

The PresByte

Mililani Presbyterian Church Newsletter



VOLUME 46, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2016

ALPHA #2 KICKOFF

Is there
more to
life than this

Alpha

It's hard to believe we completed our first Alpha Course this past June and now we are preparing for our Alpha #2 which will be every Thursday evening from **September 8 through November 17.**

The primary difference between our 1st Alpha Course and our second Alpha Course will be the primary focus of inviting those who have questions about religion and Christianity specifically. These can be family members, friends, neighbors and strangers.

There were 35 attendees at our 1st Alpha Course who got to experience what Alpha is all about. We are praying that we will have at least that many attend Alpha #2.

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 starting **August 7** 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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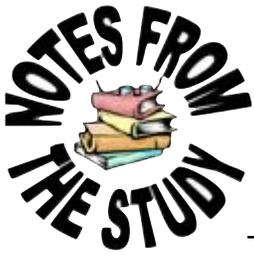
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

First Day of
Sunday School
August 7

Alpha #2 Begins
September 8



Beloved in Christ,

Last month I continued my series on reading great books with pastor and author Dr. Tony Evans' book *America, Turning a nation to God*. I discussed the principal scripture 2 Chronicles 7:14 which identifies the who and where the future of our nation is squarely placed—in the hands of Christ's body the church of Jesus Christ.

The prayers that get through to God are “we” the people of God who bear His name—

God's covenant people of the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, and in the New Testament, the body of believers who follow Jesus Christ—Believers who follow Jesus are not just fans, but actively empowered through the Holy Spirit to step out and speak up in a “spirited relationship” with God to do the work of God, to usher in His kingdom wherever God calls or sends us.

Dr. Evans addresses this relationship in chapter ten with the situation and scripture from the Old Testament. He says, “America is quickly becoming a far different nation that it ever was before. The root of the problem keenly reflects what the prophet Ezekiel spoke of concerning the nation of Israel in his day. In that day for Israel, like America, the people no longer comprised one nation under God.” Dr. Evans says, “Many people want God to bless America today, but don't want one nation under God.”

And all through the Bible, we see God placing people strategically in the political arena to effect and impact change for His people. Dr. Evans continues, “There is no escaping God's political activity—we cannot divide life putting God on one side and politics on the other.”

In the book of Ezekiel, we take a peek into a time in Israel's history where their dreams, like America, had become listless, nearly lifeless and close to death. God's message came through his prophet during the period well known in history as the Babylonian exile. In 597 BC, a young man name Ezekiel was among the first wave of Judean captives by the Babylonians (2 Kings 24:10-16), and forced to live with fellow deportees in a dry place for too long. Ezekiel and his countrymen suffered loss on many levels—loss of their city, temple, identity, traditions, rituals, and the Davidic monarchy. As a result, a number of people even lost their faith (Psalm 115:2).

We read about Ezekiel's vision of this current hopelessness and despair of his people in chapter 37 in the valley of dry bones. These bones had been there a long time to be so dry—what did they represent? They represent the hope of Israel—today they represent the hope of America. The prophet's words tell us Israel's fellowship with God at one-point intimate, was now removed. In v.23 we read about how God desires to undo this rebellion by saying to the people, “They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, detestable things or transgressions, God will cleanse us from our backsliding, and we will become God's people.”

We at MPC are getting geared up to run our next Alpha class in September. What can Alpha do to help move our church and community from the valley of dry bones back to a Spirit filled relationship with God? Here are some ways: 1. Alpha transforms congregations into all members being evangelistic in a non-threatening way. 2) Alpha builds listening relationships with lasting impact. 3) Alpha helps churches reach out to and welcome the unchurched. 4) Alpha releases the evangelism to God and His Holy Spirit—and not our work! There is hope for America if we commit to do God's work through Alpha!

Blessings!

Pastor Ron.

FAITH PROMISE YEAR-TO-DATE SUMMARY
as of
June 30, 2016

GENERAL OFFERING (Year-to-Date)	BUDGET (A)	PLEGDED (B)	RECEIVED (C)	DIFFERENCE (A-C)
January 1 – June 30	\$81,223	\$71,658	\$79,613	(-) \$1,610

BUILDING FUND (Year-to-Date)	BUDGET (A)	PLEGDED (B)	RECEIVED (C)	DIFFERENCE (A-C)
January 1 – June 30	\$19,313	\$19,554	\$18,546	(-) \$767

Summary: As of **June 30, 2016**, our financial records reflect we are pretty much on target for meeting both our General Offering and Building Fund projections. Kindly refer any comments, questions or suggestions you may have concerning this report to Elder John Toillion, Treasurer.



FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

AUGUST 7 @ 10:30AM

Come join us on that Sunday for our 2016/2017 school year. This is the time the children will advance to their next grade level.

As of this writing we don't have any teachers signed up yet but we have enough children for three classes!

Toddler class (2's & 3's); PK to 2nd grade
and 3rd to 6th grade.

Thank you to Dion Houston for taking the middle & senior high class.
You may see Elders Kay DeWeese, Dion Houston or Kathryn Tingley for more information if interested. Training & materials provided and

IT'S FUN!



MPC PROJECTS UPDATE **(Finance & Facilities Ministry Team)**

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

Playground Drainage System Replacement: From June 26 through July 11 a number of volunteers led by Jim O'Hara, our project leader, replaced over 100 feet of drainage pipe running from our Fellowship lanai out to behind the far end of the new education/preschool wing. This involved digging up and replacing two 100 foot sections of 3-inch residential (rubberized drain pipe) with 6-inch heavy duty commercial grade PVC pipe. This was no easy task given the challenges of digging up two feet deep sod and clay-rock dirt. The benefit of having the new drainage system preclude the flooding and sink holes we experienced every time there was heavy duty rain. Before and after photos (see Page 5) give you some idea of why this project had to be done. There is also a bucket with samples of both the old and new drainage pipe outside Pastor Ron's door that you can look at to get a better understanding of this project. (**Note:** As I write this article Tropical Storm Darby with two new Tropical Storms may provide a major test to see if this project accomplished the task at hand. As project chief Jim O'Hara said, "It will!")

Pressure Washing: On July 9, all the cemented areas were professionally power washed. This is something that had not been done in several years and even though you can still see a lot of red stain, you can also see a vast improvement in the overall look of our cemented areas.

Worship Center Window Repair & Tinting: From June 26 through July 8 our Worship Center severely wood rotted window frames were replaced along with a number of glass windows that broke during the repair process. This is the first major repair to those windows since the Worship Center was constructed in 1985. Following the wood rot repair, T&T Tinting replaced 15 year old tint with new state of the art tinting of these same windows. Those of you who have sat in the "hot spot" areas should noticed a significant difference.

Remaining Projects:

a. A/C Installation: Installation of a split air conditioning system in the new wing as well as in the front office is in the final planning stages. This project will also include a badly needed electrical upgrade to these areas needed to handle the additional load needed by the A/C systems.

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

c. Jalousie Window Replacement: Many of us know the many challenges of having jalousie windows. The older sections of the educational wing, conference room, and church office have jalousies that are broken and/or are frozen in place. We cannot install A/C in those areas until the windows have been replaced.

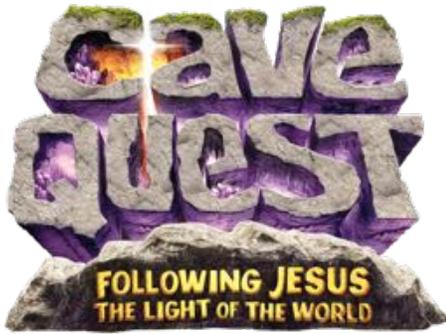
d. Roof Repair: We are also in the initial planning stages of repairing the roof running from Pastor Ron's office around to Room 4 which connects to the new wing. We've been experiencing leaks in several of these areas after heavy rains.

e. Other Repairs: 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.

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, F&F has established a Major Repair/Project line item in our budget but not funded in 2016. Our plan is to build a reserve to address these many projects. We also are 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 related to our preschool. Stay tuned for more updates.

Playground Drainage System





2016 Vacation Bible School Report

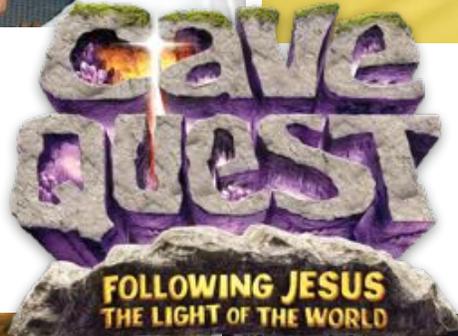
This year, as in other years, we had a blast! We turned the MPC campus into one big cave, complete with stalactites and stalagmites, colorful crystals and lots of gems. The children learned all about caving (also known as spelunking). Every day they met a new Bible buddy who helped them learn the Bible point and Bible verse of the day. We had fun learning to do sign language to each Bible verse, another great way to memorize!

We had a small group this year, only 37 kids but we did have a preschool class this year. We ended our program with VBS Sunday on July 3rd by having an ice cream social. Everyone loves that!!!

A big mahalo to all who stepped up to lead, teach, cook, serve, security, decorate, donate, pick-up props, return props and run registration. It takes many hands to pull this valuable outreach program off. Thank you so much!

From the lead spelunker, Kathryn





PARENTS & YOUTH – PLEASE NOTE:

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR

August 2016

8/7

YOUTH GROUP @ 12:00PM

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



*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 would like to introduce to you our new Deacon of the Orange District, Jessica Hayashi!

Kathryn Tingley, Deacon Moderator

1. Where did you grow up & family size?

I was born in Barrow, Alaska and stayed there until 9, then moved to Kauai. I have 1 brother and 6 half-sisters.

2. What is the makeup of your family now?

I live with my Husband, Herry, my 2 daughters and one on the way.

3. Where have you lived before living in Hawaii?

Barrow, Alaska

4. What is your occupation?

My occupation is a Collections Specialist

5. What are your hobbies?

I love Family time, kids go everywhere with me!

6. What is your favorite scripture?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.



The MPC Personals Page:

What's going on in our church family?



- | | | | |
|----|----|-------------------------|----|
| | 1 | Kay DeWeese | |
| | 2 | Elliott Park | |
| | 3 | Samuel Houston | |
| | 6 | Richard Takahata | |
| | 8 | Wally Park | |
| | 10 | Esther O. Kim | |
| | 10 | Rick Eastern | |
| | 11 | Barry Lee | |
| 21 | | Ed & Cheryl Kido | 17 |
| 23 | | Robert & Kathleen Curry | 18 |
| 24 | | Paul & Dorothy Dale | 18 |
| 26 | | Bill & Cheryl Horton | 23 |
| 29 | | Dave & Theresa Keim | 29 |
| 31 | | Charlie & Karen Cabral | 29 |
| | | | 31 |



One Sunday in a Midwest City, a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle.

Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out.

Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

* * * * *

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair...."

To which his father replied...."Yes, and they WALKED everywhere they went!"

