

"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 2008

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

Lani Kaaihue
Junior Warden

Arleen Young
Secretary

Bill Eng, Treasurer

Sue Yap, Contributor

Website:
www.stelizabeth720.org

Email:
stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com



From Mother Jodene

Aloha Beloved in Christ Jesus,

The man lived an upright, honest and godly life. He cared about and cared for others, putting their needs ahead of his own. He had many friends and a devoted family. He faced his temptations and conquered them. He never judged people by the color of their skin, their education, their social class, their gender or age, or even their faults and failures. He knew how to forgive. He knew how to help heal broken bodies, minds and spirits. He had a sense of humor and captivated people with his storytelling. He lived the words and messages of the Good Book every day of his life. He had faith as solid as a rock.

But, in spite of all his goodness the man was designated public enemy number one. He showed up on the authorities 'most wanted' list. Finally, by the stealth of night, they snared him in a wicked trap. They trumped up charges. Fair trial? Guess again. The death sentence was his destiny. And they laughed him out of this world. His name: Jesus our Lord. Yes, we know that ultimately God won this unjust and unfair battle and raised Jesus to life from death. It is the Easter Story. However, we also know that Jesus' story of suffering and death is a classic of bad things happening to good people.

Jesus' Holy Week journey raises that age old question of why? in sufferings and tragedies and happenings that just seem to have no explanation. As full of faith in God as Jesus was, on that Old Rugged Cross he cried from the depths of his being 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Jesus did not get an answer on Good Friday. It was only later that he would experience resurrection and new life. I wish I had an answer to this question when my dear priest friend Maggie at age 41 and with two beautiful

children and a loving husband was dying of a brain tumor. But at least we talked together about this as I visited and cared for her.



We talked about how suffering is a great mystery in this life--about how good and bad alike suffer---as the rain falls from heaven on both. We talked about looking for someone or some thing to blame and about the feeling of being blamed as Job in the bible experienced. We talked about the search for a 'reason' and not finding a reason yet that seemed logical or understandable.

And, through our tears we talked about faith and hope. About how God actually grieves when bad things happen to any of God's children. We talked about how Jesus lived the depths of the unfairness and injustice of suffering. We talked about that Old Rugged Cross. We talked about an empty tomb and the Sunrise of Heaven---and that no matter what happens that God has the deepest and last words---Love, Resurrection and Eternal life. We never did come up with a definitive answer to 'why?' But, Maggie found her resurrection on this side of heaven. She found it in the peace of God which passes all understanding---a peace that sustained her and brought her the blessed assurance of hope that as her Redeemer liveth, so would she. Her family eventually found it in the blessing of a new mother for her children. This is one Easter Story on the other side of the Cross. Now we walk these last days of Lent, Palm Sunday and Holy Week with Jesus, knowing that the eternal sunrise of Heaven awaits our Lord.

With God's peace that passes all understanding,

Mother Jodene +



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

March 16th, Palm Sunday

7:30 am, Trolley pickup at Kaumakapili Church
8:00 am, Palm Sunday Parade, Aala Park
Royal Hawaiian Band
8:45 am, Palm Sunday Procession and Eucharist

March 20th, Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm, Holy Communion, Footwashing,
Stripping of the Altar

March 21st, Good Friday

12:00 pm & 6:00 pm. The Way of the Cross,
The Blessing of Crosses and Oils, the Lighting
of Candles



March 23rd, Easter Day

8:15 am. Holy Communion, handbells,
special music. Refreshments following.



Easter Factoid

This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives! And only the eldest have ever seen it this early (95 years old or above). None of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier! Here are the facts:

1) The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913.

2) The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see Easter any earlier than this year!

Join the celebration at your home church, St. Elizabeth's.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I liked seeing Jesus in the manger better."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

Mahalo for all who contributed rice, ramen, meats and vegetables to assist our parish members and children in need. Your almsgiving makes a big difference to our families.

WELCOME TO ST. ELIZABETH'S NEW PRIEST ASSOCIATE

THE REV. IMELDA SUMAOANG PADASDAO

St. Elizabeth's Vestry voted to call The Rev. Imelda S. Padasdao as Priest Associate at the February 2008 meeting. She will begin her ministry among us on Easter Sunday. She was born and raised in the Barrio of Masikil, Bangui, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. She is the eldest of three children of the late Florentino and Iluminada Padasdao.

Immigrating to Hawaii, one of her first jobs was with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands for ten years. She attended St. Paul's, Honolulu from 1971 until 2002. At Summer Camp at Mokuleia in 1972 she experienced her calling to ordained ministry. Bishop Browning, the Camp Chaplain asked her to read the lesson and the Prayers of the People. The Bishop was very impressed with her skill.

According to Bishop Browning, she was active in helping St. Paul's and put on "many hats" of ministry. The Rev. Canon Tim P. Quintero, the founder and Vicar of St. Paul's Church and the late Rev. Fritz Minuth were greatly influential in her seeking ordained ministry.

She served many ministries at the parish and diocese as well as in the National Church. Treasurer for St. Paul's for 20 years before ordination, she also served on the Bishop's Committee. She served the Diocese and National Church faithfully as Delegate to Diocesan Convention, on the Diocesan Council, as National Episcopal Asiamerica Filipino convocation representative, and as a member of the National Women's Organization of the ECUSA.

Ordained to the Diaconate in 1986 and to the Priesthood in 1990, 'Apo Padi,' as Mother Imelda also likes to be called, became the first female Filipino Priest in the Episcopal Church and in the Anglican Communion.

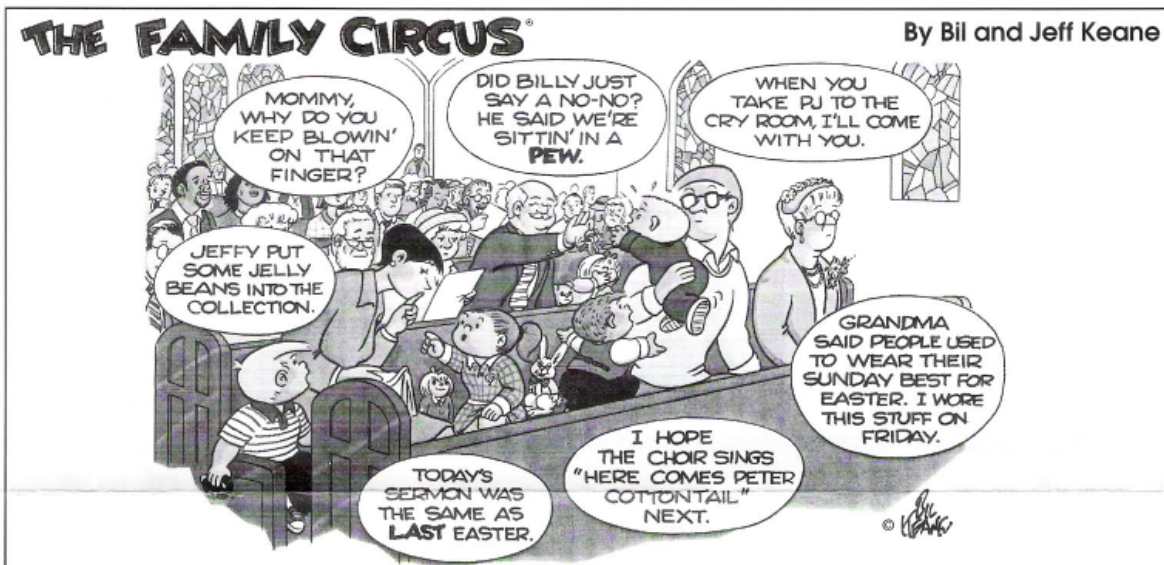
Following her ministries at St. Paul's Church, Bishop Chang assigned her as long term Supply Priest for Resurrection Parish in Hilo and St. Columba's in Paauilo as well as to the Filipino



Ministry in West Kauai. She has been 'the flying priest' for these families of faith. Her ability to juggle many balls has been much needed, as she continues her position at the Department of Transportation. She has been worshipping at St. Mary's since 2001.

Apo Padi, Mother Imelda said this about her new ministry at St. Elizabeth's, "I am deeply honored with the trust and confidence of Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick and along with that of The Rev. Jodene Hawkins and Vestry of St. Elizabeth's Church." Her family wholeheartedly

supports her in this new ministry and offers this prayer: "We pray that God will continue to use and bless Imelda in what He deems best for her and for His Church." We at St. Elizabeth's add a hearty *Amen* to this prayer.



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Gecko Report



Congratulations to **Naomi Yuen-Schat** (Ajaon and Zen's daughter) who was named Student of the Week at Niu Valley Elementary School for her outstanding academics and positive attitude.

Hawaii was on the map at the Consortium for Endowed Parishes education event in St. Louis **Mother Jodene and Lani Kaaihue**, Jr. Warden, braved ice, snow and freezing weather in order to help St. E's thrive and grow. St. Andrew's Cathedral members participating were **Rev. Moki Hino**, **Provost Tim Sexton**, and **Jennie Wallace**, Canon for Christian Formation. Holy Nativity was represented by **Rev. Rick Vinson**, St. Clement's was represented by **Rev. Liz Zivanov**, **Jason Healey** and **Grace Lee**.

Kathy Crosier, our Parish Administrator, flew to California to help son Stephen move into his new condo home.

Santer and **Forget Kom's** mother Misako was struck by a car crossing a street in Honolulu. Please keep Misako and the Kom family in your prayers at this critical time.

If you have ever seen **Nancy Shim-Au's** garden you know how beautiful it is. She has a green thumb. She was recently off to the Big Island on a special Garden Tour—most likely she has returned with more great ideas.

"California here we come" could have been **Patsy Ching's** song as she boarded that plane to visit her daughter Crystal in the search of the white stuff—commonly called "snow!" We know you were lucky enough to see that snow this time Patsy!

Did you see **Stuart Ching** in the Feb. 12 *Honolulu Advertiser* again? This time it was for the one-time only display of Jewels of the Royal Family of the Kingdom of Hawaii which were displayed only one day for the public to view. Stuart does get the best assignments, doesn't he!

Kit Hawkins had fun visiting grandchildren and brothers and sisters in Seattle while Mother Jodene was studying in St. Louis. He even got to go to school with Emily and Ryan for a day and sled in the snow.

Congratulations to **Lani Kaaihue**, on her new job as Events Coordinator/Office Manager for Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick in the Diocesan Office.

Sylvia Rowland is at home recovering from a stroke. We are glad to know she is doing well.

Adult Education Sunday Mornings

Introduction to the Bible to be held
Sunday, April 6th after church.

Many folks have been engaging our Christianity 101 class after church. We have learned more about the meaning of Sunday worship, the theology of Baptism and Holy Eucharist (Mother Jodene), about how to make big and small decisions with God's help (Rev. Dr. Gifford, instructor), and Christian history (Kit Hawkins, instructor). Following Easter on April 6th, Christianity 101 will offer Introduction to the Bible class. Classes are from 9:30-10:10.

"Pray for one another . . ." James 5:16 St. Elizabeth invites "Pray-ers" for People in Need

We hope everyone knows that we have a healing prayer ministry at St. Elizabeth's. We pray for people's needs and for people's thanksgivings on Sunday mornings and on Wednesdays at the 9:30 am Healing Eucharist. There have been many healings and answered prayers by the grace of God.

If you would like to join us in this prayer ministry, it is possible from your own home and on your personal timetable. We will provide you a list of people who need our prayers on the first Sunday of the month at church. If you are unable to attend worship on that day, you may request that the list be mailed to your home. Praying for others is needed and is possible even if you are homebound. "Prayers go up, blessings come down" says a Yiddish proverb. While this is not our motivation—our motivation is our mutual caring in Christ—you can expect to be blessed in this needed ministry. Please contact Nora Kurosu, Charles Kokubun or Lani Kaaihue for more information or to join us in this important and needed ministry.





Weinberg Project Planning Workshop

Grand Success at St. Elizabeth's

Twenty-two of our members engaged in this valuable workshop which will help them plan projects and events in their work and family lives as well as help our church when we have special events and projects. Led by Professional Project Planner Alan Yue,

Akiu, Faith and Jamie Chock
Jerry and Millie Goo
Kit Hawkins
Doug Ing
Tom and Peggy Ishida
Jerek Jong
Dorothy Jung
Francis and Pearl Kau
Jimmy and Lani Kealoha
Nella Kleinschmidt
Preston and Mary Lentz
Ipolani Shiroma
Arleen Young

were our participants. Please ask them about their learning and their experience.

A BIG Mahalo to Raymond Siu for bringing gourmet sandwiches and chips for lunch!

February 2008 Attendance

8:15 am service average	113
Chinese New Year, 2/3	207
Ash Wednesday	40
Chinese language service	6
Wed. Healing service avg.	6

Chaplaincy Training Program

graduates two St. Elizabeth's Members



Lani Kaaihue and Charles Kokubun completed six weeks of chaplaincy training sponsored by Pacific Health Ministries. Educators for the course were Pacific Health Care Pastoral Professionals from local hospitals and Hospice Hawaii. Their course work included training in hospital visitation skills and protocols, hospice and grief support training, and compassionate listening and communication

skills.

The program prepares people for visitation and care giving in their congregations. The textbook used in the course was *The Compassionate Visitor* by Arthur Becker. This book is available in the church office on a library check out basis or see Lani, Charlie or Mother Jodene. The book is also available on Amazon.com. This course is offered from time to time. If you are interested in participating and want to know about upcoming classes, or other ways to be trained to be a caring and compassionate visitor with family and friends, please contact Mother Jodene.



Walter Kau in Concert

Sunday March 30th 9:30 am

Returning by popular demand, Walter Kau, *organ meister extraordinaire* will be in concert at St. Elizabeth's on **Sunday March 30th** following our worship service. Please invite family and friends for this joyful Easter Season mini-concert.

March Birthdays

Obeyl 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





Easter Lily Donations Needed

Donations will be gladly accepted for purchasing lilies to decorate the church for Easter. You may purchase lilies in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Name _____

Number of lilies @ \$8 each _____

In memory / honor of _____

Humor Pew

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, 'I'm not sure.' 'Look in your underwear, Grandpa,' 'mine says I'm four to six.'

A Dutchman was explaining the red, white and blue Netherlands flag to an American.

"Our flag is symbolic of our taxes. We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bills, and blue after we pay them."

The American nodded. "It's the same in the USA only we see stars too!"

My granddaughter was visiting one day when she asked, 'Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?' I mentally polished my halo while I asked, 'No, how are we alike?' 'You're both old,' she replied.

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
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