

"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 • Phone (808) 845-2112

September 2012 **Gnawing on Jesus**

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 Dr.
Gerald G. Gifford,
Rector Emeritus

The Reverend Peter S. M. Fan,
Cantonese Language Priest

Hsiao Ying "Ajaon" Chen
Choir Director

Marie Wang
Organist

Katherine Crosier
Parish Administrator
Editor and Layout
Music Consultant

Arleen Young
Senior Warden

Preston Lentz
Junior Warden

Gretchen Jong
Secretary / Clerk

Heather Manning
Treasurer

Website:
www.stelizabeth720.org

Email: stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com

The Rev. David J. Gierlach, Rector

We are today coming to the end of our five week journey with St. John, who has, week in and week out, patiently and gently yet insistently and with gruesome examples helped us to understand what it means for Jesus to be the bread of life.

To help in that journey, we have put away our little white wafers and taken out real bread to consecrate and share.

I hope that more than a few of you gulped some of the wine, consecrated to become the blood of our Lord, when you came forward to the altar rail; and if you haven't so far, give it a try today.

Aunty Lani remarked to me the other day that the bread she got was big enough for 4 people; and I've seen more than a few surprised looks at what landed in some hands these past few weeks!

One thing that I hope you come to see as week in and week out you take a real piece of bread in your hand is that every piece is different: in size, in texture; in taste.

Some is brittle, some soft and chewy, others flat or round....these pieces of bread, all so different, yet all broken pieces from a single loaf.

These pieces of bread are you and I.

We are all different, yet we all come from exactly the same place – we are all so

different, yet we will return to the same place.

These different pieces of bread also represent something else.

Think of your experiences with Jesus.

For some, you may still be waiting to encounter him.

Others may have felt his quiet presence or his silent whisper, but, in whatever way he comes to you, he comes to you as a unique, individual, child of God.

When I look at the bread broken and given to you each of these last many weeks, I see Jesus coming to each of you in a different way – in a way that you can hear, in a way that you can see, because of your own past experience or trauma or joys or hopes.

The problem with the tiny white wafer as our usual communion bread is that it suggests that Jesus looks the same to everyone; and that we look the same to Jesus.

Pulling out real bread once in awhile reminds us of the truth that your relationship with Jesus, and his with you, is as personal as your favorite sweater, as unique as your own smile.

And there is something else about the real bread.



Rector's Message continued

You gotta work at it.

Whether you've got good teeth or bad, whether you've got all of your teeth or none of them, some of that bread is tough, some is chewy, and once you've swallowed, you know you had something to eat.

That's what John is getting at in today's very tough gospel lesson.

Here's Jesus, having just come back from feeding 5000 people.

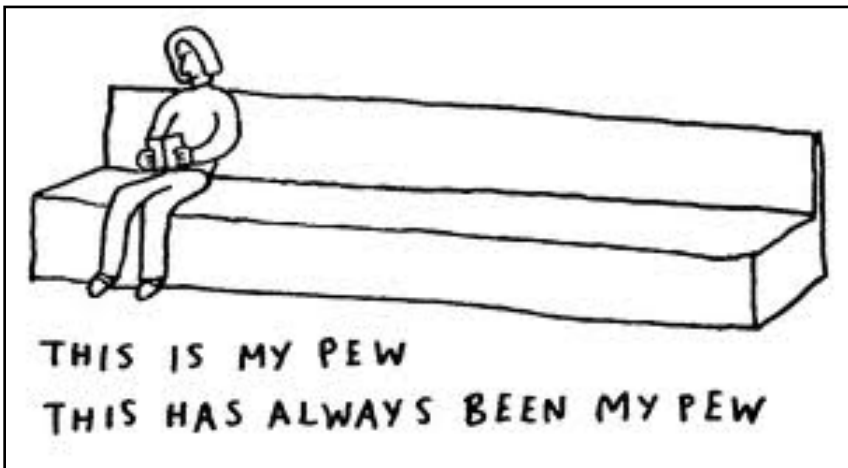
All 5000 are ready to sign a pledge card; all are just waiting to become card carrying Episcopalians; when here comes Jesus to stick a pin in that rapidly inflating balloon.

Our churches today are so caught up with church growth, adding to our numbers, increasing the cash flow, that we often forget the worst church growth coordinator ever to exist in our history.

That would be Jesus, who started with 12 and ended up with 11.

Even more amazing, when he's got over 5000 ready to sign on the dotted line, and all he needs to do is sweet talk them with "I am gentle and my burden is light"; and maybe something about how "blessed are the meek, and the humble, and the mourners," -- when that's all he has to do to seal the deal -- lo and behold: he won't do it!

Instead -- he starts telling them to chew on his flesh; to gulp down his blood; and when people's faces start turning green, he doesn't switch gears, he says it again!



For modern folks like us, this kind of talk is hard to take.

But imagine back then.

We're talking Jewish people whose law forbids the drinking of even an animal's blood, much less human blood; whose law forbids eating many kinds of animal flesh, much less human flesh.

Is it any wonder that having listened to all of this: "many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him...."

And by the way, the original Greek for "eating" as in to eat the flesh of the Lord, is better translated not as "eating" but as "gnawing."

Gnawing, like a dog worrying a bone.

Gnawing, like your life depends on it.

Gnawing, so that that which is being gnawed; and the one who is doing the gnawing; become linked to one another, fused, one and the same.

If you're finding some of this tough to swallow (the pun is definitely intended!), don't look at me: go complain to Jesus!

In our Bible Study last Wednesday, we spent the morning on three really tough lessons; three stories from the Old Testament dealing with the horrific mistreatment of women, all three who were raped by men in positions of power.

By coincidence, these lessons were in our schedule during the same week that some lamebrain politician stuck his foot in his mouth (or maybe it was his whole leg) saying really absurd things about this crime of violence.

At the end of the Bible Study, more than

Rector's Message continued

a few participants had kind of a shell shocked look on their faces.

I felt pretty shell shocked myself.

But that's what happens when we encounter real human life and the God who enters our human life in all of its wonder, yes; but in all of its tragedy too.

That's where Jesus is coming from today; leaving shell shocked those who came looking for someone to hand out three squares a day; only to find a Messiah who insists on having us lock, stock and barrel.

It's easy to stand there, bewildered.

Like those folks standing around Jesus listening to him insist on being gnawed on; consumed; swallowed; maybe like you in the midst of family strife or job troubles; maybe like those in our midst who spend their days with a vague uneasiness that perhaps life really is all sound and fury, signifying nothing.

These are the lonely places where God pokes his way in; these are the places where we can begin to understand what it means that God becomes incarnate – in the flesh of this peasant man from Nazareth – incarnate in those places where we are most real – most vulnerable – most human.

Today, Jesus invites you and I to see ourselves in the broken pieces of bread that we have shared, that we will share; to see ourselves in the wine made blood.

And in that seeing, Jesus beckons us to see ourselves, no matter our circumstances, no matter our challenges, as a beloved child of this God who is closer to you than your breath; this God, who is nearer to you than your tears.

“Do you too wish to go away,” Jesus asks them; asks us?

It is with Peter that we can reply: “But where can we go Lord? You have the words of eternal life.”

+amen



**Check out the new look to
St. Elizabeth's website:
stelizabeth720.org**

Born to Eternal Life

Kalfred Yee,

beloved husband of Hazel Yee, died on August 15th. A memorial service will be held at the Community Church of Honolulu, 2345 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, on September 8th at 10:00 a.m.



I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life, and has committed himself to me in faith, shall not die for ever.



Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, humanity will have discovered fire.

-Pierre Teilhard de Chardin



Bell Choir Returns!

The world famous St. Elizabeth's Bell Choir, fit and rested after a summer hiatus, is back at work and sounding better than ever! If you'd like to ring or sing with some shiny bling give **Miss**

Ajaon a tug; the bell choir is always looking for newly notable folk to join in the fun!



Parking Lot Laughter



Many thanks to everyone pitching in to make the parking lot look like new! And what a group it was! Many of our youth turned out, younger families, old timers, our Chuukese and Tongan friends, that with nearly 60 people on deck, it was a cinch to resurface that whole huge parking lot in just 4 hours!! Many, many thanks to everyone!!

Shooting Stars aka Na Hokulele

Na Hokulele is starting up again August 29 with new and improved literacy, science and really fun projects for youth of all ages! A bevy of Hawaii Pacific University students will once again mentor our children with the able assistance of **Fane Lino, James Fitzpatrick** and their trusty sidekicks. Come by and join the fun!

*And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?
And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,
No love that in a family dwells,
No caroling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare —
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.*

John Betjeman (1906–1984)



Happy Birthday

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

Jaydon-Aldrich Romena	9/1
Rosemary Lau	9/2
Jazzy Benito	9/8
Colby Pacupac	9/8
Harrison Jong	9/9
Stephen Rowland	9/9
Stayden Randell Yee	9/9
Gretchen Jong	9/11
Mathson Meyshine	9/12
Dylan John Vinluan Daoang	9/12
Mylast Alexander	9/16
Alyssa Rodrigues	9/17
Helly Obeti	9/18
Kellen Ho	9/19
Khloe Leo Vinluan Daoang	9/19
Bill Eng	9/20
Esby Meyshine	9/20
Wai Wah Yee	9/21
Stuart Ching	9/21
Merlina Ballesteros	9/22
Viliami Lino	9/24
Raymond Au	9/26
Matthew DeCosta	9/27
Pauline Gifford	9/29
Leyna Esaki	9/29



Baptisms

We welcomed into the Lord's family through the Sacrament of Baptism: **Faith Pangelina, Leo John Pangelina** and **Francita Kasty** (parents Francis Kasty and Schok Pangelina) on August 12th, and **Jermiah Desmond Sariato** (parents Donovan Baro and Maria Bernadette Sariato) on August 19th.

Pacific Island Ministry

By Ann Hansen

St. Elizabeth's will host a presentation on Micronesian culture, through the Micronesian Cultural Awareness Program (MCAP). The MCAP presentation will be held on Saturday, September 15, in Shim Hall, and is aimed at those in the Episcopal Diocese who work with Micronesian children and adults.

Stewardship at St. Elizabeth's

From a parishioner

Welcome to Stewardship at St. Elizabeth's. We are a church bountifully blessed by God. We believe in sharing these blessings: sharing the abundance of spirit that is present whenever we gather in worship or fellowship: sharing the talents that God has given each of us to make the world a better place, and sharing our financial resources to sustain our church and to help others in our community.



Jocelyn Howard

This event will feature a talk by **Jocelyn (Josie) Howard**, and will also include a display of Micronesian artifacts and a luncheon prepared by the Chuukese parishioners of Saint Elizabeth's.

Howard, with a background in anthropology, is able to explain Micronesian thought patterns to Westerners and vice versa. She designed the acculturation course for newcomers from Micronesia and trains service providers on how to acculturate and work with Micronesian immigrants. Josie was featured in the Honolulu Magazine in June 2011, for her work with the Micronesian Cultural Awareness Program (MCAP). Josie feels it is her calling to bring understanding between the differing cultures. With more than 50 MCAP presentations under her belt, Josie can tailor-make the presentation for the needs of the group.

While there is no charge for this event, registration is required with enrollment capped at 30. To reserve a place at this informative and beneficial event, call **Luella Windisch** at 808-685-1215.

The Stewardship Committee's latest idea for helping to raise the annual church budget.



If one does away with the fact of the Resurrection, one also does away with the Cross, for both stand and fall together, and one would then have to find a new center for the whole message of the gospel.

Hans Urs von Balthasar



Traditional Tongan tapa at St. Elizabeth's

Tongan Tapa

By Ann Hansen

Reprinted from The Hawaiian Chronicle

Even though Tongans are dispersed around the world, they still value traditional Tongan tapa, particularly at rites of passage times. Since the passing of **Father Saimone Lino** in early January, two handsome Tongan tapas have been given to the Diocese.

Tapas are a sign of traditional wealth that are accumulated but also repurposed and re-gifted for another event. For a funeral, there is insufficient time to make a new tapa, so an accumulated one can be re-given to the family of the deceased or someone who was important to the family. The Lino family presented Bishop Fitzpatrick with a large Tongan tapa in honor of his services to the family and the Tongan community. There are twelve Tongan members of Saint Elizabeth's church including a vibrant Tongan Choir.

Bishop Bob and Bea Fitzpatrick are trying to figure out the best location to display this splendid work of art, which is 18 by 30 feet. When Bea Fitzpatrick asked me to photograph the tapa, it was folded in half. Even doubled over, it covered a large portion of the floor of the Von Holt Room. A classmate of mine, Maile Drake, of Tongan ancestry, specializes in researching and writing about Tongan tapa. She granted Bea and me a Saturday morning to explain the significance of the designs. There are vertical rows with squares depicting the crest of the royal Tongan family with symbols of the crown, cross, spears and flags. On each crest is the phrase: "Koeotua Motongakoha Tofia" which means "God and Tonga is my heritage."

The vertical rows on each side on the tapa feature scenic designs with rows of pine trees, star, moon and sun. Maile explained that pine trees are of course trees introduced from Europe, but that design alludes to the rows of pine trees leading up to the royal palace. With all of these symbols of the royal Tongan family, this tapa is appropriate for any occasion and worthy to give to someone in high position, such as our Bishop.

Another aspect of this tapa that makes it so traditional is that it is constructed with wauke or paper mulberry bark. It takes a tremendous amount of time to harvest, prepare and pound into sheets. In today's world where many Tongans are spread across the Pacific and the mainland and working full-time jobs, they do not have the necessary time to start from scratch. Contemporary Tongan tapa is often based upon what Maile refers to as "Viline". In Hawai'i non-fusible (non-adhesive) polyester interfacing is used to simulate tapa as it is in Tonga. Fabric stores in Hawai'i carry Pellon, a brand name that Hawaiian hula halau use as a substitute tapa for costumes because it has the "poof" (body) and takes dyes well. Modern day Tongans often start with Pellon or "Viline" for the background fabric using dye to paint either traditional designs or contemporary pictures.

These tapas, both the one given to Bishop Fitzpatrick and the one given to Saint Elizabeth's church, are truly traditional in use of paper mulberry background material and design patterns. Mrs. **Fane Lino** cut a 12' by 12' section from a larger tapa, which was stapled onto a wooden dowel to support its weight while hanging. Members of the Pacific Islander Ministry Committee assisted **Charles Steffey**, carpenter, in hanging the tapa high on the back wall of Saint Elizabeth's nave. This deep-toned tapa is truly a dramatic addition to Saint Elizabeth's Church. Both tapa, the one hanging in Saint Elizabeth's and the one still in need of the right display location are gifts of great value from the Lino family to the Diocese. They both represent the best of traditional Tongan art in the use of material and design.

Sunday School News

Summer adventures at the beach, basketball competition with **Coach James** and **Coach Amber** and travels to New York City, Gettysberg, New Jersey, Tonga, Taiwan, Tahiti and beyond are vivid memories and now the Classroom doors are open to another challenging school year. The music program continued in August, the children singing the offertory at the service with **Mother Jodene** worshipping with us.

On the opening day of the school year, there were 10 children in each classroom – total of 30 children and 6 teachers. Each classroom welcomed many new faces and the children had so much to chat about. Beach, waterparks, travels...and we thanked God for the safe return of everyone! And who could have not noticed Joey's blue braces!

The Sunday School will continue with the lectionary based, *Children's Worship Bulletins* worksheets, and resource materials put out by the Episcopal Church focusing on *Weaving God's Promises*.



The children in classroom B, preschoolers through 1st grade, will be with **Miss Jamie Chock** and **Miss Lillian Tyau**, and we welcome moms or dads who might offer some help on any given Sunday! Classroom A, 2nd graders through 7th grade, will be with **Mrs Sue Yap** and **Miss Sarah Kleinschmidt**. **Mrs. Mary Ann Lentz** has offered to help with the classroom activities when needed. Meeting in Shim Hall will be the high school children with **Mrs. Fane Lino** and **Miss Seine Lino**. The focus on their program will be bible stories. Miss Ajaon will teach the music program and introduce handbells and percussion instruments as well as learning new songs on the 4th Sundays of each month! The children will participate in the church service singing the offertory hymn on the 2nd Sunday of each month. **Mrs. Doris Lam** (Mrs. Peter Fan) will continue to work with the children in Classroom A on two special arts and crafts projects, one during Advent and one during Lent. Mrs. Fan has also been on top of keeping classrooms A and B neat and tidy.

As part of the Education Program, Fr. David will lead a First Communion Class to all interested children. Specific dates will be released at a later time. Last year we had a great turn-out! Parents, children at least 12 years and up are all welcome to attend the class. Exceptions may be made for younger children.

We are all looking forward to another bright and challenging school year. If you are interested in helping with the education program, please see any of the teachers.



Attendance

8/1	Wed. Healing Eucharist	23
8/5	Sunday 9:00 am Eucharist	159
8/8	Wed. Healing Eucharist	32
8/12	Sunday 9:00 am Eucharist	153
8/12	Chinese Eucharist	4
8/15	Wed. Healing Eucharist	28
8/19	Sunday 9:00 am Eucharist	177
8/22	Wed. Healing Eucharist	30
8/26	Sunday 9:00 am Eucharist	173
8/26	Chinese Eucharist	4



from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
©Harley L. Schwadron
Reprinted with permission

Just as in earthly life lovers long for the moment when they are able to breathe forth their love for each other, to let their souls blend in a soft whisper, so the mystic longs for the moment when in prayer she can, as it were, creep into God.


-Soren Kierkegaard

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO. 418

A House of Prayer for all People

Return service requested



**The Episcopal
Church Women**

ECW Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will be held on Saturday, September 22, 2012, beginning with registration and coffee at 8:00 am, and Morning Prayer at Parke Chapel at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will commence at 9:15 am in the Von Holt Room of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew in Honolulu. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Gregory Johnson.

Registration and lunch is \$12. For detailed information and to download the registration form, go to the event listing on the diocesan website, www.episcopalhawaii.org. Please RSVP by September 5. If you have any questions, e-mail Louise Aloy at louise.aloy@hawaiiintel.net.

Give Aloha



FOR ALL PLEDGING MEMBERS AND NON-PLEDGERS TOO!!!

Foodland has allowed us to sign up for its ONE MONTH MATCHING FUND DRIVE in September. What does this mean, you ask? You can make your PLEDGE payment IN SEPTEMBER to Foodland (have your Ma'ika'i card and tell the cashier **CODE 78661**) and Foodland will match a portion of what you give and send the whole kit and kaboodle to St. E's!! There is a limit of \$250 per family for this campaign.

Hold on to your receipt, drop it in the collection basket with your name on it or give it to Fr. David and we'll be sure to add whatever you gave through Foodland to your quarterly giving report. Let's take advantage of an easy way to increase our pledge income!!