Easter has been, on my Christian journey, one of the most exciting times of year. A time that evokes many fond memories for me, from the Easter egg hunt, to the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. What excited me as a child, the most, about Easter, was the hunt for the well hidden, brightly colored eggs, scattered all over the church campus. What I did not realize at the time, was that, the Easter egg hunt was teaching me to look for something that I had faith in, believing something was there, even though it may not have been, at the time, visible. As we were children, told by the youth leaders, the eggs were indeed hidden somewhere out there, and we had to find them! Yes, this was exciting and fun as we learned the meaning of fellowship. However, many of us know the true meaning of Easter. Yes, it is not about the “bunny” or the “colored eggs”, but rather it is a time when we come to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ as he conquered death on the cross, a time to thank Him for all He had done. So, as we celebrate, let us remain mindful, continue to reflect on, and truly understand what Easter means for us?

Easter is more than just one day of the year. Easter is an everyday Celebration!

The gift of eternal life with God, free from sin, is the reason for the Celebration. Easter is also a celebration in which we are blessed to live, trusting in God through his promised Son. Jesus came to Earth, lived a perfect life, died an innocent death on a cross, and rose from that, three days later so that we could have a relationship with God.

So where do we go after this wonderful celebration?

First, let us use the example of Jesus’ first disciples. After Jesus walked through the locked doors, appeared, and showed Himself to them, seven of them went back to their businesses, taking the witness of the cross and resurrection with them. What they did was live in the JOY of the resurrection, and responsibilities assigned to them. How exciting that is! So, as we progress forward, journeying through this blessed Easter season, let us remember that sin separates us from God, but it is through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, that our relationship with God can be restored. Jesus said that anyone who, “...believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3: 16”.

Blessings,
Kahu
Pastor Manu Nae'ole

“For you formed my inward parts. You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works, my soul knows it very well”

-Psalm 139:13-14

This year as my act of participation in Lent I decided to give up social media and screen time. It was a conscious choice made out of my reflection about how much time I spent sitting in front of screen, which is what I am doing now. Every moment of being disengaged from a conversation or a task at hand was an opportunity to check in with the latest happenings on Facebook. Every moment spent waiting in a room or in a line was an opportunity to check the trending hashtag on Twitter. The choice to fast from social media came from a position of knowing, but the discovered revelation during the fast has led to a deeper insight about the way we crave attention, what that craving breeds in us, and how this is connected to our work with the youth and children of Kaumakapili Church.

I broke my social media fast on Monday to post a note of thanks about a special life event (That update comes later), but in the desire to give appreciation to others came this craving to want to check my Facebook endlessly. Why was drawn to this? What was I searching for? The simple answer is validation. I wanted to see how many likes, loves, and wows I received - it was a way of seeking for acceptance, for love, and for a cheerleading section. I post from time to time, but it is not a daily occurrence. In those moments which I do post I find myself always checking to see how many people affirm my post positively, and how can I get more people to like the post.

What does this have to do with CE ministry’s work at Kaumakapili? The desire to be loved, and to feel loved is a human craving. We all have it, and there is nothing inherently wrong with wanting to feel love. It is when our desire to seek love causes us to lose sight of the one who loves us in the greatest way imaginable that problems arise.

In today’s world there is so much that tugs at the hearts of young people. In the midst of all the tugging, it is our hope and goal to call young people back to the reminder of Psalm 139. We follow a God who loves us so much that he intricately created us up to the smallest details. He created us wonderfully. Sometimes the quest to find love and validation causes us to forget the greatest affirmation that God gave us, the affirmation of creating us good, well, and beautifully.

This is our ultimate goal in the CE ministry. We invite you to participate in this call alongside of us. Affirm the way God has made those who we share a pew with, and do it even more so for the young ones. Affirm in them God’s gifts and let them participate in the life of the church. May our halls rejoice in the songs of people who know they are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Kamehameha Schools Deputation Students visit Kaumakapili Church

By Lorna Motas

The Kamehameha Schools Deputation students, their Kahu and counselors from Kapālama, Hilo and Maui blessed Kaumakapili Church with their presence on Saturday, April 6. Their purpose was to provide community service work at our church and they did it with energy and enthusiasm.

Fifty students divided into groups to clean the sanctuary, prepare food bank packages, feed the homeless while providing music, and beautify the church campus. They worked very quickly and efficiently finishing the work in just under 2 hours. We were able to fellowship with them over lunch before they chanted a oli mahalo and said goodbye.

Kaumakapili Church members volunteered to mentor and supervise the students. Thank you Aunty Kahau, Manu Nae'ole, Chelsea Fernandez, Alfredo and Wendy Garcia, Uncle David and Aunty Ruby Kaneao, Anne Leake, Eugene Muratsuka, Matt Motas, Kaori and Yuzu Martin for lending a hand and your kokua.
April Scriptures

April 7
Isa 43:16-21
Ps 126
Phil 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

April 14
Isa 50:4-9a • Ps 31:9-16 • Phil 2:5-11

April 21
Acts 10:34-43 or Isa 65:17-25
Ps 118:1-2, 14-16
I Cor 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43

April 28
Acts 5:27-32
Ps 118:14-29 or Ps 150
Rev 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Kaumakapili Church ‘Ohana News

Tiffany Canonigo-Ong, daughter of Patrick and Roxy Canonigo and granddaughter of Aunty Helen Freeman is participating in the Mrs. Hawaii-America State Pageant. She currently holds the title of Mrs. Hawaii Kai. Tiffany says the purpose in participating in this pageant is to be a role model for her daughters, Aila and Aureana. She is a kumu at Keiki O Ka ‘Aina in Palolo where she teaches 3-5 year old children.

The pageant will be held on April 14, 2019 in the Pikake Ballroom at the Neil Blaisdell Center. Good luck Tiffany!

Community Service Volunteers are Vital to Outreach Ministry
By Anne Leake

For the past 7 years Wendy Garcia has been the face, heart and soul of Kaumakapili for our community service volunteers. After she retired 6 years ago, this service developed into a calling when she was able to devote more time to getting to know the volunteers. She enjoys meeting a range of different people from incarceration transition programs and from public housing. She takes calls from agencies trying to place people and she has to decide case-by-case if there is a fit between the person and the work we have available at the Church. Assigned tasks can include yard work, painting, bagging and organizing canned food for the semi-monthly food pantry distributions.

The biggest rewards come from having people return regularly when they first came for mandated community service, even after they have secured regular jobs. They are inspiring! For those who need extra help, Wendy works one-on-one with people to provide extra direction on to secure a job. She handles all the forrms and paper work that come with this ministry. She refers people to the First to Work program next door at the Wally House that is part of St. Elizabeth Church’s ministry. Wendy’s hope is that more church members could have hands-on experience to see how the Outreach Ministry works and be more inclined to hear the call to serve. Keep your eyes open on the luau prep days for a display about this.

Uncle Alfredo with Community Service Volunteers sorting toiletries
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20 **HOLY SATURDAY**  **Lono/Poepoe Class** 10-12:00n Hi Lit
27 **Lono/Poepoe Class** 10-12:00n Hi Lit  Kitchen-Hale Kamika 8:45a-11a Habitat for Humanity