

"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

November 2008

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 Kaahue
Junior Warden

Aileen Young
Secretary

Bill Eng, Treasurer

Roy Chee, Assistant
Treasurer

Sue Yap, Contributor

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Mother Jodene's Homily October 19, 2008

Matthew 22:15-22

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A mainland visitor was basking in the sun on Waikiki beach when a young boy approached her carrying his beach towel. She was surprised when he asked, "Do you believe in God?" "Why, yes, I do." Then he asked, "Do you go to church every Sunday?" "Yes." Then he asked, "Do you read your Bible and pray?" "Yes, I do." The boy sighed with relief, "That's great! Will you hold my dollar while I go swimming?"

Money is hot news now. Everywhere people are looking for good people and good places to hold on to their money. Growing up, many folks learned that money and politics were not subjects for 'polite company.' However, Jesus had no problem talking about politics and money in polite company. We hear Jesus saying, "render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar, render unto God what belongs to God," to folks who wanted to discredit Jesus and trip him up. They set a trap for Jesus. "Jesus, tell us, is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not?" How clever they thought they were. If Jesus said "No, it is not lawful to pay taxes, he could be arrested by the Romans. If Jesus said "Yes, it is lawful," there were folks in Palestine who would call Jesus a traitor, who sided with the Roman occupation. Yes, or no, Jesus stood to lose.

Jesus is not tricked. "Give me a coin. Whose image is on the coin?" Jesus asks. "Caesars'," they answer. "Then give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar. And give to God what belongs to God." Jesus stumps the crowd with his answer. The answer was clear for what the tax rate required. However there is another question hanging in the air. What

belongs to God? What does belong to God? Faithful people can struggle with this question. How much of our possessions belong to God? How much of our money belongs to God?



The answer may surprise us. All. All of our possessions. All of our money. All of our assets. All come to us by the generosity of our loving God. From the pennies scattered in the bottom of the drawer, to the paper money tucked inside an old book, the Bible tells us "Every good gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights." (James 1:17) The psalmist sings, "The earth is the Lords, and everything in it, and all who live in it." St. Paul writes, "It is God who richly provides us with everything---for our enjoyment." Jesus said, "It is God's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." God is the gift-er and the giver. We are the receivers of incredible blessings both small and great.

It was clear what should be rendered unto Caesar. The Mosaic Law clearly says what should be given unto God. Ten percent. But, if we give unto God what belongs to God, then giving moves into the 100% category. So, how can this question be answered? What should I give to God? Jesus measured generosity by a radical new standard, Jesus said "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." That is Jesus' holy measure for giving to God, and for giving for God's work. Jesus says our hearts are the measure. Our hearts are the guiding light for our giving to God.

There are many stories in the Bible where God is pleased with heart-felt offerings and sacrificial offerings: The

continued on page 2

Mother Jodene's Homily

widow's mite and her small coins, the woman who anointed Jesus with her precious perfume that was to anoint her own body for burial, Joseph of Arimathea giving up his own tomb for Jesus' body. Jesus reveals that giving is a holy measure of our gratitude to God. It has also been said that giving is a form of our worship of God.

Corrie Ten Boom, a great Christian wrote, 'I have held many things in my hands---and I have lost them all. But, whatever I placed in the hand of God, I still possess.'

Giving can be a journey of faith. When Kit and I were first married we went to church sporadically. We thought our giving was mainly to help the church pay bills. So, we treated giving like paying a bill. Only this bill was optional. And we even got to choose how much to pay or how little to pay. When our budget got tight, one of the first things to get reduced was our giving.

However, by the grace of a merciful God, a teacher came along. We showed up to learn from this teacher because Kit had been asked to lead the church pledge drive. He had to show up! It was not a Joy of Cooking workshop. It was a Joy of Giving workshop. We were invited to consider if the way we were using our resources--if the way we were using our hard-earned money reflected how truly thankful we were to God. We discovered that we were very thankful to God with our lips. However, we had a ways to go with being thankful to God with what we thought belonged to us. We came to realize that we had so many, many blessings that could not be bought at any price. We knew we were richly blessed.

No one twisted our arm or asked for a dime that day. But, something changed within us. We now knew a way to express our thanks to God for our many blessings. We began to give our money to God as our act of gratitude and as an act of worship. Where are Kit and I today? First of all, Kit and I don't reduce our giving when God seems to not answer our prayers the way we wish God would. And we raise our pledge, as Kit and I did in September, not only when things are going well with our finances, but also when things are going badly. Like now. Our pledge has been raised 18%, our alms giving has been doubled.

Why did we raise our pledge to St. Elisabeth's and increase our giving for the needs of the poor now? Because in these times, of all times, God's work needs to be done, here at St. Elisabeth's and here in Palama. A number of folks have whispered to me that they are doing similarly---offering more, not less---for God's work, because of their gratitude to God.

Jesus said, 'give to God what belongs to God' from thankful hearts.

Be it a widow's mite or a pearl of great price, where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. Amen.

Mother Jodene +



Caren Esaki and Bishop Carol.

Bishop Carol Gallagher Visit

Bishop Carol Gallagher, first Native American woman to be consecrated a bishop in the Episcopal Church, was guest preacher and celebrant on October 26th. She is of the Cherokee nation.

Bishop Gallagher is assisting bishop of the Diocese of North Dakota.

A full fellowship reception was held after the service in Shim Hall to honor Bishop Carol and her husband, Mark, and the visiting Deacons in Training.

Mahalo to all the kitchen angels and donations.



Imoleen and friend.



Laura Iwami and Mother Imelda.



Gecko Reports

Confirmed by Bishop Fitzpatrick in September was Mother Imelda's niece, **Nadine Aguinaldo**. Her name was inadvertently left off our congratulations list.

Ariel Badua, grand daughter of Caridad Badua, celebrated her first birthday with a happy birthday celebration with a magic show, video of her first year and lots and lots of delicious food.

Rianna and "**Willie**" **Williams** visited St. Elizabeth's for worship. Rianna and Stuart Ching were work colleagues at Bishop Museum. Rianna is an avid chronicler of the history of Hawaii. Her works include a history of Kamaukapili Church. "Willie" is a classic car enthusiast, so he and **Jerry Goo** had lots to talk about in the parking lot!

Chef Mavro's was the destination of **Kathy** and **Carl Crosier** for Kathy's birthday. Bestest friends surprised her with this birthday treat.

St. E's has had some complimentary notes about our Vine and Branches sent to us by **Dr. Walton Shim**, **Thelma Lai-Chang** in San Francisco, and **Richard O. Ching** in Las Vegas. People talk about what we 'talk about.'

Fr. David Gierlach was elected to Diocesan Council at the Annual Diocesan Convention. Congratulations Fr. David. **Joey** is now in first grade and loving school. **Tiare** was sparkly and happy at St. John's Luau, playing with her friends and dining on imu cooked kalua pig.

St. John's Luau was time for talk story with friends old and new. Mother **Jodene** and **Kit** were there, as were **Jerry** and **Millie Goo**, **Deacon Pat** and **Donald Reynolds**, **Fr. Aiona** and **Tina**. The new Vicar of Emmanuel, **The Rev. Kate Lewis**, had a happy introduction to St. John's traditions.

Diocesan Convention is also a time to work hard, but also to enjoy friends and ohana from neighbor islands. **St. John's Kula** ohana and St. E's delegates had a chance to catch up on news as well as to recall happy memories of the **Kula Club** days.

Bishop Carol Gallagher's visit to St. Elizabeth's brought guests and visitors from churches throughout the islands. Worshipping with us were **Mark Gallagher**, Bishop Gallagher's husband, **June Sullivan**, **Preston** and **Mary Anne Lentz's** friend from California, **Daniel** and **Ethel Ching**, **The Rev. Tony** and the **Rev. Jana Litwinski** from St. James, Kamuela, **Susan Thornette** from Emmauel, Kailua; **The Rev. Canon Liz Beasley** and **Curt Beasley**, **Canon Jenny Wallace**, **The Rev. Canon Frank Chun**, and **The Venerable Pat Reynolds**, Epiphany.

Deacons and priests in formation worshipping with us were **Peter Wu**, St. Peters; **Kalani Holokai** and **Rick Wirtz**, Good Shepherd, Wailuku; **Mary McFarland**, West Kauai, **Kaimi Ganotise**, Epiphany; **Nahoa Lucas** and **Mahi Beimes** from St. John's by the Sea.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Uh, that is... not to heaven... I mean to her apartment!"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

Prayer of the Month

*Open, Lord, my eyes that I may see.
Open, Lord, my ears that I may hear.
Open, Lord, my heart and my mind
that I may understand.
So shall I turn to you and be healed.*
Traditional

Prayer for the Beginning of the Day

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought me in safety to this new day: Preserve me with your mighty power, that I may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all I do, direct me in the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



United Thank Offering

St. Elizabeth's gave \$511 to the Episcopal Church Women for the United Thank Offering. Thank you for your gifts to this mission ministry which helps children and women.

Hawaii from the Viewpoint of a Bishop *by Bishop Henry Bond Restarick. Excerpts from his 1924 rare book*

Shortly after my election as Bishop of Honolulu, I received a letter from Deaconess Drant of Cincinnati offering to go out to work under me. Knowing that W. A. Procter of Cincinnati was her friend, I suggested that she go to him with my letter proposing that he employ her as his "own missionary," he providing her salary.

Soon after her arrival she began work in a rented house on Robello Lane, Palama, opening a night school and having Sunday evening services. Her success was immediate. Deaconess Drant was a remarkable woman. She had vision, she was full of energy and soon gathered a large number of Chinese young men as pupils. The men in the night school, from the first, received religious instruction and every night a short service was held. The Deaconess enlisted the help of a number of volunteer workers for the night school. Among others were Miss C. Taggart, the Rev. Y. T. Kong and his mother and Mrs. Asem.

As the work at St. Elizabeth's progressed, Mr. Procter was kept fully informed, and when he saw that the mission needed a house of its own, in May 1904, he provided \$5,000 to purchase a half a block of land on King Street from the B. P. Bishop Estate.

It was soon seen that a priest was needed to be the head of the mission, and on returning from a visit to the States in December, 1903, I had an interview with the Rev. W. E. Potwine, and it was a great pleasure to have him volunteer for work in Hawaii. He reached Honolulu in May, 1904, and was placed in charge of St. Elizabeth's and Waiialua where he held services for some years, a half of his salary coming from the plantation.

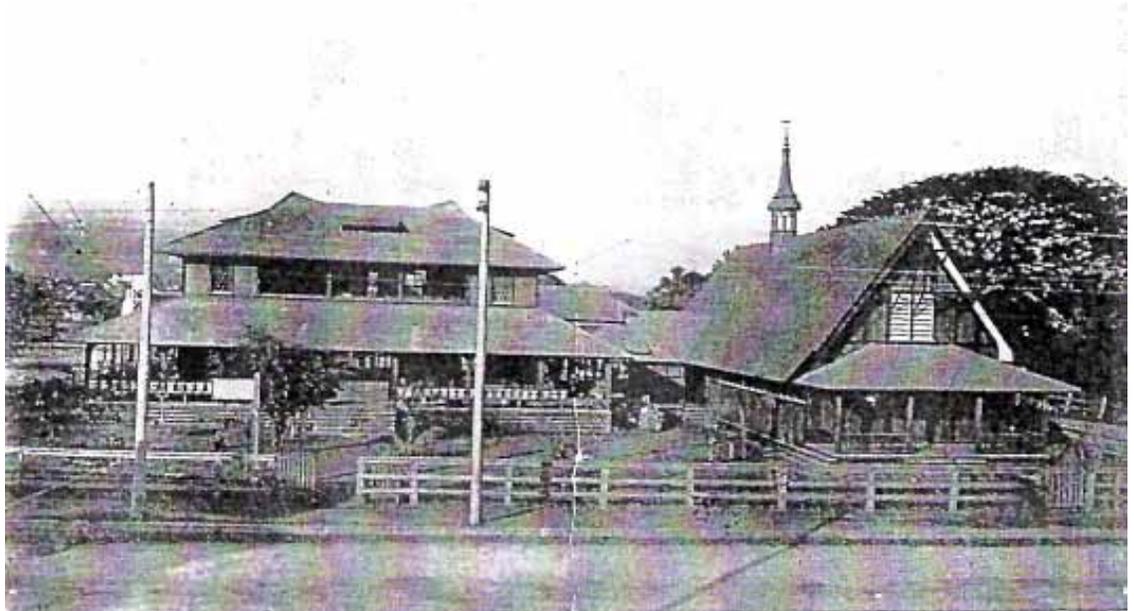
Mr. Procter was not prepared to build a church and mission house on the lot which had been purchased. Deaconess Drant went to Cincinnati with the plans drawn by E. A. P. Newcomb, and on her return the buildings were commenced in September, 1904, and they were consecrated on May

7, 1905. The chapel has a beautiful East window by Tiffany, New York, given by the Procter family in memory of their mother, Olivia Elizabeth. It represents the visit of St. Elizabeth to St. Mary. The mission house has comfortable quarters for women workers in the second story.

So much being accomplished, it was seen that a house for the priest was the next imperative need. Again Mr. Procter supplied the money and on its completion Mr. Potwine, his father, sister and brother were soon settled in it. The whole Potwine family entered into the work with zeal. They taught in the night school, helped with the music, assisted in the Sunday School and organized societies.

The night school, with its services and religious instructions, had, from the beginning, let to earnest inquiries on the part of many young men. The membership of St. Elizabeth's was built up from the night school and there were, at first, no women. Three of its number began to look forward to study for the ministry. One was sent to Hong Kong, where he and the Bishop were drowned in the Bay, while on their way to a mission.

Another went to the Pacific Divinity School and is a valued priest at the head of the Chinese work in the Diocese of California. All of these were baptized during the time of Deaconess Drant.



St. Elizabeth's original Church and Parish Hall. Parish Hall was center for English classes, business skills training, Sunday School and Christian fellowship.



November Birthdays

Happy Birthday and God's Blessings to those celebrating November birthdays!

Hazel Yee, Johnny Kuniyoshi, Iustina Weia, Eric Arakawa, Ethleen Ichy, Randy Timonio, Jimmy Kealoha, Jeremy Bush, James Fitzpatrick, Laura Iwami, Yenchy Repaky, Erthleen Repaky, Jeanette Wong



Money, Money, Money

Quotes and Quips

The most expensive vehicle to operate per mile---is a shopping cart.

If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money cannot buy.

Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps you in touch with the children.

"A checkbook is a theological document, it tells you who and what you worship." Billy Graham

Someone once said, "With the cost of living going up so high, aren't we glad that God has not raised the tithe like tips to a waiter from 10% to 20%?"

I shovel (money) out to God, and God shovels it back....but I have found that God has a bigger shovel." R.G. LeTourneau, American inventor 1888-1969

"Where your treasure is, there shall your heart be also." Jesus

Wisdom Words

"Remember that the Christian life is one of action; not of speech and daydreams."

Humor Pew for Golfers

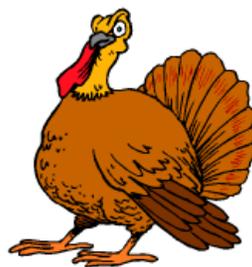
My job as a land surveyor took me to a golf course that was planning to expand from 9 holes to 18 holes. Using a machete to clear thick underbrush in an area I was mapping, I came upon a golf club that an irate player must have tossed into the bushes. It was still in good condition, so I picked it up and continued on.

When I broke out of the brushy area onto a putting green, two golfers stared at me. I had the machete in one hand, the golf club in the other. Behind me was a clear-cut swath of path I had cut leading out of the underbrush. "Now, there," said one of the golfers, "is a guy who is so cheap he'll do anything not to lose his golf ball!"

Thanksgiving

"What we're really talking about is a wonderful day set aside on the fourth Thursday of November when no one diets. I mean, why else would they call it Thanksgiving? ~Erma Bombeck," 'No One Diets on Thanksgiving,' 1981

"Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence." ~Erma Bombeck



Holy Art Thou

Iconography School with Fr. Damian Higgins

Rev. Fr. Damian Higgins is a priest iconographer whose works grace the walls and sanctuaries of churches in the US and Canada. He will be giving classes at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Nov. 19-23. Call Rev. Nancy Conley for more information, 239-9851



Mabuhay

my brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

WOW ! If I say that I am enjoying my more than 7 month's ministry with you at St. Elizabeth it is an understatement. I say so, because for many reasons. My ministry among you is an opening of a new door in my vocation.

Being with you is indeed an honor and privilege because you did not only open St. Elizabeth's Altar for me but you are helping me fulfill and exercise my ministry in giving me the opportunity to share what God has given me. Thank you very much.

When Mother Jodene asked me to start a service in Ilokano on the first Wednesday of the month, I said okay without knowing what to expect. Yes, the once-a-month Holy Eucharist in ILOKANO on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. is also another tool to meet the spiritual needs of the community. The attendance is growing which simply means that it is meeting an important need in the life of the people. (From Palama, Kapalama, Kalihi, Waipahu, Mililani, etc)

Our Bishop's visitation on September 3, 2008 ... what a wonderful worship and evening celebration! in English and in Ilokano. It was attended by 79 children of God. This was a very significant, life-giving worship evening because the Bishop did not only baptize, confirm and reaffirm the baptismal vows of some folks but also broke Bread and shared a simple dinner with us. Many who attended were first timers.

(Naisang-sangayan daytoy nga aldaw nga iyuumay ni OBISPO ta saan laeng nga immay nangmisa no di ket binuniagan na ni Matthew Kolton M. DeCosta, kinonfermaan na da Nadine Sagucio Aguinaldo ken Sosky Felix ken pinasingked na pay iti pammati wenno buniag dagiti 16 a kakabsat tayo. Saan la a dayta, nakisango pay nga nakipangan kadaytoy iti naisagana a pangrabii. Dios ti agngina kadakayo amin a kakabsat iti anep, gaget ken kinatulnog yo nga agservi ken Apo Dios. Adu tayo nga nga immay nakimisa = 79)

My dear brothers and sisters, with your continued support and prayers of this ministry (ILOKANO SERVICE) , we can only do more to broaden and strengthen the life and ministry of St. Elizabeth's Church in our community.

ANOTHER ILOKANO SERVICE! Let me also share what Mother Jodene and I are planning .. a first Sunday of the month ILOKANO SERVICE AT 10:30 a.m. We will begin on December 7, 2008. We are very excited about this ministry. Thanks be to God.

May God bless us all with good health of body, mind and soul so that we can continue to serve Him and one another. Amen.

With love and aloha.

Mother (Apo Padi) Imelda

Ilokano a misa

10:30 iti bigat - MANGRUGI INTONO DECEMBER 7, 2008. Please, Markaan yo dagiti kalendarario tayo..... Umuna a Domingo ti bulan ILOKANO a MISA)

October 2008 Attendance

8:15 am Eucharist average	137
Sunday School average	11
Cantonese language Eucharist	5
Ilokano language Eucharist	42

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Is it a sin to sing Christmas Carols before Thanksgiving?"

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



Pledge Blessing Sunday

November 30

Please bring in pledges or send your pledges in time for them to be blessed at St. Elizabeth's altar.

Did you Know?

While we always like to publish the good news, there is also other important information to be shared. So, here we go.

- St. Elizabeth's has \$5,000 in a memorial gift that cannot be put to use yet, due to major roof leaks in the Conference Room. A new floor cannot be installed or the gift of furniture cannot be completed until the leaks are fixed.
- Our beautifully renovated Wedding Room has mildew and other water damage due to seepage through the walls from church roof deterioration.
- Ceiling tiles are falling off above our altar area and in conference room.
- Hallway to bathroom walls have water damage from the leaking roof.
- Water is seeping in around the upper stained glass windows.
- Water is seeping through the air ducts in the sanctuary.
- Water and lime deposit damage is happening in the upper corners of our church worship area.
- Stained glass windows on Diamond Head side of church are rusted and rotting due to aging and leakage from our gutter system.
- The electrical system is original and needs updating for safety and efficiency.

Now, what is being done about all this? The vestry requested and has received an architectural and mechanical engineering report detailing specific damage, source of damage and some options to correct the church building damaging water intrusions. The vestry is evaluating initial cost estimates. The Vestry has had discussions about how to raise the funds in order to preserve our beloved church.

In Thanksgiving

for the life of **Annie L. Chock**, born to eternal life October 28.

Eternal rest grant to her O Lord, let light perpetual shine upon her. Amen.

Daniel Ho: Encore Concert!



Sunday, November 23rd 3:00 PM

Invite your families and friends now to another afternoon of fabulous music-making from Grammy Award winner, **Daniel Ho**. We expect a full house and tickets are now on sale for \$15. This is a benefit for Kalihi-Palama Pediatric Care Programs. Babies and children will receive check-ups, immunizations, health screenings, physical exams, education for parents. Childhood illnesses will be treated, especially ear infections and asthma.

St. Elizabeth's neighborhood outreach to children in Palama will also be a beneficiary.

Holiday Faire will begin at 2 pm. Your baked goodies and crafts are especially needed at our Daniel Ho Concert.



Last year's Neighborhood Christmas Party was loads of fun!

Children's Outreach Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13

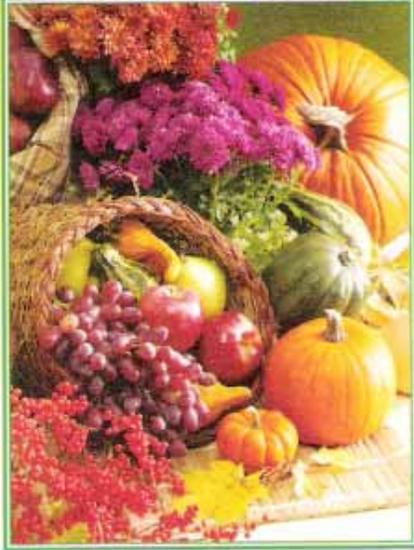
Mark your calendars now!



**Saturday
December 13**

**11:00 am
Special guest,
Melody Lindsay,
harpist**

**12:00 Noon
Christmas party
with Santa
and presents**



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good Psalm 106:1

Thanksgiving Worship 9:00 am

November 27, 2008

“And let these altars, wreathed with flowers and piled with fruits, awake again thanksgivings for the golden hours, the early and the latter rain!” John Greenleaf Whittier

Aloha Beloved in Christ Jesus,

One of the memorable traditions at St. Elizabeth's is the adorning of our Thanksgiving altar with the fruits and vegetables and flowers from God's bounty. Blessed, these symbols become an outward and visible sign of God's blessing in our homes and the homes of those in need.

In these challenging times, the world focuses on scarcity and fear. However, we are God's people and the 'sheep of his pasture.' We are ever cared for and provided for by our loving God who knows our needs even before we ask. We have so much for which to be thankful to God. We know the list well: our family, our friends, a sheltering place to live, a country steeped in freedom, bread to break, bread to share and the opportunity to rise each day with the health we have. We also have God's greatest gift, a home in heaven and eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Our list could go on and on.

In the words of the traditional hymn "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing." Please join your St. Elizabeth's family for Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am, Thanksgiving Day.

Faithfully in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Mother Jodene +

The Rev. Jodene S. Hawkins, Rector

Maoris Visit St. Elizabeth's



New Zealand Visits Hawaii

Bishop Fitzpatrick invited Maori students from St. John's Theological College in New Zealand and Bishop Gray to our Diocesan Convention. They are being educated to serve as Deacons and Priests. Many are specialists in Youth Work. It was a blessing to have these outstanding young men and women share the Gospel, Maori songs and the Haka with our Children's Outreach ministry.

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

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