

Heralding the start of Hawai'ian Sunday Service in honor of Queen Liliu'okalani's Birthday



news & views



Letter from the Bishop

[The Right Rev. Richard S.D. Chang]

August 30, 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina has prompted the quick response of the **Episcopal Relief and Development Fund** to the Dioceses of Mississippi and Louisiana. The churches and the people of these dioceses have responded to provide relief to their communities where lives have been traumatized by the hurricane. National Church agencies have already responded. It is now time for the Diocese of Hawai'i to respond.

I ask that all congregations of the Diocese of Hawai'i take a special offering for "hurricane relief" on one of the Sundays during the month of September. Your special offerings should be sent directly to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund, c/o US Hurricane Fund, P.O. Box 12043, Newark, NJ 07101.

Please report the amount of the funds that you send to **ERD** to **Peter Pereira**, Treasurer (PCPereira@episcopalhawaii.org).

In this Diocese, we experienced the physical and emotional devastation of Hurricane Iniki. The

Episcopal Relief and Development Fund sent our Diocese relief funds in our hour of need. Let us be generous in our response to provide relief to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Faithfully yours,

Richard S. O. Chang IV Bishop of Hawai'i

A great big mahalo goes out to ...

...to Gene Naipo for repairing the louvered windows in the sacristy.



Letter from the Vicar

[Rev. Liz Beasley]

ne of the milestones in the life of a priest and a congregation is the "Celebration of New Ministry" (previously, or informally, known as the "installation"). At our September Bishop's Committee meeting, we discussed when to hold this celebration here at St. John's By-the-Sea. Fortunately, the date we talked about is open on **Bishop Chang's** calendar, and so we can now officially plan for our Celebration of New Ministry on Sunday, January 8, at 4:00 p.m.

The times before then are filled with Convention, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. But I was aiming for this time in January because it will also be the occasion of St. John's 75th anniversary. In 1930, a group of people met with the Bishop on December 27 (the feast day of St. John the Evangelist) to talk officially about forming a church, and the first service was on January 5, 1931.

The name for this ceremony suggests what it means in our life together. An "installation" sounds like the priest is an appliance that is being plugged in so it can now function and do its work. On the other hand, "Celebration of New Ministry" says that you and I are doing the work of Christ together, here in this place. What happens here is not *my* ministry, but the ministry of us all. Actually, it is *Christ's* ministry, Christ's work, that all of us are involved in.

It will be an honor to celebrate our ministry together here at St. John's Bythe-Sea and to be, officially, your Vicar. So save the date: Sunday, January 8, 4:00 p.m.!

In Christ's love, Liz+

mark your calendars...

Rev. Liz Beasley will be on leave from Oct 31 through Nov 7...Rev. Peter Besenbruch will be leading the Nov 6th Sunday Service... There will be no Healing service on Wednesday, Nov 2nd...

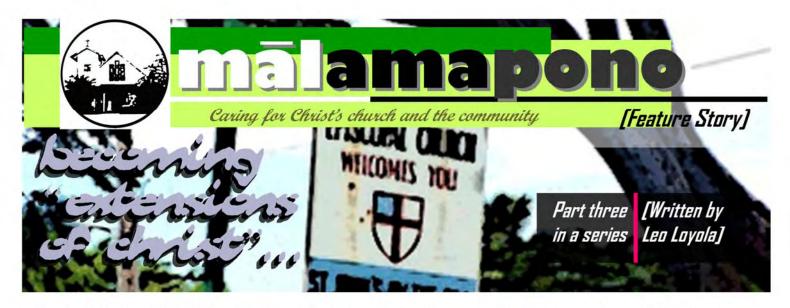
If you need assistance, please contact **Senior Warden Phyllis Chang** or leave a message on the church phone's voice mail
(239-7198) and you will be contacted as soon as possible.

...to all who helped out on the workday: Pat & Penny Chu, Lois Murphy, Sheila Iseri, Leone Leong, Sally Roggia, Ipo Johnson, Kawehi & Keʻalohi Lucas, Jeanne Porter, Emalia Naipo, Tori & Akahi Tualatamalelagi, Kirk & Liz Beasley.



...to all who came and shared in the ho'omana'o for Pua Hopkins and to Sandy Padeken for arranging for the shave ice.





As Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold has said "we become extensions of Christ, evangelizing by word and example, by seeking, serving, striving ... always animated by the loving kindness of God, [and] the unbounded love for each of us ..." (Nov. 2001) [SOURCE: Conversion, Transformation, and Evangelism: Communicating a New Vision for the Episcopal Church in Hawai`i: Report of the Strategic Planning Task Force to the 36th Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai i, October 29-30, 2004 (The Diocesan Strategic Plan now available at www.episcopalhawaii.org)]

hile the statistics in their October 2004 report show a steady yearly decline in various measures of growth, the Episcopal Diocese's

Strategic Planning Task Force noted an overall "stair-step increasing (of weekly) attendance beginning in 1998". The report

attributed this to membership actively inviting people to church. In a move for churches to be more proactive, the Task Force drafted a five-year, four-goal strategy for Hawaii's Episcopalian churches to become responsible towards their own growth, where evangelism by all churchmembers is

key. "Just imagine how well we could do in spreading Jesus' Gospel message," the report commented, "if we adopt a Strategic

Plan that both emphasizes the mission of making disciples that Christ gave us and that strengthens clergy and laity with resources and training." And where does St. John's fit in the picture?

Last issue, Diocesan Councilmember Lot Lau reported that "St. John's by-the-Sea (was) recommended (by Diocesan Council) to receive \$25,000 support in 2006... Diocesan Council is still assuming that St.

parts one and two of this column) have been steadily working towards building a healthier church by focusing on the worship of God, which she calls the "central act of the church". If it is our responsibility as Christians to evangelize, how do we go about doing so? While it is a necessity, evangelizing is not something many feel naturally inclined to do. What is it that keeps people—what makes people feel uneasy-from inviting people to a place they person-

ally enjoy? Do we trust God enough?

To explore these and other questions, the Ho'oulu sat in on a stewardship conference, aptly named "Do We Trust God Enough?" Facilitated by Rev. Canon Bob Fitzpatrick and the Stewardship Commission, this was an opportunity for the Diocese to train laity to ultimately become better "extensions of Christ". Members of St. John's that also

participated in the conference were Penny and Pat Chu, Lot Lau, Mahi Beimes, Rev. Liz Beasley and myself.

And what does fundraising and pledges have to do with evangelizing and encouraging people to come to church? This was the question I had when I attended the workshop. I somehow felt that stewardship was intertwined with church growth and the other ministries of St. John's, and I was compelled to figure out how everything tied together.





John's will be financially independent beginning 2008." In the [Becoming "Extensions of Christ"..., continued on page 4] meantime, Rev. Liz Beasley and St. John's (see

"What is the nature of stewardship?" Bob asked, as he opened his talk before the interested crowd in the air-conditioned St. George meeting room. "If you're here to save the budget...if you're here to save the vicar's salary, close the church—this is about God. If (your church) is gathering because they are nice people, then you should collect dues." A bold statement, and immediately I knew that I would find the answers I was hoping to find.

He continued: "Where does your picture of God come from? Where you're worried, there your God or demon dwells-that which takes your energy, that which surrounds you. If

your God is clouded by fear-a sense of insecurity-you have no reason to share." For church growth to truthfully occur, it must start off as an extension of our own beliefs in God. By nature, we are also giving and loving children of God and should act likewise. We do what we do because we are "extensions of Christ", as Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold phrased.

He went up to the whiteboard and had people from the group read several readings from the Book of Matthew ("The book most tells what it might look like to be a follower of Jesus at that time," Bob said.), specifically Matthew 22:34-40, 25: 31-46 and 28:16-20. From the passage in Matthew 22, three concepts of our faith could be found in God's greatest laws:

- 1) Put God above all else
- 2) Love God, others and ourselves
- 3) Follow and live rules 1 and 2

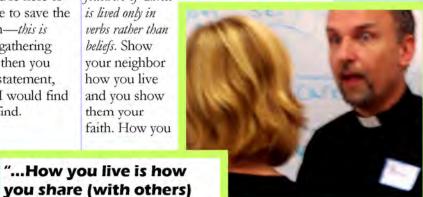
From the passage of Matthew 25, Bob asked the group to pick out the verbs that are examples of how to love others. Words like "gave", "welcome", "took care" and "visit" were shouted out. From the last passage, Bob asked the group to again pick out the verbs. The group shouted words like "worship", "baptize", "make disciples", "teach" and "remember". These verbs, Bob said, are the "building blocks of serving", the end goal to why we as Christians give, welcome and malama others.

He looked up from the board and concluded: "Stewardship (Or any ministry in the

church, for that matter; even though Bob didn't

verbalize it that way, I did explain to him what I was attempting with this article) begins with every minute of every day that being

followers of Christ is lived only in verbs rather than beliefs. Show your neighbor how you live and you show them your faith. How you



what you got from God ... " [Rev. Canon Bob Fitzpatrick] live is how you share (with oth-

> ers) what you got from God. Faith is uncomfortable: to follow Jesus means that our lives are changed. Is it a choice or is (being a Christian) the way (we are)?" While our faith is based on belief, ultimately it is what we do that matters.

Essentially whether we are actively inviting people to church or involved in other ministries at St. John's-whether it may be on the worship team or community work or youth-related activities-we do these things because it is our nature and duty as Christians to share what God has given us. What we share of ourselves is both in relation to how we relate to God and others and who we are as individuals. And it can be simply defined by what Jesus said when tested by a lawyer on which of God's laws were the most important: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:34-40)

And it is with that, I challenge myself and St. John's to really examine how we live our lives as children of God, as we continue through our own journeys, through our own ministries here, through our relations to people around us, as we head towards the future.

Quotations to Question and Help Solidify Our Faith

Mahalo to Rev. Canon Bob Fitzpatrick for his help with this month's article. For those that missed out in the conference, I've included some of his other words of wisdom that hopefully will challenge and solidify your Christian faith...

"Our failures as Christians is not so much in our sins

but by not doing as God commands us."

"God called us into communities (churches) to do the ministry to which we are called. What is God calling us (individually) to do? What in your context (community) is God calling (you) to do?"

"The Bible is our entrance not a checklist to know God. To not study the Bible is to not study the language of what makes us Christian. (It) gives us a window into God."

"When we think of stewardship, it is a struggle with the self of who is God and what we need. Does your God expect anything of you? Why?"

"(With every person) you meet, you are given an obligation of being God to them."

"Prayer is being present with God."

"If we are living the word of God, are we as (Christians) showing the world?"

"Tithing is countercultural everywhere: it is a spiritual discipline (and) the basis of giving to the community. Being a Christian is countercultural to our consumer culture."

"I'm challenged about my own view on pledges: how does it truly help with people's spiritual journey? Why does anyone care? Shouldn't (budgets) be presented in terms of how it meets church's ministries? Budgets and pledges do not drive us, (people do)." The context of this quote is to question where the focus in pledges/fundraising should truly lie.]

[St. John's by-the-Sea Goes]













UPCOMIN9 EVEN+S

10/7— 10/9

FRIDAY, 6PM THROUGH SUNDAY, 2PM New Beginnings: A Unique Weekend Experience for Teenagers (grades 7-9)

Held at Camp Mokuleia, participants will learn to grow in their love of self, others and in Jesus Christ. This program is designed to respond to concerns and needs of today's teens. Mature grade sixers also welcome. Contact for info: **Ferdinand Cajigal** at 871-4345 or 276-5629

10/23 YOUTH SUNDRY SERVICE **Youth Service Sunday.** Involving anyone below age 30, this is an exciting time where our youth have a big part in our Worship Service. So if you or you would like to include your child, please see **`U`i Chong** or **Rev. Liz Beasley** before 10/23 for more information.

ווסיקפיים 1007 Season of Pentecost Schedule

Date	Day	Event	Vicar	Emcee	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Asst.	Usher	Altar Guild	Flowers	Refreshments
9:30 am Sunday Nov. 6	25th Sunday of Pentecost		Rev. Peter Besenbruch	Gene	Leo	`Akahi		וישי	Lois and Ruth	,—_	
9:30 am Sunday Nov. 13	26th Sunday of Pentecost		Rev. Liz Beasley		Phyllis	Lokela		Kamaehu	Ann and Ke`alohi		
9:30 am Sunday Nov. 20	Last Sunday of Pentecost	BISHOP COMMITTEE MEETING			Penny	Julie		Ryan	Emalia and Lyanne		

november/december 2005 Season of Advent Schedule

									Additional Bonnoamin
9:30 am Sunday Nov. 27	1st Sunday of Advent	Hawaiian Eucharist	Fr. Charlie Hopkins	Nahoa	Mahi	Ke`alohi	Lokela	Leone and Renee	
9:30 am Sunday Dec. 4	2nd Sunday of Advent		Rev. Liz Beasley		Dawn	Chelsae	Rvan	Lois and Ruth	
9:30 am Sunday Dec. 11	3rd Sunday of Advent				Bridgette	Sam	Rex	Ann and Keʻalohi	
9:30 am Sunday Dec. 18	4th Sunday of Advent			Gene	Leo	*Akahi	1,0,1	Emalia and Lyanne	

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.

