

FROM PASTOR TOM

God has already given us a place to begin the New Year 2013!

As this Christmas and New Year season wrap their arms around us, we think of the year just past, of the anticipation of a year to come, and of how we measure the moments of our days in shared community with strangers, with friends, and with family. We celebrate achievements and we grieve our losses. We measure our expectations.

We remember from the traditional story of ancient days the difficult journey of Joseph and Mary looking for a place to begin their family, looking for shelter, looking for peace and safety as refugees traveling to Egypt, and waiting until the political climate changes so they can resettle in a more welcoming community.

A man and a woman gave space in their lives to provide one of God's children with room for love. This season's sacred time invites creation to begin all over again renewing humanity? Jesus presence revitalizes us and transforms how we see whatever happens to us as encompassing God's challenge of compassion. We are called to see all people as God's beloved – and we pray they see the value of their lives reflected in our action and our words. Into to this great expanse of all possible relationships, Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection offer us the whispered immeasurable grace of God. "I am with you always, and in every situation. You are my beloved people, and I am your all embracing God."

We begin this New Year 2013 with the refreshing presence of God going side by side with us into every new day.

Warmest New Year's blessings,
Pastor Tom

FROM PASTOR NEIL

The Christmas Story – Again

When the youth told the story of Jesus' birth during worship on December 23, it was a good reminder that it's a simple and dramatic event for the world. It's simple enough that we can each identify with the characters – a first time mother, an anxious father, surprised shepherds, astute stargazers – even a harried motel clerk. For drama, think of a paranoid king and his secret service and God's right-hand angel. Even the donkey has feelings.

I was grateful to Kay for organizing and Jayson for helping in the youth activity the week before Christmas. The kids had fun and ate healthy food and worked to trim the palms and were reminded of the reason for the season. It was a good bonding experience with the nine young people who were here for three hours each of the three days.

The Church of the Holy Cross is a welcoming place – a safe place – a Good News place – for all generations. I'm glad that you've welcomed us as part of your family. Mahalo.

Pastor Neil

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.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S INAUGURAL INSTALLATION

Watch President Obama's Inaugural Installation in January. The Punahou band was asked to participate in this parade directed by Michael Nakasone, former Hilo boy, Laura's son a long time member of our church. As a youth, Michael was an active member of our church. He was an excellent band director at Pearl City High School. For many years, he made a name for himself. Then he was appointed as the band director of our famous Royal Hawaiian Band, even although he didn't have Hawaiian

blood. Upon his retirement, it wasn't long before Punahou School grabbed him and hired him as their band director. And, now he is taking his band to the Inaugural Parade. What an honor; and we are proud of Michael. Watch the President's reaction when the band passes by. (I wonder if he'll make the "shaka" sign to the band!) Michael, have fun and lots of luck and aloha from Hilo.

THANK YOU, CAROLERS

Dear Holy Cross Carolers,
In care of Pastors Tom & Neil:

Thank you very much for coming up to our house to pray and sing Christmas carols for Tommy, and me, too.

We were just amazed at the number of carolers from youngsters to seniors...blending your voices and singing all those beautiful Christmas carols.

It showed he was anxiously awaiting your visit, for when I told him they were on the way, he just got up and was very cooperative. Thank you very much for your delightful "mission".

Mahalo and much love,

Amy and Tommy Shiroma

P.S: After you left, we reminisced about how he (we) used to make stew dinners and barbeque sticks for the carolers upon their return to the church.

MORE THANKS TO CHRISTMAS CAROLERS

Thank you to all Christmas carolers that joined us for great singing.

Thank you:

Herbert Watanabe for making the delicious Portuguese bean soup.

Gail for the jello

Saeko for the Melona bars

Esther for the spam musubis

Mae for the rice

Kay Kawachika for great desserts,

and to everyone who brought great food.

From Board of Christian Education - Lei Jack

VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY

USHERS: IYAA

FLOWERS: Laura Ota

CHILDCARE: Ethel Yoshimasu

LAYREADER: Stefan Tanouye

VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY 2013

USHERS:

FLOWERS:

1/06: Harold Tanouye, Eric Tanouye, Kyle Nakayama families

1/13: Kay Kawachika (Mem), Mary Ann Katayama

1/20: Saeko Hayashi, Amy Hashimoto

1/27: Ethel Yoshimasu (Mem), Ichiko Hisanaga (Mem), Teddi Mukai (Mem)

CHILDCARE:

1/06: Tammy Nagami

1/13: Shirley Miyake

1/20: Millie Uchima

1/27: Eileen Shiraishi

LAYREADERS:

1/06: Sue Smith

Our **prayers of sympathy** reach out to Pedro Ka'awaloa on the death of his uncle earlier this month. May sacred memories of your beloved uncle and God's mercy bring comfort to your family in your time of grieving.

Christmas Poinsettias added beauty and bright color to our Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Our appreciation to Cindy Debus for organizing and arranging the poinsettias. Our thanks to all who ordered these beautiful flowers and we hope that everyone who donated poinsettias was able to pick them up after our worship on December 24th. We thank you for sharing your plants and adorning our sanctuary with this marvelous display.

JANUARY PRAYER LIST: Birthday

Please pray for and send a greeting to these Birthday people

04 Knell, Isaac

06 Ogawa, Hannah
DuPonte, Kyle

07 Miyamoto, Dorothy

08 Chen, Bill
Nakayama, Kyle

09 Hayashi, Takeru
Nakashima, Ann (continued)

January Birthdays (*continued*)

- 12 Matsui, Takashi
- 16 Oshiro, Brian
- 18 Yamauchi, Yuriko
- 19 Chu, Newton
- 20 Inouye, Grayson
Komine, Haruko
- 22 Koizumi, Michi
Kawasaki, Kevin
- 27 Suzuki, Wayne
- 28 Mukai, Theodora
- 30 Iwami, Barbara
Inouye, Vernon
- 31 Olcott, Lois