

"I am the vine, you are the branches; abide in me and you will bear much fruit." John 15:5

Vine & Branches

Monthly News from St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 720 N. King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817 • Phone (808) 845-2112

February 2011

The Right Reverend
Robert L. Fitzpatrick
V Bishop of Hawaii

The Reverend
David J. Gierlach
Rector

The Reverend
Imelda S. Padasdao,
Priest Associate

The Reverend Saimone Lino,
Diocesan Missioner

The Reverend Dr.
Gerald G. Gifford,
Rector Emeritus

The Reverend Peter S. M. Fan,
Cantonese Language Priest

Hsiao Ying "Ajaon" Chen
Choir Director

Marie Wang
Organist

Katherine Crosier
Parish Administrator
Editor and Layout
Music Consultant

Arleen Young
Senior Warden

Preston Lentz
Junior Warden

Stuart Ching
Secretary / Clerk

Heather Manning, Treasurer

Website:
www.stelizabeth720.org

Email:
stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com

Blessed Are ...

The Reverend David J. Gierlach

The Archbishop of Canterbury and a well known actor had this exchange. "Why do you actors seem to make such impressions on your audiences while we preachers leave our congregations cold?"

The actor replied: "Actors speak of things imaginary as if they were real, while you preachers too often speak of things real as if they were imaginary."

The Beatitudes, more than any other gospel reading, seem to fit exactly this problem. No other teaching by Jesus has been more sentimentalized, crocheted into pillows, sugar coated and given lip service than the sermon on the mount.

And yet, these words are the very spine of the gospel. People often wonder, what is Christianity all about? What does Christian living look like? The answer is right here. It looks like the beatitudes, it looks like the sermon on the mount.

Today's teaching by Jesus is, if you will, the constitution of the Christian faith. It is the central principal around which we, the church, exist. Without exception, the beatitudes insist upon God's preference for the poor, the wounded, the lost and the outcast. This insistence is a devastating departure from the way our Monday through Saturday society organizes itself.

Throughout the world today, we have a whole different set of beatitudes. Perhaps you are familiar with them.

Blessed are the shrewd, for they shall succeed. Blessed are the strong, they shall be in authority. Blessed are those who help themselves, God will help them too. Blessed are those with money, they shall not be a

burden on others. Blessed are the busy, their days shall be full. Blessed are the famous, they are admired by all. Blessed are you when people speak well of you and praise you, you will never embarrass your family or friends.

Our beatitudes praise conditions of life that create dependence on self. The beatitudes of Jesus praise conditions of life that create dependence on God.

Poverty, meekness and mourning bring us face to face with Reality – reality with a capital "R."

The Reality that we are all in this life together, that none of us gets out of this life alive, and that all we have during this life is not deserved or something to which I am entitled, but is a free gift from the God who created all there is.

So much of our daily discourse is about holding onto what's "mine," or anger at paying taxes, or judgments about those who are poor.

God, in Jesus, does not go there. God, in Jesus, in fact, goes in the opposite direction. Our way separates us from one another. God's way unites us.

Henri Nouwen, reflecting on the beatitudes of Jesus, came to see that living the beatitudes brings "the inner recognition that your neighbor shares your humanity with you. This partnership cuts through all walls which might have kept you separate. Across all barriers of land and language, wealth and poverty, knowledge and ignorance, we are one, created from the



Rector's Message, continued

same dust, subject to the same laws, destined for the same end.”

Nouwen, *With Open Hands*, 86.

Perhaps we can think of it this way: shall we admire Jesus, or shall we follow Jesus? If we admire him, we can cling to the world's beatitudes, while tipping our hat to the lovely but hopelessly unreasonable and unrealistic beatitudes of Jesus.

Yet, in abandoning the radical call of Jesus, we abandon Jesus as well.

It is most appropriate that the beatitudes come to us today, the day of our annual meeting. For this is the day we reflect on where we have been this past year and where we are going in this new one.

As Aunt Nancy reports, we served food on over 40 occasions, ranging from the funerals of our loved ones to our spaghetti dinner and dances to the wine tasting and so much more.

All have been welcome at these events; some of which even included gifts of food from our Chuukese members which, I must say, was quite delicious. Thank you Aunt Nancy and you kitchen angels for your ministry!

Read through the reports and you will see that we stood in solidarity with the Mayor Wright folks seeking hot water, we have constantly engaged our children in the peaceful, rather than fistful, resolution of conflicts.

Our Sunday School class is among the largest in the entire diocese and our adult ed classes attract many many participants.

We have welcomed those who are different, those with and without homes, those with and without jobs, those with and without faith.

We do all of this, but we don't do it alone.

Just as a nation's constitution requires the consent and cooperation of the governed, so the beatitudes can only be lived out in a community that will take the leap of faith.

A leap of faith motivated by the belief that “meekness is the way of God, that righteousness and peace will finally prevail, and that God's future will be a time of mercy, not cruelty.” *8 New Inter Bible*, 181.

The beatitudes of Jesus are not a list of tasks or requirements. They instead describe how a people, gathered around Jesus, seek to live.

As a people, gathered around Jesus, we don't retaliate or hate or curse or lust or divorce or swear or brag or worry or backbite; not because we are saints, but because it is not in the nature of God, it is not the nature of the Kingdom, to do so. Hauerhaus.

My daughter asked the other day if, when people died, could they choose to go to heaven. I told her I thought everyone is welcome in heaven, but many may choose not to go, since in heaven,

the beatitudes of Jesus are lived out, not the beatitudes of America.

It's the old story of the bishop arriving at the frontiers of heaven on the bus, getting off and asking where the meetings are held. The angel tells the bishop that there are no meetings in heaven, whereupon the bishop promptly boards the bus and goes to hell, where they have meetings every day.

To avoid the bishop's fate, we practice the lifestyle of Jesus here and now, so that when the kingdom does arrive in all its fullness, whether with Jesus returning on the clouds of heaven, or as we each close our eyes for the last time, we shall have experienced heaven's tastes and smells, we shall have lived heaven's solidarity with the poor, we shall have walked a while with heaven's cloak wrapped around our shoulders.

Jesus, through the beatitudes, brings a new creation: it is his Body, we call it the church.

Paul picks up on this new creation in his letter today to the people at Corinth. Corinth was a town created for and settled by freed slaves.

By the time Paul got there, it was a town becoming, as we say today, gentrified. Lots of new start up businesses, lots of up and coming folks, and a divide that grew ever greater between those with and those without.

So Paul today reminds these many upper class and middle class folk of God's choice to reveal himself in weakness, in need, in poverty.

And more, he uproots the blossoming weed of trust in self and plants instead the foolishness of the cross. “Where is your God?”

“He is there, hanging from the tree.”

And he does more.

“Paul sees the ‘Body of Christ’ as something alive in this world. He sees it almost as an energy field created by participating in the very real Spirit of Christ.

St. Augustine said it well a few centuries later: “The church consists in the state of

Rector's Message, continued

communion of the whole world.'

Those who live in communion and love, made possible by God, are the church, wherever they are.

They are the leaven that will change the world.

For Paul, you don't live in the world and go to church. You live in the Church and go to the world.

Take off your head, shake it and put it back on; because that was not the way any of us were trained to think.

Church, for Paul, is not something you attend. Church is something you are—or not!

It is more a living thing than an organization. You don't join it as much as you breathe it." *Fr. Richard's Reflections*

This is who we are. This is who we are.

So blessed are you poor, you meek, you who long for justice, you who make peace.

Your condition creates an open hand, and only an open hand can receive God's gifts.

+amen

Bishop Bob visits St. E's



Our annual meeting with the Bishop (January 28) was a rollicking good time. As usual, there was enough food to feed 5000, many of our members braved the night air to spend time first eating with and then engaging in an adult study session (The Faces of Jesus) with Bishop Bob and his lovely bride Bea. Thanks to all who made the evening such a success!



As always, there was a TON of good food and fellowship!

Aloha, Lisa-Anne!



We bid a fond Aloha to Lisa-Anne Chan (shown here with Ajaon Chen and Sue Yap) who relocated to Los Angeles, CA. Lisa-Anne has been a driving force in the Sunday School program since 1990 and will be sorely missed.

Attendance

1/2	Sunday 8:15 am	138
1/2	Ilokano Service	54
1/5	Wednesday Eucharist	17
1/5	Ilokano Service	43
1/9	Sunday 8:15 am	133
1/9	Chinese Service	5
1/12	Wednesday Eucharist	7
1/16	Sunday 8:15 am	144
1/16	Chinese Service	5
1/19	Wednesday Eucharist	14
1/23	Sunday 8:15 am	162
1/23	Chinese Service	5
1/26	Wednesday Eucharist	27
1/30	Sunday 8:15 am	170

The Newest Steffey



Congratulations to the Steffey family on their new addition, Charles Edward Mana Steffey, Jr.

Good Jeans!

“Wanda, who lives in Massachusetts, says ‘Attitude is everything.’ She told me that she knew a woman who lived to be 100. The doctor told her she had good genes to have lived so long.

“She replied, ‘I never wore jeans in my whole life!’”

—Joseph Basehart, Aurora, CO



Happy Birthday

God's blessings on those with February birthdays!

Welcomed into the Lord's Family

through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on January 23rd, 2011 were **Tiffany Lawrence**, daughter of Brian and Raquel Lawrence, **Saimone Neset Jr.**, son of Pablo and Hermy Neset, **Jazzy Benito**, daughter of Benson and Korety Benito, and **Erdwin William**, son of Marsen and Pearlie William.

Elsie Okubo	2/1
Zachary Okimoto	2/2
Andrea Sagucio	2/4
Ida Teiti	2/8
Alicia Ho Nakata	2/11
Doris Lam	2/11
David Kaloi	2/12
Beatriz Timonio	2/15
Elyson Badua	2/16
Edward Fitzpatrick	2/17
Harlan Arakawa	2/17
Betty Wong	2/17
Sue Jean Chun	2/21
Faye Tsukamoto	2/24
Tulenkun Tulenkun, Jr.	2/25
Kazner Alexander	2/26
Herold Unarce	2/26
Ashton Ballesteros	2/26
Ethan Anderson	2/27
Lilia Timonio	2/28



I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



An overflow crowd

came to bid aloha to **James "Kimo" Kealoha III**, eldest son of **Jimmy and Lani Kealoha**, on Saturday, January 28, 2011. James died at the too young age of 55. He was a beloved father of Kimo and Chanel, husband of Nadine, son, brother, uncle, coach, teacher and pal to many hundreds of people in our community. May he, and all the departed, move from glory to glory in the nearer presence of Our Lord.



The Tongan choir presented the Offertory Anthem for the January 30th worship service. Each Sunday of the month, a different ensemble offers their prayers through the gift of music, ranging from the St. Elizabeth's Handbell Choir, the Sunday School children, the Tongan and the Chuukese Choirs. Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Notes from the Garden

The time has come to plant again. We have lots of available space for your favorite fruit or vegetable! Please stop by and stick a seed in the ground, grab a leaf of sweet basil and eat it raw, or just wander by to smell the lovely smells!

2010 Financial Summary

Income and Transfers	\$ 361,730
Expenses	408,850
Difference	-\$ 47,120

Thanks to everyone who saw to it that our offerings increased 20% over 2009.

Early in 2010 our offerings were paying only 32% of operating expenses (utilities, payroll, building maintenance, etc.) By the end of 2010, our offerings totalled \$135,217 and our operating expenses were \$366,596.

So at the end of 2010, our offerings paid for 37% of our operating costs. Way to go! Keep up the good work!

David Hirashiki
Treasurer



Quotable Quotes

“God is the **comic shepherd** who gets more of a kick out of that one lost sheep once he finds it again than out of the ninety-nine who had the good sense not to get lost in the first place. God is the **eccentric host** who, when the country club crowd all turn out to have other things more important to do than come live it up with him, goes out into the skid rows and soup kitchens and charity wards and brings home a freak show. The **man with no legs** who sells shoelaces at the corner. The **old woman** in the moth eaten fur coat who makes her daily rounds at the garbage cans. The **old wino** with his pint in the brown paper bag. The pusher, the whore, the village idiot who stands at the blinker light waving his hand as the cars drive by. They are seated at the damask-laid table in the great hall. The **candles** are all lit and the **champagne** glasses filled. At a sign from the host, the musicians in their gallery strike up Amazing Grace. **If you have to explain it, don't bother.**”

F. Buechner, *Telling the Truth*, 66.



*“This is what it means to seek
God perfectly:*

To cultivate an intellectual freedom from the images of created things in order to receive the secret contact of God in obscure love; to love all as myself; to rest in humility and to find peace in withdrawal from conflict and competition; to turn aside from controversy and put away heavy loads of judgment and censorship and criticism and the whole burden of opinions that I have no obligation to carry.

And then to wait in peace and emptiness and oblivion of all things.”

T. Merton, *A Book of Hours*, 172.



(Left) Daniel and Joshua Yuen-Schat played the recorder for the service.

Young Organists in Concert

Naomi, Daniel and Joshua Yuen-Schat will show off their organ-playing skills in a concert on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 7pm at the Lutheran Church of Honolulu, 1730 Punahou Street. They and ten other youngsters, aged 6-17 (all students of Parish Administrator, **Katherine Crosier**), will be performing in a benefit concert for the Scholarship program of the American Guild of Organists. The concert is free but donations are welcome. Please come!



The Church Leadership

The Annual Meeting was held after services on January 30 and was completed in record time, about 31 minutes! Please take time to read the various reports that were submitted. St. E's is moving!

Many thanks to **David Hirashiki** for his service as Treasurer this year, and to **Roy Chee**, his trusty sidekick. Both David and Roy will head up the Property Committee this year.

Many thanks to **Heather Manning** who agreed to serve as Treasurer for 2011. Heather is a CPA and has graciously said "yes" to the call to serve as Treasurer. Thanks, Heather!

One cannot refer to our treasurers, however, without saying thank you to **Bill Eng**. Bill served for many, many years as the treasurer of St. E's and did a fabulous job. Even since his retirement, he has selflessly served as a counter on Sundays and has been a source of wisdom and guidance to those who follow him.

We are so pleased that **Lowell Ing** has again rejoined the vestry and that **Margarita Suyat** has also agreed to serve on vestry. Many thanks to you both!

Preston Lentz has graciously agreed to serve as the Junior Warden this year. Preston will work closely with the Property Committee in overseeing the use and maintenance of our grounds.

Mahalo, Preston!

Stuart Ching agreed to serve as secretary to the vestry. Thanks Stuart for your years of faithful service.

Finally, we need to populate our outreach committee, our stewardship committee and several other committees impacting our ministry. Feel an itch to serve?

Please see Arleen Young or Father David and we will scratch it!

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
720 N. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Honolulu, HI
Permit No. 418

A House of Prayer for all People

Return service requested



Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday, or, as it's better known at St. E's, PANCAKE DELIGHT NIGHT, will reappear on **Tuesday March 8, 2011** at 6 p.m. Please join us for a wonderful, sweet tooth night time breakfast as we prepare for our journey through Lent, beginning the next

day, Ash Wednesday. Please come, one and all!

Humor Pew

"The Evening News is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't."

—via Risé Samra, Hallandale Beach, FL

In a church newsletter: "Correction to the previous announcement that the church teacher's luncheon will be gin at 12:30 p.m. Should be 1 p.m."

—via Chaplain Harry Mahoney

Inherit the Mirth

By Cuyler Black



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
© Cuyler Black
Reprinted with permission