

The Pearl

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PEARL CITY'S MAGAZINE | OCT22 - JAN23 | VOL. 15

Happy New Year

2023

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JOIN US FOR

Easter

Sunday, April 9, 2023

**Worship @
8:00am and 10:45am**

Fellowship!

**Sunday School
for all ages!**

**Easter Egg Hunt
for children nursery thru grade 6!**

More information to follow...

The Pearl

is a magazine by FBC Pearl City

Lori Otsuka, Joanne Arakaki
Editors

Carlie Procell, Lori Otsuka
Designers

Sterling Lee
FBCPC Lead Pastor

Joanne Arakaki, Danny Binz,
Pauline Higa, Keiko Ishiwata,
Pastor Sterling Lee, Clyde
Kakiuchi, Jodi Lopez, Brian
Muraoka, Rob and Donna
Thommarson, Steven and Tara
Wilkie
Contributors




FBC PEARL CITY
1445 Hoolaulea Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

Church Office: (808) 455-2011

Email: office@fbcppearlcity.org

Website: www.fbcppearlcity.com

 fb.com/FirstBaptistChurchOfPearlCity

 instagram.com/fbcppearlcity

 twitter.com/fbcppearlcity

Thank You

From our newly ordained deacons



Aileen Potter and Jackie Tom send their grateful mahalo to Pastor Sterling and the Deacons for the heartfelt and humbling Deacon Ordination Service that was held on the evening of January 22, 2023. They also express much appreciation and many thanks to the church family for the warm aloha and loving support that made the Service a very special occasion and a blessing from the Lord.

(Also serving for the 2023-2025 term as deacons are Lynne Nohara-Kido and Sean Oliver).



Da Rail Job

by Danny Binz



Ezra 7:27: “Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king’s heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.”

Several months ago we felt that the church railings were in need of repair and repainting. It may seem like we are taking a long time to get it done, but we assure you it won’t take as long as the City’s “rail” project!

We first thought repainting the railings was just a “sand and paint” project but quickly found that wasn’t working. We moved to a more aggressive sanding plan but that took much work and time. We then got very aggressive with the grinder which moved the sanding along more quickly but broke the grinder!

Several days later we started to paint but learned that the small paint sprayer was too slow so we went to a larger sprayer

which really sped things up. Alan Tenn and Gary Ohashi did and still are doing most of the prep work (sanding, taping and covering areas from being sprayed on) which is the hardest part, and is 90% of the work. At this time we have completed about 80% of the project.

We also noticed that the front entrance gate was also in need of repair and repainting. Pastor Sterling came and started work on that gate then we discovered that the gate was not

repairable so we decided to remove the gate and add hand-railings to the stairway. It was a heavy task cutting and removing the gate and hauling away all the cut up pieces. Once again Gary and Alan arose to the occasion and got the job done with much sweat and determination.

There is still work to be done but with the Lord watching over us as we complete the work, may He be honored through these projects.





Please Welcome Manuia Baptist Church!

We are excited to share that on Sunday, February 5, 2023, the Manuia Baptist Church begins meeting for worship here at FBC Pearl City! The Manuia BC congregation will meet every Sunday from 2 to 6pm in the Chapel located in building D. They will also be using the fellowship hall in building B as well as the playground.

If you happen to be on campus around that time please introduce yourselves and extend a warm welcome to Pastor Elise, his wife Lucy, and the members of their congregation!

The Plaza Bible Study

It's a new year—2023—and a new opportunity for ministry! Eight FBC Pearl City members went to The Plaza at Pearl City on January 11 to meet with residents there for a new weekly Bible study. FBCPC members who are current residents there began the study on the Gospel of John. It was great to have Lilian Hiratani and her daughter, Lori Rough, who is visiting from Texas, Earl and Nora Honda, and Grace Munechika (the most recent FBCPC member to move there following her husband Ken's passing) in attendance.

Three other Plaza residents also joined in the study, led by John Vaughn and Roy Oda. Jackie Tom helped with name tags and greeting, along with Aileen Potter, Shirley Matsumura, and Charlene Vaughn. Doreen Kelley led the singing and signing while Mace Kawamoto played his ukulele.

Your prayers are appreciated for this outreach Bible study. If you feel led to volunteer for this weekly Bible study at the Plaza, 3-4 p.m. on Wednesdays, please contact any of the volunteers listed above.





From London, with love

Hello, friends.

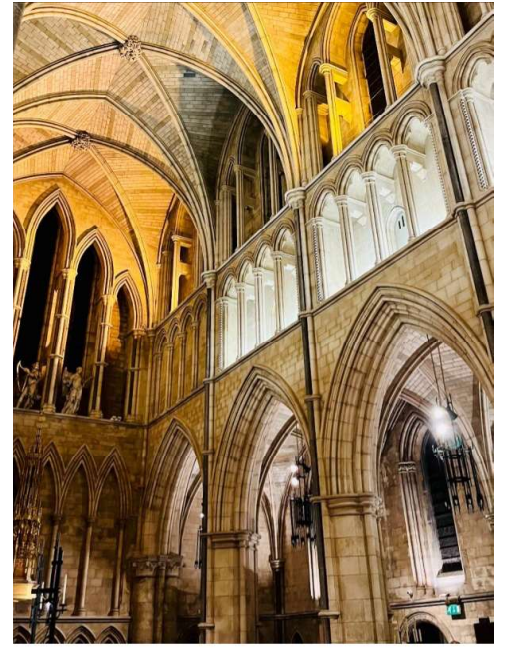
Happy New Year! We pray this finds you encouraged with fresh hope for the year ahead. By God's grace, our family is doing well and 2022 was a year of deepening our roots here in the UK. A few of the many ways we experienced the Lord's faithfulness:

- Life-giving friendships, for all of us, have been strengthened.
- Our 15 year old, Adaya, followed in believer's baptism.

- A weekly youth Bible study + hang out time in our home has brought us SO much joy.
- Both Steven and I acquired a UK driver's license, which took far more mental energy than we anticipated.
- Edifying partnerships with leaders in Chinese-speaking churches have been solidified, and we look forward to working together in the year ahead.



The Wilkie's



Join us in praying for healthy church formation and discipleship in families.

The Chinese-speaking churches in town are structured as such that no one under 18 can participate in any part of the worship gathering; instead, they attend a separate English language program for children/youth. Unfortunately, we have found these programs to be light on Bible teaching and heavy on loosely supervised socializing and smartphone use.

After lamenting this reality for well over a year and asking the Lord what role we were to play, we're humbled to have been asked to lead the first ever 'family service' at our church. It will take place on January 29 with young and old gathering together and, if well received, we will aim to continue it once per month.

Linguistically, there are challenges due to the widening culture and language gap between immigrants and their British-born children. Yet we still maintain that pursuing multi-generational unity to the extent possible, and families to worshipping together at least occasionally, is good and healthy for the church. Thanks for praying that God

would grant us wisdom and grace in this endeavor—we could not be more excited to start the year in this way!

Chinese Lunar New Year falls on January 22. Our hearts will be extra tender as we gather around the table, prepare our favorite dishes, and speak fondly of memories made in the country we love.

Continue to pray for China. Within a span of a few months, dear friends in our former home saw the pendulum swing from another crushing lockdown and isolating a semester of online school, all the way to full on reopening and rampant community spread of Covid-19. Though it won't be presented on the news, we are hearing from local pastors and friends about the devastating loss of life among the elderly population. Pray for God's mercy to fall upon that land, as many people face a long road of healing ahead.

As we recently marked two years since arriving in the UK, we are keenly aware that your prayers have sustained our family through this transition. Additionally, we are deeply grateful for your faithful gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Despite the global energy crisis and rising cost of living,

we continue to hear stories of your incredible generosity toward the global mission effort. Thank you for investing in eternity and for equipping us to partner with you!

May the peace of Christ be with you daily in the year ahead!

Love,
The Wilkie's ~ Steven, Tara, Adaya, Elliot, Solomon, & Glorielle





Missions

Around the World

Rob and Donna Thommarson

New Zealand



Rob and Donna standing on the harbor by downtown Auckland.

Over 2 ½ years ago, Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention asked us to go to Auckland, NZ, to establish a discipleship training center for young adults (ages 18-29) from our Hawaiian churches. We were humbled by the proposal. We aren't really hip people! And we're not experts at discipleship, but we do love passing on the things that God has taught us through our years of ministry in California, Russia, and Ukraine. We do think we are safe people and can create an environment that provides a good setting for young adults to experiment, learn, and grow.

We are going to move to Auckland for 2-3 years. Then churches in Hawaii will send young adults to stay three months to two years. Basically, they will be missionary interns. We will mentor them in the life of following Christ, training them to make and train other followers of Christ, who will then

train others. In other words, we will train them to multiply disciples.

Some interns will probably get a part-time job (like at Starbucks), or take a couple of classes at the University of Auckland, which will give them plenty of opportunities to connect with lots of people. After their term is over, these interns will then go back home to their families, their churches, their careers, or their universities with greater confidence that they can fulfill the Great Commission that Jesus gave to every believer.

One reason we're doing this in Auckland is because English is spoken there, so there is no need to spend time learning another language. Also, because of the concentration of universities in Auckland (60,000-70,000 students), the opportunities for evangelism and discipleship are almost limitless. And it is such



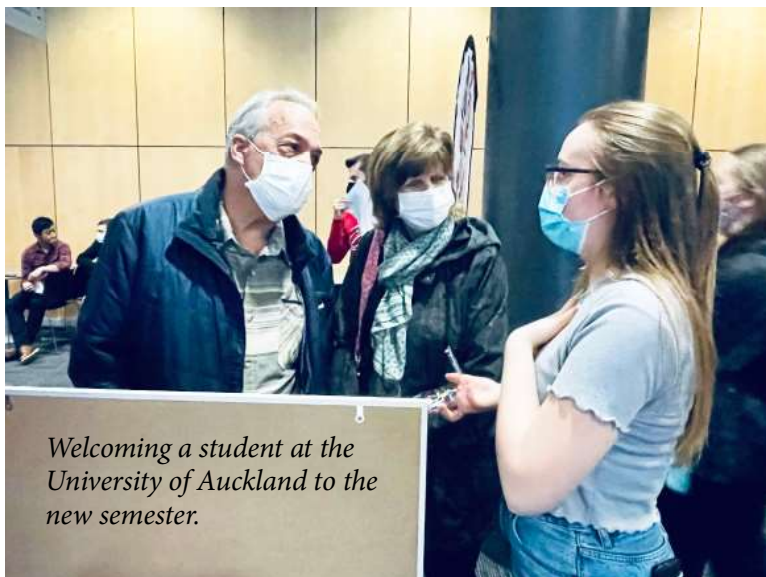
Giving out hot chocolate to students as we invite them to a group to discover more about Jesus.

an international setting that our interns will literally get to go to the nations as Jesus commanded.

Right now, we are in the process of getting all of our documentation in order to apply for a visa to live there. We hope to get all of our paper work done and submitted by Thanksgiving. Then we wait for six months for New Zealand to approve our visa. While we wait, we can go back on our visitor visas

and continue to build relationships, make disciples, and lay the foundation for our interns.

We are so grateful to FBC Pearl City for playing a key role in this project. Your prayers, encouragement, hospitality, and financial support show that this is your mission. We couldn't ask for greater partners in the Gospel!



Welcoming a student at the University of Auckland to the new semester.



Christmas Services

This past year we had the privilege to gather together to celebrate Jesus' birthday two days in a row!



Christmas Eve

"Silent Night" Candlelight Service at 9 p.m.

Last year due to Covid, we held our Christmas Eve worship service outdoors under the stars (and rain!) in the church parking lot. As things loosened up this year, due to popular demand, we decided to bring our candlelight service back and we gathered together inside the sanctuary. For those who preferred to sit "under the stars", the service was also shown in the courtyard area downstairs. It was a special time with family and friends as we worshipped the Lord together and ended the evening singing, "Silent Night" by candlelight.

Christmas Day Service

“Christmas Has a Name” at 9 a.m.

On Christmas morning we joyfully gathered for one service at 9 a.m. to continue our celebration of Jesus’ birth! Some of our children helped to lead the congregation in singing, “Happy Birthday to Jesus,” at the end of our time of worship. This was followed by a time of great fellowship as we enjoyed talking with each other as we snacked on donuts and Jesus’ birthday cake. It was a special blessing to be together Christmas morning worshipping and celebrating His birth as a church family.



Let Me Tell You About A New Children's Program: Melody Movers!

When you hear the words “Melody Movers,” does it make you think of another children’s ministries program that we used to have for many years at the First Baptist Church of Pearl City? Many of you may have been thinking about Music Makers! Both names have the same initials and imply that music and singing is involved.

Melody Movers is a new children’s ministries program, similar to Music Makers, that incorporates learning and practicing songs with a message, sharing prayer requests in small prayer groups, participating in fun activities related to ideas and stories from

the Bible, and enjoying fellowship with peers (both for child participants and youth/adult volunteers)!

Our inaugural “session” of Melody Movers was held on Fridays, this past November/December. It was awesome seeing our children growing in faith and having fun at the same time! The current session of Melody Movers just began Friday, January 27, 2023. Children 4 yrs. old thru 6th grade are welcome to join us! For more info, call June Masuno (808-393-4629) or Brian Muraoka (808-221-9716).





Through our partnership with First Baptist Hendersonville (located in Tennessee), a team of 10 awesome people came to lead this special 2 night event for the kids. During Nights of Discovery, about 30 kids learned the meaning of the Christmas story through songs, dancing, Bible stories, videos, crafts, and recreation. The program was similar to Vacation Bible School (VBS), with the theme being Christmas. There was so much energy in the sanctuary as the kids danced to many upbeat songs. Even Pastor Sterling showed us some dance moves! During craft time, the kids made Christmas wreaths with the names of Jesus and cross faith necklaces. Recreation time got quite wild with four corners and sharks vs minnows. We

can't forget the delicious dinner that was served at the beginning of each night, prepared by Cindy Pratt. Some of the kids even invited their friends! It was exciting to see some new faces, as well as some that we haven't seen in a while! Many of the kids had so much fun that they didn't want to go home at the end of the night! The Hendersonville team was full of energy and served with such passion. All of us were truly blessed by them! Perhaps you may have seen them at church or spotted their 15 passenger van! We would like to extend a big mahalo to the



Hendersonville team, as well as those from our church who served alongside them. We look forward to future partnerships with them.





Trekkin' for Treats

A Celebration

Turn on the lights! Let the games begin! Laughter, cheers, and excitement fill the air. Familiar faces, missed faces and new faces, some invited, some responding to our banner, make up the crowd. Costumes of children and adults draw attention from the cute lady bug to the armored warriors. Adults enjoy "talking story" as the children do the trekkin'.



The inaugural Trekkin' for Treats sponsored by the Family Life Committee ran from 6-8 pm on Saturday, October 29. Children visited the Sunday School classrooms facing the lower parking lot. Twelve Sunday School classes or departments sponsored a game. At each classroom children played a game and received a treat. Popcorn and water were available for the hungry and thirsty. A fall scene mural provided a backdrop to take pictures of the children. Prayer warriors covered the campus with prayer before we started and were available to talk or offer prayer support.



FBCPC was able to share with our community that God's people are a joyous and welcoming people who know how to have fun.





Birthdays

February

- 1 Arlene Koike
- 1 Reiko Yamashiro (JSC)
- 1 Chelsey Yoneda
- 3 Ethel Miyasato
- 4 Dayle Lee
- 4 Matt Lopez
- 4 Judy Trickett
- 5 Poncho Madkins
- 7 Carole M. Sugai
- 9 Laureen Uwaine
- 15 Gail Oda
- 16 Shayne Matsuda
- 17 Gail Horimoto
- 17 Keane Miyamoto
- 19 Kermit Simmons
- 21 Colby Miyamoto
- 22 Wesley Lum
- 22 Jody Okamoto
- 24 Alan Tenn
- 26 Pauline Higa
- 27 Karen Padilla
- 28 David Nagano

March

- 1 Kyoko Johnson (JSC)
- 1 Sherann Krober
- 2 Tracy Young
- 3 Kelsey Murobayashi
- 5 Aiko Aberilla (JSC)
- 8 Donna Maeda
- 9 Jean Nohara
- 10 Ray Sugai
- 11 Dave Masaki
- 11 Russ Tokuyama
- 13 Jean Yamashita
- 16 Brian Nakatsuka (JSC)
- 18 Garrett Maruyama
- 19 Joseph Gasmen
- 23 Shirley Fujimoto
- 23 Pauline Oki
- 23 Esther Root
- 24 Akiko Cessna (JSC)
- 24 Lee Nohara
- 26 Yuko Nakatsuka (JSC)
- 26 Cora Nishimoto
- 27 Aaron Lee
- 27 Teresa Madkins
- 28 Norman Shimabukuro
- 31 Aya Achiu
- 31 Rod Kiyabu
- 31 Rhysa Lee
- 31 Hanayo Nakamura (JSC)

April

- 4 Tara Vaughn
- 7 Debbie Hagihara
- 7 Jim Pratt
- 8 Seiko Dallas (JSC)
- 8 Kevin Maruyama
- 10 Andrew Yamada
- 11 Dan Miyamoto
- 12 Cynthia Hirakawa
- 12 Martin Nagaji
- 13 Rene Kurasaki
- 15 Katie Nakamura
- 16 Joanne Arakaki
- 16 Carolyn Izumigawa
- 17 George Higa
- 20 Nancy Aoki
- 21 Nora Honda
- 23 Randy Yasuhara
- 24 Sandi Maruyama
- 26 Shigemi Higashigawa
- 29 Charles Yang
- 30 Mike Tanigawa



New Members

New members who joined us in 2022

**Kace, Kaiya, & Colbie Tom;
Sandra Chee; Brian Muraoka**
By Baptism

**Daniel Binz, Joelle Tajima,
Seiko Dallas (JSC)**
By Statement of Faith

David and Faye Nagano,
By letter of transfer from Pali View Baptist Church



2022 Baby Dedications

Macie Muraoka
Parents: Scott and Erin

Timo Achiu
Parents: Karl and Aya



In Memoriam

Audrey Yamada passed away peacefully on December 30. She is survived by husband Hisao, son Michael (Rosalyne) Yamada, daughter-in-law Mona (son Craig—predeceased) and grandchildren—Andrew, Kimberly, Benjamin, and Zoey.

Albert Nakamura went to be with the Lord on January 29. He is survived by wife Kiyono, daughters Alyne (John) Kikukawa and Denise (Harold) Sakihara, son Craig (Kay) Nakamura, and grandchildren—David, Lauren, Ashley, and Devon.



FBC PEARL CITY

The Pearl is a quarterly magazine published by First Baptist Church of Pearl City.
*If you want to contribute an article, testimony, news blurb, and/or photo,
please email office@fbcpearlcity.org*

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