LEGACY OF LIFELONG LEARNING

A memorial scholarship fund honoring Janet Durrett has been established by her husband, Bob. The Janet Konomu Seiji Durrett fund expresses her dedication to teaching and passion for lifelong learning.

Trained in elementary-level education, Janet taught in schools wherever Bob's Air Force duty took the family – Colorado, Missouri, Texas, and Turkey. She gained valuable insight into and compassion for children of different backgrounds and cultures, enhancing the experience of her own growing-up years in Hawaii's ethnic/cultural milieu. Her empathy with children who learned in different ways cemented her commitment to teaching.

After the Durretts settled back in Hawaii, Janet taught in local schools. Retiring from regular classroom teaching, she continued to serve students learning English as a second language through adult education classes at Aiea Community and Waipahu Community schools. She helped to develop and implement a competency-based program in Adult Basic Education (ABE) aimed at enabling ABE students to function effectively in community life by providing practical information and appropriate level of English usage (survival skills). The competency-based program was also helpful for use with mainstream high school students not completely attuned to traditional classroom academics.

Janet extended her passion for learning through extensive reading and participation in bible study sessions. She enjoyed engaging people in conversation and class discussions, often voicing her faith in God's love and grace in her life.

The scholarship fund perpetuates a legacy of lifelong learning for students pursuing educational goals. An initial sum of $3,000 has set up the fund which is administered by the Aiea UMC Foundation Committee. Contributions to the fund are welcomed. Anyone who wishes to contribute should designate that their contribution be directed to the Janet Konomu Seiji Durrett scholarship fund.

Submitted by: Kiyoko Oshiro
AUMC Scholarship Application Forms and program information for academic year 2014-2015 are now available and may be requested by contacting the church office at 488-5354. Completed applications are due in the church office by April 30, 2014, or postmarked by that date. Applicants must be active participants of AUMC for at least one year at the time of application. Questions may be referred to Foundation Committee members or the church secretary.

YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY 2/23

*proceeds to support youth group HIM conference attendance

LITE BITES

EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY’S FAMILY TREE

Understanding religion is hard. Where do you begin? From Buddhism to Confucianism to Islam to…well, you get the idea. Striving to understand other faiths is a noble goal that requires dedication, time and a great deal of brain power.

Why not take a first step: explore Christianity! Many of us may think we understand our own religion, but in fact, although our roots may be traced back to the same origin, there are many members of our “family.” That is the genesis of “Christianity’s Family Tree,” a study of what other Christians believe. The Lite Bites Sunday School is now exploring all these branches by watching videos by Pastor Adam Hamilton of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection of Leawood, Kansas. Over the next few months, we’ll hear Pastor Hamilton explain Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and finally, Methodism. In addition to the short videos, we’ll take the time to discuss our own views of these branches and share how our views have developed – some by growing up in one of these religions, others by their own studies.

Lite Bites meets every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 9:30am. We’re always out in time for the second service, so come join in the conversation. For more information, contact Dell Epperson or the church office.

Isn’t it time you learned more about your family tree?

Submitted by: Dell Epperson
“So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.”

(Psalm 90:12)

As I was reclining in the chair at my dentist’s office this week, Alisha (the hygienist) & I were talking about Christmas break, our children, and how quickly they seem to grow up. Her two kids are 5 and 3—quite a difference from my 19 & 16 year olds. Nevertheless, she mentioned how she’s been doing her job so long, she’s seen patients who were children grow up, get married, and start to have children of their own. “It’s taught me to cherish every moment with my children, because they’ll grow up so fast.”

It’s true. Having a college student in the family has helped me gain a better perspective on this. Ezra is in his second year at Montreat College, which is just outside of Asheville, NC. He was home for 3 weeks this Christmas break, and we had a fabulous time with him! Jody and I were able to see how he’s grown & matured, not just physically, but also emotionally, relationally & spiritually.

Jody and I have been privileged to raise Ezra & Emily. Sure, there have been some downs along with the many ups... but for the most part, God has taught us so much about what it means to love (and be loved by) others, to live one’s life sacrificially, and to walk alongside our children as they go through the many challenges of life. We pray that we have many, many more years of this in the future.

I’m in the middle of my 13th year as pastor here at Aiea UMC. The Annual Conference basically gives us United Methodist pastors “one year contracts”. Each year both the church (actually, the Staff/Parish Relations Committee) and the pastor are invited to share their desire for the following year (stay at this appointment, change appointments, or being open to either). But it’s the Bishop and cabinet (5 District Superintendents) who make the final decision (with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, of course!). For the longest time, Methodist pastors stayed no longer than 2 years at any local church. The goal was not to have churches form their identity (and dependence) on any single pastor, but rather on the larger body of Christ that gathered in that particular location. Over time, however, denominational leadership began to see the value that longevity could provide a pastor in carrying out the mission & ministry of a local church. So my stay of 13 years (and counting!) is not unique.

What it has given me, however, is a perspective similar to what I have for my children as they have grown. I know that many of you reading this have been at Aiea UMC much longer than 13 years. So you have an even greater perspective! But as your pastor, I’ve come to see how we’ve grown over the years... and where we still need to grow.

Our journey together here at AUMC is “building a life-changing community that follows Jesus through worship, relationships, spiritual growth and service.” That’s what forms the foundation of our Discipleship Plan. My deepest prayer and desire for each of us is that we might move beyond thinking about Christianity & our faith as simply coming to church on Sunday mornings. Instead, that we might embrace the challenge & opportunity to live out our faith through worship, relationships, spiritual growth and service. All of us have room to grow in our discipleship. And each season of our lives brings new opportunities & challenges in living that out. May each of us move deeper in our discipleship, as brothers & sisters together! AMEN.
I have had many new experiences since I came to Hawaii from Korea—Banana Peanut butter sandwich, cinnamon rolls with coffee after dinner, cooking, baking, snorkeling, golfing with my son, different kinds of board games and card games. I totally LOVE them all! There are so many things that have brought JOY to me and my family.

In my ministry, I also have many joys and unique experiences that God has given me. As a pastor, they are a great blessings to me. Life Communities (house church ministry) allows me to meet and impact individual souls. My home church in Korea is a mega church, I have always worked for big projects like international mission programs, church plans, and entire church music ministry. I didn’t have many opportunities to serve people individually and help them to walk their spiritual journey as disciples of Jesus.

Through the Life Communities, I have many friends (Christians, non-Christians and non-churchgoers). Some of them are broken souls. I walk with them on their spiritual journey as a friend and pastor, trying to help them live as disciples of Jesus.

Last year, I met a lady through a house church gathering. She needed pastoral care. Judy, my wife, and I met her individually. She was an alcoholic, divorced, and her only daughter was a teenage single mom. She said her life was messed up. On our second Bible study meeting, she told me that she wanted to find out if she still had hope in her life. I told her that “Yes! You still have HOPE in Jesus Christ!” That day we sang hymns with joy, studied the Bible, and prayed with tears.

I strongly believe that Jesus came to us all to give HOPE. Hope for our lives and Hope for the eternity. Whatever situation you are in, there is always hope in Jesus!

Submitted by: Pastor Peter Lee

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY – GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN!

Beginning Sunday, 2/23, a local UMC photographer, Nancy Byun, will be taking individual & family pictures for our Pictorial Directory from 9-9:30am in the double classroom. Over 5 Sundays (2/23-3/30), we hope to get everyone photographed! Once all of the photos have been taken, Nancy will make them available for us to put into a directory (that will be both digital & hard copy). We will also email everyone a free personal copy of their photo. Sign-up begins 2/9 outside the sanctuary. Please contact aumcpa@hawaiiantel.net with any questions.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

not a fan. COMPLETELY COMMITTED FOLLOWER.

6-Week Study starts 2/3/14
MONDAY’s @ 6PM
Youth Room
For more info, contact Grace Omura
notafan.com

ORIENTATION
Sunday, March 2nd @ 3PM
Aiea UMC
FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

**BASKETBALL:** Meets weekly for a game of “pick up ball” each Wednesday @ 6:30PM on the Halsey Terrace Courts. For more info, contact Pastor Jim.

**GARDEN:** The Garden Passion group will caravan to see cherry blossoms in Wahiawa Sunday, 2/9. For more info, Blake_Vance@hotmail.com.

**GAMES FELLOWSHIP:** Meets every Wednesday from 12-2:30 to play card & board games in the double classroom.

**LEI MAKING:** Will be meeting, Saturday, 2/15 @ 9:30am in the double classroom. For more info, please contact Marva at: mmalletteringling@yahoo.com

**HULA:** Each Monday @ 9AM, this group practices and learns the art of Hula in the double classroom. The Hula Passion Group will be performing at the Lotus Adult Care Home on 2/24/14

**LEI MAKING:** Will be meeting, Saturday, 2/15 @ 9:30am in the double classroom. For more info, please contact Marva at: mmalletteringling@yahoo.com

**MOVIE:** This month the movie passion group will be meeting Sunday, 2/23. Movie, time, and location TBA. For more info, please contact Pastor Jim

**QUILTING:** This group will meet 2/8 and 2/22 from 9am-noon in the children’s room to quilt.

———

"Today there’s a 3-year old who is going to be bitten by a tiny bug and in 48 hours, she is going to die. That is the reason I do what I do. To make a world a healthy place for every child is what Mr. Wesley intended us to do.”

Bishop Thomas Bickerton, Chairperson
Imagine No Malaria

———

HIM PREVIEW

The 2014 Hawaiian Islands’ Ministries (HIM) “Honolulu Conference” will take place March 20-22 at the Hawaii Convention Center. This is the 26th annual gathering of Christians from Hawaii & beyond to be encouraged, challenged, strengthened & inspired by local and mainland speakers. This year’s keynote speakers include: Tony Campolo, Francis Chan, Dave Gibbons, Victor Marx & Nick Vujicic. Workshop speakers include Rick Bundschuh, Jim Burns, Bryan Clay, Don Cousins, Doug Fields, Sarah Hill, Norman Nakanishi, Shauna Niequist, Jeff Schulte & Danny Yamashiro. The Friday night concert this year will be Lincoln Brewster!

If you’re never been to a HIM Conference, you’re missing out! 4,000+ converge in Waikiki for 2.5 days to worship, grow in our faith, and spend time with some amazing people. As is our tradition, the youth group from Aiea UMC will be going and participating in the Youth Track that runs concurrent with the Conference. It’s always one of the highlights of our year!

If you’re interested in attending the entire conference, or even going for a session or two, you can find more information at www.himonline.org... or you can talk to Pastor Jim!

Submitted by: Pastor Jim White

———

HIM PREVIEW

ASH WEDNESDAY

3/5/14

Worship Services— noon & 7PM

"So, who did you learn about in Sunday school today?"
Our Purpose: Knowing, Loving and Serving God

Our Journey: Building a life-changing community that follows Jesus through worship, relationships, spiritual growth and service.