

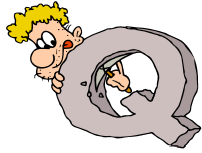
The PresByte

Mililani Presbyterian Church Newsletter



VOLUME 39, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2009



LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

Begin Sunday, March 1

“Questions of God, Faith, Me & Us”



“I really love those shoes. Really? The same way I love my wife? What’s up with the word ‘love’?”

“We want to know why we are here. If our lives really matter. How our religion is relevant to this life. Today. We want to understand . . .”



Do you ever have questions like these? Our MPC Lenten Small Group program will explore these and other important questions during the five weeks of Lent. Groups will use videos from Rob Bell’s acclaimed “Nooma” series to generate personal reflection, discussion and prayer. The videos are short (10-12 minutes long) but touch on the deep issues of faith that we all too often put off for “later.” Well, “now” is “later!” You can sign up on a Sunday morning or by phoning the church office.. The plan is for groups to meet as follows:

- ◆ **Sunday Mornings** from 7:30-8:30 am at MPC: Leader: Kerry Ishihara;
March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
- ◆ **Tuesday Mornings** from 8:30-10:30 am at MPC; Childcare available; Leader: Kathryn Tingley;
February 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
- ◆ **Wednesday Evenings** from 6:30-7:30 p at MPC; Leaders: Jeff & JoLynne Anderson; Childcare available under 4 yrs; *A program for children 4-12 yrs (our Kid’s For Christ program) will also take place during this time . . . a perfect time for parents with children to get together! Dinner with the children begins at 6 pm.*
March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1
- ◆ **Thursday Mornings** from 9:30-11 am at Dorothy Dale’s; Leader: Pastor Jim;
March 5, 12, 19, 26 & April 2
- ◆ **Friday Evenings** at MPC 7:00-8:00 pm—Leader: Geoff Horvath
March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3

Note: A group for those who speak Korean is also being considered.

Jesus once told Peter, “*You do not have in mind the things of God but the things of men!*” Like Peter we sometimes get these things confused, too. Our Lenten Small Groups are designed to help us see and embrace the “things of God” more clearly and more firmly.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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- *Corrections to Church Directory—page 6*
- *Birthdays and Anniversaries—page 8*



LENT



As we enter the season of Lent this month our Hawaii State legislature is addressing a subject that should bring all of us to our knees in prayer. A bill has passed the House of Representatives and may well be considered by the Senate that would grant Civil Unions, identical to marriage in all but name, to same sex couples. When this issue was last presented to the people of Hawaii some 70% voted to limit civil/legal marriage only to male-female relationships. Prior to that vote our MPC Session took the same position. So did I. This position is consistent with our Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Order* which states, "Marriage is a civil contract between a woman and a man." My position has not changed much over the past few years and I have written the following email to a number of our State Senators, including my own district Senator Bob Bunda:

I am writing in opposition to HB 444. Marriage is not a civil right . . . it is a civil privilege extended to promote the contractual union of a man and woman.

Civil marriage between a man and a woman benefits society by providing a committed relationship where pregnancy may occur. To encourage this, Civil government provides several benefits and obligations for those who marry. Same-sex unions do not benefit society in the same way. It makes no sense to extend identical benefits to them.

In any case, regardless as to whether you call it Civil Union or whatever, this bill establishes marriage for same-sex couples in Hawaii. As Shakespeare once wrote, ". . . a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Marriage is marriage and you are redefining it.

I do not oppose "Civil Unions" *per se*. I simply do not support establishing them on an identical par with Marriage.

Unlike many island pastors I am not telling you what you should believe or how you should respond to this issue. I am simply letting you know my own personal and prayerful opinion.

Human sexuality is a subject that I always approach with fear and trembling. Even so, I believe that both the Bible and basic biology are in agreement that the primary purpose of male/female sexuality is so that we might "be fruitful and multiply." Both the Old and New Testaments ascribe deep and profound spiritual meaning and mystery to the sexual union of a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage. There is not a single place in scripture where sexual activity outside of this context is either blessed or tolerated.

Whatever our personal feelings or beliefs about these matters I urge us all to be in full agreement that we must stand with Jesus in extending love and friendship to our gay and lesbian neighbors, friends and family members. Many of them are caught in a painful tug-of-war between the pull of their sexuality and their desire to follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. I guarantee that God will not strike any of us dead if we were to embrace them as our brothers and sisters in Christ and offer to walk alongside them as we trust in God to forgive us from our sin and purify us from all unrighteousness.

I will be happy to discuss this (and any other) matter with you at any time . . . either in chairs or on our knees! May God be with us as we journey with Jesus to the cross of Calvary and the empty tomb of Easter. I'll see you in church.

RIVER OF LIFE MISSION

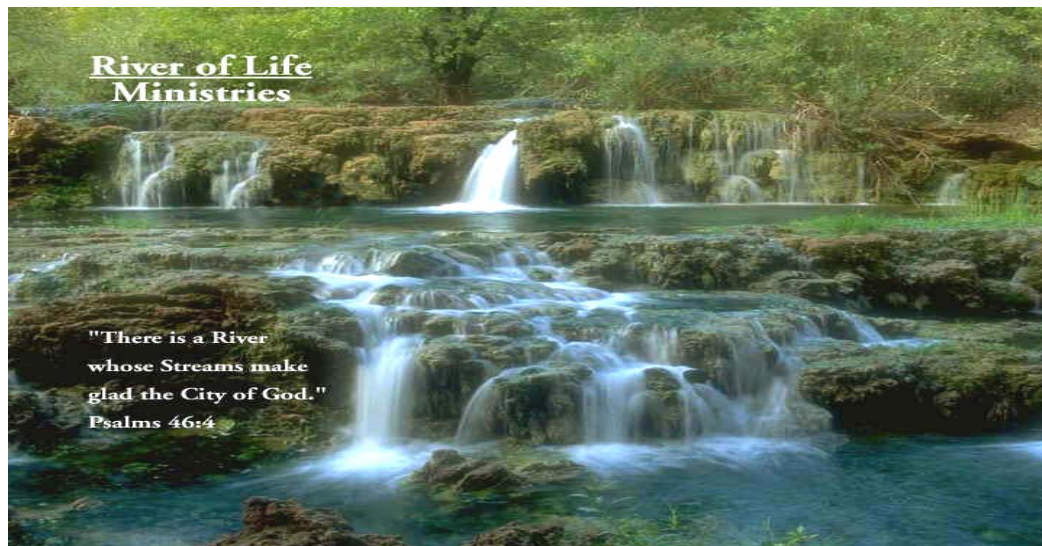
Our next visit to River of Life Mission is on **March 25, 2009**. We will once again help in the preparation and serving of a chili and hotdog dinner to those who are less fortunate and need assistance. Missions thanks MPC for its wonderful participation in January when 22 MPC members served 250 meals. We welcome you all to participate in this event. A special invitation goes to the youth group since this will happen during spring break. We will have the sign-up board out

on the lanai after service starting March 15th. Please sign up for cooking, serving food, or donating ingredients/supplies needed for the meal. Thank you for all the donations and the support because the need is great and the mission has served upwards of 300 dinners on some evenings. Anyone needing transportation, please contact us about car pool arrangements. If there are any questions contact Darrell Ching at 623-7977 or Jo Gardiner at 988-2777.

When: Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Where: Meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 pm for carpooling.
We will leave at 5:45pm.

If you are going on your own, please meet us at the mission,
101 N. Pauahi Street, at 6:30 pm.



STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS

We are so blessed to have new Stephen Ministry Trainees, Hugh Lee, Dottie Lee and Heidi Takahata. Our class topics are listed in the bulletin each week. Please keep all of the Stephen Ministry Team in your prayers as we strive to give the very best of training for these exceptional folks. Your prayers will assure good outcomes for their care giving once they have completed their initial 50 hours of training, which goes through May. Commissioning is slated for Sunday, May 31.

YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO SMILE

From Briargate Church in Louisville comes this notice: "The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict."

The "No Excuse" Sunday

1. Cots will be placed in the vestibule for those who say, "Sunday is my only day for sleeping in."
2. Eye drops will be available for those whose eyes are tired from watching TV too late on Saturday night.
3. We will have steel helmets for those who believe the roof will cave in if they show up for church services.
4. Blankets will be furnished for those who complain that the church is too cold. Fans will be on hand for those who say it is too hot.
5. We will have hearing aids for those who say, "The pastor talks too softly." There will be cotton for those who say he is too loud.
6. Scorecards will be available for those who wish to count the hypocrites present.
7. Relatives will be in attendance for those who like to go visiting on Sunday.
8. TV dinners will be available for those who claim they can't go to church and cook dinner, too.
9. One section of the church will have some trees and grass for those who see God in nature, especially on the gold course.



**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 quickly! These tickets were purchased at last year's conference and are the best prices available.

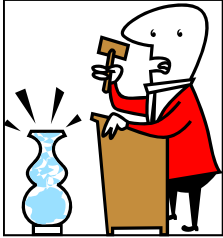
The conference is scheduled for March 12 to 14 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Some of the speakers this year include Tony Campolo, Dawn O'Brien (dj for 95.5, The Fish) and Nick Vujicic (a man born with no arms or legs.) The worship concert will be led by Shawn McDonald and there is a special youth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

Price: \$89 for students/military & \$168 for everyone else!

YOUTH AUCTION & LUNCHEON

Sunday, March 29



Going once, going twice, sold to the highest bidder! Yep, it's that time again. The Youth are gearing up for this awesome fundraiser. They will be preparing a lunch for you (menu is being determined at their next meeting). Come prepared to buy the yummy desserts, the babysitting services, dinners and to hear what other wonderful things are up for bid.

Lunch tickets will go on sale beginning March 1st on the lanai. All proceeds go to help the youth's mission projects. This year they plan to do an on-island service project since they did Mexico last year.

So plan to spend your lunch hour plus a little extra with the MPC Youth on March 29th. Lunch will begin right after Sunday School at 11:45 pm. It's lots of fun!

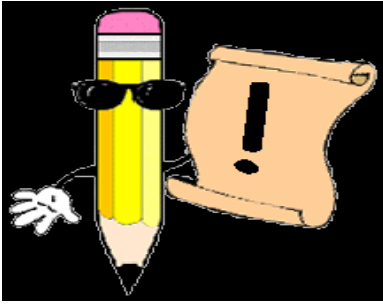
P.S. Anyone who has a skill or talent or a quality item they would like to donate to be auctions, watch for the opportunity to sign-up. A flyer will be in the March Sunday Worship bulletins telling you how.

Thank You!



YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES for March 2009

- 3/8** YOUTH GROUP @ 1PM AT LORI'S HOME (leadership 12:30pm)
Bring your Bibles and friends welcome! Don't forget permission form!
- 3/22** YOUTH GROUP @ 1PM AT LORI'S HOME (leadership 12:30pm)
Bring your Bibles and friends welcome! Don't forget permission form!
- 3/29** YOUTH LUNCHEON & AUCTION @ 11:45am
Be available for lunch prep and set-up during worship and Sunday school. Bring a dessert to auction off.



OOPS!

WE HAVE CORRECTIONS FOR OUR NEW 2009 DIRECTORY:

(We apologize for our errors!)

1. ANDERSON, Jeff & JoLynne (page 4)

Cell #'s should be: Jeff 551-7455

JoLynne 551-9331

1. CAMPBELL, Wha Cha: (page 4)

should be: **SMITH**, Wha Cha (not Campbell)

and add son, Solomon Smith

2. CHO, Sang Kuk: (page 5)

Phone # should be: 485-8988

3. GARDINER, Jo: (page 6)

Email should be: gardinerj002@hawaii.rr.com

4. GOODMAN, Charles: (page 6)

Phone # should be: 484-1492

4. KEIM, Dave: (page 8)

Phone # should be: 927-5170

5. LEE, Youngsook: (page 8)

Should be: WRIGHT, Youngsook (not Lee)

6. PARK, Sai: (page 9)

Should be: Samuel (not Sai)

7. STOTT, Jason: (page 9)

Email s

CORRECTIONS

Mililani Presbyterian Church

Pastor James A. Tweedie

Officers of MPC

Session

Kerry Ishihara Clerk of Session

Board of Deacons

Heidi Takahata Moderator

Mike Johnson Assistant Moderator

Stephanie Ching District Coordinator

ELDERS

Barry Nupen

Margie Esteron

Traci Haly

Michelle Emerson

Geoff Horvath

Rich Gordon

Charlie Cabral

Hugh Lee

Darrell Ching

Jo Gardiner

Tony Ambrosecchio

Doug Wright

MINISTRY TEAM

Christian Education

Christian Education

Congregational Life

Congregational Life

Evangelism

Evangelism

Finance & Facilities

Finance & Facilities

Missions

Missions

Worship

Worship

DISTRICTS

Betty Harrell Green

Kari Nupen Red

Rick Esteron Orange

Dottie Lee Yellow

Bill Horton Pink

Mary Ross Winsley Blue



MPC Budget Update



We don't have February's figures in but we can say that we were a little behind on our expected giving in January. We budgeted to receive \$16,500 and actually received \$13,804. We understand that money is "tight" for some of you these days but we encourage you to keep your giving to the Lord and MPC at the top of your list . . . or close to it!

Also, several people have asked about contributing money directly to MPC from an annuity or other financial fund. Speak to Charlie Cabral if you have any questions about how to do this.

The MPC Personals Page:

What's going on in our church family?



Happy Anniversaries

March



- 4 Frank & Charlene Storch
13 Bill & Chaz Jones

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

March

- 3 Patricia Kawainui
3 Hugh Lee
4 Kristi Ayers
5 Bradley Burt
5 Ursula Stott
5 Jean Chase
6 Cheryl Kido
6 Fran Yamate
6 Zofia Dice-Cholodzinski
7 Julia Diegel
7 Cheryl Horton
9 Thomas Ayers
10 Kay Chinn
12 Frank Whalen
13 Aletta Prinsloo
15 Robert Curry
15 Lori Sakaguchi
16 Michelle Emerson
18 Mary Hamp
18 Gregg Yamate
23 Greg Burns
24 Kathy Whalen
25 Dorothy Ai Lee
27 Marge Jackson
28 Bill Horton

March at MPC

Mililani Presbyterian Church

95-410 Kuahelani Avenue
Mililani, HI 96789



Phone: 808-623-6663

E-mail: mpc@mpc-hi.org

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.

Mililani Presbyterian Church

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