

FROM PASTOR TOM

LENT a Time to Check Our Vision and Re-Focus

A good question is always, "When is the right time to get going and reach for our goals?" These can be personal, career, retirement, education, physical exercise, spiritual, and life changing. Of course, that means, "When do we transform, change, alter, adjust, and re-shape or reform what we are already doing!?"

"Transfiguration Sunday" sends us a good clue for discovering the meaning of the season of Lent we enter as Christians. We should be looking at getting ourselves into transformed physical, mental, and spiritual shape. This might otherwise be called, "Examining and getting ourselves in step with the mission and ministry of Jesus all over again! We can follow and observe the discipline of self-care looking at what it means to be a follower of Jesus as he heads to Jerusalem and the Cross and resurrection. No small task for anyone! We are climbing the mountain of desire to be more authentic in our relationships - so we will be stronger, more patient, more forgiving, and more loving.

I suggest we can re-read I Cor. 13, especially as it appears in Eugene Peterson's The Message translation, where we find what might be considered a check list of living with the "ALOHA OF JESUS" for transforming us every day through what we do and say. We can also be re-reading the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1 to 7:28) and asking ourselves, "How do I shape up with the Jesus' exercise plan for my human and spiritual well being?"

Here is the Peterson list from I Corinthians 13 – I know reviewing this will transform and transfigure how we see ourselves and others (all over again and again!):

"No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.
Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end....

"...We don't see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright. We'll see it all then, see it as clear as God see us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

"But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of these is love."

***Enjoy Exercising Faith in Lent 2013,
PASTOR TOM***

REVEREND JOHN INDERMARK

WELCOME JOHN AND JUDY INDERMARK

The Reverend John Indermark and His wife Judy will be arriving at the Church of the Holy Cross, Hilo, on Tuesday, February 12, to begin an extended stay as our church's new Visiting Associate.

John Indermark is a minister in the United Church of Christ and a graduate of Eden Theological Seminary. He grew up in St. Louis and was nurtured in the Christian faith at Salvator Evangelical and Reformed Church. He received a B.A. in history from St. Louis University and a Masters of Divinity from Eden Seminary. For the first sixteen years of his ministry, he served in full-time parish work in Washington State.

Rev. Indermark's ministry emphasizes writing Christian Education curricula for The Present Word, Seasons of the Spirit, and The

New International Lesson Annual. John has authored nine spiritual formation books published by Upper Room Books. John also has written resources published by Logos Productions for confirmation (Crossings) and adult education (Adult Crossings). Since moving from full-time parish ministry into his ministry of writing in 1992, John has also provided extended pulpit supply and transitional ministry in various Presbyterian and Lutheran congregations in southwest Washington and northwest Oregon.

While Rev. Indermark is with the Church of the Holy Cross, he will lead several Lenten through Pentecost Bible studies on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings to which the public is invited. He will also lead the Annual United Church of Christ Clergy Retreat in Kona from March 4-6, which will be held at the Courtyard King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel.

MOMENT OF CONCERN

For the next two months, February thru March 17th we are asking you to help with us with a project. The "Going Home Faith Committee" of the Hawaii Organized for Policy Engagement (HOPE in Hawaii), working with the East Hawaii Coalition to Prevent Abuse and Neglect has undertaken to collect toiletries and other items for recently released prisoners. The list of items are, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, shaving cream (in plastic tubes), after shave lotion (in clear plastic bottles), body lotion, shampoo/conditioner combinations, hairbrushes, bar soaps, socks, underwear, back packs, rain ponchos and bike and bike parts. (No containers should be metal or glass) These items are difficult for the prisoners to get but are necessary as they readjust into the community.

We ask you to open your hearts to these men and women and bring in items on the list. Your donations provide something more than toiletries and clothing. It gives them HOPE. Thank you for your generosity and caring.

-Your Board of Stewardship and Mission

CHURCH'S AED UNITS

Church's Philips' AED Units are OK

Last Spring our Church of the Holy Cross purchased Philips' brand AED FRX units.

There have been recent reports in the Hawaii newspapers and on TV about defibrillator devices that failed to operate when needed. The failed devices are manufactured by the brand name "Cardiac Science."

Hawaii newspapers reports of defibrillators used by the Honolulu Fire Department that did not perform properly during patient-use events. The published articles specifically mentioned that the "Cardiac Science" brand of defibrillators were used during these emergency calls. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is aware of these issues and issued a recall of some "Cardiac Science" brand defibrillators.

Philips Healthcare Defibrillators were not involved in these events. These were not the Philips' brand AED FRX units on our church campus.

Philips Healthcare ensures that all reports of issues with their AED devices are fully investigated. Philips is proud of the high quality and customer satisfaction of all our AED devices.

Please do not hesitate to contact Philips Healthcare if you have any other concerns on the performance and quality of our AED devices.

VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY

USHERS: Barbara Iwami, Millie Daikawa, Patti Hong, Miyeko Yamane

FLOWERS:
2/5/13 Lily Inouye (Mem.)
2/12/13 Margaret Torigoe
2/19/13 Else Ushijima (Mem.)
2/26/13 Hatsue Kamimura

CHILDCARE:
2/10/13 Lei Jack
2/17/13 Carol Morioka
2/24/13 Joyce Nakamoto

LAYREADERS:
2/10/13 Eric Tanouye
2/17/13 Carolyn Lum-Bellem
2/24/13 Margaret Torigoe

Writing the Sacred Experiences Of Journaling Our Grief Workshop with Poet-writer *RAY McGINNIS*

A workshop in creative expression with poet
RAY McGINNIS

Ray is a poet and psalm enthusiast and has written in journals all his life. He has taught 8,000 people how to write prayers, poetry, and autobiographies, all the while guiding them to bring their whole heart, mind and spirit to the process.

Explore and understand our grieving experiences with a sense of depth as you connect with sacred self expression and discuss the intent and meaning of these treasured memories. You are invited to create your own journal of sacred appreciation of how grieving is a natural spiritual process. During this workshop we use and look at exercise handouts as participants do their own writing and optional sharing as they may choose.

"Grief is a natural response to the loss of someone or something meaningful - a person, a relationship, a job, health, a pet, independence, the loss of a deeply held belief for anything else that is emotionally valued. At this workshop Ray McGinnis will lead us with gentle help for reflecting and addressing grief and loss. In this confidential and supportive setting you'll be given a "map" for understanding how writing in a journal can be a helpful companion and witness to your own unfolding healing journey. No previous writing experience necessary."

Sunday, February 24, 2013

Time: 3:00-6:00 PM

Building of Faith

The Church of the Holy Cross, UCC

440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, HI 96720

Phone 808-935-1283 (or just drop-in)

Open to all – registration fee of \$15/each. The Church of the Holy Cross has arranged to scholarship the \$15/each for our members who wish to participate in this workshop.



The Sunday School teachers would like to say thank you to the BCE for helping the students in making pretty Valentine's Day cards and handing them out to the congregation.



**Annual Church
Meeting Sunday, February 24,
Following Worship Pick up your
annual reports this Sunday, February
17, 2013, following worship.**

SENIOR MINISTRY

SENIOR MINISTRY - CHANGE OF DATE

Senior ministry will be on February 28, 2013