

"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

January 2009

The Right Reverend
Robert L. Fitzpatrick
V Bishop of Hawaii

The Reverend
Jodene S. Hawkins,
Rector

The Reverend Imelda S.
Padasdao, Priest Associate

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

Stuart Ching
Senior Warden

Lani Kaaihue
Junior Warden

Arleen Young
Secretary

Bill Eng, Treasurer

Roy Chee, Assistant
Treasurer

Sue Yap, Contributor

Website:
www.stelizabeth720.org

Email:
stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com



From Mother Jodene

Beloved in Christ Jesus

Hauoli O Makahiki Hou,
Happy New Year.



A New Beginning. Has this announcement been repeated so often (sometimes to little avail) that it doesn't quite have the 'pop' it had before? I hope not. As we begin this year of our

Lord 2009, it is good to remember that God is the center and the moving force within every beginning, every middle and every ending. In the beginning it was God's light that birthed the goodness of our world. It is God's light that illumined the path of Jesus' followers with hope from age to age. And finally, it is the light of God's love that will lead us to our heavenly home at the end of our days.

In this new beginning, hear the words of comfort, hope and inspiration from our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori in her Christmas Message.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5).

The world settles into winter, at least in the northern hemisphere, and life to many seems increasingly bleak. Foreclosures, layoffs, government bailouts and financial failures, continuing war on two fronts, terrorist attacks, murders of some identified only by their faith -- this world is in abundant need of light. We know light that is not overcome by darkness, for God has come among us in human flesh. Born in poverty to a homeless couple, to a people long under

occupation, Jesus is human and divine evidence that God is with us in the midst of the world's darkness.

Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Divine Counselor is come among us to re-mind, re-member,

and re-create. A new mind and heart is birthed in us as we turn to follow Jesus on the way. The body of God's creation is re-membered and put back together in ways intended from the beginning. And a new creation becomes reality through Jesus' healing work. Christians tell the story again each Christmastide, and the telling and remembering invites us once again into being made whole. Our task in every year is to hear the story with new ears, and seeing light in the darkness of this season's woes, then to tell it abroad with gladsome hearts to those who wait in darkness. Where will you share the joyous tale of light in the darkness?"

Where will we share the 'joyous tale of light in the darkness.' How will we share the light of Christ? Lord knows the world needs this message more than ever these challenging days--for it is the light which will lead everyone of us home to God.

With the love, joy and peace of Christ,

Mother Jodene +



Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 18, 2009
9:30 am
following worship

Mahalo to each and everyone

who donated lovely poinsettias for our Christmas services:



Sarah Bush (in memory of Annie L. Chock, Nathaniel U. Chock and Jennifer A. Bush), Stuart Ching (in memory of Kenneth T. K. Ching, Lucy F. Ching and Richard C. Ching), Akiu Chock (in memory of James L. L. Chock), Caren Esaki (in memory of Walter T. H. Chun and in honor of Sue Jean Chun), Beryl Goo (in memory of Doris Goo), Kenneth and Lily Ho (in memory of Mabel Ho and Dara and Richard M. Muraki), Dorie Horio (in memory of Wilfred Wong), Tom and Peggy Ishida (in memory of Linda Ishida), Estella Iwerks (in memory of Yuen Lin and Stella Ho Lau), Dorothy Jung (in memory of Richard Jung), Bernice Kau, Pearl & Francis Kau (in memory of Mabel and Ten Fook Ho), Walter Kau (in memory of James and Julie Ho, Philip and Rose Hong, Esther Kau and Mabel Kau), Shane Kealoha (in memory of Lori Yamamoto), Charles and Judy Kokubun (in honor of the Kokubun and Nakaiichi families), Raymond and Etta Leong (in memory of Lo Lin and Kin Hung Leong), Kealoha Ohana (in memory of Jalyne Lilinoe Kealoha Wong), Bob and Genevieve Miyashita (in honor of their son, Dan Miyasahita), Lynette Shim (in memory of Wallace Shim, Edward & Florence Shim, and Dennis & Laura Chun), Margarita Suyat (for Luciano Bruna, Cristina, Herminia, and Emilio Crescencia), Faye Tsukamoto (in memory of Masa Tsukamoto), Gertrude Tyau (in memory of Henry A. Tai Lam Tyau), Thomas Woo (in memory of Rev. and Mrs. Yee Bew Woo and Lily Hekekia), Arleen Young (in memory of Juliet Young)

Baptized

on December 28, **Mason Starkman**, son of Sharlene Yap and Jeffrey Starkman, grandparents Frank and Sue Yap.



Mildred Hirashiki

Soon to Celebrate 96 Years!

In this Year of the Ox, Mildred will be 96 years old. Mildred's smiling greetings on Sunday morning lifts all of our spirits. Here are some of the reasons Mildred smiles.

Her words and news are taken from her 2008 Christmas letter.

"I now spend Monday and Wednesday at Kuakini Day Care. Though I no longer go out into the yard to work on my garden, I still tell my sons to pull the weeds and remove dried leaves and flowers. I occasionally wash dishes, but I notice that my sons get nervous when I carry dishes from the dining table to the kitchen sink. I eat Marukai take-out, L and L take-out, 7-Eleven bento, etc. The best meal however comes when my neighbor Laura Iwami brings over her home-cooked dishes."



"I have a transporter wheelchair which allows my sons to wheel me around faster when I go out of the house. David takes me to church on Sundays and then to brunch."

"My son Francis enjoys Tuesdays as much as I do because my granddaughter's two dogs spend the day entertaining me. I sleep very well that night. Speaking of sleep, my three sons sure sleep a lot. Often I have to get them up to go work. They always give me the same reply, *"Go back to sleep Mom, it's two o'clock in the morning!"* I hope this year finds you all in good health."

Best Wishes in 2009.

Mildred

Gecko Reports



Singapore was the Thanksgiving destination for **Stuart Ching and Patsy Ching** to reunite with Curtis Ching (son and brother), his wife Leonora, and granddaughter Hanna.

Faye Tsukamoto celebrated Christmas on the mainland with family and friends.

The whole **Yap family** celebrated Christmas in Honolulu. Sue and Frank, is the refrigerator door finally shut now that the grandkiddos are back in Florida? *P.S. Did you know that Sue Yap was St. Elizabeth's Church secretary during Fr. Gifford's time?*

The mystery person joining with our Ringers on Sunday morning is none other than **Larry and Arleen Young's** son **David** enjoying sabbatical time from his employer in Oregon. Thanks for offering your musical talents to St. E's.

Puanani Woo flew from Kohala on the Big Island to enjoy family time during the holidays with St. E's church family and her son Kalei, daughter in law Lisa and grandchildren Keanu and Mahealani.

Fr. Simone Lino assists with our after school outreach reading program. Fr. Simone brings his ukulele and teaches the children both singing and reading.

The **Women of Chapter H of PEO** on Maui gave up their own Christmas gift exchange presents in order to give money to buy books for our Children's Outreach Reading Program. The women heard about our ministry from **Marilyn Hynson** who receives our *Vine and Branches* and is a member of Trinity by the Sea, Kihei. Mahalo nui loa for your gifts, ladies!

Kit Hawkins went hybrid. He not only tutors at-risk children at Princess Kaiulani school, but he founded a program called DreamCatchers for gifted children. His first project with those 5th graders was to help them learn about electricity and magnetism. The children built and demonstrated an electro-magnet. Does that mean Kit doesn't have to use gas in his car anymore?

Did you know that **Fr. Frank Chun** is celebrating 40 years of ordination and that **Fr. Norio Sasaki** is celebrating 50 years!

Fr. David Gierlach's wife **Ida Teiti** has made her debut as a fashion designer with Tahiti-inspired dresses and shirts. Her collection and the story of her designs was featured in the *Honolulu Advertiser* Island Life page 1. See her collection at Soleil Boutique on Kapahulu.

Melody Lindsay, who provided such a wonderful Christmas program for our neighborhood children, had a feature story in the Star-Bulletin on Dec. 19. She is an extraordinarily talented musician. St. E's was blessed by the whole Lindsay family's offering of love, music and joy to the glory of God.

The front page of Focus, *Honolulu Advertiser* on Sunday Dec. 21 had an interview with **Mark Anderson**, one of St. E's church family members. Mark's picture and responses on The Hot Seat addressed the question of how Hawaii's \$1.86 billion

stimulus package will help our economy. Why was Mark interviewed on the Hot Seat? His job is with the Dept. of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

Growing older: Signs and wonders

1. You can't hear your spouse snore.
2. You get mail everyday--bills.
3. No more high school exams to take.
4. Staying up as late as you want. Sometimes until 8 p.m.
5. You get senior discounts.
6. The police used to warn you to slow down--now it is your doctor.
7. Your kids don't ask for money. They just want it in the will
8. You learn new language like 'macular degeneration.' *Via Joyfulnoiseletter*

Humor Pew

One of my daughter's wedding presents was a toaster oven. Soon after the honeymoon, she and her husband tried it out. Almost immediately, smoke billowed out of the toaster. "Get the owner's manual!" her husband shouted.

"I can't find it anywhere!" she cried, searching through the box.

"Oops!" came a voice from the kitchen. "Well, the toast is fine, but the owner's manual is burnt to a crisp."

Bible Quiz

Q. What was Noah's biggest mistake?

A. Not killing the two cockroaches.

Q. What is the Bible's senior citizen's prayer?

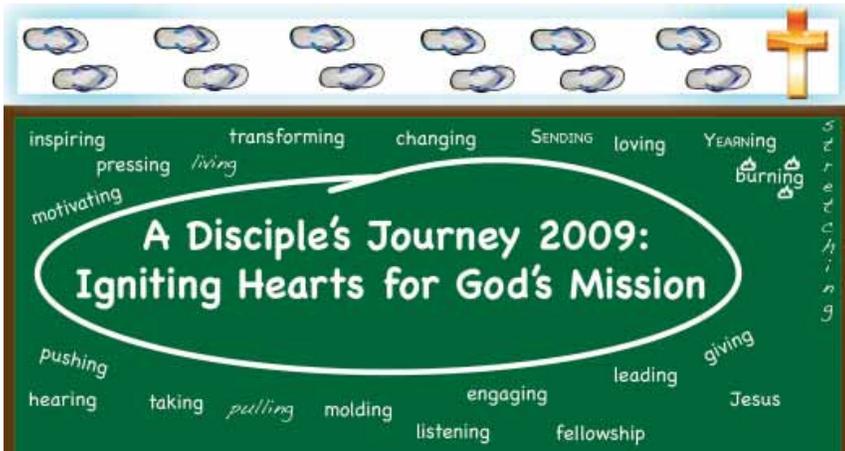
A. In the book of Job.. "Oh for the days I was in my prime."



Lynette Shim
Nella Kleinschmidt
Charlotte Jarrett
Soo Kil Park
Troy Esaki
Sylvia Rowland
Shianne Sunagawa
Melba Meyshine

Bertha Chong
Iris Park
Florence Tyau
Wah Chan Ching

God's blessings to those with January birthdays.



Remember "The good old days"?

Camp Mokuleia, Canterbury Club, YPF?

Do we remember the fellowship, fun and faith building, and friendships that have endured throughout the years? It's time to pass on the gifts of faith that we received as followers of Jesus. It is time to rekindle our own faith and strengthen ourselves anew for the life of our Church, St. Elizabeth's.

How can this happen? **A Disciple's Journey, 2009** is a weekend of fellowship, faith building and renewal of the mission of our church. The original disciples asked Jesus to "Increase our Faith." Do we want Jesus to "increase our faith"? Do we want to follow Jesus more nearly, day by day? Do we want our church to become even more vital, and growing with the power of the Holy Spirit, spreading the Good News of God's love?

Camp Mokuleia is too small, so our Diocese will hold Disciple's Journey 2009 at Turtle Bay! Comfortable aloha attire with bare feet and slippers, this weekend is for the whole family. Parents, grandparents and great grandparents, this is the experience of lively faith and fellowship which you can help pass on to your next generations. Give your children this gift.

Cost? Children under 17 free in room with 2 paying adults. Under 30 \$100 each. Age 31 and older \$200 each. Fees include 2 nights lodging at Turtle Bay, meals and workshops, pool, beach, etc. How can these fees be so low?

Our diocese is subsidizing the cost, some scholarships from St. Elizabeth's may be available. To register, please see Mother Jodene or Lani Kaaihue.

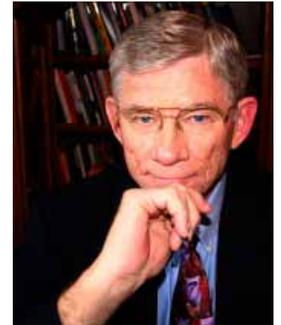
Dates: Spring Break March 20-22 Friday evening to Sunday afternoon.

What is expected? A little preparation in advance. Your willingness to bring back to St. E's what you learned so you can help St. E's become more vital in faith and mission.

Who will be there? Episcopal church members from all our islands

What will be offered? Relaxed learning for all ages. Talk story. The ocean, sand and pool. Bishop Carol Gallagher teaching how strengthen our congregations Tex Sample, master Christian storyteller engaging God's story with our story.

Our keynote speaker will be Tex Sample, a Methodist minister and teacher. He uses dry humor and plain speech as he criss-crosses boundaries between poor and rich, town and gown, wise and ignorant, and everyone in between. A professor emeritus at the St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Sample explores American culture and communication. An excellent storyteller, Sample will describe how the stories of our lives fit into the larger picture of God's story. Tex has a knack for telling stories of ordinary people and finding within those stories the story of a magnificent, loving, and challenging God.



Bishop Carol Gallagher, who has been in the Diocese twice before, most recently as Chaplain to the 2008 annual meeting of the Convention, will be back with us as our Chaplain. She will also be leading a workshop on change and growth for congregations.

Bishop Winston Halapua, Bishop of the Diocese of Polynesia has written a book called *Waves of God's Embrace* about the sacred lessons we can learn from the ocean.



Neighborhood Christmas Party, Dec. 13



Our Christmas elves.



The "Boyz" in the 'hood enjoy the Christmas music concert.



The "Guys" get into the spirit, too!



Rev. Bob Walden aka Santa



Inaria Repaky and family



Melody Lindsay, harpist, is joined by children from the Music Academy.



Everyone loves to visit with Santa



Stuart Ching (right) has a chance to tell Santa his Christmas wishes.



Attendance December 2008

8:15 am Eucharist average	115
Christmas Eve	169
Christmas Day	96
Cantonese language Eucharist	5
Ilokano - First Wednesday	38
Ilokano - First Sunday	13

Does Christmas come but once a year?

"Christmas is not a time or a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

Calvin Coolidge

Pidgin and the Bible

The Psalms: "Songs Fo God"

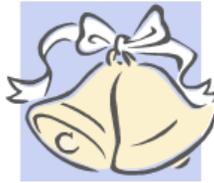
The Rev. Canon Frank Chun (a St. Elizabeth son) will be our guest leader for our Lenten Study, Sundays: **March 1, 8 and 15**. Fr. Chun helped translate the New Testament into Pidgin. Some of us may already own Da Jesus Book. His current work is helping translate the Old Testament (Da Befo Jesus Book) into Pidgin.

Come hear the Psalms afresh in Pidgin as Fr. Chun and Mother Jodene explore how to understand the Psalms, read the Psalms, and be spiritually nourished by the Psalms. Presentation will be in church--Time 9:30-10:15. Friends, family and guests are welcome. Please encourage all to come for this ground-breaking presentation by Fr. Chun.

Mark your Calendars! Chinese New Year Celebration and Potluck



Sunday, January 25th
8:15 am worship
9:30 am Potluck in
Shim Hall



Wedding Bells Ring Again

Valentine's Day
Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009, 10:30 am

Were you married at St. Elizabeth's? Whether you were married via St. Elizabeth's or her priests, or somewhere else, all married couples are welcome to renew their wedding vows in a special service at St. Elizabeth's at 10:30 am, Valentine's Celebration, February 15th. We hope that couples will come from near and far for this sacred time of renewing promises, taking pictures, and celebrating years of life together with family and friends. Please call, see or email Mother Jodene at jodenehawkins@yahoo.com if you would like to be included in this ceremony.

There will be a special gift for the couple married in St. Elizabeth's church who will return from the longest distance. There will also be a special gift for any couple who was married in the original wooden church. All Sunday church attire is welcome. If you are one of the lucky ones who can still wear your original wedding attire, you are invited to do so.

Wisdom Words

The soul is healed by being with children. *Fyodor Dostoevsky*

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
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A House of Prayer for all People

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