

The PresByte

Mililani Presbyterian Church Newsletter



VOLUME 39, ISSUE 12
DECEMBER 2009

OUCH—THE PASTOR IS LEAVING What Happens Next?

Here's the abridged version of what we can expect:

1. Pastor Jim's last Sunday will be January 3, 2010. Following worship will be a Congregational Meeting where we will vote to "dissolve" our relationship with him as our pastor effective January 31 (the rest of January Jim will be "released from pastoral responsibilities" while on vacation/study leave).
2. A Session team made up of Session Clerk Dorothy Dale and Elders Geoff Horvath and Michelle Emerson has been formed to consult with Presbytery Executive the Rev. Linda Culbertson.
3. The Session will be responsible for lining up **weekly pulpit supply** until an **Interim Pastor** can be called.
4. Linda Culbertson will visit MPC and meet with the Session in early January to help guide us in beginning the process of seeking a new pastor.
5. A team of Elders and members-at-large will be elected to research and draft a **Mission Study** for the congregation. This will take several months and the result will form the substance of the congregation's CIF ("Congregation Information For") that will be used to advertise the vacant pastor position to potential applicants within the denomination.
6. A **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)** will be elected from the Session and congregation to receive and evaluate the Pastor Information Forms (PIF) that will be received from applicants. The PNC will collect information and references, conduct interviews and, in the end, invite several "finalist" candidates to visit Hawaii so that they can meet them personally and hear them preach at a "neutral" pulpit somewhere other than MPC. They will then invite the final candidate to fly back to Hawaii and preach to the MPC congregation who, at a Congregational Meeting following that worship, will vote to elect (or reject) the candidate as our new pastor. *(continued on page 7)*

CHRISTMAS AT MPC

Details concerning the Mililani Christmas Parade, MPC Christmas Dinner, MPC Christmas Pageant and Christmas Tea can be found inside. In addition to these you are also invited to join in the . . .

ANNUAL MPC CHRISTMAS CAROLING—Sunday, December 20—Meet at MPC at 6:30 pm and join in singing carols at the Makana Hale apartment complex down the street. Afterwards the Tweedies will host an open house at their home (95-1013 Luahu St, Mililani Mauka) Bring your voice & goodies to share!

MPC CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE—Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 pm Hear the Christmas story from Scripture, sing traditional carols and enjoy the special music from the MPC Choir, a Christmas message from Pastor Jim. And sing Silent Night by candlelight as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus!

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From the Pastor—PresByte December 2009

As you probably have heard, Jeanine and I are leaving MPC in January for Seaview, Washington, (Zip Code 98644) where I have accepted a call to serve the Ocean Beach Presbyterian Church as their new Pastor. For several years I have felt that the Lord has been preparing a new place for me to serve. Now, in the Lord's good time, we will be saying "Aloha" to dear friends and the beauty of Hawaii.

In the past 16 years I have had the privilege of serving the Lord alongside some of the most wonderful people in God's kingdom. Together, since I first arrived here with Jeanine and our three (then-small) daughters, we have shared a great journey together.

We have seen the annual church budget grow from \$392,00 to over \$800,000 (and have seen over \$1 million run through the books in each of the past three years). We have enlarged the CE/Youth staff from one ½-time position to a full-time CE Director and a ¼-time Youth Director. We have worked with grant funding and capital fund campaigns to pay off the original church mortgage, build a new 8-room storage building, remodel & reconfigure much of the Education Wing, repave the parking lot, re-roof the sanctuary and raise \$500,000 in congregational funding (plus nearly an equal amount of grant money from local foundations) towards the soon-to-begin construction of a new ministry wing, lanai, bathrooms and church kitchen. We have doubled preschool enrollment (to nearly 100 children) and initiated classes for 1 & 2-year old children. As Pastor I have trained & ordained over 60 Elders & 56 Deacons; received 400 new members; baptized over 100 children & 26 adults & introduced praise singing into blended worship services one or two Sundays each month. I have also flown back and forth to the mainland over 60 times, most often for meetings of the Presbytery of the Pacific in Los Angeles.

Together we have seen the creation of an annual Vacation Bible School Program; a midweek "Kids for Christ" dinner program for neighborhood children, a bi-monthly ministry of food and worship to the River of Life Mission, the annual MPC Block Party and three youth/adult mission trips to Mexico (where we have built three houses for families through Amor Ministries).

I have served as a Stephen Leader in our Stephen Ministry program where we have trained dozens of Stephen Ministers, prayed regularly and shared in numerous ministries with local pastors, increased our shared worship with Christ Lutheran Church to three services each year, and added the Hanmi and Micronesian Congregations as ministry partners in our facilities. In addition I have served as Moderator of the old Hawaii Presbyterian Council; co-founded the Oahu Multi-Faith Leaders Forum; served on the Board for the Jesus Hawaii Project, twice served on planning committees for Greg Laurie's Harvest Crusade events and currently serve on the Advisory Board of Hawaiian Islands Ministries and on the Board of the Hawaii Council of Churches. I have also enjoyed study leave trips to Jordan and (with Compassion International) the Philippines. I have also completed all the class requirements for my Doctor of Ministry degree at Fuller Theological Seminary.

I have attended over 300 Session meetings and over 1000 other MPC team/committee meetings. I have preached over 800 sermons, I have led Bible studies and adult Sunday School classes. I have worked with three office managers, 5 bookkeepers, 7 youth/CE directors, 7 preschool directors, 5 organists, 8 choir directors, and probably 60 or 70 different preschool teachers and aides. I have also led over 100 children through the God & Me/God & Family programs and a number of others through the more challenging God & Church/God & Life programs.

(Continued on next page)

As a parent (and pastor) I have shared in public school activities, youth soccer and Bobby Sox softball programs and Girl Scouts and helped arrange youth fellowship mission trips to the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai and Kauai as well as on Oahu.

Most important of all I have been invited to share in the lives of people who I have come to know and love as friends. Through prayer, scripture and conversation I have shared the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ with you all. I have counseled, supported, encouraged and sometimes even cajoled as we have grown in our Christian faith and life together. You have not only taught me about the history of MPC and Hawaii but, by sharing your life stories with me, I have come to appreciate the amazing diversity of languages, cultures, national origins, races and personal experiences that make MPC possibly one of the most unique congregations in our denomination.

Jeanine and I have been blessed through the time we have spent among you and I have no doubt that MPC will continue to be a blessing for countless numbers of people. . . including those who God will call to serve as your pastor . . . in the years to come.

Although I have led with whatever faith, skills and leadership that God has given to me I have never been more than a temporary servant to the congregation. MPC is not and never has been "my" congregation. As a matter of fact, MPC has very little to do with me at all. MPC is YOU. MPC is what the Lord is doing in and through YOU. MPC is whatever YOU, in partnership with God, choose to make of yourselves.

The coming months will offer you all a wonderful opportunity to reclaim MPC for yourselves without expecting someone else to try and do it for you. In good time God will raise up and reveal a new pastor to stand alongside you in leadership, love and friendship.

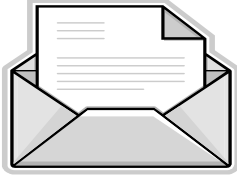
Comings and goings have always been a part of God's people, perhaps especially so here at MPC. That I would one day leave should not come as a surprise to any of us. While it may bring some sadness in the short term it will, in the long term, most certainly bring new opportunities for renewal and rethinking who and what MPC is all about.

One day, under new leadership, you may find it worthwhile to find new words to describe the MPC mission, vision and personality. Until that day comes, however, I will pray that you will hold fast to being a congregation that "Glorifies God; Knows and serves Jesus Christ, and; Lives and shares his Good News!" A church that "Reaches out and welcomes in with the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ;" A church whose doors will always be "open" to receive the strong and the weak, the healthy and the sick, the rich and the poor, the friend and the stranger as you continue to make no distinctions between them. "For we are all one in Christ Jesus."

That, at least, is how I see it. Because of MPC I am a very different man than I was when I arrived here in March of 1993. The Ocean Beach Presbyterian Church will now benefit from what you have taught me. After saying "Aloha" to so many MPCers over the years it will now be Jeanine and me who you will commission as "missionaries" as we depart for a new community of faith in a new place far, far away. And you can be assured that we will give you our blessing in return.

Until that day arrives (January 3rd), I'll see you in church,





CORRESPONDENCE FROM OUR WORLD VISION BROTHER & SISTER

For those of you who may not be aware we have two children that we support through the World Vision program. We had three but the oldest, Lovell, graduated and is in college. He is no longer in the area where the project is held. The MPC children are encouraged to bring their "tithes" to children's church each Sunday. The money that is collected is given to support these two children. Each week we discuss how the money is used to buy school supplies, medicine, clothing, and helps with community projects such as digging wells. Besides collecting money our children send letters, make cards and draw pictures several times a year and it is sent to these kids. Our children are helping children! This makes our MPC keiki proud to know that they can help in some way.

If your child asks you if he/she can do something around the house to earn money for children's church, this is what they are supporting. The following are the most recent letters sent to us by our brother and sister in Christ:

Yvline Louis from Haiti; girl, age 10; 5th grade:

Dear Mililani Presbyterian sponsors, I feel glad to greet you. How are you? I thank you for the drawings, pictures, cards and letters. Thank you very much. I see that you are a team of children who follow the way of the Lord in your life. I am the second child of my mom and pop. They are married but my mom does not live at home with me. I wish that God will bless you and have a good holiday. Love, Yvline.

Tarekegn Taddese from Ethiopia; boy, age 9, 4th grade:

I would like to greet you in the name of our Lord. I am happy by the greetings from you. I hope that you and your families are very blessed. Thanks be to God that me and my family are fine.

I have received your gifts of pictures, cards, letters and birthday greetings. Thank you very much. I must start doing some drawings too. Thank you very much. I like what you send me.

My father works in agriculture and he learns new things. My mother is the house worker. We also have a grandfather who stays with us. Sometimes I need to help my grandfather. We eat good food!

I love you all. Pray for me and my family and I will pray for you. May the Lord bless you! Love, Tarek

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/family at the church. Their tireless efforts are due to updating the church directory. Sometimes they can't reach people because numbers have changed or been disconnected and/or 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

to make the changes. You can expect to receive your new directory by the end of the year. Thank you!

STEPHEN MINISTRY

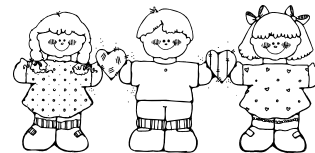


The holiday season can be a particularly stressful time for folks. This time of year can bring back memories of loved ones who are gone or family who are a long distance away from us. Or sometimes it brings back painful memories of times not so great even though we would wish it otherwise.

Stephen Ministers are especially equipped to be good listeners to anyone going through difficult times and would like to be of service to anyone experiencing any type of problem. We will pray regarding the situation and support you while you walk through this "hard" time. We are honored to be of service so don't hesitate to ask for assistance. All information is kept confidential. Please call Karen Cabral 623-1596, Pastor Jim 623-6663, Barry Nupen 623-3538 or Diana Toillion 625-1875 who can direct you to a Stephen Minister. Mahalo!

KIDS FOR CHRIST

Fall Session Report



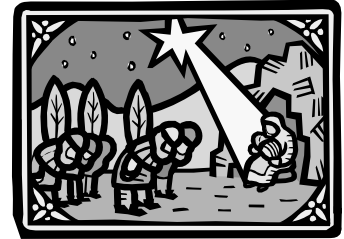
We were a success again with our fall session of Kids for Christ this year. We had 28 children registered and met for 7 Wednesdays during October and November with an average of 20 children per night. Ms. Kathryn wants to say thank you to all those who showed up faithfully each evening to help with the program and/or cooked our yummy dinners. YOU ARE AWESOME MPC VOLUNTEERS! Thanks so much.

This session the keiki had fun as they told jokes around the dinner table, formed good Christian relationships and then followed with worship in the sanctuary. Each evening they either made a craft or experienced a Bible story. One evening they learned how bodies were prepared for burial just like Jesus was!

*If you didn't get to participate this time, not to worry, the Christian Team will offer KFC again in the spring. Again **MAHALO!** to all of those who helped.*

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 13, 2009



Every year at this time the children of MPC put on a Nativity pageant for you to remember the reason for the season. This year's pageant will take place during the regular Worship time (9am) on December 13th. Ms Kathryn has been outfitting and practicing with the children from 2 years up through high school. If your child(ren) has/have not been coming to church and would like to participate, it's not too late! Please call her at the office, 623-6663 or 218-1339 to make arrangements for a costume. The play will be narrated so there are no speaking parts. The children will be singing Christmas songs and will be learning them during the next few Sundays during children's church and Sunday school. We look forward to a full congregation that day!

This is a good opportunity to invite friends, neighbors and family!



COME TO OUR BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS!

DECEMBER 20, 2009

The Sunday before Christmas day is our allotted time to celebrate the birthday of our Lord and Savior. In lieu of children's Sunday school we will have games such as 'The Wise Men Gold Coin Toss', 'Disciple Fishing', and 'Place Baby Jesus in the Manger'. There will be a birthday cake, goodies bags, Christmas crafts and more! So be sure to stay after worship that day to enjoy the celebration on the lanai with us.



Mele Kalikimaka!

PASTOR JIM'S FINAL SERMON SERIES

- 1st Sunday in Advent—November 29th—"Coming & Going—Anticipation" (*Prophecy*)"
- 2nd Sunday in Advent—December 6th—"Coming & Going—Annunciation"
- 3rd Sunday in Advent—December 13th—"Coming & Going—Dislocation" (Journey to *Bethlehem*)"
- 4th Sunday in Advent—December 20th—"Coming & Going—Incarnation" (*Nativity*)"
- Christmas Eve Worship—December 24th—"Coming & Going"
- December 27th—"Coming & Going—Emigration" (*Flight Into Egypt*)"
- New Year's Sunday—January 3rd, 2010—"Coming & Going—Celebration"

Note that Jim will lead an adult small group class each Sunday at 10:30 am based on that week's sermon.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

KATHRYN L. TINGLEY

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR December 2009:

12/5 MILILANI CHRISTMAS PARADE 8am @ MHS STADIUM

12/6 YOUTH GROUP @ 1PM AT LORI'S HOME (leadership 12:30pm)

Bring your Bibles and friends welcome! Don't forget swimsuit, towel & permission form! As always, friends welcome.

12/20 JESUS BIRTHDAY PARTY @ MPC (during Sunday School) 10:30am

Plan to help Ms. Kathryn with games & crafts for the keiki at the annual party. There will be goodie bags for everyone who helps!

12/20 YOUTH GROUP & CHRISTMAS PARTY @ LORI'S HOME—1pm-5pm

At 3pm families are invited to join their youth for fun, games and festivities. Bring your favorite game to share.

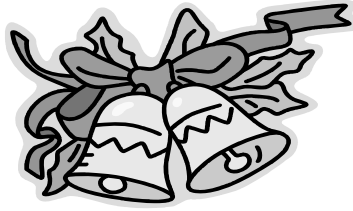
12/20 CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH THE CONGREGATION—6:30pm

We will meet at the church parking lot. Remember to wear your Christmas hats, and jingle bells as we sing around the neighborhood. Afterwards join everyone for Christmas goodies up at the Tweedie home. If you need a ride let Lori know.

OUCH! (continued from page 1)

We should expect the process to take from 1 to 2 years. For example, when former MPC Pastor Taylor Potter retired in December 1991, it took several months before Ben Fairchild arrived as Interim Pastor. Ben left in January 1993 after Jim Tweedie had been elected as our new Pastor. After tying up loose ends at his church in Weed, California, Jim arrived with his family in March of that year. It is unlikely that the process will take less time than that this time around.

Please keep the Session in your prayers as they will bear the initial responsibility for congregational leadership after the Tweedies leave.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday, December 13 @ 5:30 p.m.

Leilehua Golf Club

\$25.00 per person

Menu: Roast Turkey w/Trimmings
 Roast Beef
 Mixed Vegetables
 Salad & Rolls
 Desserts
 Coffee, Tea & Ice Water
 Other drinks can be purchased



Babysitting available at church if needed. \$5 per child or \$10 maximum per family. Make reservation when signing up.

Games and door prizes: come prepared to have some fun! Best of all, we'll be gathering together to celebrate our Savior's birthday!

Signup after church on lanai or call Michelle Emerson @ 664-7603.

MPC KOREAN FELLOWSHIP ESTABLISHED

Beginning Sunday, January 10, 2010, the MPC Korean Fellowship will begin holding a regular Korean language worship service in our Worship Center at 10:30 am each week. They will worship jointly with the English speaking congregation and share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month.. Although the Korean worship will be led by a variety of Korean preachers each week we will all be one congregation under one Session and one MPC Pastor but with two MPC worship services each week, one of which will happen to be in Korean.

The MPC Korean Fellowship plans to hold an informal pot-luck luncheon on the lanai after their worship each week and invite all MPCers to join with them for food and fellowship.

Our MPC relationship with the Hanmi Presbyterian Church will not be affected by any of this as we will continue to give them our full support and cooperation as a partner in Presbyterian (PCUSA) ministry to Korean speaking immigrants in Hawaii.

It is not yet clear what impact this may have on attendance at the 9:30 am Sunday worship service or on our MPC Choir.

Mililani Presbyterian Church

Pastor James A. Tweedie

Officers of MPC

Session

Dorothy Dale	Clerk of Session
ELDERS	MINISTRY TEAM
Barry Nupen	Christian Education
Margie Esteron	Christian Education
<i>*to be filled</i>	Congregational Life
Michelle Emerson	Congregational Life
Geoff Horvath	Evangelism
Wally Park	Evangelism
Charlie Cabral	Finance & Facilities
Hugh Lee	Finance & Facilities
Jeff Anderson	Missions
Dave Keim	Missions
Traci Haly	Worship
Doug Wright	Worship

Board of Deacons

Mike Johnson	Moderator
Mary Ross Winsley	Assistant Moderator
Kari Nupen	District Coordinator

DISTRICTS

Betty Harrell	Green
Heidi Takahata	Red
Rick Esteron	Orange
Dottie Lee	Yellow
Bill Horton	Pink
Charlene Storch	Blue

Christmas Tea Gift and Book Fair

Please join us on Saturday, Dec 5, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. for an Open House
MPC Education Wing

To benefit the preschool and building fund

Get acquainted with “Thirty-One Gifts” named after Proverbs 31
Products will be available to purchase, others can be ordered in time
for Christmas

We'll share some punch and special refreshments and best
of all, FELLOWSHIP!



The MPC Personals Page:

What's going on in our church family?



*Happy
Anniversaries*



HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

December

- December**
- 11 Homer & Thelma Burge
 - 12 Andrew & Traci Haly
 - 17 Wally & Laura Park
 - 17 Steve & Patricia Riley
 - 28 Kerry & Joni Ishihara

- 3 Ivy Gordon
- 4 Tom Holland
- 4 Daniel Kim
- 6 Steve Riley
- 7 Joe Davidson
- 8 Dorothy Dale
- 8 David Horton
- 10 Hiromi Burt
- 11 William Fry
- 12 Jacqueline Fry
- 14 Nicole Gordon
- 15 Cole Haly
- 15 Bonnie Jackson
- 16 Lisa Marciel
- 16 Cathleen Chilson
- 16 Josh Wright
- 18 Catherine Gardiner
- 19 Ingrid Rupel
- 21 Amy Jackson
- 24 Emily Tweedie
- 24 Jeanine Tweedie
- 25 JoLynne Anderson
- 28 Laura Davidson
- 31 Kyong Morikubo



PHONE CHANGE:

New phones for **Michelle & Kaleo AhSam**
 Michelle cell: 808-554-3837
 Kaleo cell: 808-554-5710 (no home #)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following were received as MPC Members on Sunday, November 29: Jeff Anderson, JoLynne Anderson, Sang Kuk Cho, Suk Ran Kim Cho, Ivy Gordon, Scott Gordon, Hui Kyong Iwasaki, Esther O. Kim (+ Husband the Rev. Joseph Kim), James J. Kim, Sook Hyang Kim, Daniel B. Kim, Joanne H. Park Kim, Yongson Kim, Hannah H.K. Lee (+ Husband the Rev. Timothy Lee), Helen Lee, Young Sook Lee, Toshiko Shishido, Stacy Shishido, Chong Cha Shishido, Hannah Han Sims, Wha Cha Smith, Min Chul Yoo and Sukza Yoo.

We give thanks to God for each and every one of you. Aloha and welcome to MPC!

✝ BAPTISM ✝

The Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated on Sunday, November 29, for Lauren Abbie Anderson, child of Jeff and JoLynne Anderson. Sister Jenna and Jeff's parents were also present for the celebration.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Mililani Presbyterian Church
95-410 Kuahelani Avenue
Mililani, HI 96789

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Mililani Presbyterian Church

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Layout Editor: tavaresn001@hawaii.rr.com

MISSION

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



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.