

"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



ADVENT
December
2006

The Right Reverend
Richard S. O. Chang,
Bishop

The Reverend
Jodene S. Hawkins,
Rector

The Reverend Dr.
Gerald G. Gifford,
Rector Emeritus

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

The Reverend
David J. Gierlach
Deacon

Hsiao Ying "Ajaon" Chen
Ringers and Singers
Conductor

Marie Wang
Organist

Katherine Crosier,
Parish Administrator
Graphic Design

Stuart Ching,
Senior Warden

Francis Kau,
Junior Warden

Caren-Jean Esaki,
Secretary

Bill Eng, Treasurer

Sue Yap, Contributor

Website:
www.stelizabeth720.org

From Mother Jodene

Aloha Beloved in Christ,

It is nearly the day we gather with friends, family members and diocesan family in a Celebration of New Ministry with our Bishop Chang and our Bishop-Elect Canon Robert Fitzpatrick. There is an amazing amount of planning and preparation that is going on behind the scenes to create a memorable event to celebrate this important time of new beginnings in the life of St. Elizabeth's. Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche and one of my most admired theologians, writes



"celebration is at the heart of community....a festival is a sign of heaven (and) a sign of the resurrection." (*Community and Growth*). When we read the gospels we find that Jesus often showed up at celebrations and told stories about celebrations. His first miracle was at a wedding in Cana in Galilee. There Jesus turned a dismal disaster of 'not enough' into cups running over with joy by turning water into wine. Jesus told his disciples a story about a prodigal son who returned home, and a father who had servants kill a fatted calf to eat and make merry, for the son who was dead was alive and the lost son had been found. We read in the Bible that heaven is described as a wedding feast and a heavenly banquet. Our celebration marks a special time when our cup runneth over with our joy in God's goodness to us and marks a time when our cup runneth over with our joy in belonging to each other. It is a time to feast and make merry as signs of our new beginning. You have my

heartfelt gratitude to God for your desire to call me to serve among you as your priest and pastor.

With the joy of celebration that we share,

Mother Jodene +

The Prince of Peace

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas and the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, may this prayer from our Prayer Book help bring the peace we all yearn for in our world.

Almighty God, kindle we pray thee, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility thy dominion may increase till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer page 207

The vestry and congregation of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church request the honour of your presence at a Celebration of New Ministry and the installation of the Reverend Jodene S. Hawkins as rector Sunday, the third of December two thousand and six at four o'clock in the afternoon St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church 720 North King Street Honolulu, Hawai'i

Reception immediately following ceremony Clergy Red Stoles

All are invited to wear red for this festive occasion



Elizabeth Wong carries on her legacy of teaching children. Elizabeth is our eldest volunteer for our Children's Reading Program.

Making Music at Children's Outreach Center

Thanks to a grant from the Episcopal Church Women our Wednesday Children's Outreach Program now helps needy neighborhood children learn to play musical instruments. The children eagerly await Ms. Ajaon who brings the Orff percussion instruments like metallophones, wooden xylophones, tambourines and other percussion instruments.



From Deacon David Gierlach

I wish to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to minister in your midst. It hardly seems possible that 3 months are nearly complete! Mother Jodene has graciously had me lead the Wednesday healing service (up to the eucharist) as well as the Bible study. I have truly enjoyed exercising that liturgical ministry with you.

The Wednesday reading program not only continues to go well, but has been expanded to include a music program for third graders and up, courtesy of Ajaon Chen. She has a remarkable gift with children. I think this program will be a real winner with the children.

Thank you too to those who have agreed to serve as my mentorship committee during this period of training and discernment for the priesthood. We are, each of us, part of the priesthood of all believers. Your input and advice are very helpful to me as I continue this journey of vocation.

Finally, as you may have noticed, we have started more on the job training with our acolytes during Sunday service. If any of you would like to serve as an acolyte, please let me know (age is no barrier!)

May each of you be at peace.

Aloha, David

The offering at our Celebration of New Ministry will go to the St. Elizabeth's Pastoral Discretionary Fund and to the Children's Outreach Center.



Born to Eternal Life

Joseph Suzuki, November 17, 2006
Our prayers and sympathies go the Suzuki family.
A memorial service has been held.

Kaumakapili Sunday School Children

give pennies to help St. Elizabeth's Outreach Reading Program

The clink, clink, clink of copper pennies dropped in Kaumakapili children's offering boxes added up to a generous donation of \$176 to buy books for St. E's outreach reading program. Children helping children. Neighbor helping neighbors. Love and sharing. Isn't that what Jesus' teachings are about? Mahalo to Kaumakapili Children and Education Director Momi Maunakea! Our reading program will have the new books just in time for Christmas storytelling. The neighborhood children love books. Even while they are being read to, many children happily clutch books in their laps and hands. Isn't it a blessing that the love of books and reading is being instilled in these children's lives?

Humor Pew

The dollar doesn't go far these days. But what it lacks in distance, it makes up in speed.

The nicest part of living on an island is when I don't know what I'm doing, I don't have to worry, because someone else does.



Glory to God in the highest and on earth Peace

Christmas 2007

Aloha, Beloved in Christ.

This Christmas greeting comes with Kit's and my prayers and wishes for you and your families to experience God's abundant blessings and joy this Holy Season. Our loved ones may be near or be separated by miles or eternity, however my prayer is that the love of Jesus, born in Bethlehem will enfold each of you and your loved ones with the peace of God which passes all understanding. I look forward to being together with you and your family as we celebrate the birth of our Savior together.

*"Jesus star was bright enough to pierce the darkness of his day.
Our day is dark enough to need the brightness of his star."*

Melvin E. Wheatley, Jr.

"We have seen his star....and have come to worship him." Matthew 2.2

Sunday, December 24th 8:15 am Advent Holy Communion

9:30 am Help Decorate the Church for Christmas Services

Festival Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Sunday Night December 24

9:30 pm Harpist Melody Lindsay

Soprano Ajaon Chen

10:00 pm Festival Holy Communion with organ and

English Handbells

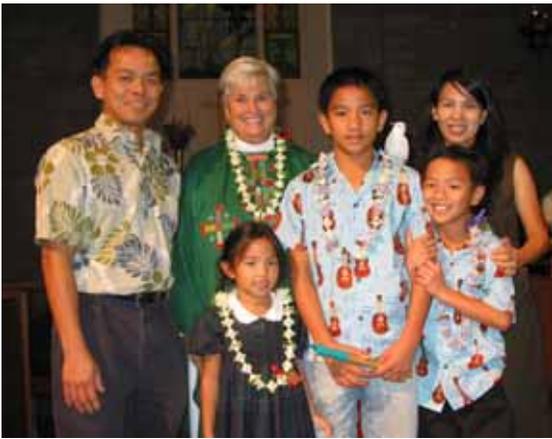
Reception Follows in Shim Hall

Festival Christmas Holy Communion, Monday, December 25th 9:00 am

Sunday, December 31 Lessons, Carols and Holy Communion 8:15 am

The Reverend Jodene S. Hawkins, *Rector*

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The Sounds of Music at St. E's

'Do you hear what I hear?'

Ajaon Chen and husband, Dr. Zen Yuen-Schat,

with children Daniel, Joshua and Naomi made their musical debut and brought down the house at St. Elizabeth's on November 12th.

The piece was *A Simple Melody* played with recorders and percussion from our new Orff percussion instruments.

In the Spirit of Christmas

Christmas Present Wrapping Party

Sunday December 10th after church.

Join us in wrapping gifts for our Neighborhood Children's Christmas Party.

Christmas Presents for Neighborhood Children thanks to Episcopal Church Women

The Social Concerns Committee of the Episcopal Churchwomen awarded St. Elizabeth's \$500 to provide new Christmas gifts for needy neighborhood children here in Palama at our annual Children's Christmas Party at 1:00 pm on December 16th. Mahalo and God bless the generosity of women throughout the diocese. Last year at the Christmas party about 75 children received beautifully wrapped gifts from Santa's elves (aka St. Elizabeth's church members). This year we expect even more children to come to be touched by the spirit of the Christ Child in this giving of gifts. If you would like to help wrap gifts, our wrapping party will be held Sunday, Dec. 10 at 9:30 am in Shim Hall.



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Her true love sure gave her a bunch of weird presents."

Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane

Patience is the ability to keep your motor idling when you feel like stripping the gears.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 21
9:30 am



Christmas Music for the Young and Young at Heart

"Nutcracker Nuts"

Saturday December 15th

Time: 12:00 pm

Performed by Melody Lindsay and Christopher Lindsay

Invite your friends and family members to this delightful telling of the Christmas story, Christmas carols from around the world and fun for all ages at St. Elizabeth's Church. Harpist Melody Lindsay will perform a variety of Christmas music, along with dances from Tschaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* with brother, Christopher, in an array of costumes.

At 1:00 pm our Neighborhood Children's Christmas Party with Santa Claus and presents for the children will follow in our Children's Outreach Center

There is no admission charge. This music program is a gift from the Lindsay family to our church family in thanksgiving for our outreach ministry to our Palama neighborhood children.



Melody and Christopher Lindsay during a rehearsal of the Lindsay family production of "Nutcracker Nuts."

Ragdolls 2 Love Update...

Thank you to all who continue to reach out to the children in war torn areas. The latest email we received is from a young Sgt. who graduated from St. Louis High School, now with the Strykers in Mosul! His note of thanks...

"Well things are moving along and at some point we will move to Baghdad. The dolls are a big hit with the kids. I have given out half and will pass out the rest before we go to Baghdad. Thank everyone involved in the program for us. As I was told by some of the Men here "we make their whole year" when they receive a doll. Small thing but most of these kids have nothing of their own. Their smiles are the best thing. I will send more pictures when I can."



Nancy Shim-Au and Pearl Kau are shown with some of the three bags of RagDolls which were made by the Pali Seniors.

The Pali Seniors should recognize the ragdoll in the hands of the little girl!



Lisa Anne Mitsuka Chan's bird, Samie, came up for a blessing.

Sunday School News ...

Noah's Ark Sunday ... and they came two by two—2 birds, Samie and Fluffy, yellow and green Samie owned by Lisa Anne Mitsuka Chan, and white Fluffy, owned by Ajaon's children!

Also coming up for blessings was Millie the chinchilla and Patches the spotted white dog—2 pets owned by the Kleinschmidt family. Of course, 'Boo', the cat was on her best behavior and still looking for her voice!

The Sunday School children learned about Noah, his ark, the animals and the rainbow fulfilling God's promise! Thank you to all, animals and owners and the congregation for sharing in Noah's Ark Sunday!!!



December Birthdays

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| 12/1 | Jeffrey Starkman |
| 12/2 | Gillian Batangan |
| 12/2 | Cheryl Mitsuka |
| 12/10 | Christopher Lau |
| 12/18 | Jonathan Lau |
| 12/19 | Carla Pacupac |
| 12/22 | Susan Won |
| 12/23 | Gelacio Timonio |
| 12/28 | Laureen Chong Zane |
| 12/30 | Aaron Arakawa |
| 12/31 | Millie Goo |

Reminder

Even though Pledge Blessing Sunday was November 26, it's not too late to turn in your pledge card. This will greatly help your Vestry in budget planning for 2007.



David Kleinschmidt is shown with Patches, his dog.



Tenting of St. Elizabeth's

We offer our gratitude to the Sunagawa Family and Gima Pest Control for the great generosity in making Elizabeth's church termite free. Can you imagine the sight in Palama as the multi-colored tent wrapped our church in its bubble on November 20 and 21? It was quite a feat of engineering and expertise well done. The Gima guys did a fantastic job! A picture of our church appeared in the *Star-Bulletin* Nov. 21st.

Gecko Reports

Phil Hawkins from Bozeman, Montana, **Jennifer Fountain** from Lake Stevens, Washington and **Mrs. Virginia Christopher** from Seattle will join St. Elizabeth's for our celebration of New Ministry. They are Mother Jodene and Kit's children and mother. **The Rev. Judy Mullins** and **Donald Mullins**, long time dear friends of Mother Jodene and Kit will also join us from Seattle for the celebration. How could anyone stay away from our party when they have heard so much about St. Elizabeth's reputation for food and hospitality! **Walter Kau** kept toes-tapping during his *My Fair Lady* medley on Nov. 5th. **Francis Woo** makes his 97th birthday this December. Congratulations Francis! **Lani Kaaihue** thanks everyone for their prayers during her mother's surgery.

Next Vestry Meeting is Sunday, Dec. 17 at 9:30 am.

Church Attendance

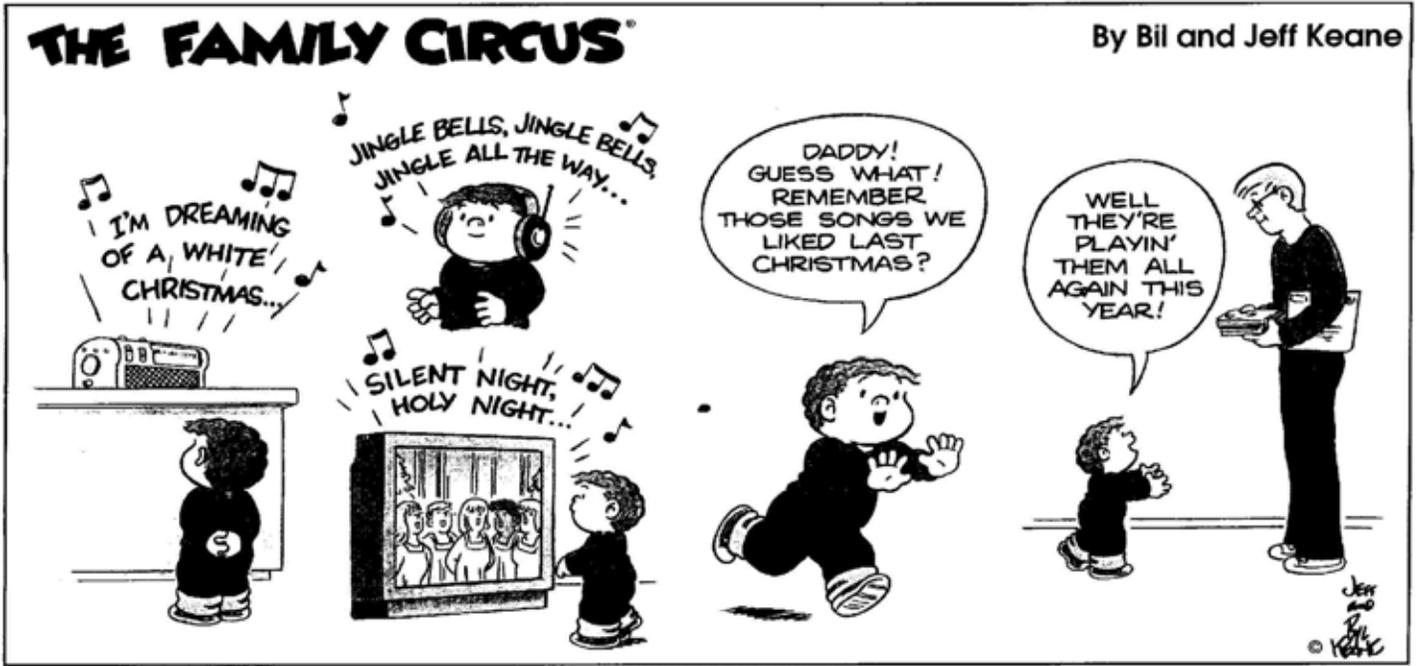
November 2006

8:15 Sunday average **111**
 Chinese Language service **5**
 Wed. Healing Eucharist **7**



Music and Happenings at St. Elizabeth's

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|---|---|
| 3 | Sunday | <i>Piano music in worship at 8:15 am by Daniel Yuen-Schat, age 9</i> <i>Celebration of New Ministry and Reception, 4:00 pm</i> | DECEMBER |
| 10 | Sunday | <i>Christmas Present Wrapping for Children's Outreach Center</i> <i>9:30 am Shim Hall</i> | |
| 16 | Saturday |  <i>12:00 pm Melody and Christopher Lindsay perform "Nutcracker Nuts" and Christmas carols in the church.</i> <i>1:00 pm Children's Christmas Party in Children's Outreach Center</i> | |
| 24 | Sunday | <i>Advent IV and Christmas Eve</i> <i>8:15 am Holy Communion</i> <i>9:30 pm Melody Lindsay, harp and Ajaon Chen, soprano</i> <i>10:00 pm Festival Christmas Eucharist</i> |  |
| 25 | Monday | <i>Christmas Festival Eucharist</i> <i>9:00 am</i> | |



Wedding Bells

Congratulations and God's Blessings to Dr. Donovan Young and Ms. Teri Pang who were united in marriage on November 19th.

Discretionary Fund Mahalo

Many mahalos to all who responded to the appeal for funds to assist with rent, electric bill, medical care and food for neighbors and church family members in need.



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

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