

✠ ✠ THE MESSENGER ✠ ✠

The Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ
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June 18, 2014

A Message from Interim Pastor Mary

June 6th and 7th I attended the 'Aha Makua at the First Chinese Church of Christ in Honolulu, along with Sue Smith and Ruth Farrell. When you are in Honolulu please visit this church – their sanctuary is very lovely and has many beautiful Chinese elements. I enjoyed meeting persons and learning about our diverse Hawai'i Conference, United Church of Christ.

Our keynote speaker was Rita Nakashima Brock, who teaches at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas. Her latest book, Soul Repair, is about moral injury and how to bring healing to persons. Moral injury is a new name for an old problem. Persons may experience moral injury when they transgress their own basic moral identity and beliefs. They have done something which gives their soul great pain. Since there has been war or domestic violence or rape there has been moral injury.

In ancient Christian practices (before the Crusades) soldiers returning from war went through an in-depth process of soul rehabilitation. Today in many cases isolation increases the dilemma –as persons are expected to not bring up their pain. These are the invisible wounds many experience. These invisible wounds may surface years after a traumatic event has occurred. Rita told us stories of veterans who are dealing with the trauma of war, years after they returned from war. Rita encouraged us to listen to persons dealing with these difficulties, encouraging them, but not trying to fix persons. She spoke of many morally ambiguous situations that men and women face today – and acknowledged that there may be no good answer or choice.

Do you know any returning veterans? Can you provide a listening ear? As followers of Jesus, we are called to be open and compassionate of persons with visible and these invisible wounds. God's love is broader, deeper, higher and wider than we can imagine. I give thanks for God's amazing, powerful grace that we are called to share with one another and those beyond our congregation.

Peace & Joy,

Mary

Bible Study for Adults Studying Matthew this Summer

Monday evenings, from 6:30 – 8 pm and Wednesday morning from 9:30 – 11 am Pastor Mary leads “conversational” Bible study. Beginning Monday June 23, and Wednesday June 25 we’ll look at Matthew’s Gospel. We’ll be talking about scriptures that will be used in worship this summer. They will include Matthew’s Gospel and other scriptures too. We have lots of fun and stretch our minds and hearts! Bring your Bible and come learn with us! On Mondays we meet in the Pastor’s Study; On Wednesdays we meet in the Lounge.

“PEACE PROJECT” launch by Lily Inouye

Lily Inouye has launched an idea to promote “PEACE” in remembrance of the 199,000 atomic bomb casualties in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The publicity states: “The Peace Committee of Honoka’a Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, the 199,000 Cranes Project is running the ambitious project to gather 199,000 origami paper cranes. When the project’s goal is reached, massive “flocks” will be presented to memorial organizations in cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a gesture of mindfulness of the many individual tragedies of war.”

Excerpts from Lily’s note: “*Peace*” is an elusive subject but the words of the first line of the song haunts me: “*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me*”. Please accompany me on this last mile of my life to lift this project to fruition in remembrance of the 199,000 atomic bomb casualties in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I am asking you to join me to raise our voices of peace on earth for all mankind- through the Peace Project.” Peace is an ecumenical concern.

You are invited to help us gather at least 1,000 of the cranes by September. You may pick up the origami sheets on Sunday or come during the workshop times to fold the cranes at your leisure. Don’t know how to fold them or need a refresher? Join us at one of these times in the Lounge or J’s Café: Monday, June 23 from 9-10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, June 24 from 9 to 11; Thursday, June 26 from 9 to 11; or Sunday, June 29 after worship. It’s a learn/refresh, practice and make at home project. Call Margaret at 895-0994 if you can’t make it at the listed times or have questions about the project.

Lily closes with “*With heartfelt thanks, let us walk together in Christian love and God grant us grace and peace.*”

Special Speaker -- Allan Boesak -- Tuesday, July 22, 7 pm and Wednesday, July 23, 9 am

The day after we announced dates for Dr. Boesak’s visit the dates were changed! He is coming in July! We look forward to our guest speaker, Allan Boesak, who teaches at Butler University and Christian Theological Seminary both in Indianapolis, IN.

Dr. Boesak was the guest speaker at the Hawai’i Conference UCC ‘Aha Makua in 2013. He has a new book published called, Dare We Speak of Hope. In it he writes about hope in our faith lives and in politics. Dr. Boesak is a pastor and has worked in South African politics. He was also an anti-apartheid activist there. If you Google “Allan Boesak, sermons” you will find at least one written sermon and a YouTube video of a speech.

Both gatherings will be in the Building of Faith; you are welcome to attend both.

Good Luck Pedro!

Thank you to our choir members for your faithful service in worship! We are so grateful for your ministry of music. We’ll have a summer break from choir and look forward to the choir’s return in the fall. On June 15 we bid aloha to Pedro Ka’awaloa, our music director! We wish him well in his adventure in New York City as he seeks to do music on Broadway.

If you are interested in helping provide special music this summer, or can recommend someone please contact Gloria Kobayashi.



Thank you to the many hands that helped plan, prepare and execute this year's VBS. It was a true "Workshop of Wonders"! To Pastor Mary, Ruth, Gail, Amy, Yoko and Sue for coordinating and teaching, and to the Kitchen Crew: Woody, Joyce, Connie, Kay, Theone, Christian and Margaret - thank you all for a job well done! We had over 15 keiki wearing crowns, building terrariums, singing and running. What a "wonder"ful way to help them learn about God and His teachings!

Strengthen the Church Offering Received, Sunday, June 8, 2014

The total amount received for the Strengthen the Church offering for 2014 is \$797. Thank you for your generosity.

FAMILY THANK OFFERING

The Family Thank Offering (FTO) is one of the mission projects of our Church of the Holy Cross Women's Fellowship and the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands. Requests for financial assistance made by churches, the community and members of the WBM are considered by the FTO Committee each year.

Some of the gifts made in past years include: ***expenses for women survivors of domestic violence; help to a young widowed mother; aid to a bereaved mother who lost her son; help to a family who lost a child in a fire; defray costs for a woman who received medical treatment for breast cancer as well as other medical needs; supplemental expenses for a Big Island family who suffered damage caused by needed roof repairs; rent assistance to a Windward couple who were between jobs; assistance to a single mother of two children who could not pay her rent because of medical and dental bills*** – the list is a long one and aid has been extended to all the islands throughout the State of Hawaii.

Our church members and friends have always been compassionate to the plight of those in need and have, over the years, given most generously to this annual Family Thank Offering. We pray that you will continue to open your hearts and share God's love through this special offering which will be received and dedicated on **Sunday, June 29th.**

A stamped FTO envelope is enclosed in today's newsletter mailing. Extra FTO envelopes are on the table near the entrance of the sanctuary for those who receive the newsletter via e-mail. Offerings may also be mailed to the church office. Checks should be made out to: Church of the Holy Cross with the notation: Family Thank Offering. All monies received will be forwarded to the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands.

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (NRSV)

- from the CHC Women's Fellowship

Aloha Chuuk

The IYAA will be collecting clothes and other donations for two more Saturdays, (June 22, June 29). Donations may be dropped off in Lounge.

Senior Ministry

Everyone's invited to the June senior ministry luncheon and program on Thursday June 26th, 10 to 12 noon. Lunch will be free, courtesy of Lily Inouye. Chefs Woody & Kay will be preparing Chicken Ala King Peanut Butter Ministry style. Free good food, great company and an interesting and informative program....can't ask for a better bargain anywhere else in town!!! Sign up on the senior ministry bulletin board or call the church office you're able to attend.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
10am-4:30pm
Lunch
12pm-1pm
Friday
10am-12pm

Office Closed

Friday, July 4, 2014
Independence Day

Church Volunteers

June 22, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Jennie Kondo

Childcare:

Saeko Hayashi

Layreader:

Barbara Iwami

June 29, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Gloria Kobayashi

Childcare:

Malia Mattos

Layreader:

Ruth Niino-DuPonte

July 6, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Blanche Maeda, Betty Pacheco

Childcare:

Mary Ann Katayama

Layreader:

Jane Kawazoe

July 13, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Lily Inouye (Memorial)

Childcare:

James Yoshiyama

Layreader:

Anne Sadayasu