

"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
2007

The Right Reverend
Robert L. Fitzpatrick
Bishop

The Reverend
Jodene S. Hawkins,
Rector

The Reverend Dr.
Gerald G. Gifford,
Rector Emeritus

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

Hsiao Ying "Ajaon" Chen
Music Director

Marie Wang
Organist

Katherine Crosier
Parish Administrator
Graphic Design

Stuart Ching
Senior Warden

Jerry Goo
Junior Warden

Nella Kleinschmidt
Secretary

Bill Eng, Treasurer

Sue Yap, Contributor

Website:
www.stelizabeth720.org

Email:
stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com

From Mother Jodene

Aloha Beloved in Christ Jesus,

Isaiah, a Prophet of old, predicted the time when "the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped, and the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy." The Prophet declared that a young woman shall bear a son and that he shall be called Emmanuel: meaning "God is with us." God with us. There is not much doubt that the time we live in is filled with confusion, stresses and rapid change. What worked yesterday, is not what works today. It is change. And more change. It is unsettling. And faith challenging. We can't easily see the road ahead. We have trouble distinguishing what voices to listen to. Sometimes it can be difficult to find our voices and sing for joy.

Then Christmas comes. With its miracle. Its promises. Its truth. A little girl named Helen Keller was born into a dark world. Blind, she could not see. Deaf, she could not hear. She had no voice to sing. And yet, Emmanuel, the God who is with us, was also with her....setting her free. And she 'spoke.' She 'saw' things others would never see. She experienced what Emmanuel, God with us, means.

Listen to how Helen 'spoke,' and 'saw' miracles and truth when she wrote her Christmas Legend. "A legend tells that when Jesus was born the sun danced in the sky, the aged trees straightened themselves and put on leaves and sent forth the fragrance of blossoms once more. These are symbols of what takes place in our hearts when the Christ Child is born anew each year. Blessed by the Christmas sunshine, our natures, perhaps long leafless, bring forth new love, kindness, new mercy and

compassion. As the birth of Jesus was the beginning of Christian life, so the unselfish joy of Christmas will start the spirit that is to rule the new year."



God, unselfishly gives us the joy of Christmas---in the Child born in Bethlehem. Jesus is the miracle the Prophet promised that cannot be bought for any price. Or in any store. And so in our final days of waiting for this Child of the most High, we pray and sing, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Mother Jodene +



Christmas Services

Join us in a joyous celebration of our Savior's birth.

Sunday, December 23, 8:15 am
Greening of the church following the 8:15 service.

Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24
9:30 pm, Carols, bells and organ mini-concert by Walter Kau
10:00 pm, Candlelight Holy Eucharist, handbells, hula and carols. Children's procession to the creche.

Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25,
9:00 am, Festival Holy Eucharist, bells and carols. Children's procession to the creche.

Gecko reports



On the Sunday of the big storm—93 of us still came to church! **Puanani Woo** from Kohala and her Kailua family even came to worship with us on big storm day. It must be that hearty Kohala spirit at work.

Ono food and fellowship followed in Shim Hall thanks to our kitchen Princess, **Nancy Au** and our **kitchen angels**. Eating always chases the clouds away. **Walter Kau** raised our spirits on the piano. Mother Jodene requested 'Row, row, row your boat.' Everyone happily joined in singing!

UH and UW football game brought UW grads from **Seattle's St. Peter's church** where Mother Jodene served as rector: **Jay and Rebecca Shoji**, **Mom Haruko**, and **kiddos Nathalie and Davis** who are budding 'DUB' fans already.

Other UW fans and grads tailgating: **Doug Ing**, **Jeff Ing**, **Lowell Ing**, **Donovan Young**.

Mother Jodene, **Lillian Tyau**, **Nora Kurosu** helped lead the Thanksgiving Eucharist for the Priory.

Jerek Jong is back from travels to China and Japan. His Mandarin classes came in handy!

Marie Wang, our organist, traveled to Taiwan on a visit to family and friends.

Lani Kaaihue is now licensed as a Eucharistic Minister by Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick.

Thanksgiving saw **Ethan**, son of **Caroline and Mark Anderson** sucking on his thumb with as much delight as any adult savoring a turkey drumstick. He's waiting anxiously for his cousins **Mia** and **Max** to come for Christmas.

Laura Iwami flew to Sunnyvale, California, to visit relatives and friends.

Pearl Kau's cousin, Aileen and Jerry Albert visiting from California, and their son, daughter-in-law and two children from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho also came to worship at St. E's on Sunday.

Jamie Chock continues Early Childhood Education classes at Honolulu Community College—that's why her Sunday school children have such fun and make such clever crafts.

Roy Chee is a familiar face around St. E's office helping with our bookkeeping.

David Hirashiki, **Lani Kaaihue**, **Lowell Ing**, and Mother Jodene participated in a valuable Project Planning Workshop sponsored by Weinberg Foundation. **Rowena and Bill Blaisdell** are next participants to help our Vestry be more effective.

It was great to see **Jeannette Wong** back in church after her long recovery from back surgery. And of course it is always wonderful to see **Eunice Gee** on the first Sunday, thanks to **Jennifer Watanabe's** taxi service.

Mahalo to **Sue Jean Chun**, **Peggy Ishida**, **Wai Wah Yee**, **Lillian Tyau** creating our beautiful altar arrangement for Thanksgiving. Mahalo to all who donated flowers, plants and vegetables.

Sanson Kom, one of our acolytes, rang our tower bells with skill and delight while **Thomas Woo** visited his family in California.

Kenneth Ho was recognized for 50 years of exemplary service to the Lions Club International. He belongs to the Halawa Club. His picture with Lily is on the front page of Leeward People.

A Beautiful Holiday Table



May Chock writes that "My table, *Autumn Brilliance*, won a ribbon for Novice-Seasonal/Holiday at Lakewold Gardens Beautiful Tables Showcase 2007, Lakewood, Washington." The photo is shown to the left. In 2006 her table's theme was

"Handbags and High Heels," and in 2005, her table "Jazzy Green" won a ribbon for Novice-Contemporary. Congratulations!

A Christmas Prayer

"Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

"Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

"My the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake, Amen!"



- Robert Louis Stevenson

Kettle's On and Talk Story

Tuesday
December 11th
10-12 noon



It is called KOTS:
Kettle's On, Talk Story.

The kettle will be on with hot spiced cider, tea, goodies with good old fashioned talk story time at St. E's. Take a break from the holiday rush with new and old friends at your beautiful church. Park free and take the bus for Chinatown shopping before or after KOTS. Please park in spaces on church side of parking lot.



Operation Backpack

St. Elizabeth's participated again this year by donating school supplies and backpacks to Operation Back Pack. Mahalo for everyone's generosity.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Just be glad you don't have to take your nap in a manger."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane

Women's Happy Holidays Luncheon

Tuesday, December 18
11:00 am

Fook Yuen Restaurant at McCully Shopping Center. Cost is \$9.50 including tax and tip. Please sign up on the clipboard. Please bring exact change to help accounting.

Need a ride? Let us know.

Guess Who?

Work Party Day Nov. 17th

Here's the list of 'characters.' Guess who was up to what on Work Day.

Jerry Goo, Francis and Pearl Kau, Richard and Wai Wah Yee, Tom and Peggy Ishida, Nancy Shim-Au, Millie Goo, Patsy Ching, Lani and Jimmy Kealoha, David Kaloi, Charlie Kokubun, Mother Jodene, Kit Hawkins, David Hirashiki, Rebecca, Nella and David Kleinschmidt, Rebecca's friend Maya, Kalfred Yee, Hazel Yee, Lynette Shim, Clementina, Lani Kaaihue, Dorothy Jung, Dorie Horio, Roy Chee, Sarah Bush.

Our tidy church at 720 North King Street became even more beautiful when a group of workers gathered to worship with our hands. Under the unflagging leadership of our Junior Warden, Jerry Goo, key areas needing attention got attention! No building was left untended.

Four rooms of storage and office areas in Shim Hall received a thorough cleaning and organizing while the trees and hedge facing Pua Lane were trimmed outside yielding six bags of green waste. Wheelbarrows full of demolished laundry sink cement rolled out of the Education building to be unloaded outside the fence along Kanoa Street as deterrent to the casual loiterer. Meanwhile the garage door and back wall received a fresh coat of paint, a defiant response to graffiti mongers that we stand for what is clean and good about our neighborhood.

Landscape artists excavated the dead mock orange stumps along King Street and planted over two dozen plants donated by Kalfred Yee, one of our resident green thumb experts. Bare spots outside the sanctuary were replanted. Kitchen angels brought out cool water for workers then treated us to a fantastic homemade lunch. Some "special requests" (curry stew, kalua pig with cabbage and poi) were graciously fulfilled to the great delight of all who participated in the feast!

Mahalo for all that you do as living examples of Christ's love, not only on work party days, but every day!



Kaumakapili Church's Penny Carnival

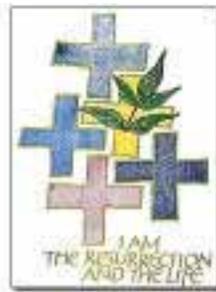
Helps St. Elizabeth's Children's Outreach Reading Program

Mahalo to Kaumakapili's Board of Christian Education who donated the proceeds from their Children's Penny Carnival to support our Reading Program. Pennies were traded for games and prizes in their annual alternative Halloween gathering. \$127.00 was raised! It is good to be in partnership with our next door neighbor.

Our prayers and sympathies are with the Young family

as they mourn the passing of Juliet Young on November 30. A service of remembrance was held at St. Elizabeth's on December 4th.

Please remember Tim Chong, Larry and Arleen Young in your prayers.



"Rest eternal grant to her O Lord. Let light perpetual shine upon her."

Please also keep in your prayers the Urban Mun family who mourn the passing of Sadako Mun.



Who Does What?

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, "You should do it because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here, and you should do it because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee."

Wife replies, "No you should do it, and besides it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee."

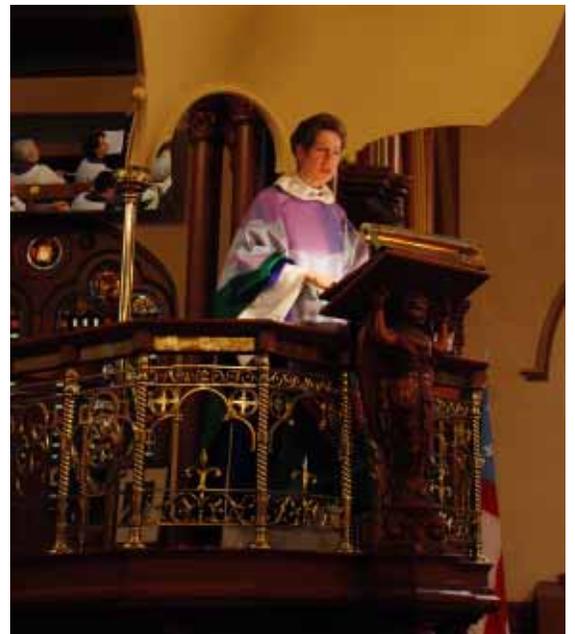
Husband replies, "I can't believe that; show me."

So she fetched the bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says "HEBREWS."



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
© Ed Sullivan
Reprinted with permission

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori



Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori told the congregation gathered September 23 at Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans to become "trumpeters of good news, banishers of disease and division, and proclaimers of the presence of God in our midst."

Letter received from the
**Episcopal Church
 Women of Hawai'i**
(United Thank Offering)

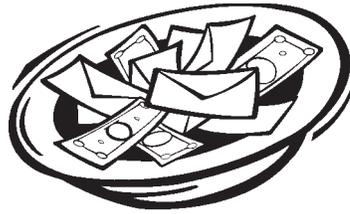
On behalf of Episcopal Church Women of Hawai'i, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous UTO (United Thank Offering) contribution of \$750 in 2007.



The mission of the United Thank Offering is to expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve this mission, we encourage daily prayers, offering and awareness of God's blessings. We pray and strive to be a spiritual and financial partner in the mission work of the Episcopal Church.

Mahalo and many blessings,

Joyce B. Kim
 UTO Coordinator in Hawai'i



End of Year Giving

Preservation Fund Reminder

Please remember St. Elizabeth's Preservation Fund as you consider your end of the year giving. Our church sustained water damage from the recent driving rainstorm. Roof and window leaks were the result. Our electrical system continues to challenge us with needed updates and repairs, some due to the storm damage causing short circuits. All donations are tax deductible. Mahalo for your help.



The House of Prayer window is slated for return before Christmas.

Organ Fund
still shy of completion

We all enjoy our wonderful Allen organ on Sundays and during special musical events.

It is not too late to make your tax deductible offering to complete the fund for our new Allen organ. Any amount toward the remaining \$5,129.00 is much appreciated. Please designate on your check 'Organ Fund.'



Organist Marie Wang

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I'm glad people don't get too old for hugs."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
 Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane



Joshua Yuen-Schat, son of Music Director Ajaon Chen, continues his organ studies with Katherine Crosier. His sister, Naomi, is also a budding organist!



Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

Saturday December 15th 11:00 am
Children's Outreach Center, St. Elizabeth's



December Birthdays

Jeffrey Starkman	12/1
Cheryl Mitsuka	12/2
Gillian Batanagan	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
Gelacio Timonio	12/23
Laureen Zane	12/28
Aaron Arakawa	12/30
Mako Ichy	12/30
Millie Goo	12/31
Otega White	12/31

Christmas for children in Palama will be a happier one thanks to Santa's elves and helpers and Santa himself on Saturday Dec. 15th at 11:00 am St. Elizabeth's garage will be transformed into Christmas House thanks to our members' generosity. Brightly wrapped presents will be given to girls and boys from Mayor Wright, Pua Lane and Kanoa Lane as well as Princess Kaiulani and Likelike Schools and our own Sunday school. Imagine passing on the spirit with the wonders of Christmas. Mahalo to all who are helping make this an important community event that the children look forward to every year.

Last year we gave over 100 presents and served food and treats to over 125 adults and children. This year we will be able to provide turkey as well as Chinese noodles to go along with the other tempting treats. Elves and Helpers need no experience—just come!

Save the date for

Discernment Day

On Saturday, January 12, 2008, the Commission on Ministry will host a Discernment Day. The day is intended especially for members of discernment committees, and for anyone interested in learning more about the diaconate and the priesthood. The day will cover such topics as "what is ministry?", the differences between the diaconate and the priesthood, and what discernment is and guidelines for doing it. More details will be forthcoming, but for now, save the date. All are invited.



Christmas Recipe

Blend equal parts of Faith and Hope mixed well with Charity;

Stir in Good Will and Sweet Content and Precious Memory.

Add Kindness, Helpfulness and Joy; of Gratitude don't spare;

Then drop by drop Love's Essence sweet,
and Praises freely share.

And don't forget such spices rare as
Laughter, Smiles and Fun,

Taste often for the best results, ('Tis sweet to mince upon).

Now add a Thankful Heart and then, the recipe's complete,
Your "Merry Christmas" all will like ... so try the season's treat.

—Esther Lloyd Dauber ("Special Treat")

Letter received from the

HPU International Vocal Ensemble

Thank you for allowing us to share our music with your beautiful ohana! We each were met with great enthusiasm throughout the congregation. Our spirits were lifted as we performed, and for that we thank you again. From our ohana to yours, mahalo nui loa!

Vienna Dumlao

Choral Assistant Manager



November 2007 Attendance

8:15 am service average **118**

Thanksgiving **110**

Chinese language service **5**

Next Vestry Meeting: Dec. 16

Seen recently at St. Elizabeth's



A sudden influx of happy visitors to St. E's who filled an entire section of pews!



Our keiki gather 'round Mother Jodene for a short Thanksgiving homily.



The International Vocal Ensemble from Hawaii Pacific University performed on Nov. 11th.



Former St. E's choir director Susan Duprey conducts world-touring HPU chorus.



Our beloved Rector Emeritus, Rev Dr Jerry Gifford preaches the Thanksgiving sermon.



Our Ringers and Singers all decked out in their new outfits.

Our music director, Ajaon Chen, sings "The Lord's Prayer" at the Thanksgiving Day service.





What children say about angels

Gregory, 5, I know the name of two angels. Hark and Harold.

Molly, 8, I hear angels all the time in my dreams. And I'm sticking with that no matter how many people tell me I'm crazy.

Olive, 9, Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it.

Matthew, 9, It's not easy to be an angel! First you die. Then you go to heaven; then there's still the flight training lessons. Then you have to agree to wear those angel dresses. Boys don't like that.

Mitchell, 7, Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else.

Joey, 6, Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from holy cows.

Reagan, 10, When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath, somewhere there's a tornado.

Sara, 6, Angels have a lot to do. They keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go north for the winter.

Jared, 8, Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his Son, who is a very good carpenter.

Katelyn, 9, My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was down here on earth.

If you would like to receive the *Vine and Branches* only by e-mail, please let the office know so that we might save on paper and postage costs.



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

A House of Prayer for all People

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
P A I D
Honolulu, HI
Permit No. 418