

"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

October 2015

A Child of God

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 Dr.
Gerald G. Gifford.
Rector Emeritus

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

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Choir Director

Marie Wang
Organist

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Parish Administrator
Editor and Layout
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The Rev. David J. Gierlach, rector

Our readings today ask us to ponder yet again that age old question that is so troubling to so many people: "Who's in and who's out?"

It's not a new problem and it's not a new question.

This past week has seen a major candidate for national office declare that a Muslim cannot serve as president and, while he later tried to walk the statement back somewhat, it is a good indicator that "us vs. them" is alive and well in our country.

But it's not only in the political arena where these difficulties arise.

With the visit by Pope Francis, the struggles of our Roman brothers with issues like the ordination of women, the consequences of divorce, and issues of gay relationships are front and center.

Not that we Anglicans can take a pass on these debates.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is calling for a big meeting early next year to loosen the ties between our far flung communion; because of seemingly insurmountable disagreements over who's in and who's out.....involving many of the same issues the Romans are wrestling with.

Who's in and who's out?

Our older testament reading shows what an ancient problem this is.

When two fellows who don't make it to the initiation ceremony still get the gift of prophesy, Joshua, the best and the brightest of Israel's leaders, goes nuts!

Joshua, second in command to Moses, who's ready to lead his people into the long promised but much delayed holy land, Joshua, for all of

his wisdom, can't fathom a God who passes out gifts not just to insiders, but to outsiders too.

Protecting our turf is in our DNA.

The disciples of Jesus are freaking out too today, over exactly the same thing!

Just a couple of weeks ago, they faced a demon they couldn't get rid of — yet today they are fuming about some outsider who is kicking out devils right and left in Jesus' name — fuming, because he isn't part of the club.

And once again, Jesus pulls them in close, reminding them yet again that this new community is about breaking down walls, not building them up.

Jesus reminds them yet again that someday, they will rely on the kindness of outsiders for something as simple as a cold cup of water.

After reminding them of this, Jesus gets serious.

Very serious.

The old desert fathers and mothers, monks in the early church who left everything behind to follow the Lord; said this:

"Pay attention to yourself."

I have a feeling they got that saying from today's gospel.

Today, Jesus looks his disciples square in the eye and says, point blank, don't worry about what others are up to, or how they choose to understand God; 'Pay attention to yourself!'

He warns them that just as he comes in gentleness, without breaking the bruised reed, without quenching the smoldering wick, just so, the disciples — you and I — need to be very slow to judge -- and quick to understand those who



Rector's Message, continued

don't come from the same places we come from.

In other words, leave judgment to God, we've got feet to wash!

We know he's serious because he's talking about amputating hands and gouging out eyes; where a hand represents self-righteous pride and an eye represents envy and fear: tear them out! cut them off!

"Pay attention to yourself!" and leave the judging to God.

And these "little ones" whom Jesus is so protective of, while it may include children, is probably aimed mostly at those who are on the receiving end of the Moral Majority's contempt: the immigrant, the queer, the addict.

To people such as these, Jesus says, be welcoming, be gracious, be hospitable.

It can make all the difference in the world.

Who's in and who's out is a question we Christians are wise to keep front and center everyday.

Because Jesus is usually on the other side of whatever line I may draw.

Because Jesus is always on the hunt for the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost daughter or son.

And so it's the most unlikely people who keep showing up with faith: Roman soldiers and adulterous women and desperate tax collectors, and queers and immigrants and addicts.

In Hawaii, a big question is what high school you went to.

In my lawyer days, that was a favorite question during jury selection.

True or not, folks seem to think that where you went to high school says a lot about who you are today, sometimes defining whether you're an insider or an outsider.

In the south, the question isn't high schools but heritage:

"Who's your daddy" is the question often asked as people size up whether you're on the inside or outside.

A seminary professor who was vacationing in Tennessee tells this story....

One morning, he and his wife are eating a quiet breakfast at a little restaurant.

There's a distinguished looking, white-haired man moving from table to table, visiting with the guests.

The professor leans over to his wife whispering, 'I hope he doesn't come over here.'

But sure enough, he does.

"Where're you folks from?" he asks.

"Oklahoma," they answer.

"Welcome to Tennessee," the stranger says.

"What do you do for a living?"

"I teach at a seminary," the professor replies.

"Oh, you teach preachers how to preach, do you? Well, I've got a great story for you."

And with that, he pulls up a chair, sits down at the table with the couple, and starts.

"See that mountain over there? (pointing out the restaurant window).

Not far from the base of that mountain, there was a boy born to an unwed mother.

He had a hard time growing up, because every place he went, he was always asked the same question, 'Hey boy, who's your daddy?'

Everywhere he went, people asked the same question, 'Who's your daddy?'

He hid at recess and lunchtime from other students.

He avoided going in to stores because that question hurt him so bad.

'When he was about 12, a new preacher came to his church.

The boy went to church late and slipped out early to avoid hearing the question,

'Who's your daddy?'

But one day he gets caught and has to walk out with the crowd.

Just as he gets to the back door, the new preacher, not knowing anything about him, puts his hand on his shoulder and asks him, 'Son, who's your daddy?'

Well, the whole church is real quiet.

Every eye is looking at him.

Now everyone will finally know the answer to the question, 'Who's your daddy?'

This new preacher, though, sensing the situation around him and with insight that only the Holy Spirit can give, says this to that scared little boy.

'Wait a minute!

I know who you are!

I see the family resemblance as clear as day:

You are a child of God!'

Rector's Message, continued

With that he patted the boy on his shoulder and says, 'Boy, you've got a great inheritance.

Go and claim it.'

'With that, the boy smiles for the first time in a long time and walks out the door, a changed person.

He's never the same again.

Whenever anybody asks him, 'Who's your Daddy?' he tells 'em, 'I'm a child of God.'

The distinguished gentleman says, 'Isn't that a great story?'

The professor agrees, it really is a great story!

As the man turns to leave, he says, 'You know, if that new preacher hadn't told me that I was one of God's children, I probably never would have amounted to anything!'

And he walks away...

The professor and his wife sit, stunned.

He calls the waitress over, 'Do you know who that man is -- the one who just left -- who was sitting at our table?'

The waitress grins and says, 'Of course.

That's Ben Hooper.

He's our governor!'"

If we can see that everyone who walks through these doors is a child of God, then we will have salt in ourselves.

If we can live out an attitude of gratitude for all of the blessings that we receive, and share those blessings with folks who will never walk through these doors, then we will have salt among ourselves.

And if we can accept that in Jesus there are no longer any outsiders, then we shall be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

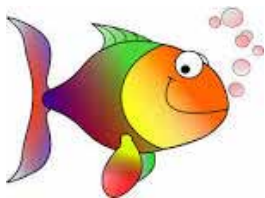
+amen



Happy Birthday

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

Annette Chee-Akana,	10/01
Raquel Timonio, Jermic Shuru,	
Cheshina Eis	
Isi Lavulavu	10/04
Carole Fujishige	10/05
Rebecca Steffey	10/06
Jamie W.F. Chock,	10/08
Daniel Tyau	
Inorie Eichy, Michelle Ramos,	10/09
Daniel Oshiro, Mia Starkman	
K.O. Eichy	10/10
Kililola Fane Lino	10/11
David Kleischmidt	10/12
Nora Blaisdell, Beryl Goo,	10/14
Rayn White	
Judith Kokubun	10/15
Shigeru Awakuni	10/17
Kolby Batangan, Maileen Cardenas	10/18
Viola Arabe, Victor Noket	10/19
Donovan Young, Jayden-Ryan Ruz	10/20
Jonson Jong, Suzanne Shak	10/21
Wynter Marlow, Dennis Akauloa	10/22
Katherine Crosier,	10/24
Collette Arakawa	
Luciano Sarceda, Antor Raymond,	10/25
Alex Ngamine, Kjirstin Propernick	
Ariel Badua, Casey-Eder Sungalu,	10/26
Tate Anderson	
Esther Tyau, Raelynne Steffey	10/29
Betty Awakuni, Lydia Vallejo	10/30
Kris Sorcey	10/31



*"The soul is in God and
God in the soul, just as the
fish is in the sea and the sea
in the fish."*

St. Catherine of Siena



Welcome Karyn!

Karyn Castro will be our new Parish Administrator. She comes to us from the Lutheran Church of Honolulu, where she grew up to **Kathy's** wonderful organ skills. She graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2014 with a BA in Music and a Certificate in Buisiness.

She currently works as the Choral Administrative Support Specialist for the Windward Choral Society and the Kona Choral Society. She worked in the gift shop of Duke's Barefoot Bar and Grill for almost four years, where she learned important hospitality skills. Outside of work, Karyn is involved with the music community here in Hawaii, singing at Lutheran Church of Honolulu, with the Hawaii Opera Theater Chorus, as well as many other groups. She is excited for this opportunity, and looks forward to meeting you all!

Tutors Needed

We are always on the lookout for TUTORs for the Wednesday and Friday after school tutoring program in Shim Hall.**Dr. Melanie Langi** is heading up this effort and even if you can drop by now and then, whatever time you might put in pays BIG, no, HUGE dividends in the future of our youth.Many thanks to all who are making this effort such a success!

Pledge Drive Kick Off!

Our pledge is our YES to the mission and love and community of St. Elizabeth's. It is our YES in faith to the God who counts every hair on our heads, who knows our needs before we do, and who gives us every second of every day the life we live. So for 2016, say YES to all of this and more!

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you measure, it will be measured back to you."

Luke 6:38



YMCA

We have welcomed the YMCA to Shim Hall two days a week in the morning hours. It's a program happening every Tuesday and Thursday that lays out mats, fans and tons of toys for our neighborhood keiki and parents, teaching parenting and learning skills to new moms and experienced grandmas! Stop by and say HI if you get a chance.it's super cute!

Loaves and Fishes Ministry

The Loaves and Fishes Ministry continues to feed the hungry houseless with a hot breakfast of eggs, bacon and coffee, together with fruits and other treats, every Saturday from 7:30 till 9 am.

A number of parishioners have joined in the fun and YOU are most welcome to stop on by, flip an egg, fry some pork belly or just chat with folks who have a very different take on life...



Feeding the houseless on Saturday mornings



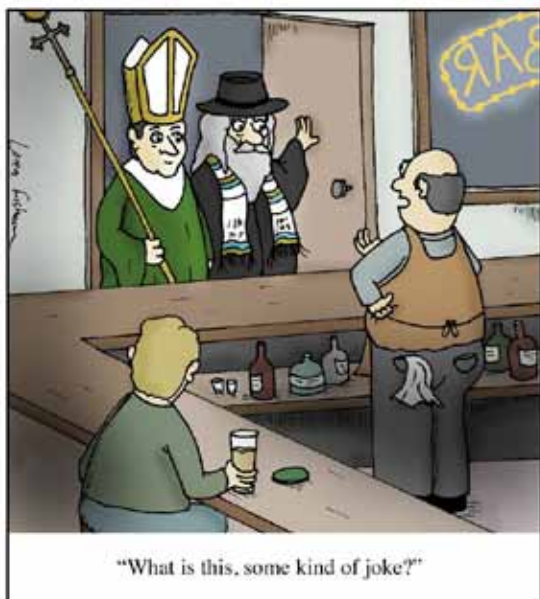
Faith Action for Community Equity



Did you see the article about the FACE container in The Civil Beat? You can check it out here!

Our shipping container is still on site, thanks to the generosity of the Methodist Church and FACE.

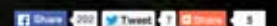
Current guests are **Marie**, who is pregnant with twins, and **Gus**. Please give them a wink and a smile when you see 'em.....they're with us for a month till they can get into a shelter with services.



Denby Fawcett: Can Churches Help Hawaii's Homeless?

Episcopal priests urge their parishes to allow people to stay in church yards, halls or parking lots, or help them financially.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015 - By Denby Fawcett



Kathy's Farewell Party



“I would like to thank the good folks at St. Elizabeth’s for the many blessings I have received here, and for the many kindnesses that have been shown to me over these past 11 years. Most of all I treasure the many friendships I have made.”

--Kathy Crosier



We celebrated Kathy's 11 years of excellent service to St. Elizabeth's at the Hale Koa. We are extremely grateful for all she's done, and will miss her terribly!



A special mahalo to **Roy Chee** for making arrangements for the Hale Koa Hotel, and for the exquisite plaque.



“The most amazing fact about Jesus, unlike almost any other religious founder, is that he found God in disorder and imperfection—and told us that we must do the same or we would never be content on this earth. ”

Richard Rohr



Hunger Walk Success

Over 30 of the fine folks of St. Elizabeth's participated in the annual FoodBank Walkathon that started at City Hall and wound around the State Capitol, all to the sounds of boisterous music (of groups my age group never heard of) but whom the youngsters really enjoyed! Thanks to everyone who not only walked, but raised LOTS of MOOLAH, which will be matched by others and really help our Food Pantry this year!! Great job gang!!



"I have long since come to believe that people never mean half of what they say, and that it is best to disregard their talk and judge only their actions."

Dorothy Day



Youth News

We washed 30 cars, in spite of a hurricane!

by Viliami Lino

This month, our youth participated in the 11th Annual Hawaii Foodbank Hunger Walk on September 19th, along with other congregation members including **Charlie (Bubba) Steffey**, even **Charlie Kokubun**. But prior to that, we also contributed to the fundraising for this organization, raising up to nearly \$300. How did we accomplish this, you ask? By having Car Washes three Saturdays straight, despite the 3 hurricanes that were already working on washing this community's cars by making a swimming pool right down the road by Jollibees. Our youth faced the hurricanes and said, "Challenge Accepted." All dressed in Safety Green colored green shirts, because safety is a priority, we washed over 30 cars or so. We almost look like a team training for the Car Wash Olympics.

Sunday School News

Aloha, James



On September 13th the Sunday School bid *a hui hou* to their fearless leader, coach and teacher, **James Fitzpatrick** as he ventures on to a fantastic ministry in Panama. Panama?! The kids found it on the globe far, far from Hawaii.

During the Announcements, **Fr. David** blessed James and his new journey, the kids, including James then sang, 'What a Wonderful World.' After singing, the kids presented James with lei (thanks to **Mary Anne Lentz**).

Thank you to the congregation for all your support in James as he ventures into his new calling. We had an awesome pot-luck brunch with fellowship and food of all islands that he will surely miss in the next two years!



Attendance

Wednesday, Sept. 2, Eucharist	36
Sunday, Sept 6, Eucharist & Vespers	219
Wednesday, Sept 9, Eucharists	19
Sunday, Sept 13, Eucharists & Vespers	177
Wednesday, Sept 16, Eucharist	17
Sunday, Sept 20, Eucharists & Vespers	214
Wednesday, Sept 23, Eucharist	10
Sunday, Sept 27 Eucharists & Vespers	224

For All the Saints

Please join us for All Saints on **Sunday, November 1st at 9:00 am.** Please print clearly the names of loved ones' names you wish to be remembered **by Sunday, October 25th** so they may be printed in our All Saints bulletin