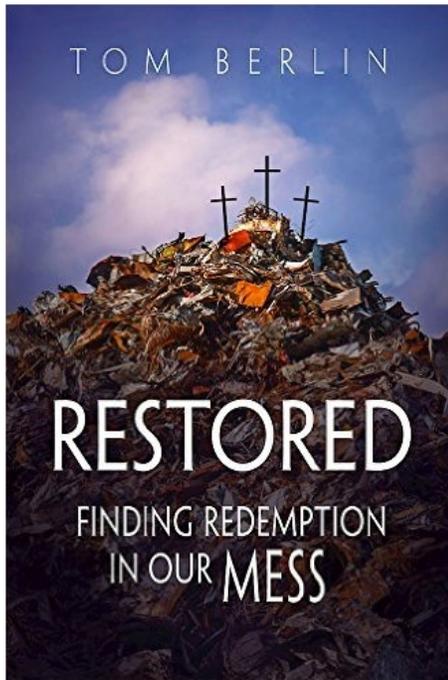




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## LENTEN Study: Begins in March

Often we make a mess of our lives and wonder if there is any redemption. In this book, pastor and author Tom Berlin helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ to find redemption and restoration. Using Scripture, devotional tools, and the writings of

Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others, Berlin encourages reflection and meditation through our own brokenness. Only then can we focus on the cross as the place where we truly surrender control, leave our mess, and find redemption.

**We are offering 2 opportunities to participate in the study:**

**During Sunday school at 10:30 a.m., led by Pastor Ron; begins March 5**

**Wednesday Eve potluck group at 6:30 p.m., led by Kathryn Tingley; begins March 8**

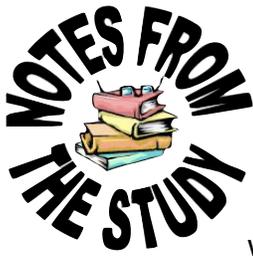
**(childcare is available if needed)**



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Ash Wednesday Service  
March 1

HIM Conference  
March 16 - 18



Beloved in Christ, the season of Lent is approaching fast beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 1, 2017. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. People in our Presbyterian pews and elsewhere may be asking the question “Why do Presbyterians participate in Ash Wednesday?” Isn’t it a Roman Catholic rite? What is the purpose of Lent in the Reformed tradition? Are we supposed to give up something for Lent?

Congregations like MPC and others are called to welcome seekers and new Christians—with that call to welcome these new seekers of Christ comes the responsibility and importance of making them aware of how to define the language of faith and interpreting the traditions within our reformed community.

A very basic guide to Lenten practices may be helpful. The season of Lent leads up to the most holy of Christian days, Easter Sunday. The forty days of Lent begin with Ash Wednesday and end at dusk the Saturday before Easter, not counting the Sundays in between. The Sundays during Lent, like every Sunday, are considered weekly celebrations of the resurrection. Many denominations encourage disciples to renew and strengthen their faith during Lent.

Plans can be initiated for community-wide Lenten preparation and implemented locally like at MPC in Sunday school through the spiritual disciplines prescribed in “Ten Brave Christians” like prayer, Bible study, and service to community and church. This preparation has been a historical model from the early church. New believers were mentored in the Christian faith just weeks before Easter, preparing for their baptisms at the Great Easter Vigil. The idea of giving something up for Lent came out of this tradition, when fasting—abstaining from food as an act of discipline in solidarity with others in the community—This was used to raise one’s spiritual consciousness and empty oneself before God. Fasting or giving up something for Lent can be a good way to explore a deeper expression of faith, if not adopted as a show of piety, martyrdom, or renewed moral righteousness.

Reclaimed by Reformed churches in the last few decades, Ash Wednesday is the entry point for Lenten preparation. It is a service rich in ritual and symbolism. For some, palms waved at the previous year’s Palm Sunday service are saved and burned to create ashes for the next Ash Wednesday. Participants on Ash Wednesday come forward for a minister or elder to mark their foreheads with the sign of the cross in ashes, saying the words, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return,” from Genesis 3:19. With these words, disciples are reminded of their mortality and, when combined with the sign of the cross, they are also reminded of the hope of the resurrection.

At MPC it’s a special time to come forward on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent and join in our Lenten Study “Restored Finding Redemption in our Mess,” by senior pastor Tom Berlin of Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon, Virginia. Using the powerful metaphor of banged up cars in a junkyard to setup the study, we focus on scripture, stories, and personal affirmation and explore the journey from our own brokenness, to redemption and restoration through the grace of Jesus Christ! This is a 6-week study using both Tom Berlin’s book and videos to capture and dig deep into the heart of restoration during the Lenten season. May we all start preparing now to take this important and holy pilgrimage of Lent, to seek the glorious and final victory of Christ on Easter morning!

Pastor Ron.

## YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY as of January 31, 2017

GENERAL OFFERING (Year-to-Date)	BUDGET (A)	RECEIVED (B)	DIFFERENCE (A-B)
January 1 – January 31	\$14,491	\$12,515	<b>(-) \$1,976</b>

BUILDING FUND (Year-to-Date)	BUDGET (A)	RECEIVED (B)	DIFFERENCE (A-B)
January 1 – January 31	\$3,544	\$3,435	<b>(-) \$109</b>



February 08, 2017

Mililani Presbyterian Church  
95-410 Kuahelani Ave.  
Mililani, HI 96789

Donor ID: 10034

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, thank you for your recent gift to the Christmas Joy Offering. We are tremendously grateful for your commitment in caring for leaders of the church and their families. Your gift enables students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges and achieve both an education and leadership development skills. It also helps church workers cover life's unexpected financial needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. Gifts to all of our Special Offerings represent Presbyterians from all over the United States joining together with a common purpose--sharing Christ's love.

We invite you to learn more about how your gifts to each of the Special Offerings are used, and how they are directly affecting the lives of others, by visiting our website([presbyterianmission.org/SpecialOfferings](http://presbyterianmission.org/SpecialOfferings)) or by following us on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/SpecialOfferings>).

I look forward to our continued communication and partnership in the future.

With sincere gratitude,

Bryce Wiebe  
Director, Special Offerings

Date	Fund Description	Amount
02/01/2017	CJ999999 Christmas Joy Offering Batch Number: 170201-700-601-aeo      Check No.: 23980	\$753.00



## Scout Sunday - February 12, 2017

### Boy Scout Oath or Promise

On my honor, I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Scout Law: A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.



Cub Scout Alex Jones

Elliott Park, John Martin (founder of Boy Scouts at MPC), Kawika Pang, Kathy & Dennis Foote & Pastor Ron



The Houston Ohana: Gabby, Dion, Sr., Mari, Samuel and new Eagle Scout, Dion Houston, Jr.



Webelo Caleb Hardin



**Please visit <http://www.mpc-hi.org/presbyte/> for additional photos and videos from our special events here at MPC, as well as an archive of previous PresByte Newsletters. Also, don't forget to visit <http://www.mpc-hi.org/videos/> for videos of Sunday services and links to Pastor Ron's sermons.**

# youth group

SCHEDULE



**PARENTS & YOUTH – PLEASE NOTE:**

**YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR**

**March 2017**

- 3/12 Regular Youth Group @ noon
- 3/17- HIM Conference Begins @ 8:30 a.m.; ends 3/18 @ 3 p.m.
- 3/18 ~Let Ms. Erica know if you have to come later  
 ~Bring money for 2 lunches, dinner & snacks  
 ~Bring overnight gear w/clothes for 2 days, toiletries etc.  
 ~Bring signed permission form & remember a light jacket!

**PIE – THE – ELDERS REPORT**

Thank You, MPCers!

We raised \$275.00 in just 15 minutes to go towards our goal of feeding one child for a year. And it was fun!!!

The brave souls who stepped up to be "PIED" were Pastor Jay Jarman, Elders Phil Demske, Russell Malone, John Toillion and Trang Malone, our Prayer Chain Coordinator.

Way to go! And THANKS so much!



Pastor Jay Jarman



Russell, Jim O'Hara, John



Trang & Russell



John and Phil



### 2017 REPORT

Our youth group may be small but they have will and they have energy!  
Not to mention hearts for God!!

We had 7 teens this year (Alex Cuizon, Gabby, Samuel & Dion Houston, Joyce Kim, Helen & Andrew Kim) and two adults (Erica Utu and Meghran Ballio-Yamaguchi) who submitted themselves to 30 hours of starvation just to see how it feels to go hungry and have empathy for those less fortunate. Besides the starving part, they also gave of service to MPC by cleaning all the jalousie windows in the education wing from rooms 1 to 4. Big & dirty job! ~ But someone had to do it and they did it!



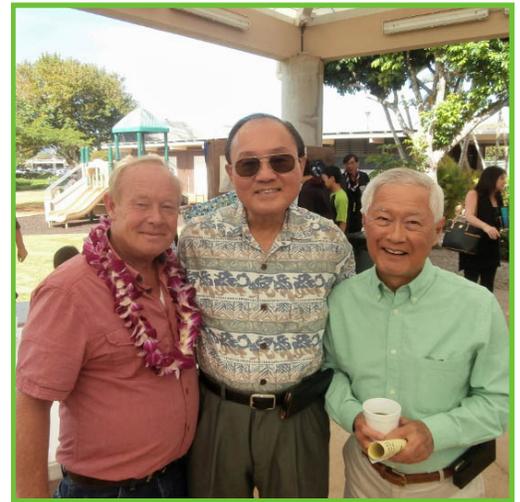


## MAHALO to JIM O'HARA

On Sunday, February 26, we farewelled Jim O'Hara who is headed back to Pennsylvania. Jim has been here for the past two years. From the time of his arrival at MPC, he immediately started volunteering his time as a highly skilled General Contractor. As many of us know, there are always things that need to be repaired or replaced. It didn't take Jim long to identify several areas that needed to be addressed. Jim's fingerprints can be found everywhere around our campus.

Some of the major projects spearheaded by Jim included the following:

- Replacement of the playground drainage system of 3 inch residential grade drainage pipe to 6 inch commercial grade pipe. This was needed as heavy rains would flood the playground causing sink holes and flooding.
- Installation of electrical power to the new Preschool classrooms, the front office, and currently to the older sections of our education wing. This was needed in order to install air conditioning in each of these areas.
- Installation of a new security gate between the Worship Center and the adult bathrooms
- Creation of a large wooden trash surround required by the State in conjunction with getting a permit to use the new Preschool classrooms.
- Assistance to Dion Houston Jr's Eagle Scout project of installing a new handicap ramp and landscaping behind the Worship Center.
- Installation of several solar sensor lights around our property.



Jim, with Hugh Lee and Ed Kido

Jim also was MPC/MPP's 911 on call fix it guy for emergency problems like overflowing toilets, broken jalousies, doors. etc. In his spare(?) time he even helped with the lawn services (mowing, weed eating, raking etc).

Jim will be sorely missed but he said he hopes to be able to return someday and so do we!!! Until then, we say, "Jim - well done, good and faithful servant".

Playground drainage

Freshly painted trash surround

Dion Houston, Jr.'s Eagle Scout Project

**Jim's Projects**

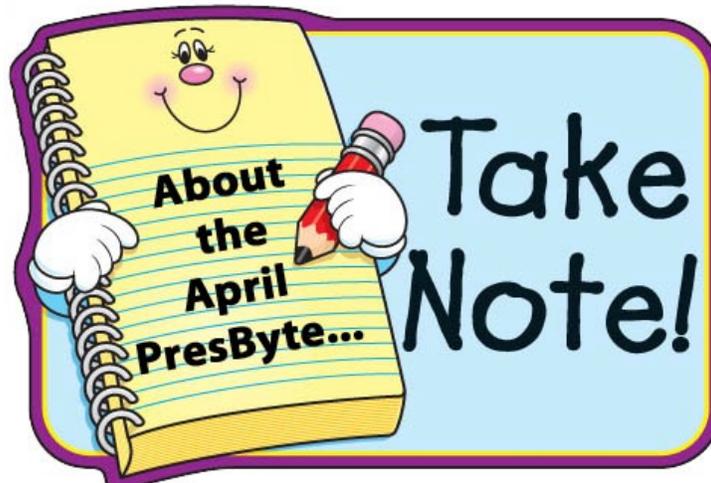
New security gate

# Mililani Presbyterian Church

## Pastor Ronald K. Lee

### Officers of MPC

Session		Board of Deacons	
John Martin	Clerk of Session	Kathryn Tingley	Moderator
<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>MINISTRY TEAM</b>	Rick Esteron	Parish Coordinator
Kay DeWeese	Christian Education	(Vacant)	Assistant Moderator
Dion Houston	Christian Education	<b>DISTRICTS</b>	
Song Lee	Congregational Life	Stephanie Ching	Red
Margie Esteron	Congregational Life	Jessica Hayashi	Orange
John Toillion	Outreach	LuAnn Kuehn	Green
Young Kim	Outreach	Donna Hatzenbuhler	Yellow
Russell Malone	Finance & Facilities	Tish Ashcraft	Pink
Phil Demske	Worship	Bill Jones	Blue
Daniel Kim	Worship		
Ryan Hardin	Worship		



Linda Tam will not be able to put together the April 2017 issue of PresByte as she will be away and will not have readily accessible Internet connectivity.

For the **April issue only**, please send your articles to:  
**Kathryn Tingley** at [mpcoffcemgr@gmail.com](mailto:mpcoffcemgr@gmail.com)

The due date for these articles is March 22, 2017.

Thank you, Kathryn!

# The MPC Personals Page:

What's going on in our church family?



4	Frank & Charlene Storch	3	Hugh Lee	12	Frank Whalen
8	Dan & Tish Ashcraft	3	Micah Felts	12	Matthew Jung
13	Bill & Chaz Jones	5	Burt Bradley	12	Esther Kim
16	Ken & Helen Yanamura	5	Jean Chase	15	Robert Curry
16	Michael & Maria Felts	5	Dale Koenig	16	Michelle Emerson
20	Young & Esther Kim	6	Fran Yamate	18	Gregg Yamate
27	Yean-Sung & Kyuhea Jung	6	Cheryl Kido	19	Emily Seneca
28	James & Joy Kim	7	Cheryl Horton	24	Kathy Whalen
29	Min Chul & Sukza Yoo	8	Tish Ashcraft	27	Jonathan Wright
		8	Jenny Demske	28	Bill Horton
		9	Michelle Park	29	Dave Keim
		10	Song Suk Lee	29	Donna Hatzenbuhler

One rainy afternoon I was driving along one of the main streets of town, taking those extra precautions necessary when the roads are wet and slick. Suddenly, my daughter, Aspen, spoke up from her relaxed position in her seat. "Dad, I'm thinking of something."

This announcement usually meant she had been pondering some fact for a while, and was now ready to expound all that her six-year-old mind had discovered. I was eager to hear.

"What are you thinking?" I asked.

"The rain," she began, "is like sin, and the windshield wipers are like God wiping our sins away."

After the chill bumps raced up my arms I was able to respond. "That's really good, Aspen."

Then my curiosity broke in. How far would this little girl take this revelation? So I asked... "Do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?"

Aspen didn't hesitate one moment with her answer: "We keep on sinning, and God just keeps on forgiving us." I will always remember this whenever I turn my wipers on.

In order to see the rainbow, you must first endure some rain.

-Unknown Author

