

The PresByte

Mililani Presbyterian Church Newsletter



VOLUME 46, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2016

ALPHA #2 KICKOFF UPDATE

Is there
more to
life than this

Alpha

We had a great Alpha #2 Kickoff on Sunday, August 14. As of this writing we have 12 signups to participate and/or help with facilitating. Our goal is for at least 30 participants and about 10-15 people willing to help with the logistics (set/up, take/down). Know that those who help in this area will also be able to attend the Alpha sessions since all the food will be purchased ahead of time so the need is for people to help set out the food and make the drinks (coffee, water, ice tea).

Alpha #2 Team Leader's initial goal is to try and get as many of you who haven't experienced Alpha to at least come to the first "Taste of Alpha" session at 6:30 pm, Thursday, September 8.

As noted previously, the primary difference between our Alpha #1 Course and our Alpha #2 Course is to focus on inviting those in our "Circle of Influence" (i.e., family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and/or strangers) who have questions about religion and Christianity specifically. Hopefully many of you have filled out the Alpha Prayer Card which invites us to identify 5 people we believe might be interested in finding out more about Christianity in a safe environment.

So here are responses to the most commonly asked questions about Alpha:

❑ WHAT IS ALPHA?

The Alpha is an evangelistic course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions. It is described by its organizers as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life".

❑ WHO IS ALPHA FOR?

Alpha is for anyone. People attend from all backgrounds, religions, and viewpoints. Attendees come to investigate questions about

the existence of God, the purpose of life, the afterlife, the claims of Jesus and more. Some people want to get beyond religion and find a relationship with God that really changes their life. Others come for the close, long lasting friendships that are built during Alpha.

❑ HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

There is no charge for attending the Alpha course. There will, however, be a calabash (free will) offering to help offset the food/ refreshments, but it is NOT required. Each participant will receive an Alpha Participant's Guide at no cost. Free childcare will be provided upon request.

❑ WHAT HAPPENS AT ALPHA?

The first night, we will be assigned to a group of 8-10 in which we will remain for the entire 11 week course. This provides an opportunity to get to know each other better in a small group setting.

6:30 p.m. Enjoy a free (simple) meal and refreshments.

7:10 p.m. We will watch a video by Nicky Gumbel, Alpha Founder, who addresses a different aspect of the Christian faith each week and which serve as a springboard for small group discussions

7:50 p.m. Small group discussion on Nicky's talk. The emphasis is upon exploration and discovery in a relaxed and informal environment where everyone is welcome to contribute their opinion and ask questions.

8:30 p.m. "A Hui Hou" – until we meet again next week!

❑ **SIGN UPS:** Please visit the Alpha Sign Up table on Fellowship lanai continuing through Sunday, September 4 to sign up to participate and to also receive a schedule of each week's topic. Also, we have need for people to sign up to help with set up/take down and putting out the prepared food.

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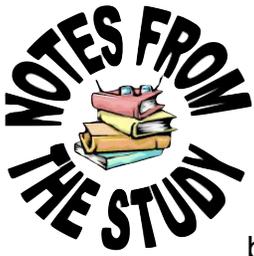
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

First Day of Sunday School August 7

Alpha #2 Begins September 8



Beloved in Christ,

This month's PresByte continues with the major theme of Alpha. And we at MPC are getting geared up to run our next Alpha class on September 8th, and we start this Saturday with our host and helper training. The question for us to consider is "What can Alpha do to help move our church and community from the valley of dry bones mentioned last week from the prophet Ezekiel, back to a Spirit filled relationship with God?"

Here are some ways that Alpha can be the "bridge" to transport those still in darkness into the light of Christ. First, Alpha transforms congregations into all members being evangelistic in a non-threatening way. Secondly, Alpha builds listening relationships with lasting impact. Thirdly, Alpha helps churches reach out to and welcome the unchurched. Finally, Alpha releases our evangelism to God through the Holy Spirit—it's not our work!

In Dr. Evans' book *America, Turning a Nation to God*, pastor Evans points out in Genesis 11:6, how God came down from heaven to observe the people's united energy and mindset to build a city and the Tower of Babel. In v. 6 we read, "The Lord said, behold they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do and now nothing which they propose to do will be impossible for them."

In this one verse, Dr. Evans cites the discovery of one of the greatest Biblical principles for advancing God's kingdom on earth in the entire Bible! That principle is "oneness." God had already given humanity the Dominion Covenant (Genesis 1:26-28) when He said "let them rule." Tony continues by saying that God addresses this power of oneness when He acknowledges in His Word that the people who share a common language, vision, and goal—if they set their minds to it accomplish it—they would find nothing impossible before them. In other words, God affirms in His Word that there is power in unity even when that unity is against Him.

God's response to this unity was swift and final. He determined to scramble their language, thus causing confusion and to scatter their proximity forcing them to obey God's earlier commandment to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. So division and separation nullify and make impotent mankind's attempt at progress and change. Satan uses the same tactic to create and promote disunity in the Body of Christ. Unity brings many benefits, one of them being the power to accomplish even great things. Another aspect of the power of unity is the ability to glorify God. Dr. Evans continues, this is because oneness reflects God's image through His triune nature of Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. When we glorify God, God blesses and gets behind what we do. The power of this unity and backing is reflected in the clear truth of Jesus' priestly prayer for unity among his disciples just before He was arrested and crucified.

Dr. Tony Evans and the TUA (The Urban Alternative) mission statement is to **equip, empower, and unite** Christians to **impact** individuals, families, churches and communities to restore hope and transform lives. Friends, Alpha is the vehicle and tool we can use to impact and transforms lives by getting the Word out that Jesus lives and is the way, the truth and the life. I pray right now and ask you to pray with me in the power of unity, to ask God to equip, empower, and unite us to impact our local community of Mililani and beyond in Jesus' name! Amen! May God shower us with His abundant blessings!

Pastor Ron

MPC Projects Update Finance & Facilities Ministry Team

Perhaps you've noticed some additional completed projects around our church grounds.

Split Air Condition Unit for the New Wing Rooms 6 & 7: On August 24 the long awaited A/C installation in the New Wing was completed. Kudos to Elder Russell Malone, Jim Ohara, and Hugh Lee for spearheading and completing this major project over a 4-day period and under budget by 3-4 thousand dollars. As we all certainly know it's been one of the hottest summers in quite a while. With these two rooms opening for preschool students in July it didn't take long for the teachers, keiki, and parents to realize the heat in those two rooms. There is little or no breeze given the close proximity of the lava rock wall on the backside and little/no cross wind coming from the playground side. A large portion of the cost of this project came from a series of grants from the Pettus and Atherton Foundations.

Trash Dumpsters Replacement: We expect the arrival of two new dumpsters within the next three weeks. Thanks to Elder Russell Malone and Jim Ohara for coordinating this need. The old (15+ years) steel trash bins have been patched and repaired several times over the past few years and finally reached the stage where it was no long cost effective to continue patching. The new heavy duty Poly Cubic Yard Dumpsters are made to last and are rustproof and much lighter.

Remaining Projects: Elder Russell Malone, Jim Ohara, and Hugh Lee are working the plans for the next set of facility repairs and upgrades:

a. Cooling Projects: Now that the new wing has its A/C, next up will be cooling the MPC office and MPP Director's office. The remainder of the old sections remain a work in progress as the worn out jalousie windows need to be replaced as well as the need to install the required power outlets in those areas. We are working with our Grant Writers to seek additional grants to help offset these costs.

b. Black Metal Gate Replacement: The black metal gate leading from the Worship Center to the adult bathrooms will also be replaced as the existing one is corroded and hard to secure.

c. Other Repairs

(1) Parking Lot Resealing: We have also recognized other facility-related issues that need to be addressed in the not too distant future. These include: Resealing the parking lot; refinishing of the Worship Center floor (however, our 30 year old Worship Center chairs need to be replaced since many of them are the cause of the many scratches), sodding of the back area of the playground; replacement of temporary wooden gate behind the new wing; and additional storage area.

(2) Worship Center Chair Replacement & Floor Refinishing: It's hard to believe the Worship Center chairs are now about 30 years old and need to be replaced. The floor likewise needs to be refinishing; however, until the chairs, which are causing lots of scratches, are replaced it makes little sense to redo the floor. More information will be provided as we look for ways to cover the large expense of replacing some 200 chairs.

As noted in the August Project Update article, a common question many have asked is "How do we pay for all of these major projects that are not covered in our annual budget?" While we've been blessed with unexpected donations from former members, the Finance & Facilities Ministry Team has established a Major Repair / Project line item for our upcoming 2017 Budget. Our plan is to build a reserve to address the most costly projects. We are also looking at ways to fundraise additional funds. We have also been blessed with volunteer help (like the drainage project and monthly Work Days) to reduce the cost. We continue to seek grant monies for those projects that are directly related to our preschool. Stay tuned for more updates.



...I have announced my retirement as pastor of Ocean Beach Presbyterian Church and from active ministry as a teaching elder in the PCUSA (effective July 31. This will complete 37 years of ordained ministry. It has been a wild and wonderful journey riding shotgun with the Lord! Jeanine and I have happily followed where he has led us over these many years and our needs and wants have been satisfied beyond anything we would have ever imagined when we first said "Yes" to his call.

Retiring, yes. Moving? No. We are staying put. We love the Long Beach Peninsula and there are many things and many friends to keep me occupied in the years ahead. I am certified for transitional ministry so that is yet another direction to go if the Lord opens a door for me to serve in that way.

People ask me how I am feeling about retiring. Since I have never done this before, I have no idea how I will feel when I wake up on August 1 without a session meeting written in on my calendar. I suppose there is a small bit of sentimentality intertwined with retirement and most of you are a part of that. Most of you on my Facebook friends list are there because our lives met in the midst of my ministry in some way or another. As I look back, I no longer see the struggles, the hardships or the occasional conflict. The Lord has sifted out the wheat from the chaff to the point where I see only the pure, whole grain! So much joy!

In the wonderful words of Amazing Grace, "The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures." So far the Lord has been true to his word. I have no doubt that he will continue to keep his promise to me in the years to come.

If any of you has a memory of a ministry moment from my past that you would like to share I'd love to hear it!

Blessings In Jesus,
Jim Tweedie

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I am happy to announce the publication of my first book, "Long Beach Short Stories," by Dunecrest Press. The book is now available on Amazon as both a paperback and as a Kindle ebook. I hope some of you will take a look at it. It was fun to write and (so I have been told) it is fun to read as well!

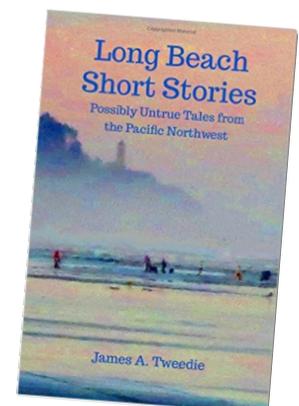
Long Beach Short Stories: Possibly Untrue Tales from the Pacific

Northwest Paperback – July 5, 2016

by [James A Tweedie](#) (Author)

★★★★★ ▾ 2 customer reviews

Long Beach Short Stories: Possibly Untrue Tales from the Pacific Northwest Fact and Fiction collide and merge in fourteen short stories set on the spectacular and historic Long Beach Peninsula in the southwest corner of Washington State....





We Are Growing In Leaps & Bounds!

So happy to report that on our very first month of the new school year we took in some new families with children (from our VBS Outreach program) And now have nine children just in the younger elementary class—YAY!

The Christian Education Team decided to make it easier to volunteer by offering one month terms of commitment to lead. We know how busy everyone is that it can be difficult to commit for several months at a time.

So far we have August and September covered for all the children and youth classes.
Thank you to those who have stepped up!

If you think you would like to try it, give CE Elders Kay DeWeese or Dion Houston a shout or you can speak to Pastor Ron or Kathryn Tingley.

Curriculum is user friendly and we give lots of support!
No teaching experience necessary. You learn right along with the kids.

Praise God for a great Sunday school turnout!!



PARENTS & YOUTH – PLEASE NOTE:

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR

September 2016

9/11 YOUTH GROUP @ 12:00PM

- ❖ Join in the lunch on lanai & Erica will call you.
- ❖ Bring Bible & tithe for Nelly.
- ❖ Friends are always welcome!



From the proceeds of the rummage sale held recently, MPC was able to donate to Kipapa Elementary School a total of \$1,100 to help offset the cost of their technology resources (e.g, iPods, iPads).





*Mililani Presbyterian Church & Preschool
78296*

*Give Aloha at Foodland, Sack N Save, and
Foodland Farms to Help us Raise Funds!*

We are participating in **Give Aloha**, Foodland's Annual community Matching Gifts Program. This program honors Foodland's founder, Maurice J. "Sully" Sullivan, and continues his legacy of giving back to the community.

How It Works

From September 1 - 30, customers are invited to make donations of up to a cumulative total of \$249 per person, per organization to participating Hawaii non-profit organizations at checkout. Donations made without a Maika`i Card will not be matched. Individuals must use their own Maika`i Card to make a donation. Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match a portion of each donation.*

Matching Gift

The Western Union Foundation has generously donated \$50,000 to add to Foodland's gift of \$250,000 to Hawaii non-profit organizations participating in Give Aloha this year. Therefore, the total gift that will be given to all participating organizations combined is \$300,000.

How to Donate

At checkout, present your Maika`i Card and inform the cashier that you would like to make a donation to our organization. If you do not have a Maika`i Card, you may request one. Our five digit registration code is 78296. Your donation will be added to your grocery purchase total. You may give up to \$249 per organization (donations exceeding \$249 will not be matched). The amount you have donated to us and the name of our organization will appear on your receipt. Any donation must be made payable to Foodland, Sack N Save or Foodland Farms. Donor names will not be released to our organization, so if you would like us to know of your gift, please contact us directly so that we may properly acknowledge your gift.

Are These Contributions Tax Deductible?

These contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please save your store receipt for tax purposes since it will be the only record you will have of your donation.

*** How Matching Gifts will be Calculated**

Matching gifts will be calculated after the end of the program. Organizations will receive 100% of all customer donations given to their organization, plus their %age of Foodland and the Western Union Foundation's \$300,000 matching gift. The portion of the matching gift that each organization will receive will be based on the total dollar amount of customer donations designated to that organization as a %age of all customer donations received for all organizations.

Please contact John Toillion should you have any questions regarding this program.

Mililani Presbyterian Church

Pastor Ronald K. Lee

Officers of MPC

Session		Board of Deacons	
John Martin	Clerk of Session	Kathryn Tingley	Moderator
ELDERS	MINISTRY TEAM	Rick Esteron	Parish Coordinator
Kay DeWeese	Christian Education	(Vacant)	Assistant Moderator
Dion Houston	Christian Education	DISTRICTS	
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
Patrick Smith	Finance & Facilities	Tish Ashcraft	Pink
Russell Malone	Finance & Facilities	Bill Jones	Blue
Phil Demske	Worship		
Daniel Kim	Worship		
Ryan Hardin	Worship		



I'd like to introduce one of our newest Deacons to MPC, Bill Jones. He takes care of the blue district. Welcome aboard, Bill!!!

1. I was born in Atlanta, Georgia and raised in Augusta, Georgia.
2. Family make up is my mom, dad and a younger brother (1 week shy of being 10 years my junior). Now, I am married to Chaz and have 2 children, Sydney who is 9 and Alex, a year younger.

3. Before this stint in Hawaii, we were stationed in Naples, Italy for three years. Prior

to that, we lived in Memphis, Tennessee for two years and prior to that is when we were first here in Hawaii! Before THAT stint here, we lived in Montgomery, Alabama; Manama, Bahrain and just outside of Washington, D.C. (where is where Chaz and I met and were married).

4. I am an Intelligence Officer in the US Navy.
5. With regards to hobbies, I used to do a lot more before the kids! Now, though, I like to read, play video games on my iPad, watch baseball (Atlanta Braves is my team!) bike and explore Oahu - either on foot, or by car!
6. There are two bible verses that I am particularly fond of: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life" and Isaiah 40:31 "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walking not be faint." Both of these verses have musical connections for me as you can surely understand! The first was the text of one of the first anthems that a choir I sang in while in college sang after I joined it and to this day I still hum the tune and text often to myself: they were that memorable! The second was the scripture reading at the church Chaz and I attended in Fredericksburg, Virginia on the Sunday AFTER I proposed to her. The choir sang an anthem that day based on that scripture passage and we loved it so much that we had them sing it at our wedding!



The MPC Personals Page:

What's going on in our church family?

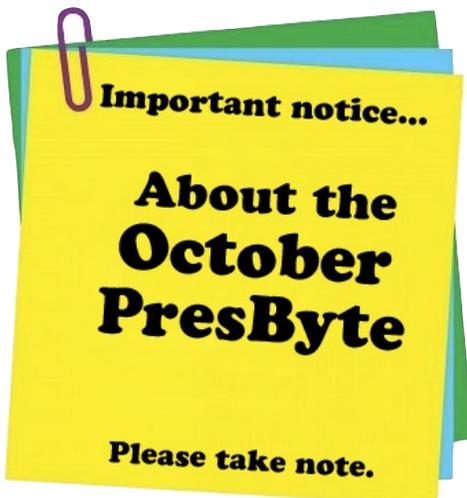


- 7 Michael and Erica Chang
- 16 Bill and Barbara Martin
- 24 Stacy and Chong Shishido

- 1 Dakota Smith
- 4 Jill Teraizumi
- 5 Noah Felts
- 5 Joanne Kim
- 7 Joanna Houston
- 8 Alex Jones
- 8 Nathan Park
- 9 Erica Utu
- 10 Charlie Cabral
- 12 Toshiko Shishido
- 12 Isabella Hardin
- 13 Jon Teraizumi
- 14 Yongson Kim
- 18 Erica Chang



- 20 Paul Kuehn
- 22 LuAnn Kuehn
- 22 Ryan Hardin
- 23 Brad Hall
- 25 Chong Shishido
- 28 Elle Teraizumi
- 29 Tom Koenig
- 29 Chong Shishido
- 29 Norm Fujiwara



Linda Tam will not be able to handle the October 2016 issue of the PresByte as she will be out of the country and will not have easy access to Internet connectivity.

For the **October issue only**, please send your articles to:
Kathryn Tingley at mpcofficemgr@gmail.com

The due date for these articles is September 28, 2016.

Thank you, Kathryn!