

FROM PASTOR TOM

TRUSTING HANDS

Recently, I came across Eugene Peterson's idea that as we get out of bed in the morning and put our feet on the floor, we should offer the trusting prayer of Jesus from his cross saying, **"Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit."** Peterson is the translator of the contemporary *MESSAGE Bible*.

Peterson advises this is a wonderful way to start each day. Put our life into perspective. Peterson implies this prayer is not about dying, but about entering the future with trust in God's love and grace to help us move forward. Under God's guidance we can follow the lead of his beckoning and encouraging hand. He says we will then be celebrating our trusting faith that the one who had a hand in shaping us before we had any awareness will also have a hand in shaping us as we enter the expected as well as the unexpected.

You get in the car, and you trust it will start – usually! We pass you on the road with a careful eye, trusting you will drive safely! You hold a glass under the faucet and trust safe drinking water. We pick up our prescriptions and rely on both the physician's and the pharmacist's wisdom, knowledge, and accuracy. This is more dramatic for us at the beach when the lifeguard comes to our rescue or when the first responders rush our loved one to the Emergency Room!

Whatever we do, we unselfconsciously put ourselves in the caring hands of others. We trust God works through the caring hands and dedication of those around us.

Our Trustees and Church Council have this same trusting confidence in your awareness and understanding of the financial needs and challenges of our Church of the Holy Cross ohana. They along with our Deacons, our Stewardship and Mission Committee, our choir, our Christian Education teachers, and all our volunteers, rely on our combined encouragement and support for our shared ministry. All we do is in your trusting hands.

Everyday, as we get out of bed and put our feet on the floor, or when at the end of the day when we place our heads on our pillows, or

consider large and small decisions - we can say to ourselves and each other, "Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit. And, into the hands of those around me, whatever I do, I commend the safety of my well being! Please, God, sustain your guiding hand in everyone's efforts to always do their best!"

As we move through this season of pledging and stewardship commitment toward November 18, 2013, as our Thanksgiving Consecration and Commitment Sunday, we can pray with confidence that we place ourselves in the supportive encouragement of each other even as we turn to God and say, "Into your hands, We commend our spirits – and to this we add our own support and encouragement! O Yes, we are thankful for all the blessings we share!"

Warmest blessings for this Thanksgiving Season
Pastor Tom

WHILE PASTOR TOM IS AWAY: - Pastor Tom will be away on the mainland with his family visiting Meghan and Brenda from late Friday evening, November 16, and he will return to Hilo in the evening of Saturday, November 24th. While he is away please call Reverend Neil Deupree, our Visiting Associate, for any pastoral needs or emergencies. Pastor Neil can be reached thru the church office at 935-1283 or at the parsonage at 315-7181.

NOTE: Church office will be closed on Nov 22-23 for Thanksgiving.

FROM PASTOR NEIL

We have been here a month already. I've enjoyed visiting shut-ins and participating in worship. We've helped with the Peanut Butter Ministry. We've been part of Bible Studies and other church activities. We're still working on learning your names. Thanks for being patient with us.

We've been encouraged by your hospitality – showing us around & giving us bags of fruit. We just learned about jaboticaba, had our first taste of dragon fruit and have been drinking fresh squeezed orange juice for breakfast every day.

We want to be an encouragement and a help for the Holy Cross family. Please let us know how we can work together for God’s Kingdom here in Hilo. The parsonage number is: 315-7181.

Grace, Peace & Love, Pastor Neil & Kay

TAKE A HIKE

James Yoshiyama has graciously offered to show Neil the Big Island – from a hiking point of view. We have three dates and three destinations: Monday, November 19 – Kilauea Iki trail and more – 4 to 5 hours (meet at 7:30 am); Friday, November 30 – Pu’u O’o trail off Saddleback Road; Friday, December 14 – Lake Waiau and the Adz Quarry on Mauna Kea (beginning at 12,000 feet). Let us know if you’d like to join in the adventures. Call Neil at the parsonage: 315-7181.

STRETCH YOUR MIND

Neil is offering to lead one or more small group discussions concerning contemporary topics:

“The earth is the Lord’s” – How Christians can be good gardeners for God. We could talk about climate change or renewable energy or local projects or ...

“I was in prison, and you visited me” – What Christians can learn about the criminal justice system. We could talk about restorative justice or preventing recidivism or alternatives to jail and prison or ...

“Christ has given us the ministry of reconciliation” – Where does reconciliation need to happen in our world and in Hilo? We could talk about cultural understanding or political tensions or ...

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind” – How Christians can help those who are challenged by mental illness in their lives or their families. We could talk about support systems available and how to make them more welcoming or ...

These are conceived as “discussions” not “lectures” – where each person brings their own faith and knowledge and we all learn from one another. “iron sharpens iron, and so we sharpen each other.” Proverbs 27:17

If you are interested in exploring any of these topics – or others – please sign up on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary, or call Neil at 315-7181.

THANK YOU

Our *appreciation* is extended to all who helped make our Church of the Holy Cross’ *All Saints’ Celebration and Homecoming* – as well as *Pumpkin Painting* – such a great success and opportunity to come together. You all deserve a warm “*MAHALO*”

Aloha also for sharing your favorite potluck dishes at the luncheon. The selections were outstanding and delicious.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

What, thinking of Christmas already? Thanksgiving hasn’t come yet!

Orders for Christmas Poinsettias will be taken through Nov. 26 for the Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve services. Sign up on the bulletin board – they are priced at \$9.20 per pot payable to Cynthia Debus. Potted plants can be claimed following Monday’s Christmas Eve worship (12/24).

TRICK OR FEED: Food for Hilo’s Hungry

On Make a Difference Day, Saturday, October 27, they came with bags and Halloween decorated boxes. They came on bicycles. They came on foot. They studied their maps. Several congregations from INTER FAITH COMMUNITIES IN ACTION pitched in to help.

Their faces were decorated. They wore signs to let everyone know they were collecting food instead of candy – and that the food they collected would go to the FOOD BASKET. – But, you didn’t scare anyone with your costumes – but you did put smiles on kind faces.

The food piled up! What a variety! The community generosity was awesome.

One group started out hesitant and slow, but by the fourth house they began to warm up to the response and the challenge and the willingness of people in Hilo to care for others.

A total of 335 pounds of food was collected, along with \$40 and all donated to the Hawaii Island Food Basket.

To all who came, donated, helped – MAHALO and THANK YOU

SENIOR MINISTRY

EVERYONE’S INVITED to our annual pre thanksgiving gathering this Thursday at 10:00an in the Building of Faith. This event is

sponsored by the Men and Women's Fellowships and it's FREE!

KTA Receipts

The senior ministry is collecting the Thanksgiving receipts. Please drop the receipts off at the office, or you may give it to Eileen Shiraishi

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

A special Women's Fellowship meeting will be held on Sunday, November 25th, in the old kitchen, following worship service. Please sign up as refreshments will be served.

CHC MEETING NOTICE

A General Membership meeting will be called on Sunday, Dec 8 following worship to elect 2013 Officers and Boards.

CHC Officers

- Moderator, Suzanne Smith
- Vice Moderator,
- Treasurer, Roberta Chu
- Secretary, Margaret Torigoe
- Auditor, Peter Tadaki
- Past Moderator, Stefan Tanouye

Board of Deacons

- Stuart Mori
- Jayson Rekis
- Jean Pierre Thoma
- Karl Kawahara
- Miyeko Yamane
- Gloria Kobayashi
- Eric Tanouye
- Anita Mathews
- Margaret Torigoe

Board of Trustees

- Stefan Tanouye
- Carolyn Lum-Bellum
- Ben Masutomi
- Newton Chu
- Mildred Daikawa
- Elwood Kita
- Herbert Watanabe
- Bob Smith

Board of Christian Education

- Joyce Nakamoto
- Amy Yamaki
- Gail Wung

- Lei Jack
- Yoko Hayano
- 3 vacant positions

Board of Stewardship and Missions

- Beverly Dodo
- Barbara Iwami (1 yr commitment)
- Woody Kita
- Merle Okabe
- Anne Sadayasu
- Bob Smith

Women's Fellowship

- Moira Tanaka

The Board of Christian Education is still looking for several members to support both our children and adults on their faith journeys through Church School, Vacation Bible School, and enrichment and fellowship activities. If you hear the call to serve on this board, the Board of Trustees, or as the Vice-Moderator, please step up - we need you! Contact any of the board members or a Nomination Committee member for more information.

- Nominating Committee (Stefan Tanouye, Merle Okabe, Ruth Niino-DuPonte)

At the last membership meeting called on October 21 by Moderator Stefan Tanouye the term limits on Boards were eliminated and the 2013 CHC Budget was approved as presented.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING CHORAL CELEBRATION

7:00 PM Tuesday Evening, November 20,
Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin, COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Holy Cross' International Young Adult Association Choir and our chancel Na Leo Ni'o Lani Choir will both be singing along with choirs from other interfaith congregations. Canned or dry food donations will be received as the offering and will go to the Food Basket to help feed those in need in our East Hawai'i community. Come and enjoy this festive Thanksgiving music and the fellowship hour afterwards.

The public is invited to attend the service which will feature a sharing of musical numbers.

Members are invited to help provide refreshments for after the service. We are asked to donate finger foods to be taken to the

church before the service begins. Donations for the Food Basket will also be accepted that evening.

Please join in this sharing with other churches in our community and enjoy the music and fellowship with others.

MEETING WITH INSURANCE AGENT

On Sunday, Nov 25th following worship members of our Board of Trustees and the Church Council are invited to meet with David Takagi, our UCC Church Insurance Agent, to review our coverage and possibilities for reducing premiums which have gone up 15-17% due to the many disasters impacting congregations across the country in the last 3 years.

GIVE ALOHA

Foodland/Sack 'n Save annual Give Aloha conducted all of September resulted in the following:

Member donations:	\$1,161.00
Foodland donations:	114.77
Western Union:	44.68
TOTAL donations:	\$1,320.45

Thank you to all who participated. However there are a few donations that are unaccounted for:

Sept 8 (downtown); Sept 30 (Puainako{2}). Please call the church office if you made the donations on these days so that proper credit can be made.

EMPATHY

Or The CHALLENGES & GIFTS of 18 CONCERTS IN 19 DAYS

Put yourself in a small coastal town – perhaps similar to Hilo, Hawaii. There has been a major earthquake of 8.9 on the Richter scale, and you have heard that a nuclear power plant has exploded nearby. You move to higher ground – perhaps taking a supposedly safe position in a 4 story building. This is the scenario which occurred on March 11, 2011 in northern Japan, when the uncontrollable waves swept away hundreds of homes and thousands of people. Perhaps you or your family! Many who thought that they were safe, were washed away by the rising rushing waters.

Last Saturday - just 3 nights ago - we had a similar warning here in Hilo, and I myself was evacuated following the warning of a tsunami originating in far off British Columbia, and heading straight for Hawaii ! We were spared, but last year, Japan was not, and 3 weeks ago I visited the scene where cleanup and rebuilding is still taking place after a year and a half of relentless work by hundreds of international volunteers.

As a music minister, I go where I am divinely sent to offer solace and moral support to those in need. And that has been to Japan 3 times in the last year – all since the dramatic earthquake.

Ofunato Japan is a small town which was featured on the disaster news, and is now being supported by the organization, "Touhoku Help" in the northern Iwate Prefecture. Holy Cross Church is in process of creating a sister church relationship with Ofunato Church, and we gave concerts there and in the area which were greatly appreciated, since there has been very little music in the air for the last year.

After a dozen well received performances in Life Care Centers, Churches and concert halls, coming to Touhoku was a shock.

Even after a year and a half of clean up and rebuilding, there is still so much debris and destruction evident. Piles of destruction 10 ft high, and walls of bags filled with waste material are omnipresent. It turned out the that Ofunato Church congregation was mostly in rough temporary housing units as is so much of the local population, and not able to get to the church, and so we gave our musical presentations in small meeting rooms where the audience sat on the floor, and we were served tea and cookies after the music. It was a powerful experience!

One of the interesting aspects of these concerts was that we were not allowed to mention God, or even suggest prayer in these situations, since most of the audience is Buddhist– as is most of Japan. It turns out that any organization receiving funds from the Japanese government is not allowed to mention or pray to God. Only about 5% of Japan is Christian, and I found it challenging to keep from prayer or Christian reference in these situations. Any crossing of these lines could result in loss of funding to the housing units we visited, and we certainly didn't want

to put them to further risk than they had already incurred.

Many people are still digging for the remains of their relatives and friends because according to the Buddhist faith, the soul cannot rest until the body is given a ceremony and cremation. It seems hopeless after all this time, however the search continues to try to reunite the families for the hereafter.

On a completely different note, we also played some very high end concerts throughout Japan. Beginning in Fukuoka, on the southern Kyushu island, we were invited to perform at some beautiful halls such as the Sopia Shingu, and at the Miyako Hotel. After this we were feted with an opulent “Kai seki” traditional organic meal – “a feast for the eyes as well as the mouth” - 15 courses served on seasonal artistic plates reflecting the fall colors and foods grown in autumn. And that was just one of the numerous feasts at which we were hosted on the trip.

Perhaps the highlight of this tour- certainly the highest elevation - was a concert we gave in Tokyo at the “Jet Stream” private club on the top floor of an office building in downtown Tokyo with a view of the Emperor’s Palace and grounds.

We played with the very well known harpist, Chikako Nakano, who also arranged several other concerts, and took part with us in churches and a home concert in Toyota with Ayako Takagi – one of the best flutists in the world !

Overall, the 18 concerts we played in 19 days proved to be an extremely rich and diversified experience, and one which I would not trade for anything. I gave much and received even more. Amen.

- Bottom line: 5 Life Care centers
- 3 Church performances
- 5 Concert Hall performances
- 4 Private home concerts
- 1 Cemetery memorial
- 1 gig at Tokyo Aloha Station

A dozen feasts and welcomes from wonderful loving new friends.

- JP Thoma

VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER 18 & 25

USHERS: Kenneth & Stefan Tanouye Families

FLOWERS:

11/18: Mae Kawahara, Moira Tanaka

11/25: Connie Yoshiyama

CHILDCARE:

11/18: Lei Jack

11/25: Tricia Kimura

LAYREADERS:

11/18: Gloria Kobayashi

11/25: Reilly Narruhn

PERSONAL:

Peter Takashi Oshima, 93, of Hilo, passed away at his residence. He was a retired nurseryman. Private service officiated by Pastor Tom was held at Dodo Mortuary. He is survived by wife: Yuki Oshima, a daughter, a sister-in-law, a brother-in-law, a granddaughter, and numerous nephews and nieces.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 17: Church service day at 8:30am,
IYAA Car Wash at 8am

Nov 20: Community Thanksgiving Choral
Celebration at 7pm Honpa
Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin

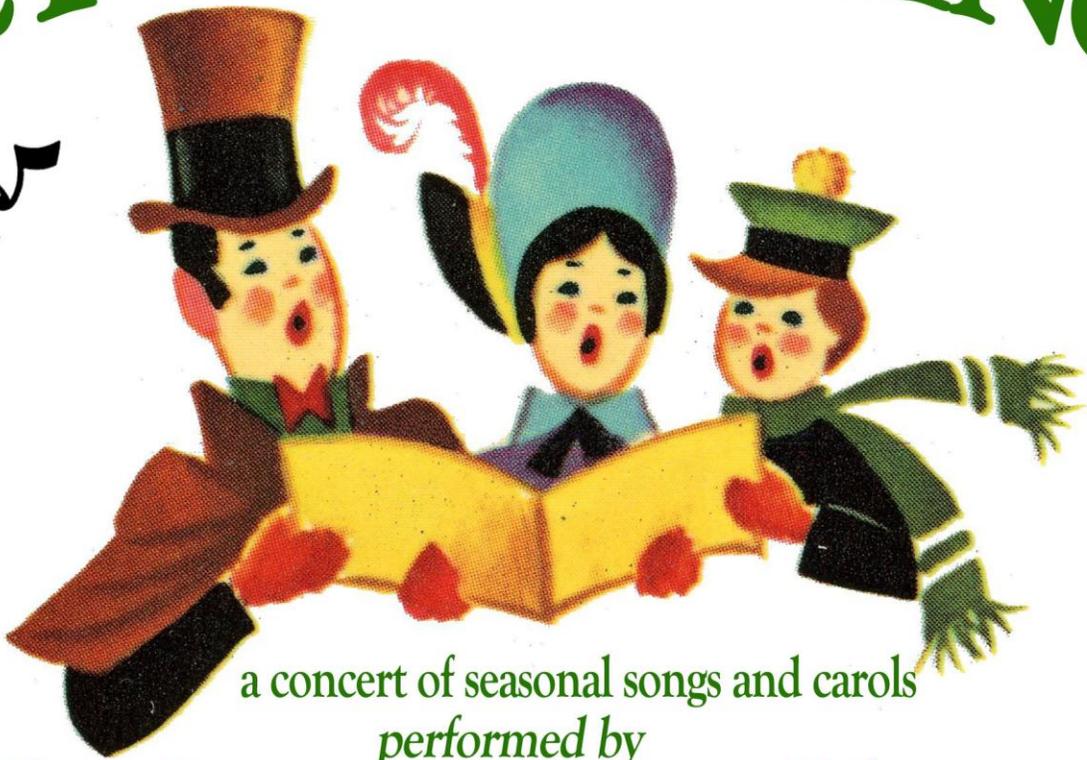
Nov 25: Meeting with Insurance Agent David
Takagi
Women’s Fellowship meeting
following worship

Dec 2: Choral Concert at 3pm by the Hilo
Community Chorus at CHC

Dec 16: Messiah Sing-Along concert at 3pm at
CHC

Nov 16-24: Pastor Tom away on the mainland.
Call Visiting Assoc. Pastor Neil at the
parsonage: 315-7181

LET CAROLS RING



a concert of seasonal songs and carols
performed by

Hilo Community Chorus

Tom McAlexander
music director

Walter Greenwood
accompanist

Sunday, December 2 • 3:00 PM

Church of the Holy Cross, Hilo

For information call 985-7192

The concert is free. Donations accepted.
You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food
for the Food Basket Ministry.