

"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

November 2011 **Dressing Well**

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V Bishop of Hawaii

The Reverend
David J. Gierlach
Rector

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Priest Associate

The Reverend Saimone Lino,
Diocesan Missioner

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The Reverend David J. Gierlach

The stories Jesus tells are very much like archeology.

Sometimes the treasures are right on the surface, and are easy pickings.

Other times, you got to dig.

Today, we dig.

When you take a close look at today's parable, it's a very strange tale, made all the stranger because Jesus says that in this story, we get a peek at the Kingdom of God.

And what a weird place this Kingdom is.

The king issues his invitation, which is rudely rejected.

The king gets really mad and wipes out everyone who was on the first guest list.

Then, while the city is still smoldering on Oahu, the king sends out another invitation to anyone and everyone living on Kauai and Maui and the Big Island.

No references are required, no criminal background check is conducted.

In the version we read today, it says the "good and the bad" are rounded up.

But in the original Greek, it's reversed: the "bad and the good" are rounded up.

Maybe it says "the bad and the good" to make the point that the invitation of God is to all people, reminding us that "all people" includes those who are bad; reminding us that we are called to bring the good news of this invitation to everyone, even to the ones who, to my way of thinking, or yours, are "bad."

Once everyone is in the hall, the story gets even stranger.

One fellow shows up in jeans and a tee shirt.

No tuxedo.

And he is promptly booted out of the fun.

At first, this seems incredibly arbitrary, even cruel.

Who keeps a tux nearby just in case you get a last minute wedding invitation?

So why is the guy in jeans and a tee shirt in such hot water?

To figure that out, we need the pick and shovel.

Now, we dig.

This story is intended to take us beneath the surface, so that the missing wedding garment is not about a tuxedo at all; the missing tuxedo is a symbol for actually living the life of our faith.

As you know, St. Paul uses the analogy of clothing just like this in so many places.

To the Galatians, he encourages them to put on the baptismal garment of Christ.

To the Colossians, he implores them to clothe themselves in compassion, kindness, mercy, meekness and patience.

It's not only Paul who talks like this.

Isaiah speaks of God clothing Israel with righteousness and Peter encourages his small community to be clothed in humility.



Rector's Message, cont.

So the reason this guy in blue jeans is in so much trouble is not because he left his tux at home.

He's in trouble because rather than acting like an honored guest, rather than experiencing a sense of awe at the sheer mercy of a host who rounds up every last man, woman and child, deserving and undeserving; rather than having a sense of quiet gratitude, our friend bellies up to the bar and stuffs his face with the shrimp cocktail; gulps down the spiked punch, and wipes his hands on his tee shirt: totally stuck in self-absorbed self-satisfaction.

He apparently sees no difference between "All You Can Eat Night" at Sizzler's and the wedding feast for the King's son.

Let's bring it closer to home.

The guy with no wedding garment is the same guy who comes to church each Sunday, but who brings along, almost defiantly, the world's values of competition, of anger, of ego and pride; who sits in the church pew, who takes the bread and the cup, and yet rejects everything that Jesus stands for, everything that Jesus died to show us.

That's why this fellow is in trouble.

He rejects his baptismal clothing of kindness, meekness, humility, compassion; insisting on the jeans and tee shirt of ego-driven self-righteousness.

So absorbed is this fellow in himself that when the king confronts him, he is dumbfounded, he is speechless.

The terribly uncomfortable cannon ball that Jesus launches at us today is not complicated; but it is also not easy to hear.

Written on that cannon ball is this message: "faith that fails to change us is no faith at all."

Our faith, if it is alive, will change us; and change we must if we wish to wear the wedding garment of the kingdom of God.

It is a garment sewn not by hands, but by the heart.

We are not, as a people, so different from those ancient Israelites, who, once Moses is gone for a few days, move fast as lightening to create gods with their own hands.

We have plenty of golden calves these days.

Our golden calves are whatever we put in place of the strange God who is so different from us: this God who dies rather than kills; who longs to forgive, to include, to save.

Make no mistake, the worship of false idols is in full swing today.

They go by many names, the most popular are money, power and fame.

They have their own creeds, which are statements of faith, like "might makes right," and "look out for number one," and "God helps those who help themselves."

It is the work of the powers and principalities of this world, who, fallen as we are, seek to replace the living God.

We cannot face them alone.

To do so is to be devoured.

So we gather here each week, all of us together, the bad and the good, to wash ourselves yet again, to put on once again our baptismal clothing; and against all odds and against pressure from every quarter, we recommit ourselves to the practice of "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable."

From these come the wedding garments suitable for a guest of the King.

+amen



Celebrate what is Right with the World

Please plan to stay after church, November 13 for a short 22-minute film entitled: "Celebrate What's Right With The World" along with some refreshments....a truly wonderful film and a good excuse for some relaxed fellowship!

Parish Meeting, November 20th

Our Parish Meeting, following up on our May Meeting, as we look at the future of our ministry, will be held in Shim Hall on November 20 immediately following the service! Topics include the future of Shim Hall, our Outreach efforts and pastoral care for our aging long time members.



Happy Birthday

God's blessings on those with November birthdays!

Hazel Yee	11/2
Soskey Felix	11/3
Jess Mane Robert	11/4
Richard Unarce	11/5
Sarah Kleinschmidt	11/6
Iustina Weia	11/7
Eric Arakawa	11/7
Ethleen Ieichy	11/7
Aska Michael	11/8
Randy Timonio	11/15
James Kealoha	11/15
Francisco Tagle	11/16
Shazlyn Padasdao	11/16
Jeremy Bush	11/17
James Fitzpatrick	11/18
Rev. Saimone Lino	11/18
Laura Iwami	11/19
Alfonso V. Suyat	11/21
Charlemagne Julian	11/21
Lerry Runes	11/24
Keira Ho	11/24
Yenchy Repaky	11/25
Erthleen Repaky	11/25
Madilta Nakayama	11/26
Jeanette Wong	11/28
Camerynn Michael	11/28

“There is no portion of our time that is our time, and the rest God’s; there is no portion of our money that is our money, and the rest God’s money. It is all his; he made it all, gives it all, and he has simply trusted it to us for his service. A servant has two purses, the master’s and his own, but we have only one.”

-Adolphe Theodore Monod

As Dorothy Day put it, “I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least.”

BIZARRE BAZAAR

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011

9 am-2 pm

A benefit for STE Scholarship & Youth Programs
Country store, good eats and more.
Buy \$10 tickets to exchange for scrips.

Bizarre Bazaar

Please see **Arleen Young, Preston Lentz, Lowell Ing, Gretchen Jong, Stuart Ching, Christine Ling, Seine Lino, or Tom Ishida** to purchase \$10 tickets for the Bizarre

Bazaar **December 10, 2011.** These tickets can be used to purchase scrip and other items at the Bazaar!

Our Annual Pledge Drive



First a word of thanks to all who have supported St. E’s with your time, talent and treasure.

We look to your continued support in 2012. As you may know, we are growing, and in raw numbers, have added more new members than any other Episcopal church in the Diocese. This growth is due to the openness and welcome you have offered to our newer members. Once again, thank you!

This year, as you consider your pledge, please be a part of making St. E’s a growing, dynamic, faith-filled community that seeks to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to every nook and cranny in Palama and beyond!

Pledge Blessing Sunday is November 27th, the First Sunday in Advent.

Micronesian Community Action Program—Oct. 1st



Jocelyn Howard and Lillian Segal from the Micronesian Community Action Program.

These wonderful ladies shared with us the effects of nuclear bomb testing on the people of Micronesia, the destruction of centuries-old cultures and the current distress of so many from this part of the world.



But they also shared with us wonderful stories of how people organize themselves on the tiny islands that make up Micronesia; how languages and customs differ from island to island; how the children are ingenious in crafting toys from any spare object lying around; and of the glory of God's beautiful creation found in stunning lagoons, tropical rain forests and the smiles of a welcoming people.

Over 50 of St. E's members gave up a Saturday morning to learn more about our friends from Micronesia. To all who attended, mahalo! The more we learn about one another, the closer we can become.



The intricate hand woven crafts are stunning in their detail and artistry.



For over 100 years, members
have remembered

St. E's in their wills.

Please do the same so our
ministry can continue
for another 100 years.

“Someday all that we will have is what we have given to God.” — M.P. Horban

Humility is tricky business. I've caught myself being proud of my humility. It's like the skeleton of the body — it needs to be there to under gird everything else, but it only shows if something is broken. The skeleton is grotesque when that's all you see. So is a protruding piety.—Paul Anderson



Attendance

10/2	Sunday 8:15	144
10/2	Ilokano Service	62
10/5	Wed. Healing Eucharist	34
10/5	Ilokano Service	30
10/9	Sunday 8:15	120
10/9	Chinese Eucharist	5
10/12	Wed. Healing Eucharist	31
10/16	Sunday 8:15	165
10/16	Chinese Eucharist	5
10/19	Wed. Healing Eucharist	36
10/23	Sunday 8:15	157
10/23	Chinese Eucharist	5
10/26	Wed. Healing Eucharist	33
10/30	Sunday 8:15	139
10/30	Chinese Eucharist	5

Junior and Senior Cross Awards

It is time to start thinking about whom you wish to nominate for the Junior or Senior Cross Awards for 2011. There are many individuals worthy of these awards for the many hours they donate to St. Elizabeth's and regularly work behind the scenes. Individuals who are regular contributing members, participate in church activities including altar guild, counting contributions, church cleanups, etc, and have not received an award within the past three years, are eligible. Nominations are due by December 1st and if you need help with a write up, contact **Roy Chee**, Chair of the Recognition Committee.

I am more and more convinced that our happiness or our unhappiness depends far more on the way we meet the events of life than on the nature of those events themselves.

Karl Wilhelm Von Humboldt

Foolishness

It seems that John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was once in the English city of Bath. The community was infamous for its disregard of all things religious and moral. One day, Wesley and the mayor of Bath were striding toward each other on a narrow wooden sidewalk.

Upon seeing the noted evangelist, the mayor said, “Step aside, Sir. I do not suffer fools lightly.” The ever-sagacious John Wesley replied, “Of course, Sir.” and stepped into the gutter. Then as the mayor walked by, he added, “I do it all the time.”

Sing unto the Lord



The Filipino Choir sang the offertory anthem on October 16th, titled “We thank you.”

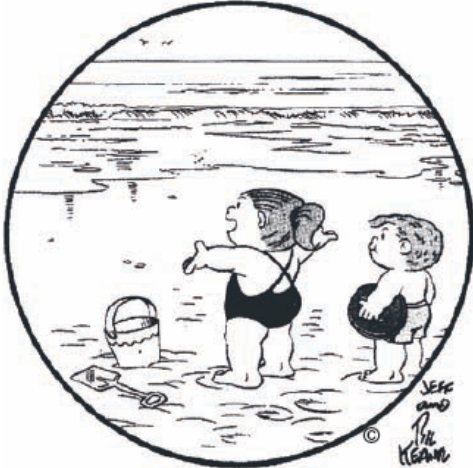
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"...then we'd have more things to be thankful for."

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

Church Humor

Seems the Sunday School class was looking at the second creation legend. They heard how Eve was created out of Adams rib.

Some time later, young Scott complained of a pain in his side. "What's the matter?" asked the teacher. Scott looked up somewhat woefully. "I think I'm going to have a wife!"

"All you have shall some day be given; therefore give now, that the season of giving may be yours and not your inheritors'."

-Kahil Gibran, The Prophet



Thanksgiving Day Service

**Thursday
Nov. 24th • 9:00 am**

The Altar Guild has traditionally decorated the altar with fruits and vegetables for this service. Please share your harvest and bring your donations to the church office by Wednesday morning, November 23rd. We will also be receiving canned and non-perishable food items for our Food Pantry.

We are thankful for all God's blessings—
please be generous!