

# ho'oulu

"...to prosper...to inspire..."



[The Newsletter of  
St. John's By-the-Sea]

January 2007 issue



— and my mother wanted me to use the money to buy her car from her. The decisions — the yeses and the noes — that led to my staying that long were not the best decisions I have ever made in my life; in some respects, they may have been the “wrong” decisions — in other words, not the best for me or even for other people involved. My time there taught me a lot about life and death, about friendship and loyalty, and I gained a perspective on the United States that is invaluable, and some of my experiences led to my eventually becoming an Episcopal priest. So my yeses and my noes almost 30 years ago shaped who I have become in many ways.



Epiphany 1, Year C

January 7, 2007

Excerpt by the Rev. Liz Beasley

**H**appy New Year! Have you made New Year's resolutions?

Making resolutions reflects a very basic Christian practice: something called “Saying Yes and Saying No.” I have found that this basic Christian practice expresses a dilemma that many people experience in daily life. There is so much happening; life is so complex; there are so many demands on us and on our time.

For example, we as a congregation will be having our annual meeting in three weeks. At that time, we will elect new members to the Bishop's Committee, and delegates to the diocesan Convention and to the Windward Regional Council. You have the chance of volunteering for such service, or maybe being recruited to serve. Your answer will involve a commitment of your time — some would say just an occasional meeting.

As with every yes and every no, there are deeper implications, a deeper decision. It means being a leader at St. John's By-the-Sea. And that means saying “yes” to praying for this congregation and caring for its health, to giving more time to its life than one meeting a month and Sunday morning worship, and to being a leader and an example in the giving of your financial resources to the church. These “yeses” involve certain “noes” — such as other ways you spend your time or your money. But there are deeper “yeses” also — such as saying yes to the call to give of yourself to God and to Christ, yes to being part of a group of people working toward a goal and for a spiritual purpose, yes to helping ensure the health of a place that you care about.

**S**aying yes in one direction often means a very big no in another direction — it can even affect the entire course of our life. I had the opportunity to go to Ireland with a professor and some students to learn hand printing (printing books by hand). I had saved the money that would allow me to go — \$1000

*Ko kakou Hokukula`a `ula*  
(Our Sacred Guiding Star)

We are a communion of saints who worship Christ and serve others.

We embrace the Hawaiian values of:

**ALOHA**—We love and respect God and one another.

**MANA**—We respect the Spirit of God within each of us and all things.

**MALAMA**—We are good stewards of God's Creation.

**PONO**—We are righteous and just in all our undertakings.

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, ‘Rejoice.’”—Philippians 4:4*



Every yes and every no shapes our life and our experience and influences our relationships to others and even to God. As you may know, I often ride TheBus. It's a great way to get in time reading, which I highly value. But sometimes I realize that I need to just sit and be quiet. By saying "no" to reading on those days, I am saying "yes" to listening to God or simply enjoying the beauty of God's creation as I pass through it.

**T**his Sunday is the day in the church year that we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. Baptism is one huge "YES." Before Jesus' Baptism, we don't know much about him. It is also the day that God says a big "yes" to Jesus. "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased," the voice says after Jesus is baptized. Jesus embodied God's YES to the world, living what God says yes to. The prophet Isaiah, from hundreds of years before, tells us what God says yes to. Christians understand this passage, about God's servant, to describe Jesus: that God has chosen him and given him as "a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon." The Bible teaches us that God says "no" to oppression, to evil, to anything that destroys the life that is within us, and God says "yes" to light, to life, to reconciliation, to healing and salvation.

This day of Jesus' Baptism is also one of the five days in the church year that are best for baptizing people in the church. Baptism is the big "YES" of the Christian life, when we decide to become members of the household of God and followers of Christ. Baptism is often called being "adopted" as God's children, the day that God says a big "YES" to us, when we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever.

As the beginning of the Christian life, *Baptism is the beginning of many more yeses and noes*: no to what crowds out God, yes to what invites God into our life; no to thinking we control our life, yes to being

guided by the Holy Spirit; no to being individuals concerned only with our own life and well-being, yes to

**K**irk and I recently have said a big "yes" — big for us. We have decided to tithe — to go


sake of saying yes to something better and more life-giving. Even a study of New Year's resolutions showed that we are

more likely to be able to keep them if we have some inner motivation for them rather than simply fulfilling some expectation from others — in other words, we are more likely to keep them if there is a "yes" within us that overrides the difficulty of the new "no."

Saying Yes and Saying No can be compared to exercise. Even the Apostle Paul talked about the spiritual life as being like

like an athletic competition.

And as we all know, physical skill becomes easier with practice. To run a marathon you have to practice. You can't surf if you don't first know how to swim and if your arms are too weak to paddle. Saying Yes and Saying No takes practice and benefits from some basic exercises.

**N**o matter what we do, God keeps saying "yes" to us. Even when our decisions are not the best, God keeps working in us, keeps calling us to life, using the decisions we have already made to draw us into greater life in the future, always desiring us to say yes to God. *As it says in the book of Deuteronomy in the Bible, "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live."* 

## MAKING MORE EFFECTIVE YESES AND NOES IN OUR DAILY LIVES

### Examine the yeses and noes you use

- What is the most demanding "yes" you have ever said? What "noes" did it involve? Was your "yes" life-affirming and if so, how?
- Name five things you say "no" to on a regular basis. What is the larger "yes" behind your no?

### Pay attention even to the small yeses and noes you say. While they may seem insignificant, they help to shape us and our lives

- Do they benefit you and others in life-affirming ways; do they let God in or crowd God out?
- If you have a hard time saying yes to things that are life-affirming and no to things that are life-destructive, what is the larger yes or no behind your behavior? What is truly driving you?

### Strengthen your ability to say yes and say no

- Prayer: Set aside a time every day when you can place before God your concerns and cares, your joys and thanksgivings, and to be quiet so that God can respond.
- Examination of conscience: At a particular time each day, review the day and give thanks for the good things that have happened and for the life-affirming "yeses" you have said. Also, notice those things that you did

recognizing ourselves as part of the larger Body of Christ, the church, and giving of ourselves to others. The Baptismal Covenant in the Prayer Book is the collection of promises we make at Baptism and renew periodically. It spells out some of the noes and yeses that we promise will be part of our life from now on: yes to prayer and worship with others, no to sin and evil, yes to letting our lives and our words show the Good News of Christ, yes to seeing Christ in all persons, yes to respecting the dignity of every human being, and therefore no to treating people with cruelty or even indifference. These are the yeses and the noes of the Baptismal Covenant, and if we pay attention, they permeate every aspect of our life.

from giving 5 or 6% of our income to giving 10%. Some would say that making such a huge jump at one time is folly. We decided we could no longer do otherwise — that God has said yes to us in so many ways; that the Bible repeatedly says yes to the practice of giving 10% of what we receive, off the top. We decided we could no longer say "no" to tithing, especially not out of fear that we can't do it.

Every yes involves a no, and every no needs a corresponding "yes" in order to be effective. It is not enough to "just say no." In order for the "no" to stick, there has to be a corresponding, deeper yes. We can't just move away from one thing; we have to go toward another. Saying no is not about self-denial for its own sake; it is for the



# upcoming events @ st. johns



## Want to help your child to talk with God?

Teaching children to pray is essential to their Christian lives. Prayer allows us to have a *heart-to-heart conversation with God*. Jesus taught his disciples an example on how to talk with God directly. Today this is known as The Lord's Prayer. Each Sunday, children attending St. John's Sunday School have a short worship service that focuses on this most basic of Christian prayers.

All children are welcome to attend the 9:30 Sunday School class on the subject at Ho`okano Hall. The focus will be on Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4

photo: peter besenbruch

jan 21	Bishop's Committee meeting after church
jan 28	Annual Meeting of the congregation, with potluck, after church in Ho`okano Hall. If you are in charge of a ministry at St. John's, <b>please submit a report for the year to Rev. Liz by January 21.</b>
Feb 11	Training for Eucharistic Ministers (those who serve the chalice in the service) and Eucharistic Visitors (those who take Communion to people in their homes), after church for about 90 minutes. See <b>Liz</b> if you are interested; she has a file to give you.
Feb 18	The second installment of training for Eucharistic Visitors. <i>Both sessions are required!</i>

## An opportunity to serve God and St. John's By-the-Sea:

Please consider placing your name in nomination for one of the offices to be chosen at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28. Below are the opportunities that are open:

**Bishop's Committee** — This is the "governing board" of St. John's. Because we are a mission congregation, being supported in part by the Diocese, the Annual Meeting will nominate people who will then be appointed by Bishop Chang. We need four nominees: three for three-year terms, and one for an unexpired two-year term. The Bishop's Committee meets once a month, usually the third Sunday, and for an initial planning meeting, planned for February 10. Each member is expected to take part in some ministry of the church, to pray for the church and its members, and to be a giver "of record" to the church's finances.

**Delegates to Diocesan Convention:** We elect four people to go the Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Convention, scheduled for October 26–27. Expectations are to attend an initial meeting about the diocesan budget the last week of September, to familiarize yourself with the Convention's business before attending, and to attend the entire meeting.

**Representatives to Windward Regional Council:** We elect four people who represent St. John's in the Windward Region. The Council meets on the evening of the first Thursday approximately every other month at one of the Episcopal churches on the Windward side.

If you would like to be considered for one of these positions, or would like to nominate someone else, please contact Rev. Liz ([LBeasley@episcopalhawaii.org](mailto:LBeasley@episcopalhawaii.org) or 351-5765) or Phyllis Chang ([phyllischang@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:phyllischang@hawaii.rr.com) or 239-7875).



## scholarship applications For two colleges

Applications for scholarships to Portland State University (PSU) and Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) are now available. A package of information for a number of different scholarships at PSU, and application forms, are available on the diocesan Web site at :

[http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/content/2007\\_psu\\_scholarshipapp.doc](http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/content/2007_psu_scholarshipapp.doc)

At HPU, the scholarship for which the Diocese has information is The Rev. Frank E. and Irene Butterworth Scholarship, an interfaith full-tuition scholarship. The scholarship requires the student to be a current member of a religious organization, and to be actively involved in his or her religious community in Hawai'i or the Pacific Basin. The applicant must be nominated by the Bishop. If you wish to be considered for nomination, please submit your completed application form to **Bishop Chang** on or before Friday, February 9, 2007. Application forms are available from the Office of the Bishop, Diocese of Hawai'i (contact **Tiare Ono**), or on the HPU website: <http://www.hpu.edu/scholarships>. A letter from **Bishop Chang** containing more info is available on the diocesan Web site at : [http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/content/hpu\\_scholarship\\_info\\_2007.doc](http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/content/hpu_scholarship_info_2007.doc)

## disaster preparedness For congregations

Congregational members and leaders are invited to a workshop on disaster preparedness to help them learn how to prepare and protect their homes and families, discover the community resources available, and serve their communities and congregations. The workshop, hosted by Pacific Health Ministries and co-sponsored by several faith traditions, will be held Sunday, February 11, in the Parish Hall of Central Union Church in Honolulu, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

On Friday and Saturday, November 17–18, I attended the Diocesan Council's annual organizing retreat that began at the Von Holt Room, St. Andrew's Cathedral and ended at Camp Mokule'ia. The meeting included reviewing 1) the basic structure of the Council and its relation to the rest of the Diocese, 2) the sources of income and the expenses of the 3 year budget, 3) the diocesan Strategic Plan. The Council also elected its officers.

The Departments of Council each held a meeting, as they will each month of the coming year.

I have been assigned to the Congregational Transformation and Evangelism Department (CT&E). The

CT&E department reported its intent to offer more Strategic Planning training in 2007, to offer **Bishop Chang** names of people who would be effective members of a new Task Force on Viability of Congregations. The department members designated me to be their liaison to the Commission on Health and Growth (CH&G) that **Bishop Chang** appointed me to chair. If the name sounds familiar, it is because one of its responsibilities is to review Resource Requests from congregations asking for diocesan financial support and recommend action on them.

As you are aware, 2007 will be the year **Bishop Chang** retires and is succeeded by the **Reverend Canon Bob Fitzpatrick**. **Bishop Elect Fitzpatrick** took the opportunity of the retreat to address Diocesan Council, choosing to give members his view of the progress we have



## ordination service For bishop-elect being planned

Pending the consent of a majority of diocesan standing committees and bishops with jurisdiction, the ordination of the **Rev. Canon Robert Fitzpatrick** as the Fifth Bishop of Hawai'i has been scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrew's Cathedral, with the **Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori** presiding. More details will be forthcoming, but for now, save the date!



made in advancing the goals of the Diocesan Strategic Plan, after two years of implementation. He said that our ministry as a Council was to help the diocese see our community with new eyes. He challenged Council to ask itself, "How are we going to live this time out?"

As **Bishop Chang** faces the remaining months of his term, he emphasized that "transformational communication" is the responsibility of diocesan leadership.

Much more was discussed and decided. I am fortunate to be a part of the effort to help with the transition of leadership from **Bishop Chang** to **Bishop Elect Fitzpatrick** by fully participating in Diocesan Council. I feel we can best

honor **Bishop Chang** by carrying on our service to God and the church as he has urged us all these years.

I welcome your questions about Diocesan Council work.

*The Diocesan Council functions in our Diocese like an Executive Committee or the Board of Directors of a corporation. In our church, members who meet at the Convention each year approve next year's budget, among other actions. The Diocesan Council takes the place of the Convention as the decision making body for finances and use of other resources during the part of the year that the Convention isn't meeting. **Lot Lau** is a member of this Council.*



## view of diocesan council

*Lot Lau*

## november 2006 report





# Lenten Retreat

at

## Camp Mokule`ia

February 23 – 25, 2007

For Adults, Youth, & Children

***Sponsored by***  
**The Windward  
Episcopal Churches**

Calvary, Emmanuel,  
St. Christopher's  
St. John's By The Sea  
St. Matthew's

**Y**ou're invited to enjoy the beauty of God's creation, while building new friendship and strengthening old ones within our Windward Region of Churches.

Our Weekend Eucharist at camp will be on Saturday @ 4:45pm.

Located on the beautiful North Shore, the beach-front setting and nearby hiking trails, there are a wide range of activities to enjoy. Or you can just relax and watch the world pass you by.

Just ask **Liz** for details.

Request for PSA  
For Immediate Release  
November 4, 2006

Kahalu'u Elementary School  
47-280 Waihee Road  
Kaneohe, HI 96744  
Contact: Cassandra Aoki  
Volunteer Tutor Coordinator  
Phone: 239-2084 or 239-3103 (ext. 229)

### Volunteer Tutors Needed

Do you enjoy reading? Like kids? Kahalu'u Elementary School needs dedicated volunteers to tutor students in Grades K-3 who are having difficulty in reading. Prior experience is not necessary. Limited training is available. If you can spare a few hours a week and make a 6-8 week commitment, please call Cassandra at 239-2084 or 239-3103 (ext.229). You will not only be making an enormous difference in a child's life but strengthening your community as well as having an experience that you won't soon forget!

## Why Do You Pledge?

Mahi Beimes considers herself "a cradle Episcopalian" as she was baptized at St. John's By-the-Sea and "always feels at home" here. Currently chair of Native Hawaiian Ministry, she has served as Sunday School superintendent, chair of the Stewardship Committee, superintendent of the Sunday School, lay reader and emcee as well as member of the Bishop's Committee. She also has met--as an aspirant to the ministry--for months with a discernment committee. As far as pledging is concerned, she considers "everything a blessing, a gift I try to increase my giving every year because all of it comes from God." Her advice for avid coffee drinkers and potential pledgers: "If you could give only as much as you spend on Starbucks coffee, that would be great."





12.31.06

## All-Ages Christmas Pageant

As a twist on the traditional Christmas pageant, St. John's By-the-Sea celebrated Christ's birth with a fun performance by children of all ages...

photos: val besenbruch



# February-March 2007 Seasons of Epiphany and Lent Schedule

Date	Day	Event	Vicar	Emcee	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Sunday School	Altar Guild
9:30 am Sunday February 4	5th Sunday after Epiphany		Rev. Liz Beasley ● ● ● ●	Mahi			Julie/Val/Peter (T) Julie (Shepherd)	Jan Rensel and Lois Fogelstrom
9:30 am Sunday February 11	6th Sunday after Epiphany				Jack Ward	Sam	Ida/Tori (Teacher) 'Akahi (Shepherd)	Emalia, Lyanne and Cheryl Holland
9:30 am Sunday February 18	Last Sunday after Epiphany		● ● ●	Gene	Leo	'Akahi	Pat (Teacher) Lois (Shepherd)	Leone, Renee and Lois Fogelstrom
9:30 am Sunday February 25	1st Sunday in Lent		● ● ●		Phyllis		Leo (Teacher) 'Akahi (Shepherd)	Lois Murphy and Ruth Lucas
9:30 am Sunday March 4	2nd Sunday in Lent		● ● ●	Mahi		Julie	TBA	Jan Rensel and Lois Fogelstrom
9:30 am Sunday March 11	3rd Sunday in Lent		● ● ●		Jack Ward	Sam	TBA	Emalia, Lyanne and Cheryl Holland
9:30 am Sunday March 18	4th Sunday in Lent		● ● ●	Gene	Leo	'Akahi	TBA	Leone, Renee and Lois Fogelstrom
9:30 am Sunday March 25	5th Sunday in Lent		● ▲		Phyllis		TBA	Lois Murphy and Ruth Lucas

**Mahalo** for your steadfast stewardship at St. John's By-the-Sea.

Please kokua and call the office (239-7198) of or write down any changes on the schedule to ensure its accuracy. The master schedule in the office will be the primary and official means of communication of when people serve. The above is subject to change, so please refer to the master schedule to confirm your dates of service.



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***aloha e komo mai***  
**st. john's**  
**by-the-sea**  
**episcopal church**

***sunday morning services, 9:30am***

***sunday school, 9:30 am***  
***@ ho'okano hall***

***morning bible study/prayers***  
***fridays, 9:15am***