

"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

November 2010 **One said 'Thank You'**

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V Bishop of Hawaii

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David J. Gierlach
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The Rev. David J. Gierlach

Ten with a skin disease call out to Jesus: "Help!" Ten are made clean. You can almost hear the 9 as they continued on their way: "Man, are we smart or what? We called out to just the right guy at just the right time and look! We're clean! Back home we go to mothers and brothers and sisters and wives and children! Back to work! Back to our lives! Man, are we smart!"

Or perhaps it was this: "After all we've suffered through, being outcasts and pariahs, all those years of being nobodies; we deserve to be healed!"

Or maybe it was this: "See, I knew if we prayed hard enough, God would give us what we want!"

As the 9 continued to walk down the road, delighted at their good fortune, only 1 returns. An illegal immigrant. Only 1 turns back to say "thank you." Only 1 recognizes, only 1 sees, that he has been on the receiving end of pure, undeserved, unmerited, grace. Only 1. And an illegal alien at that.

Jesus sees the 10 and feels for them. All 10 see that they are made well. But only one sees where that wellness comes from.

"Blessed are those with eyes to see."

Today's gospel really is the perfect story of life in the 21st century. Everyday, good things happen to we modern people. We have, for most of us, an abundance of food, of clothing, of creature comforts. We are surrounded by fine medical care, easy transportation, air conditioning, and Costco's!

And 9 out of 10 will say: "We've worked hard!" "We've sweated!" "We've created these comforts!" "We deserve these comforts!" "Good for us!"

Perhaps only 1 will take a look around, with eyes that see, and fall to the ground, thanking God for all of this abundance.

My friends in AA call it an "attitude of gratitude". An "attitude of gratitude." Especially in these tough economic times. Especially in days like these when we are surrounded by fear mongerers, consumed with shrill and divisive political voices; especially now, an attitude of gratitude goes a long way in bending our world toward the kingdom, despite the many forces intent on bending it the other way.

An attitude of gratitude is the result of slowly waking up to a life that is shot full of



**Pledge
Blessing
Sunday
November 29th**



A pledge card is enclosed in this newsletter. Pledges will be blessed on the **First Sunday of Advent** at the 8:15 service.

Rector's Message, cont.

God's grace; and coming to see God's grace in the miracle of, say, a vegetable garden; in the joyful shouts of the little ones; in the air that we breath and the health we enjoy.

An attitude of gratitude steps into God's world and recognizes it *as God's world*. No matter the circumstances, an attitude of gratitude sees God's hand everywhere. It takes grateful eyes to see. It also takes hands that are willing to get dirty; to step outside of my comfort zone; to become involved in the lives of those who are different from me.

When we combine an attitude of gratitude with a real effort to mingle and mix with the whole motley crew called as God's family; that's when miracles happen!

In that mixing, like yeast with flour, something marvelous begins to grow. Something new comes into being. Something mysterious and strange, yet gentle and inviting; it peeks out from around the corner, beckoning us to come and see.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu this week summed up what a lifetime of living in an attitude of gratitude revealed, when he insists that: "The texture of our universe is one where there is no question at all but that good and laughter and justice will prevail."

Martin Luther King, Jr., during the most trying days of the civil rights movement, said with great passion that while the arc of the universe is long, it bends toward justice.

One can only believe these things if one is cloaked with an attitude of gratitude.

Tom Long tells of moving to a new city and joining a new church. A number of other new folks had recently attended so the minister invited them over one night for dinner. During the meal, the conversation turned to why these folks had joined. One was a musician, who liked the music at the church. Another had children and the church had a great youth program. Another just liked the minister,

Then it got around to Sam's turn. Sam said he had been addicted to meth, and one day had stumbled into the church, begging for help. The director of the church outreach center said: "We've spent our budget for the month. I can't get you into treatment until next month. But if you'll stay with us, we'll stay with you." She took Sam's hand, they kneeled down together, and prayed.

He stayed and got into a treatment program. "I've been sober for 3 years now," Sam said, and the reason I joined this church is that God saved me in this church!"

Tom Long relates how the other folks looked sheepishly around the dinner table at each other. "We were there for the music and the parking; he was there for the salvation."

A few weeks later, the parish newsletter noted that Sam was in jail. Tom went to see him, to ask what had happened.

"I was working in the outreach center," Sam replied, "counseling people like myself; telling them that they could do right. But then I realized, I hadn't done right myself. I had a warrant out for my arrest. It was an old warrant. So old it probably never would have caught up with me, but I knew about it. So, on Christmas Eve, I turned myself in."

Sam went on: "I'll be out by Easter! I can't wait to worship at the church on Easter! But in the meantime, I've got an outreach center going on in the jail. A lot of people can't read or write, so I write letters to their wives and sweethearts, telling them that they miss them and love them."

"Every night, we have a prayer meeting. Just a few show up. But we pray for the other prisoners, and for the guards."

[Brosend, The Preaching of Jesus, 120-1]

10 were healed. 1 came back to say, "thank you."

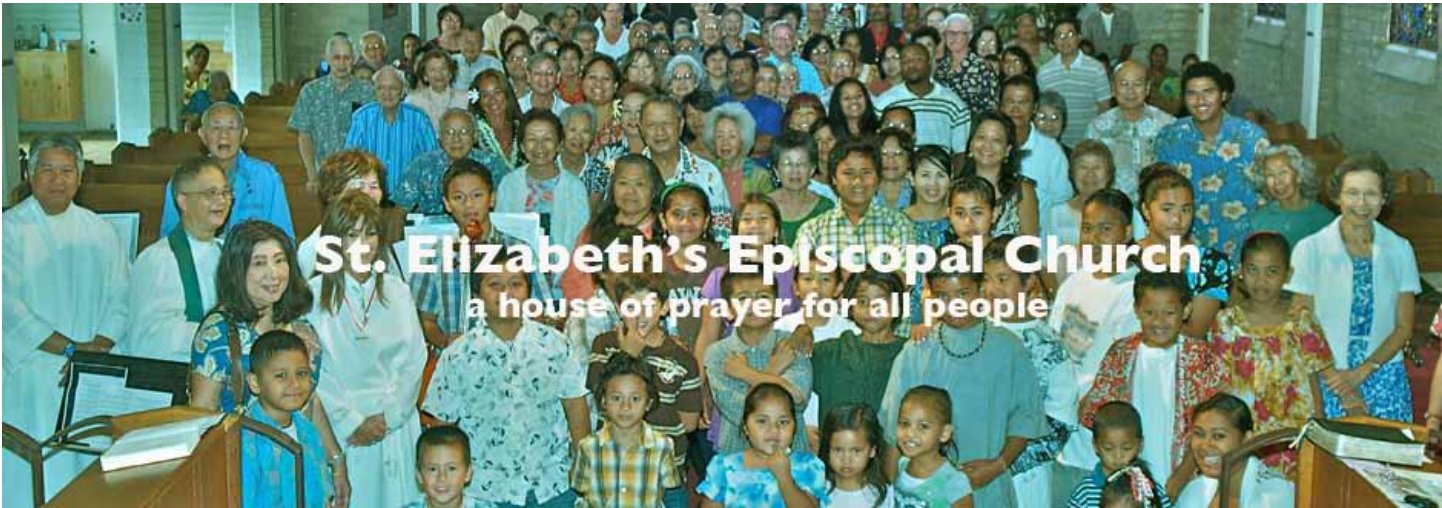
May God's grace give to each of us an attitude of gratitude this day.

+amen

MANY MANY THANKS to Aunt Nancy and the KITCHEN ANGELS for once again making our Spaghetti Dinner and Dance Nite such a success. Over 50 of us got together on October 22 for great food, wonderful music and outstanding fellowship!

We will take a rest for now, and, because of the holidays, have our next DINNER/DANCE on FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011.





Who is the Face of St. Elizabeth? YOU ARE!

On Sunday, October 10th, the entire congregation of St. Elizabeth's posed for a group photo. Can you find yourself? This picture now appears as a banner on our website, stelizabeth720.org.

"God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7

What is Proportional Giving?

Any regular, intentional program of giving a specific amount of money is, in a way, "proportional" giving. The Bible states a specific obligation to "tithe"—that is, to give back to God one-tenth of what we have received from God. One-tenth! Ten percent! The Bible sets the bar very high—maybe too high for most of us to think about at first. Giving proportionately means offering a percentage of your income with the goal of the "tithe" — giving 10%. The stewardship journey, however, is different for every person and family. We all begin in different places and we all end up in different places. Proportional Giving helps us understand where we are on the journey. If giving 10% seems daunting, consider starting with a pledge of just 2% of your income and each

year prayerfully consider taking a "step up." For an estimate of what your pledge would be, the following chart helps. It helps you calculate your own proportional gift.

| INCOME | 15% | 12% | 10% | 9% | 8% | 7% | 6% | 5% | 4% | 3% | 2% | 1% |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 5,000 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 10,000 | 29 | 23 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 15,000 | 43 | 35 | 29 | 26 | 23 | 20 | 17 | 14 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 20,000 | 58 | 46 | 38 | 35 | 33 | 27 | 23 | 19 | 15 | 12 | 8 | 4 |
| 25,000 | 72 | 58 | 48 | 43 | 38 | 34 | 29 | 24 | 19 | 14 | 10 | 5 |
| 30,000 | 87 | 69 | 58 | 52 | 46 | 40 | 35 | 29 | 23 | 17 | 12 | 6 |
| 35,000 | 101 | 81 | 67 | 61 | 54 | 47 | 40 | 34 | 27 | 20 | 13 | 7 |
| 40,000 | 115 | 92 | 77 | 69 | 62 | 54 | 46 | 38 | 31 | 23 | 15 | 8 |
| 45,000 | 130 | 104 | 87 | 78 | 69 | 61 | 52 | 43 | 35 | 26 | 17 | 9 |
| 50,000 | 144 | 115 | 96 | 87 | 77 | 67 | 58 | 48 | 38 | 29 | 19 | 10 |
| 55,000 | 159 | 127 | 106 | 95 | 85 | 74 | 63 | 53 | 42 | 32 | 21 | 11 |
| 60,000 | 173 | 138 | 115 | 104 | 92 | 81 | 69 | 58 | 46 | 35 | 23 | 12 |
| 65,000 | 188 | 150 | 125 | 113 | 100 | 88 | 75 | 63 | 50 | 38 | 25 | 13 |
| 70,000 | 202 | 162 | 135 | 121 | 108 | 94 | 81 | 67 | 54 | 40 | 27 | 13 |
| 75,000 | 216 | 173 | 144 | 130 | 115 | 101 | 87 | 72 | 58 | 43 | 29 | 14 |
| 80,000 | 231 | 185 | 154 | 138 | 123 | 108 | 92 | 77 | 62 | 46 | 31 | 15 |
| 85,000 | 245 | 196 | 163 | 147 | 131 | 114 | 98 | 82 | 65 | 49 | 33 | 16 |
| 90,000 | 260 | 208 | 173 | 156 | 138 | 121 | 104 | 87 | 69 | 52 | 35 | 17 |
| 95,000 | 274 | 219 | 183 | 164 | 146 | 128 | 110 | 91 | 73 | 55 | 37 | 18 |
| 100,000 | 288 | 231 | 192 | 173 | 154 | 135 | 115 | 96 | 77 | 58 | 38 | 19 |

The important thing is that the Biblical notion of proportionality is the ultimately holistic way of giving--you pledge and give in proportion to what you have or make. There's no hidden standard, some sort of "dues" structure, though sometimes we mistakenly imagine there is.

A senior citizen living on a fixed, modest income who gives 5% is a more faithful proportionate giver than the rich one who dashes off a large check that only represents 1% of what she/he has received.

Sound suspiciously familiar? Sounds like Jesus.

Community Action



St. E's has joined with the Mayor Wright Tenant Association to work toward decent living standards at that public housing complex. Working with **Fetu Kolio**, the Tenant Association president, a bunch of us from the church and the housing picketed the Legislature and the Governor's house on October 22 to get hot water restored (after 7 years!! Can you believe **no hot water** for people for 7 years?!). We were joined by Karl Rhoads (the local legislator) and his election opponent David Chang in addition to our own **Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick**, who came out to show his support.

Sooooo

In January, let's get together (say, 50 of us) and **knock on some legislators doors** to be sure the funding to make the needed repairs is done. **"Lord, when did we see you naked or hungry or in prison...?"**

And

We are also **assisting with the Food Bank distribution** at Mayor Wright that happens 2 times a month. In the past, gang members were taking off with food meant for the needy. 6 men from St. E's assisted Fetu's men in distributing 7 pallets of food. All went smoothly, the intended folks got their much needed food and good fellowship was enjoyed by all. These distributions are the **first Friday and third Monday** of each month from 1-4 p.m. **Come by if can!**



Quotable Quotes

"So be silent, and do not chatter about God; for when you chatter about him, you are telling lies and sinning. But if you want to be without sin and perfect, you should not chatter about God. And do not try to understand God, for God is beyond all understanding. One authority says: 'If I had a God whom I could understand, I should never consider him God.' [Instead], sink down out of all your your-ness, and flow into his his-ness, and your "your" and his "his" ought to become one "mine," so completely that you with him perceive forever his uncreated is-ness, and his nothingness, for which there is no name."

Meister Eckhart,
German Works, 207



Community Garden



Our garden is now producing purple eggplant, peas, sweet potato, fragrant dill, purple basil and a **GIGANTIC Thing** that Miss Sue assures us is a sunflower (but it looks like Jack's Beanstalk!!) If you haven't put a seed in the ground yet, please come by and get your hands dirty!

Sewing Serendipity

It was a Dim Sum lunch after church one day in July with St. Elizabeth's friends where the conversation turned to sewing as a project that might be regenerated to personally benefit members and the Church . . .

" . . . and if the Church had a heavy industrial sewing machine, that would be a real plus."

" . . . I have one I'd love to donate. I bought it from my 80-year-old mother years ago. Still good, I'm sure. She loved to sew. Used it one time, then said to me,

"I scared use it — goes too fast for me!"



"Laughter is the closest thing to the grace of God." —Karl Barth

Church Women United

will hold their meeting at St. Elizabeth's on **Sunday, Nov. 7th** with fellowship and registration and 3:30 pm and a service at 4 pm in celebration of World Community Day. Guest Speaker will be Betty Jo Harris. All are welcome. Information, phone 225-7978. Patsy Ching and Nancy Shim-Au will be helping them facilitate this program at our church. Fr. David will preside.



A moving van picked up the sewing machine (packed in a huge crate) from the dock and delivered it to the church. Earlier Puanani Woo had brought several machines with her from the Big Island, had them inspected and repaired and donated them to St. Elizabeth's.



Thanks to the generosity of **Puanani Woo**, the St. Elizabeth's Sewing (Sowing) Program is underway! Not only did she donate several sewing machines, but she also gave plenty of fabric, scissors, pins, needles and other sewing accessories to get the program off the ground and running. She even remembered an ironing board and steam iron!

The mission of the program is to teach the love the sewing with the goals to:

1. Sew for personal needs free of charge.
2. Sew for St. Elizabeth's
3. Sew for profit.

Members of the Sewing (Sowing) Program who will oversee the project include: **Puanani Woo** (chair), **Nancy Shim-Au**, **Roy Chee**, **Patsy Ching**, **Lowell Ing**, **Laura Iwami**, and **Faye Tsukamoto**. The administrator of the sewing room is **Ignacia Terno**.



Attendance

| | | |
|-------|-------------------|-----|
| 10/3 | Sunday 8:15 am | 169 |
| 10/3 | Ilokano Service | 56 |
| 10/6 | Wed. Eucharist | 16 |
| 10/6 | Ilokano Service | 35 |
| 10/10 | Sunday 8:15 am | 165 |
| 10/10 | Chinese Service | 6 |
| 10/13 | Wed. Eucharist | 20 |
| 10/17 | Sunday 8:15 am | 148 |
| 10/17 | Chinese Service | 5 |
| 10/20 | Wed. Eucharist | 11 |
| 10/24 | Sunday 8:15 am | 163 |
| 10/24 | Chinese Eucharist | 6 |
| 10/27 | Wed. Eucharist | 13 |
| 10/31 | Sunday 8:15 am | 168 |
| 10/31 | Chinese Eucharist | 5 |

Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 3

St. Elizabeth's Sunday School and Church members brought their pets and photos of their pets in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. The blessing of pets is a large part of the celebration of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Rushing up for blessings were 4 dogs: Sage, who looks like a miniature Schnauzer with 'mom' **Jennifer Watanabe**; mama dog and 2 of her puppies (2 other puppies had to stay home)... with the **Steffey Family**. The dogs were joined by 2 lovebirds, 'Sam' Mitsuka, owned by the **Mitsuka family**; and the lovebird owned by **Joshua Lino**. The sleeping kittens, all 7 of

them—part of Boo's litter (who can forget Mother Jodene's cat Boo!)... and the kittens each went home with a special Sunday School child!



Cheryl Mitsuka, 'Sam' the lovebird, with the Batangan Family, Coby, Karen, Gillian and Gilbert

On the bulletin board were photos of pets that could not make it to church but wanted to be participate in the celebration, 2 cats: 'Neiman Marcus' Mitsuka, 'Coco Chanel' Mitsuka; one pot-belly pig, 'Maile' Mitsuka; and a Jack Russell dog, 'Libby' Sakamoto. Blessings to all our wonderful 2-legged and 4-legged critters!



Jennifer Watanabe and "Sage"

Holy Humor

A grandfather was driving his young granddaughter to her softball game when she asked, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, indeed, God made me," her grandfather replied.

"Did God make me, too?" she asked. "Yes, He did, and He did a good job," the grandfather answered.

For a few minutes, the little girl seemed to be studying her grandfather, then looked at her reflection in the car mirror.

"You know, Grandpa," she said, "God's doing a lot better job lately."—via Bart Van Giessen, Texas Township, MI

Corrections (to last month's *Vine and Branches*)

The ragdolls blessed on August 29th were lovingly stitched and made by the Pali Seniors, Philome Racuya, President, with assistance and support from **Nora Kurosu**. The scarecrow in the Community Garden was made by the **Chock Ohana** with the help of **Charles Steffey** who stuck in the ground (and made it stay!)



Happy Birthday

God's blessings on those with November birthdays!

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Hazel Yee | 11/2 |
| Soskey Felix | 11/3 |
| Jess Marie Robert | 11/4 |
| Richard Unarce | 11/5 |
| Sarah Kleinschmidt | 11/6 |
| Eric Arakawa | 11/7 |
| Iustina Weia | 11/7 |
| Ethleen leichy | 11/7 |
| Aska Michael | 11/8 |
| James Kealoha | 11/15 |
| Randy Timonio | 11/15 |
| Francisco Tagle | 11/16 |
| Shazlyn Padasdao | 11/16 |
| Jeremy Bush | 11/17 |
| Fr. Saimone Lino | 11/18 |
| James Fitzpatrick | 11/18 |
| Laura Iwami | 11/19 |
| Alfonso V. Suyat | 11/21 |
| Charlemagne Julian | 11/21 |
| Lerry Runes | 11/24 |
| Keira Ho | 11/24 |
| Yenchy Repaky | 11/25 |
| Erthleen Repaky | 11/25 |
| Madilta Nakayama | 11/26 |
| Jeanette Wong | 11/28 |
| Camerynn Michael | 11/28 |



The Chock family and Mr. Scarecrow.



Scholarship Committee Grants Awards

The Scholarship Committee met on Sunday, August 22nd, and approved scholarship awards of \$700 to each of the following recipients: **Leyna Eseki, James Fitzpatrick, Rebecca Kleinschmidt, Sarah Kleinschmidt, Anaseini Lino, and Chase Pacupac.** Recipients fulfilled all eligibility requirements that included active church membership, 250-word essay, minimum of ten volunteer hours on a church related program, and evidence of admission or enrollment in a post-secondary institution as a full time student.

The Scholarship Fund was established in 1985 to encourage and assist members of this Parish to continue their education beyond high school. It recognizes those students who have made significant contributions to St. Elizabeth's Church. It is hoped that these students will continue to take an active role in the life of the Parish. Parishioners who serve on the Scholarship Committee include: Patsy Ching (Chair), Nancy Au, Rowena Blaisdell, Sarah Bush, Bill Eng, Millie Goo, Lilian Tyau, and Arleen Young.

The demand for scholarship funds has increased as the number of college-bound students in the Parish has risen. Likewise, education costs and fees for students have also escalated. If you would like to help meet this increasing demand and support the post-secondary education of our Parish youth, your donation to St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church (earmarked "Scholarship Fund") would be most appreciated.

Once again, from your Treasurer

November marks Pledge Month. Thanks to all of you who have so generously contributed to St. E's and who continue to do so. Here's our challenge. **Our \$7500 per month deficit, can be cut to ZERO if 100 people increase their giving by \$18 per week. We can cut the deficit IN HALF if 100 people increase their giving by \$9 per week.** Since we all want St. E's to continue to be a **House of Prayer for All People** for the next 110 years, please pray, please take the leap, please do what you can, and then, please do a bit more! Thank you so much!



A Taste of St. E's!

Please reserve **Saturday, December 11 from 6-9 pm** for the soon-to-be annual St. E's delicious food, wine tasting, and silent auction fundraiser. This will be our major fundraising event for the year, benefitting in part the **St. Elizabeth's Scholarship Fund**, so if you have items to donate for the silent auction, or friends who might have a timeshare weekend to give away, or a round of golf, or a Hawaiian quilt, or or or or, please corral them for us!

Gretchen Jong is the chair of the Silent Auction event. You can reach Gretchen at 255-2493.

We will provide a van service from east and west for those who'd like to come but don't like driving at night!



"Can I be thankful without eatin' my peas?"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane



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A House of Prayer for all People

Return service requested

"Life is not a task at all. Life is far more difficult than that. Life is the process of coming to see what is not seeable, to hear what is not said, to become what we are but never knew we were."

— J. Chittister

Welcome to the Wisdom of the World, 45

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff & Bil Keane



"I wish the Pilgrims had sent out for PIZZA on the first Thanksgiving 'stead of shootin' a turkey."

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

Thanksgiving Day Service

Thursday
Nov. 25th • 9:00 am



The Altar Guild has traditionally decorated the altar with fruits and vegetables for this service. Please share your harvest and bring your donations to the church office by Wednesday morning, November 24th. We will also be receiving canned and non-perishable food items for our Food Pantry.

We are thankful for all God's blessings—
please be generous!