

"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



March  
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

The Reverend  
David J. Gierlach  
Deacon

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](http://www.stelizabeth720.org)

Email:  
[stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com)

## From Mother Jodene *Aloha Beloved in Christ Jesus,*

There is a book entitled *The Color Purple*. The color purple now adorns St. Elizabeth's altar. The color purple symbolizes a new season in the life of the Church and a new season in our life of faith—the Season of Lent. The word Lent means 'spring.' The word *spring* and the word *Lent* can bring thoughts and intentions of spring cleaning, spring planting, and spring growth—both for our gardens and for our life of faith. Just like gardens, our faith needs attention in order to grow. Imagine growing a garden. Imagine growing our faith. Overgrowth needs to be pruned. Weeds need to be pulled. Rubbish needs to be thrown away or recycled. Hard packed earth needs to be turned over so that fresh air and sunlight can ready the earth. Seeds and cuttings need to be gently tucked into warm soil where their growth can be nurtured. So it is with faith.

I believe that in our own ways, we all want to have more trust in God and we desire to be more faithful to God. Sometimes we need to find, or re-find, the time or the ways to unearth that trust in God and our faithfulness to God. Lent is the Church's gift to help us. Lent helps us through three spiritual traditions: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Now, before we all get overwhelmed and quit before we even begin, let's take a closer look at these three traditions.

**Prayer:** Prayers are the seeds we plant in our garden of faith. The seeds of prayer can be ever so small, yet produce abundant growth. How can we pray? When we worship on Sundays, we are praying. When we ask for healing or blessing for someone, we are praying. When we cry out in the darkness of a lonely night to God, we are praying. When we sing praises to God we are praying. When we give thanks for the goodness of life, we are praying. Everyone's prayer is unique, just as everyone's relationship with God is

unique. God understands our language. God knows the quiet whispers of our hearts that can be the most profound prayer. God listens to us when others cannot or will not, and that is praying. Reading the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is praying. Saying The Lord's Prayer is praying. Prayers are Seeds. Seeds that will grow and live.

**Fasting:** Fasting is like pruning and rubbish removal. Consider how much overgrowth and rubbish of unkind words or judgments, anger and frustration or unforgiveness that can accumulate in just one week of living. Consider how much of those kinds of overgrowth and rubbish that can accumulate in one whole year since last Lent! I find that a scary thought. Fasting invites us to ask God to help us prune and remove the rubbish in our lives that covers up the beauty of our souls. Lent gives us a reason to get started with this fast. I find it helps to have a *reason* to start anything. Lent gives us a season and a reason to begin to forgive—to forgive someone else—or to forgive ourselves. Lent gives us a reason to give our anger back to God. Lent gives us a reason to prune and then donate all our unkind thoughts to God and to let God collect the rubbish of our lives and dispose of it all. Fasting this way will never give us hunger pangs—but will cleanse our hearts and nourish our souls.

**Almsgiving:** Alms, what does this word mean? Alms are defined as food, money or other charitable assistance given for the poor. Almsgiving is like the fruit of our labors from our spiritual garden. By the grace of God, most of us have more than enough. By the grace of God we have something(s) to give away. God's ways are practical. Food and money. Give some away. It humbles me when our neediest members who must



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# Mother Jodene

continued

receive food to meet their family's needs, place their money in the offering plates. These members know what it means to not have enough. So they, too, give what they can. It is Godly to give. Giving engenders dignity. If one day we were forbidden to give, what would life be like? Special intentions to assist with food and money for the poor is a focus of Lent. Lent reminds us that God has blessed us with the fruit of our labors and that we are blessed. Food baskets will be available at our door during Lent to make it easier for us to give. Donations to St. Elizabeth's Pastoral Fund will keep families with children from being homeless. The fruit of our labors will never be wasted this way.

May your labors in your garden bear beautiful and abundant spiritual growth this Lenten Season.

With the love, joy and healing of Christ,

*Mother Jodene +*

## February 2007 Attendance

Average Sunday	113
Chinese service	5

## Lenten Classes

March 11, 9:30-10:15. **The Healing Ministry of Hospice: Home Care and Hospice Care of Loved Ones**, led by The Rev. Tom Yoshida.

March 25, 9:30-10:15. **Healing, suffering and hope**: What does the ministry of Jesus reveal? How does Jesus' ministry apply to us today? Mother Jodene and Father David will be our leaders.

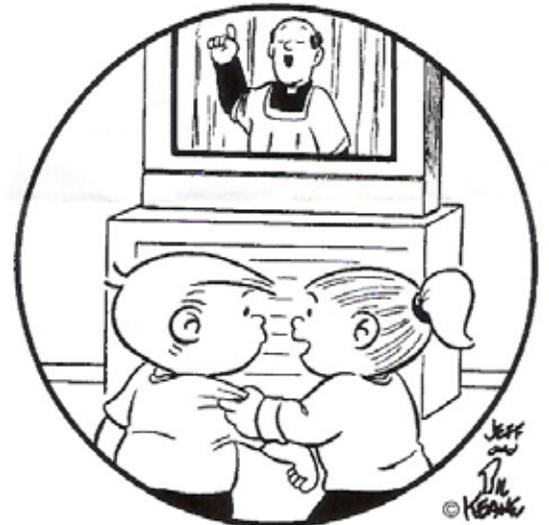
## Lenten Healing Prayers

will be offered March 25th immediately following receiving Holy Communion by our Baptismal font. You may bring your requests for healing for yourself or for loved ones. No prayer request is too small or too large for God to handle.

Our love and prayers go out to the family of **Henry "Hank" Akana**, who passed away on February 21, 2007. We extend our sympathies to his family, wife Annette Chee-Akana, and daughter Roanne. May his soul rest in peace.



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."

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

## Grief and Healing

When my dad died suddenly 7 years ago, I told my mom how badly I felt that she now had to walk this road of grief. It was a road I knew well. I did not envy her first footsteps upon it. Seven years have passed, and she is still on that road.

A recent study of people who are grieving the loss of a spouse, a parent or a child, looking mostly at those whose loss occurred due to disease rather than a sudden tragedy, said something that many of us who have suffered such a loss know all too well. This study found that far more than denial, anger, depression and acceptance, in the so-called stages of the grief, that the most consistent feeling of the survivor is yearning. Yearning for the beloved who is now gone. Yearning for the comfort of her presence, the security of his smile, the feel of her touch, his embrace. It is yearning that most affects us who have suffered loss. Sometimes it lessens, sometimes it never does.

I found this study to be a blessing. We who have lost a loved one hear way too often that we need to "go through the stages of grief". We hear way too often "the first year is the hardest", leaving us to assume that the second year is much better. It isn't, for many. We each grieve in our own way. Why shouldn't we? We each loved the one who is gone in our own way! Love is never found in a cookie cutter, nor is the way we deal with loss. But one thing that may help sooth at least some of the pain is to name what we feel. To hold it. Know it. To call it our own. And if it is yearning for our lost one that we feel, then it is good to acknowledge that and live in it and with it as long as we need to. It might be a year. It might be a lifetime. So be it. For this life is not the end. Wherever you are in your journey, I wish you Godspeed. It is a road we wish no one had to walk, but if we have loved, it is a road that awaits us all..



Father David



## New Picture Directory coming!

You've probably noticed Kit Hawkins taking photos of parishioners around the church. If you know that your picture has not been taken, please stay after the service for a few minutes so that Kit may take your photo for the new picture directory.

If you already have a family photo which you would like to include in the directory, you can send it by email to

"stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com."

We can also scan a family photo if you don't have email. All photos must be in VERTICAL orientation to be included.

**Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Annual "Quiet Day,"** March 17. Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 780 Keolu Drive, Kailua. 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Come and rest, reflect on your spiritual path and rekindle your relationship with God. Leave your cares and worries behind for a few hours. Relax your body, mind, spirit and soul. Be sure to wear green for the luck of the Irish.

## Bishop Robert L. Fitzpatrick's Ordination Saturday, March 10

Congratulations on the ordination of our new bishop Bob, to his wife Bea and sons Ed and James. Ed served as our parish intern last summer and is now a member of St. Elizabeth's.

St. Elizabeth's was honored to participate in many ways in this new beginning for our diocese. Stuart Ching, Sr. Warden was the 'shepherd' for our Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, providing Hawaii hospitality and escorting her to press conferences, meetings and the ordination.

Stuart and Mother Jodene were presenters for Bishop Bob. Sarah Kleinschmidt served as a banner bearer. Fr. David served as chaplain for former Presiding Bishop Edmund Browning. Nancy Shim-Au, Patsy Ching, Jamie Chock, and Faith Chock attended from St. Elizabeth's as they won tickets in the drawing of names. Dr. Gifford, Fr. Fan, Polly Gifford, Doris (Fan) Lam and Kit Hawkins were present representing clergy and spouses of St. Elizabeth's.

Mother Jodene and Kit are serving as shepherds for Sir Livinus Anoma of the Diocese of Nigeria. Nancy Shim-Au is hostess providing lodging for Sir Anoma's visit.

## Diana Butler Bass in Hawai'i

Diana Butler Bass, a prominent writer and speaker about flourishing mainline Protestant churches, will be coming to the Diocese of Hawai'i for a series of teaching events from March 17-25. Her theme is that of her newest book: *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith*.



Her studies found the mainline churches are NOT dying, and churches do not need to be conservative mega-churches in order to survive. Butler Bass found that mainline Protestant churches could be both faithful to their tradition and also be vital spiritual communities. Churches that are renewed and vital focused on Christian practices, such as hospitality, contemplation, diversity, justice, discernment, and worship.

Butler Bass' visit to the Diocese is being sponsored by the Christian Formation Commission. The schedule for her visit is:

**Saturday, March 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.:** St. Andrew's Cathedral, open to everyone. Vestry members are especially encouraged to attend.

## Congratulations

to Joyce Wang, daughter of organist Marie Wang, who won First Place in the advanced piano division of the Mozart Festival, sponsored by the Hawaii Music Teachers Association.

# God grant them many years!

Honored on Sunday, February 18th at the 8:15 am service were St. Elizabeth's parishioners who had made their 85th birthday and above, to our eldest who is 101:

**Daniel and Ethel Ching**

**Akiu Chock**

**Annie Chock** (received by  
*Sarah Bush*)

**Eunice Gee**

**Doris Goo** (received by  
*Beryl Goo*)

**Mildred Hirashiki**

**Helen Ing**

**Bernice Kau**

**Walter Kau**

**Johnny Kuniyoshi**

**Stella Ho Lau** (received by  
*Allene Haskovec*)

**Raymond Leong**

**Charlotte Lum**

**Elsie and Richard Okubo**

**Masa Tsukamoto**

(received by *Faye Tsukamoto*)

**Gertrude Tyau**

**Eliabeth Wong**

**Flora Wong**

**Francis Woo**

**Thomas Woo**

**Kalfred Yee**

**Juliet and Tim Chong**  
**Young**

**Margaret Zane**

Elders who were not able to  
attend the Feb. 18th service:

**Betty Awakuni**

**Wah Chan Ching**

**Bertha Chong**

**Charles Chu**

**Robert Kau**

**Florence Tyau**



Elders were given narcissus plants, thanks to the generosity of Francis and Puanani Woo. Shown here is Tim Chong Young, assisting are Patsy Ching and Jennifer Watanabe..



Akiu Chock is happy to receive a narcissus plant, shown here with daughter, Jamie Chock.



Glenn Woo, Francis Woo and Mother Jodene cut the cake.



Eunice Gee and Jennifer Watanabe.



Helen Ing and Lowell Ing

## Prayer for our Elders

Lord God, Creator of us all,

We thank you for the long life with which each of our elders has been blessed. We thank you, O God, for their love and their wisdom so freely given to us. We thank you for each one's example of faithful and godly living that inspires our own faith.

May every blessing they have received throughout their life gladden their hearts this day. May every hardship or heartache they have endured be healed and transformed by your grace into eternal glory.

We pray now, that the spiritual legacies that they have created will be honored in our life and that we may bestow upon the next generations the spiritual gifts they have so generously given to us.

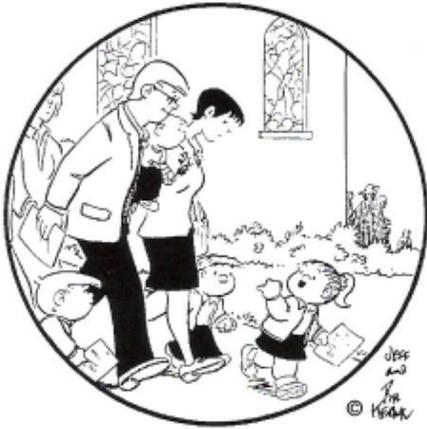
In your name, O God, we honor our elders this day with our respect and with the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The Rev. Jodene S. Hawkins)

**What is the secret to long life?  
Be a member of St. Elizabeth's!**

Sunday School teachers Sue Yap, Lisa-Anne Mitsuka Chan, Jamie Chock and Lillian Tyau were also honored on this day and received narcissus plants.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"The part of his talk that I liked best was when he said, 'And finally.'"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst, for they are sticking with their diet."  
(Author unknown)

from the Joyful NoiseLetter



## Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 1, 9 am

## Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 5, 7 pm

## Good Friday

Friday, April 6, 12 noon and 7 pm

## Easter Day

Sunday, April 8, 8:15 am

## Bishop's Ordination

Saturday, March 10  
10:00 A.M.

St. Andrew's Cathedral



## March Birthdays

Obeyi Helly, 3/3  
Mildred Hirashiki, 3/3  
Roy Chee, 3/5  
Doreen Ching, 3/7  
Aadriana White, 3/9  
Arleen Young, 3/12  
Sarah Bush, 3/14  
Miranda Young, 3/17  
Haku Blaisdell, 3/17  
Gerald Lau, 3/29



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