

# The PresByte

Mililani Presbyterian Church Newsletter



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JANUARY 2009

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## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

**Sunday, January 25 at 10:30 am**



This year's Annual Meeting will begin immediately following a brief time of fellowship on the lanai. There will be no Sunday School that morning but there will be a program for the children during the meeting.

The meeting will feature a review of the past year, the presentation of the 2009 Budget adopted by the Session, the approval of the Pastor's "terms of call" and the election of an at-large member to the Pastor Support and Evaluation Team.

There will be an opportunity to discuss the current and projected MPC financial situation as well as time set apart for praise and prayer.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS

### Stephen Ministers Are Available

Stephen Ministers are available to help people get through tough times anytime of year. They have received well over 50 hours of training in listening skills.

Some of the subjects they have studied are on how to care for folks going through loss of a loved one, loss of a relationship, ministering to the lonely, caring for someone with a long term illness, or caring for those facing unknown circumstances such as loss of a job. Stephen Ministers are mostly there to listen, but can pray with you and use other Christian resources to help the situation.

Please call Diana Toillion 625-1875, Karen Cabral 623-1596, Barry Nupen 623-3538 or Pastor Jim 623-6663 if you are in need of care.

### New Training Class

There will be a NEW TRAINING CLASS beginning on January 18, 2009. We need at least one more person to begin this class.

Not only can you help folks for Stephen Ministry, you will also find the information wonderful for use with family and friends. One person said they were so glad they had Stephen Ministry training when their child was a teenager. Others say they have benefited from the training in dealing with older parents.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or would like to try out their care, please call anyone of the above names.



***"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2***



A New Year is beginning. 2009 will be a year filled with surprises that will both cheer us and bring us to our knees. It will be a year of the “old passing away” and “new things coming.” Life and death; joy and suffering; war and peace; health and sickness; sleeping and waking; laughter and tears will all be immersed in the hope and joy of the good news of God’s saving love in Jesus Christ.

You see, it is not necessarily the packaging that determines what the present is inside. Let me explain. For Christmas the church office staff gave me a gift card for the Outback Steakhouse but I had to dig through a number of layers to find it. First, the present was wrapped up in a chocolate macadamia nut box. Yum, I like those. But the box did not have what I expected to find. Life is like that, isn’t it? We expect things to turn out a certain way and

sometimes they don’t and we’re disappointed. I expect that will happen to all of us in the coming year. But don’t be discouraged when that happens. Keep digging into the box!

I did some more digging and found a very odd assortment of items: There was half-empty tube of toothpaste; an almost empty tube of hair conditioner; an eye make-up kit complete with eye shadow and mascara (“Wet & Wild”); and a tube of “Icy Hot,” a balm for sore and achy muscles. This was also a lot like our lives will be in the coming year; a year that will be full of odds and ends and mysteries and surprises and things that defy both logic and common sense. We will hope that the year will make some sense out of our lives but, if we keep our eyes focused on what the year brings to us we will probably not be able to make a whole lot of sense out of it.

I later found out that Kathryn Tingley had put all of these things in the box to distract me and confuse me from guessing that the real gift in the box was the gift card for the Outback Steakhouse. The ruse worked . . . but only until I opened up the gift card at the bottom of the box. I know our church staff well enough to have guessed that this gift would turn out to be more than just a meaningless joke. And I was not disappointed.

Our Christian faith helps us face the coming year with a similar sense of optimism. No matter what the New Year will bring to us for good or for ill we will never allow any of it to discourage or disillusion us. We will be able to embrace all of the absurdities and chaos and dissonance with laughter and joy. We will be able to do this because we know Jesus and because we know that the only gift that really matters has already been given to us. And God’s saving love never has and never will disappoint us. Ever!

Because of Jesus it will definitely be a “Happy New Year!” I’ll see you in church.

## *Update on Pledges and Building Fund*

Thank you for your Faith Promises for 2009. We received pledges to the operating budget of \$169,645 and \$17,600.00 to the building fund. After the Session made some drastic cuts in the budget, our operating expenses are still forecast to be approximately \$17,800 more than the amount pledged for operations. As a remedy, we are recommending that all contributions be redirected to the operating budget. This is strictly voluntary. If you indicate on your check or envelope that you intend a portion to go to the building fund, we will put that toward the building.

In related news, we have received a builder's estimate for some of the first phases of the facilities upgrade and expansion, and it is significantly lower than the original architect's estimate. This should allow us to start work in 2009. One of the possibilities we are considering is the installation of a photo-voltaic system which will allow MPC to generate enough power to sell back to HECO and significantly reduce our electric bill, which was over \$10,000 for 2008.

We are reconstituting our New Facilities (Building) Committee to oversee and direct this effort and are looking for new members. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting project, contact Charlie Cabral, Hugh Lee or Pastor Jim.



### **Join Us For the Next Evening of Service at River Of Life Mission**

**When:** Wednesday, January 28, 2009  
Meet at MPC to carpool at 5:30 p.m.  
or  
Be at the Mission by 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** 101 N. Pauahi St.

**Needed:** Donations of food  
Cooks for the meal  
Servers on site at ROLM

This is our first visit of the year, and we ask for everyone to participate. Sign-ups will begin after services in mid-January. If you have any questions about this rewarding and worthwhile mission of MPC, please contact Darrell Ching at 623-7977 or Jo Gardiner at 988-2777.

#### **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS**

- \* I will no longer waste my time relieving the past, instead I will spend it worrying about the future.
- \* Just for today, I will not sit in my living room all day in my nightdress. Instead, I will move my computer into the bedroom.
- \* I will not bore my boss with the same excuses for taking leave. I will think up some new excuses.
- \* I resolve to work with neglected children — my own!
- \* I will give up chocolates totally. 100%. Completely. Honestly....



## HIM CONFERENCE TICKETS AVAILABLE

*If you are interested in attending this year's Hawaiian Island Ministries (HIM) '09 conference, but do not have your tickets yet, then see Kathryn in the office to reserve yours today! She has just a few available and they do go quick! These tickets were purchased at last year's conference and are the best prices available. (If you buy at the door it is \$259 this year!)*

*The conference is scheduled for March 12 to 14 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Some of the speakers this year include Tony Campolo, Dawn O'Brien (dj for 95.5, The Fish) and Nick Vujicic (a man born with no arms or legs.) The worship concert will be led by Shawn McDonald and there is a special youth program as well.*

*Several MPCers attend this awesome event every year and wouldn't miss it. If you have not attended before, then you are in for a treat! Pastor Jim, Kathryn and many of our long time members can tell you it is a "must do" event. Your life will be changed and your spirit renewed. See Kathryn and reserve your ticket today.*

**WANTED:**

ONE CREATIVE MAN OR WOMAN  
WILLING TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE  
PRESTIGIOUS JOB OF

**PRESBYTE  
EDITOR**

REWARD: \$0 (BUT LOTS OF FUN, JOY AND  
SATISFACTION!) FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CONTACT TRACI HALY.

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



DEAR CRABBY - An online Christian Advice Service created by Velma Crabtree offering 'grace free' blunt advice that makes a Baptist Blush, and Catholics chinge.

## **PARENTING-THE EARLY YEARS**

### **Ten Biblical Traits Your Kids Will Remember You For**

Beginning the first Sunday in January, the Christian Education team will be offering a new adult class in the worship center during the Sunday school hour. Elder Traci Haly will be leading the class, and we invite those of you with infants to elementary aged children to attend.

The teenaged version of this curriculum put out by Bluefish Productions was offered in the fall. The parents who attended said it was informative, helpful, and provided new ideas on how to handle difficult situations with their teens. They also liked the camaraderie and support from the other parents in the class. Christian Education is hoping that will be the case for this class as well. If you have any questions, see Traci at church on Sunday. Hope to see you there!

#### **NEW YOUTH GROUP T-SHIRTS!**

Order January 11th—\$15 each

The MPC Youth Group held a contest and Megan Wright’s design was chosen. Instead of iPod she suggested iPray! and it won! Congratulations!



~~Youth may order through Ms.~~.....

### **YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES**

#### **for January 2009**

*PARENTS & YOUTH-please note:*

**1/4 VIDEO SCAVENGER HUNT AT WARD WAREHOUSE 11:30am**

*Bring Permission form, \$15 for lunch & a camera for the adventure*

**1/11 YOUTH GROUP @ 1PM AT LORI'S HOME (leadership 12:30pm)**

*Bring your Bibles and friends welcome! Don't forget permission form!*

**1/25 YOUTH GROUP @ 1PM AT LORI'S HOME (leadership 12:30pm)**

*Bring your Bibles and friends welcome! Don't forget permission form!*



## *ADULT DINNER OUT*

Saturday, January 10

At 5:30 p.m.

**BANDITO'S CANTINA**

98-151 Pali Momi

(Across from Pearlridge Shopping Center between Straub Clinic & Denny's)



Sign-ups will be on the lanai after church this week or contact Karen Cabral at 623-1596. We always have a fun evening!

### Per Capita

Now that most of you have received your MPC giving envelopes for 2009 you may be wondering what the "Per Capita" envelope is for. "Per Capita" is the Presbyterian Church USA way of covering administrative costs for the denomination each year. Each congregation is asked to contribute \$X per member each year. This year it is \$33 per member. We've budgeted for some of this but are **hoping that each member will chip in that amount over and above their annual pledge.** We hope you will help out with this gift. Just place it in the "Per Capita" envelope or designate it on the check or on your regular giving envelope. Thanks.



### ***NEW MPC DIRECTORIES***

#### ***COMING SOON***

Every year around this time, the MPC Deacons work very hard trying to get a hold of each and every person and family at the church. Their tireless efforts are to ensure the church directory is up to date. Sometimes they can't reach people because numbers have either been changed or disconnected or some people move. So listen for a call from your Deacon, and try to return messages promptly. We don't want any of your information printed wrong!



If you've had a change in the last year, or if something is incorrect in the current directory, please call your Deacon or Lola in the office at 623-6663. You can expect to receive your new directory soon. Thank you!





# Mililani Presbyterian Church

Pastor James A. Tweedie

## Officers of MPC

### Session

Kerry Ishihara	Clerk of Session
<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>MINISTRY TEAM</b>
Barry Nupen	Christian Education
Margie Esteron	Christian Education
Traci Haly	Congregational Life
Geoff Horvath	Evangelism
Rich Gordon	Evangelism
Charlie Cabral	Finance & Facilities
Hugh Lee	Finance & Facilities
Darrell Ching	Missions
Jo Gardiner	Missions
Tony Ambrosecchio	Worship
Doug Wright	Worship
Michelle Emerson (C. L. elected not yet installed)	

### Board of Deacons

Heidi Takahata	Moderator
Mike Johnson	Assistant Moderator
Stephanie Ching	District Coordinator

### DISTRICTS

Betty Harrell	Green
Kari Nupen	Red
Rick Esteron	Orange
Mike Johnson	Yellow
Bill Horton	Pink
Mary Ross Winsley	Blue

(One Deacon position has not yet been filled)

### MPC FACILITIES SURVIVE FLOODING

Heavy rains on December 11, complicated by two plugged drains, resulted in the total flooding of the Office Wing, including the Conference Room, the Infant/1-year old room and Room 1. After closing the Preschool down for the day and with the help of our Preschool & Office Staff along with Pastor Jim and Facilities Team leaders Charlie Cabral and Hugh Lee we were able to salvage everything except the Nursery Room carpeting. What a mess!

But God is good. Several church members contributed the funds to cover the \$2,000+ cost of clean-up and carpet replacement and the incident forced everyone to throw out a lot of unnecessary stuff that had accumulated in dark and hidden places over the years.

Preschool parents and staff were particularly patient and understanding during this time as classes were combined and relocated for several days until all was made right again. Whew!

### 3 MPC YOUTH RECEIVE EAGLE SCOUT AWARD



**RYAN NUPEN** (Troop 176), **TRENTON HOWARD** and **THOMAS PARK** (both Troop 264) were awarded the highest award in Boy Scouting at a Court of Honor held in the MPC Worship Center on December 29th. A fourth boy,

Ahloy Chang, from Troop 264, also received the Eagle Award during the ceremony.

Troop 264 is the Troop sponsored by our MPC congregation and we are so proud of its successful and continuing promotion of Scouting in our community. Special appreciation goes to Scoutmaster Allan Yasuda. Assistant Scoutmasters include John Pasternak, Trenton Howard and Richard Takahata. Also participating in the ceremony were MPCs Frank Storch (BSA Kaala District Chair), Barry Nupen (BSA Aloha Council Asst. Commissioner & Troop 176 Asst. Scoutmaster) & John Martin

# The MPC Personals Page:

What's going on in our church family?



## Happy Anniversaries



Jan. 29 Richard & Heidi Takahata

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Over 20 MPC Carolers shared the Christmas Spirit with our neighbors down the street at Makana Hale on December 21. A good time was had by all. It all ended with an open house at the Tweedie's..

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

- Jan. 1 Grace Kim
- 1 Noel Daoang
- 2 Hiro Spence
- 2 Dorothy Lee
- 5 Rich Gordon
- 5 Bill Martin
- 5 Kari Nupen
- 9 Jessica Burns
- 10 Chaz Jones
- 10 Sidney Jones
- 12 Rachel Abarro
- 13 Laura Ambrosecchio
- 13 Miranda Anderson
- 13 Mona Bonbright
- 13 Kyle Burns
- 14 Mary Holland
- 15 Nita Johnson
- 15 Peter Emerson
- 17 Zachary Ayers
- 18 Charlene Storch
- 18 Tommy Takahata
- 20 Bethany Sosa
- 22 Kathleen Curry
- 23 Cecile Brink
- 24 Megan Wright
- 27 Andrew Haly
- 30 Yoko Chun

## WELCOME

Betsy Evans

95-037 Hokuwa St. #31

Mililani, HI 96789

Cell: 429-7991

Orange District

## JANUARY CALENDAR

**Mililani Presbyterian Church**

95-410 Kuahelani Avenue  
Mililani, HI 96789



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**MISSION**

*To glorify God, to know and serve Jesus Christ, and to live and share His good news.*

**We're on the web!**  
**[www.mpc-hi.org](http://www.mpc-hi.org)**

**Vision**

*We are a place of welcome for all, having a particular passion for the needs of children, youth and their families. Building on who we are, God is calling us to be:*

*A church that reaches out as well as welcomes in with the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ;*

*A church where every child and adult is committed to Christ, assimilated and integrated into the body of Christ, equipped for the body of Christ, and inviting others to become a part of the body of Christ;*

*A church that experiences growth in membership, facilities, and staff.*

**Mililani Presbyterian Church**

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