

"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

August 2010

The Right Reverend
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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

The Reverend Dr.
Gerald G. Gifford,
Rector Emeritus

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Cantonese Language Priest

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Is Jesus Enough?

The Rev. David J. Gierlach

With us human beings, it's never a question of whether we will worship, we are made to worship. It's always a question of what we will worship. It's that question that got Paul writing to the Colossians, because the Colossians had their own question for Paul. He spends most of his letter to them answering that question. The question they had seems to be this: "Is Jesus enough?"

"Is Jesus enough" to get through life with? To face evil with? To raise a family with? To run a community or nation with?

"Is Jesus enough?"

The answer the Colossians came up with on their own, before hearing from Paul, was the same answer most folks come up with on their own: "No, Jesus isn't enough."

With all due respect to your faith and mine, we regularly announce, in thought word and deed that Jesus doesn't come close to being enough. We don't need to look far to make the point.

The Colossians then, like we now, were intrigued by Jesus. They admired Jesus. But they felt compelled to supplement Jesus as they faced what life threw at them. So they, like us, supplemented Jesus with armies and pension plans, with horoscopes and philosophy, with angel worship, with sex, drugs and rock and roll.

In short, whether it's "saint worship" or "celebrity worship", whether it's a handgun in the dresser drawer" or "border police to keep out the illegals", whether it's "racing up the career track" or "accumulating wealth"; all of these efforts have one thing in common: They seek ultimate safety and security and domination and the "good life" in things that have been created rather than in he who is the Creator.



And while it is true that, kept in their proper perspective, many of these things are good; because we tend to be in the worship business as human beings, we often forget a proper perspective and hoist one or more onto the altar of worship.

We don't have to look far to see examples of this all around. We live in a country that equates God with material success; that often uses God to bless our wars, our economy, our way of life. There are other people and other nations that do the very same thing. And when they do, they, like us, have traded the unpredictable, totally free, always challenging God of the Old Testament and New; well, we have traded the Living God in for a god with a small "g". A god I can control; a god who does what we want; a god who serves us instead of the other way around.

This was the reality of the community of the Colossians. This is the crisis Paul

Rector's Message, cont.

addresses today. And it is a crisis to be expected. Our trade of the Living God for the small “g” god is to be expected. It is to be expected because the life the Living God invites us to live is, at first blush, terrifying and horrifying to every piece of our being. Think about it! How did Jesus defeat the power of evil and death?

Did he call up an army? Did he assemble weapons of mass destruction? Did he protect himself and his loved ones?

We all know the answers to those questions.

Instead, “the powers of evil are defeated not by some overwhelming display of divine power, but by the weakness of Christ’s death.” [New Interpret Bible, V. XI, 628]. By all accounts, it doesn’t seem that Jesus won at all. It seems violence and death were the winners.

The gospel tells us Jesus conquered sin and conquered death. Yet, every day we see sin; we live in a world where death seems to reign supreme. So the question the Colossians had, that we have, remains:

“Is Jesus enough?”

And Paul, who would surrender his life to beheading by the Romans, provides his answer. Paul’s answer is to give again to the Colossians, to give again to us, the shocking revelation of the Gospel:

“To save your life, you must be willing to lose it.

“To be greatest of all, be the servant of all.”

“That God’s strength is made real in our weakness.”

All of this is an affront to, an assault upon, what you and I call “common sense.” One commentator puts it this way:

“The challenge issued to the readers of Colossians is one that remains for Christians today. Is this proclamation about Christ’s death a metaphor by which we are prepared to live? Do we believe that this answer to the power of evil is really sufficient? The gospel proclaims that Christ has conquered evil, yet evil still threatens and flourishes. So are additional means necessary to cope with evil? The Colossians relied on angels. Modern Christians rely on materialism,

consumerism, pragmatism, and violence, in order to live with the impact of evil on our lives and in society.” Id.

Such were the questions the Colossians put to Paul. While much has changed in 2000 years, the fundamental questions have not. Paul’s response is this: In Jesus, we have seen the fullness of God.

God the creator, not just of you and me, but of the vastness of space, the grandeur of the universe, the Creator of all that is, became one of us in Jesus in order to show us how we were always meant to live.

And where might we learn that way but in the very prayer Jesus teaches us today. “Our Father”, meaning, we are all children of one God: Black, white, Asian, of every race, every gender, every criminal, every genius, every challenged person, all saints and all sinners, children of one God.

Divisions between us that are not yet finished will be finished. Starting now.

“Your Kingdom come”.

All of our national chest thumping, our empires, our pride, all will give way. In Jesus, God’s kingdom has come near! The veil separating heaven and earth has been made thin, even pierced, as God’s kingdom pushes into and upon and over our common sense.

“Feed us today.”

Help us learn to live one day at a time. Help us to live in the moment, eat in the moment, trust in the moment.

“Forgive us as we forgive.”

May we learn that we cannot receive what we cannot give.

“Forgive us as we forgive.”

Rector's Message

"Spare us from the test."

Please.

We are each of us on a journey toward God's truth. We are each of us at different places on that journey. But wherever you are on your journey, grab hold of our free, unmanageable, uncontrollable, glorious, God, who walks us down strange paths, to see wonders we never imagined.

We can trust this God because, as Jesus explains, God is nearer to us than our next-door neighbor, more anxious to help than even a mother or father is to help their child, God is closer than your breath. God is standing right next to you.

This is Paul's answer today. It is the witness of Jesus today.

Is it enough?

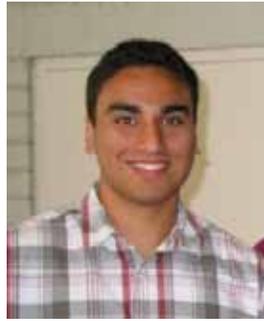
+Amen



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Expanded Food Pantry Program

by James Fitzpatrick



My name is James Fitzpatrick, and my job this summer is working as your intern at St. Elizabeth's. As your intern, I am working with the nearby Micronesian community to better understand their needs and how best we, the Parish Ohana, can work together to help each other and our neighborhood. Vestry member Ignacia Terno has volunteered her services to help me communicate and organize our efforts where

they are needed most.

A walk through our streets shows how many people in our community have inadequate food, overcrowded (or no) shelter, and poor medical attention. This reality especially impacts the children. Therefore, we are expanding our food ministry to our neighborhood.

Through the course of several meetings, Mrs. Terno and I have learned what foods are most needed, how we can effectively distribute the food and how we can work together as one congregation to help expand this vitally important ministry of our Parish. We are designing an open area so that people may come and take food as needed. In learning what foods are most appreciated, we can avoid waste.

Donations of dry foods are easiest to distribute, but refrigerated and frozen foods are important too. This program meets a critical need and your sharing in the ministry is vitally important. Thank you so very much for your participation!

List of Useful Foods:

Dry Storage Foods:

- o Rice
- o Bread
- o Flour
- o Canned Meat
- o Coffee, Tea
- o Juice
- o Cereal
- o Powdered Milk

Refrigerated/ Frozen Foods

- o Vegetables
- o Fruits
- o Milk
- o Eggs



Food
Pantry
Ministry

Monetary donations are most welcome. Please make checks payable to "St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church" and note "Food Pantry" in the memo section of the check. These donations are fully tax deductible!!!

Summer Youth Group Experience

Fr. Saimone Lino and his band of assistants ran a marvelous summer program for the youngsters in our neighborhood. They learned ukulele, planted crops, designed an up and coming St E's tee shirt logo (which they will silk screen shortly), learned traditional Micronesian carving skills, enjoyed (many for the first time ever) a movie at a real movie theater, and generally had a chance to experience things otherwise not available to them. The summer ended with a great hot dog, salad, chips and drinks barbeque organized by **Rebecca Kleinschmidt** and **James Fitzpatrick!** Our youth outreach, of course, will continue throughout the school year!



School Supplies Thanks

Gracias, merci, mahalo and thanks for your generous donation of school supplies. We were able to make over 50 bags of school supplies for the children who otherwise would be without. Thanks so much to the **Jamie Chock, Faith Chock, Sharon Oshiro, Sarah Bush, Pearl Kau, Sue Yap, Lisa-Anne Chan** and all others!!

Thank You, Steffey's!

Please welcome and thank **Rebecca and Charles Steffey**, some of our newest members at St. E's. Rebecca has been Fr. Saimone's right hand during the summer youth program, cooking with the kids, doing crafts, supervising field trips and on and on. Charles is Rebecca's husband, a master craftsman, and has done many needed repairs (for free!) at St. E's, including gluing the ceiling tiles, replacing the spotlights, and cleaning out the air conditioning vents. Thanks so much to both of them and their lovely children!!"



STE Youth Ministers: James Fitzpatrick, Sarah Kleinschmidt and Rebecca Kleinschmidt (and boyfriend)



Viliami Lino cooks burgers.

An End-of-Summer Barbecue was held on Friday, July 30th. After lunch, school supplies were handed out to all children.



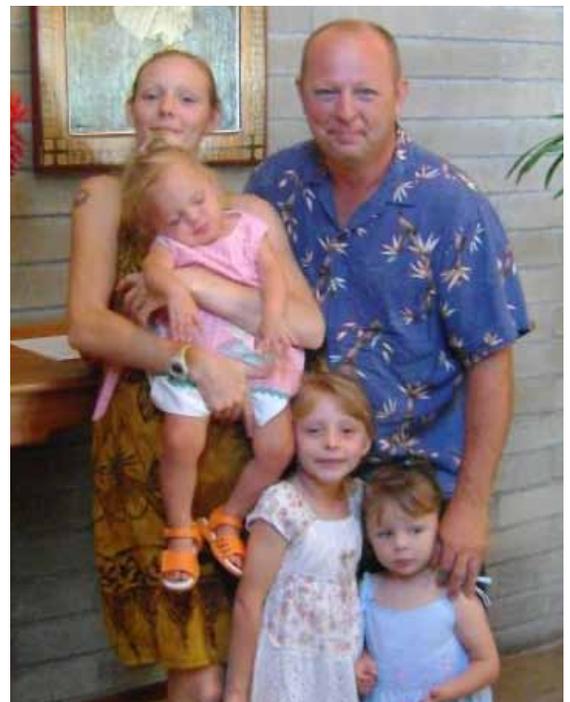
Jamie Chock and Father Saimone pass out school supplies.

Everyone formed a big circle to say grace before eating the meal.



Spaghetti Dinner Dance News

"The 3rd monthly spaghetti/dinner dance night was a wonderful success! Nearly 75 people turned out to waltz, marcarena and ooga booga the night away. The food was delicious thanks to Auntie Nancy and all the kitchen angels!! Mah jongg lessons were given and were a hit! (of course (of course) there was NO gambling.....) Folks from St E's, the neighborhood, St. John's by the sea and St Peter's all joined us for a rollicking good time. Please join us on August 27 at 6 pm for the next spaghetti dinner/dance nite!



Rebecca and Charles Steffey and family



The St. E's group enjoys a cool ice cream cone. (L-F: Sarah Bush, Jerry Bush, Laura Iwami, Pearl Kau, Faith Chock and Francis Kau).



At the gorgeous Toroko Gorge



Not only did we see a lot but we ate a lot! We savored their local cuisine at breakfast, lunch, dinner and during our visit to morning and renowned markets. It was quite an experience!

Mahalo, Ajaon, for shepherding us through your beautiful country. It was truly a wonderful, memorable trip!

Journey to Taiwan

by Pearl Kau

On June 9, 2010 six St. Elizabeth's Church members Faith Chock, Laura Iwami, Pearl and Francis Kau and Sarah and Jerry Bush left Hawaii to visit Taiwan, homeland of Ajaon Chen, our handbell choir director. It was the trip of a lifetime!

First, Ajaon drove us to visit her family who live in the mountains north of Taipei. Her parents own several white peach farms and, together with her brother, produce and sell their peaches all over the island. We were so fortunate to be able to taste their delicious fruit since it happens to be their harvesting period now.

On Sunday we attended their aborigine church service. We may not have been to understand the sermon or announcements but their music was glorious! There were 10 men and 8 women in their choir.

After church, we walked to Ajaon's parents' home for lunch which was prepared by her mother and sister. There were no less than eight different dishes!

Ajaon had arranged a 5-day tour of Taiwan for us. We experienced the diversity of Taiwan such as the beauty of Sun Moon Lake, Kaohsiung's eye-catching Dragon Tiger Tower on Lotus Pond, which is guarded by a colorful dragon entrance and tiger exit, and the majestic and awe-inspiring marble cliffs of Toroko Gorge.



The St. E's group joins in an aboriginal dance.

Some Reflections by the Finance Committee

by David Hirashiki, Treasurer and Roy Chee, Assistant Treasurer

Dear Members of St. E's,

Thanks to you all for putting your hand to the plough and working toward an increase in pledge monies that exceeds the current household pledge of \$920 per year (a per household average of \$75 per month OR \$19 per week). As you may know, our current pledge rate has us in the bottom 20% of all churches in the Diocese of Hawaii, even though we are among the largest Episcopal parishes in Hawaii.

We are grateful you are willing to raise our standing in the Diocese!

All that we have comes from God.

If you believe St. E's is doing the work of God in our worship, in our outreach, in our pastoral ministries to the sick, the elderly, and the poor, please help us to pay the dollars and cents needed to make such work possible. Again, thank you, and may God continue to bless us, to challenge us, to refine us and to make us holy.

June 2010

Total Income	\$ 22,236.08
Total Expenses	36,629.74



DEFICIT - \$ 14,393.66

Attendance

7/4	Sunday 8:15 am	119
7/4	Ilokano Service-Sun.	34
7/7	Ilokano Service-Wed.	45
7/11	Sunday 8:15 am	126
7/11	Chinese Eucharist	5
7/18	Sunday 8:15 am	151
7/18	Chinese Eucharist	7
7/25	Sunday 8:15 am	147
7/25	Chinese Eucharist	5



Happy Birthday

Renza Farek	8/2
Pablo Venenciano	8/4
Sue Yap	8/4
Nicholas Chung	8/5
Wayne Pacupac	8/6
Raymond Leong	8/8
Maxwell Starkman	8/9
Akiu Chock	8/11
David Hirashiki	8/13
Linda Woo	8/13
Elyja Badua	8/13
Man Love Sos	8/14
Etta Leong	8/15
Kenneth Ho	8/16
Simter Robert	8/16
Harold Ware	8/17
Keith Ho	8/17
Jo Ann Young	8/17
Patsy Ann Ching	8/18
Reden Ramos Ho	8/18
Douglas In	8/18
Kaitlin Nagamine	8/18
Karen Batangan	8/19
Marietta Ware	8/20
Caren Jean Esaki	8/20
Pedro Timonio	8/20
Joel Jong	8/21
Nancy Au	8/21
Francis Kau	8/21
Joshua Lino	8/22
Jeferrson Noket	8/22
Jaden Morey	8/22
Madleen Michael	8/24
Jarrett Young	8/25
Illuminada Padasdao	8/25
Inaria Repaky	8/25

God's blessings on those with August birthdays!

*Born to Eternal Life: **Tim Chong Young** passed away on July 31. Service will be Saturday, Aug. 14; 10:00 Visitation, 11:00 Service with luncheon following, Shim Hall.*



Quotable Quotes

“If you want God’s grace, all you need is need, all you need is nothing.”

Keller, Counterfeit Gods, (Dutton 2009) at 18.

“Our faith begins at the point where the atheists suppose that it must be at an end. Our faith begins with the bleakness and power which is the night of the cross, abandonment, temptation and doubt about everything that exists! Our faith must be born where it is abandoned by all tangible reality; it must be born of nothingness and be given it to taste in a way that no philosophy of nihilism can imagine.”

J. Moltmann, The Crucified God, (Fortress Press, 1974)



HCAP Update

It is full steam ahead with HCAPs lease of a portion of our Youth Center. The Standing Committee of the Diocese gave their blessing to the project. Improvements will start in early August and finish by the end of September. A 20-25 computer station in one end of the youth center and a music recording sound studio on the other end. This is a great example of community groups pooling resources for the greater good. Thanks, people of St. E’s, for your vision and generosity!!



Terrific Tongan Choir



Here is the lovely and lovely sounding Tongan choir who enriches our worship on the last Sunday of every month.

A Certain Wise Man

What’s the first thing you notice about him? His big belly? His slipper-clad feet? His white hair?

maybe.

But for me it’s his smile. Toothless because of a life in poverty. Toothless, but warm, and more.

Endearing is closer to the mark. And sparkling. Life is celebrated in that smile.

I love his smile.

A life of struggle has been his...
Poor in youth
Collecting garbage as a man...
Robbed of a pension from a lousy friend’s lousy loan
(which he co-signed).

The struggle bore fruit in time.
While some turned bitter and mean
He sparkled - and became a fighter.
Not for himself you understand

For others.

For others he fought
For good housing and a decent life
He fought (and fights) for decency.

The smile sparkles
The love blossoms out.

In this simple man
God comes alive.

In this man with little “education”
Jesus walks the earth again:

In his smile
In his struggle

In his life.

I love his smile.

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The Growing Garden

The community garden continues to charm and feed us. Radishes, tomatoes, onions, green peppers and an assortment of herbs add a delicious taste and smell to our downtown parish. Come by and stick a seed in the ground!! Coming attractions are papaya, sweet potato and more Manoa lettuce (planted by our youth group).

Dreams for Healing



The dates for **Fran Kramer's** *Dreams for Healing* seminar have now been scheduled for Fridays at Shim Hall:

August 6, 13 and 20
from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Call Fran at 457-9753 for more information. All are welcome!

Reminder: Scholarships!

Applications for Scholarships for the year 2010-2011 are due on August 15. Please see **Patsy Ching** or the office for an application.



Simplisity featuring Andy Sexton



Saturday, August 7
4:00 pm
Tickets, \$10 at the door

Simplisity is a multi-instrumental and vocal group that has played in Hawaii for over 30 years. Invite your friends for an afternoon of Jawaiian music!