

† † **THE MESSENGER** † †

The Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ

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April 2, 2013

Opening Up My Outlook

Until the Pastor's Retreat in Kona led by our own Visiting Associate, Pastor John Indermark, I had considered the word "*fasting*" to involve some sacrificial denial of enjoyable food or activities...or, gaining better control of some unwanted personal habit through self-denial and discipline to improve my character.

Fasting, as we explored it at the Pastor's Retreat, can relate to developing a set aside time for concentrated exercise of a good habit. Exploring a new interest, widening our scope of vision and world view. *Fasting* our use of time and energy in a focused way so as to expand our self care and community care, so we can expand the richness of the time we have.

We could fast from food or television. We could rest and *fast* from the running around business of our lives.

Fasting has something to do with evaluating the way we dedicate our time and energy as well as our focus of what is both necessary and un-necessary.

Fasting is not seasonal. *Fasting* can relate to developing a healthy diet of what consumes our daily experience as well as harnessing opportunities we have to nourish our involvements and activities.

When we got back from the Pastors' Retreat, I picked up a small die cube with a list of "*fasting choices*." Most of which are not what we usually think of when we contemplate our resolve to "*fast*." You role this cube and see what kind of *fasting suggestion* surfaces as a guide for each day.

Here are the choices. I wonder when you read them, if you will say to yourself,

"Hey, there's a good piece of fruitful advice I can bite into for nourishment as I *fast!*"

"*FAST from judging others*. Before judging, recall how Jesus overlooks our faults."

"*FAST from overspending*. Try reducing spending by 10% and share those savings with people in need."

"*FAST from discouragement*. Remember Jesus' promise that he has a promise, hope, and a plan for living more fully."

"*FAST from anger and hatred (and prejudice)*. Give your family and the world and extra dose of love, patience, and forgiveness every day."

"*FAST from complaining*. Instead of complaining, recall the moments of joy in your life. Before starting to complain list 3-5 compliments you could use to affirm what is really good that can overcome any gripe you might have had.

And one more – not on the cube – *fast from frowning*. Exercise the muscles of laughter, joy, happiness, and welcome surprise as you greet everyone with the encouragement and support which benefits all of us day after day.

You will now notice these forms of *fasting* require us to give up only what is harmful! This kind of fasting fosters enjoyment and positive relationships. With this style of fasting, we can feast on sharing goodness. With this discipline of *fasting*, we will develop a stronger spirit for joy and celebration as we "spread mercy and kindness – and learn to walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8)."

Warmest blessings,

Pastor Tom

Notes from Pastor John . . .

April Fools' Day might seem to be a precarious day to write something for the church newsletter. What might be a faithfully foolish word to share?

In 1807, a portrait painter turned inventor prepared to unveil his new steam-powered boat. The reaction of his neighbors resembled the ridicule of Noah by his acquaintances when the ark was being built. It is said that Robert Fulton never received a single word of encouragement from those who watched and laughed while he labored. His abundant critics deemed the vessel "Fulton's Folly." Within a generation, steamships regularly crossed the Atlantic and plied the inland waters of the States. Fulton's folly changed the nature of transportation.

One person's folly is another person's wisdom.

Now that is a very Easter-y thing to say, if you follow the foolishness of the Apostle Paul. Speaking to a diverse congregation in Corinth whose adherents numbered both Jewish and Gentile believers, Paul manages to step on everybody's toes. "We preach Christ crucified, a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles." What would possess Paul to risk offending everyone in the pew that day? It is to remind us all of where faith is grounded: "The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." This is to say, an instrument of capital punishment (cross) has been transformed by God's hands into a symbol of life.

And if this to be folly: may we gladly be God's fools – and not just on April 1st !

John Indermark



† **THE MESSENGER** †
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, HILO
April 2, 2013 pg 2
† † † † † †

YOUR MESSENGER'S NEW FORMAT AND DELIVERY:

The US Postal Service issued new guidelines for bulk mail at the end of January, 2013. These regulations mean we will not be able to send the "MESSENGER" in the folded over legal size format we have used in the past. We now will be using 8 ½ x 11 paper and inserting the Messenger in 9x6 inch envelopes for mailing. The labeling process has also changed for us to conform to the new guidelines. As we adjust to these changes there are sure to be some delays in printing and delivery as we accustom the preparation and assembly of the Messenger to conform with the changed requirements. Please be patient as we adjust.

Building of Faith RESERVATIONS, APPLICATIONS AND KEY PICK-UP as well as other church facilities will only be received **ON FRIDAY MORNINGS FROM 9:00-11:30 am**. Please call the Church office to schedule an appointment (935-1283) between 9:00 and 11:30 AM with Pastor Tom. He will receive, discuss availability, and review all request only during these Friday hours. This will avoid the many interruptions in his Pastoral ministry. Mahalo for respecting these Friday appointment hours.

The CARE GIVERS SUPPORT GROUP will meet in the Building of Faith from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, April 9. Support group for Caregivers who provide assistance to anyone. Support from knowledgeable community members as well as the Alzheimer's Association. Helpful tips and opportunity to network. If you help someone then come and be helped. Your Caregiving peers welcome your questions and share their experiences.

We Welcome Pat Tanimoto into our Holy Cross Membership

Pat Tanimoto's 92-year old mother, Laura Nakasone, is a long-time member of our church. Pat has been bringing Laura to worship services on Sunday and is now the newest member of the Church of the Holy Cross. Pat and her brothers, Michael and Clayton, grew up with our Pilgrim Fellowship youth program. One highlight of that experience was a hike to the top of Mauna Kea when there were no paved roads.

Pat attended UH Hilo for two years, then went on to graduate from the University of California at Berkeley with degrees in mathematics and education. She taught at schools in Hawaii and in California, then became a technical writer of computer manuals for engineers at Hewlett-Packard. Her husband, Rick, worked as an administrator for the U.S. Public Health Service in Santa Fe, New Mexico. When he retired in 1990, they returned to Hilo. Pat is her mother's primary care giver. Their daughter, Ann, is studying the endangered 'alalā (bird) as part of her master's degree from UH Hilo. Over the years, the family has nursed birds of all shapes and kinds to good health.

Worship & Scripture for April

Ushers: Karl and Mae Kawahara Moira
Tanaka, Esther Kodani, and
Newton Chu

Sunday April 7: John 20:19-31

Sermon: "The Easter Beatitude"

Pastor John Indermark
Communion

Lay Reader: Latai Loa

Flowers: Janet Fujioka

Child Care: Joyce Nakamoto

Sunday April 14: Acts 9:1-6

Sermon: "Way Forward – Stepping Out"

Pastor Tom Olcott

Lay Reader: Jayson Rekis

Flowers: Roberta Chu & Alice Fujimoto

Child Care: Lei Jack

Refreshments

Sunday April 21: Acts 9:36-43

Sermon: "Life Commitment and Action"

Pastor Tom Olcott

Lay Reader: Bob Smith

Flowers: Michi Koizumi

Child Care: Clarice Suzuki

Sunday April 28: Revelations 21:1-6

Sermon: "Imagine – A New Universe"

Pastor John Indermark

Lay Reader: Mary Ann Katayama

Flowers: Carolyn Lum Bellem

Child Care: Jennifer Tanouye

EASTER and LENTEN HELPERS MAHALO – A BIG THANK YOU!

To all who helped in so many different ways during Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter, refreshments, with set-up and clean up, egg dyeing, flowers, Communion, Palm Sunday, singing, service day, special music, hunting for eggs, worship – and wonderful enjoyable fellowship. Everyone added to our mutual celebration in so many different and supportive ways, including all your participation.

Mahalo – Thank You.

Monday Night Bible Study 6:30 PM
Pastor Tom's office.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study 9:30 -
11:00 AM Pastor Tom's office.

Wednesday IYAA Bible Study in the
Lounge 7:30 PM

Merrie Monarch Parade

**Friday, April 5 – Volunteers Welcome
come join the fun and creativity of
Decorating the Holy Cross float for the
Merrie Monarch Parade** in the Church
Parking Lot from 11:00 AM until finish
- morning and afternoon.

Merrie Monarch Festival Parade riders
– Please gather at the church parking lot
by 8:15 AM ON Saturday, April 6, for car-
pooling to the start of the parade.

"E Komo Mai"

**All people are welcome here at Church
of the Holy Cross.** We greet all visitors,
guests, and friends and invite you to
participate in the life of our Holy Cross
Church family.



Membership and Confirmation

If you would like to explore membership,
Pastor Tom will hold a 3 session **Church
Membership and Confirmation Class**
from 4:30 – 6:00 PM on Sunday Evenings in
His office on April 14, 21, and 28th. Please
sign up with Pastor Tom (935-1283) by
Thursday, April 11th.

APRIL Birthday PRAYER LIST **Please pray for and send a greeting to these Birthday people:**

- 05 Kawachika, Kay
- 14 Kadota, Yoshiko
- 16 Melim, Carol
Olcott, Thomas
Yanagihara, Sachiko
- 17 Chen, Nancy
Kagimoto, Hideko
- 19 Kita, Jean
- 20 Shiroma, Toshiko
Tanouye, Jonathan
- 21 Niimi, Mildred
- 23 Tanouye, Kenneth
Chen, Maggie
- 27 Kusinski, Leigh
- 28 Chu, Roberta

PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION

expresses gratitude for the Holy Cross gift of
\$1,000.00 to the 2012-13 Annual Fund and for the
partnership enjoyed with our church. Our support
helps prepare leaders who will inspire and equip
transformative ministries of compassion and
justice in all places where such ministries happen
– in churches, hospitals, schools, and many other
organizations. Our partnership encourages and
sustains this work. Our financial support will
continue to encourage faculty and students'
*Cordially, Kathleen McShane
VP Instructional Advancement*

*"There comes a time, to step away from all the
drama and all who create it. To surround
yourself with people who make you laugh.
Forget the bad, and focus on the good. Love the
people who treat you right; pray for the ones
who don't. Life is too short to be anything but
happy." (Sent in by an e-mail)*