

"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  
2009**

*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  
Music Director*

*Marie Wang  
Organist*

*Katherine Crosier  
Parish Administrator  
Graphic Design*

*Arleen Young  
Senior Warden*

*Mark Anderson  
Junior Warden*

*Preston Lentz  
Secretary / Clerk*

*Bill Eng, Treasurer*

*Sue Yap, Contributor*

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## From Father David

Thank you all for your very warm aloha extended to Ida, Tea, Joey and me as we have come back home to St. Elizabeth's! You have made us feel truly welcome and for that we are deeply grateful. It is an honor to serve you as your rector. Please keep me in your prayers. Know that you are in mine.



November is pledge month in the Episcopal Church. On November 8 we heard the gospel story of the widow's mite. Funny how that Gospel story, by some strange coincidence, pops up seemingly every year at pledge month! Yet, the story of the widow's mite probably has less to do with "giving til it hurts" and much more to do with Jesus' call to build communities that are just, that are fair, and that protect the least among us.

Right before Jesus commented about the old woman who gave her last dime to the church, Jesus was lambasting the rich religious leaders who waltzed around as if the world owed them. These very same leaders, Jesus pointed out, drained the widows dry.

The truth of the widow's mite is of Jesus looking at a very sad scene; one where the poor gave their last dime, thinking it pleased God; while the rich spent those dimes on fancy cars, long trips to the French Riviera and big homes. I think Jesus was not so much commending the widow to us as an example, but rather was calling on us to form a community where this kind of economic robbery does not exist. A community where those with much look out for those with little. Because we are all brothers and sisters. Because we are all sons and daughters of God.

That community, at its best, is the church. In the church, we are each of us challenged to see that, in God's eyes, we are all in need. In God's eyes, we all have fallen short. Yet, in God's eyes, amazingly, each of us is the apple of God's eye. Each of us is precious. Each of us is saved. And in that community, when it comes to giving, we don't need to give out of guilt. We don't need to give out of obligation. We don't need to make a show of our giving. Nope, nope, nope, we don't! In Jesus, something has changed. In Jesus, we are friends. With each other. With God.

As friends, we give freely. As friends, we give with joy. Because we know, in the very pit of our stomach, that everything we have, everyone we love, every fond memory, every beautiful sound, all of it, is pure gift to us, from our first friend, the Abba (father) of our brother Jesus. We come to believe that giving back allows us to participate in God's much larger wonder, God's never-ending friendship, that bursts out with giving and giving and giving. After all, that's what friends are for, eh?

peace,  
david+

**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.**



## United Thank Offering

In-gathering was on Sunday, Oct. 18 and St. Elizabeth's parishioners donated \$1,123.71 for this important mission of the whole Episcopal Church founded by and administered by women since 1889.

### *UTO's Vision, 2009*

**We will significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ's love.**

To achieve this vision we will focus particularly on projects that implement significant change toward alleviating profound human suffering that the Millennium Development Goals address. Our work will directly impact the lives of women and children.

UTO will continue our historic mission to address compelling human need and expand the mission and ministry of the church. UTO is a spiritual and financial partner in the mission work of The Episcopal Church, through every person in every pew.

*Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget; the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* Book of Common Prayer, page 826.

## Gifts of Stock

*by Peter Pereira, Diocesan Treasurer*

If you own stock, it is almost always more tax-wise to contribute stock than cash.

This is because a gift of appreciated stock generally offers a two-fold tax saving. First, you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock. Second, you receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift.

Example: If you purchased some stock many years ago for only \$1,000, and it is now worth \$10,000 an outright gift of the stock to us would result in a charitable contribution deduction of \$10,000. In addition, there is no capital gains tax on the \$9,000 of appreciation. If you are at a 20% tax bracket, you will save \$1,800 in taxes

Make sure you have owned the stock for a "long-term" period of time (this generally means that you have held the stock for more than one year) to qualify for these significant tax advantages. Your gift of stock should be postmarked by December 31. In the alternative a stock broker or trust officer can arrange for a year-end gift of stock from your account.

Gifts of appreciated stock are fully deductible - up to a maximum of 30% of your adjusted gross income. For example, if your adjusted gross income for 2009 is \$100,000 up to \$30,000 of long-term appreciated stock and other property gifts may generally be deducted in 2009. Any excess can generally be carried forward and deducted over as many as five subsequent years

## Thanksgiving Day Service



**Thursday, Nov. 26th  
9:00 am**

Please bring canned food or rice to our Thanksgiving service. We will help those in need have food for the holidays. The Altar Guild has traditionally decorated the altar with fruits and vegetables for this service. Please bring your donations to the church no later than **Wednesday, Nov. 25th.**

# THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil and Jeff Keane



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**Ukuleles for Children's Outreach Center.** Two donors have already come forward to give money towards ukuleles for the Children's Outreach Program. We can get ukuleles at \$50 each including case, so your donations are welcomed for this project. Please make your checks payable to St. Elizabeth's with "Ukuleles" in the memo line.

Please remember to donate any couches, beanbag chairs, throw rugs, etc. for our Youth Center.

## Updated Prayer List

So that we have updated list, please write on the clipboard the names of people for whom you wish to have prayers. Please pray for:

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Akiu             | Harry           |
| Andrea           | Jane            |
| Andres           | Jennifer        |
| Baby Hayden      | Judy            |
| Calvin           | Kalfred Kenneth |
| Cheryl           | Lani            |
| Clara            | Margarita       |
| Corazon          | Mildred         |
| Delphine         | Nikie           |
| Dennis           | Father Saimone  |
| Dolorus          | Shane           |
| Elizabeth        | Stanley         |
| Emelia           | Steve Sylvia    |
| Fidel & Perpetua | Teiti           |
| Genoveva         | Dr. Tesoro      |
| Gerry            | Theodore        |
| Gertrude         | Willette        |
| Glenn            |                 |



## Pictures for New Directory

Thank you to **Tom Ishida** who volunteered to take parishioners' photos after church. We especially want photos of our new members, so stay after church to have your picture taken by the icon.

Also a sample of the last directory is on the back table. If you want to have a new photo taken, stay after the service.



## First Communion

classes will begin **Sunday, Nov. 8th** at 9:45 am for four week of instruction in Shim Hall. First Holy Communion for all who complete the class will occur on December 6th at the 8:15 am service.

**Epue fis sukunen ewin comunio, epue popula Raningfen, nov. 8 clock**

**9:45 nesosor. Iteiten 4 raminfen non ewe Shim Hall.**

**Ekkewe repue awesi ewe class ren Ewin Comunio. Repue tongeni angei Comunio non December 6, clock 8:15 nesosor.**

## Recognition Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for Junior and Senior crosses for calendar year 2009. Information should include what the individual has done for the church to include participation in organized work days, altar guild, special projects, etc.

Nominees must be regular, baptized and contributing members of St. Elizabeth's. Senior crosses (members 50 years of age and older and junior crosses (members 49 years old and younger) will be presented at the annual meeting in January 2010. Nominations may include accomplishments over the past several years and be submitted to the vestry no later than December 1st, 2009 to be considered. If you need help with your nomination, contact **Roy Chee**, chair of the Recognition Committee.

## Attendance

10/4	Sunday 8:15 am	110
10/4	Ilokano - Sunday	45
10/7	Ilokano - Wednesday	29
10/11	Sunday 8:15 am	194
10/18	Sunday 8:15 am	134
10/25	Sunday 8:15 am	146
	Cantonese - average	5

## Fr. David's Schedule

In this transition period until January 1, 2010, Father David Gierlach is available for pastoral emergencies and hospital visits at any time. Please don't hesitate to call him at **554-8281** for any pastoral needs you may have.

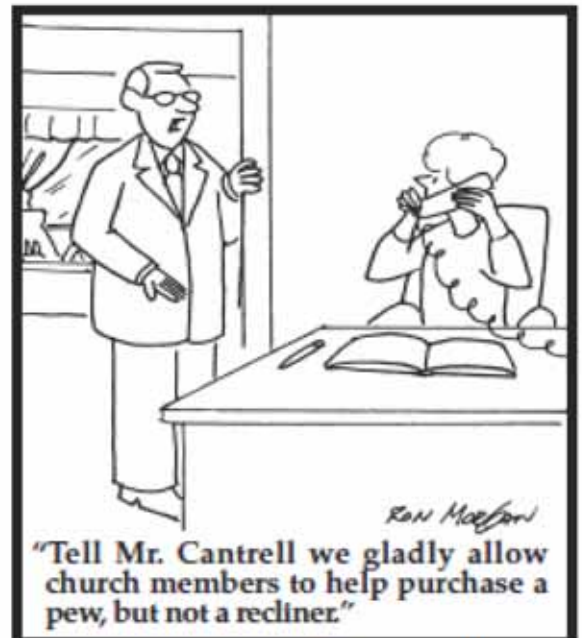
Father David is on campus on Wednesdays for office administration and on Sundays to lead the 8:15 am worship.



## Happy Birthday

Hazel Yee	11/2
Johnny Kuniyoshi	11/3
Soskey Felix	11/3
Richard Unarce	11/5
Iustina Weia	11/7
Eric Arakawa	11/7
Ethleen leichy	11/7
Randy Timonio	11/15
Jimmy Kealoha	11/15
Shazlyn Padasdao	11/16
Jeremy Bush	11/17
James Fitzpatrick	11/18
Laura Iwami	11/19
Charlemagne Julian	11/21
Erthleen Repaky	11/25
Yency Repaky	11/25
Jeanette Wong	11/28

*God's blessings on those with November birthdays!*



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# Mahalo

St. Elizabeth's parishioners for your generosity in helping those in need.

We sent \$1,485.00 for **Pacific Relief** (helping victims of earthquake, tsunami and flooding in Samoa, Thailand and the Philippines). This was in response to a special appeal by Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick, to remember those suffering and those who have died in the Pacific Basin.



Thank you also to **Doug Ing** for donating funds for a new iMac office computer. Now our Parish Administrator, **Katherine Crosier**, can be even more productive!

**Mahalo, parishioners and friends** who lovingly prepared and shared your bountiful gifts of delicious ethnic dishes, greenery, flowers, lei (courtesy of Patsy Ching), the transporting of catered food, your helping hands serving and cleaning up for Father David Gierlach's **Welcome Reception** on October 11th.

We are indeed blessed and exceedingly elated to welcome back Father David, ida, Joey and Tea. In addition we truly appreciate Fr. Saimone, Fane, and their children for their valuable assistance, Dr. Gifford and Polly, Fr. Fan and Doris, and Mother Imelda.

## Food Pantry Ministry

*Your generosity is greatly appreciated in donating the following items needed for our food pantry: Spam, Vienna sausage, canned pork and beans, tuna, ramen, corned beef hash and rice. We are also grateful for your donations to this cause. It costs over \$100 per week in food to stock our pantry. Please help those in need by making checks payable to **St. Elizabeth's Pastoral Fund.***



Food  
Pantry  
Ministry

## Baptized

We welcomed **Richard Honorario Unarce**, to God's family through the Sacrament of Baptism. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Unarce. Godparents are Marlene and Joseph Lim.



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## Out of the mouths of God's kids

Sonny Garrett, columnist for *The Baxter Bulletin* of Mountain Home, AR, collected some kids' comments on angels that were passed on by Jim Reed of Cotter, AR.

- "Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else." -Mandy, 8
- "When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to 10. And when he lets out his breath, somewhere there's a tornado." -Daniel, 7
- "Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go north for the winter." -Sara, 6
- "My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science." - Harry, 7
- "Angels don't eat, but they do drink milk from Holy Cows." -Jerri, 5

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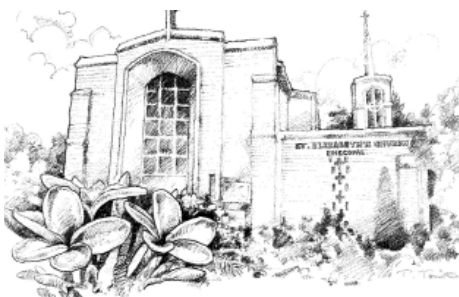


## Help us save \$\$\$

*If you would like to receive Vine and Branches by email, please inform the church office of your email address. We can save money on postage and paper plus save the environment, too!*

## Humor for the hard times

A young student was kicked out of a parochial school for swearing; then he was kicked out of a public school for praying.



## St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church

### Pledge Commitment Card for 2010

**Pledge Blessing Sunday, November 29, 2009**

Because we believe in the future of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church,  
we pledge the following for the year 2010:

Offering Box No. \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  weekly  monthly  quarterly  annually I need an offering box \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) wish to give an additional special offering for : \_\_\_\_\_

Talents and skills I can offer: \_\_\_\_\_