



NCC News

August 2, 2015



A Weekly Newsletter of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church

Aloha and Mahalo to Our College Summer Interns

Today, is the last day for our College Summer Interns. They had a summer immersed in the various ministries here at NCC - Christian Nurture, worship, Hui Malama, Sew Fun, Ohana Ministry, Family Camp, the Lana‘i Mission Trip, and more! They will be sharing their reflections during this morning’s worship service. Their youthful energy and cheerful personalities will definitely be missed! Let us thank them for their hard-work and willingness to serving God here at NCC. Join them on the Friendship Lanai after the worship service.

Calling all Keiki!

Sunday School is right around the corner, and Sunday School will begin on **August 16, 2015**. Please invite friends, neighbors, and family to join us, too. We will meet after the Sunday School teachers are commissioned. If anyone is interested in working with our wonderful keiki in Sunday School, please contact Velma Akinaka at kimoment2@hawaiiintel.net or call 595-3135.

Mid-Year Giving Statement

Help the church save postage by picking up your mid-year giving statement from **Howard Mau**. Please check your statement carefully, and if there are any discrepancies, please notify Howard. We thank you for your contributions and want to make sure you are credited properly. Mahalo.

Forum on Hospice Care

On Sunday, **August 16**, the **Reverend Dr. JP Sabbithi** will present an adult forum on Hospice Care. Rev. Sabbithi is Director of Patient and Family Support Services at Hospice Hawaii. Previously, he served as a chaplain for nine years at Kaiser Permanente’s Moanalua campus. Please come and join us in the sanctuary after refreshments at 10:30 a.m.

Aloha, Sandy, and Welcome, Stacey

We bid **Sandra Hirano**, aloha and mahalo! Sandy retired as bookkeeper for Nu‘uanu Congregational Church after 10-1/2 years of service. Her last day was July 31. Sandy and husband David will be relocating to North Carolina in mid-September. We will miss you dearly! As you travel to your new home, we wish you God speed and safe travels! Whenever you are in Hawaii, you are always welcome to worship with us at NCC.

Replacing Sandy is **Stacey Edralin**. Stacey is the proprietor of Custom Bookkeeping Solutions. She has already been hard at work at NCC for the past 3 weeks, acquainting herself with Church Windows and how we operate at NCC. Stacey is married to Ata Edralin and has a 20 month old daughter. She will be working at NCC on Wednesdays, so drop in to meet and welcome her!

Malawi Project

"Your prescription is ready." We hear that reminder and we go to the pharmacy and pick up our prescription. Our life-saving medication is handed to us in a clean, sturdy plastic container. In Malawi, Africa, hundreds of patients are handed their medicine in pieces of scratch paper - unsafe from bugs and children and unsanitary. There are over 700 medical facilities with an inadequate supply of prescription bottles, according to an article on the Malawi Project site.

We have many containers in our homes stuck in drawers, bags, and boxes because "they are too good to throw away and someday I'll find a way to use them." The time has come to put them to good use. Bring them to church and drop them in the box on the Friendship Lanai, and the Nichigobu Congregation will mail them to The Malawi Project, 3314 Van Tassel Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46240. Please ask your family and friends for their empty containers with lids and don't forget to remove the labels. Thank you for helping.

—Bow Chu Goto

Aloha Members and Friends of Nuuanu Congregational Church,

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance and the sharing of your insights and concerns and to give you an update on our progress. We have had many meetings with the Council, Nichigobu Support Group, and Pastor Mary. Additionally, we have heard from 38 people who attend or have attended NCC.

In our conversations we have learned that there are many things that people love about NCC, and that there are also serious issues. There is a lot of hurt too. We hope that the people participating in the mediation will be able to propose solutions for the congregation to consider which will allow the NCC community to move on in good and positive ways and that we will identify ways to heal the hurt so you can concentrate on all the positive things about NCC.

We have met for one mediation session with Pastor Mary, and the Council Team (Susan Ito, Wayne Kodama, and Joyce Uyehara), and the Nichigobu Support Group Team (Art Goto, Shirley Miyamoto, and Julia Nakamura). We had several sessions planned through July and in early August.

The issues and concerns are many and feelings are heartfelt and strong. In our opinion, the topics are very sensitive and the process is fluid at this time, and we do not think that the timing is right to share all the things that are under consideration. We understand the desire for more information and hope that you will give us some time and the parties some latitude as we search for ways to resolve the issues in good and positive ways to take the next steps so that when information is shared with you, it is something you can rely on.

During our work, some of you have offered us encouragement and we appreciate it. Your prayers, hopes, and support will be instrumental in our collective efforts to chart the desired future. If you have not had the opportunity to share your thoughts on these issues please feel free to contact us. We appreciate and value your input and need to hear from you by August 17, 2015.

Elizabeth Kent's number: 352-2776 and Lou Chang's number: 384-2468

Yours,

Elizabeth and Lou

Access Statement

(Revised 8/2/14 by the Diaconate Board)

As stated in our Vision Statement, “Nu‘uanu Congregational Church is a diverse, open congregation of faithful Christians who seek to affirm all persons as children of God.” Furthermore, our Policy on Non-discrimination clearly states that “we do not discriminate against any person, group or organization in hiring, promotion, membership, appointment, use of facility, provision of services on the basis of race, ethnicity, skin color, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, faith, nationality, marital status, or disability.”

As a part of living out our vision and commitment to an inclusive and diverse community, following accommodations are in place for worship:

- To provide communication access to worship, large print worship bulletins, assistive listening devices, Japanese Bibles and Japanese hymnals are available from the ushers.
- Members needing transportation to worship are invited to contact Ohana Ministry for access to taxi service.
- Those traveling by Handivan are requested to let the Church Office know at least 2 days in advance so that members of the Diaconate might meet the van on Sunday mornings.

Due to the age and construction of the buildings, not all areas are easily accessible to persons with mobility issues. Nu‘uanu Congregational Church will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities within these limitations.

For requesting other accommodations, please contact the Church Office.