

"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

September 2017

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

Hsiao Ying "Ajaon" Chen
Choir Director

Marie Wang
Organist

Jennifer Beckham
Parish Administrator
Editor and Layout
Music Consultant

Caren Esaki
Senior Warden

Mosese Langi
Junior Warden

Stuart Ching
Secretary

Keith Ho
Treasurer

Website:
www.stelizabeth720.org

Email:
stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com

Whiplash

The Rev. David J. Gierlach

I'm really glad that our lectionary breaks up the gospel reading that we have this week and the one we had last week.

You remember last week. That's when Jesus asks the disciples "who do people say that I am?" "Who do YOU say that I am?"

Peter pipes up and acknowledges Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Of course, if you didn't know better, you'd think everything'd be fine and dandy in today's reading, but no, instead we get a case of gospel induced whiplash.

Peter goes from being the rock on which Christ will build his church to the embodiment of the devil himself; from pope to pagan in one fell swoop!

So let's stop for a minute.

Go back to last week.

Stand there with the disciples as they listen to Peter's confession and Jesus acknowledging that he's got it right.

Now, run with it for a bit.

What's it mean to be in the inner circle of the Son Of God, for Pete's sake?

You can imagine the thoughts running through their heads:

Life is gonna be good for us baby!

Big homes, nice cars, lots of money in the bank, we're the insiders!

And as for all those outsiders out there, tough luck!

Maybe there'll be some prisoners taken and executions done, but that's all good, because we are on the inside...we are in the ultimate inside!

And out of that kind of thinking, we get a way of thinking about God that leads us to a very small god indeed.

That kind of thinking gives us a god who's

all about rules and regulations; a god who delights in bright lines between who's saved and who's damned.

With that kind of thinking, we set up systems of judgment against other people, and since we're on the inside, we're always on the right side.

We use this kind of thinking to bless our nation, our wars, our economy, in other words, to bless the status quo.

That's what happens last week, when they run with what they think it means to be followers of the Son of God, to be children of the Living God.

It's all very self-centered; focused on me and mine....forget about you and yours...

And everybody's kind of happy and smiling, because we know how to live life based on folks getting what they deserve; we are at home in a world where might makes right.

So, yes, Peter says, you are the Messiah!

Yippee!!

And then we move to this week.

And here's Jesus, doing what Jesus almost always does: it's that bucket of cold water poured over our best thinking.

"You've got it all wrong!," he says,

"In fact, all that stuff.... all those daydreams that are floating through your minds..... that's the devil's work, not God's.

That's the stuff I'm here to fix, not to promote...

So if you're ready, sit down and listen to what it really means to follow the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.

It means that there are no lines between people, it means that God has no favorites —



Rector's Message, continued

because everybody is God's favorite.

And when it comes to judging each other?

Hello!

That's what got everyone in trouble in the first place, when your first mother and father ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil!

You're not equipped to know the difference between good and evil, so you mess it up every time you try to use it."

It's why God appoints me," Jesus says, "as the sole judge, because I let wheat and chaff grow together; I haul in good fish and bad fish, because truth be told, the line between good and evil doesn't run between 'us and them,' it runs through the heart of every single person."

No, to follow the Living God means serving each other, it means forgiving each other, it means giving up your life for each other.

There's no Cadillacs, no mansions, no cash in the bank on this path...

But there is fellowship and compassion and beauty beyond our wildest imagination.

What Cadillac can compare to a sunrise?

What mansion can hold a candle to a meadow filled with spring flowers?

How much money will you pay for a lung full of fresh air?

But there is this too, you will get to the beauty only after you've walked through the pain.

This is my way, Jesus says to them, to us, today.

It is the way of giving up, of letting go, it is the way of trust.

Talk about whiplash!

This life grounded in faith starts with a God who comes to an enslaved people, a bunch of nobodies, and announces to a murderer on the lam (that would be Moses – you recall he killed an Egyptian and skedaddled out of the country); he announces to this felon on the lam two words that forever change the course of human destiny: "I AM."

When Jesus rescues the apostles on the Sea of Galilee, as their boat is tossed by the storm, the literal translation as he approaches them is not: "It is I."

The literal translation is: "I am."

And it is this "I am" that propels Jesus into the face of Peter, saying, in no uncertain terms, that what God wants for them, what God wants for you, is neither safety nor compliance nor popularity, but freedom.

The freedom to risk security and safety by stepping out of line and following this itinerant preacher from the hills of Galilee. t

The freedom to lose ourselves in service to one another.

The freedom to forgive rather than to hate.

The freedom to embrace, rather than reject.

The freedom to risk illness or poverty or even death, all because, no matter our doubts, no matter our fears, no matter our best thinking, our hope is in the one

who is now and ever shall be:

"I am."

As one priest says:

"The deep secret of Jesus' hard words to us in this passage is that our fear of suffering and death robs us of life, because fear of death always turns into fear of life, into a stingy, cautious way of living — that is not really living at all.

The deep secret of Jesus' hard words is that the way to have abundant life isn't to save it but to spend it, to give it away, because life cannot be shut up and saved any more than a bird can be put in a shoebox and stored on the closet shelf." *B.B. Taylor, The Seeds of Heaven, 79.*

And this of course is the constant struggle that we endure throughout our lives, moving from what we instinctively reach for as the disciples did last week, when it comes to our obsessions with controlling people, places and things, to sit at the feet of the true God, who is completely different from what we expect; who accepts the unacceptable, who loves the unlovable.

Last week I told you that we gather here each Sunday in order to remember our common story.

And while that is true, there is another, more fundamental reason, why we find ourselves here week after week.

We come together every Sunday so that we can find strength to follow this strange way of Jesus, and to learn to spot, and decline, those temptations to follow the easier way, the way of us against them, the way of judgment; the devil's way indeed.

Don't feel bad that this way of Jesus takes a lifetime to wrap your arms around.

If men as great as St. Peter and St. Paul can struggle with these things throughout their whole lives, so shall we.

And so, beloved, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Let your love be genuine; hold fast to what is good; love one another," and may the blessing of almighty God be with you always and forever.

+amen



The youth are back making your ride clean so they can have some loot for this year's super fun youth activities... like sky diving and shark feeding!



Please Pledge At Foodland Throughout September !!!!!

If can, kindly give your pledge at Foodland this month. Foodland matches a percentage of what they collect so it's a great way to grow your pledge amount! Just mention St. Elizabeth's EPISCOPAL Church to the cashier!!!!!!



Happy Birthday

God's blessings on those with September birthdays!

Jayden-Aldrich Romena	September 1
Rosemary Lau	September 2
Saram Eis	
Jazzy Benito	September 7
Colby Pacupac	September 8
Stephen Rowland	September 9
Hayden Randell Tee	
Gretchen Jong	September 11
Tanginoa Toli	
Vivian Marlow	September 12
Mathson Meyshine	
Dylan-John Vinluan Daoang	
Francita Kasty	
Ashten Bugarin	
Torrez Eis	September 15
Mylast Alexander	September 16
Alyssa Rodrigues	September 17
Helly Obeti	September 18
Kellen Ho	September 19
Khloe Leo Linluan Daoang	
Francis Nakata	September 20
Bill Eng	
Esby Meyshine	
Wai Wah Yee	September 21
Stuart Ching	
Merlina Ballesteros	September 22
John Marlow	September 24
Viliami Lino	
Matthew DeCosta	September 27
Minemine Lotaki	September 28
Leyna Esaki	September 29
Taryn Eis	September 30



A Message from the Youth Coordinator

By Melanie Langi

Aloha All,

Goodbye August.

Welcome September!

September is one of the best months ever! (Lol, Birthday month...wink. wink)

Some would say September marks the ending of summer or the beginning of Fall, either way its my favorite season of the year. (even if we really only have one season here in Hawaii). I've experienced having four seasons while living in the Midwest in the early 2000's, a place where you'll find one of the most beautiful Autumn seasons of all. Leaves that turn from green to yellow then orange and finally a golden brown. The air feels so clean and crisp and just a tad bit nippy. It's just beautiful! I'm reminiscent right now. But as for the winter season, FORGET IT! I'd rather be home in Hawaii.

Every year around this time I get a little excited and inspired to make this time of the year a little better than the last. So to me, September means that I need to start getting things ready for the upcoming Holiday season. I'm so excited! But, before that, let me share with you what the youth have been doing in the mean time.

This month the new school year began. So that meant our After School program was back in session. It has been slow in the first few weeks, but children are beginning to trickle in little by little, one by one. And once word gets out about the After School program being back in session, we will begin to see familiar faces, meeting, greeting and making new friends. Volunteers are always welcome. Student volunteers are also welcome. If you know a student in high school that needs to complete hours to make up credit, volunteering to help our elementary school children is a good way to make it up. We currently have two student volunteers from McKinley High School. Let me know if you or someone you know will benefit from this.

We continue to have youth bible study every Friday nights at 7:30pm in Shim Hall. ALL youth are welcome! Current youth are encouraged to bring a friend to share the Word and fellowship with others. I would like to extend an invitation to our Micronesian community Youth to come join us! Come journey with us through the bible, walk with Jesus and his disciples, share the Word, and fellowship with others! Please see me for more information.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended our very first St. Elizabeth's Back to School-End of Summer Potluck at Magic Island. Thank you to the many hands that helped, and for everyone who took part in this event. Without all of you, this would not have been possible. Hope we can do it again next year!

Well, that's all the news I have for now. See you guys next month!

Remain blessed! Melanie Langi

August Attendance

Sunday, August 6,.....	188
Sunday, August 13,.....	178
Wednesday, August 16,.....	14
Sunday, August 20,.....	196
Wednesday, August 23,.....	21
Sunday, August 27,.....	195
Wednesday, August 30,	14





Bishop Richard S.O. Chang died after a brief illness on August 30, 2017. We at St. Elizabeth's are profoundly saddened by this loss and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to Dee Chang and their children. Bishop Chang grew up in St. Elizabeth's and always had a soft spot in his heart for us, as we have for him. We were most fortunate that he celebrated the Mass for us on August 6, the Sunday before Fr. David's return from sabbatical. It was a wonderful service, a beautiful homily and a chance to be with old friends once again. Please keep the Bishop and his family in your prayers. And never forget, in Christ it is never "goodbye," but it is always "until we meet again!" --- a hui hou!!

Congratulations to our four St. Elizabeth Scholarship recipients - **James Fitzpatrick**, who will be attending University of Hawaii at Manoa toward a M.Ed.T program; **Joshua Yuen-Schat** who attends Kenyon College; **Daniel Yuen-Schat** who is pursuing an Electrical Engineering degree at Rochester Institute of Technology and **Rebecca Kleinschmidt** who will be attending National University of Natural Medicine in Oregon.

Love Thy Neighbor

Thy Homeless Neighbor
Thy Muslim Neighbor

Thy Black Neighbor
Thy Gay Neighbor

Thy White Neighbor
Thy Jewish Neighbor

Thy Transgendered Neighbor
Thy Christian Neighbor

Thy Atheist Neighbor
Thy Racist Neighbor
Thy Addicted Neighbor



Welcome back, Fr. David!! **Fr. Peter Fan, Fr. David Gierlach, Rev. Canon Sandy Graham, and Mother Imelda Padasdao** celebrate Holy Eucharist on August 13th. We are thankful for all who assisted in Fr. David's absence and we are so glad to have him back after his sabbatical in Africa!

Sunday School News

By Sue Yap

What an awesome start to our new school year! It was party time, meet old friends and new friends on August 20th!

Miss Ajaon, on the 4th Sunday of each month, not missing a beat continues the music program with Classroom A, breathing exercises, rhythm and voice lessons!

Welcome back our classroom teachers and dedicated TAs - **Jamie Chock**, **Lillian Tyau** in classroom B, Sue Yap, Lisa Anne Mitsuka Chan, Sarah Kleinschmidt, **Del Shea**, **Heather Manning** in Classroom A, **Melanie Langi**, **James Fitzpatrick** & the phantom **Mark Haworth** in Shim Hall! We thank **Miss Peggy** and **Miss Anne** for their terrific help with the program last year and wish them well, safe travels as they relocate to California closer to their ohana!



Miss Sue the photographer, Miss Lisa the “Director” and little Eden went back to church after a brief 10-minute orientation...

All children are welcome to join us! And of course, we could always use help! **Mark Haworth** is rounding up a new class of acolytes- training and review class to start in September! Wonderful way to participate in the Sunday service and serve the Lord!

Can't thank you enough for all your generous donations of school supplies, your support and prayers for the children and teachers as we look forward to another challenging school year!!!



Miss Melanie and class in Shim Hall - everyone is eager to learn!!
Tutoring every Monday and Wednesday from 3-5pm!
Your help is needed!!!

Mahalo to all our volunteers!



Here's an update from our friends in Kenya on the progress they are making with your generous help!!!! To translate the money, move the decimal 2 places to the left to convert Kenyan Shillings to dollars (900 KS = \$9)

We are doing well. This are the reports from the groups. No1. Julius's group, they finished building the house for the cow. The cow is very health they had saved 19,700.00 to take care of the cow but up to now they have used 5,000.00 for the cow's feed. The cow is not yet in calf but I called the KIE people to visit them next week to visit them and see if it is ready. Had a balance of 12,474.19 from the water Mellon harvest. Used 10,000.00 for hiring land 5 acres 2 acres for planting watermelon, 1 acre for planting sweet potatoes new breed, 2 acres maize. 400 purchased seeds for the new sweet potatoes breed. 2. Siritanyi Self Help group Moses's group. Dairy farming doing well with cows now. At time of the visit I found when they had harvested the honey 10 liters ready to pack in 250gms containers already have a market. They will update me after they sell. They harvested tomatoes 10 crates made 40,000.00. less expenditures 10 empty crates for packing in tomatoes @800 = 8,000.00, seeds costed 750.00 5 packets @150. Pest side 3,000.00 total exp 11,750.00. bal as profit from tomatoes is 28,250.00 with the treasurer. The maize have been harvested but not yet shelled will tell me how many bags after shelling. Poultry project going on well 2 cooks, 8 chicks and 10 hens. 3. Sawenge Young Women. The dairy farming doing well, they have 2 cows. The eggs which were put in the incubator were 210 only 110 hatched the suppliers promised to give them more eggs to replace the ones that did not hatch. The eggs costed 3,150.00, balance from the eggs amount which was 8,000 is 4,850.00 saved with the treasurer. The chicks are now 5 weeks old and doing so well. After the chicks are six weeks will buy more eggs and put in the incubator. They have a saving of 9,000 to take care of the cow. I am happy to answer incase you have a question. The groups send their greetings to and your family. They said they have missed you. will give you another report, for Royal Women group, Mama Jikoni women group and Isaac's project. Pass my greetings to your people. God bless the work of your hands.

Mama Joyce.

