



Monthly News from St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 720 N. King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

September 2010 **Fire on Earth**

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V Bishop of Hawaii

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Priest Associate

The Reverend Saimone Lino,
Diocesan Missioner

The Reverend Dr.
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Rector Emeritus

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The Rev. David J. Gierlach

These past weeks, as we have listened to what Jesus is saying, to what he is doing, on his long journey from Galilee to Jerusalem, we have heard Jesus encourage us to freedom, to a radical trust in God.

We have watched as Jesus cures the sick, restores outcasts to the community, heals the broken. In short, these last weeks have been all about coming together, restoring, and making whole; whether from the point of view of the individual or the broader community.

So today's lesson is quite a shock. It is a complete about face of all that has come before...or at least, at first glance, it appears that way. But if we look deeply, perhaps we will come to see that division and fire and pain are often roadways to unity and peace and joy.

When Jesus speaks of dividing families, he is speaking, at the core, of allegiance. To whom will you give yours? To whom will I give mine?

Those prophets and martyrs who are remembered in the Letter to the Hebrews prophesied and witnessed their allegiance to God; and rejected allegiance to their States, to their Kings, to the powers and principalities of their day. Flogged and stoned, sawn in half, outcast or executed, they paid the price of allegiance to God when the powers and principalities insisted

such allegiance belonged only to them.

So many of the early martyrs' families begged them to just go along to get along, to forget this nonsense about allegiance to God. But they would not. Because they could not.

The sharp wedge between allegiance to God and allegiance to the powers of this world changed when Christianity became the official religion of the empire. The Roman Emperor Constantine had a vision of the cross leading him to a military victory, and, as a result, in 312 AD, he ordered that Christianity would not only be tolerated, but officially embraced. While I am sure that much good came of that decision; official persecutions stopped, and a wide swath of Europe and Asia were introduced to the gospel, there is also much to regret about the marriage of church and state that happened so long ago.

The sharp division Jesus drew between the Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of the world became muted and dulled; with a sense that perhaps there is no difference at all between the two. This identity of interests between Church and State may have reached its pinnacle in our country in the 1940's, 1950's, and early 1960's, when we had, in the popular mind, this intimate connection between God and Country. "Mom, God and apple pie", so the saying went.



Rector's Message, cont.

It's no wonder those were the hay days of life in our mainline churches. This church, and all the others, was full, week in and week out.

Yet as the 60's moved into the 70's and 80's, with disillusionment spreading in our nation over Viet Nam, over street protests, over racial strife, over corruption in government, the disillusionment so many felt for our secular institutions hit just as strongly at our churches. And over these decades we have seen a decline in those who stake their claim with us. And I wonder if so many left because the message of the gospel got all too entangled with the message of the powers of this world.

And yet, it seems a new breeze is blowing. One that is pushing we Christians to reexamine to whom, and in what, we place our allegiance. We Christians are coming to see, as the martyrs of old saw, that God asks different things from us; different from the demands of country or company or even family and friends.

We are, these days, coming back to Jesus; in all his radical, uncompromising, rootedness in the kingdom of God. We are throwing off the idols we have made and worshipped; idols of success and celebrity and security and patriotism and youthfulness and prestige. We are throwing off these idols, and coming to believe in the Almighty God who is all in all; who holds us gently in the palm of his hand, who beckons us to live lives, here and now of the kingdom.

I am convinced that this shift we are experiencing is not something we are responsible for. What God did for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God is doing for us once again as we are invited to throw off our modern idol worship and to throw on, once again, the cloak of the grace of God.

A key part of this shift is reclaiming the "now, but not yet" tension of God's kingdom coming into our world. This "now, but not yet" tension IS our life in Christ.

Those who claim the Kingdom is already here in its fullness are easy to spot: they are wrapped tightly in this Creed or that flag, holding a sign that says: "My way or the highway!"

Just so, those who are convinced the kingdom will never come are also easy to spot. They are out accumulating things as the be all and the end all of life; hoping to fulfill the modern mantra: "Whoever dies with the most toys wins!"

Instead, it is in the tension, of "now, but not yet", that we live our Christian faith. Straining forward toward the full coming of the Kingdom, yet, straining forward in this world.

While "forces of violence and greed pull us back toward an age that is passing away, the love of Christ summons us forward to embrace" justice and reconciliation: the fruit of God's Kingdom. [Kraybill, Apocalypse and Allegiance, 45].

This is the tension Jesus expresses in today's gospel. "Now, but not yet."

The fire Jesus announces is a fire that purifies. What the martyrs knew, what we know, is that when we put our allegiance in Christ, that which was divided is made whole; that which was deformed is made whole; that which was dead is now alive!

We are each of us on a great journey. God, once more, is rescuing humanity from our love of idols; God, once more, is bringing us home.

I leave you with this, from the Letter to the Hebrews:

"Keep your eyes on Jesus who both began and finished the race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed --- that exhilarating finish in and with God!"

May we too live in the "now, but not yet." Straining forward, with total allegiance, into the new world that is, even today, being born.

amen+

Check our website, stelizabeth720.org for the latest pictures from St. Elizabeth's. Father David's sermons are posted weekly.



Quotable Quotes

“Remember, it is not that money is inherently evil, or that the possession of money as such is sin. The issue for the Christian (and ultimately for everyone) is whether one trusts money more than God, and comes to rely on money rather than on grace for the assurance of his moral significance, both as an individual and in his relation to the whole of humanity.” *Stringfellow, Dissenter in a Great Society, (Wipf and Stock, 1966), 44.*



Happy Birthday

Rosemary Lau	9/2
Colby Pacupac	9/8
Harrison Jong	9/9
Stephen Rowland	9/9
Stayden Yee	9/9
Gretchen Jong	9/11
Mathson Meyshine	9/12
Mylast Alexander	9/16
Alyssa Rodrigues	9/17
Helly Obeti	9/18
Kellen Ho	9/19
Francis Nakata	9/20
Bill Eng	9/20
Esby Meyshine	9/20
Wai Wah Yee	9/21
Stuart Ching	9/21
Samuel Lum	9/23
Viliani Lino	9/24
Raymond Au	9/26
Matthew DeCosta	9/27
Pauline Gifford	9/29

God's blessings on those with September birthdays!



Father David Gierlach led a memorial service for Tim Chong Young, held on August 14th at St. Elizabeth's, followed by a reception in Shim Hall.

Born to Eternal Life



Herman Auyong, long-time member of St. Elizabeth's, passed away on August 7, 2010 at the age of 75. He is survived by wife, Evelyn, a son, daughter, and 3 grandchildren. Private burial services will be held in October. The family has asked that memorial gifts be directed to the Building Preservation Fund of St. Elizabeth's.

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Book of Common Prayer, page 469.

Attendance

8/1	Sunday 8:15 am	136
8/1	Ilokano Service-Sun.	33
8/4	Ilokano Service-Wed.	36
8/8	Sunday 8:15 am	162
8/8	Chinese Eucharist	3
8/11	Wed. Eucharist	9
8/15	Sunday 8:15 am	184
8/15	Chinese Eucharist	5
8/18	Wed. Eucharist	11
8/22	Sunday 8:15 am	141
8/22	Chinese Eucharist	7
8/29	Sunday 8:15 am	152
8/29	Chinese Eucharist	7



St. Elizabeth's women prepare hundreds of food bags for the quarterly federal surplus food program. St. Elizabeth's is a distribution point for these needed goods. Thanks, ladies!!

Food Pantry News!

St. E's is now a participating member with the federal government excess food distribution program.



On a quarterly basis, excess beef stew, cheeses, mixed fruit, juice and other foods will be distributed from the Church. Posters and flyers will announce the dates and times.

We are awaiting approval to become a participating member with the Hawaii Food Bank. This membership will enable us to purchase food at a much cheaper price for our Food Pantry than we currently must pay at Costco.

If you feel moved, please make your donations payable to St. Elizabeth's, noting "Food Pantry" in the memo section.

Micronesian Carvings



Pews of needed foods filled the church!

On Thursday, August 26th, St. Elizabeth's Church became a center for the Honolulu Community Action Program Federal Surplus Food Distribution. Beef stew, corn, mixed fruit, apple juice, egg noodles and peanut butter were some of the items given out.



Gorgeous Micronesian carvings by Joseph and Marsian, nephews of Vestry member Ignacia Terno. Made to order walking sticks just for you!

From the Finance Committee

Since starting our drive to increase pledges several months ago, our efforts have resulted in several new pledges and some members increasing their annual pledges. This has resulted in the lowest income versus expense deficit ratio in some months. We look for more positive numbers as the year winds down and we look forward to continued improvement in our pledges and community programs.

Chapel Doors Finally Installed!



(Above) The weather-beaten chapel doors lived beyond their useful life, falling victim to the elements and the nibbling of island termites. (Below) Aren't the new doors gorgeous!

The chapel doors which were given in memory of **Dr. Steven Tyau** have finally been installed! The donors for one door were: Herman Auyong, Wilma Chang, Jennie Lum, Audrey Tam, David Tyau, Gaylore Tyau, Malcolm Tyau, Norman Tyau, Wilfred Tyau and Elaine Young. The other door was given by Elaine Auyong Young, Dr. Donovan Young and Michael Young. Master carpenter **Joseph Corelli** was contracted to hang the new doors, thanks to the efforts of **Lowell Ing**.



The Music Academy has started up and sang 'The Lord's Prayer' during the offertory.

Sunday School News

Sunday School will begin on **September 5, 2010** at 8:15 am. All children 3 to 12 years old are welcome to join us in classrooms A & B.

The Music Academy has resumed meeting with Miss Aejon after church each Sunday. The children are learning new songs and will be sharing it with the congregation once a month.

The teachers, **Lisa-Anne Mitsuka Chan**, **Jamie Chock** and assisting with the program will be **Lillian Tyau**, preschool, and **Alyssa Rodrigues** the first Sundays with the preschool, and **Heather Manning** the second Sundays with the older children. We welcome volunteers, please do not hesitate to sign up—please contact **Sue Yap**.

Mahalo and thank you to all who generously donated to the school supply campaign. The children got off to a great start in school. It was mind-boggling to see the school supply list! But Hawaii was not alone to ask the kids to bring in paper towels, wet-ones, toilet paper, sandwich bags, besides the crayons and pencils... it was asked of students nationwide.

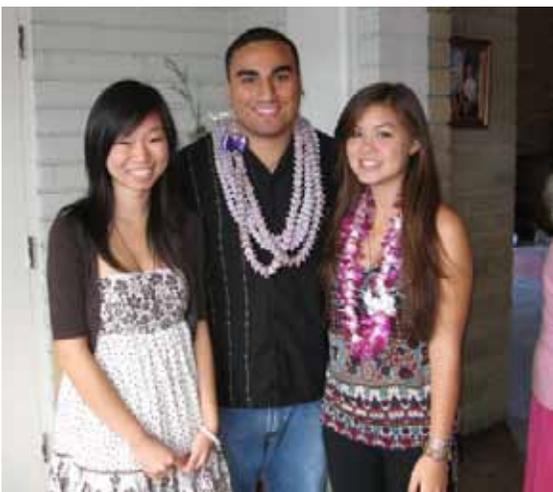




"The Bible tells us to study math. It says, 'Go forth and multiply.'"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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College Students



College students going off to school received blessings and crosses: **Sarah Kleinschmidt**, **Rebecca Kleinschmidt** and **James Fitzpatrick**. Also beginning college is **Anaseini Lino**.

James has been very helpful around St. Elizabeth's this summer and his interaction with the summer program has had a great impact with the children. Some of the boys he has greatly influenced were sad to hear he is leaving for college, although James assured them he'd be back!

Clay

I take a lump of clay
And make a figurine of you.
I take another lump of clay
And make a figurine of me.
I crush them together.
And out of that lump of clay
I again make a figurine of you
and a figurine of me.
Now, there is You in Me
And there is I in You.



A Poem Written By A Chinese Woman to her Husband 300 Years Ago When Their Love Began to Wane

Kids say the funniest things

A clergywoman and mother shared this story at a local church meeting in New Jersey.

The clergywoman was quick vacuuming the living room floor of her home where her three-year-old child was playing. In a hurry, the mother approached the child, then said, "Lift up your feet!"

The child responded, "We lift them up to the Lord."

—via Rev. Donald DeGroat, Midvale United Methodist Church, Wanaque, NJ (*The Joyful Noiseletter*)



Anaseini Lino (2nd from left) will be attending Chaminade. Her proud family is pictured above.

Maze

"Come in", said he, "into my maze of wondrous, awful places and things."

**"Come in", said he,
"and I will reveal my soul to you."**

**But into this maze I could not go;
this maze of pain and stories and sadness.**

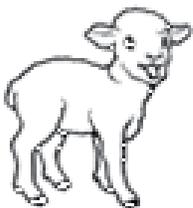
**For it is an endless maze,
ever turning and spinning
never-ending.**

**I chose instead to stand a-back
so close to the door, but, not in it,
and from there I called to him inside**

**to
come
out.**

**I called softly.
He made a step and stopped.**

**I described to him all that was there,
that I knew the pain
that I would not enter
but
only
wait.**



**I shared with him a different
life,
one lived free of the maze.**

**It struck a chord,
he stepped again
closer to the
door.**

**More talking
more reminding
more sharing
of the horror of the maze.**



**He stepped out
into the light
out of that brutal maze.**

**Today when he,
today when I,
get homesick for the
maze**

**We talk a bit of what it was
to live in that vicious maze.
And memories remind:**

**The spirit yearns for light
another passing day
another moment of life.**

**So if perchance
you hear a voice
calling from a maze.**

**Perhaps that voice will beckon you
to come and stay awhile.
But don't be fooled by that old trick.**

**Stand your place with calm.
For the soul who calls
is a desperate soul,**

**who needs
who hungers
for light.**

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720 N. King Street
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A House of Prayer for all People

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A Taste of St. E's!

Please reserve Saturday December 11 from 6-9 pm for the soon to be annual St. E's wine tasting, pupu eating 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!

News From the Garden!

Nora Kurosu, Iosepho and Felili Filipo and several other friends have weeded and tilled the garden. The garden continues to blossom with enough lettuce, beans, radish, herbs and tomatoes to make for a free gift of produce to many tens of our worshippers each Sunday. The smell of sweet basil is lovely in the morning and the site of tomatoes on the vine in the midst of so much cement is a sight for sore eyes.



Tom Okimoto at his regular task, watering the garden in the morning and at night!

Thanks to all for your continued support of our neighborhood oasis!