



Moderator Moment

by Marti Taba

Leaving a legacy and building a legacy – we have heard some joyful stories in April around these themes at Community Church of Honolulu!

We were able to celebrate Ardis Gomes and Glenn Bolosan, long-time employees and friends of Community Church of Honolulu, on April 21. Ardis celebrated 25 years with us on March 1st and Glenn 31 years at CCH on April 15! Annie Miller culled wonderful stories and reflections from members of our church family to present to them both. We felt the spirit and present of God in our midst in the words Ardis shared with us. Fellowship knocked themselves out with BBQ chicken, Chinese Chicken Salad and CCH special noodles! It was an amazing time to celebrate and honor their dedication, loyalty and legacy to Community Church. Please enjoy the pictures and comments found later in the Watchman.



In April, we also reflected on church membership, the solutions to loneliness, and how we can live in a way to leave a legacy – now.

Mahalo so much to everyone who invited a friend or guest to Easter, we had a wonderful turn out and certainly a joyful celebration! Please continue to invite people to experience Pastor Amy and our community!

We are working on an enrichment series to continue the discussion about leaving a legacy throughout the summer months – please stay tuned!

Executive Director Reverend Melissa Martin has been invaluable in working with our tenants and new leases, helping us declutter the campus, and supporting worship services with organizing our volunteer lay leaders! The executive committee met last month and wanted to acknowledge that she is working much more than a 0.5 FTE that she was hired to be so starting in April, she will be more justly compensated at 0.75 FTE. We appreciate so much her expertise and energy!

The church council will spend the next few months envisioning the future, what infrastructure we'll need to support our plan to build a community of justice and grace grounded in the teachings of Jesus, and what capital improvement projects we should dedicate our resources to first --- prioritizing safety and functionality for our members, tenants and then our community.



In This Issue

Moderator Moment	1-2
College Boxes	2
CCH's Appreciation of Ardis and Glenn	3-4
Adult Bible Study	5
Jade Young to Serve PSR AlumnX Advisory Council	6
God Moment	6
Let's Hear the Choir (Individually!)	7-9
May Calendar	10

Moderator Moment continued...

We look forward to welcoming Pastor Amy back in the pulpit on May 5 and hope she had a renewing and refreshing vacation! CCH continues to welcome everyone to join us on Sundays to feel the warmth, energy and hope in our community – come, be connected!

Important Dates:

May 5 Executive Committee meeting, 11-1pm, Leigh Hooley Room

May 19 Council meeting, 11-1pm, Leigh Hooley Room

College Box Thank You



Hi CCH Family!

Thank you so much for your loving gifts. I always enjoy reading your encouraging letters, especially from people I don't get to see very often! I already ate so many of the snacks, and strictly instructed everyone to keep their paws off the rest. Please pray for me and my finals week as I push through the remainder of my semester. See you at church :)

-Amy

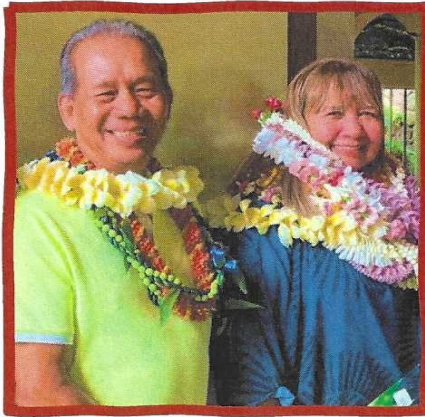


Dear CCH family,

Thank you all so much for your generosity and for another AMAZING college box! I always look forward to this time of year! You all know me so well and I'm so incredibly grateful!

-Kacie

CCH IS
FOREVER
Thankful
ALWAYS
Grateful
ABUNDANTLY
Blessed



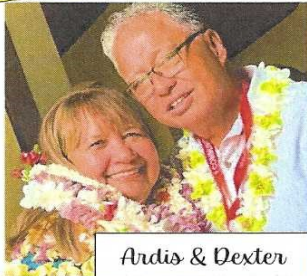
Sunday
April 21, 2024

by

**GLENN
BOLOSAN**

&

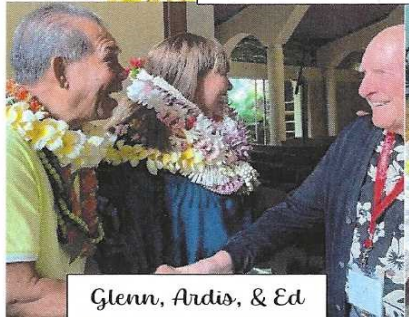
**ARDIS
GOMES**



Ardis & Dexter



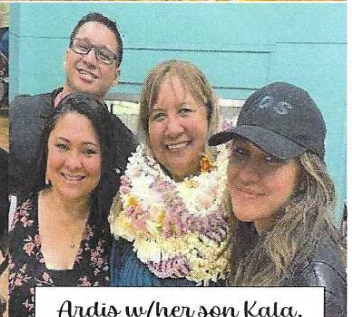
Ready to cut the "Thank you Ardis and Glenn" cake



Glenn, Ardis, & Ed



Dex & family



Ardis w/ her son Kala,
Shanti, & Tiara



CCH members



Ardis' halau students

Photos by
Joe Lee & Jade Young

PRaise THE LORD!
They aren't
retiring yet!

Comments from members

ARDIS GOMES
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
25 YEARS @ CCH

- ✿ Ardis has been the best and most efficient church administrator ever. She has been a stabilizing factor in helping CCH survive through turmoil and stressful times. Ardis has efficiently handled so many requests and demands from individual members and committees that it will be difficult to ever replace her. She has been a blessing to all of us at CCH!
May Ardis now have time to enjoy her precious granddaughters and travel the world.
- ✿ Ardis has contributed so much to the life of CCH. She knows the church members and their families through church-related activities and putting the Watchman together every month.
Just a simple email to Ardis to include an article in the Sunday bulletin or the Watchman and it's done. She answers every email promptly and is efficient. Ardis will be irreplaceable to CCH when she retires.
- ✿ Ardis has faithfully worked with 8-10 ministers, many CCH staff, and ever-changing lay leaders, all with different styles, expectations, and ways of communicating. She has been the face, soul, heart, and voice of CCH for a quarter of a century!
- ✿ Ardis has been positive every time CCH transitioned from one minister to the next. She showed us her faith that God will provide for our church.
Her greatest gift is her willingness to work with and help everyone.
She has been a good fit because she believes in what we do and has become a good friend. I want her to enjoy her family without having to think about printing a bulletin, the Watchman, or sending out email blasts!

GLENN BOLOSAN
CUSTODIAN
31 YEARS @ CCH

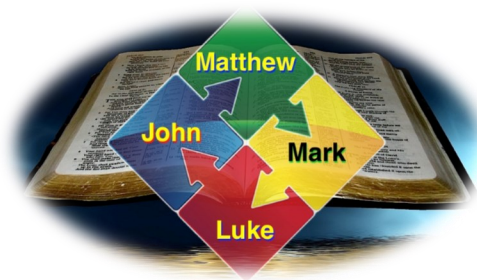
- ✿ Glenn is loyal to the church and church members. He is a shy and seemingly introverted person but is always accommodating. As our custodian, he can always be counted on. And his work ethic epitomizes the meaning of faithful service. I don't think he's ever needed much supervision; he is proud of the systematic ways he developed to get his work done. I know he is proud to give his best in service to CCH. His greatest gift? You can count on him.
- ✿ Glenn is the epitome of God's servant. He's always welcoming, loving, and respectful. I've never heard him complain or ask for help.
When we come to church before 8 am on Sunday, we find Glenn clearing the grounds of leaves that have fallen. Our grounds are pristine when members arrive on Sunday morning to worship God. I think people have begun to assume that our trees don't shed leaves!!
- ✿ God's love is far-reaching and many times hidden or passed by without notice. The church feels like home to many of us and we thank Glenn for allowing that peaceful and amazing feeling throughout these years. A welcoming gathering place--thanks to Glenn.
Glenn's greatest gift is his ALOHA — Glenn's style. Not outgoing or loud, but gentle and warm. Long before the phrase, "If can, can; if no can, no can," for the past 31 years we have all heard from Glenn, "I CAN, I CAN."
Thank you, God, for a perfect fit! We love you, Glenn!

Collected by Ann Miller
Condensed by Kathy Young

CCH Adult Bible Study

by Aileen Char

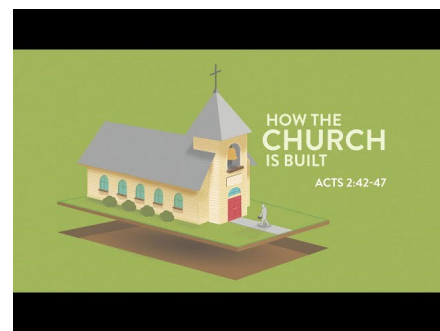
The Bible is divided into two parts: the Old Testament which is about the Hebrew God, the coming of the Messiah, Jesus.



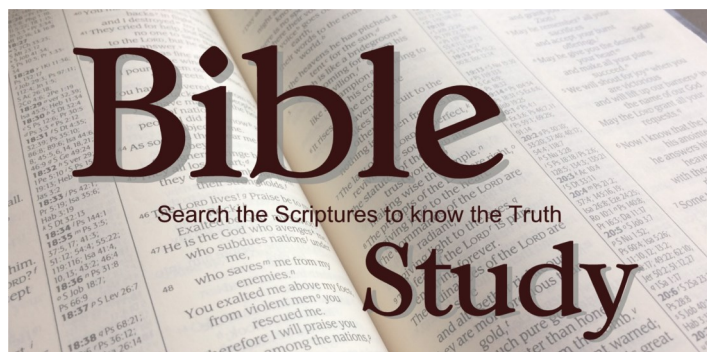
The New Testament includes the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. All are about the birth, life and death of Jesus. In these books are found the parables of Jesus. These are his teaching tools. They also include his Last Supper, his trials, how he died, his entombment, his resurrection, basically the story of Easter. After forty days on earth, Jesus ascends into heaven to be with God the father.

The next big event depicted is Pentecost, fifty days after Easter. Told in The Acts, the book tells the story of the Holy Spirit ascending on the thousands of world-wide Hebrews who were in Jerusalem attending a must-attend Hebrew feast.

The Acts tells us about the development of Christianity and its churches in Asia Minor. It also introduces to us Paul, not an original Apostle, but who became an avid Christian. Through his letters to various persons, we learn about the hardships and sacrifices the first Christians had to overcome to obey Christ's decree of bringing the gospel to the world. (They succeeded...CCH is one of its products!)



For those who need to know the makeup of the Bible, this article may be helpful. For those who already know what is in the Bible, attending the Bible study group will help you to learn about your relationship with Jesus, the Trinity, who is God, who is the Holy Spirit. Attending a Bible study group will definitely bring you to another level. It will enhance your reading of the Psalms, proverbs, Solomon's words of wisdom, and overcome your aversion to reading it because you think it's too difficult. Reading the Bible can be exciting! I would venture to say that it can be #1 in your reading list. So, I invite you to join with us to study, to discuss with us the Holy Bible. What you say in the group stays in the group. See you on Tuesdays on ZOOM at 3:30 to 4:30.



Jade Young to Serve on the Pacific School of Religion AlumnX Advisory Council

Dear CCH `Ohana,

Recently, I have been invited to serve on the Pacific School of Religion AlumnX Advisory Council to represent the Asian Pacific Islanders' voice, values and experiences from a feminine perspective. I've also participated on a panel discussion with other church leaders regarding hopes, dreams and a new future for the Church of the 21st century that better meets the needs of its members today. It's been an honor and pleasure to contribute my *mana'o* from the field. I will keep you updated. Warm mahalo for your continued love and support, Jade Young.



Although Hawaii is thousands of miles away from GAZA & PALESTINE...

In these times of unbearable anguish, we are witnessing the already beleaguered Palestinian community being massacred and starved before our astonished eyes. Our own grieving flows into the sea of human suffering and we need remember that we belong to each other. You are invited to bring your PRAYERS, your HEALING LOVE, YOUR BLESSINGS AND KINDNESS...your passion for beauty and quiet hope for peace and justice to this little oasis in the desert. Let us reclaim the connection between personal loss and global grief. It is oh too easy to forget and overlook the suffering of others if it's not in our backyard. MAY WE HOLD THEM IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS between mourning and blessing, between shattering loss and renewed connection to our Global Ohana. May it be so.

A God Moment

By Hari Bayani

March 29, Good Friday, 9:48 a.m., I was listening to a fantastic recording of J.S. Bach's colossal work, the Passion of Christ According to St. Matthew, when I casually looked up and saw an amazing sight in the sky – a cloud formation that looked like angel wings and a dove at the same time. I couldn't believe my eyes and rushed to take a photo before the clouds changed shape. My timing couldn't have been better. In 15 seconds, the vision had disappeared.

I was feeling a little resentful that morning – I wasn't able to get the day off from my work at the time as a security officer in Waianae. This was the first Good Friday that I had to work (at a job that wasn't at a church).

But after seeing the vision, which I now humbly share with all of you, my resentment and frustration went away, and I suddenly felt a sense of peace and gratitude. I thanked God right then and there for showing me something that consoled my heart, that made me remember Him even more. I was able to attend a 6 p.m. service later that day after work.



Angel/Dove Cloud, Good Friday 2024

Let's Hear from the Choir (Individually!)

By Hari Bayani and the CCH Choir

Every Sunday, the congregation is blessed to listen to the music of the choir. Faithfully, they serve every week, proclaiming the Good News and praising God through song. Now's your chance to hear from them individually and get to know us a little better.

I asked each of them the following questions: "When did you join the choir and what inspired you to join? What would you like to see the music ministry at CCH accomplish in the next five years? In other words, your hopes and dreams for the music ministry." These are their responses.

Amy (soprano): I joined the choir around 11 years ago at the age of 8 because my mom wanted me to have some singing experience. I quickly grew to love the warm, encouraging environment that surrounded me.

In the future, I hope to see more members in the choir because I think it is an amazing way to get to know the people in our community!

Carl (bass): I was "inspired" to join the CCH choir by a nice lady (i.e. Helen Lee) who was then the choir director. She told (not asked) me to join. We had worked together in another choir once.

During the next five years, I would like to see the music ministry, if possible, include and grow with some youth participation, including in some way in the service of worship. I believe such inclusion, even with the little ones, can help the church grow.

Lori (soprano): I joined when Helen Lee invited anyone who "liked to sing" to join, regardless if you could sing – "all were welcomed." Hari chooses meaningful songs a choir of 9 can sing! I hope the choir can grow to 3-5 voices per section.

Two prong recruitment: 1) work with Pastor Amy to invite University students who want to learn worship music. 2) invite worshipers to learn songs of a liturgical period so it isn't a life commitment i.e., Christmas and Easter. 3) Choir members could do testimonies.

Mitchell (bass): Why choir... I recall feeling a bit down and empty the year my mom passed. One service, when walking to the sanctuary door, Helen Lee asked if I would consider joining the choir. "Come by the practice room after Aloha hour, it'll be good for you," she said with an earnest look.

Ten years have passed and I can say choir keeps me focused and interested in the teachings of the pastors and the Lord. It's been good for me. I like all kinds of music, secular, but church music first, in particular, cathedral, classic, modern, intricate music. I'm glad I was there to see choir rebound in service. Maybe in five years there will be space for a Jesus Christ Superstar presentation to please God. Anyway, I think he's smiling.



The CCH Choir, April 21, 2024

continued on next page. . .

Let's Hear the CCH Choir (Individually!) continued. . .

Robbie (alto): I joined the choir in 2018 after being invited to church by Helen Noh Lee and Hari Bayani. I visited on Easter Sunday and enjoyed the service, including the choral contributions. When I was asked to join the choir, I took a little time to consider the obligation, but realized that I wanted to become a member of the church and thought that was how I could best contribute within the congregation.

As a member of our music ministry, I hope that we can contribute to our services with beautiful, meaningful and inspiring music. I dream of the day when our sanctuary's sound system, which is a work in progress, has evolved to the point that we can be proud of the product we share online. In addition to that, I hope that the choir can continue to add to its number, that we continue to be steadfast and just "keep on keeping on."



Tyler's Junior Vocal Recital, UH Manoa, April 19, 2024

Sharon (soprano): In 2014, church member Bea Kong invited me to join the CCH choir, saying they were in need of more voices to sing the high parts. Apparently, they had been relying heavily on some eleven-year-old singers. I wanted to help, but declined because I had no experience singing with a group. However, I eventually agreed to observe after Bea insisted on picking me up in the morning. My plan to listen anonymously outside the doorway went seriously awry when Bea poked self her head in the door and said, "Hello, choir. I want you to meet Sharon."

I nodded self-consciously and was making my way to the back of the classroom when Helen Lee, the choir director, asked me, "What do you sing?" I thought that was a rather curious question, but being a former first-grade teacher, answered, "Mostly children songs." Helen continued looking at me, so I added, "In the shower." Still no response, but having no choir experience, I could not think of anything further to say. Helen then slowly motioned to the front row of the classroom and said, "Why don't you sit here." I am sure she could sense my hesitancy as I slowly did as she asked. It was only later that I understood I was supposed to say soprano or alto, although I was totally unfamiliar with those terms at the time.

Well, I struggled through that session and was then told to follow the choir to an alcove in a front corner of the church, in full view of the congregation! I did my best to simply silently mouth the words of each song so that I would not ruin the beautiful singing around me. I was seriously wishing for the power of invisibility when I noticed the wonderful sound coming from different parts of the choir. It was like listening to stereo, only better! Later, Helen gave me a doubtful look as she politely invited me to come back, and she appeared genuinely surprised when I did show up the following week. I wanted to again be wrapped in the warmth of the voices surrounding me, even if it meant learning to sing along with them.

Ten years later, I am now a member of the choir and actually using my voice when singing. One of those eleven-year-old girls is presently attending college and continues to mentor me. Amy Taba is always close enough for me to sing along with her, gives me a boost when I need help standing, points to the correct page, and explains whenever a confused look appears on my face. Our talented choir director, Hari Bayani, brings out the best in us and makes every piece sound special. My fellow choir members are supportive, friendly, interesting and fun! Looking back, I have never regretted my decision to join the choir. I find that singing makes me happy, and I go home feeling peaceful and serene.

continued on next page. . .

Let's Hear the CCH Choir (Individually!) continued. . .

My one regret is the loss of so many members through the inevitable passage of time. The isolation required by Covid also pared the choir down to a mere five members when I rejoined a few years ago. I now celebrate the gradual return of singers and rejoice when new faces appear. For those of you who think you cannot sing, I hope sharing my experience will dispel those doubts. Oh, and did I mention that group singing has many health benefits? So, singers and non-singers, family members and friends, young and old, you are all invited to join the CCH choir and our ukulele band as well :)

Trudy (alto): I joined the choir many years ago and I think it was 15 years ago. I enjoy singing in church and Helen Lee and other choir members inspired me to join the choir.

My hope is the choir will grow to have more members.

Tyler (baritone): I joined the choir fairly recently on Easter Sunday. What inspired me to join was how passionate and dedicated the choir was. Everyone was so happy to create beautiful music and there was a deep sense of community. I am so blessed that I can use the gift that God has bestowed onto me to help such a great community and congregation. I believe that there is immense potential in our choir and I will give my all to help Hari with his vision for the future.

What I would like to see five years into the future would be more people joining who love music that are passionate and eager to learn new music as well as hone their gifts that God has given them.

Woody (tenor): I was asked to rejoin the CCH Choir by Helen Lee, M.D. in 2016 which I had sung with previously in the 70's to 80's. The choir needed another tenor to join, and following 11 years with the Hawaii Opera Theater Chorus, I agreed.

I wish the CCH Choir could sign in more volunteer singers from the congregants. Numbers don't concern me, compatibility, quality and dedication are most important.

Hari (music director): I was referred to CCH by Buddy Nalua`i, organist of Kawaiaha`o Church (who I met by networking within the various music communities on island). By January 2018, the late Pastor Ron Williams hired me as an accompanist. By February, the music committee, with the blessing of the then-acting music director, Helen Lee, promoted me to music director. I was new to Hawaii at the time, and I needed a place that would ground me, that could use my then-20 years of church music experience to good use.

I'd love to see the choir expand in the next five years. More singers, more instrumentalists – I admire the dedication that this choir has, not just to singing, but to proclaiming God's Word through music. I appreciate their willingness to work hard under my direction, as I hold myself and those who work with me to a high standard of musicianship. That's why I am proud to call each and every one of my choir members a MUSIC MINISTER.



MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10am PT/Wedding	3 2pm Ma'ema'e Prkg 4pm Pickle Ball-SMH	4
5 Cinco de Mayo 11am 90th Anniv. Mtg. Founders Rm 11am Exec. Mtg.LHR	6	7	8	9	10 4pm Pickle Ball-SMH	11 3pm PT/Wedding
12 Mother's Day	13 10am PT/Wedding 11am PT/Wedding	14	15	16	17 7:30am Ma'ema'e Parking 8am Tutu & Me SMH	18 Memorial Svc. For Wayne Y.H. Lum Sanc & SMH
19 Pentecost 11am Council Mtg	20	21 1pm PT/Wedding	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day HOLIDAY - Church Office closed	28	29	30 7:30am Ma'ema'e Parking	31	

The Community Church of Honolulu
 2345 Nu`uanu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96817
 Phone: 808.751-3570
 Email: info@cchonolulu.org
 Website: cchonolulu.org