

✠ ✠ **THE MESSENGER** ✠ ✠

The Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ
440 West Lanikaula St., Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone 808-935-1283 E-mail: holycrosshilo@hawaii.rr.com

WEB SITE: www.holycrosshilo.com

July 23, 2013

A Place of Refuge

A few days ago, I was able to visit *Pu'uhonua o Honaunau* on the southern Kona coast. In the midst of the snorkelers, beach combers, sun worshippers, and canoers, I found the historic *pu'uhonua*, described as "a place of refuge for defeated warriors, noncombatants in time of war, and those who violated *kapu*, the sacred laws."

Located beside the former royal residence—home of the *ali'i*—which appears to have been a dozen or so buildings in a coconut palm grove, the *pu'uhonua* gave people a second chance. Since blood could not be spilled within this sanctuary, a *kapu* breaker could find safety there. If that person made it to the *pu'uhonua*, the priest would perform a ceremony of absolution, and the offender could make his/her way back home safely.

The *pu'uhonua* is an echo of ancient Jewish tradition as well. If one were to make it to the sanctuary of the Jewish tabernacle, he or she was safe and that person's life was spared.

Psalm 46 says that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble." I like to think of God in the same way as I think of the *pu'uhonua*. God's mercy runs deep and God's love extends wide. When we are in God's presence—and that is everywhere, not just in a church "sanctuary"—we benefit from God's blessing, God's grace, God's forgiveness, God's protection, and God's love.

So many things, especially here in this paradise called "Hawai'i," remind me of God's perpetual and close presence and love. The *pu'uhonua* is only one of them.

God is our refuge [sanctuary] and strength,
a very present help in times of trouble.

Therefore we will not fear . . .

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is
our refuge [sanctuary] . . .

(Psalm 46:1-2a, 7)

*Peace and Aloha,
Pastor Cliff*

Elwood "Woody" Kita Retires



Elwood "Woody" Kita, ADRC coordinator for the past 5 ½ years, retired from his post on June 30 following his 65th birthday.

Kita was hired by the Office of Aging in early 2008 following a career in social work at the Hilo Medical Center. He played an instrumental role in developing policy and procedures for the state's first Aging and Disability Resource Center at 1055 Kinoole St. in Hilo.

Executive on Aging Alan Parker commended Kita on his extraordinary leadership and professionalism in developing all aspects of the project related to the Big Island's seniors and those with disabilities and provided counseling for seniors and their caregivers on resource options.

Mayor Billy Kenoi presented Kita with a certificate of appreciation for going beyond the call of his accomplishments in consolidating essential services for our growing senior population. Kita says he looks forward to retirement and will be actively involved at the Church of the Holy Cross as a volunteer for the Peanut Butter Ministry.

Kita pointed out that among his achievements; it was an honor to work with the aging staff in developing agreements with more than 32 community agencies serving the elderly.

(Article from Office of Aging ADRC Report
July 2013 Issue)

July Service Day

Please join the members of the Church of the Holy Cross on Saturday, July 27, 2013 for a service day. These service days help maintain the church's property as well as get in some quality fellowship with other members. We will begin at 8:30am.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

The annual church picnic will be held in the Building of Faith on Sunday, August 11, 2013 following the morning church service. It will be our old fashioned Hilo style picnic with lots of bingo prizes, guessing games, watermelon weight guessing and lucky number prizes. For the children we will have a giant water slide so come with swimming attire and towels.

Lots of good food will be offered through our bento filled with "happy rice", baked shoyu chicken, potato-mac salad, fried hot dogs, takuan and kamabuko. Also available will be juice, watermelon, and shaved ice to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Come to the picnic for an afternoon of fun, excitement, good food, good fellowship, and a bag full of prizes. Please bring your own bag! See you there!

Lost & Found

"If anyone found a black designer shawl left draped over a pew last month, the owner will be very happy to get it back. Perhaps, it was put aside for safekeeping and didn't know what to do with it. Please turn it in to Dennis in the church office. Your help in returning the shawl will be very much appreciated."

Mahalo

Thank You!

The Church of the Holy Cross Women's Fellowship would like to thank all who participated in the annual Family Thank Offering Mission in June.

A total of \$1,495 will be forwarded to the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands.

Mahalo for blessing the lives of those with special monetary needs through this vital ministry!

-CHC Women's Fellowship

Senior Ministry

There will be no Senior Ministry for the month of July. Thank you for your understanding. The next Senior Ministry will be August 22, 2013.

Need TVs

The Church of the Holy Cross is requesting donations for old flat screen TVs to replace our old TVs. If you have a TV that you would like to donate, please contact the Church office at 808-935-1283.

Sunday School Kickoff

Sunday School will begin on August 4, 2013 at 8:45am, ages K-12. We will have breakfast in the Building of Faith.

JULY/AUGUST PRAYER LIST:

Birthday

Please pray for and send a greeting to these Birthday people

| | July |
|----|--|
| 25 | Mishina, Reynold |
| 29 | Inouye, Mieke |
| 30 | Fujioka, Janet Kobayashi, Gloria Kubo, Natsuko |
| | August |
| 01 | Ikeda, Gavin Yoshiyama, Connie |
| 07 | Brothers, Joan |
| 09 | Taniguchi, Lisbeth |
| 10 | Hoota, Shelby Nada, David |
| 15 | Hernandez, Cara |
| 18 | Torigoe, Edgar |
| 19 | Dodo, Beverly |
| 22 | Kawata, Teruo Smith, G. Robert |
| 25 | Yamauchi, Kay |
| 27 | Kurohara, Randall Shiraishi, Eileen Shiroma, Amy |
| 28 | Akim Seu, Susan Sadayasu, Anne |
| 29 | Okabe, Merle Watanabe, Herbert |
| 31 | Hayano, Hajime |

YouTube hip-hop artist Jason Chu in Residence at Church of the Holy Cross August 21 to September 29!



The Church is excited to announce our next Visiting Associate, Jason Chu. Jason will be arriving on August 20, and can only stay until September 29 because he is in studies at the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA.

As an Asian-American hip-hop artist, Jason writes songs about joy and cynicism, greed and hope, hurt and healing. Humorous and sincere, he invites the listener into stories of his friends, family, and own life.

Since studying philosophy at Yale University, Jason has been a teacher in Korea, a minister in Beijing, and a rapper in LA. His music deals with the Asian-American experience, the postmodern world, cynicism, and faith. To learn more, visit www.jasonchumusic.com.

Please help us prepare for his arrival by informing members of the Hilo Community about this exciting new Associate in Residence in Hilo. Jason is willing to meet, discuss and perform with the Hilo Community (of all ages!) while he is here for this short period of time. Since Jason is still a student and struggling artist, his visit to Holy Cross is sponsored by Newton and Roberta Chu. Jason's relationship to the Hilo Chu family is not through blood or marriage, but truly through the family of Jesus Christ.

Websites/social media:

youtube.com/jasonchumusic
grandmaster.bandcamp.com
www.jasonchumusic.com
facebook.com/jasonchumusic
twitter.com/jasonchumusic
jasonchumusic.tumblr.com

Worship & Scripture for July

Ushers: James and Connie Yoshiyama, Carol Morioka, Amy Saito, Carolyn Lum-Bellem

Sunday July 28: Luke 11:1-13

Sermon: "Whispers"

Pastor Cliff Cain

Lay Reader: Gloria Kobayashi

Flowers: Toki Fujimoto

Child Care: Kay Kawachika

Sunday August 4: Colossians 3:1-11

Sermon: "Somewhere Under the Rainbow"

Pastor Cliff Cain

Lay Reader: Jean Pierre Thoma

Flowers: Ichiko Hisanaga, Anne Sadayasu

Child Care: Roberta Chu

While Pastor Tom is away on vacation in July, Pastor Cliff will provide pastoral ministry for our members, lead Bible Study, will preach, conduct worship on Sundays, and be on call as needed. **The Parsonage phone number remains as (808)-315-7181.**

*Weekly activities at
your Church of the Holy
Cross*

- **Choir Rehearsal** Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- **Sunday School** on break until August
- **Annual Church Picnic** on Sunday, August 11 after service in Building of Faith
- **The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga** meets in the sanctuary on Sunday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei – Hilo** worships in the BF meeting room at 9am on Sundays.
- **Chuukese Church** worships in the BF meeting room at 1pm on Sundays.
- **The Samoan Church** worships in the sanctuary at 3 pm Sundays.
- **Bible Study** Monday 6:30-8:00 PM
- **Gentle Yoga** Monday 9:30-10:30am (BF Meeting Room)
- **Rhythm & Life exercise class** meets Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. (BF)
- **Bible Study** Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. (Pastor's office)
- **IYAA Bible Study** is held each Wednesday evening from 7:30 p.m. (Lounge)
- **Qi Goong exercise class** meets Friday morning 9-10:30 a.m. (BF)