

"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

July 2010

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
Choir Director

Marie Wang
Organist

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Parish Administrator
Editor and Layout
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Naboth's Stolen Vineyard: Yesterday and Today

The Rev. David J. Gierlach

King Ahab probably looked like this: 6 feet tall, 200 pounds, wearing a diaper and throwing a tantrum! He wanted what he wanted when he wanted it. And when he couldn't get it, as the reading tells us, "he lay down on his bed, turned away his face, and wouldn't eat." Not only is the Bible full of grown men acting like toddlers, it's also full of stories of the kind of horrific treachery that spoiled king's wife inflicted.

Jezebel is King Ahab's wife. Naboth is the poor man whose heritage is a vineyard. Ahab wants the vineyard for a vegetable garden, just because it's close to the palace. Naboth won't sell. So Jezebel has poor Naboth set up and executed; stoned to death on a false charge. All so that the man with the power can get what he wants as he wants it.

Taken at face value, the story of Naboth is a tragedy of greed and self-centeredness. But the reading is more than just a story of one rotten king, one innocent peasant. It is a metaphor, an example, of the march of powerful nations, powerful corporations, powerful people, that overtake and destroy poorer nations, poorer people. It is a march that continues to this very day.

What struck me first in reading the story of poor Naboth was how much his

story is like the story of the people of Guatemala, whom I had the privilege of visiting several times. Their farms are on steep hillsides. Think of planting your crops on the sides of the ko'olau mountains, and you begin to get the idea. Corn grew almost straight out at a right angle. Farmers, every year, died from falling off of their fields, the fields are so steep.

Yet we also travelled through miles of lush, flat agricultural lands. When I asked why the farmers were not using those fertile, flat lands, the response was always the same. Fruit companies from the north, from the US, took those lush lands 100 years earlier, removed the native farmers, and grew cheap fruits for export. Naboth's vineyard, stolen again.

The recent film about Princess Ka'iulani, while apparently loaded with historical inaccuracies, did get one thing right. The people of Hawaii lost their land to strangers who wanted what they wanted when they wanted it; strangers willing to kill to get it. The theft of Naboth's vineyard has occurred right outside our doors.

That theft occurred to our friends from Micronesia, who, between 1946 and 1958 were the victims of 66 nuclear bombs exploding in their homeland and nearby waters. Consider this:

Early in the morning of March 1, 1954, a hydrogen bomb, code named Bravo,



Rector's Message, cont.

was detonated at Bikini Atoll. It was detonated even though our government knew that prevailing winds had shifted the night before, and instead of carrying the deadly fallout over open ocean, it would carry instead over populated islands. Department of Energy records verify this fact.

The area was illuminated by a huge and expanding flash of blinding light, as if two suns were rising in the east. A fireball of millions of degrees shot to the sky at 300 mph. Three to four hours after the blast, white, snow like ash, the remains of pulverized coral, began to fall from the sky onto the people living on the islands. The ash was two inches deep, turned the drinking water a brackish yellow, and, as children played in the fallout, like a kind of deadly snow, they experienced diarrhea, vomiting and hair loss. Many died. The people had received no explanation or warning from the US government. [J. Niedenthal, Bikini Atoll, March, 2008].

Our friends from Micronesia who arrive in Hawaii today, those who are now members of St. E's, they are the Naboth's, and the children of Naboth, right in our midst.

It is said that a person can choose only within the world she can see.

I share these many stories of the theft of Naboth's vineyard, thefts that continue to this very day, so that we who are often shielded from those worlds might enter them, and in the entering, be changed.

Preaching the readings can raise unpleasant questions. Preaching the readings can put a mirror to our collective face, and challenge us to look deeply at what to see.

It was into that mirror that Simon looked, a mirror held up by Jesus as we hear of the strange events occurring in today's gospel. Simon invited Jesus into Simon's world. It was a world of privilege, of set expectations.

Women didn't take down their hair in front of strange men in Simon's world. Visitors to Simon's world gave Simon respect, gave Simon courtesy, gave Simon honor. Simon was quick to size up a situation; quick to judge; quick to put people in their place. And into Simon's world, came Jesus. And just as he does to your world and mine, Jesus turned Simon's world upside down.

The prostitute's tears became a water basin, her hair a clean

towel, her cracked-open heart, filled with forgiveness.

And all of Simon's certainty is confounded. Indeed, contrary to Simon's judgment, Jesus knew "what kind of woman this was." Indeed, contrary to Simon's judgment, Jesus was a prophet and something far greater than a prophet.

Jesus invited Simon to look at his world, to look at his surroundings, to look at the people in his life from a completely different point of view.

Jesus is the lens through which we look and see the Kingdom of God. Through that lens, Jesus reveals that the world we live in is not what it appears to be. The people we face every day are not the people we think they are. The roles and classes and castes, the categories; they are an illusion that we create.

An illusion that Jesus, gently, quietly, yet persistently, explodes!

When Jesus says the first shall be last and the last first, that he who humbles himself will be exalted, and he who exalts himself humbled, think of spoiled King Ahab and think of Naboth. Think of Simon and think of the harlot. But think also of the poor farmers of Guatemala, and ourselves.

Think of our Micronesian brothers and sisters, and ourselves. Think of Princess Ka'iulani and ourselves.

"A person can choose only in the world she can see."

May we be given the grace to see the world through the lens that is Jesus, and in the seeing, be changed.

+amen

Aloha, Ed Fitzpatrick

A surprise reception was held for Ed Fitzpatrick on June 20th after church prior to his leaving for Officer Candidate School (OCS). Our prayers go with you, Ed!



Ed Fitzpatrick (far right) has a big smile on his face before leaving for the Army. He is shown here with Father David, brother James and mother, Bea Fitzpatrick.

STE Members Travel the World!

On June 11 in Shim Hall, **Christine Ling** talked about her trip to the Holy Land as part of a Women's Pilgrimage led by former rector, **Mother Jodene Hawkins**.

Ajaon Chen met a group from St. Elizabeth's on a recent tour of Taiwan, including **Sarah and Jerry Bush, Faith Chock, Laura Iwami, Francis and Pearl Kau**. Look for a complete travelogue in next month's newsletter.

Father David Gierlach took daughter, **Teatuahere** and son, **Joey**, to visit family in Virginia.

Thanks to **Patsy Ching** and **Sharon Oshiro** who will help cover the office while Parish Administrator **Katherine Crosier** visits France in July. It will be Kathy's first visit to Paris since the summer of her high school graduation, when she studied organ with French virtuoso, Marcel Dupré.

Spaghetti Dinner/ Dance News

The second of many more to come spaghetti dinner/dances was a huge success! **Uncle Walter** and **Helen Richardson** danced like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, **Marie Wang** was once again in her glory, and all others had a great time. Thanks so much to Nancy, Patsy, Dori, Ignacia and all the other good women who made the dinner such a delicious success! Thanks to **Doug Ing** for his great Bose sound system for our music. Fr. David kept waiting for the police to show up, the music was so loud (but all was well!). Next dance/dinner will ADD a game night to the fun (monopoly, scrabble, etc etc) for those, like Fr. David, who are physically impaired from dancing (due to the medical disorder of two left feet). Mark your calendar for **July 23, 6 pm** for the fun!

O Holy One

I hear and say so many words,
yet yours is the word I need.
Speak now,
and help me listen;
and, if what I hear is silence,
let it quiet me,
let it disturb me,
let it touch my need,
let it break my pride,
let it shrink my certainties,
let it enlarge my wonder.

Loder, *Guerrillas of Grace*,
(Augsburg Books, 2005), 31

Food Pantry Fund

The vestry on June 20th approved a new fund to support the purchase of canned goods for those in need. If you wish to contribute to the "Food Pantry" please address your checks to St. Elizabeth's with **Food Pantry** entered on the memo line of the check.





The birthday girl is served.

Happy Birthday, Margarita!



Margarita Suyat (shown here with **Mother Imelda**) celebrated her birthday with the St. Elizabeth's Ohana by hosting a grand celebration in Shim Hall after the June 6th service.

Oh How Does Your Garden Grow?

Our community garden is growing like gangbusters! While we feared the soil was washed out and dead, in fact, it is rich in nutrients and making every seed bloom! We are boasting of Manoa lettuce, sweet potato, bell peppers, tomatoes, onions, radishes, basil, Chinese parsley and more! Come by and stick a seed in the ground!!



*Thank you,
Margarita, for
your generosity
and Happy
Birthday!*



There was plenty of delicious food for everyone!

Born to Eternal Life

Helen Ing, mother of **Lowell Ing**, was born to eternal life on May 8th, five months shy of her 100th birthday. Father David Gierlach presided over her memorial service on June 19th. An obituary was published in the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* and may be found at:

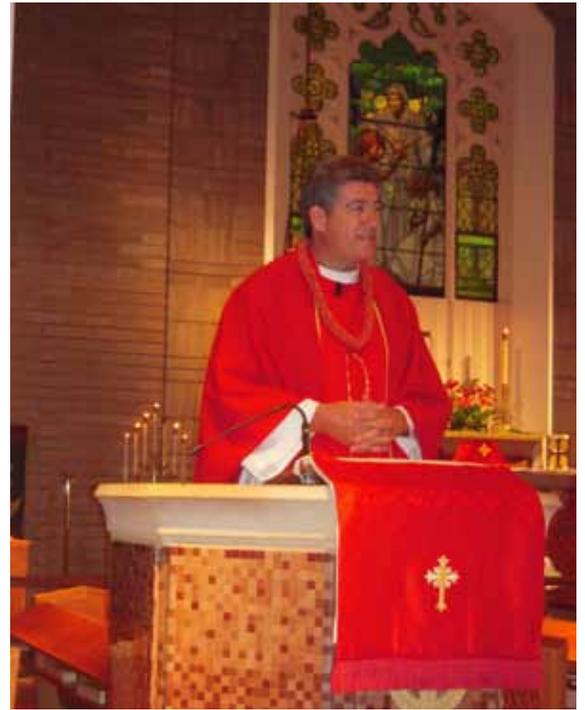
http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/20100617_Educator_played_volunteer_role_in_Chinese_community.html

I am the Resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. (Book of Common Prayer, page 469)

A Glorious Pentecost at St. E's



St. Elizabeth's was awash in RED for Pentecost, May 23rd. Thank you to Lani Kaaihue, Jennifer Watanabe, Ed Fitzpatrick and James Fitzpatrick for coming at the crack of dawn to blow up balloons..



Fr. David preaches that on Pentecost, God breathed on the disciples transforming them into a force that changed the world.



We welcomed St. Andrew's Priory Interact Club, with advisor Chad Uyehara, friends and families. The RagDolls2Love were lovingly made by the students, their moms and friends, and the Pali Seniors Club, Philomena Racuya, president.

Sunday School News

A true celebration – Pentecost Sunday, red balloons standing tall from the pews, Sunday school children waving red streamers and carrying flags of many nations, girls from St. Andrew's Priory Interact Club bringing their ragdolls for blessings – blessings with red ti leaves - as they continue their journey to children in war torn areas of Iraq and Afghanistan, 1st Lt Nainoa Hoe's dad, Allen Hoe, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, who carried ragdolls into Iraq and mails them to the troops, visitors who just happened to walk into St Elizabeth's church for the very first time, the Sunday School children sitting in the choir pews singing along with the handbell choir during the communion, truly a celebration with most everyone in red!!!

The cake, with flags of many nations representing the homelands of many of our parishioners, 20 candles – 1 candle representing 100 years... and in Shim Hall...food, food and more food... food from the homelands of our parishioners!

Thank you to all who participated... from 6:00 am to well into the afternoon – starting at the crack of dawn blowing the red balloons, worshipping with us, through the fellowship in Shim Hall!

Memorial Day Sunday was the last day for the Sunday School year—graduating out of Sunday school and will be in acolyte training this summer is Vitrina Visarin and TN Tino. All students in high school are welcome to attend the acolyte training sessions.



As always, food is a big part of celebrations at St. Elizabeth's, and a delicious lunch was served in Shim Hall. Enjoying themselves are Ed and James Fitzpatrick and Fran Kramer.

more news from the Sunday School on next page

More Sunday School News

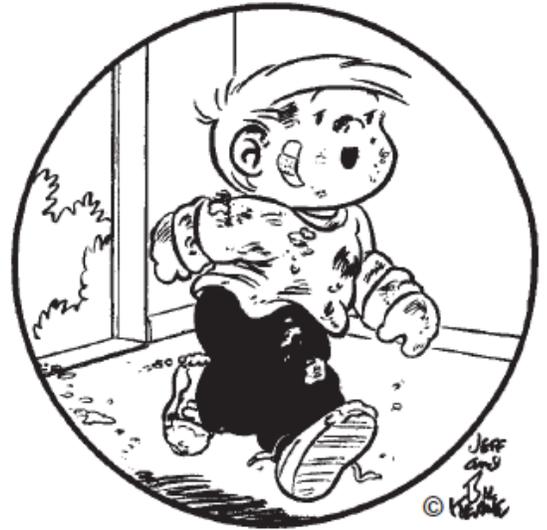
These sessions with Fr. David are very flexible. Please call the church office or see any of our clergy who will be very happy to fit you in their schedule!

The Sunday School is in recess! Congratulations to one of our dedicated helpers with the Music Academy, Seine Lino who recently graduated from Castle High School!

There will be available before church a limited number of 'pew packets' – a pencil case with crayons and a pencil – for the Sunday school children to do their worksheets during the church service. Please share if there are not enough on any given Sunday! Extra pencils will be available on the round table along with the worksheets and pew packets.

Please return the pew packets and pencils after each service! Have a safe and happy summer!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"My Guardian Angel had a busy day today, but we had FUN!"

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

Scholarships

Applications are now ready for scholarships for the academic year 2010-2011. Please see **Patsy Ching** or contact the office for an application.



The Handbell Choir: (L-R): Faith Chock, Laura Iwami, Eunice Hughes, Liesl Eng, Marie Wang, Pearl Kau, Arleen Young, Sarah Bush, Joshua Yuen-Schat, Gretchen Jong and Larry Young.



St. E's Kitchen Angels: Faye Tsukamoto, Patsy Ching, Nancy Shim-Au, Sharon Oshiro and Wai Wah Yee..



Mother Imelda and Gertrude Tyau.



Attendance

5/30	Trinity Sunday 8:15 am	160
6/2	Ilokano Service-Wed.	49
6/6	Sunday 8:15 am	167
6/6	Ilokano Service-Sun.	52
6/13	Sunday 8:15 am	122
6/13	Cantonese Service	7
6/20	Sunday 8:15 am	147
6/20	Cantonese Service	6
6/27	Sunday 8:15 am	115
6/27	Cantonese Service	6



From the Finance Committee

by David Hirashiki, Treasurer and Roy Chee, Assistant Treasurer

Years ago when housing, utility and taxes were stable, it was okay to increase annual pledges accordingly. However, today our church expenses have gone through the roof! (*Pardon the pun*)

Our pledges still only account for about 30% of our operating costs. We continue to use reserve funds to balance the budget. If we are to sustain St. Elizabeth's over the long haul, we must improve this 30% or the next time the roof leaks, we will be unable to re-roof!

Remembering St. Elizabeth's is over 100 years old, maintenance expenses now rank as the top priority in our budget.

You've heard the adage: *Give until it hurts!* Rather we would like to challenge all of you to increase your pledge *because it feels good!* Only then will we be able to reach our goal of at least 60% of operating expenses. We realize that no everyone is able to assist in this endeavor, but those who can, *please help!*

May 2010

Total Income	\$31,488.00
Total Expenses	<u>40,051.08</u>
DEFICIT	-\$8,563.08



Happy Birthday

Faith Chock	7/4
Alan Esaki	7/10
Richard Okubo	7/11
Carly Venenciano	7/12
Ruby Chock	7/12
Hermenegilda Sarceda	7/12
Jeldan Romualdo	7/13
Kody Hayashi	7/15
Gertrude Tyau	7/15
Onlyone Helly	7/16
Mildred Kuniyoshi	7/17
Nathan Neeto	7/18
Lisa-Anne Chan	7/19
Tim Blaisdell	7/20
Frank Yap	7/20
Lynnsey Ho	7/21
Richard Yee	7/23
Barry Zane	7/24
Mary Ann Lentz	7/25
Jerek Jong	7/26
Jean Hirashiki	7/27
Lydia Joseph	7/27
Jordan Rico	7/30

God's blessings on those with July birthdays!

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

By Mike Morgan



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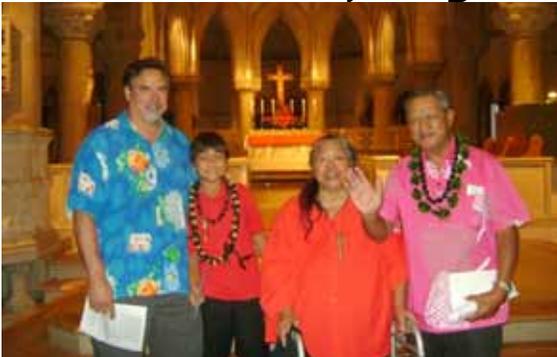
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Confirmation, May 23



Jimmy and Lani Kealoha are shown with grandson Kama Wong and son-in-law Laiana Wong.



Daniel and Joshua Yuen-Schat were among several St. Elizabeth's parishioners confirmed at St. Andrew's Cathedral on Pentecost.

On Pentecost afternoon, May 23rd, Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick confirmed **Kama Wong, Daniel Yuen-Schat and Joshua Yuen-Schat** at St. Andrew's Cathedral.

Jennifer Watanabe and **Delphine Shea** were received into membership into the Episcopal Church.

Congratulations to all!

Strengthen, O Lord, your servants with your Holy Spirit; empower them for your service; and sustain them all the days of their life. Amen.

Quotable quotes

"To become a disciple is not a matter of new or changed self-understanding, but rather to become part of a different community with a different set of practices." S. Hauerwas, *The Politics of the Church: How we Lay Bricks and Make Disciples*, (Abington, 1991), 107.

Kids say the funniest things

A Sunday school teacher said to a little boy in her class:

"So your mother says your prayers for you every night at bedtime. That's very nice. What does she say?"

"Thank God he's in bed!" the little boy replied.