ho`oulu

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

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

April 2008 issue

I hope that this Easter season has been a time for you to discover your *strengths*, to *enjoy* the life we have been given and to *reflect* on the promise of God that, like Jesus, we too shall be *resurrected* into new *bodies*, into a new *world*, never to die again, with new adventures and new *stories* to live out in the miracle of God's Creation.

Whatever we plant in this world, whether we are planting prayer, or love of the *rotten neighbor*, or honesty in the face of *temptation* to do something else, or generosity when we fear we *won't have enough* for ourselves, or compassion for those who deserve *exactly* what they got, or understanding for those who are *obnoxious*; whatever we plant in this world that is good, will bear unimaginable fruit in the new creation.

Part of St. John's planting always involves delicious *food* to eat! The *laulau* sale is going on the last week of April, so thanks to all who devoted selfless time, talent, money and advice in making this year's fundraiser a success. And thanks to all who have purchased our heavenly *laulau* as well!

Fr. Saimone is working full bore on the new youth ministry here at St. John's as well as his outreach work with the Polynesian community. All who wish to work with him, please see **Fr. Saimone.** All are welcome to join in the effort to *organize* our youth and to reach out to our brothers and sisters in the wider community!

The new *OP (Older Persons) Magazine* is available free of charge to anyone who wishes a copy. This magazine is published by the Coalition of Services of the Elderly in Manila, and contains many wonderful articles on aging as well as many (barely tasteful) *lawyer jokes*...Please pick up your copy on the table at the church entrance.

St. John's is growing and I would like anyone interested in *lay reading* to please give me a signal. We will soon have two to three people *each* Sunday take on the readings, with folks coming up from the pews to read the psalm and the second reading. The *more people* we involve in different parts of our worship the better, don't you agree?

***aloha,* david+**

PHOTO: VICKI FAY

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.**

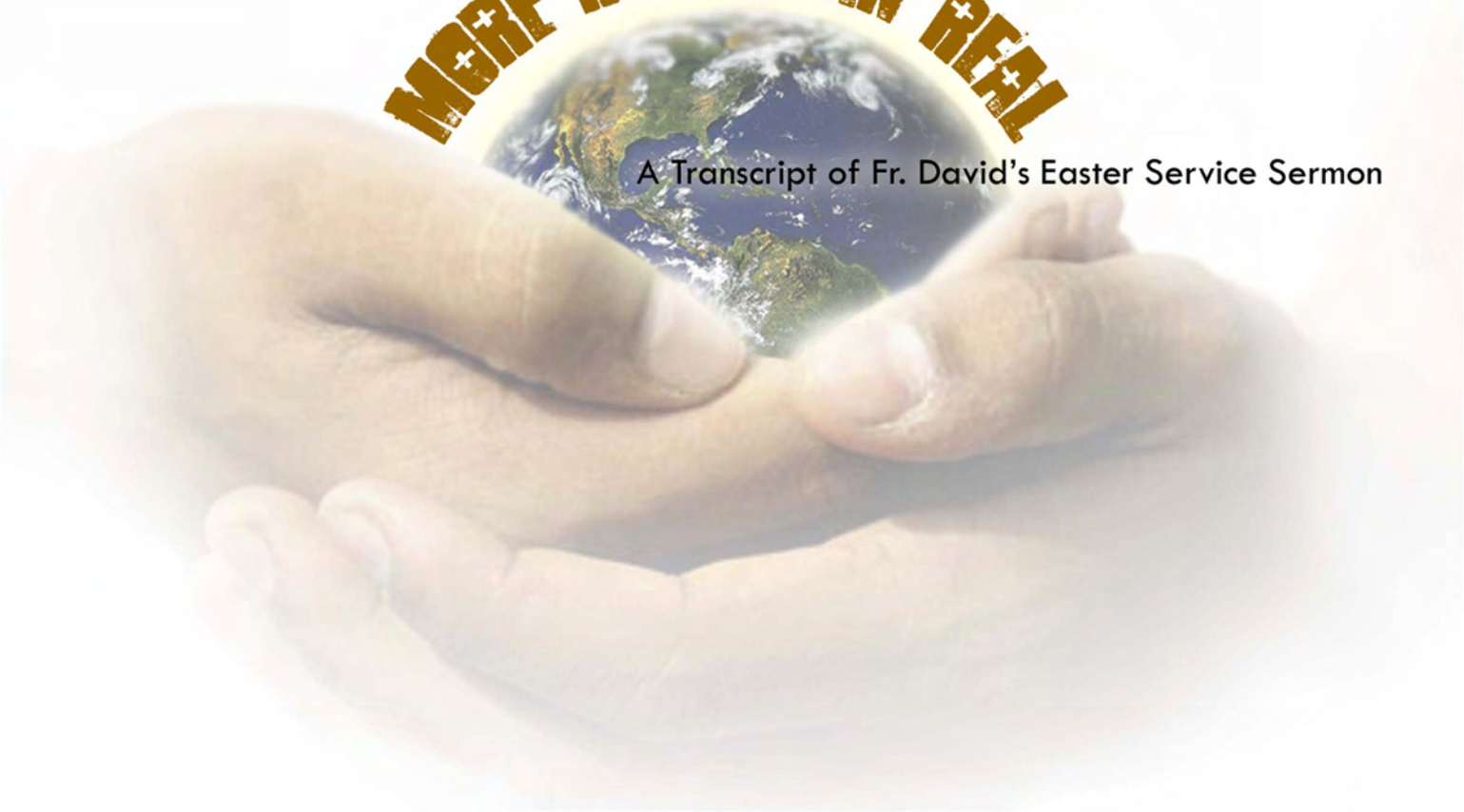
"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, 'Rejoice.'"
—Philippians 4:4

"...Hosanna, hosanna, shout unto God with the voice of triumph..."

—Keith Green

MORE REAL THAN REAL

A Transcript of Fr. David's Easter Service Sermon



THE FAMOUS PLAYWRIGHT OSCAR WILDE WROTE a play about King Herod. He gave the play the name *Salome*, named after Herod's stepdaughter. The one who asked to have the head of John the Baptist on a plate.

Herod, it seems, heard that Jesus had been raising people from the dead.

"I do not wish him to do that," says Herod. "I forbid him to do that, I allow no man to raise the dead! This man must be found and told that I forbid him to raise the dead!"

This, of course, is exactly what the powers-that-be tell us today about the Resurrection of Jesus.

Much of our science, our philosophy, our politics, says in a loud voice, "Everyone knows the dead don't rise!"

We are children of the Enlightenment. We know that the only reality is the reality we can see, touch, smell or taste. Beyond that, there is nothing!

All of which supports the status quo. The powerful, the rich—even the intellectuals who have carved out comfortable spots for themselves in this world—join with Herod in saying "I forbid the dead to rise!" For if Jesus rose from the dead, then this world—this life, this reality—is not all there is. And resurrection becomes something subversive to what we know. Resurrection becomes *revolutionary* to the existing state of affairs. So, to keep it away—to undermine its threat to what currently is—we deny it. We avoid it. *We ridicule it.*

"The disciples stole the body" some say. "They saw a ghost," say others. "They simply made it up out of their grief and fear."

Or some will concede: "Jesus was raised like we all are when we die — his soul, his disembodied spirit, went to Heaven."

I'm sure in this very crowd this morning one or the other of these ring true to some of you.

A bishop in our very church was quoted as asking: "How can I expect my daughter, who has a Ph.D. in physics, to believe in the resurrection?"

Well, let us consider these things…

There were, in 1st century Israel, many claimed Messiah movements. *None* survived the death of the would-be Messiah. Except one. The one we are here to celebrate today.

So what happened?

We can know only a little.

Jesus' death was horrifically public.

He hung on a cross for all to see, in the daylight, to his death. The resurrection itself—the moment it occurred—was in the tomb, in the dark. A pile of linens left behind. A private affair between Jesus and God. A private affair... to a point.

They knew it was him: Mary and Peter and the others. They knew it was him; but it wasn't just the old "him". He was different as well as being the same. He was transformed in a way they could not exactly describe.

Bishop Wright says the raised Jesus was "transphysical."

"Transphysical.": meaning, more physical than before. More real. *More alive.*

Bishop Wright, in trying to help us get our head around this transphysical risen-Jesus suggests that as one might compare a ghost to a human being, the human being is more substantial, more real, more alive than the ghost. Just so are we to the risen Jesus, who is that much more real, alive, substantial, than us.

Confused?

So were the apostles and they *saw* this risen-Jesus face-to-face. He cooked their breakfast, yet suddenly appeared in locked rooms. He invited Thomas to touch his wounds; yet walked for miles to Emmaus with a pair who had followed him but didn't recognize him.

Hard to grasp, isn't it? *No wonder we have retreated these last many years to a belief that resurrection simply means the disembodied soul going to Heaven forever.* Somehow, Plato's idea is easier to get than the reality promised us by the God of Jesus. Yet this *risen transphysical Jesus* is the one we are well-served to focus on for what happened to him is precisely what God promises will happen to us. It is the central teaching of the New Testament.

We have retreated a great deal from this fantastic promise found in the teaching of Jesus, Paul, Peter and John. We have come to believe that this world, even if we acknowledge it is created by God, is all there is. And if we still have some belief in God, we say that after this life, we journey to heaven as a disembodied spirit for all eternity.

Not a few have said to this future: "No thanks." "It sounds awfully boring to sit on a cloud and play a harp for the rest of eternity." But it is not a disembodied life in some spiritual realm that God promises to us.

From the Book of Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament, to the Book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament, the resounding theme is not only that creation is good, it is that creation will be remade, renewed, *redeemed.*

Unlike Buddhists and Hindus, whose reality consists of circles upon circles, as Christians, we believe in reality that has a beginning and an end. At the end, a new creation will be made. A new story will be told. I am not suggesting there is no heaven. But the faith of our fathers and mothers in the early church, the writings of Paul and others, tell us heaven is not the final destination. It is a way point. A place in the nearer presence of God, but not the final destination.

What awaits us all is the resurrection of all. The same resurrection of which Jesus is the first born. A new body, a new creation, new challenges and a new life.

It is not, as so much popular fiction suggests, that God's chosen will be "raptured" into heaven.

It is, as the Scriptures teach, heaven will come to earth, and the two, as bride and groom, will become one. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Heaven on earth.

Heaven, God's kingdom, in a new transformed creation. This is the faith of the church.

In thinking about this, C.S. Lewis did a wonderful job in his *Narnia* saga to try to give a sense of what awaits. Through the wardrobe, a completely different reality exists. One which needs us. One which challenges us. One which, yet again, makes us partners in God's creative acts. After all, in this world, we were made stewards of this earth, to carry out God's good creation. We fell.

And God, through Jesus, rescued us.

God will rescue us again, and a new creation will be made.

St. Paul says we shall be "fellow workers with God" in this new creation. He insists that this present life has value precisely because God will raise our bodies into something new in the new creation that is the resurrection. And because of that, and I quote Bishop Wright:

> *What you do in the present, by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself will last into God's future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether. They are part of what we may call building for God's kingdom..."*

So...where do we set out sights?

If we follow the Herods of our day—and they are legion,—we shall worship the worst of this world—its economy, its national security, its neurosis for safety—as the only reality there is.

In Herod's world, there can be only grasping, only safety, only protecting number one. In the world of the resurrected Jesus: kindness, trust, risk, compassion; giving it away. Knowing these seeds will bear unimaginable fruit in the new creation...

That is the life, here and now, that we as Christians are made for.

Confused?

Troubled?

Skeptical?

If you are, be glad. So were the apostles. But then they understood. And those who trembled behind locked doors in an upper room became resolute witnesses to the new reality seen through the open door of the Lord's resurrection.

Herod said, "I allow no man to raise the dead. This man must be found and told that I forbid him to raise the dead!"

Herod then asks: "Where is this man?!"

The reply comes from the messenger: "He is in every place, my Lord, but it is hard to find him."

May you, my friends, find him today.

Amen.

A warm *aloha* to **Fr. Saimone Lino,** his wife **Fane** (wife), their daughter **Anaseini,** their older son **Vimiami** (not in pic) and their youngest son **Joshua**. A recent member of the St. John's family, **Fr. Saimone** (pronounced "Simon") is working hard at building and organizing the youth ministry here, as well as his outreach to the Polynesian community in Hawaii. If you're interested in helping out in any way, please drop us a line at MC_L@hotmail.com or meet Fr. Saimone in church for more details.

God Camp

JR. LIT Training
9th and 10th Graders

Come and learn the ropes of being an LIT. During this time you will shadow an SR. LIT and a camp staffer.

It's a CHALLENGE!

July 16-25 Cost: $150

SR. LIT Training
11th and 12th Graders

The next step is Camp Counselor!

During this training you learn what it takes to be on staff, while mentoring the new bunch of leaders coming up in the community. It's not all work-- we did save some of the fun for the SR. LITs!

July 13-25 Cost: $100

CAMP!
4th thru 8th Graders

Come and enjoy yourselves and learn about GOD in unexpected ways, while spending time with old and new friends on the beach!

July 18-25 Cost: $350

Held at Camp Mokule`ia's campgrounds on Oahu's North Shore, God Camp will involve youth in learning about themselves and God in fun, unique ways!

Applications are available now at www.episcopalhawaii.org. Space is very limited so apply early. Scholarships are also available.

Contact: Katie Finfrock
cell: 808.291.2965
e-mail: scdirector@gmail.com

St. John's By-the-Sea is *not* just a little church in Kaneohe. We are an *`ohana.*

We are a family of many families, coming together in worship and in the love and friendship we provide for one another. Whether it's welcoming a young soul like **Ava** to Christ or surprising a dear friend like **Jane** with a surprise birthday bash, we are a part of each other's lives!

Come be a part of the love and life that Christ has to offer here at St. John's...

...E Komo mai

I te matamua ra poiete ihora te. Atua i te rai e te fenua. Te vai faufaa ore noa ra te fenua e te ano hoi, te vai atoa ra te pouri i nia e te iriatai, e i nia iho i te mau pape te Varua o te Atua.

—The first 2 verses of Genesis in Tahitian

Family Promise®

Aloha- *We are now in the third year of being a host church for the Family Promise of Hawaii Network*—***we house families who are attempting to secure permanent housing***—*for one week, four times a year*. Our first rotation was from January 27 to February 2, 2008. Our second rotation is coming up on May 4th to the 11th. The third will be from August 3 to August 10, 2008 and our fourth will be from November 2 to November 9, 2008. *A HUGE MAHALO* to all the volunteers from St. John's especially **Uncle Lloyd Young** for the setting up of Ho`okano Hall and **Aunty Ipo Johnson** for the purchasing and inventory of our food and supplies. They are truly the lifeline along with our team of "chefs" who provide great meals. Please consider coming to church early ***we really need help putting everything away at the end of the week.***

We are truly blessed to have The Kahalu`u United Methodist Church as our ***support*** church since joining in The Family Promise Network. **The Rev. Bob Nakata** and their team of volunteers led by **Ethel Serikaku** have bee an invaluable asset for us and the families who have come through Ho`okano Hall during their time of need and despair. They are overnight hosts and provide dinners for Monday and Tuesday nights, **Ethel** works with the Food Bank at KEY Project to provide items needed for the week, and most importantly, they attend meetings in Kailua.

This year, blessings come from within the community through our connections with Ke Kumu Ola O Kahalu`u. Our partners—Kahalu`u Hope Chapel with **Pastor Eldeen Kukahiko**, and the Light of Promise Ministries with **Pastor Keith Ryder**—have stepped up to be overnight and dinner hosts one night for the week. Recruitment started last year with them first becoming overnight hosts to see who and what Family Promise is all about. *After their initial experience, they saw what we do: we house families, we feed families, we interact, talk story, give-them-their-space and love families. Immediately upon waking the next morning, all stated they see this as a mission to continue and have now become part of our* ***support*** *team.—Tori*

Did you know that through the Family Promise of Hawaii Network, we have helped:

Over 80% of our families transition out of homelessness into housing, usually in 3-4 months.

Over 140 children and parents to secure a home!!!

	Dinner @ 6pm	Overnight
Sunday	St. John's By-the-Sea	St. John's By-the-Sea (Tori)
Monday	Kahalu`u Methodist	Kahalu`u Methodist
Tuesday	Kahalu`u Methodist	Kahalu`u Methodist
Wednesday	Kahalu`u Hope Chapel	Kahalu`u Hope Chapel
Thursday	Kahalu`u Hope Chapel	Windward Coalition for the Homeless
Friday	Light of Promise Ministries	Light of Promise Ministries
Saturday	St. John's By-the-Sea	St. John's By-the-Sea (Tori)

Interested in volunteering or helping us out with this worthwhile project? For more info, send us an e-mail at MC_L@hotmail.com or see Tori

Mahalo** to St. John's By-the-Sea,* especially **Aunty Bertha Awa, Aunty Eloise Naone, Leone Leong and Andrea Hopkins (Da Long Rice Crew—with Aunty Ipo Johnson's recipe for 600 people)** ***and **Uncle Lloyd & Enid Young & Da Gang, Akahi, Glenn Naipo and Jim Thomas (Da Kalua Pig Crew)** *for a successful* Ho'olaulea and Luau benefiting the teachers at Kahalu`u Elementary School raising in excess of $6,000.00. These monies will be distributed among the teachers by the number of students in each class.

This was the third annual Ho'olaulea Luau event put on by the community to benefit the Teachers who for so long was utilizing their own monies to fund their classroom supplies and materials. This event is 100% sponsored and run by the community—Hope Chapel Kahalu`u, KEY Project, Kahalu`u United Methodist Church, Light of Promise Ministries, The Tomei Family, Wong's Taro Leaf Farm, Reppun Ohana-Poi, Pa'ahana, St. John's By-the-Sea and many others.

So many of you in our Hale Pule Ohana come from all over Oahu, the State of Hawaii and places far beyond, yet you *all* find it necessary to join in, involve ourselves and St. John's in the Kahalu`u community's greater efforts to support our *keiki, Kupuna and Ohana.* I am so proud and honored of ALL of you for allowing St. John's and myself to play a huge role in the facilitating of sponsoring good positive alternatives for the families in Wailau and Kahalu`u.

There is much to do on a continual basis and we will be there...look here for more news and bulletins of upcoming events.

Much Aloha and Blessings to you all always. Mahalo.

—Tori Tualatamalelagi

Schedule for Worship Services

Date	Emcee	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Altar Guild
4/20	Gene	Nahoa	Julie	Jeanne P. & Pi`ilani F.
4/27	Gene	Jack	William	Leone & Jan R.
5/4	Mahi	Kaipo	Nicolas	Lois & Ruth L.
5/11	Mahi	Phyllis	Akahi	Emalia, Lyanne & Noelani
5/18	Mahi	Vicki	Kapono	Jeanne P. & Pi`ilani F.
5/25	Mahi	Leo	Sam	Leone & Jan R.
6/1	Nahoa	Mahi	Julie	Lois & Ruth L.
6/8	Nahoa	Nahoa	William	Emalia, Lyanne & Noelani
6/15	Nahoa	Jack	Nicolas	Jeanne P. & Pi`ilani F.
6/22	Nahoa	Kaipo	Akahi	Leone & Jan R.
6/29	Nahoa	Phyllis	Kapono	Lois & Ruth L.

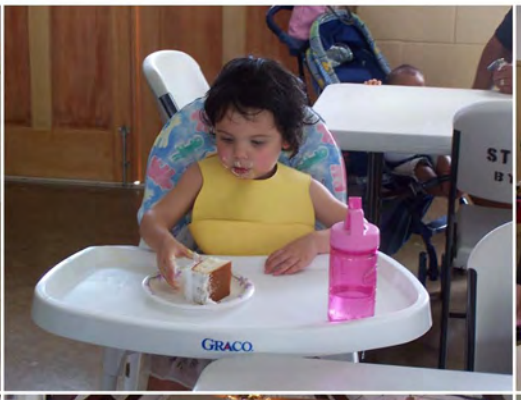
Quotable Quotes from Notable Folks

"No man ought ever under any circumstances to think himself far away from God, not because of his sins or weaknesses or anything else. If it should ever be that your great sins drive you so far off that you cannot think of yourself as being close to God, still think of him as being close to you. For a man does himself great harm in considering that God is far away from him; where ever a man may go, far or near, God never goes far off. He is always close at hand, and even if he cannot remain under your roof, still he goes no further away than outside the door, where he stands."

—Meister Eckhart, *The Essential Sermons*, 266.

For more on what makes him notable, check out this web link:

www.eckhartsociety.org/meister.htm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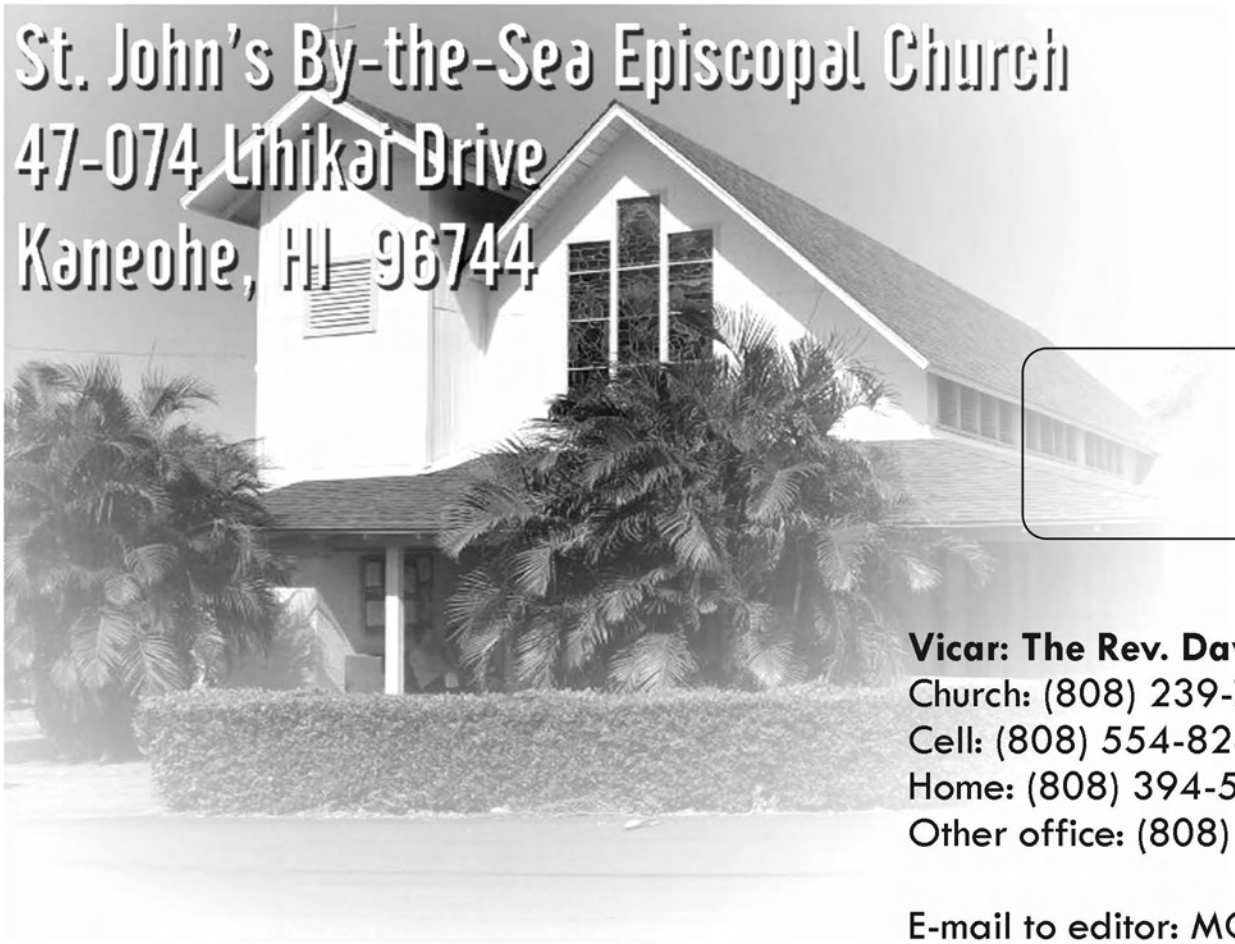

St. John's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church

47-074 Lihikai Drive
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Vicar: The Rev. David Gierlach
Church: (808) 239-7198
Cell: (808) 554-8281
Home: (808) 394-5222
Other office: (808) 523-1332

E-mail to editor: MC_L@hotmail.com

welcome to st. john's by-the-sea

sunday service (church hall) & sunday school (ho`okano hall) starting at 9.30am

wednesday eucharist/healing service starting at 9.30am

bible study follows wednesday service

afterschool children's program wednesday afternoons at 3pm