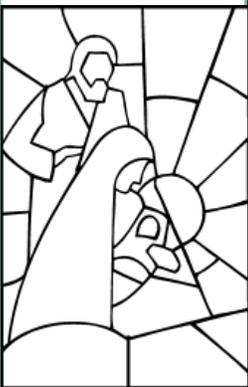


"I am the vine, you are the branches; abide in me and you will bear much fruit." John 15:5



Vine & Branches

News from St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 720 N. King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817



**December
2005**

*The Right Reverend
Richard S. O. Chang,
Bishop*

*The Reverend
Jodene S. Hawkins,
Priest-in-Charge*

*The Reverend Dr.
Gerald G Gifford
Rector Emeritus*

*The Reverend
Peter S. M. Fan,
Chinese Language
Priest*

*Mrs. Susan Duprey
Choir Director*

*Mrs. Marie Wang
Organist*

*Katherine Crosier
Parish Administrator
Graphic Design*

*Stuart Ching
Senior Warden*

*Harold Ware
Junior Warden*

*Caren-Jean Esaki
Secretary*

Lowell Ing, Treasurer

Sue Yap, Contributor

*www.
stelizabeth720.org*

From Mother Jodene

A blessed Christmastide to all,

Christmas brings memories which warm the heart and connect us with all whom we love in this life and those whom we love who have gone before. We talk story and tell stories, 'round Christmas trees, 'round festive tables and 'round yon Virgin Mother and Child beside Christmas crèches. There's a story that's told about a little four year old girl named Nancy. Her parents told her the Bible story about Jesus so that she would understand the real meaning of Christmas. Nancy's Christmas was filled with lots of presents and toys. A few days later Nancy told her older sister how happy she was at Christmas and then added, "I sure hope that Joseph and Mary have another baby." (from the Joyful Noiseletter)

Carl Sandburg wrote, "A baby is God's opinion that life should go on. Never will a time come when the most marvelous recent invention will be as marvelous as a newborn baby." Never will a time come when the most marvelous thing any of us can imagine will be able to hold a candle to the coming of that Child of the Most High in Bethlehem. Wise men with all their learning and wealth would never be the same after that starry night. Ordinary working folk like the shepherds would never be the same after that starry, starry night. Even the angels sang in awe. And you and I, after we peek into that silent stable through the window of the story that changed the ages, can never be the same. Jesus is God's opinion that the world should go on. Jesus is God's opinion that though there is darkness in this world, that the light of Christ shall overcome it. Jesus is God's opinion that God's amazing grace will lead each of us safely home.

Please join your St. Elizabeth's church family as we begin our celebration of Christmas on Christmas Eve with carols and special music at 9:30 pm. Festival

Holy Communion with candlelight, carols and bells at 10:00 pm. Please greet family and friends following the service at our reception with delicious delicacies. On Christmas Day we continue our celebration of Christmas with Holy Communion and carols at 9:00 am.



Kit and I wish you and your families near and far a most blessed and Holy Christmas filled with joy and memories that gladden your hearts. For each and everyone, like little four year old Nancy's hope, I pray that the precious child of Bethlehem, Jesus the Christ will be born again into your life.

May God's Holy Blessing be upon you and those whom you love,

Mother Jodene +



Christmas Eve Service
Saturday, December 24
9:30 pm. Carol and special music
10:00 pm, Festival Holy Communion
carols and bells. Christmas
refreshments and fellowship to
follow.

Christmas Day Service
Sunday, 9:00 am
December 25

New Year's Day
Sunday, 9:00 am
January 1, 2006

Lighting the Advent Candle



During Advent, the children participate in the worship service, reading a prayer and lighting a candle on the Advent wreath.

Christmas at St. Elizabeth's



Bell Angels Crafting Day. Sunday, December 11th from 9:30 to 10:30 am at church. Jingle bell angels were a sellout at our craft table at the concert. They make perfect tree ornaments and gifts. Age 10 and above are invited to join in a crafting session. Supplies provided (very inexpensive). If you have a wire cutter, long nose pliers or a glue gun, please bring. Please sign up on sheet at back of church.

Holiday Happenings. No one cooks! Everyone enjoys! Women's Christmas Fellowship lunch on Wednesday, Dec. 14th, 12 Noon. Buffet 100, Ward Warehouse, free parking. Bring a friend or family member. Please sign up and make checks payable to St. Elizabeth's. \$10.00, \$8.75 senior discount price. Both include lunch, tax and tip.



Christmas Party for Neighborhood Children, Saturday, Dec. 17, 1:00 pm. To introduce our Children's Outreach Center to the neighborhood and to spread some Christmas cheer, we will host a Christmas Party. We have donations in hand to help pay for this. Would you like to help? Serve refreshments, make refreshments, wrap small Christmas presents, help shop for gifts, set up the Christmas tree? Or make a donation? Sign up at church or phone the office.

United Thank Offering



Aloha, Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On behalf of the United Thank Offering Committee, I wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your 2005 contribution in the amount of \$407.24. Every single penny from this total amount is used to support grants at home and overseas as an outreach of the Episcopal Church. Know that your prayers and offerings make it possible for the UTO mission to stretch in unexpected ways.

In Christ,
Louise Aloy
UTO Coordinator
Diocese of Hawaii

UTO Prayer: *Heavenly Father, source of all creation, all love, and all true joy: accept, we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of United Thank Offering; and keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way; through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

.....
: Sign outside a church: :
: "The original Christmas Club" :
:.....

"Miracles are marvels
that defy all explanation
And Christmas is a miracle,
Not just a celebration."

Helen Steiner Rice



The sounds of happy children's voices fill the air from the Hale Lokahi public charter school which meets in our Education Building during the week.

Pledge Commitment Cards for 2006

are still welcome. Please turn in your pledge cards as soon as possible so that we may thoughtfully plan for our 2006 budget.



165 folks enjoyed the music of George Kahumoku Jr. and Daniel Ho at their St. Elizabeth's concert, November 26th.

Koaloha's Uke a Show Stopper!

Daniel Ho & George Kahumoku, Jr. Wow the Crowds!

To a crowd of over 160 people the slack key sounds of George Kahumoku and Daniel Ho's Nahoku HanoHano award winning songs and Hawaiian hymns delighted everyone.

Lush Hawaiian flower arrangements added stunning beauty to our already beautiful church.

One of the benefits of hosting artists in our church is that we get the up front close and personal touch of talking story and receiving autographs from the artists following the concert.

We thank Koaloha Ukelele for their donation of a handmade ukulele which raised \$515 for our Children's Outreach Center. We thank Raymond Siu of 99 Ranch and Pahke's Restaurant for his donation of breads and Christmas goodies. We thank the women of St. Elizabeth's for their donations of baked goods and craft items. The craft and bake sale raised \$755. We also thank the Woo Family Charitable Foundation, Inc. and the Robert J. Morgado Family Charitable Trust, Inc. for their support of this outreach concert for our neighborhood.

Urban Garden Center Review

The verdict is in! All 23 parishioners and friends agreed that the fun-filled field trip was a huge success! The grand tour was conducted by recently retired Facilities Director, Dale Sato, on Thursday afternoon, November 3rd in Pearl City. Congratulations, Dale, upon your retirement and sincere thanks for accommodating us.

Upon our arrival, cosmos, colorful marigolds and chrysanthemums in the height of their glory were specially planted for our viewing pleasure. Clusters of crown-of-thorns in various shades of pink outlined the Sun Dial garden. A turtle-shaped (*honua*) rock garden is still evolving.

An extensive collection of plumeria trees and over 200 varieties of hibiscus dotted the landscape.

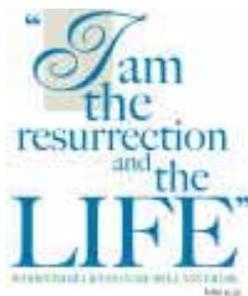
The multifaceted Children's Garden featured ingredients used in pizza toppings. Oregano, tomato, pepperoni disks and yellow daisies to denote cheese were grown in pie-shaped wedges. A crawl-through tunnel designed for children remains a favorite interactive experience.

The Animal Garden included shrubs and trees shaped like animals. Appropriately, these plants were identified as Butterfly Pez, Mickey Mouse, Hog Plum, Cat Whiskers, Rattle Snake, Horsetail, Lobster Crawl, Bee Hive, Shrimp Plant and Crawling Fig.

Adjacent to the Children's Garden were plants symbolizing various rooms that comprise a home. The carport contained a washboard plant, wax fig, and umbrella plant. Found in the Living Room were a Geometry Tree, Lantern Ilima, Goza (Japanese mat) plant. The Bathroom housed a Royal Flush Tomato Vine, Shaving Branch Trees, Shampoo Ginger, Shower Tree and Hair Plant. Not to be excluded, the Kitchen was stocked with a beefsteak plant, cup and saucer, and butter brush shrub.

Highlighting the 1-1/2 hour walking tour was a visit to the fruit-laden orchard. Please be advised that the 30-acre facility next to Home Depot is open to the public, Monday through Friday. Volunteers are needed to help maintain the facility and are cordially invited to apply for a position.

by Nancy Shim Au



Our sympathies

to the family of Janice Kwai King Ling, who entered eternal life on November 9, 2005. Janice survived her beloved Stephen who passed away February 14, 2005. She was the mother of four children: Stephanie, Dennis, Byron and Melvin.

Ragdolls2Love Thank you!

Thank you all who are continuing the Ragdolls 2 Love project with your support, prayers, and ragdolls. Our latest ragdolls blessed at St. Elizabeth's were lovingly made by the women of St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Sue Jean Chun and her family and Nora Kurosu. They have been sent to Iraq and Wyoming.

Ragdolls have also been sent from Wyoming to Calcutta Women's Center and to World Vision in Zambia. More ragdolls will soon be on their way to the Aids Orphanage in South Africa.

And to think, it was just 2 years ago when Mary Page Jones came to Hawaii with Bishop Bob, walked in to our Sunday School class on the first Sunday in advent ... met with the teachers and children sharing her ideas about reaching out to children ravaged by war ... cutting out patterns and fabric to start the Ragdolls 2 Love project at St. Elizabeth's Church! And as we know, our first ragdolls were sent as ambassadors of peace to Gaza, since then, there have been many more participating in this project and over 12,000 ragdolls have been sent to all corners of the globe and even to our own children in New Orleans!

From St. Elizabeth's . . .



Here is Nora Kurosu, surrounded by these soft ambassadors of love.

to Iraq!



These Iraqi children live in Mosul and are enjoying RagDolls from St. Elizabeth's, Honolulu!



Reflections of the Senior Warden

This is the time of thanksgiving when we reflect upon the many blessings we have received over the past year. Two people that have been a godsend to this parish and for whom I am most thankful are Mother Jodene, our priest-in-charge, and Kathy Crosier, our parish administrator.

Through her boundless energy and enthusiasm, Mother Jodene has invigorated this parish and pushed us to do great things. Since her coming, we have seen an increase in Sunday attendance, and have experienced a renewed commitment, on the part of our parishioners, to our church and community.

We could not have asked for a better parish administrator than Kathy Crosier. She is diligent, efficient and organized. Her mastery of the computer has organized our financial recording systems and brought this parish into the 21st century with our very own web site.

Before closing, I am also thankful for all of you who helped to make our recent concert, featuring George Kahumoku, Jr. and Daniel Ho, a success. Your donations of flowers, baked goods, handcrafted items as well as your time in making signs, serving refreshments, taking photographs, and welcoming our guests are most appreciated. It is through your efforts that St. Elizabeth's is now a happening place and the place to be.

With sincere appreciation and aloha,

Stuart W. H. Ching

Average Church Attendance November 2005

8:15 am service	104
Thanksgiving Day	104
Chinese ministry	6

Vestry Meeting

Sunday, December 18th following worship.

A NOTE OF



Dear St. Elizabeth's:

Mahalo for your contribution to the Mission Fund 2005. Through the generosity of congregations like yours, the Diocese donated over \$40,000 to nine food programs serving more than 1000 people. Every recipient organization nominated received funds. Each island had at least one recipient. They are grateful. The justice, peace and partnerships appreciate your effort. Thank you.

Cecilia Fordham,
Coordinator

Congratulations

Congratulations to Gilbert and Karen Batangan on the birth of their son, Kolby Yoshiro, born October 18.



Baptized on October 23rd was Kai William Hiro Blaisdell-Higa, born on December 9th. His parents are Chris Hiroaki Higa and Tracy Kaleolani Blaisdell. Grandparents are William and Rowena Blaisdell.

Kudos to Francis Kau

for being the recipient of a *Kupuna Award* of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii in 2005. The *Kupuna Award* is presented to senior lay or clergy members of our Diocese who have exercised outstanding servanthood ministries in the Church and the world. Francis received his award at the annual luncheon meeting of the Episcopal Church Women on October 22nd, 2005.



New Allen Organ on Order

As many of you know, St. Elizabeth's present organ is 33 years old and is in critical need of replacement.

The Vestry has ordered a 50-stop Allen organ which will be arriving in the spring.

Your financial support and gifts are requested. Your donation may be designated as a memorial in the name of your loved one. The name of your loved one, or your own name as a supporting donor, will be placed on a plaque. You may call the office for a donation form.

You can tell it's the Christmas season by the traditional greeting that shoppers give each other in the mall— 'I think I was next.'

Noah's Ark Sunday, November 13



Mother Jodene blesses Boo the kitty.



Susan Duprey and her golden retrievers.



Lisa-Anne Chan holds her pet pig, Maile.

Annual Meeting
January 22, 2006
after the 8:15 am service

Have you checked our website?

Our very own website, www.stelizabeth720.org, keeps friends and relatives, near and far, up to date with the news from St. Elizabeth's. You are invited to check it often for updates.

December Birthdays

Jeffrey Starkman	12/1
Gillian Batangan	12/2
Cheryl Mitsuka	12/2
Peter Fan	12/3
Christopher Lau	12/10
Jonathan Lau	12/18
Carla Pacupac	12/19
Kaylen Hayashi	12/20
Susan Won	12/22
Christine Ling	12/24
Barry Zane	12/28
Aaron Arakawa	12/30
Millie Goo	12/31



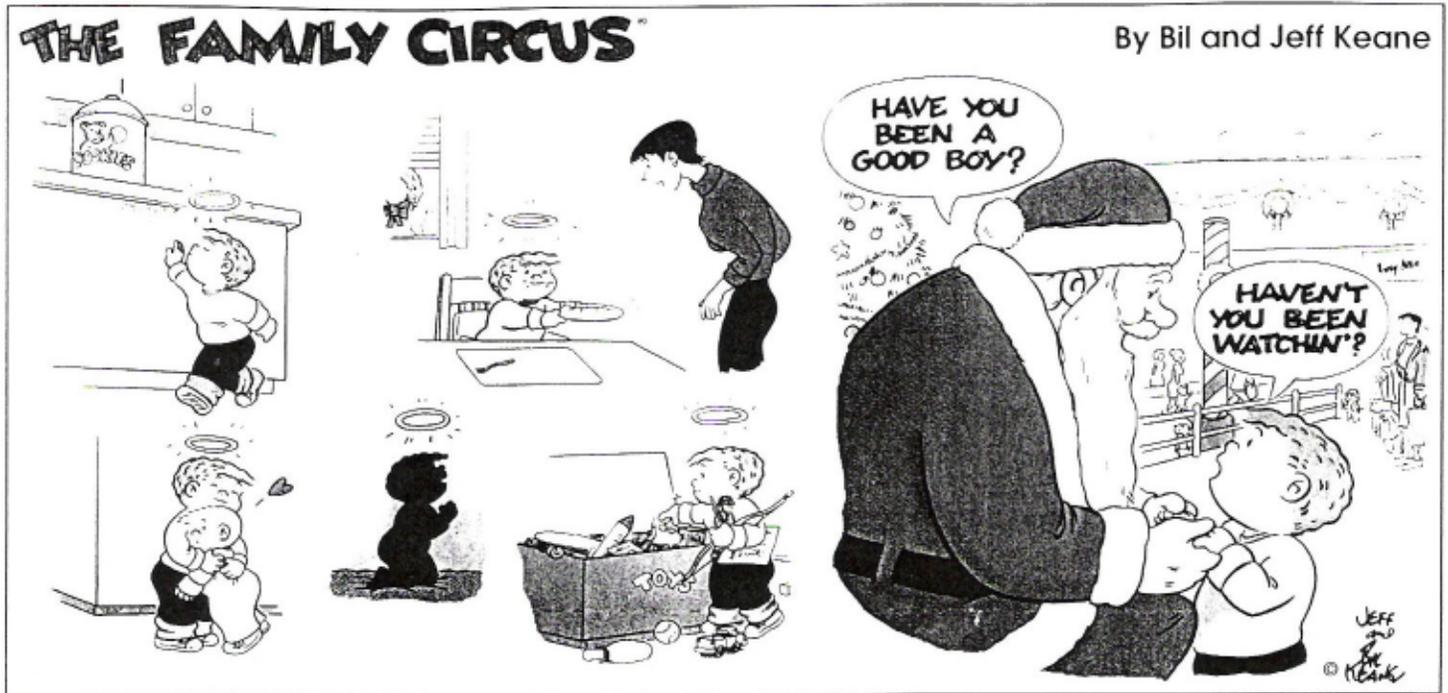
Sunday School News...

From Aaron Loo and the Children of the Rainbow music, to the Noah's Ark Sunday on November 13 with our pets, we are now in Advent and looking forward to Christmas.

During Advent, the children participate in the worship service, reading a prayer and lighting a candle on the advent wreath. After the candle is lit, they are dismissed to classes.

Thank you to all who participated in the Noah's Ark Sunday and brought your pets to the altar for a blessing.

Sunday School will be in holiday recess on December 25, and January 1 - classes to resume on January 8th, 2006.



from *The Joyful Noiseletter* Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane ©Bil Keane



St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
720 N. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

A House of Prayer for all People

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