



THE MERCURY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Insert Sheet

March 2010 Meeting & Worship Calendar

De-Cluttering Day

Once again, we find ourselves full of things (notice I didn't say 'junk') which we no longer need. Saturday, March 20, 2010, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., will be your opportunity to bring these items to be given to those less fortunate. Remember—no furniture, computers, large appliances...or junk!

YES to gently used or new items: clothes, linens, toys, books, kitchenware, shoes, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact MH Sato, 955-3396.

95th Anniversary Update

This year is full of exciting events to celebrate our 95th Anniversary. Continue to check your magnet memento for upcoming events.

Our next event will be our golfing event, featuring a regulation 18-hole golf course, mini golf, bumper boats and batting cages. Save the date of April 24, 2010.

Reminder: If you have not sent in your photos to be scanned for the Pictorial Directory, please do so. **Deadline is February 28.**

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010

We'll be having a simple service of prayer, scripture, and meditation at 6:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. We encourage you to join us for this time of quiet reflection as we prepare to remember the gift God has given us through Jesus Christ.

[Final] MARKings...

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus,

On February 28, my life as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ will have come full circle. I will be retiring out of the ministry setting I first began thirty-two years ago: the local church.

In 1968, I was a third-year University of Hawaii student majoring in Economics when, in a period of anxious restlessness (I had several of them), I sensed God calling me to explore full-time Christian ministry as a vocation. Though I had a “hot and cold” relationship with the church that I attended the summer before my senior year in high school, I found the new Associate Pastor to be quite open and perceptive during the evening-questions and “complaining sessions” that I bombarded him with.

This was the tumultuous “1960s”... the Vietnam War, the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bobby Kennedy, the racial unrest, environmental pollution, etc. These events gave me much to be anxious about as I pondered my adult future. Like many of my generation, I was caught up in the idealism of social and political change. Even the Church was not spared from my pointed complaints about people and institutions that either “didn’t really care about the direction our society seemed to be going...or seemed to engage in actions that consistently fell short of being effective solutions to our problems.” My other “listening ear” and “reality check” during these days was a significant friend named Adrienne.

My pastor listened to my intellectual wonderings and observed my spiritual wanderings for several months. Then at one late-night session, he quietly asked me- *Phil, do you honestly believe that our God would also desire nothing better than to see the mess we’ve created in the world dealt with in ways that would bring about permanent solutions?* “Sure....” Before I could launch into another extended answer, he continued- *Do you honestly believe that if the Church really took Christ’s teachings and promises about relationships, truth-living, and justice seriously, the kind of radical change movement that you feel is needed in our world would come?* “Sure... but...”

And if God was actually calling you to prepare yourself now to be an active participant, even a leader in this ultimate change movement for the world, would you want to find out more details? My brain seemed to freeze at this point. My usual ability to turn queries from others into opportunities for my “soapbox speeches” was stymied. Then he made a totally unexpected statement ... one that was both outrageous and yet intriguing- *Your discovery of those details will best happen in seminary. “What?! Me become a minister? I don’t think so! I’m just not....” Attending seminary doesn’t mean you’re automatically going to become a pastor or missionary. The most important benefit of seminary is that it provides the appropriate space and time for you to examine your life as a whole. It’s an opportunity to explore honestly with mentors and peers whether God is calling you to participate with Him in leading His People and to live out the changes that will truly matter in our world!* I was speechless. “Maybe I’ll think about it,” I mumbled walking out the door. “Pray about it,” Adrienne would persistently suggest over the next several months.

I entered seminary in the fall of 1969. My pastor was right. Adrienne was right. God did confirm His call to me to prepare myself for pastoral ministry in Christ’s Church. I committed myself to help the Church become an authentic setting where personal transformation is experienced and where radical expressions of God’s love, grace and care, truth-living, justice, and hope are developed and shared in the world. (“...Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven,” is the authentic change that results). Adrienne and I were married the following year, and she continues to be my encourager, comforter and “reality check!”

Now I am retiring with three decades of full-time involvement in ministry with local churches, the most recent being this unique setting that is United Church of Christ-Judd Street. I can’t imagine a more appropriate congregation of God’s people and a more affirming place to culminate the outcome of my initial “Yes” to God’s call for my life!

With much aloha and gratitude,
Pastor Phil

From the Associate Pastor

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:4-7

These verses from Paul’s letter to the church at Philippi are my focus verses for this year, and I encourage you all to memorize them, meditate on them, and let them sink into your life.

The focus for this month: **“Let your gentleness be known to everyone.”**

How appropriate that this is our focus during the time when we are celebrating God’s faithfulness through the ministry of Pastor Phil Mark, as he prepares for a new chapter in his life. I’ve known Phil ever since I came to Hawaii over thirty years ago, and I can honestly say that Phil is one of the most gentle people I have been privileged to know. And his gentleness is infectious. God has used Phil to touch us all with a spirit which is deeply grounded in trusting God, no matter what! Thank you, Phil; thank you, God.

May our gentleness touch the lives of many.

Beginning March 1, I will begin serving as your Acting Senior Pastor. May God bless us on the continuing journey of faithful living.

Keep the light shining, and to God alone be the Glory!

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Don

HIM Conference

(Honolulu 2010 – “Let Your Light Shine”)

By Dawn Young, Worship Committee Chair

The Hawaiian Islands Ministries annual conference will be held at the Hawaii Convention Center, March 4–6, 2010 (Thursday evening through Saturday).

To support attendance at this very dynamic and inspirational conference, the Worship Committee has a small scholarship budget. If you are interested in a scholarship, please contact Dawn Young as soon as possible at 262-2611.

One Great Hour of Sharing

On March 14 we will be dedicating the annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. This offering, administered by UCC Wider Church Ministries, is the refugee, relief and development fund of the United Church of Christ.

It provides support to people in more than eighty countries, most recently those in earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

You are encouraged to give generously using the enclosed OGHS envelope. Checks should be made out to UCC–Judd Street, designated for OGHS. May God bless our gifts.

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Pali Preschool News

By Wendy Mow-Taira, Chair
Pali Preschool Committee

For those of you who have not noticed, there is a new paved courtyard in the area next to McKenzie Hall classrooms downstairs and the playground. The area, previously a mixture of grass and dirt (mostly dirt), has been transformed into a courtyard with pavers and a stone bench seating area around the tree. Next to the courtyard, the former rock garden has also been transformed into a beautiful garden with assorted anthuriums, ti leaves and other native plants.

The area was paved because it was creating problems with the dirt and water backing up during the rainy season. The new pavers will filter the water and prevent the muddy dirt from blocking our sewer system. It also extends the playground area for our Pali Preschool children.

Take a look, relax and appreciate the work that was done during the holiday season. Mahalo to Nancy Moore, Pali Preschool Director, for planning and implementing the pavers and newly planted garden.

Preschool children in the downstairs Parish Hall classrooms also appreciate the new retractable awnings that were recently installed. The awnings help to cool the rooms during the hot afternoons and also help to protect the sidewalk area during heavy showers. All these improvements help to create a better learning environment for our Pali Preschool children.



**JOURNEY TO
JERUSALEM 2010**
Challenge yourself – Change the
World

For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body. 1 Cor. 6:20

Are you feeling stronger and enjoying your increased activity? Are you feeling blessed by your weekly or more frequent devotions? Are you

learning more about the world around you? Are you praying (communicating with God) more regularly? These are all goals for our Journey to Jerusalem program as we challenge ourselves to strengthen our bodies and change the world through prayer, more attention to “living and loving green” and letting God’s light shine through us with contributions of non-perishables for local charities.

As we continue to cross the Pacific Ocean now moving toward Guam, we come into this period called LENT – the 40 days before Easter (Resurrection Day).

Some of us might want to consider fasting. “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting.....” (Mat. 6:16) Fasting does not mean doing away with all nourishment or suffering! Remember to let the light of Jesus shine forth. A “fast” is a way of lessening ourselves so that there is more room for God. We can do this by deciding to eliminate some foods or some activities (watching TV for instance). We can become “lighter” and move more easily on our journey.

Some of us will be participating in Lenten Lighthouse small groups. This is an excellent opportunity for deepening relationships as we study God’s Word and discuss how it relates to our daily decisions during our life journey.

Our congregation’s virtual journey to Jerusalem continues to move around the globe. May each of us continue to journey closer to God and to each other.

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM is co-sponsored by the Health Ministry Section of the Membership and Evangelism Committee and the Missions Committee.

Hawaii Conference UCC

By Membership Committee

The Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ, which our church is a part of, publishes a newsletter called "The Friend" eight times a year. "The Friend" is free of charge to anyone who requests it.

Samples of "The Friend" will be available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. For those who would like to receive the newsletter, there will be postcards next to the samples that you can mail in with your request. You may also order your newsletter by calling Vivian Maunakea at 537-9516 or email vmaunakea@hcucc.org.

Birthday Greetings for March 2010

By Membership Committee

Your birthday is a blessed event for you are God's gift. Your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ wish that your special day be filled with joy and happiness.



2 Richard Lee
5 Janet Aoki
5 Sandra Chun
6 Martha Alip
8 Cory Lau
12 Jean Ark
16 Brent Wong
19 Allen Yee
20 Monroe Jong
24 Lisa Wong
25 Richard W.C. Lau
27 Jayne Yoshimura
29 Brenda Yuen
30 Wellington Wong

3 Ruth Ching
5 Avery Asato
5 Melodee Mitsui
7 David Char
11 Charisse Yuen
12 Jonathan Spiker
18 Gwen Nishimura
20 Michael Ark
23 Richard Young
25 Edwin Fong
26 Phyllis Valentine
28 Mildred Ing
29 Thelma Lum
31 Ben Chun

Prayers for Health and Healing

From the Membership Committee

"...Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:16)

Please pray for our members and friends who need your intercessory support for comfort, health, and healing. Your prayers bring hope and the fellowship of Christian love to our folks in their time of need.

Mrs. Jeannine Ark	Mrs. May Look
Mrs. Nancy Lau	Mrs. Beatrice Ing
Mrs. Eleanor Lee	Mrs. Margaret Yee
Mr. Herbert Chun	Mrs. Betty Lee
Mrs. Janet Aoki	Mr. Nealton Lau
Mrs. Phyllis Valentine	Ms. Pauline Chun
Mrs. Shuk Kwan Liu	Ms. LaVerne Maeda
Mrs. Ah Mee Wong	Ms. Brenda Chun

Please phone the office (536-8418) if you wish to add to the list or you no longer need to be listed.

Update for Paris Chang

(Update received 1/25/2010)

From the Membership Committee

Hi Everyone,

We have returned from Stanford. Initially we would have gone the first week of January, but Paris came down with an ear infection so we rescheduled her biopsy.

We had a little more difficulty this time with the anesthesia. Paris threw up several times after the biopsy and was dehydrated, which caused her heart rate to be higher than normal. However, after getting some anti-nausea meds and extra IV fluids, her heart rate came down and we were able to leave the hospital by the end of the day. The biopsy showed some mild rejection so we increased some of her anti-rejection medications. We need to biopsy again in 6 weeks. This is only the second time we have had anything but zero on a biopsy.

Continued on next page

Paris Chang (cont'd)

We have never done a biopsy in Hawaii but are seriously considering it since we don't want to pull Paris out of school again. We'll talk with her cardiologist in Hawaii.

We were disappointed to cancel our trip earlier this month because we had planned to meet Paris' donor's (Charlie) family in Monterey. They were not able to meet us when we rescheduled, but we hope to meet them on our next trip back.

Other than the mild rejection, Paris is doing very well. She is on six heart medications and four eczema meds (10 meds daily total) and gets her blood drawn like a pro. She started kindergarten this past fall and is adjusting well to school. We shot a commercial for the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii to encourage people to be organ donors. It is currently airing on Ch. 2. Also, this is a link to a story on the new Ford Surgery Center. There are some pictures of Paris in it.

<http://www.lpfch.org/fundraising/news/fall09/beginning.html>

Two weeks ago was the 5th anniversary of her heart transplant and we are very thankful that she is doing so well. She has come a long way since we returned home from Stanford five years ago. We recently celebrated Paris' 6th birthday. When we were about to board the plane to San Francisco, Brian told Paris 'if you were 5 we could board early.' She replied, 'I'm 5, let's go!' Brian and I both cracked up laughing!

Thank you all for your continued support. We truly appreciate it. We could not have done it without all of you!

Much love,
Brian, Wendi & Paris

The Membership Committee asks for your continued prayers for healing grace and enduring faith for Paris Chang and her family on her life's journey of heart transplant recovery. Paris is the granddaughter of our member Eldora Chang.

Note: Original copy and photos may be viewed in the Coffee area bulletin board.

Report on Family Promise January 31-February 7, 2010

By Dwight Ovitt, Coordinator

Another very successful week housing and feeding four families in our upstairs classrooms has come and gone.

Setting up the rooms were the Nishimura family (Gwen, Ken and Liam), Westley Mow, Stanneth Yuen, Javier Figueroa, Wendy Mow-Taira, and several men whose names were not written down. Thank you for waiting for the beds that were delivered late from a Makiki church that got lost trying to find our church. They were able to pack all those beds into one truck and one van.

Yvonne Nakata and her extended family prepared a feast of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, salad, and dessert on Sunday night. It was like Thanksgiving for everyone. A delicious meal of lamb stew prepared by Judy Asman was relished by all. A large pot of tasty spaghetti was prepared by Trudie China on Tuesday evening. Westley Mow served a chicken dish on Wednesday that was eaten with gusto.

An unusual dinner was prepared by SN Lum and her mother, Choi Yuk Wong. Leftover turkey from Sunday night was made into "Jook". It was the first time the families tasted it and they ate every last bit in their bowls. They also asked for more before going to bed as it was very cold on Thursday night. Friday night Margaret, Richard Young, Dawn, and daughters served a delicious dinner of chicken, salad, and rice that was a hit with the families. On Saturday night leftovers were served, but so much food was left that the rest were taken to the day shelter on Sunday morning.

Our overnight hosts included Dennis Yuen who has helped many times in spite of his health issues; Corrine Agno is a good hostess who tries to get to know everyone she is responsible for; Brett Kurashige has become a regular in staying the night and spent time with a guest from Chuuk whose nickname is "Mission Impossible"; Rev. Tom Fujita, helps out after spending part of his week on Kauai as an interim pastor; Wendy Mow-Taira was the backup to our regular Hayden Cheigh who had a guest in town; and Edison Chong, a regular on

Continued on next page

Family Promise (cont'd)

Saturday nights and extending into the mornings when he prepares the beds for the next church and packs the sheets and blankets to be cleaned by other volunteers. I stayed Friday night which is our fun night with magic by Pastor Don, followed by Bingo for quarters and fried rice in the morning.

Our truck drivers, John Matapua, Edison Chong, and John Chun delivered the beds to the next host church.

Wendy Mow-Taira, Yvonne Chong, and the two sons of John Chun, Ben and Andrew, were very helpful in taking down the dividers, moving several items back in place, and cleaning the general area.

Lastly, the linens, including lots of blankets, will be cleaned by 7 families: Dawn Young, Brenda Asato, Wendy Mow-Taira, Edison Chong, Terrilynn Lau, Trudie China and someone whose name we do not know.

Extra food and money were donated by the following folks: Brett Kurashige, Gwen Nishimura, Loretta Yee, Ellen Chun, Marjorie Mau, Nora Chong, Edith Lau, and Sadie Wong. Someone donated cereals, bread, and juice, but I forgot who it was. Thanks very much for your donations - I didn't have to spend any Missions money this time to cover the expenses for food items.

Our next rotation is already scheduled for May 16th-23rd, so think about how you can help us the next time. We love to see new families participate in our church mission project as Yvonne Nakata's family did this time. They pitched in together and made it a family outing. I particularly liked the way SN took extra food and turned it into a different meal that was so appropriate for folks who had never even heard of Jook. The Chuukese families loved Jook and I'm sure they will never forget how warm it was in their stomachs on a cold evening.

During the next rotation, Pastor Don and Judy will be traveling. I will need someone to do a magic show or something entertaining for little children and at least one new family to prepare a dinner.

Many mahalos for all those who helped make this rotation the smoothest event I have chaired. Volunteers numbered 35 and the hours of service provided by everyone was 223.

* A JAR OF * Love and Appreciation



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!

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467 North Judd Street
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WORSHIP CALENDAR

February 14, 2010

10:30 a.m. Worship—Pastor Phil Mark, preaching
Sermon: “Living as Gifted People”
Scripture: Ephesians 4: 1–16; Luke 9: 10–17

February 17, 2010

6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Prayer Service
Sermon: “Living so others can see God’s love in you”
Scripture: Matthew 6: 1–6, 16–21

February 21, 2010 **First Sunday in Lent**

10:30 a.m. Worship—Pastor Don Asman, preaching
Sermon: “Confessing and Believing”
Scripture: Romans 10: 8b–13; Luke 4: 1–13

February 28, 2010 **Second Sunday in Lent**

10:30 a.m. Worship—Pastor Don Asman, preaching and dialogue with Pastor Phil Mark
Sermon: “On the Way with Jesus”
Scripture: Psalm 27; Luke 13: 31–35