

"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 2018

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

Ken Yamasaki
Senior Warden

Mosese Langi
Junior Warden

Stuart Ching
Secretary

Leyna Esaki
Treasurer

Website:
www.stelizabeth720.org

Email:
stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com

Boundaries

The Rev. David J. Gierlach

How will people know that we belong to God?
What boundaries mark us off as the beloved of
God?

That's the question at the heart of today's
Gospel lesson.

Different folks answer this question in
different ways.

The Pharisees answer it by insisting on very
strict purity rules: rules that have them washing
everything they eat, hands and cups and pitchers
and kettles: and condemning those who don't do
the same.

Now, for you moms who're thinking, "What's
wrong with washing?" well, this isn't about
hygiene; germs were a long way from being
discovered.

It's about religious ritual – such that the
cleaning is done in a very particular way, using a
certain amount of water, holding your hand in just
the right position.

Today, many folks look at the Pharisees as the
very definition of hypocrisy.

But if you take a closer look, you can't dismiss
them that easily.

Like you and I, the Pharisees are complicated,
they have good explanations for doing what they
do.

As you know, the Pharisees are not priests or
clergy of any kind. They are lay people who take
seriously God's command through Moses that the
people of Israel are to be holy, just as God is holy.

And they are quite ingenious.

For example, while Jewish law only requires
the priests to wash, and only before making a
sacrifice to God; the Pharisees say:

"Look, if we, as Moses says, are a nation of
priests, then everyone should wash, and not just
before a sacrifice, but before every meal."

In a time when the people of Israel were

occupied by Rome and
inundated by Greek
culture, the Pharisees
were, in many ways, a
commendable group
trying their hardest
to keep and grow
a distinctly Jewish
identity among the
people of Israel, so they
would remember who
they are, and who they
are called to be, in the face of massive cultural
challenges.

By washing, they mark themselves off as
people faithful to God; people therefore entitled
to receive God's blessing.

We aren't so far removed from that kind of
thinking. While 2000 years separates us from
the Pharisees, we too have our own ideas about
purity; except rather than "purity," we call it
"doing what's right," or "what Jesus intended,"
or "a place for everything, and everything in its
place."

And so we Episcopalians are often seen as the
model of establishment Christianity.

We are often morally upright and we are good
citizens; but we are also, as a group, traditionally
very slow to respond to issues of social injustice or
the need to make structural changes to our society
for the benefit of those without.

We don't mind helping the needy, as long as
they are the "deserving needy!"

And then there are our Roman Catholic
friends who refuse to recognize non-Roman
churches. We and all the other non-Romans are
called "ecclesial communities".

And then there are some of our brother and
sister Christians who deny the whole idea of
evolution while others try to collapse Christianity
into a Leave it to Beaver family friendly cult that
looks down its nose at anything that isn't a blond
haired blue eyed Jesus.

And truth be told, each of us, sometimes
quietly and sometimes loudly, are quite sure that



we, not them, have the inside track with God.

We are, we whisper silently to ourselves, a bit cleaner than all of the rest of them.

So, just saying, modern Christianity is in no position to sneer at those Pharisees!

Make no mistake, we need to have boundaries and traditions and rules and doctrines. Without these things, the wine has no skin to be poured into; without such things, we can't know who "we" are.

The problem is not necessarily boundaries or traditions or rules or doctrines as much as when we, like the Pharisees, substitute boundaries, traditions, rules and doctrines for the wild, unpredictable, challenging, demanding, cajoling, longing, insistent, and pregnant, yes, very pregnant, Spirit of the Living God!

We forget, to our peril, that God isn't about turning us into adorable couch potatoes, but God is always calling us beyond and out of who we think we are.

"God isn't in love with the boundaries we create and carefully protect.

Drawing lines separates good guys from bad guys, wheat from chaff, good fish from bad, but ours is a God who loves the bad as well as the good, because, when we see good and bad through the eyes of God, we come to see that they are hopelessly intertwined, intermingled, inseparable, which is why, thanks be to God, "untamed grace keeps pouring out into alien territory." (Don McCullough, paraphrase).

Jesus has a message for the outraged Pharisees today – and he has a message for us too:

"If you think that your rules or doctrines or traditions or beliefs sum up the substance of the Living God, then your god is too small!"

And then there is this.

Once we come to glimpse the unending yearning God has for all of creation, for all human beings, then we slowly come to realize that whether the issue is terrorism or Trump or homosexuality or women priests or humanists or liberals or war or peace or economic injustice, whatever human reality you name; this much is true:

if you follow Jesus, don't expect to stay clean!

You're gonna get dirty!

Roy Pearson puts it this way: "the church is like a chimney sweep, it can't do its job in comfortable surroundings or with clean hands.

And so cleanliness is not next to godliness, dirt is.

Dirt, pain, sorrow, prejudice, injustice, treachery."

These, and more, await the follower of Jesus.

We are constantly called by Jesus out of our easy chairs and onto the hard wooden stools where sit our impoverished neighbors, our friends of different faiths, our children whose sexual orientation may differ from ours.

What Jesus seems to be getting at today is that we will find him just as often at the graffiti littered urine soaked bus stop as we find him in the sweet scented quiet solitude of the church pew.

Jesus comes to us where we are.

I learned this week that the literal translation for the word "unclean" that we hear in today's gospel doesn't mean "dirty" as much as it means "ordinary" or "common."

The distinction the Pharisees are drawing isn't about hygiene; it's about separating what is holy from what is ordinary; separating the holy from the common.

Religious people of every era tend to believe that the holy is found somewhere other than in and amongst the ordinary, the common.

Religious people often believe that somehow, if the common, the ordinary, touches the holy, the holy will be contaminated.

It's an "outside - in" kind of thinking, which leads to a way of looking at the world, and each other, as dangerous, suspect, as something to fear.

Jesus comes to show us that God is most immediately, most tangibly, most substantially, dancing about in the common, in the ordinary.

For Jesus, the holy cannot be contaminated by the ordinary – indeed, the holy – like yeast mixed with dough – like seeds planted in good ground - like the Word becoming flesh, the holy contaminates the ordinary, making ordinary things, like you and me, holy.

This is "inside - out" kind of living, where the power of God uses each of us as a channel, a mirror, a fountain, to scatter undeserved, even undesired, grace, everywhere we can.

So what are the boundaries that mark us off from others?

It's a question each of us can ask, because we each of us have different boundaries, creating different circles of insiders and outsiders.

But what is the distinctive Christian line in the sand, the line we must always strive to be within?

What is it?

Jesus tells us:

"This I command you, that you love one another. Jn 15:17.

That's our boundary.

That we love everyone, as God, in Jesus, loves us.

+amen



This lovely orchid came from our late pal **Kalfred Yee**, one of the world's premier orchid experts. It blooms once a year during the first two weeks of August, always during the week of the anniversary of Uncle Kalfred's death....His green thumb reaches through the curtain separating this life from the next and that is an amazing thing indeed!



Happy Birthday

God's blessings on those with September birthdays!

Jayden-Aldrich Romena	09/01
Rosemary Lau	09/02
Saram Eis	
Jazzy Benito	09/07
Colby Pacupac	09/08
Stephen Rowland	09/09
Hayden Randell Yee	
Gretchen Jong	09/11
Tanginoa Toli	
Vivian Marlow	09/12
Mathson Meyshine	
Dylan-John Vinluan Daoang	
Francita Kasty	
Ashten Bugarin	
Torrez Eis	09/15
Mylast Alexander	09/16
Alyssa Rodrigues	09/17
Helly Obeti	09/18
Kellen Ho	09/19
Khloe Leo Vinluan Daoang	
Francis Nakata	09/20
Bill Eng	
Esby Meyshine	
Wai Wah Yee	09/21
Stuart Ching	
Merlina Ballesteros	09/22
John Marlow	09/24
Viliani Lino	
Matthew DeCosta	09/27
Minemine Lotaki	09/28
Leyna Esaki	09/29
Taryn Eis	09/30

Free Concert at St. Elizabeth's!



The Braeded Chord

Sharon Dennis, guitar, vocals
Doris Au MacDonald, keyboard, vocals, winds
weaving faith, life and laughter into song

Their music has taken them throughout the U.S. and internationally to Kenya, Haiti, Lebanon and Northern Ireland. They have released six CDs of original work that draws from acoustic folk, jazz, rock and gospel influences, and received several recognitions for their songwriting and performance, including seven WAMMIE awards for Best Inspirational/Gospel Duo and Best Inspirational/Gospel Recording.

You spread both good music and good will wherever you perform...
 --Ron Goad, Songwriters Association of Washington

Friday, September 14, 6:00 pm

All proceeds from the sale of their CDs will benefit the Rafiki Children's Center in Kenya.

*Doris Au MacDonald is Kathy Crosier's sister

Of course we remember and miss dear Kathy Crosier, our long time Office Administrator who is now circling the globe searching for the coolest organs in the world (the musical kind, not the bodily kind...) Whelp, turns out Kathy has a sister who is also a musical genius and she and her partner are coming to ST ELIZABETH'S on FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 AT 6:00 P.M. They weave faith, life and laughter into song!!! What could be better???????????????

We are tinking that some light puu puu and drinks will make the evening a winner winner chicken dinner so if YOU might like to belly up to this bar and lend a hand, why give a wink and a nodder....and even if ya can't help, please COME BY and enjoy what is sure to be a totally delightful evening!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! And best of all, IT'S FREE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lord, make us instruments of your peace...

Help us to remove the venom from our judgments.

Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters...

Where there is shouting, let us practice listening;

Where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;

Where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;

Where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;

Where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;

Where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;

Where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;

Where there is hostility, let us bring respect;

And where there is falsehood, let us bring truth. Amen.”

Pope Francis paraphrasing St Francis.

Dear God,
 Thank you for
 the baby brother
 but what I prayed
 for was a puppy
 Joyce

Dear God,
 Are you a ninja?
 Is that why I can't
 see you?
 Jacob

Dear God,
 Instead of letting people die
 and having to make new ones
 why don't you just
 keep the ones you got now?
 Jane



“IT IS REALLY SO SIMPLE!
 THE MAIN THING IS TO LOVE
 YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.
 ONCE YOU DO THAT, YOU
 WILL DISCOVER AT ONCE HOW
 EVERYTHING SHALL FALL INTO
 PLACE.”

~ FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKY

An Update From Mama Joyce.....

Father David, Moses's group harvested honey 30 liters. Still packing they have not yet sold. They will pack in 250 grams containers, and sell @KS 150 each. They have increased the bee hives from 15 to 18. They are planning to repair the fence because of too much rains the post are rotten. They have planted tomatoes on 1 acre. They have the tree nursery which is doing well they sold a total of 4,000 seedlings @10sh each made a total of 4,000sh saved with the treasurer. The poultry project is not doing well most of their chickens have died so I advised them to stop it because it is costing them money but no profit. Their cows are wonderful. They have five big cows and 2 calfs. 2 cows gave birth 1 week ago in 2 different days. Their napia grass is ready the cows are eating it. The challenge that all groups are having is buying medication for their animals and chicken because the rains brought air born diseases and it is still raining though reduced a bit. They all say thank you to your people and you. Greetings from all groups. They all asked me when you will be back. God bless you. Thanks, Mama Joyce

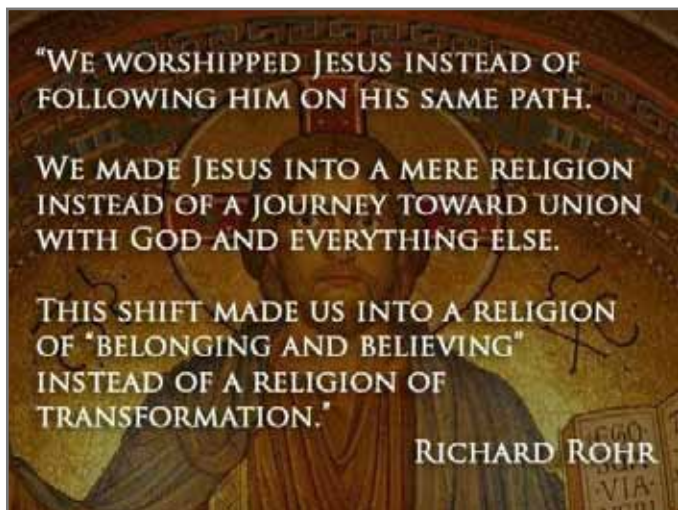


Aunty Lani talk story time! What a treasured blessing we have in an amazing kupuna who came to STE when in elementary school with her Chinese grandmother many years ago!!!!



August Attendance

Wednesday, August 1,.....21
 Sunday, August 5,.....186
 Wednesday, August 8,.....18
 Sunday, August 12,.....209
 Wednesday, August 15,.....16
 Sunday, August 19,.....217
 Wednesday, August 22,.....15
 Sunday, August 26,.....193
 Wednesday, August 29,.....15



Our dear **Margarita Suyat** stopped by to lend a hand during Saturday's breakfast for the houseless and she got right to work making sure everyone had plenty of deeeelicious sweet bread!!! **Thanks to ALL** of you who stop by regularly or just on occasion cause without **YOU**, it wouldn't be happening!!!!



The lovely ladies of the Food Pantry show up every week to bag some 30 bags of groceries for our families in need!!! Thanks to **Lynette and Bobbie and Judy and Patsy** for their totally loving help!!!!!!



A Message from the Youth Coordinator

By Melanie Langi

Aloha All,

Welcome to Spectacular September! My birthday month. Not telling what day because I'm celebrating the entire month!

I hope this newsletter finds you well, safe and dry. After the aftermath of Hurricane Lane who couldn't make up its mind because it got downgraded to a tropical storm then to a depression. Kinda remind's me of... ME! Lol! On a more serious note, PRAYER WARRIORS let's keep in prayer all our family and friends on the neighbor island whose homes and businesses were damaged from the storm. Let us also keep in prayer the families on Maui who lost their homes in the brush fire last week.

Friends we are still in hurricane season, let us be proactive and prepared just in case something does head our way again. Be ready!

AMBASSADOR'S OF CHRIST! Are you ready for the holidays? Well, it's just around the corner with Halloween first in line to kick off this holiday season! We are already in preparation of our **Annual Trunk or Treat** event. I know it's a couple months away, but we here, like to follow the lead of the stores (if you know what I mean). In recent years many of our faithful participants have not only decorated their trunks to pass out candy, but they've also included games for the families to play. Everyone loves it! All are invited, and everyone has fun! I invite you all to share in this exciting experience. Come out and decorate your trunk, pass out candy and play some games! Watch out for more information on how you can participate this year!

KINGDOM BUILDERS! This year Parents and Children Together (PACT) organizers of the Late Night Basketball League (LNBL) has invited St. E's to continue in partnership with them through Flag Football. This would be our first year playing in this league. The best part is that it's co-ed, meaning both GIRLS and boys are able to play on one team. Right now there is only Junior Division. **If you have any children in 5th-8th grade that are interested in becoming a part of St. E's first flag football team come see me!** Build relationship, build character.

GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS! Volunteers wanted! If you're free for a couple hours a week to help our neighborhood children with homework and anything related with school work please let me know. I welcome all the help I can get! Afterschool days and hours are **Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 2pm-5pm.**

DISCIPLES! READ ALL ABOUT IT! Youth bible study is on-going. It's doesn't take summer break, winter break or spring break! Young people need to hear HIS word more now than ever before! So get your youth to bible study to learn and journey with other youth through the bible. Help get our youth off the streets and out of trouble. Young people come fellowship with the most awesome young people in the entire universe... fo'rio! **Every Friday at 7pm.** Be there or be square!

Walk in integrity! Lead others to become leaders themselves!

See y'all around,
Melanie Langi

IMPERFECT PERFECTION

"YOUR LIFE WILL HAVE A KIND OF PERFECTION, ALTHOUGH YOU WILL NOT BE A SAINT. THE PERFECTION WILL CONSIST IN THIS: YOU WILL BE VERY WEAK AND YOU WILL MAKE MANY MISTAKES; YOU WILL BE AWKWARD, FOR YOU WILL BE POOR IN SPIRIT AND HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE. YOU WILL NOT BE PERFECT, BUT YOU WILL LOVE. THIS IS THE GATE AND THE WAY. THERE IS NOTHING GREATER THAN LOVE. THERE IS NOTHING MORE TRUE THAN LOVE, NOTHING MORE REAL. SO LET US HAND OUR LIVES OVER TO LOVE AND SEAL THE BOND OF LOVE."

~ EBERHARD ARNOLD

Sunday School News

By Sue Yap

The lazy days of summer are behind us... it's back to school jam! Thanks to everyone for your thoughts, prayers, donations for school supplies and monetary donations to get the kids off to an awesome school year!!!



Sunday School started the last Sunday in August, **Miss Ajaon** has not missed a beat ...

summer music students have been keeping the beat and will share their percussion's talents during the offertory hymn 1st Sunday in September! Enjoy the rhythm!!!



Registration continues this week.

Elementary and middle school meet in room A, preschool and primary meet in classroom B The high school Youth are helping in classroom B.

There is no Sunday school class for the youth! We hope they will help with the music program, acolyte duty, helper in classroom B, or jr ushers!!! We have 3 new students and always welcome more!!!



See you all Sunday!



Wallyhouse Cafe now Open!



Thanks to volunteers **Wally and Kay Inglis**, Wallyhouse Catholic Worker now has a "cafe" open for lunch on Tuesdays from 11:00am until 1:00, or until we run out of food—which sometimes happens. Our houseless guests are welcomed at Wallyhouse, situated in the former rectory

just behind the church, to sit at one of our outdoor tables and enjoy a tasty lunch handmade fresh by Kay, with a little help from Wally.



Wally preparing lunch drinks.



David with houseless community enjoying Wallyhouse Cafe.

On Tuesday, August 14, our first lunch was served with great success. Around 40 houseless friends came at staggered times, to sit, talk story, and eat a delicious meal of chicken sandwiches with pasta salad. The following week our chefs prepared and served Kay's signature tortilla soup. It was especially welcomed because our food pantry was near empty making the canned food distribution meager. Our third cafe day was a pizza party thanks to **Kerry Hashitate's** keen ability to nab a plethora of individual pizza crusts from the food bank.

Oh, speaking of Tuesday August 14, on that very same day, our new Catholic Worker live-in volunteer, **Niambi Mercado**, arrived.

She is just what the house needed: young, energetic, friendly and musical. Oh, and did we mention that she is seeking a vocation in the **Society of St. Francis, Third Order?** There are not many Episcopal Franciscan Catholic Workers running around, and the Good Lord has blessed us with one in bud. Doesn't get any better than that. Come on over and introduce



Niambi Mercado, our new live-in volunteer.



Kay preparing chicken sandwiches.

yourself to Niambi and while you're at it, lend a hand preparing or distributing food (canned or fresh) or in Artfelt, the open art studio.

Blessings of peace and all good one and all!