

## **Halau Wa'a Episcopal Church; A hui of spiritual journeys**

### **An invitation**

#### **Who needs church?**

"I don't need to go to church, I worship God on the golf course." This is a frequent phrase I hear from my friends who do not go to church. They feel that God reaches them while surfing, running, having coffee, even while washing dishes. And they are right! God is there with them while they are doing these activities. God is always with each and every one of us, all the time! So, the question is, why do we need church at all?

In my conversations with family and friends, I hear people searching for spirituality in their lives, spiritual "seekers." They participate in yoga classes, hiking groups, ukulele groups, foodie groups, book clubs, and more, all the while proclaiming to others that they don't need church for spirituality. I wonder if their groups have become their church? I wonder if they have a heightened sense of the spiritual when they are together with others that share a common focus; that sense of the spiritual connectedness when you are doing something positive, and focused with a group of people. Have these group activities replaced church as a source of spiritual nurturing? Or could their groups be a gateway to an even deeper spirituality?

#### **Could there be more with church?**

There may be more to offer; a deeper sense of involvement with humanity, and the betterment of society as a whole. There may be more layers of spirituality available to all of us if we can access an even deeper enlightenment. There might be a place where, when 2 or three are gathered, a special access to the Word of God is opened to our hearts and minds. A peaceful, thought provoking, soul stimulating conversation with the Holy Spirit might be awaiting.

What if we were to help that conversation happen, outside of church walls. Away from the walls that may seem, to many, to be restrictive, boxed in, and exclusionary, keeping those that do not think the same from entering into a spiritual life with community and God included.

#### **Wa'a (Hawaiian canoe)**

Halau Wa'a Episcopal Church in Kapolei, Hawaii is exactly that. A hui, or collective, of spiritually focused small affinity groups that get together weekly. These spiritual groups might be likened to wa'a or canoes, on journeys of their own. These journeys might be partially focused on an activity like golf, or hockey, coffee clubs, or book clubs. But along with those chosen activities, is a focus on friendship, community and a sense of togetherness. Then add a touch of spirituality through a simple reading of scripture, and you have the recipe for the wa'a of Halau Wa'a Episcopal, a mode of spiritual transport, taking us on an even deeper journey into the world of God, and God's world in us. Each wa'a meets weekly, to live into community with each other through their chosen activity. At the beginning of the meeting the wa'a may choose to read the following Saturday's Gospel together, and then participate in their activity together, letting the living Word sink in, and explore where the conversation may take them!



### **Halau Wa`a (Hawaiian canoe house or school)**

The wa`a are invited to come together at the Halau Wa`a Episcopal Church worship site, where we, as larger group, are able to share our stories, give thanks to God, to participate in Holy Eucharist if desired, share a meal, and end with a musical gathering or Kanikapila, under the stars. Halau Wa`a Episcopal worship is open to all, whether participating in a wa`a or not, children, teens, young adults, families, and kupuna. Worship at Halau Wa`a Episcopal is the very definition of the Love Feast, or Agape; sharing food, stories, scripture, Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit. Not forcing, but sharing. Open to all. Believers, non-believers, maybe believers...everyone who is seeking something. Seek and ye shall find.

We invite and welcome all. All people are God's creation and are celebrated. Please join us and be a part of our hui of spiritual journeys. You may find even more than you are looking for!

### **When do we worship together? (I'm too busy on Sundays!)**

Halau Wa`a Episcopal gets together for worship and community on Saturday evenings so that families that are held hostage to Sunday sporting activities might be able to separate time out for soul feeding together. For those who find the need to participate in the beauty of God's creation on Sunday mornings by hiking, going to the beach, biking, golfing or anything else, we offer an alternative time to worship; a time to separate from activities, find solace in God's Word, and to share the sacrament of Eucharist. Worship at Halau Wa`a Episcopal could be a time to meet new friends, to be with good friends, and to be a part of the communities within the Honouliuli ahupua`a (Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Makakilo, Ko`olina, and Kunia). We are here for all.

### **Where do we worship?**

We worship together in Kapolei, on Saturday evenings, at 4pm. You will find us in tents on the strip of land across from Kapolei Elementary School. Bring a beach chair, your dinner, and your instruments and voices if you'd like to kanikapila under the stars (after service and dinner).

*Halau Wa`a Episcopal  
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Email me ([revmark808@gmail.com](mailto:revmark808@gmail.com)) should you have any questions on how you can be a part of Halau Wa`a Episcopal. First worship is scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 4 p.m. Locations and times for confirmation classes for youth and adults for the ho`okele (steerspersons) will be announced. We can't wait to see you all!

Aloha ke Akua, Love and blessings to all,

The Rev. Mark Kekaileonui Haworth  
Halau Wa`a Episcopal Church  
Honouliuli Ahupua`a: Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Makakilo, Ko`olina, Kunia  
Oahu, Hawai'i