

"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

January 2012

What's in a Name?

The Right Reverend
Robert L. Fitzpatrick
V Bishop of Hawaii

The Reverend
David J. Gierlach
Rector

The Reverend
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Priest Associate

The Reverend Saimone Lino,
Diocesan Missioner

The Reverend Dr.
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Rector Emeritus

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

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The Rev. David J. Gierlach, Rector

Today is a feast day of the church that we celebrate only rarely.

It comes 8 days after Christmas, and since that usually falls on a weekday, the larger community doesn't celebrate it.

Today's feast day is the feast of the Holy Name: the holy name of Jesus, given 8 days after his birth according to Jewish tradition.

First things first, Jesus was a Jew.

Probably for our congregation, that's a well-known fact, but believe me, there's plenty of folks who call themselves Christians who swear it t'aint so!

But it's true, and according to Jewish custom, he's taken to the synagogue to be circumcised and named.

What's in a name?

That's the question we are each of us invited to reflect upon today.

What's in a name?

Some names seem to describe ever so well the person who bears it.

Angelina Jolie — "beautiful angel" — seems a good fit for this philanthropist actress.

Bernie Madoff, who made off with so much of other people's money, is another example, but from the other side of the tracks.

Isabella Baumfree is a well-known woman who changed her name.

After many years as an African-American slave in the U.S., which included severe beatings, losing the man she loved, and bearing thirteen children, she walked away from slavery and became a Christian, a feminist, and a preacher.

She changed her name to Sojourner Truth and embodied her new name as she traveled and spoke truth to power for the rest of her life..

She once said:

"That little man in black there, (must have been a clergyman!) he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman!

Where did your Christ come from?

Where did Christ come from?

From God and a woman!

Man had nothing to do with Him."

So says Sojourner Truth

Names are, in a very real way, a pathway to our own identity.

For Jesus, whose name means "God Saves," his identity is carved in the journey that brings us to this day of naming.

Traveling with his parents to his father's hometown, you have to wonder, where are the relatives?

We here in Hawaii know all about welcoming family, close and distant, when they arrive on our shores.

Sometimes we offer hospitality out of love, other times out of obligation.

But whether love or obligation, the hospitality is there.

Not so for Jesus and his folks.

The traditional family customs in ancient Israel were even stronger than ours today when it comes to taking care of relatives.

Life was so much more fragile then, and family ties were truly the ties that bind.

But not so for the holy family.



Rector's Message, continued

Mary and Joseph might have expected hospitality from their family the night of Jesus' birth, but for one thing: their families would no longer take them in.

Perhaps it is shame at an unwed teen; the too quick to judge crowd who sizes up the situation and decides these are cast-offs who are rightfully left to fend for themselves.

Throughout his public ministry, Jesus embraces outsiders, because from the very day of his birth, Jesus himself is an outsider: only shepherds and angels attend this child and his parents — because no one else will.

And so he is named: Jesus, meaning God Saves.

And with that naming, Jesus receives his identity.

And with that identity, Jesus begins a life that points to a God who saves us in ways that cannot be imagined; not with shock and awe, but through humble surrender, kind acceptance and giving all the way to death, death on a cross.

T.S. Eliot, a long time ago, wrote a book of poems about cats.

For some reason, I seem to be preoccupied with cats these days...

That book later became the hit musical that played for longer than just about any play on Broadway.

One of the poems, and later, one of the songs, is about the names for cats.

Each cat, we are told, has three names.

The first is the name given by humans, like Lady and Snowy and Fluffy.

The second is the name given by other cats; harder to pronounce and more mysterious in meaning: names like Munkustrap, Quaxo, or Coricopat.

And then there is the third name, a name the cat meditates upon as he sits on the arm of the couch, or gazes out of the window, a name the cat embraces and massages and rolls within, a name known only to the cat herself, it is the secret name of the cat.

And it occurs to me on this Sunday in which we celebrate the Holy Name, that we too have three names.

First is our given name.

Some folks love their names, others hate them, most are perhaps indifferent.

But these are the names we are known by to the Social Security Administration, and that wet behind the ears security guard as we try to board a plane; it is our most public, and therefore least revealing, name.

Second, we are most of us nick-named or given names of affection by our family and closest friends.

Girlie and Boy and Butch and Honey and Sweetie.

Our 11 year old is named Alexandra Teatuahere.

Alexandra meaning "Helper of Humanity" and Teatuahere meaning "The Love of God" — her name means "The helper of humanity is the love of God."

I call her TTH.

And then there is our third name.

Each of you has this third name, although sometimes we forget.

In this world where, on the one hand, we have Tim Tebow who overlooked Jesus cautioning us to pray privately, not to make a public spectacle of private devotion; and on the other hand we have Bill Maher, the comedian, who can't seem to get his considerable intellect to grapple with Christianity at anything above the kindergarten level, it's easy to forget our secret name.

Yet this is the name that we are each of us given by he before whom every head shall bow, before whom every knee shall bend, in heaven and on earth, and under the earth —

Your secret name, and mine, one you might sit on the arm of the couch with and meditate upon, one you might embrace and let it embrace you.

As you meander over the course of your spiritual journey from last year til now; as you recognize moments of gain, and times of loss; if you have stumbled, and if you have risen again, hold dearly to your secret name; and let it hold tight to you.

Our secret name helps us when we are tempted to surrender to the prevailing culture of dog eat dog, our secret name is a life line when we hear the subtle whisper to seize control, rather than to let go and let God surprise us on our journey.

Meditating on your secret name, particularly as we begin the journey through another year, another milestone on a journey that will someday come to an end, let us always remember that "our destination is never a place, but rather a new way of looking at things." —Henry Miller.

Rector's Message

Or, as Elliot put it:

We shall not cease from exploration
 And the end of all our exploring
 Will be to arrive where we started
 And know the place for the first time.

What is your secret name that is strength
 for this journey?
 You know it well.
 Your secret name is: "Child of God."

Thanks be to God!

+amen



Wild animals prowl our Sunday School.



Happy Birthday

God's blessings on those with
 January birthdays!

Lynette Shim	1/1
Enriqueta Haller	1/1
Awaeliery Farata	1/2
Charles Steffey Jr.	1/4
Serenity Michael	1/6
Nella Kleinschmidt	1/9
Rebecca Kleinschmidt	1/10
Charlotte Jarrett	1/13
Troy Esaki	1/14
Soo Kil Park	1/14
Sylvia Rowland	1/14
Tarla Francis	1/14
Shaienne Sunagawa	1/18
Elyas Badua	1/18
Sharlene Yap	1/19
CharleySue Steffey	1/19
Jane Leong	1/20
Melba Meyshine	1/20
Bertha Chong	1/23
Mark Anderson	1/25
Imensy Eichy	1/27
Iris Park	1/28
Kermelo White	1/28

Sunday School has resumed

by Sue Yap

As Epiphany begins, like the wisemen the children will journey back to the creche and to baby Jesus with your gifts! ... the Sunday School resumed on January 8th and the children lifted their voices in Thanksgiving to all of you who have generously supported them during Advent by donating your loose change to **Heifer International**. The Ark has landed and we will be submitting \$460.80 to Heifer International this year.

One of the lessons learned, especially at Christmas time ... it's fun to get presents but when you do something for others it's just as rewarding...and with Heifer, these gifts will last these children and their families a lifetime.

Announcement Oops

Let us all sing "Angels We Have Heard Get High."

*In order to unite with one another, we must
 love one another;
 in order to love one another, we must
 know one another;
 in order to know one another, we must
 go and meet one another.*

--Testament of Cardinal Mercier

Bizarre Bazaar, Dec. 10th

Thanks to the hard work of **Nora Kurosu** and her crew, the Bazaar was a rousing success. “We will work harder to get it started earlier next year,” she promises.

And yet, this wonderful day of chili and dogs, spam musubi and shave ice, with stuff to buy both new and gently used, generated over \$7000 to benefit our Scholarship and Youth Funds!

Thanks to all who pitched in!



What gorgeous plants (and ladies, too!)



The St. Elizabeth's Backstreet Boys Choir!



Arleen Young found a treasure!



That's one way to apply shaving cream!



Santa and friend

Children's Christmas Party

This year's Christmas Party on December 22nd broke all records. Over 150 children were on hand to play fun games, eat great food and, best of all, welcome Santa to St. E's.

The tradition began with Mother Jodene and has become the highlight of the year for so many of our children, most of whose families lack the resources to provide gifts to their kids.

Particularly wonderful was the overwhelming participation of St. E's young adults who really made it all happen!



*Pin the
Nose on the
Reindeer?*



Quotable Quotes

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important." —C. S. Lewis

"Over-explanation separates us from astonishment." —Eugene Ionesco



Mahalo to each and everyone who donated lovely poinsettias:

Harold & Carol Abe in memory of M/M Clarence Chang, M/M Sam Ching, M/M K. C. Lau, Gerald Lau, Jeffrey Abe, Bruno Lee

Aileen Albert in memory of David Lai & Eleanor Lai

Nancy Au in memory of Robert & Rose Shim and Reginald Au

Sarah & Jerry Bush in memory of Anne & Nathaniel Chock and Jennifer A. Bush

Thelma Lai Chang in memory of David Lai and Eleanor Lai

Patsy & Stuart Ching in memory of Richard C. & Lucy Ching, Kenneth T. K. Ching

Chock Family in memory of James L. L. Chock

Chun Family in memory of Walter T. H. Chun

Bill Eng in memory of On Kee & Hue Shee Eng

Beryl Goo in honor of the Goo family

Jerry & Millie Goo in memory of Dan Dung, Larry Lum, and Philip Lung; for the birthday of Carol Abe

Mr & Mrs Michael Heltz in memory of Harriet & Lawson Green and Stewart Green

Kenneth & Lily Ho in memory of Richard & Dora Muraki

Ho Family in memory of Mabel & Ten Fook Ho

Allen Hoe in memory of 1Lt. Nainoa K. Hoe and in honor of RagDolls2Love

Tom & Peggy Ishida in memory of Linda H. Ishida

Laura M Iwami in memory of Masayoshi & Haru Iwami

Estella Iwerks in memory of Yuen Lin & Stella Ho Lau

Jimmy & Lani Kealoha in memory of Jalyne Lilinoe Kealoha Wong and James Kealoha III

Francis & Pearl Kau in memory of Ruth Ho Fung and Joscelind Fung Zee

Suzanne Langford in memory of Jean Krause and Betsy Krause

Dorothy Jung in memory of Richard Jung

Charles & Judy Kokubun in honor of the Kokubun and Nakaishi Families

Mildred Kuniyoshi in memory of Johnny Kuniyoshi and Chieno & Ichiro Takiguchi

Preston & MaryAnn Lentz in honor of our children and family

Mr & Mrs Raymond Leong in memory of Ukie Kihara, Kin Hung Leong and Lo Lin Leon

Juliette Ling in memory of Alim & Elizabeth Mark Ling

Clara Medeiros in memory of Tim Wells

Maile Oshita Nicholas in memory of Nobuo Oshita

Richard & Elsie Okubo in memory of Mr & Mrs Seiji Okubo, Mr & Mrs. Thomas Suzuki

Imelda Padasdao in memory of Florentino Padasdao, Mario Padasdao Leocadio, Avelino & Elmer Padasdao, and Triponia Abad

Helen Richardson in memory of Bob Richardson and The Rev. Wai On and Esther Shim

Pamela and Collin Sakuma in memory of Laura Ching Aweau, Samuel K. Aweau, Jr. and Ellen Ching Au

Lynette Shim in memory of Wallace Shim, Gervin Akana, Edward & Florence Shim, Dennis & Laura Chun, and Clarence Shim

Audrey Tam in memory of Frank Tyau, Florence Tyau and Wilfred Tyau

Faye Tsukamoto in memory of Jack & Masa Tsukamoto, Elizabeth Wong and Walter Kau

Thomas Woo in memory of Rev. Yee Bew Woo and family

Frank Yap Jr. Family in memory of Christina Yap, Florence Yap and Frank Yap, Sr.

Larry & Arleen Young in memory of Tim Chong and Juliet Young

Attendance

12/4	Sunday 8:15 Eucharist	148
12/4	Ilokano Service	35
12/7	Wed. Healing Eucharist	33
12/7	Ilokano Service	58
12/11	Sunday 8:15 Eucharist	161
12/11	Chinese Eucharist	4
12/14	Wed. Healing Eucharist	33
12/18	Sunday 8:15 am Eucharist	155
12/18	Chinese Eucharist	4
12/21	Wed. Healing Eucharist	45
12/24	Christmas Eve	205
12/25	Christmas Day	159

New Parish Directory

We are working on a new directory. Please see **Tom Ishida** either before or after the service to have your picture taken. Also if your address or phone number has changed since the last directory, please give us the updated information on the clipboard.

A Missionary Has Died

It is with great sadness that we share with you, our family and friends of St. Elizabeth's, the death of our gentle priest, Fr. Saimone Lino, diocesan missionary to Pacific Islanders.



Fr. Saimone died suddenly on Sunday, January 8, 2012, while doing errands with his family. He died of apparent heart failure.

Fr. Saimone, his wife Fane, and their three children, Viliami, Anaseine and Joshua, came to Hawaii in 2007 after many years of bringing the Gospel to remote areas of Fiji, and having much experience in Christian youth ministry in Fiji and New Zealand.

In early 2009, the Linos moved into the rectory on the grounds of our church. They became the first clergy family to live in the rectory in over a generation. That willingness to put down roots in our neighborhood spoke volumes to the inner city folk we serve.

Fr. Saimone lived his life as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. He and his family created a

vibrant youth ministry that was and is culturally sensitive to those who are served; it includes a youth choir, a music program, literacy work, a basketball team, socials, and much more. He welcomed many members of the Tongan community and actively assisted our many Chuukese immigrants. His ministry touched, on a daily basis, hundreds of lives.

Our hearts are broken.



Father Saimone leads the Palm Sunday procession.

Please pray to our gracious God to receive Saimone into God's paradise as we all wait in hopeful expectation of that day when "He will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." *Rev. 21:4.*



Father Saimone shared his love of music.



St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
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A House of Prayer for all People

Return service requested



"I thought it was gonna be a New Year?
This looks just like the OLD year."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Community Worship Service
Monday, January 16, 2012
6:00 pm special music
6:30 pm service

An ecumenical service will be held to honor the life and works of civil rights leader **Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Junior** on January 16th at St. Elizabeth's. Preaching will be **The Very**

Reverend Walter Brownridge (Dean, St. Andrew's Cathedral). We will welcome the **Faith & Praise Gospel Group** from Trinity Missionary Baptist Church and the **Calvary Praise & Worship Group** (Calvary Kaneohe Mission). Featured soloist will be Normia Carter from Trinity Missionary Baptist.

Also participating in the service will be our own **Father David Gierlach, The Rev. Kerry Grogan** (Christ Church Uniting), **The Rev. Richard Kamanu** (Kaumakapili Church) and **The Rev. Samuel L. Domingo** (Keolumana United Methodist.)



I, Too, Sing America

*I, too, sing America.
I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh, And eat well,
And grow strong.
Tomorrow, I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
'Eat in the kitchen,'
Then.
Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—
I, too, am America.*

—Langston Hughes



Refreshments will follow. All are welcome.