

"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

June 2012

The Right Reverend
Robert L. Fitzpatrick
V Bishop of Hawaii

The Reverend
David J. Gierlach
Rector

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Priest Associate

The Reverend Dr.
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Rector Emeritus

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Friends

The Rev. David J. Gierlach, Rector

Paul Gruninger grew up in a small Swiss town close to the Austrian border in the early 1900's.

He was at best an average student who enjoyed soccer more than classes.

He served honorably but without distinction in the Swiss army in World War I, and after the war, took a teaching position in a local elementary school.

He went to church on Sundays and eventually married a fellow teacher, Alice.

At the urging of his mom, he took a better paying job at the local police station.

He was by all accounts, an ordinary, mid-level bureaucrat whose job required him to fill out reports and arrange security details for the occasional high profile visitor.

At the age of 47, in 1939, heading to work one morning, Mr. Gruninger's way is blocked by a uniformed junior police officer.

He's told his services are no longer necessary and he is barred from the police station.

There had been an investigation.

It seems that Mr. Gruninger was secretly altering documents for Jewish people so they might enter Switzerland and flee Nazi occupied Austria; entries the Swiss had forbidden a year earlier to Jews.

Mr. Gruninger, it seems, with a few strokes of the pen, predated passports to circumvent a law designed to keep Jewish refugees out, and with that pen, saved many

hundreds of lives.

Friendship with those who were once strangers, sometimes at great personal cost, it is that friendship that is driving our friend and mentor Peter this morning.

Peter, once frightened Peter, once denier Peter, the Peter who was reduced to a chewed out Satan and told to back off; is now Peter the amazed, Peter the awestruck, Peter the grateful.

The Holy Spirit is on the move this morning and Peter finds himself surrounded by, of all people, a Roman soldier's family; gentiles all, occupiers all, and Peter stands in jaw dropped wonder as that same Spirit comes into the home of these unclean, unwanted, people, invading their lives, their hearts, their minds.

All of which makes Peter take a huge step back and, caught up in that same Spirit, he suddenly comes to understand that God is erasing all of the lines that humanity has drawn and God is knocking down all of the walls of separation that we have built up and God is showing in unmistakable ways that all human beings are brothers and sisters.

"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

By asking the question, Peter also answers it.

Immediately, they are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Peter's mind is blown.



Rector's Message continued

And people he never would have thought in a million years to be his friends, are, today, his friends.

Shortly after being barred from the police station, Paul Gruninger was fired from his job and then charged with violations of law.

The authorities spread rumors in the town that Mr. Gruninger had demanded sexual favors and money from the people he helped escape.

Never mind that later interviews with those he helped proved those rumors to be vicious lies; dishonored and disgraced, Mr. Gruninger sold umbrellas and animal feed for the rest of his life.

He died in 1972, in poverty.

Jesus today tells us that the friendship he offers isn't cheap.

Instead, the friendship of Jesus; the friendship he invites us all to have with one another; a friendship rooted in obedience to the God who calls us each by name, that friendship brings with it a laying down of our lives.

Perhaps not literally, although there are many people of faith in the world today who are killed or persecuted because of faith.

And one wonders what even our own government would do if we Christians really began to live out our faith by refusing to participate in the economy and culture of violence; by honoring life from womb to the grave; or by insisting that the bounty of God's creation be shared, and shared, and shared.

For now, and for us, the laying down of life most usually means making the costly choice to forgive the person who hurt me, to be reconciled with the brother or sister who too often seems to be just plain trouble, or perhaps getting dirty when so many insist that 'cleanliness is next to godliness'.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Jesus' love always challenges, always stretches who we think we are, who we think we can become; it's a love that isn't for sissies; it isn't for the faint of heart; yet paradoxically, it is for the quiet, for the unassuming, for the humble.

Mr. Gruninger seems to be one of those people.

While there was little to distinguish Mr. Gruninger, (his own daughter struggled to explain her father's actions); yet he quietly saved the lives of hundreds of people at great personal risk; a risk that ripened into punishment; a risk that caused the rest of his life to be lived as one shunned; one scorned.

Why did he do it?

The thing is, you probably can't talk yourself into being that kind of a friend.

It really isn't a decision of the conscious will, but is more a consequence of who you are.

One author says:

"Whether people serve themselves or serve others is not in their power to choose. This is decided wholly in terms of the world in which they think they live....In New Testament terms, they live or die according to the king that holds them and the kingdom to which they belong." Arthur McGill.

Today, on this sixth Sunday of Easter, Jesus invites you and me into the kingdom of his friendship.

This kingdom exists in stark opposition to the kingdom of consumers and celebrities and military power; the world that says "follow the rules," even if those rules kill, shun or hoard; such is the world we are lured into each and every day.

Jesus offers a different way.

If you say yes, get ready for a ride; you only need to ask Peter about upended expectations; overturned beliefs; all leading to the shocking revelation that God loves everyone— and our efforts to categorize and stigmatize and rationalize are for naught.

Today is not only the 6th Sunday of Easter; it is also Mothers' Day. As you probably know, the origin of Mothers' Day, is not with the candy and Hallmark card industry.

Julia Ward Howe, the woman who penned *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, founded Mothers' Day in the US.

Howe had become so distraught by the death and carnage of the Civil War that she called on Mothers to come together and protest what she saw as the futility of their Sons killing the Sons of other Mothers.

She called for an international Mother's Day celebrating peace and motherhood.

Rector's Message

“Arise, then, women of this day!
Arise all women who have hearts,
Whether your baptism be that of water
or of tears

Say firmly:

*“We will not have great questions decided by
irrelevant agencies,*

*Our husbands shall not come to us reeking of
carnage,*

For caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn

*All that we have been able to teach them of
charity, mercy and patience.*

“We women of one country

Will be too tender of those of another country

To allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.”

*From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice
goes up with*

Our own. It says, “Disarm, Disarm!”

*The sword of murder is not the balance of
justice!*

Blood does not wipe out dishonor

Nor violence indicate possession.

*As men have often forsaken the plow and the
anvil at the summons of war, let women now
leave all that may be left of home*

For a great and earnest day of counsel.

*Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and
commemorate the dead.*

*Let them then solemnly take counsel with each
other as to the means Whereby the great
human family can live in peace,*

*Each bearing after his own time the sacred
impress, not of Caesar,*

But of God.”

Such is the costly friendship to which
Jesus calls us.

Yet, we don't need to go back to Mrs.
Howe's civil war or Paul Gruninger's World
War II to see the problem.

We see it today as continued
discrimination against same sex couples;
with churches often leading the way in
preserving that discrimination.

We see it in the life and sacrifice of
Joseph Darby, the quietly brave soldier

who was aghast at the abuses at Abu Grab prison in Iraq; and who
exposed those abuses; and who was himself then ostracized by his
community and terrified with death threats against himself and his
family.

We give Presidential medals of freedom to brave foreigners who
stand up to oppression; but we are usually not so generous with
those who point out the misdeeds of our own power brokers.

It is by water and blood that we are saved; always there is blood.

Mr. Gruninger and his wife were buried together near their home
town.

“Years later, a plaque was placed at the foot of Paul's grave.

It reads: ‘Paul Gruninger saved hundreds of refugees in
1938/39.’”

“At his funeral, a choir sang ... and a Rabbi read from the
Talmud: ‘He who saves a single life, saves the whole world.’” T.
Long, Christian Century, 5/2/12 at 47.

To become a friend of Jesus, and through Jesus, to become
friends with each other and with the wider world, it seems we need
to enter into a whole new world, a whole new way of encountering
life; of encountering each other; and once we do, we too can become
a friend like Paul Gruninger, like St. Peter, like Mrs. Howe, like
Joseph Darby, and yes, like Jesus.

+amen.

Giving

“There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving,
and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, “I have to;” duty giving

says, “I ought to;”
thanksgiving says, “I
want to.” The first
comes from constraint,
the second from a
sense of obligation,
the third from a full
heart. Nothing much
is conveyed in grudge
giving since “the gift
without the giver is
bare.” Something more
happens in duty giving,
but there is no song in
it. Thanksgiving is an
open gate into the love
of God.”



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-Robert N. Rodenmayer

Bless All Mothers



The Children's Choir serenades all the Moms and Moms at Heart on May 13, Mother's Day.



Do you think Viliani missed the note?

“The charity of Christians in the use of money sacramentally – in both the liturgy and the world – has no serious similarity to conventional charity but is always a specific dramatization of the members of the Body of Christ losing their life in order that the world be given life. For a member of the Church, therefore, it always implies a particular confession that his money is not his own because his life is not his own, but, by the example of God's own love, belongs to the world.”

-W. Stringfellow, Dissenter in a Great Society, 46-7.

Nancy Au, Patsy Ching, and Millie Goo were honored by Church Women Uniting for their outstanding service to their church and community. Congratulations, dear friends!



“My Lord told me a joke. And seeing Him laugh has done more for me than any scripture I will ever read.”

–Meister Eckhart,
Selected Writings



Bai He, opera singer



Ms. Bai He, a highly-regarded soprano from China, gave a standing-room only concert at St. Elizabeth's with her students on May 20. The program included well-known and beloved songs in English, Italian and Chinese. After the concert, a reception was held in Shim Hall.

Bai He teaches Chinese folk song and dance as part of St. Elizabeth's outreach ministries to the Chinese community, spearheaded by Fr. Peter Fan. Thanks for a great job, Fr. Fan!





Attendance

5/2	Wed. Healing Eucharist	23
5/2	Ilokano Service	29
5/6	Sunday 9:00 am Eucharist	158
5/6	Ilokano Service	43
5/9	Wed. Healing Eucharist	28
5/13	Sunday 9:00 am Eucharist	167
5/13	Chinese Eucharist	5
5/16	Wed. Healing Eucharist	31
5/20	Sunday 9:00 am Eucharist	156
5/20	Baptisms/Confirmation	103
5/23	Wed. Healing Eucharist	42
5/27	Sunday 9:00 am Eucharist	158
5/27	Chinese Eucharist	5

Baptized into the Lord's Family



On May 20th, we welcomed into the Lord's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism: **Genevieve Hayakawa, Gelsey Pulusou and Amie-chen Pulusou.**

In the afternoon St. Elizabeth's was host to a regional service of Holy Baptism and Confirmation, with Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick presiding. Received into the Episcopal Church from St. Elizabeth's were: **Theresa Au, Lusia Pulusou, Kazner Alexander and Fran Kramer. Dexin Lu** was confirmed.



Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick at St. Elizabeth's



Those about to be received or confirmed.

"I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least." — Dorothy Day



Kevin asked to see the newspaper this week

Na Hokulele

Report From The Grassroots!

by Suzanne Langford

Julia did a general overview of the sun with the children, comparing its size to earth, distance from the earth, temperature, how it is the anchor of the solar system. They talked about the three most important things about the sun: light (a little bit on colors, mostly how light changes: daily, different parts of the globe, seasonally), heat (in relation to other planets that are too hot or too cold) and energy which makes photosynthesis for plants, we eat plants and animals. Afterwards we went outside and observed the sun with a pinhole camera set up both in a box and using a telescope. From the sun to bacteria our children are relating what they are learning to higher education and careers.

Fane asked everyone what they wanted to be when they grew up. Hands were raised and here are a few answers:

- “A doctor” (from 2 girls, five year-old and an eight year-old)
- “Dr. Suzan, how do you spell ‘psychologist?’” (high school)
- “what is it called when you dive?”
— “a diver?” — “no, when you learn . . .”
“Oh, a marine biologist?”
“Yes!”

Here is an early DRAFT of a collaborative, narrative poem the youth (grades 5-postsecondary) are writing. It is all theirs — every word.

The surprising thing about teenagers is that they can teach younger kids.

Gangsta. . . stupid . . . I was bored ‘cause my stupid friends. Stupid friends can teach younger kids

Bad things (smoking buds, brass knuckles); shout when they are drunk — shut up! — and they sleep on the street — blood trickle down — do drugs (fool); take drugs (serious collision).

The surprising thing about teenagers is that they can teach younger kids “think smart;”

sacrifice for their normal notebooks friend;

The surprising thing about teenagers is that they can teach younger kids.

love their brother and sister; go to church,

library, clubs . . .and . . .

dream about the memorabilia past

Career Closet



We are starting a “Career Closet” and need clothing items, hygiene products (deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste), services (haircuts) for our participants. KFF (a public, 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization) will provide a receipt for all items/services donated. Our adults, youth and children need a Career Closet where they can receive clothes/items/services suitable for higher ed./career (i.e., self-image, dignity) including quality tops, pants, skirts, shirts, shoes. Please consider quality items in ready-to-wear condition. Also welcome are items for the pre-school set. Never too early . . .

The first will be last and the last will be first

A mother was preparing pancakes for her two sons, the older was five and the younger three. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson here. "If Jesus were sitting here," she said, "he would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"



Just a few years ago, 3-4 people came to Wednesday healing service. Now look! the seeds Mother Jodene planted are growing!

Remember Your Church

As the cost of living continues to increase as we go about our daily business, remember the church's expenses also increase. We see



this as we buy groceries, pay our bills and especially as we fill up our cars with gasoline.

Keep this in mind for your pledge for the coming year. It is only because of our caring and devoted members that we are able to meet our everyday

expenses.

The Diocese has recognized our outreach program which includes many in the Kalihi-Palama area. Your pledge complements the generous contributions we also receive from the Diocese, the Honolulu Community Foundation, the Weinberg Foundation and many others!

We thank God for his guidance in our everyday lives and for his wisdom to help us make decisions.

by Roy Chee



*God's blessings on those with
June birthdays!*

Jerry Goo	6/1
Kerty Esisok	6/1
Sanson Kom	6/2
Caleb Ramelb	6/2
Daniel Lai	6/3
Elipha Sorcey	6/3
Wallace Tyau	6/4
Caridad Badua	6/4
Noah Blaisdell	6/5
Linda Venenciano	6/8
Teatuahere Gierlach	6/8
William Blaisdell	6/8
Pearl Kau	6/8
Margarita Suyat	6/8
Glenn Woo	6/8
Gelsey Pulusou	6/8
Tracy Blaisdell	6/9
Allen Chan	6/9
Lori Ho	6/9
Charles Kokubun	6/11
Bless Salvator	6/11
Mother Jodene Hawkins	6/12
Sharon Sunagawa	6/15
Maria Bonilla	6/15
Lani Kealoha	6/16
Alan Ramos	6/17
Lani Kaaihue	6/17
Estella Iwerks	6/17
Ignacia Terno	6/17
Kenneth Fujishige	6/18
Nakayama Michael	6/19
Lawrence Young	6/20
Ancheny Kom	6/20
Madson Michael	6/20
Juden Bonilla	6/20
Eunice Hughes	6/21
Caroline Anderson	6/22
Stephen Chun	6/22
Mason Starkman	6/25
Imenta Helly	6/26
Laura Smith	6/29
Amie-chen Pulusou	6/30

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A House of Prayer for all People

Return service requested

A usually irate parishioner is said to have tackled the rector after church one Sunday morning. "I'm so glad you preached an historical sermon," she said. The rector, shocked by this unusual praise, beamed thanks. The parishioner continued, "Yes, because I am sick and tired of hearing about love all the time."

A Thank You Note To Our Readers

This box usually contains an appeal for our Pastoral Fund. But today, we simply wish to say thanks. Thanks to the many of you who, from time to time, send a check to the St. Elizabeth's Pastoral Fund. Your generosity helps pay the electric bills and rent of so many of our needy neighbors. We, and they, are most grateful. Please know that we remember each and every one of you in our prayers. May our loving God continue to bless you.

david+



Got Basil?



Father David recently harvested a little basil from St. E's Community Garden!