

High School Bonding - Gloria Onishi

On Saturday, February 2, 2019, the high school Sunday school class attended the University of Hawaii men's and women's basketball game. Nine students attended the game along with four chaperones (Henry and Gloria Onishi, Darren Nako, and Jeanne Nagatani). The group first had dinner at McDonald's then were transported to the UH Stan Sheriff Arena to watch the women's team play, followed by the men's team. This was the first time all students attended a college basketball game on the UH campus. The students enjoyed watching both teams, eating from the concession, and watching the half-time activities. Needless to say, it was a thoroughly fun and enjoyable experience for all.



Ladies Craft and Fellowship



On Saturday, December 8, 2018, approximately 30 women (church members and friends) met to participate in a blessed time of crafts and fellowship.

With the assistance of Sharon and Katherine Kishaba, Gloria Onishi, and Martha Kawai, the women had the opportunity to create greeting cards, Post-It holders, name tags, gift card holders, angel ornaments and bookmarks.

Fun, fellowship, and a delicious lunch made this a very special time for all that attended.



Spring Banquet - Lorriane Respicio

Our annual Spring Banquet was held on Sunday, March 10th at the Okinawan Cultural Center, and a great time was enjoyed by all who attended.

The food was provided by The Catering Experience with music by Pastor Stan and his group, Na Ho'aloa. Gordon Thacker played a continual slideshow. Guests participated in table games, thanks to Jeannie Nagatani. The speaker for the evening, our very own Joel Duldulao, shared his testimony about his relationship with Jesus. The evening ended with our Silent Auction of donated items.

As Fellowship Committee Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my group of VOLUNTEER ANGELS--including those who donated their talents in making many delicious items to sell at the Country Store, setting up, cleaning, collecting payments, writing name tags, providing pictures, etc. Your efforts were greatly appreciated in helping to make the evening a great success.

Aloha aku nei au e ke Akua....thanks be to God!



Please plan to join us for our Easter Weekend services this year. Let's join together to praise God for His love as we remember Jesus' death and resurrection!



Jesus is Risen!

4/19/19 Good Friday Service
7:00 pm

4/21/19 Easter Sunday

Early Service	8:00 am
Breakfast	9:00 am
Regular Service	10:45 am



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Missions Corner - Roberta Nagano

In February, we were blessed to have Gay Hongo and the Pagaragan family minister to us in song and testimony. This talented family of seven was inspired by Gay and the late Randy Hongo to go into the mission field in Japan four years ago. Japan is a country with 127 million people where less than 1% is Christian, and there is only one missionary for every 64,000 people. Jeff and Kelly Pagaragan and their five children have a passion for the youth of Japan, and their vision is to establish a student center in Tokyo called the Neighborhood, where students and young people can build healthy relationships in a safe environment.

TEAM has allowed them to return to Japan on April 18, and one of their prayer requests is for a housing plan for their family, co-workers, and the Neighborhood Student and Ministry Center. Their belongings are currently in storage and they need a home to rent. They also need to find a van that is reliable and affordable since two of the four doors stopped working on the day they left Japan.

At the time of this writing, the Missions Committee is praying to see how we can support the family financially and will make a decision at our meeting in April. We would appreciate your support of the Missions Fund so we can partner with the Pagaragans as well as continue supporting our other missionaries .



*"Come and see the works of God,
Who is awesome in His deeds...
Psalm 66:5*

Worship Services:

Japanese Ministry
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM
English Worship
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Sunday School:

Adult Bible Classes
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

Children's Ministry:

Breakfast Program
8:45 AM - 9:15 AM
Children's Church
9:15 AM - 10:30 AM
Children's Activities
Program (CAP):
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Upcoming Events:

Apr. 19
Good Friday Service
7:00pm
Apr. 21
Easter Sunday
Early Service - 8:00am
Breakfast - 9:00am
Easter Service - 10:45am
May 12
Mother's Day Luncheon
June 16
Father's Day Luncheon



KOINONIA

West Oahu Christian Church Spring 2019 Volume 18, Issue 1

Pastor's Corner

HAPPY EASTER (BUNNY)

Not long ago, someone in my Sunday School class asked what the Easter Bunny had to do with Easter. We had never covered this in seminary, but I gave the obvious answer ... "Nothing. It's just a fun thing for kids," or something like that. For this Easter's newsletter I thought I'd write something witty on the Easter Bunny, so I decided to do a bit of research. Turns out, I had to scrap what I intended to write. I guess God had other plans. After searching several websites on the subject, I found that the clearest article was by Marshall Conolly from the website, catholic.org. Here is the article in its entirety:

LOS ANGELES, CA (Catholic Online) - Rabbits are common and found on every continent except Antarctica. Rabbits are also prolific breeders, especially in the spring when they are most commonly seen interacting with one another. As a result of their fertility, rabbits have long been associated with spring and with new life. Even the Greeks pointed out this connection.

However, the Christian tradition of the Easter Bunny has distinctly Christian origins. The ancient Greeks thought rabbits could reproduce as virgins. Such a belief persisted until early medieval times when the rabbit became associated with the Virgin Mary, who we know became pregnant without knowing man. During the medieval period, rabbits began appearing in illuminated manuscripts and paintings where the Virgin Mary was depicted, serving as an allegorical illustration of her virginity.

The Easter Bunny was first popularized as a symbol of the season by the German Protestants. It is likely they were the ones to invent the myth of the Easter Bunny for their children. Even in earliest folklore, the Easter Bunny came as a judge, hiding decorated eggs for well-behaved children. The Easter Bunny followed German immigrants to the American colonies in the 18th century and the folklore spread across the United States.

The notion that the Easter Bunny is a pagan symbol developed in the 19th century. In 1835, Jacob Grimm, the popular collector of fairy tales, suggested that the Easter Bunny came from primitive German pagan traditions. Once Grimm started the rumor, it began to spread, refined to suggest the Easter Bunny comes from the Saxon Goddess Eostre. However, there is no direct evidence of a pagan correlation. The first intimation of a connection arose from Jacob Grimm, and although he was a folklorist, he had no hard evidence other than his own speculation.

Conversely, there is considerable documentation that the rabbit was once associated with virginity, the Virgin Mary, and with the season itself, in a Christian context. As a result, we must conclude, the Easter Bunny is a distinctly Christian symbol, and does not have pagan origins as occasionally claimed by those who despise the popular children's myth.

While we might not preach about the Easter Bunny from the pulpit (it isn't in the Bible), isn't it good to know that we can use the Easter Bunny and Egg theme in Sunday school and backyard parties to confidently promote spiritual realities? (My Sunday School class better check my statements from now on!)

Happy Easter!

Pastor Stan