



NU'UANU CALLER

A monthly newsletter of Nu'uanu Congregational Church
2651 Pali Highway * Honolulu, HI 96817



VOL. 55, NO. 12

DECEMBER 2012

NCC's Vision Statement

(Approved at the Special Congregational Meeting on September 16, 2007.)

Nu'uanu Congregational Church is a diverse, open congregation of faithful Christians who seek to:

- *affirm all persons as children of God;*
- *respond to the needs of the community and congregation;*
- *respect all views and ideas;*
- *make and nurture disciples; and*
- *spread God's word using our talents and resources.*

Holiday Wishes

By Becky Kanenaka, Moderator

The holiday season is upon us, and we rejoice as the New Year unfolds with a basketful of hopes, dreams, and aspirations. When you celebrate the New Year with gusto, you feel the positive energy flowing in your veins. You begin with renewed vitality and optimism; the much needed ingredients to a successful start.

Pastor Mary has returned from her sabbatical, and we welcome her back on December 2, 2012. Please join us in celebrating her return by attending worship and the fellowship luncheon after worship.

Everyone is excited to share the new experiences of their participation in the Ikebana classes, sushi class, and the Taiko classes. Prior to the sabbatical, three months were viewed as being a long time by Council, board, and committee members. It is now December and we all survived; and we all have grown in our faith. How time flies when you are busy and having fun at the same time. In exploring our "roots," the Council members have also been evaluating how our campus is serving our members, our friends, and our community.

I would like to ask each one of you, how do you think our campus is serving our members, our friends, and our community? Please email me at ken214@hawaii.rr.com or catch me after church or use the snail mail to share your thoughts, your ideas, and your suggestions on how we can improve our campus to better serve our community and our world.

We are a diverse, open congregation of faithful Christians. We respond to the needs of the community and spread God's word using our talents and resources. As we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birthday, let us continue to be prayerful and listen to God's voice on how Nu'uanu Congregational Church can better service this community and this world. What is our part in creating a greener campus? How do we become sustainable? How do we support our community?

(Continued on p. 2 - **Holiday Wishes**)

Nu'uanu Caller is a monthly publication of Nu'uanu Congregational Church, founded in 1885 and organized in 1892 (United Church of Christ, a 1957 union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Churches).

Rev. Mary Paik, *Senior Pastor*; Rev. Ede Steele, *Minister for Parish Life*; Ms. Eiko Soranaka, *Nichigobu Lay Minister*; Paula Yamamoto, *Administrative Coordinator*; Nelson Fujinaga, *Custodian*; Le Huynh, *Groundskeeper & Security*.

Web site: nuuanu.org • Email: nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net • Phone: (808) 595-3935 • Fax: (808) 595-2848



Worship Schedule
 9:00 a.m. English Service
 9:30 a.m. Japanese Service
1st Sunday of the month:
 9:00 a.m. Communion Service
 10:15 a.m. Healing Service

Christmas Eve Service

Join us for our Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7:00 p.m. The beauty of the service will remind us of God who is bursting into our lives. Once, again, *A Touch of Brass*, will share their gift of music with us.



Christmas Cantata

The Chancel Choir, under the direction of **Russell Ishida**, will lead us in worship on Sunday, **December 16** at 9:00 a.m. They will be presenting, *“Let There Be Light - A Christmas Celebration”* by Bradley Knight and Jonathan Crumpton. Featured soloists are **Cheryl Chock, Fred Pascua, Rachel Wong, Deanna Wong, Paula Yamamoto, and Leigh Pascua**; narration by **Judy Keith**, and rehearsal accompanist **Lori Takeyama-Goshi**.



Advent Devotionals Available

The Diaconate has purchased Advent devotional booklets for your perusal. Please take one per family. They are available on the table at the entrance of the sanctuary and in the church office.

Annual Reports Due

By Paula Yamamoto, Administrative Coordinator

It’s that time of year, again, when the annual reports are due! Pastors, officers, auxiliary committee chairs, and anyone else, please email your reports (Word format) to me by **December 14**. Your promptness is greatly appreciated.

Annual Congregational Meeting
 Sunday, January 27, 2013
 10:30 a.m.
 NCC Sanctuary

Holiday Wishes - (Continued from p. 1)

We respond to the needs of the community and spread God’s word using our talents and resources. Board members will be approaching you to serve on various boards and committees; please be open and pray for guidance and discernment as you make your decision to serve on a board or committee.

I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Advent and Welcome Back

Let us celebrate the season of Advent and welcome back **Pastor Mary and Dwight** on Sunday, **December 2**, the first Sunday of Advent. Join us for the traditional “*Hanging of the Greens*” service at 9:00 a.m. and a Welcome Back/Christmas potluck luncheon following the service. Bring your favorite potluck dish!

At our Christmas potluck, we will also be collecting money and gift cards to benefit the Transition House and Family Promise. You are, of course, welcome to bring in gifts, but monetary donations will make it easier for the Missions Committee to "equalize gifts" between families.



During the Advent season, we await the birth of our Savior. It is a special time of year to reflect, not only on Jesus' birth, but also on his life. We have these opportunities to honor Christ by following his teachings and sharing with others who are in need. Thank you for your generosity.

December 1: Ikebana Centerpieces

The Board of Christian Nurture needs help making ikebana flower arrangements for centerpieces on Saturday, **December 1** at 10:30 a.m. in Kosasa Hall. Let’s put those newly-learned skills into practice! Even if you didn’t attend the ikebana classes and would like to help, your assistance will be appreciated.

Hui Hoaloha Christmas Luncheon



For those who signed up for Hui Hoaloha’s Christmas luncheon, it is Thursday, **December 13** at the

Honolulu Elks Lodge #616 in Waikiki at 11:00 a.m. Harpist **Dustin Ebesu** will play for our enjoyment.

“...O my God: unto thee will I sing with the harp...” Psalm 71:22 (KJV)



December 9th December 2nd December 16th

Congregational Advent Activities

Come and participate in NCC’s inter-generational Advent activities. We will have Advent wreath-making at the Welcome Back/Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, **December 2** at 10:15 a.m.

On Sunday, **December 9** at 10:15 a.m., we will be sending Christmas cards to our home-bound members and college students. They would love a card from you!

Let your creative juices flow in making gingerbread houses on Sunday, **December 16** at 10:15 a.m. All activities will be in Kosasa Hall.

Let’s celebrate the birth of Jesus by working together and sharing our love for one another during this Advent season.

1 John 4:21 ...he who loves God must love his brother also.

Family Photo Stories

By Paul Yamamoto, Sabbatical Committee Chair

Did you find a photo in your home with a story just waiting to be told? The Sabbatical Committee invites you to find a photo that holds a significant memory, reflect upon it, and write 300-500 words (approximately 3/4 to 1 page) about the photo/memory. The photo can be of a person, a place or anything that is significant to you. We hope you have found one from the many photos in your family albums and will participate in this worthwhile exercise.

Be thinking of seven others that you would like to share your photo story with (maximum 8 per small group). Upon Pastor Mary’s return, you and the seven others in your small group will share your photo stories with her. The sharing of these stories will then be recorded and made into short digital stories. If you have your group of eight, please give Paula Yamamoto the names of your group members, so the Sabbatical Committee can schedule the small groups.

Pastor Mary and Dwight will be returning on December 1. After compiling all of their stories and photos, they will be sharing with the congregation stories of Pastor Mary’s family that were documented during her sabbatical.

We hope you find this storytelling experience a valuable one in preserving part of your family history. If you have any questions, please feel free to see any one of the Sabbatical Committee members: **Carol Hamada, Becky Kanenaka, Pastor Ede Steele, Mabel Suzuki, Paul Yamamoto, Paula Yamamoto, and Lori Yamashiro.**



Thank You!

By Pastor Ede Steele, Minister for Parish Life

I wanted to thank everyone for all your hard work and support during the Sabbatical Time. There was such a spirit of willingness among all of you that was such a blessing to me. Without all your efforts, the last three months would not have gone as smoothly as they did. Our Sunday School has been very active due to the efforts of our teachers who have worked hard this fall.

We have had new worship experiences as we have had preachers from various faith backgrounds and styles of preaching. All who came and shared the Word of God with us blessed us. They all expressed their thanks for the hospitality shared.

The Sabbatical activities were a good time for people of all ages to come together and learn about different areas of the Japanese culture. We saw talents coming out that people did not know they had while attending the Ikebana, Sushi and Taiko Drumming events. Thank you to all who organized, instructed and attended these events.

A special thank you to the Sabbatical Committee members for all the time, effort, and coordination they gave throughout the sabbatical period. They took care of the logistics of the guest preachers, oversaw the Lilly Endowment grant budget, made sure the events and activities went smoothly with the supportive help of the Diaconate, Christian Nurture, and Trustees boards.

As we move forward, we look forward to Pastor Mary’s return and hearing her story as we share our stories with her.

Stewardship Message:

Too Good To Be True Giving

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn will break upon us.” Luke 1:78

These words come from the amazing poem known as the Benedictus, the blessing of Zechariah on his surprising gift-son, John (the Baptist). Zechariah is one of those minor characters in the birth narratives of Jesus, often lost in the shuffle of shepherds and magi that populate our Christmas pageants. Yet, Zechariah gives us a great gift for Advent: the gift of the skeptic.

When an angel told Zechariah that his middle-aged wife Elizabeth would have a baby, he didn’t believe it. All his life this man had been faithfully serving God; clearly he was a sincere believer. He held onto his faith through the years of their infertility and who knows how many other problems in their lives. But when an angel promises something “too good to be true,” the skeptic in Zechariah comes out, and he rejects the God he has relied on when things have been truly bad.

This Christmas, let us be about giving to the world in ways that are too good to be true. Let the skeptics see that love is more powerful than anyone expects it to be. Let us, in the image of God, give of ourselves in life-transforming ways beyond presents under the tree, just like Zechariah and Elizabeth and John. Nothing about God is ever too good to be true! Merry Christmas.

Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.

Mahalo from Missions

By Wayne Kobayashi, Missions Chairperson

Thank you for your donations for the Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund. We received a total of \$1,460. Also, people gave \$1,407 for the Christmas Fund which we collected this past July.

Although we won’t be collecting for the Christmas Fund in December, there will be other requests for local organizations. Please give generously during this season of giving. More information may be found throughout this Caller.

In Loving Memory



Our deepest condolences go out to the families of the late **Masami Takamune, Fumiko Go, and Samuel Yokomoto.**

“Sami,” as Masami Takamune was fondly called, passed away peacefully on October 19, 2012. Her daughter, Diane Anderson, said that Sami really appreciated all the visitations from the church members and your prayers.

Fumiko Go passed away on October 22, 2012. Fumiko is survived by daughters Kory (Allen) Teruya and Lisa Cook, five grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and sisters Betty Kimura and Jane Himeno. A private service, officiated by Pastor Ede Steele, was held on November 7, 2012.

Sam Yokomoto recently passed away on November 23, 2012. He is now at home in heaven with his beloved Grace. Sam is survived by his daughter June Yokomoto, son Randal Yokomoto, and grandson Michael. Funeral services are pending.

Ohana Ministry

By Marge Honjiyo



If there are needs that Ohana Ministry can help you with, call one of the coordinators:

Ohana Ministry Coordinators

Mae Au, 988-4802 Mary Ann Saito, 839-0895
Marge Honjiyo, 550-3075 Sets Takahashi, 550-3062
Alice Ishihara, 550-3187 Joyce Uyehara, 523-3483

When you pray, remember the following and their caregivers: **Kimiko Bristow-Canfield** (Jo-Ann Bristow’s daughter), **Mike Chung, Carol Hamada, Mack Hamada, Harris Hasegawa** (Linda Kim’s friend), **Edna Ito, Stanley Kamita, Leonetta Kinard** (Leolinda Parlin’s mother), **Yuriko Konno, Rev. Armin Kroehler, Janet Kurokawa, Michael Kurokawa** (Janet Kurokawa’s son), **Leslie Lum** (Cliff Lum’s brother), **Jose Montiel** (Susan Iha’s father), **Ethel Nitta** (Jo-Ann Bristow’s mother), **Florence Osumi, Rose Scharpff, Eiko Soranaka, Terry Stone** (The Children’s Center’s Administrative Assistant), **Matthew Stucke, Ezra White, and Mayee Wong** (Becky Kanenaka’s friend), **Marie Yoneshige** (Sarah Swisher’s mother).

Reminder: Names are added or deleted in the Prayer Corner by the individual, family members or friend. Please help us and inform the Ohana Ministry coordinators if you want you name included or deleted.

Prayer Corner

By Alice Ishihara

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down
his sweet head.*

*The stars in the sky looked down where he lay.
The little lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.*

*Bless all the dear children in your
tender care,*

And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Luke 2:7 *Attrib. to James R. Murray, 1887*

Thank you, God for your gift of love.
Teach us to share that love in simple ways –
deeds of kindness, words of encouragement,
acts of caring. In the name of Jesus your
greatest gift to us. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Amen.



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Thank Offerings

Nancy Nakao
Kimie Fujioka

Birthday Offerings

Gloria Yamabe
Lily Fujita

Memorial Offerings

Dorothy Kusumoto - In memory
of William Kusumoto

Deadline for Articles

Nu‘uanu Caller (monthly)
20th of each month.
NCC News (weekly)
Wednesday noon.
Articles will be edited on a space available basis.

Food Drive

In keeping with Missions Sunday, the Hawai‘i Food Bank collection is held on the **last**

Sunday of every month. For the month of September, we collected 55 lbs. of assorted food items. Our next collection will be **December 30, 2012.** Monetary donations accepted, too. Checks may be made to Nu‘uanu Congregational Church with Hawai‘i Food Bank on the memo line. Mahalo.



Best in the Field

By Lori Yamashiro

Congratulations to **Dr. Eileen Ogasawara-Chun**, OBGY and **Dr. Stephen Buto**, Gastroenterology. They were named Best Doctors in their field and were listed in last month’s *Pacific Business News*. Best Doctors, Inc. is the global leader in providing information about, and access to, the best medical care in the US and around the world. They have conducted the largest independent research of the medical profession to identify the doctors that other doctors consider to be the best in their specialties. It’s like the “Pro-Bowl of Doctors.” The list in the Pacific News was an excerpt from Best Doctors in America 2013 database which includes over 45,000 doctors in more than 40 medical specialties.

*Wishing all a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!
From the NCC Staff*

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on **Sunday, Dec. 30**

The pick up day is the first **Thursday of the month.** Please help our volunteers by removing caps from bottles, rinsing and separating all containers. Only HI-5¢ items are accepted.

Proceeds go toward Hui Malama.



2012 Refreshments

(Bring, Serve & Clean Up)

- January** - Church Council
- February** - Board of Trustees
- March** - Sew Fun
- April** - Missions
- May** - Finance and Investment
- June** - Christian Nurture
- July** - Hui Hoaloha
- August** - Chancel Choir
- September** - Diaconate
- October** - Women of Nu‘uanu
- November** - Open
- December** - Open

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15 AM Worm Bin Distribution 9 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Church School 9:30 AM Nichigobu 10:30 AM Chancel Choir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Tai Chi 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Set Up Church for Advent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 AM Diaconate Board 8 AM Board of Trustees 9 AM Sew Fun 9:30 AM CN Board Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Church School 9:30 AM Nichigobu 10:30 AM Christmas Luncheon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Tai Chi 6:00 PM Cantata Rehearsal 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 am Hui Malama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Personnel Subcommittee 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Church School 9:30 AM Nichigobu 10:30 AM Chancel Choir 10:30 AM Christmas Card-Making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Tai Chi 6:00 PM Cantata Rehearsal 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 PM Church Council 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Terminex Pest Control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Church School 9 AM Worship Service-Cantata 9:30 AM Nichigobu 10:30 AM Gingerbread House-Making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Tai Chi 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 AM Hui Malama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caller Deadline 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Church School 9:30 AM Nichigobu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00 PM Office Closed 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Closed 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Church School 9 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Nichigobu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00 PM Office Closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Closed 	<p style="text-align: center;">Planning Ahead..... Jan. 27 - Annual Congregational Meeting</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 AM Diaconate Board 8 AM Board of Trustees 9 AM Sew Fun



Nu'uano Congregational Church
 2651 Pali Highway * Honolulu, HI 96817



NONPROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 HONOLULU HI
 PERMIT NO. 354

Address Service Requested

December 2012

To discontinue receiving the
Nu'uano Caller, check box and write
 "Return to Sender."

Lectionary Readings for December

December 2 (Sign of Things to Come): Jer 33:14-16 • Ps 25:1-10 • I Thes 3:9-13 • **Luke 21:25-36**

December 9 (Make Ready): Mal 3:1-4 or Bar 5:1-9 • Luke 1:68-79 • Phil 1:3-11 • **Luke 3:1-6**

December 16 (Look Forward): Zeph 3:14-20 • Isa 12:2-6 • Phil 4:4-7 • **Luke 3:7-18**

December 23 (Moving with Mary's Song): Micah 5:2-5a • Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps 80:1-7 • Heb 10:5-10 • **Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)**

December 30 (Who Is This Child?): I Sam 2:18-20, 26 • Ps 148 • Col 3:12-17 • **Luke 2:41-52**