# The Beacon

The Newsletter of the Waialua United Church of Christ 67-174 Farrington Highway Waialua, Hawaii PO Box 663, Waialua, HI 96791 October 2019, Vol 4





## Message from our Pastor

Dear Members and Friends,

George Carlin, the comedian, said once, "I was thinking about how people seem to read the bible a lot more as they get older, and then it dawned on me — they're cramming

for their final exam."

Speaking as a person with some "mileage on my tires," I'm not convinced that life is about studying for a heavenly exam. I will say, however, that life comes at you fast, perhaps, too fast. How did my hair get so gray so fast? When did that wrinkle form on the brow? Don't laugh. If you're not there yet, you will be soon.

Have you been to Costco recently? They already have Christmas decorations displayed and you complain: "Wait! It's not even Halloween yet for crying out loud! Can we slow life down?"

Welcome to the world of aging.

Many of us were shocked to learn of the news that Mrs. Doric Little had passed away. A private memorial service was recently held at our church. Doric is a wonderful person, gifted educator, published author, who loves her family, the church, and God. Listening to the ten speakers at her memorial service — that's right, ten —I couldn't help but reflect not only on the depth and breath of her relationships, but also the profound effect she had on them.

As a dedicated educator, Doric loved to teach and help others. But more importantly, she learned and practiced the thing that matters most in life: First, love God with all your being and, secondly, love others as yourself. The ten people who offered their reflections of Doric understood this about her all too well.

Doric lived by the motto "Live, Laugh, and Love." Live life to the fullest, laugh often, and love fully and passionately. New York Times columnist David Brooks once wrote that there are two

kinds of virtues: resume virtues and eulogy virtues. Resume virtues are what you would list on a resume like your work experience, educational background, and skills you would bring to the next job. The eulogy virtues are those you want said at your funeral; he/she was brave, compassionate, loving, dependable, etc. "When in doubt, always choose the eulogy virtues," says Brooks.

Life comes at you fast. But no matter where you are in life, it's not too late to slow it down and develop eulogy virtues.

What matters is developing the deeper loving nature of your life, discovering the person you are at your innermost core, and nurturing important relationships within your orbit. As people of faith, we look to God to show us the way.

God is always showing us something new. If we open our hearts and minds, the Holy Spirit will reveal a new thing about ourselves we may not have been aware of. We can use what we learn and apply in our life. Sense God in our midst and the path we are being led to pursue. Together with the church, we can journey together and discover what new and wonderful opportunities God has in store for us.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Scott Furukawa

## SCRIPTURE OF THE QUARTER

#### Ecclesiastes 7:1-4

"A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth. It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart. Frustration is better than laughter, because a sad face is good for the heart. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of

fools is in the house of pleasure..."

## Deacon Committee by Cecilia Andres

Hard at work and committed to their role as "Servant Leaders", the members of the Deacon committee are kept busy assisting our pastor in various ways. There are home and hospital visits to be made to those who are hospitalized or in need of respite care. During times of grief when a beloved family member passes, the committee is tasked to assist the family in comforting and planning the funeral services. The "spiritual shepherding" of the Lord's flock can be very time consuming and overwhelming. Behind the scenes, the cross and candle holders are regularly polished and cleaned to the delight of all parishioners. These treasured symbols, which adorn the altar, remind us of God's light and love for us.

Polishing the cross is by no means considered to be glamorous work but it's a job that I personally enjoy doing. At the end of the work, my fingernails are blackened by the residue of the discoloration that is removed after using liberal amounts of soap and lots of scrubbing. As I polish the cross and candle holders, I think about how our lives can get filled with "black" stuff which cloud our view of God and keep us from realizing the blessed lives that we have in Christ; the "treasure" of Heaven that far outshines the most precious metals found. Our blurred vision of God can be easily removed through daily "polishing" and renewal of our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

In addition to preparing the various elements of worship, one of our other roles is to keep account of the offerings received for special collections. The Neighbors in Need offering will be collected in the month of October so please keep watch for the special collection envelope which is forthcoming. Other notable ministries are supported by these special offerings throughout the year.

Finally, among the myriad of other things we oversee, the Deacon committee is responsible for monitoring the church membership and weekly service attendance.

Each week since the beginning of the year, the morning worship service attendance has ranged from 70 to 160 attendees.

We consider it an honor to be able to serve God through our roles as Deacons at Waialua United Church of Christ. May God be blessed and glorified in all that we do.

1 Peter 5:2 & 4 - "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them-not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; ... And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away."



"For Good-ness Sake!" Sunday, July 7th Pastor George Scott



*"Where is the measuring stick?" Sunday, July 14th Rev. Tracy Barnowe* 





ck?" "Through Deep Waters" Sunday, July 21st Kahu Kona Mann

The family of Miriam Mieko Sakumoto wishes to express its deep gratitude for everyone's kind words of sympathy upon her passing. Mahalo for sharing your memories of Mom with us. Your donations have been added to the Miriam Mieko Sakumoto Memorial Fund at WUCC. We will always remember how you surrounded her with your love and caring. She loved and cared for you in turn and was so happy to have your friendship. Many thanks, Christine



Makayla Green was Baptized by Pastor Scott Furukawa on Sunday, September 29th.



## The Envelope Please ... by Laurie Oishi

Clean shorts, clean shirt, your best rubber slippers – time for church! And don't forget that offering envelope! "Why bother" you ask?

That offering envelope helps us to identify the giver even if the blanks on the front face aren't filled in (sometimes you just can't find a pen when you need it). The preprinted envelopes are numbered and each number is assigned to a person. This helps our finance team to properly credit any donation received. The envelope also gives you the opportunity to let us know if you'd like your donation to go to the General Fund or to the Building Fund.

What happens if you don't indicate any amounts for either fund? Donations with no designation are credited to the church's general fund.

Our General Fund covers budgeted expenses for day to day operations such as utilities, office supplies, paper goods, repairs, landscaping, tools and equipment, and payroll expenses. It also covers expenses associated with our church's programs and events such as materials and supplies for Vacation Bible School, our Sunday School curriculum, Easter Sunrise Service, Christmas Play, and supplies for cookie baking.

Donations made to the Building Fund are credited to a designated fund to be used for the renovation of the Sanctuary and Administration building. This capital project was put on hold a few years back as we went through our search for our new pastor, but the designated fund is there.

We've had questions from some of our members about how we can use the monies that are in the Building Fund, especially when we are faced with major repairs that must be made to our aging buildings and equipment on the property. A few years back we were faced with having to replace the roofing on our older buildings. Over the years, we were able to maintain the roof by replacing broken or blown away shingles but we got to the point that we needed to replace the entire roof. As the Finance Committee and Church Council worked to find the funds to replace the roof, someone suggested we just use the Building Fund monies. After all, it's for our buildings. Sounds logical - but the Building Fund is a designated fund, and that means that the fund was established to collect donations for a specific purpose. In this case, for the beautification/renovation of our older buildings.

Compare this, if you will, to someone who is planning on buying a home. To buy a home, they'll need to come up with the money to pay for it or at least a down payment. They checked the hidden pocket in their wallets and under the sofa cushions – not enough to pay for a house. Guess they need to save up for that down payment. They still have day-to-day expenses to pay, such as rent, utilities, groceries, entertainment, etc., but now they start to set aside money for their down payment. This is a designated fund...they have a goal in mind and they're working toward making it a reality – it's going toward putting a down payment on their own home.

The Building Fund is for a capital project – something that will be defined and has a beginning and an end. Not all of the designated funds are for a capital project; however, they are earmarked to be used for a specific purpose and usually at the request of the donor(s). But – we'll save that discussion for another time.

By the way...the renovation project has been reinstated by the Church Council and we are looking for people to be a part of the Renovation Team, so we can get the project back on track – any takers?

## 2019 7th Annual Sherwin Gervacio Golf Tourney by Jason Agsalda

This year's tourney was again held at Moanalua Golf Club on July 21st and was another success. We had about 60-100 golfers and volunteers that engaged in this year's event in beautiful golf weather. The fundraiser raised over \$5,000 to be given to deserving church members that are looking to further their post-secondary education. We had a lot of prizes including TVs, speaker boxes, golf gear, as well as gift cards. On behalf of the tourney committee, we would like to give

special thanks to all our donors:

#### **Prize Donations**

Golf Equipment (Elmer Baysa) Plan B Shirts (Jesse Masuda) Waialua HS Shirts (Virg Basilio) Brown Bottles Water and Juice

TnC Surf (Ryan Sugihara) Hydroflasks and gear Uncle Bo's Gift cards Young's Market (Wayne Agsalda) Beer and Wine Aoki's Shave Ice (Cathy Aoki) Gift cards Beet Box Gift cards Ross Tamane CASH

Oliver Oliquiano Golf Lessons



#### Sponsors

Eagle Nan Inc. (Emerson Garcia)

Eagle Domingo Galicinao Eagle Sparky and Sons LLC. (Jerry Giles) Eagle NS Air Conditioning (Kay Kamiyama) Eagle Elmer Baysa MD



Eagle Reality Construction Inc. (Chris Ramones)

We would also like to thank the church members and friends who came out to help with supporting our bake sale, donating snacks and drinks, setting up the tourney, registering players, giving out snacks and just being there to support the cause. Without you folks this tourney would not be a success. Next year, we plan to run it again at the same venue in mid-July. So please take note of that and mark your calendars. We are always looking for more donations, sponsorships, players and volunteers to help out.

I'm sure Sherwin is looking down at us and just happy to see that we are helping people with their education costs. We are proud to continue this tradition and hope to raise more funds in the future! Praise be to God and his blessings on another great event!

## I Am An Overcomer by Haley Pactol



Good Morning. If you don't know already, my name is Haley Pactol. I volunteered to speak today about how God has helped me in my life. At first, I wasn't sure what I wanted to talk about, but obviously I found

something to speak about because I'm up here talking to you.

As I was thinking of a topic to speak about, I remembered the movie "Overcomer" that the Youth Group went to watch a few weeks back. I'm gonna try my best not to spoil it, but the movie was generally about a High school basketball coach who faces an uncertain future with their high school basketball program when a local manufacturing company shuts down leading to hundreds without jobs, and thus families in the community, as well as students and players on the basketball team, move away to find work. So he is then entrusted to coach for the cross country team, a sport he doesn't like. However, his outlook changes when he meets the only runner on the team who, surprisingly, has asthma. The rest of the movie follows along the runner's sporting and spiritual journey of "overcoming" all of life's struggles. (Thank you Google for helping me find a summary that wouldn't let me spoil the movie).

After watching the movie, I was inspired and was honestly touched by the moral of the movie. And that is quite surprising coming from me because movies don't usually make me emotional, but I believe that I ended up feeling that way because I could relate to that movie. My struggles may not have been the same as in the movie, but the concept of overcoming many of life's challenges is what I related to the most.

For me, the source of my struggles all came from a place that we can all never run away from. The mind. I'm no psychologist, but all I can say is that trying to escape from being trapped in one's mind is very difficult.

I've been dealing with severe depression, anxiety, and stress for six years now, it wasn't till two years ago that I decided to seek professional help. However, before seeking help, I was dealing with all these emotions on my own. I was so caught up with trying my hardest to cope with my emotions that I steered further away from God's guidance. I was so focused on trying to help myself, even though I knew that I couldn't handle these emotions on my own, that I never thought of going to God for help (or anyone else for that matter, not my parents, friends, or relatives). I thought that if I just shoved down all my emotions and kept them to myself, then everything would turn out okay. I was wrong. It didn't turn out "okay". What I didn't know was that it would turn into a bad habit that would stick with me for a long time.

So I shut myself off and kept quiet for a long time. I was suffering so much and felt so alone that I started to question God. I questioned why He made me the way I am? Why did He make me have to live life with my mind a mess? Why was I given these emotions? Then I started to degrade myself. I started to blame myself for being the way I am. For having depression, for having anxiety and all things that made me feel less happy about life. I was miserable and believed there was no hope for me.

However, even when I questioned God, I still prayed and prayed hoping that God would answer or give me a sign. I was in pain and felt that I wasn't ready to live on, so my faith in God was growing weaker and weaker until I had enough with my pain and suffering. I started to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and I was able to bring myself out of the darkness. I reached out to others, my family and friends, I am now able to see a therapist and get the professional help I needed.

Only now do I see that God works in mysterious ways and doesn't always give you a sign or an answer, but he guides you to where you need to be. Just like how he guided me to finding a brighter side of life. I may still suffer from these struggles to this day, but now I feel stronger than I ever felt before.

There's a scripture that has stuck with me for these past six years, that scripture is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Now at this point of my life, I can look back and see all that I have accomplished and how far I've come with the help of God's guidance. I've faced many obstacles in my life, multiple mental blocks, and with many more to come in my future. But I know I can tackle any of life's challenges with the help of God for he made me an overcomer.



## Youth Group by Dale Andres

The lazy days of summer offers many of us time to kick back and relax with friends and family. Between taking family vacations and going to the beach on family outings, our youth are always on the move. During July, the youth celebrated the high school graduations of Angel Calaro, Haley Pactol and Ian Tamane at various venues as they looked forward to transitioning into the next chapter of their lives. As the end of the school year came, the youth began preparations for the new school year in service as they participated in their second "Blessings In A Bag" project to provide school supplies to families with students in need. Through the efforts of Juni and Rayna Calaro, our youth were able to donate backpacks filled with new school supplies to several dozen families with students attending schools in the Waialua/Haleiwa community. Such a generous outpouring from many concerned individuals brought the biblical admonition of "doing it to the least of these" into life and blessed many.

July ended with two events as the youth supported the annual Sherwin Gervacio Scholarship Golf Tournament held at Moanalua Golf Course. Their efforts supplied food and refreshment to the many golfers who participated in this fun event to provide scholarships to our church's prospective college students. The other special event was a first as the youth celebrated "Parent Night" to honor their parents and their loving support in their lives. The evening started with a spaghetti dinner prepared by the youth under the supervision of master chef, Auntie Laurie Oishi. Songs, letters of encouragement and heart felt speeches of



appreciation and gratitude followed which truly made this evening one to treasure and be blessed by God. Looking forward to next year's event.

As the summer ended and students returned to school, we welcomed four new members into the youth group, Kacie Baguio, Taylor Calaro, Xyan Lum and Alana Sagaysay. Kacie, Alana and Xyan are in the sixth grade. Kacie is at Waialua Elementary and Alana attends Mid Pacific Institute. Xyan is home schooled. Taylor entered Waialua High & Intermediate as a seventh grader. We are excited to have them participating in the life of the church and seeing them grow in their Christian faith.

In mid-August, the youth brought their energy and enthusiasm to the annual Vacation Bible School held in the church social hall. Although the enrollment was low, the students thoroughly enjoyed the bible studies, arts and crafts, singing, snacks and play activities. The youth provided their leadership during the group meetings with their lively skits and singing. In early September, the youth watched the faith-based movie "Overcomer" at Mililani Theaters. Many were touched by the heartfelt message of finding your identity in Christ and overcoming adversity. The next day, the youth assisted with the children's games during Rally Sunday held at Tsue's Farm in Haleiwa. The recognition and honoring of our church Sunday School students and the teaching staff for their faithfulness and diligence in the church's Christian education program is always a special time for our church family. Thank you and God's blessings to all involved!

As September ended, the youth held their third Youth Sunday service. Once again, the youth brought their unique gifts and talents to bless and inspire the congregation. Elizabeth Ramones set the tone with her opening prelude of "Rescue". Highlighting the service was Kai Rosenbush leading the children's story with a discussion on fear leading into Haley Pactol's special message on being an overcomer. Erika Baguio's rendition of "You Say" with percussion accompaniment from Faith Calaro certainly touched hearts to complement the messages shared. Our youth will continue to seek our God of Refuge and share of His healing and overcoming ways!

We look forward to the many fall activities and holiday season blessings!



please take time to read each board in the foyer

<u>Committee Info Baords</u>

please sign up to volunteer for your favorite committee



## Pews News by Kathy Lee

Graduations are over and graduates are pursuing the next steps in their education. Haley Pactol is attending UH West Oahu and Ian Tamane is at UH Manoa... Angel Calaro is keeping her goal of becoming an accountant by planning to attend Leeward Community College starting in the spring semester. She gave a heartfelt talk in church expressing how she continues to look to her family and God for guidance about the baby she is expecting... Both Ramones girls are returning to college. Elisha is returning to Seattle Pacific University already a junior since she was credited with an AA Degree while still in high school. Elizabeth continues at UH Manoa and is also a junior... Cassidy Hernandez-Tamayo is in her last year in Washington as she finishes a degree in public health. We pray that eye surgery goes well for dad Daniel... Chrislyn Andres is finishing up a degree in Clinical Psychology at Chaminade... My granddaughter Makayla Green started 5th grade at Trinity in Wahiawa and succeeded at getting 100% on a test to name all the

books of the Bible.

Hanako Takahashi, Evelyn Miyata, Molly Young, and Kathy Lee are again attending Bible Study Fellowship at Mililani Baptist Church joined by Hanako's daughter Lynn... It was nice to see Mely and Dean Registe along with all their children here from Missouri. They came to celebrate Malia's high school graduation... Bob and Helen Kumasaka recently attended the wedding of their granddaughter Sarah, the daughter of son Neal. It was at the beautiful Aulani Disney resort... A summer trip to Vancouver by Pastor Scott Furukawa and wife Christy was so that he could serve as chaplain at a seminary They also visited daughter Clare in reunion. southern California... Meg Paty Wolter was in church recently with her daughter and granddaughter... Julie Pedro is doing well after surgery at Queens Hospital... The services for Doric Little and Miriam Sakumoto were lovely with several inspiring testimonies by friends and caregivers.



## Kupuna Corner by Kathy Lee

Hanako Takahashi has been a faithful member of Waialua United Church of Christ since 1961 when the Pastor Rev. Tsutsui asked her to help with Sunday School. She had been attending Kalihi Union Church in town. She was born in 1931, the youngest in a large family. She has clear memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor when she was 10. She was a teacher at Haleiwa Elementary School for many years. She married Shin Takahashi in 1966 and daughter Lynn was born in 1967. Shin was a longtime Financial Secretary for WUCC and was known for keeping exact records by hand even if that meant adding in his own coins to keep the balance even. Hanako has always been a very active member of our church helping with several committees and serving as Head Deacon for several years. She was active in everything from the yearly huli-huli chicken fundraiser to the Harvest Festivals and the yard ministry. Hanako has a natural curiosity about fellow members tempered by genuine Christian concern. She is not shy about telling you that she turned 88 this year and can run circles around most younger members. She never asks of anyone a task that she isn't willing to take on herself. Hanako's membership is a reminder that our diversity of our church membership is the result of the merger of a Japanese and a Filipino Christian church in the mid 50s.

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67-174 Farrington Highway Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii

Dec 29 Youth Sunday

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



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



## Coming up...

#### Altar Flowers Worship Leader October I (every Tuesday) · Yard Fellowship at 9:00 a.m. October October 6 (Sunday) · Neighbors in Need offering · Christian Education Meeting (first Sundays) October Oct 6 John Mina October 13 (Sunday) · "Women of the Bible" Bible Study at 9:00 Jason Agsalda Oct 6 Oct 13 Virgilio Basilio a.m (six Sundays) · Deacons Meeting (second Sundays) Oct 13 Carol Pactol Oct 20 Juanita Andres (B) October 14 (Monday) · Holiday (church closed) Oct 20 Sandra Sagaysay Oct 27 Subia Family October 20 (third Sundays) · Council Meeting Oct 27 Tony Agsalda November November 9 - II (Saturday - Monday) · ECO Camp hosted by Hawaii Conference UCC Nov 3 vacant November November 10 (Sunday) · Stewardship Sunday Nov 10 vacant Nov 3 Pat Pedro Yolanda Jamora Nov 17 November II (Monday) · Holiday (church closed) Nov 10 Rosemary Basilio Nov 24 Jill Morita (B) November 24 (Sunday) · Thanksgiving Sunday · Advent Articles Nov 17 Lawrence Van Drei due Nov 24 Chad Ulep December November 28 (Thursday) · Holiday (church closed) Dec 1 vacant December 1, 8, 15, & 22 (Sundays) · Advent Sundays December Dec 8 Marvin Jr. & Carol December 7 & 14 (Saturdays) · Annual Cookie Baking Pat Pedro Dec 1 Pactol (A) December 22 (Sunday) · Christmas Fund Offering Dec 8 Youth Dec 15 vacant December 24 (Tuesday) · Christmas Eve Service Sandra Sagaysay Dec 15 Dec 22 Ramones Ohana December 25 (Wednesday) · Holiday (church closed) Dec 22 Marvin Pactol Jr.

Dec 29 Mike & Sabrina Rivers

December 31 (Tuesday) · New Year's Eve Service

Due

December 29 (Sunday) · Youth Sunday · The Beacon Articles