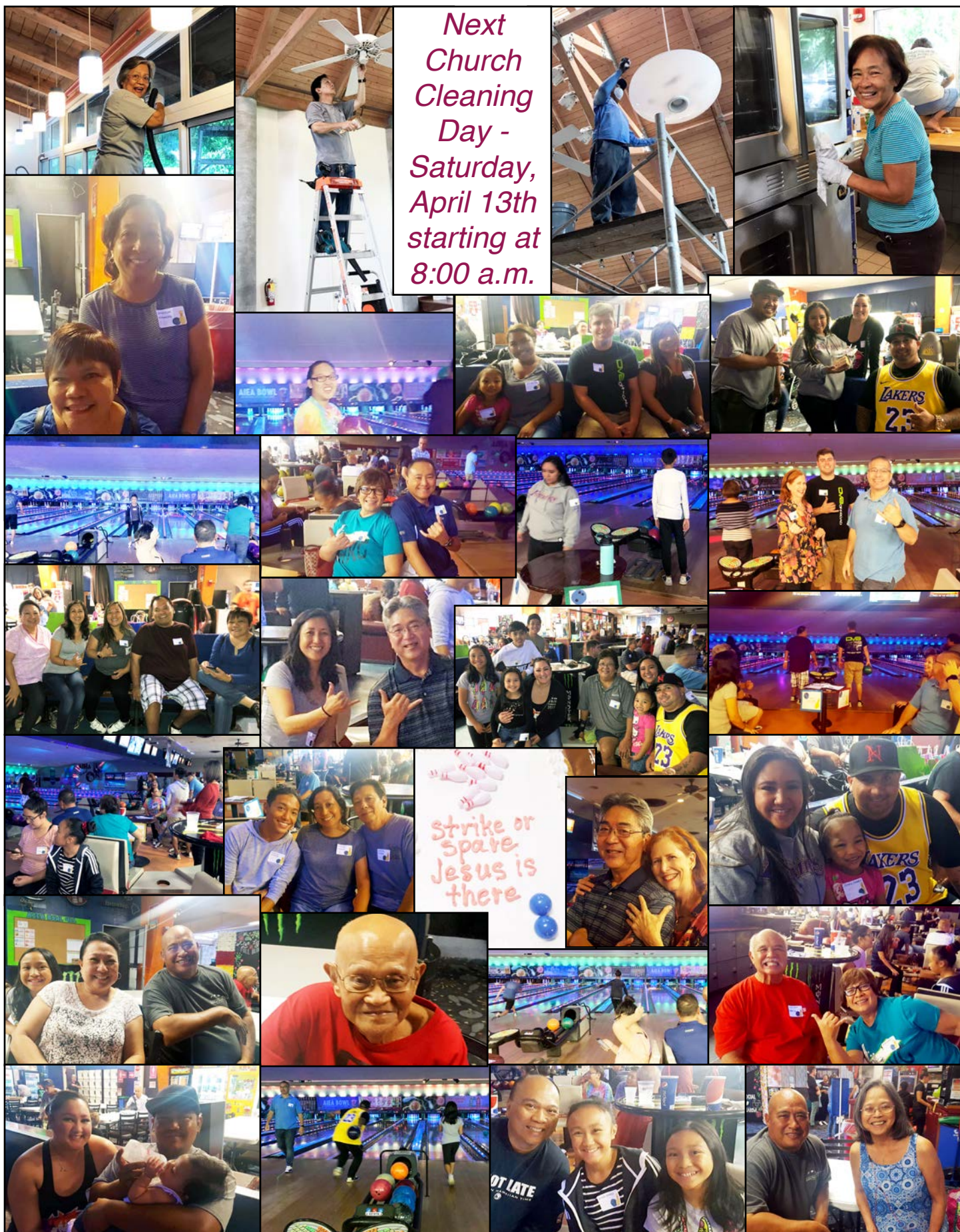


Youth Sunday: (1) Faith C. leads children's moment; (2) Elizabeth R. shares her testimony "A Confused Journey"; (3) Hope & Kai R. collects offering



Youth Sunday: (4) Altar Candles: Kai R. and Ryley A.; (5) Prelude: Faith C.; (6) Guitar: Dale A. and Ukulele: Ian T.; (7) Key Speakers: Xyan L., Erika B., Elizabeth R., and Logan P.; (8) Youth Praise Team: Mira O., Erika B., Faith C., Xyan L., Logan P., Elizabeth R., and Haley P.

Not only do we work hard to keep GOD's HOUSE clean, we make time for some FUN!





Can't believe it is already April! Sunday school has been running smoothly thanks to all the teachers who have graciously volunteered to teach our children. I can't thank you enough for your selflessness in encouraging and guiding our children to learn more about God and to build a relationship with Him. I am forever grateful to the Sunday school teachers that I had, and I always reminisce to the Sunday mornings that we shared. Some of my favorite childhood memories were during DVBS and Sunday School. They have made a lasting impression on my life and I hope that we can do the same to the children we have now. If you are not a teacher (yet) and feel that God has placed it on your heart to teach, please feel free to contact me in church or email me at Chrislyn_a@yahoo.com.

Currently we are in a transition of finding a more suitable curriculum that we believe our children will enjoy and benefit from. I will keep you all posted on our progress. Hopefully we will confirm one soon!

Upcoming events include our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday (April 21) at 9:00 a.m. Feel free to invite friends, cousins, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren to enjoy in the festivities. If you would like to, we are accepting donations of plastic eggs. Please fill them with candy or something small if you are able to. We look forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date:

Palm Sunday - April 14th, please have your child at church by 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday - April 21st, please have your child at church by 9:00 a.m.

Vacation Bible School (camping) - August 16th - 18th



Spring is here, but in a reverse of our usually hot and humid days, it has been downright chilly. One evening the temperature dipped down to under 60 degrees and in upper Wahiawa it was down to 48! That's the reason you can spot chimneys on some houses there. A warm fireplace would have felt good. Members found various solutions to the weather with lots of different wraps. **Caridad Antonio** had a nice blue crochet sweater. Of course, mainlanders think we are crazy to call that cold when the temperatures there reached an arctic freeze of 40 degrees below zero! Two of our members braved a change of climate as **Peter and Marlina (Registe) Tibbetts** headed to Kansas where he was deployed by the Army with a promotion. Mom **Mely** came back to help pack up the newly weds....Also headed briefly to the mainland Las Vegas way were **Mits and Lurline Matsumoto** so he could watch the super bowl with daughter **Jodie's** husband **Kit Matsuura**. Pastor Scott, if you are keeping track of church relationships, Kit's mother **Jeannette** is **Evelyn** Miyata's sister....How special it was to be honored with a lei and a plaque handed out by the children and youth for being one of the several "living treasures" of WUCC members during a recent service....There is news to report about them....I give **John Mina** credit for taking the HandiVan to and from church from his Wahiawa home. It is a great service provided by the City and County of Honolulu for the elderly and disabled....That is how my daughter **Jenny Lee** goes to her preschool job and shopping....A belated thank you to **Regina Bonilla** for so generously providing lunch for Thanksgiving Sunday in memory of her husband **Alejandro**....**Miriam Sakumoto** was in Queens Hospital a few days but is now settled in a comfortable care home. **Evelyn Miyata, Hanako Takahashi** and I visited her after BSF. **Pastor Scott** also called on her....**Helen and Bob Kumasaka** proudly told me that they have 5 great grandchildren thanks to daughter Barbie's girls....On the other end of the age scale, **Alan and Melissa Garcia's** young **Chace** is a roving ambassador to family members in the pews and usually ends up on the lap of Aunty **Michelle Sagaysay** or **Vanessa**

Rosenbush....Prayers go out to **Julie Pedro's Kissy Ann** in San Diego who spent time in the hospital there....The service for **Gloria Banes** was highlighted by a duet sung by two grandsons....We will miss her beautiful singing voice and graceful hula. Kudos to **Marie Galicinao** and the members of the Fellowship Committee for assisting with the ono lunch offerings after the service.

Belated best wishes to **Sabrina and Mike Rivers** on their December wedding. It seems that we just celebrated her first birthday at Dots. Time flies!!Parents **Sevy and Nicky Tolentino** traveled to the Philippines to visit an Aunt who was turning 103. They had two trips because the aunt passed away and they had to return. What a long life she had....Deacon **Cil Andres** is organizing outreach visits to members who are in need of spiritual support. See her if you would like to volunteer....The yard ministry is going well, and volunteers on the Tuesday morning activity are always appreciated. **Hanako Takahashi** was a wounded warrior when a centipede bit right through her gardening gloves....Happy Easter to all!!



Mely Registe returns home to help her oldest daughter and her husband pack up.



Pastor Scott prays over Peter and Marlina Tibbetts as they move on to their next chapter in Kansas.



Renewing council members and new committee members take the stand at our annual congregational meeting.

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Mia Calaro, Administrative Assistant & Editor
 Rev. Scott Furukawa, Minister



The Beacon is published quarterly for members and friends of Waialua UCC.



Worship Leader

April

Apr 7 Pat Pedro
 Apr 14 Chad Ulep
 Apr 21 Sandra Sagaysay
 Apr 28 Virg Basilio

May

May 5 vacant
 May 12 Rosemary Basilio
 May 19 Lawrence Van Drei
 May 26 Brittney
 Pasion-Almeida

June

Jun 2 Jason Agsalda
 Jun 9 Youth
 Jun 16 Sandra Sagaysay
 Jun 23 Chrislyn Andres
 Jun 30 Marvin Pactol

Coming up...

Apr 7 (Sunday) • Lenten Bible Study at 9:00 a.m.
Apr 9 (every Tuesdays) • Yard Fellowship at 9:00 a.m.
Apr 13 (Saturday) • Church Clean Up Day at 8:00 a.m.
Apr 14 (Sunday) • Palm Sunday • Lenten Bible Study • Deacons Meeting
Apr 18 (Thursday) • Maundy Thursday (no service)
Apr 19 (Friday) • Good Friday Service at 6:30 p.m.
Apr 21 (Sunday) • Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. • Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. • Regular Service at 10:30 a.m.
Apr 27 (Saturday) • Youth Fellowship
Apr 28 (Sunday) • Council Meeting
May 12 (Sunday) • Mother's Day • Family Thank Offering • Potluck
May 26 (Sunday) • Christian Education Meeting
May 27 (Monday) • Memorial Day (closed)
Jun 9 (Sunday) • Graduate Sunday • Strengthen the Church Offering
Jun 16 (Sunday) • Father's Day & Potluck
Jun 30 (Sunday) • Youth Sunday

Altar Flowers

April

Apr 7 Florida Subia
 Apr 14 Jill Morita
 Apr 21 Art Valbuena
 Apr 28 Raymond Sabugo

May

May 5 Tammy Fisher
 May 12 Shane Bachiller (B)
 May 19 Linda Pasoguen
 May 26 vacant

June

Jun 2 Regina Bonilla
 Jun 9 Ross & Florence
 Tamane (A)
 Jun 16 Juni Calaro
 Jun 23 Yolanda Jamora
 Jun 30 Romelia Calaro