

*'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

**December  
2009**

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 Saimone Lino,  
Diocesan Missioner

The Reverend Dr.  
Gerald G. Gifford.  
Rector Emeritus

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

Hsiao Ying "Ajaon" Chen  
Music Director

Marie Wang  
Organist

Katherine Crosier  
Parish Administrator  
Graphic Design  
Music Consultant

Arleen Young  
Senior Warden

Mark Anderson  
Junior Warden

Preston Lentz  
Secretary / Clerk

Bill Eng, Treasurer

Website:  
[www.stelizabeth720.org](http://www.stelizabeth720.org)

Email:  
[stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com)

## From Father David

Advent is a season that may leave you feeling, if you really get into it, like silly putty. Advent is one of those push and pull seasons. Pushing us to look to the sky for that marvelous day when the Lord returns, to make all creation new, to make obvious the all too often hidden Kingdom of God. Pushing us, yes, but also,

Pulling us back to recall and celebrate the cold morning in a barn where this God who created the cosmos, the galaxies, our sun and earth, chose to be born an infant to an unwed teenager; so to save us from our own best thinking, so to teach us what it means to be the human beings God intended us to be. Push and pull.

Yet in the longing for the future, and in the remembrance of the past, what this season truly calls us to is to look urgently at our life as it is, right here, right now. Today, Jesus walks among us, just as he said he would. He walks among us in the nobodies

of the world, in the invisible poor, in the homebound, in the elderly, in the children...

Advent is a season that calls us back to live, right here, in the now.

NOW is when I may see the risen Lord standing right next to me. NOW is when I might be the hands of the risen Lord to a brother or sister in need. NOW is the time to gather two or more and sit quietly in His presence.

NOW is the time to let go of guilt or shame or hurt that holds me back from reaching out in love to those sitting right next to me. NOW is the time to say "sorry". NOW is the time to turn around. NOW is the time to give generously. NOW is when life happens. NOW is the time of Advent. NOW, the suffering king, robed in purple, says to us all: "Follow me!" NOW.

david+



## Christmas Services

### Christmas Eve

Dec. 24th, 9:30 pm. Special Christmas music by the Sunday School, Handbell Choir, and organists Marie Wang and Joshua Yuen-Schat.

Dec. 24th, 10:00 pm, Festival Holy Eucharist

### Christmas Day

Dec. 25th, 9:00 am Festival Holy Eucharist

### Christmas I

Dec. 27th, 8:15 am Holy Eucharist

Please invite your friends to join us in the worship of the newborn King.



# Parish Work Day and Children's Christmas Party

**Parish Work Day, Saturday, December 12th, 9:00 am.** We will clean up Shim Hall for the Children's Christmas party which will be held on the following Saturday. All are welcome to wrap presents for our Children's Christmas party. Please signup on the sheet for refreshments.

**Neighborhood Children's Christmas Party, Saturday, Dec. 19th, 1:00 pm.** Mark your calendars now for this annual St. Elizabeth's tradition. Please signup on the sheet for refreshments. Santa will be here!

## Out of the mouths of God's kids

My five-year-old granddaughter looked at her presents on Christmas morning, and said to her parents, 'Santa was just kidding about being naughty. I was naughty this year and he brought me everything.'

—Charles Garrett Fort Gaines, Georgia

In mid-December, a boy in kindergarten at a church school came home and asked his father, "What is buffalo ham?"

The father patiently explained to him the difference between beef and pork. After his explanation, the boy asked, "Why did my religion teacher tell me that is where Jesus was born?"

—Smiley Anders, columnist  
Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate

A six-year-old boy came home from a church school and asked his mother if it was all right to ask God to help him.

"Of course," she replied. "Is there something worrying you?"

"No," he said, "but at school today my teacher said that if I interrupted her one more time, 'May God help you.'"

## Attendance

11/1	Sunday 8:15 am	150
11/1	Ilokano - Sunday	79
11/8	Ilokano - Wednesday	23
11/15	Sunday 8:15 am	115
11/22	Sunday 8:15 am	135
11/25	Thanksgiving	92
11/29	Sunday 8:15 am	132
	Cantonese - average	4

# Surprise, surprise!

Imagine Parish Administrator **Kathy Crosier's** surprise when she happened upon **Doug Ing** in the Seattle-Tacoma airport in November! She and husband Carl traveled to Seattle to cook a special 85th birthday dinner for friend and music publishing business partner, **Peter Hallock**. Dr. Hallock was for 40 years the music director of St. Mark's (Episcopal) Cathedral, Seattle. Hallock is considered the "Dean" of Episcopal church music composition in America and has a number of compositions in the Episcopal *Hymnal 1982*. Kathy and Carl also attended a concert of Hallock's compositions at St. Mark's while on their trip.

**Doug Ing** was on his way to have Thanksgiving with a cousin in Los Angeles. Thanks again to Doug for his generous donation of a new computer for the St. E's office.

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"He said, 'Listen up, you shepherds! THIS you GOTTA see!'"

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*  
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# St. Elizabeth's New Youth Center



Over 35 of the Youth of St. Elizabeth's gathered for fellowship in the new Youth Center located in Shim Hall on the Friday after Thanksgiving, and a few are shown here with the new ping-pong table purchased from the Florence Yap Tyau Memorial Fund.

Of course, there is always food and fellowship at St. Elizabeth's! Thanks to Father David Gierlach and Father Saimone Lino for not only providing games for a fun evening, but food too!



A youngster checks out the new Bow-Flex in the new Youth Center. Sports equipment including two new basketball back stops were purchased with funds from the Florence Yap Tyau Memorial Fund.

*Thanks to Tom Ishida for taking all these great pictures!*



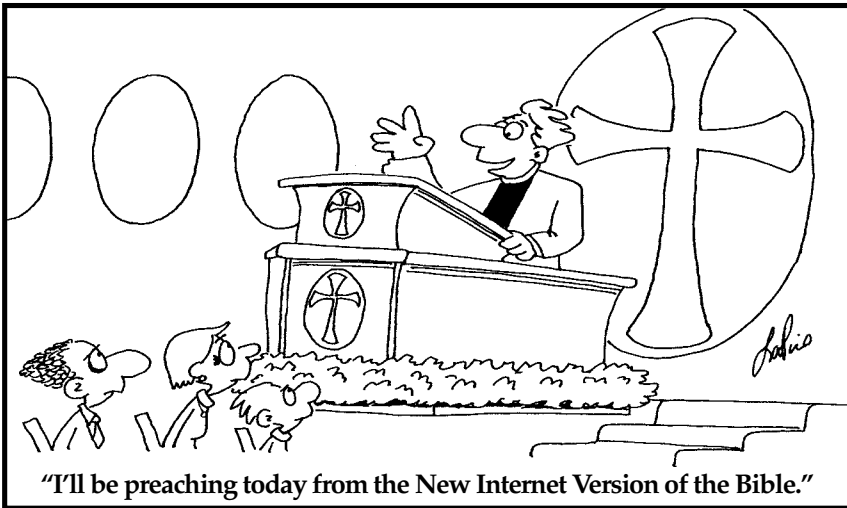
## Heifer Project

Children will launch their 'Arks' for Heifer International who provides dozens of different species of animals — from ducks and camels to llamas and geese — to people around the world.



Please share your loose change each Sunday in Advent and help bring the gift of hope to families around the world. Just as Noah was called to care for those on the ark, the children are learning the story of Noah and the animals and the promise of the rainbow.

We will conclude the Fill the Ark project with a celebration of Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, December 27, 2009. Please consider bringing your pet to church for a special blessing this Christmas season.



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## Happy Birthday

Jeffrey Starkman	12/01
Cheryl Mitsuka	12/02
Gillian Batangan	12/02
Peter Fan	12/03
Christopher Lau	12/10
Jonathan Lau	12/18
Carla Pacupac	12/19
Kaylen Hayashi	12/20
Susan Won	12/22
Delphine She	12/23
Gelacio Timonio	12/28
Lauren Zane	12/28
Rally Muludy	12/29
Aaron Arakawa	12/30
Mako Ichy	12/30
Mildred Goo	12/31
Otega White	12/31

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



St. Elizabeth's Handbell Choir rehearses in preparation for the upcoming holiday services.

## Humor for the hard times

The pastor's family was given a mince pie for Christmas by a devoted parishioner who was a poor cook. The pie was dry and overspiced and had to be thrown out.

Faced with being truthful and thanking the kind-hearted lady, the pastor finally said, "We appreciated your gift, and let me assure you that a mince pie like yours does not last long at our house."

—Jim Reed  
 Cotter, AR



Father. David Gierlach celebrates Holy Communion with Father Saimone Lino and Mother Imelda Padasdao.

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010**



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## First Communion Class



Father David Gierlach holds class for children preparing for their First Communion on Sunday, December 6th: **Nakayama Michael, Madleen Michael, Daniel Yuen-Schat and Vatrina Asarin.**



As is the tradition at St. Elizabeth's on Thanksgiving, Dr. Gerald Gifford preached the sermon. The altar was decorated beautifully with fruits and vegetables and then donated to the needy after the service.

## Christmas gift suggestions

For your enemies – forgiveness.  
For a friend – your heart.  
For family – your love and caring. For all – charity.  
For every child – a good example. For yourself – respect.  
—via Rev. Sam Laswell, Korean Presbyterian Church Redford, MI

## Born to Eternal Life

We give thanks for the life of **Elizabeth Wong**, who was born to eternal life on November 29.

A memorial service will be held at St. Elizabeth's on Friday, December 18. Visitation will be from 9:00 to 10:30, and the memorial eucharist will be held at 10:30.

*I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life . . . and shall not die for ever.*



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*A House of Prayer for all People*

Return service requested

### Poinsettia Donations Needed

Donations will be gladly accepted for purchasing poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas. You may purchase poinsettias in memory or in honor of a loved one.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of poinsettias @ \$8.50 each \_\_\_\_\_

In memory / honor of (please circle) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## End of Year Gifts

Please ensure that all your end-of-year gifts to St. Elizabeth's are sent in by the last Sunday of the year (December 27th) in order to be counted properly for the year 2009.

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Oh, boy! Does this mean we don't have to be good anymore?"

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