



Newsletter 2020-2 From Hawaii



Warmest Aloha's to our dedicated group of newsletter-readers !

Quote on a local car's bumper - "I not late, I on Hawaiian time".

February 17th – Happy President's Day to all of you back on the mainland.

This holiday is not really celebrated very much in Hawaii. I suppose that the only people who are celebrating are the government workers who have the day off. The place where we are staying has lots of electronic gadgets and a new TV set. It is a ROKU TV so we don't get any local channels. The set is the same as the set that we have at home, so we are familiar with how to make it work. The only problem with this is that we had to register the TV with our PBS, Netflix, and Amazon accounts. Landy finally figured it all out and we have plenty of viewing options. This statement is not to imply that we just sit around all day watching TV. We do watch some programs after dinner, however.

Has everyone gotten all of their documents ready so that you can file your tax information to the IRS? We got the bulk of our documents to our accountant prior to leaving for Hawaii. We were fairly sure that we did not have everything necessary for the filing and would get some documents mailed to us in Hawaii. This being the case, Landy thought that it would be a good idea to buy an inexpensive printer, copier, scanner. He spent way too many hours researching the best product for this job. He narrowed the field down to two units and then tried to order it from Amazon. All went well until he noticed a statement on Amazon that said that they could not ship the unit to Hawaii. Bummer! The next time we went to Hilo, he bought a unit at Wal-Mart for **\$32.61** (U.S. Dollars). So far, the printer works and he has scanned and e-mailed some tax documents to our accountant. Normally, it takes a letter about two weeks to get from Hawaii to Florida. Wasn't this a clever way to justify purchasing a printer? By the way, we will leave the printer at our local church when we leave Hawaii for home.

A few days later, we went to Kawaihae. This harbor town is on the west (dry side) of the Big Island. We were checking out the restaurants and outfits that do whale-watching tours. The one we chose was Kohala Divers. We got the information from them then had to make up our minds what day would be best for the tour. Supposedly, this time of the year is terrific for whale-watching. After this, we continued up the coast to Hawi. This is a quaint little town on the north side of the island and is supposedly the birthplace of King Kamehameha 1. At any rate, there is a gigantic statue of him in the middle of the town. We ate lunch at Minnie's. The food was great and we had enough left-overs for another meal.

February 24 – this was whale-watching tour day. The weather was great, the boat was great, but the whales were not too cooperative. We did more whale-watching than whale-photographing. There were plenty of them out there, but none of them ever got close enough to photograph. The adults are 50 – 60 feet long so it could have gotten very interesting. By way of comparison, our boat was 46 feet long. The next day, Tuesday, is known as Shrove Tuesday and is celebrated by quite a few churches. This celebration is also known as "Fat Tuesday" or "Mardi Gras". This a great celebration day just before the solemn season of Lent begins. This is a HUGE event for our church in Waimea. My photo album will give you a pretty good idea what it was all about. The festive music was provided by the famous Honoka'a High School Jazz Band. There were about 20 young musicians in the group and they did a fabulous job of playing music that people of our age could appreciate. If you are interested, this link will tell you more about them : <https://www.facebook.com/honokaajazzband/> . They were good enough to have raised \$5000 in donations.

March 1 – This is the first Sunday in the church season of Lent. Forty days before Easter. This is a time for churchgoers to reflect on their faith, think about what they can do to become better Christians, and giving up some food items or practices. To some degree, it is a more solemn period in the church year. Therefore, we do not say “Alleluia” in services during Lent. All of this is to help explain the “burying of the alleluias” photos is the photo album accompanying this newsletter. Thanks for bearing with me on this one.

A few days later (actually nights) we attended a wonderful lecture at the community library in Laupahoehoe. The presenter was a native Hawaiian who just happens to be an amateur historian. He gave a terrific commentary on the history of the harbors and the coastline in the Ka'u district of the island. This area is in the southeastern section of the island. Harbors, you say, why are they important ? The reason is that there are not too many good ones and they were vital to transporting sugar cane off of the island. The sugar industry left the island in the mid-1990's, but there are remnants of this activity.

March 5 – The most important event for this day was that we attended a Lenten study course titled Faith Confirmed. This is a 5 week course designed for folks who are preparing for confirmation in the Episcopal church, folks who are interested in the church, for folks who just want a “refresher course” in their faith or folks who are just curious. We will attend the meetings at St. Columba's (Pa'auilo). The first meeting was well attended and we are looking forward to the rest of the upcoming sessions.

Well, that just about sums it up for now. Stay tuned for more photos and news. Thanks for sticking with us.