

FROM PASTOR TOM

PRAYER TO GUIDE US

IN THIS LENTEN SEASON:

God of Creation, in this season of Lent, guide our footsteps as we seek to walk with your son Jesus and embrace his teachings. May our inside lives and thinking become faithful expressions of our trust in your kindness and known in our outward actions and our commitments. Help us to honor the blessings you have bestowed upon as we share with everyone life on your earth. May we receive with grace and thanksgiving the many gifts and abilities that nourish and sustain our lives? As we receive, may we willingly welcome each opportunity to share through your Holy Spirit? Empower us to act with compassion, forgiveness, patience, courage, mercy, and justice toward all of your creation. We know in this season that Your Son reminds us we are called to be servants and stewards who help one another in the household where all people are welcome in our family as Your family. We know Jesus gave of himself as a blessing for others, help us to accept and follow his example as our way of life. For in giving our lives in service with Jesus, we desire to find the transforming nature of our true humanity as your people. Amen.

*Warmest Blessing for Lent,
Pastor Tom*

Pastor Tom has been contacted regarding the up-coming visit of 2 Arab Palestinian Muslim men to the Big Island – they both live in the West Bank close to Jerusalem, near Bethany.

He has arranged for them to meet with anyone who would like to have a chance to hear about their experiences and ask question on:

**Friday afternoon March 16 at 2:30 PM
in the Building of Faith
at the Church of the Holy Cross, 440 West
Lanikaula St., Hilo, HI –**

Could you possibly reserve time to join us for this gathering?

These visitors will also be speaking at **UH Hilo campus on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM in**

room UCB 100 (the large lecture hall at the UH campus)

NOTE: Both Pastor Tom and Pastor Jim will be in Kona for a UCC Clergy Retreat from Monday to Wednesday, (Mar 5-7).

ANNUAL MEETING TO ACCEPT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Membership meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by Moderator Stefan Tanouye on Feb 26, 2012.

NOTE: The meeting was postponed from the week before because the report was not received by that date.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Roberta Chu
Pages 21 -33. Corrections: Page 30 heading should read "Years ending December 31, 2011 and 2010". Page 30 – Remove line item "Piano tuning expense" as it is included under Music (page 25).

Note: Page 26 – Total expenses exceeded income by \$15,361.50. The excess expenses were taken from the Fund Balance. The total income was \$37,281 less than budgeted income due principally to pledge income of \$217,718 actual versus \$255,000 budgeted. The excess expenses resulted in lower cash balance in the General Fund as of 12/31/2011 compared to 12/31/2010. To put pledge income shortfall in perspective, if each family will pledge \$10 more per month, we should get closer to the budgeted income. Church boards have been very prudent about spending to keep expenses down. Total actual expenses for 12/31/2011 were \$21,919 less than budget.

The Treasurer thanked James Yoshiyama for the Financial Statements in 2011. Quickbooks will be used to keep financial records. Carolyn Lum-Bellem, Peter Tadaki and Roberta completed a review of the 2011 numbers and are working through computer conversion as well as the recordkeeping process which is being brought in-house.

ACTION: M/S (Eric Tanouye/Bob Smith) that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as corrected. Motion carried.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: Page 34

Correction: Third line: Change "Endowment Fund" to "Reserve Fund."

Report accepted with the correction.

REPORTS:

Reports of the Pastor, all Boards are on file. No questions from the floor.

ACTION: M/S (Anita Matthews/Roberta Chu) moved that all reports be received with appreciation as circulated. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

ACTION: M/S (Bob Smith/Eric Tanouye) moved that the membership accepts and ratifies actions of the Church Council of 2011. Motion carried.

RIDE HELP.....

Don't drive (or not allowed to anymore) to come to worship on Sunday mornings or attend other activities???

Willing to help pick up people to come to church???

PLEASE let one of us know if you need a ride or can give a ride: Byron, Pastors at church, any of the Deacons or Margaret at 935-4071. Praying you will!!!!

REFRESHMENTS AFTER WORSHIP

Thank you to Reiko Masutomi, Tammy Nagami, Sets Takemoto and Dorothy Matsui for all the refreshments this past Sunday. We look forward to our next fellowship time with Kay Kawachika, Mary Ann Katayama, Patti Hong and Gail Wung's help with the refreshments.

There are many more Sundays available for you to sign-up to help. Cookies and punch supplies are provided for you to setup and serve. Please sign-up on the bulletin board or call Byron for the available dates. Questions? Call Margaret at 935-4071. Thank you.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome JEAN PIERRE THOMA - We were pleased to welcome into our Holy Cross ohana Jean Pierre Thoma as he joined our church membership. Until recently, Jean Pierre has been living in Kona and he has been sharing his time in Hilo as he performs locally as a professional musician. Jean Pierre has blessed our church with his flute playing. Most recently he and Annu Shoko Shionoya, his partner in the Sakura Ensemble, played together for the offertory during morning worship helping us celebrate his presence with us. Rev. Susumu and Miyeko Yamane were on hand to welcome Jean Pierre as his sponsors helping to introduce him to our membership. However, it is important for all of us to remember that Jean Pierre needs each of us to extend our warm greeting to him.

FOND FAREWELL

Sunday, Muti Selifis informed our congregation he will be moving at the end of this week to Seattle in advance of his family. Congratulations are order for

Muti and his new employment on the mainland. At the beginning of our worship service Muti shared how important his friendships with members of our church have been for he and his family as he thanked us for the welcome hospitality he has received here among us. Our prayers go with Muti, Lily, and their family. Muti has been with us sharing a spirit of joy and faith, always helpful and friendly. We will miss his presence, but will keep him close to hearts thanking God for his time with us.

God Speed, Muti.

IYAA ELECTED OFFICERS

- President: Bethleen Frederick
- Vice president: Marvin Heine
- Secretary: Molina Rekis
- Treasurer: Jayson Rekis
- Song Leaders: Dorsett Fredick and Stuart Mori
- Clean up Coordinators: Esem Flaisek and Stallone Ham

IYAA meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the lounge for Bible Study and their meetings. They have announced their car wash dates:

- March 3
- April 14
- May 19
- June 9
- July 14
- August 18
- September 15
- October 20
- November 17
- December 15

VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH

USHERS: IYAA

FLOWERS:

- 3/4: Tokie Fujimoto (Mem), Miyo Tanita (Mem), Lynn Del Rosario
- 3/11: Dorothy Matsui, Tessie Kami
- 3/18: Millie Daikawa
- 3/25: Goya Family (Mem)

CHILDCARE:

- 3/4: Moira Tanaka
- 3/11: Irene Okada
- 3/18: Beverly Dodo
- 3/25: Yoko Hayano

LAYREADERS:

- 3/4: Brenda Heine
- 3/11: Muti Selifis
- 3/18: Ruth Niino-DuPonte
- 3/25: Anne Sadayasu

REFRESHMENT:

3/11: Kay Kawachika, Mary Ann Katayama, Patti Hong ,
Gail Wung

MARCH PRAYER LIST: Birthday

Please pray for and send a greeting to these Birthday people

- 03 Okazaki, Mitsuko
- 04 Katada, Emi
- 06 Maeda, Margaret
- 07 Sato, Thelma
- 13 Kuwaye, Masako
- 14 Noda, Lillian
Olcott, Meghan
- 15 Miyake, Richard
- 16 Nishida, Chizuko
- 17 Olcott, Brenda
- 18 Kurohara, Ernest
Maeda, Blanche
Robinson, Lei Jack
- 19 Chang, Shigeko
Tanaka, Shuichi
- 21 Hisanaga, Ichiko
- 22 Fukuda, Setsu
Nagami, Tamayo
Suzuki, Clarice
- 24 Kimura, Sueko
- 28 Kurohara, Martha
- 29 Yamane, Jon

FILMS AT THE INSTITUTE OF ASTRONOMY

"Asian in American Film" is the topic of a ten-week series of films (followed by discussion) each Friday which began in January. The series show important older Asian films portraying Asians, particularly Japanese and Chinese, that have changed from the 1930s to today.

Films are shown in the lower level auditorium at the Institute of Astronomy which is the building at the end of the road - 640 N. Auhoku Place. Cost is \$10 for the entire series but since it is toward the end of the series, a donation each time you attend is suggested.

Directions to the auditorium is:

From Komohana, turn makai on Nowelo (makai=toward the Imiloa Center for Astronomy) and take the first LEFT. The Institute for Astronomy is the building at the end of the road. Please park on the street.

The remaining two films to be shown are:

March 2 "*Legend of the Drunken Master*" (1994)
- the stern seriousness of Bruce Lee's martial arts is

turned to comedy by Jackie Chan, who had the self-confidence to make fun of himself.

March 9 "*Memoirs of a Geisha* " (2005) - the first American movie to have a completely Asian cast explore a purely Asian phenomenon: the life of a geisha from the 1930s to the 1950s.

The next ten week series of films will commence on March 3 (or further notice) and will draw on films made or dealing with Hawaii.

The ALOHA SHEET....

This is a sheet that is available for Visitors AND anyone who wishes to get a message to our Pastors or Deacons. It is reprinted on the back of the enclosed March calendar.

Reprinted from Home Touch

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:40-45

THOUGHT: Who, being loved, is poor? - Oscar Wilde
"Will you be my Valentine?"

So read millions of little cards that school children across America will be exchanging in their classrooms on Valentine's Day. For these little children, the question is simply an invitation to be a friend. It's a way to say "I like you, I want to be friends with you."

When these little children get to be teenagers, the giving of a valentine card becomes a highly selective process. Teens have now discovered romantic love. Valentine's Day is now fraught with emotional angst; these adolescents ponder how best to express their feelings for the cherished one. Should it be a card, a gift, a red rose, a bouquet of flowers, chocolates, a dinner out or some combination thereof? Whatever choice is made, the message is sent is that the recipient is loved.

It's a great feeling to know that you are loved. Fortunately, we need not depend on a Valentine's Day card or a box of chocolate to know that we are loved, or even to express our love to others.

Every day, small little mercies and ordinary expressions of kindness remind us that we are loved and cared for.

It's easy to forget this because our families can get very busy with their lives, and sometimes when we need a phone call it doesn't come, and the day we'd really love to have a visit, no visitor appears.

When we have those days when it seems as though love is running thin, we must be sure to pick up the world's largest valentine card, the Bible itself. God's Word is nothing if it is not a declaration of love - of steadfast and abiding care and kindness.

-
Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Dear God, this week please be with those whom I love and those who love me. But be especially near those who are not loved. In Jesus' name. Amen.

An excerpt from [Heart of a Teacher](#)

by Paula Fox

Published by Simple Truths

He was in the first third grade class I taught at Saint Mary's School in Morris, Minnesota. All 34 of my students were dear to me, but Mark Eklund was one in a million. Very neat in appearance, he had that happy-to-be-alive attitude that made even his occasional mischievousness delightful.

Mark talked incessantly. I had to remind him again and again that talking without permission was not acceptable. What impressed me so much, though, was his sincere response every time I had to correct him for misbehaving. "Thank you for correcting me, Sister!" I didn't know what to make of it at first, but before long I became accustomed to hearing it many times a day.

One morning my patience was growing thin when Mark talked once too often, and then I made a novice teacher's mistake. I looked at Mark and said, "If you say one more word, I am going to tape your mouth shut!" It wasn't ten seconds later when Chuck blurted out, "Mark is talking again." I hadn't asked any of the students to help me watch Mark, but since I had stated the punishment in front of the class, I had to act on it. I remember the scene as if it had occurred this morning. I walked to my desk, very deliberately opened my drawer and took out a roll of masking tape. Without saying a word, I proceeded to Mark's desk, tore off two pieces of tape and made a big X with them over his mouth. I then returned to the front of the room. As I glanced at Mark to see how he was doing, he winked at me. That did it! I started laughing. The class cheered as I walked back to Mark's desk, removed the tape, and shrugged my shoulders. His first words were, "Thank you for correcting me, Sister."

At the end of the year, I was asked to teach junior-high math. The years flew by, and before I knew it, Mark was in my classroom again. He was more handsome than ever and just as polite. Since he had to listen carefully to my instruction in the "new math," he did not talk as much in ninth grade as he had in third. One Friday, things just didn't feel right. We had worked hard on a new concept all week, and I sensed that the students were frowning, frustrated with themselves and edgy with one another. I had to stop this crankiness before it got out of hand. So I asked them to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each

name. Then I told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish the assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed me the papers. Charlie smiled. Mark said, "Thank you for teaching me, Sister. Have a good weekend." That Saturday, I wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and I listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday, I gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. "Really?" I heard whispered. "I never knew that meant anything to anyone!" "I didn't know others liked me so much." No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. I never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another again.

That group of students moved on. Several years later, after I returned from vacation, my parents met me at the airport. As we were driving home, Mother asked me the usual questions about the trip, the weather, my experiences in general. There was a lull in the conversation. Mother gave Dad a sideways glance and simply said, "Dad?" My father cleared his throat as he usually did before saying something important.

"The Eklunds called last night," he began. "Really?" I said. "I haven't heard from them in years. I wonder how Mark is." Dad responded quietly. "Mark was killed in Vietnam," he said. "The funeral is tomorrow, and his parents would like it if you could attend." To this day I can still point to the exact spot on I-494 where Dad told me about Mark.

I had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. Mark looked so handsome, so mature. All I could think at that moment was, "Mark, I would give all the masking tape in the world if only you would talk to me." The church was packed with Mark's friends. Chuck's sister sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Why did it have to rain on the day of the funeral? It was difficult enough at the graveside. The pastor said the usual prayers, and the bugler played taps. One by one those who loved Mark took a last walk by the coffin and sprinkled it with holy water. I was the last one to bless the coffin. As I stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to me. "Were you Mark's math teacher?" he asked. I nodded as I continued to stare at the coffin. "Mark talked about you a lot," he said.

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates headed to Chuck's farmhouse for lunch. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting for me. "We want to show you something," his father

said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. "They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it." Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. I knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which I had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him. "Thank you so much for doing that," Mark's mother said. "As you can see, Mark treasured it." Mark's classmates started to gather around us. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, "I still have my list. I keep it in the top drawer of my desk at home." Chuck's wife said, "Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album." "I have mine too,"

Marilyn said. "It's in my diary." Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. "I carry this with me at all times," Vicki said without batting an eyelash. "I think we all saved our lists." That's when I finally sat down and cried. I cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be. So please, tell the people you love and care for that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late.

“A REDISCOVERY OF LIFE”

*The Teachings of Anthony de Mello,
A Modern Day Mystic*

**Friday: Mar. 30, 7-9pm and/or
Saturday: Mar. 31, 8:30am – 4:00pm***



*"When the eye is unobstructed, the result is sight....
When the heart is unobstructed, the result is love."
Anthony de Mello*

**A four part video of Anthony de Mello's
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Facilitated by Richard Hennessey, LCSW

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FREE - Donations Welcome**

*Bag lunch or order bento (\$7) by 3/16 at
revthomasolcott@hotmail.com for the
Saturday session.

Info? contact Richard: 808 372-1219 or
rhawareness@yahoo.com

Pre-registration recommended at
revthomasolcott@hotmail.com
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