



NCC News

February 10, 2013



A Weekly Newsletter of Nu'uanu Congregational Church

Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent - 40 days prior to Easter, not including Sundays. Lent is a time where we contemplate Jesus' sacrifices made on behalf and for the sins of all humanity in this world. It is a time where Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline.

There will be two Ash Wednesday services on **February 13** at 12 noon and 6 p.m. The imposition of ashes will take place at both services.

Today, at the end of the morning service, we will be burning last year's palm crosses to make the ashes.



Psalm Writing Workshop

A Psalm Writing Workshop will be held on Saturday, **February 16** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The workshop will be conducted by **Ray McGinnis**, author of: Writing the Sacred, A Psalm-inspired Path to Appreciating & Writing Sacred Poetry.

Ray McGinnis is a poet and psalms enthusiast having taught over 3000 people how to write prayers, poetry and autobiographies, guiding them to bring their whole heart, mind and spirit to the process. **Pastor Mary** will follow-up with a Lenten Study continuing the focus on the Psalms. The class will be offered Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the choir room on **February 19, 26, March 12, 19**.

Don't miss this special opportunity. Sign-up on the lanai after the 9:00 a.m. service. Signed copies of his book will be available during the workshop.

Carol Hamada, BCN

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season." Psalm 1:3

End of Year Giving Statements

Please see Paula and pick up your end-of-year giving statements on the Fellowship Lanai after service. Thank you.

Membership/Baptism Classes

Membership/baptism classes will be offered on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. during Lent: **February 17, 24, March 3, March 10**. If you are interested in finding out more about Nu‘uanu Congregational Church, what church membership is all about, wish to be baptized, or wish to become a member, please contact Paula Yamamoto and attend the first session on **February 17**. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Mary.

Family Promise - February 10-17

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help us host Family Promise guests this week. We are still in need of someone to open the kitchen, start rice, and orient the Unitarians to our kitchen on Thursday and Friday evenings. This is an easy, but very necessary job. You will need to be on campus from approximately 5 to 7 p.m. Please let **Vanessa Ito** or **Judy Keith** know if you can help in this important way.

One Great Hour of Sharing

“Sharing Brings Joy - To us. To others. To God” is the theme for this year’s One Great Hour of Sharing. This UCC Special Mission Offering will be taken on **March 10**. Can you imagine what brings joy to the heart of the Holy One? God knows joy when we take actions that restore the well-being of God’s children everywhere. When we reach out to others with helping hands, we share love and justice with our brothers and sisters, with whom we are one. God loves our joyful attitude when we share from our abundance!

Evergreens for Advent

The Diaconate is looking ahead for evergreen sources for this year’s Advent wreaths. We have been so fortunate all these past years with Yoshi Takaki’s abundant juniper cuttings for our lovely Advent wreaths. Since his passing this past year, we have lost our source of evergreens. If you have or know someone who has juniper evergreens in their yard and is willing to let the church come and trim their tree in November, please contact the Diaconate or church office. Thank you.

Office Help Needed

Paula will be on vacation **February 18-27** (ski trip) and **March 6-13** (family wedding). The following slots are open, if you are able to help watch the office: Fri., **Feb. 22** (8:00-12:00), Tue., **Mar. 12** (12:00-4:00), and Wed., **Mar. 13** (12:00-4:00). Mahalo to all who signed up! Your help is much appreciated!

March Caller Deadline - Feb. 12

The deadline to submit any articles for the March Caller has been moved up to **February 12**, due to Paula going on vacation.

March Refreshments

The month of March is an open month (not assigned to a board or group). If you would like to kokua and sign up to bring and serve refreshments, see **Becky Kanenaka**. Oh, yes, prepare the tea beforehand and clean up afterwards, too!

2013 Altar Flower Chart

Remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion with a floral arrangement! Sign up on the 2013 Altar Flower Chart in the church office or call Paula. Open dates are: March 10, 17, April 14, May 12, June 16, and September 15.