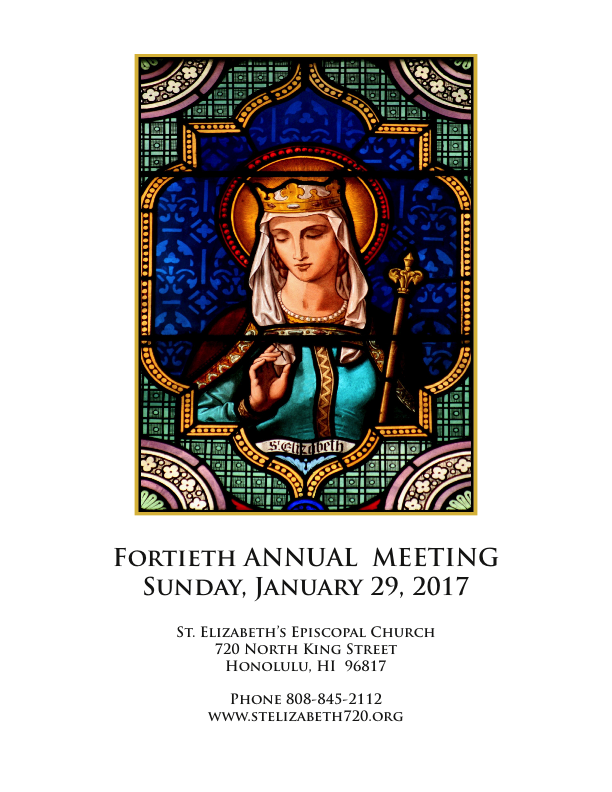
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**Forty-Fourth ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sunday, January 31, 2021**

**St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church**

**720 North King Street**

**Honolulu, HI 96817**

**Phone 808-845-2112**

# www.stelizabeth720.org

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Forty-Fourth Annual Meeting Agenda

St Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church, a non-profit corporation

Sunday, January 31, 2020, being the Forth Sunday after the Epiphany

1. Call to Order
2. Determination of a Quorum (*A majority of the Vestry plus 10% of qualified voters)*
3. Opening Prayer
4. Introduction of Guests and Visitors
5. Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting minutes
6. Appointment of Tellers
   * 1. Recognition of Departing Vestry Members – Leyna Esaki, Jerek Jong, Inaria Repaky

1. Nomination and Elections: *(Nominations may be made from the floor. Qualified voters are communicants 16 years and older.)*
   1. Election of Three (3) Vestry Persons
   2. Continuing vestry members:
      1. Delphine Shea 2021
      2. Eric Arakawa 2021
      3. Caren Chun-Esaki 2021
      4. Faith Chock 2022
      5. Anna Langi 2022
      6. Dawn Webster 2022
   3. Election of Junior Warden
   4. Appointment of Senior Warden
   5. Appointment of Youth Representative
   6. Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates / Alternates (8 to be elected)
   7. Election of Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Delegates (4 to be elected)
2. Reports
3. Adjournment

**Forty-Third Annual Meeting Minutes**

St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church, a non-profit corporation

Sunday, January 26, 2020, being the Third Sunday after the Epiphany

1. Call to Order at 10:06 am
2. Determination of a Quorum (A majority of the Vestry plus 10% qualified voters)
3. Opening Prayer by Father David Gierlach
4. Introduction of Guests and Visitors by barbara bennett
5. Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes  
   Motion to approve the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes. S. Yap moved; C.J. Chun-Esaki seconded. Motion passed with unanimous vote.
6. Appointment of Tellers – recognition of Liesel Eng for outstanding service as a counter

Recognition of Departing Vestry Members – Lynette Shim, Ken Yamasaki

1. Nomination and Elections: (Nominations may be made from the floor. Qualified voters are communicants 16 years and older.)
2. Election of Three (3) Vestry Persons
3. Faith Chock
4. Dawn Webster
5. Anna Langi

Motion to accept the abovementioned nominations by acclimation. C.J Chun-Esaki moved; L. Young seconded. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

1. Continuing Vestry members
   1. Leyna Jean Higuchi 2020
   2. Jerek Jong 2020
   3. Inaria Repaky 2020
   4. David Catron 2021
   5. Niambi Mercado 2021
   6. Delphine Shea 2021
2. Election of Junior Warden - Nomination of Charles Steffey, passed with unanimous vote
3. Appointment of Senior Warden - Cathy Lowenberg
4. Appointment of Youth Representative – Leyna Higuchi
5. Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates/Alternates (8 to be elected)
6. Joy Daitsuka
7. Cathy Lowenberg
8. Niambi Mercado
9. John Webster
10. Dawn Webster
11. Joan Kealoha
12. Delphine Shea (alternate)
13. Caren Jean Chun-Esaki (alternate)

Motion to accept the abovementioned nominations by acclimation. C. Kokobun moved, L. Young seconded. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

1. Election of Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Delegates (4 to be elected)
2. Faith Chock
3. Jaime Chock
4. Delphine Shea
5. Gretchen Jong
6. Reports
7. Adjournment at 10:17am

The new vestry met briefly after the service with all members in attendance.   
Next vestry meeting is February 23, 2020.

Submitted by Leyna Jean Higuchi,

Secretary

# Rector

I’m pretty sure it’s safe to say we’ve never seen a year quite like 2020! A trifecta of pandemic, economic crisis and racial strife all in about the same 9-month period. Add to that a President twice impeached and insurrection at our nation’s capital in the opening days of 2021 and - well, here we are! Thankfully we also experienced, at last, a peaceful transfer of power in Washington, with hopes for a more unified nation in the year ahead.

And through it all, the good folks of St Elizabeth’s have continually risen to the challenge. You have reached out to those in need, delivering literally thousands of bags of groceries to our neighbors now out of work and preparing hot lunches and breakfasts for the houseless. You have grown fresh veggies to give away and you’ve learned about social service agencies that can help folks in need. You have supported the various ministries here with your time, talent and treasure, and all the while you’ve done so with a smile and a chuckle! You are truly amazing!!

This year saw us move to largely virtual services via Zoom and Facebook Live. Thanks be to God that Parish Administrator Bill Slocumb arrived in the nick of time to enable us to become a TV studio nearly overnight. Our average Sunday attendance rose to 364! And, even when this pandemic ends, we’ll keep broadcasting the service as it allows otherwise distant or homebound folks to join us in prayer.

We used the downtime afforded by the pandemic to repaint the entire interior of the church (all the white areas) including the high arches throughout the sanctuary and the altar area as well.

Renovations at Shim Hall were just getting started as the year ended. Kalihi Palama Health Center is paying for the renovations. 2021 should see a newly painted hall with new flooring, new lighting, new doors and windows, split AC throughout and a newly sealed roof.

We held a Lenten Education Series that looked at an overview of our faith, Holy Communion, Holy Baptism and a look at our society and how religion can be a force for positive change. This began as a live and in person event, but morphed into online classes due to COVID.

Ignacia Terno, our onsite Chuukese matriarch, obtained housing and has moved to Waianae. We are grateful beyond measure for her years of selfless service here, always ready to undertake anything requested, usually anticipating those needs before anyone needed to ask. We wish her well in this transition.

We lost our dear friend and Catholic Worker David Catron this year, as well as our pal Jerry Goo and our Rector Emeritus Fr. Jerry Gifford, among others. May they, and all the departed, move from glory to glory in God’s nearer presence. Services for each of them will hopefully take place in 2021.

Once again, I thank each and every one of you for your love and devotion to one another and to St Elizabeth’s. You make me, on a daily basis, the luckiest man alive to have the good fortune of serving as your Rector. I wish you the best in the new year as we continue to trudge this road of happy destiny.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. David J. Gierlach, SCP

Rector

# Senior Warden

Cathy Lowenberg

2020 has become a meme for the worst of times – a shorthand expression of chaos, racial division, xenophobia, and intolerance. A sorrow too deep for expression.

Back in mid-March, I held back tears to know we could no longer gather as a congregation. I grieved for what seemed like the loss of community, camaraderie, and shared worship. But then I heard the refrain of Fr. David’s prayer…

*May god bless you with discomfort, easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart. May god bless you with anger and injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May god bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, that you may reach out your hand and help turn their tears to joy. May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, that you can do what other say cannot be done.*

In a year that could have been devastating, St. Elizabeth’s members triumphed, turning every challenge into an opportunity to advocate and serve. We applied for and received an Energy Relief Grant from Hawaii Energy and a Hawaii Community Foundation grant to provide rent and electrical assistance. The Saturday morning Hot Breakfast volunteers quickly devised creative ways to prepare and distribute meals while remaining socially distanced and safe. These Saturday breakfast warriors doubled down in the darkest days, providing for our neighbors in need.

Wallyhouse remained a valuable community resource and barbara bennett persevered in the face of pandemic and the loss of her dear partner, David Catron. In addition, barbara worked with community partners to help homeless folks register for stimulus checks.

When the Star-Advertiser ran an article about opposition to a Kalihi Homeless Shelter, Fr. David advocated for the most vulnerable. He told reporters, “the need for the services is urgent. I understand the ‘not in my backyard’ mentality, but we are a community and we have to take care of each other. In Kalihi, there’s a population that needs to be served.”

In 2020, Fr. David became a leading voice in the movement for a living wage and highlighted how idle federal CARES Act funds failed to reach people in need. Archdeacon Steven Costa published an editorial urging compassion for inmates, writing, “this is the time for all of us to assert our collective humanity. Every soul in Hawaii Nei, no matter where they live, is important for our survival…we are Hawaii. We care for and about each other.”

Some of the most stunning achievements were how the parish staff adapted to the new normal, delivering Sunday services on Facebook and Zoom, and devising a “virtual” option to make offerings on Givlia.com. Enjoying the organ, music, and the Altar Guild’s beautiful arrangements on-line became a thread of comfort and familiarity in an otherwise year of uncertainty.

I think of the courageous, selfless pioneers who founded St. Elizabeth’s – mostly immigrants – and am humbled to be a part of a congregation that confronted this past year with that same spirit of tenacity. When 2020 delivered injustice, suffering, and pain, St. Elizabeth’s made a difference in this world, serving beyond imagination.

# Altar Guild

barbara bennett, tssf, Altar Guild Directress

Mahalo! to the Altar Guild members who month by month continue to come to St. E’s to adorn the church with flowers and to set up for communion; and to those who offer prayer and support from their homes. It has been a challenging year and we have done well to each find our part in the worshipping community, be it in house or virtual.

We gave gratitude and farewell to long standing member Wai Wah Yee upon her retirement from the guild. We welcomed Peggy Ishida back who has stepped into Wai Wah’s captaining of Team 2.

Our teams now consist of the following members:

Team 1. Collette and Harlan Arakawa, Sue Jean Chun, Caren Jean Chun-Esaki

Team 2. Peggy Ishida, Fr. David, Anna Langi, Delphine Shea

Team 3. Nella Kleinschmidt, Sarah Bush, Dorothy Jung, Jerek Jong, Pearl Kau

Team 4. barbara bennett, Beryl Goo, Faith Chock, Faye Tsukamoto,

Arleen Young and Lynette Shim

Did you notice that there are no longer 5 teams?

That experiment did not work so well. Instead, we have decided to handle the four 5th Sundays that occur during the year by rota. For 2021, that works out as follows: January 31 - Team 3; May 30 - Team 4; August 29 - Team 1; October 31 - Team 2. Mahalo members for being willing to take on an extra Sunday during the year.

During 2020 we:

- cleaned up the sacristy (altar guild room) and bell tower.

- purchased liquid candles for the Advent and Lenten wreathes.

- hung ribbons to block off pews to social distance those who attend worship in person; and devised a simple way to set up for communion that works both in person and virtually.

- enjoyed virtually and in person many beautiful flower arrangements provided by our flower-altar guild members. Mahalo!

Goal of 2021:

Welcome the congregation back into the church, once the pandemic is passed. It will be a glorious celebration!

Faithfully submitted,

barbara bennett, tssf, Altar Guild Directress

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT of WALLYHOUSE**

**an Episcopal Franciscan Catholic Worker House of Hospitality**

**at St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church, Honolulu**

***Since January 16, 2018***

Wallyhouse Catholic Worker weathered the challenges of 2020 with loss and gain.

Loss: + In February 2020, live-in volunteer Niambi Mercado left for greener pastures in Erie, Pennsylvania. She is doing well in her new life.

+ On August 24, 2020, live-in volunteer and co-founder, David Catron, passed away. He is greatly missed.

+ On account of the pandemic, we ceased some of our ministries, such as our laundry service, showers, art classes, meals with the larger community, prayer wall, and all other ministries that involved inviting others into the Wallyhouse building.

+ Due to Covid-19, a number of our regular volunteers who helped with our guests left.

Gains: + We completed and blessed the community garden. The produce has been steady and delicious. We have enjoyed serving it at our weekly Kay’s Cafe and giving fresh produce to our guests when they come to our gate for food.

+ The numbers of guests who come to our door seeking non-perishable food has grown exponentially. In January 2020, pre-pandemic, we served around 50 persons per day, but by the end of 2020 we were serving 50 persons, sometimes more, in an hour! Also, the make-up of our guests changed from primarily houseless folks to families, especially folks laid off from service jobs such as hotels and restaurants.

+ A new group of volunteers has formed and taken on three different foci:

1. Door volunteers: (our greatest current need) The shifts are 2 hours in length, [8-10am](x-apple-data-detectors://0), [10am-noon](x-apple-data-detectors://1), or [2-4pm](x-apple-data-detectors://2), using a contactless method to distribute food, we use masks, social distancing, and a distribution table.

2. Bag packers: (most popular) This is a solitary job with flexible hours, usually for around 1 ½ hours. This involves packing food bags for distribution with non-perishable food.

3. Home prep: Some volunteers make things at home for us to distribute, such as masks, sandwiches, and baked goods individually packed. Another “home” option is a group that makes a meal to serve around 170 meals at our Tuesday hot lunch.

+Thanks to a grant from Catholic Charities Human Development, we developed an intern program for Jinna Stevens and Lovely Reiger, who live in the container, and have since taken on a lot of responsibility for Wallyhouse, and St. Elizabeth’s.

Currently, we continue with:

* Actively seeking 1 or 2 live-in volunteers (know anyone?)
* Non-perishable food from the Food Bank (around 200 persons per day)
* Peace vigil at the State Capital on the first business day of each month
* Charge electronic devices (maybe the most challenging service we do)
* We try to respond to basic needs, such as

+ Mail + Hygiene kits +Ice and cold water

+ First aid kits + Emergency Clothing +A sympathetic ear

* Kay’s café —a take out hot lunch on Tuesdays (serves 160+ people each week)
* A place for folks to volunteer: M-Sat. 8am-noon and/or M-Th 2pm-4pm
* Elizabeth house, a women’s housing project for up to 3 women from the street

Thank you, the people of St. E’s, for welcoming and supporting us. It is an honor to serve.

In Christ,

barbara bennett, tssf

**Bell Choir**

The Handbells Choir exists to serve and enhance the worship life of St. Elizabeth Church. All bell ringers are volunteers and work cooperatively to integrate diverse and well-performed music into worship services, to help each member of the congregation to worship God more deeply. The Handbells Choir rehearses weekly, service weekly, and ring bells music once a month, further, we added choir if needs.

2020 was a challenging year. Due to the pandemic, we adopt a new way "zoom meeting" in order to continue to practice and were able to offer music on Christmas Eve. I am extremely grateful to all the bell choir for the dedication and constancy. In the year 2021, we will remain bells practice on "zoom meeting" and will offer bells music every other month. We are welcome anyone who likes music and wants to join the bells choir.

The bells choir and I are grateful to Father David and the St. Elizabeth family for your continued support of the music ministry. Looking forward to another great year of bells music.

Ajaon Siyami

**Compensation Review Committee**

The Compensation Committee recommended and the Vestry approved a 2% pay raise for all employees except for Bill Slocumb who was given a bigger raise in recognition of his exceptional talents, and willingness to work Sundays as the service TV producer.

Committee Chair

Caren Esaki

# Finance Committee



**Food Pantry**

## Charles Kokubun and Harlan Arakawa

## Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Economic shutdown, 2020 proved to be a very challenging year for St. Elizabeth’s Food Pantry.   We have nearly tripled the number of people coming to Wally House to pick up food.  The Saturday breakfast shut down for social distancing, but was reopened as takeout with church members helping to make spam musubi.  Wally House also provided a takeout hot lunch on Tuesdays. With this growing need for food, we appreciate the donations from Aloha Harvest, the many breads, pies and assorted baked goods from Ani’s Bake Shop, and the free and reduced priced food from The Hawaii Food Bank.  We also increased our shopping at the Food Bank from once a week to twice a week and a delivery of 2 pallets a week (about 4000 lbs a week).  Even with all of this our pantry often empties out.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Kokubun & Harlan Arakawa

# Scholarship

## Patsy Ching

The Scholarship Committee did not meet this year due to the pandemic situation and especially for the safety of its committee members.

Hopefully awards will resume for college students later this year.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding.  
  
Respectfully submitted,  
Patsy Ching  
Scholarship Committee Chair

**Chinese Congregation**

*The Rev. Peter Fan*

DURING THE YEAR 2020, THE FIRST THREE MONTHS, THE CHINESE MINISTRY HAD THE REGULAR SERVICE. SINCE THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, WE HAVE NOT HAD SERVICE. EACH MONTH, EVERY WEEK AFTER THE SERVICE, I TRY TO ARRANGE VISTSTION TO ONE OF THE PARISHONERS FAMILY TO PROVIDE PRAYER AND COUNCIL FOR THEM. OUR CHINESE FOLK DANCING PRACTICE EVERY TUESDAY IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS.WE HELD PERFORMANCE TO NURSING HOMES AND CHINESE CLUBS TO SHARE THE JOY WITH THEM. THANK YOU FOR SUPORT THE CHINESE MINISTRY.

**Ilocano Congregation**

*The Rev. Imelda Padasdao*

2020 HAS COME AND GONE!!!!! HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021… Thank God for all His countless blessings He has given us. I have been blessed to be serving at St. Elizabeth’s Church as one of your Priest, Pastor and a friend. Thank you sooo much.

Challenges, trials of any kind came and go during this year, especially during this Pandemic but with God’s help and love, I consider all of these nothing but joy, because I know that the testing of my faith and trust in God produces strength, courage and endurance and my endurances have its full effect.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, in spite of this pandemic, the Filipino Ministry at St Elizabeth’s Church is on hold due to social distancing, following the CDC guidelines. But it does not stop us for communicating with each other. We are in together in spirit. As soon as its time for us to come together, we will be together again.

I continue to minister to them not only to the Filipino congregation but also St. Elizabeth’s family by visiting them (no cluster of course) chat/laugh/cry/pray with them, calling/text them/face time with them.

During this Pandemic, I often received phone calls to pray for them over the phone and I feel so happy /blessed to minister to their needs.

I have officiated number of funerals, house blessings with CDC guidelines.

The Filipino Ministry here at St. Elizabeth offers a chance for the Filipinos to attend/participate in the Sunday services, activities and support in the life and ministry of the Church. We are meeting our mission as we pray, worship and proclaim the Gospel in our own language. We are given the opportunity to fulfill its mission to restore all people to know God and our Lord Jesus Christ. We are fulfilling our Baptismal Covenant in promoting peace, justice and love, for it is carrying our mission through our ministry to all member of the Christian family the Church, not only to our own Filipino community but the whole community/children of God.

So, my brothers and sisters in Christ, I/WE want to thank you Fr.  David, Vestry and St.  Elizabeth’s family for   your   continued support, assistance, love and prayers. My ministry, our ministry, our ILOKANO SERVICE will continue and we can only do more to broaden and strengthen the life and ministry of the Church and the community.

My prayer is that the Spirit of the Lord is upon us and anoint us to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

May the Year 2021 be a year of a gratefulness for all God’s blessings to our Church and a year of deepening sense mission to Christ’s call to us.  Thanks be to God. Amen…    DIOS TI AGNGINA.

God bless us all, you are all in my prayers.  Amen.

Mother  Imelda

**Tongan Congregation**

*The Rev. Mafi Vakameilalo*



***Operating Budget 2021***

***2021 Budget Summary***

***INCOME***

***Pledge and Plate $160,620***

***Seasonal Offerings $890***

***Investment Income $153,950***

***Rental Income $155,800***

***Sunday school: $2,650***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Total Income: $473,910.00***

***EXPENSES***

***Altar Guild $3000***

***Diocese $73,272***

***Education $400***

***Hospitality $1900***

***Insurance $55,682***

***Building Maint. $28,000***

***Office $14,100***

***Misc. $6,800***

***Utilities $29,500***

***Staff $273,332***

***Property Tax $300***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Total Expenses: $486,286.00\****

***\*The deficit of $12,376 is largely due to a drop off in rental income from several churches that rent the church and hall. These rentals have been cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. We are hopeful to recoup some of this later in the year as the pandemic hopefully eases.***