

ho'oulu

"to grow...to inspire..."



August-September 2008



Priest's Post-Its

called to be the thorn in the side of the church, who point out what the community outside the church walls desperately needs). **Mahi** is already down the road in the process and we are excited for each of them. I am very proud of the leadership St. John's is producing!...

Our new church sign is wonderful and we are very grateful to all who played a part in making it happen. **Leo and Melody** donated the money for the sign; **Lot** located it; **the Zuttermeister and Mau Ohanas** built it; **the Embrees** paid for the construction costs and the neighborhood cat blesses it everyday! Thanks to all!...



The long-awaited benches for the front of the church are due to arrive in early September! *At last!* Thanks to all who made this improvement possible!...

Many in our *ohana* will travel to Maupiti in September as part of a cultural exchange

with our Polynesian brothers and sisters. We wish all who will travel a safe journey and God speed.

aloha, david+

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

Welcome back to one and all as the summer ends and another school/work year begins! I hope you all had a restful, enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you back home at St. John's!...

To kick off the fall season, it has been decided that we will host a 300-person luau on **October 18, 2008** at Ho'okano Hall. The luau will be the primary Fall Fund-raiser. We will need all hands on deck for this, particularly the under-80 crowd (you know who you are..!) Please check with **Sandy** who is coordinating this event...

We continue to work on a fundraiser through Outback Steakhouse. We are looking to (hopefully) do this the first quarter of 2009. Please keep Valentine's Day free because that will feature a wine tasting and sit down Italian-style meal here at St. John's. (With all these eating events, I suggest we start fasting now...)

Four of our members have been recommended to the Bishop and the Commission on Ministry to continue their journey toward Holy Orders. **Mahi, Nahoa and Leo** for the Holy Priesthood. **Tori** for the permanent diaconate (the deacons are

Avg. Sunday
Attendance

60



Family Promise: Building Community

St. John's participation with Family Promise early this August resulted in growing involvement in the community and fellow churches. And it's not just adults that are making a difference! Kids within the community are lending a helping hand to the families that go through the Family Promise program.

Mahalo to all those that participated with St. John's. You are an inspiration to God's church and the community:

- ⊕ Newly retired principal **Amy Arakaki** came to do homework with the kids
- ⊕ **Shiroma Ohana**
- ⊕ **Laurie Ryder** of Light of Promise Ministries and her sons **Skyson and Gideon**
- ⊕ **Loki and Blaze Correa** of Kahalu`u Hope Chapel
- ⊕ **Doug, Angela, Natalie and Brett Goodman** of Kahalu`u Hope Chapel
- ⊕ Kahalu`u United Methodist

malama pono

Operation Backpack: Helping Community

A joint venture of Oahu Episcopalians and Lutherans, Operation Backpack encourages congregations to collect a wide range of essential items for distribution to the elderly and homeless of our community.

Everyone is encouraged to bring the following items to St. John's anytime from now to October 25, when the items will be picked up for distribution:

- ⊕ 200 1/4-lb boxes of laundry detergent
- ⊕ 600 cans of canned food
- ⊕ 100 can openers
- ⊕ 600 bars of bath soap
- ⊕ 200 packages of toilet paper (packs of four)
- ⊕ 200 bottles of dish soap
- ⊕ 600 tubes of toothpaste
- ⊕ 600 toothbrushes
- ⊕ 600 bottles of shampoo
- ⊕ 50 packages of Depends
- ⊕ 200 packages of baby diapers (all sizes)
- ⊕ 300 bath towels
- ⊕ 300 dish towels
- ⊕ 100 washcloths
- ⊕ 200 hair combs
- ⊕ 50 pencil sharpeners
- ⊕ 50 student pencil/crayon/pen boxes
- ⊕ 50 note papers sets (paper, envelope and stamps)
- ⊕ 50 "Hawaiian China" sets (paper/plastic products)
- ⊕ 100 children's size slippers

Items that are also needed by the community include:

- ⊕ toys, such as dolls, stuffed animals, etc
- ⊕ books
- ⊕ hairbows
- ⊕ McDonald's gift certificates

The Stone Soup Story

(contributed by Frank Embree of the Stewardship Committee)

Once upon a time, somewhere in Eastern Europe, there was a great famine. People jealously hoarded whatever food they could find, hiding it even from their friends and neighbors. One day a peddler drove his wagon into a village, sold a few of his wares, and began asking questions as if he planned to stay for the night.

"There's not a bite to eat in the whole province," he was told. "Better keep moving on."

"Oh, I have everything I need," he said. "In fact, I was thinking of making some stone soup to share with all of you." He pulled an iron cauldron from his wagon, filled it with water, and built a fire under it. Then, with great ceremony, he drew an ordinary-looking stone from a velvet bag and dropped it into the water.

By now, hearing the rumor of food, most of the villagers had come to the square or watched from their windows. As the peddler sniffed the "broth" and licked his lips in anticipation, hunger began to overcome their skepticism.

"Ahh," the peddler said to himself rather loudly, "I do like a tasty stone soup. Of course, stone soup with CABBAGE -- that's hard to beat."

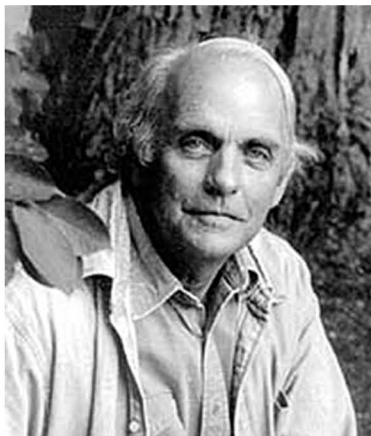
Soon a villager approached hesitantly, holding a cabbage he'd retrieved from its hiding place, and added it to the pot. "Capital!" cried the peddler. "You know, I once had stone soup with cabbage and a bit of salt beef as well, and it was fit for a king."

The village butcher managed to find some salt beef...and so it went, through potatoes, onions, carrots, mushrooms, and so on, until there was indeed a delicious meal for all. The villagers offered the peddler a great deal of money for the magic stone, but he refused to sell and traveled on the next day. And from that time on, long after the famine had ended, they reminisced about the finest soup they'd ever had.

Moral: By working together, with everyone contributing what they can, a great good can be achieved.

Schedule for Worship Services				
Date	Emcee	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Altar Guild
9/7	Mahi	Nahoa	Kapono	Lois & Ruth L.
9/14	Mahi	Jack	Sam	Emalia, Lyanne & Noelani
9/21	Mahi	Kaipo	Julie	Jeanne P. & Pi`ilani F.
9/28	Mahi	Phyllis	William	Leone & Jan R.
10/5	Leo	Vicki	Kahala	Emalia, Lyanne & Noelani
10/12	Leo	Leo	Kapono	Jeanne P. & Pi`ilani F.
10/19	Leo	Mahi	Julie	Lois & Ruth L.
10/26	Leo	Vicki	Nicolas	Leone & Jan R.
11/2	Gene	Jack	Kahala	Emalia, Lyanne & Noelani
11/9	Gene	Kaipo	Julie	Jeanne P. & Pi`ilani F.
11/16	Gene	Phyllis	William	Leone & Jan R.
11/23	Gene	Leo	Kahala	Emalia, Lyanne & Noelani
11/30	Gene	Mahi	Kapono	Jeanne P. & Pi`ilani F.

Quotable Quotes from Notable Folks



“IN MY OWN EXPERIENCE, the ways God appears in our lives are elusive and ambiguous always. There is always room for doubt in order, perhaps, that there be room to breath.”—Frederick Buechner (left), *Secrets in the Dark*, 175 (2006)...

"The human being, according to the biblical story, is the dust of the ground animated and enlivened by the breath of life from God. This is a remarkable theological insight that perceives the human being as more than mere dust. The breath of life comes from God. It belongs to God. It is part of God. It cannot be other than God in God's own self. This is an extraordinary insight into the nature of the human being. It is also a profound statement about the relationship between God and human beings. The breath of life is God sharing God's life with us. God imparting God's own self to us, God giving up part of God for us."—C.S. Song, *The Believing Heart*, 82 (1999)...

"If only God were worshipped, there would not be dissensions and wars. For people would know that they are children of one God." Lactantius (c. 304-313), *A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs*, 680, (1998)....



The first reading starts out something like “Here is the story of Israel and his 12 sons, the namesakes of the famous twelve tribes of Israel...”

I don’t know about you, but I would expect that the story would begin something like:

“...And off they went to church or the Temple...”

Or “...And they started a soup kitchen for starving Moabites...”

Or “...They were all the best of friends...”

But NO. The story is nothing like that.

Instead, the ten older brothers are plotting to kill the next to the youngest (Joseph) while the eldest (Rueben) agrees: “Welllllll, let’s not kill him; we’ll sell him as a slave.”



A COMMUNION OF SINNERS

a sermon from fr. david gierlach



There we have the pillars of God's own people. Only later—after much drama, anguish, self-discovery and pain—would they discover how to be at peace with one another.

Today's gospel story is no different. This story was very dear to the very early church not because they spent lots of time in boats. It was very dear because the early church was in almost constant turmoil. All these people kept signing on to be believers to follow "The Way", which was what Christianity was first known as. And all these new people had sharp elbows (or so it felt) and wrong ideas (or so it seemed). The Jewish followers of The Way were horrified that the new Greek followers still had their foreskin on. The Greeks couldn't get over the ridiculous food laws their Jewish pew mates insisted upon.

The story of Jesus walking on water—and Peter, getting out there too, for a little bit—was a reminder that when strife is all around, it's really good to keep your eyes locked on Jesus. In that "locking in" is peace, no matter what is going on around us.

Please remember this: Every week we read something written by Saint Paul, we say: "It's the word of God"; and so it is.

But remember this: It is the word of God spoken to *community after community who are not getting along*, who are at odds between the old ways and the new ways. Who can't seem to get it together.

My dad loved this college professor-turned-comedian. His name was Tom Lehrer. He made up ridiculous songs accompanied by his piano. One song was called "National Brotherhood Week". The lyrics begin:

"Oh the Protestants hate the Catholics, and the Catholics hate the Protestants, the Hindus hate the Muslims and everybody hates the Jews....except during National Brotherhood Week!"

Our faith calls us to observe "National Brotherhood Week" every day of every year. And that is no easy task.

I bought this crucifix in San Francisco last month. It's so gruesome. So real. So palpable. It reminds me that Jesus didn't die just for me, or the people I most enjoy

being around. Jesus died for each of you. And for every single person living on Lihikai Drive. He died for the guy who drove like an idiot last week and nearly made me crash. He died for all of us. And he gave us his spirit to help us form a community that would nurture and spread this astounding news that we are loved, we are forgiven; we are each of us children of God.

We make that witness first and foremost by striving to be that community that exists in an atmosphere of compassion, of forgiveness, of trust. Eyes locked on Jesus even when we fear the pounding waves of uncertainty.

Victor Frankel survived the horror of the Nazi concentration camps. He said: "The world is in a bad state, but everything will become still worse unless each of us does his or her best."

How do we do our best? Have you heard of the desert fathers? They were, in the very early church, 300-400 AD, monks who went into the desert to face themselves.

Their saying often was: "Pay attention to yourself." What the desert fathers came to see, as they paid attention, each to his own self, was that we are all sinners. We all fall short of the mark. We are none of us up to achieving perfection. And as those fathers came to a deeper and deeper sense of this what they learned was compassion. For when we really take time to see ourselves, myself, as I really am, the good, the bad and the ugly, it starts to get very hard to judge the gal next to me. And while many in the early church readily accepted it when Jesus said: "Don't kill"; "Don't lie"; "Don't lust", what the desert fathers came to understand, and practice, was the other admonition of Jesus, the one that is often forgotten, the one that seems just wrong!

And what is that admonition of Jesus, repeated over and over again by our Lord? The admonition that bounced off of ears then just as hard as it bounces off of ears today?

Do not judge. The hardest of them all.

Judgment comes most quickly when I believe, in my inmost self, that God is far away. Judgment comes most quickly when I forget that God is God; since then I must ride to the rescue. But God is never far away. God is always God.

And in the storm, God is inviting us to

step out of the boat, and walk onto the water, eyes locked on Jesus, eyes locked on Jesus.

As Rev. Song says: "Faith is private and personal." It is my faith. It is what I believe. It is my conversation with God in the secret of my heart. But for faith to be my personal faith, it has also to be the faith of the community. If faith is not communal, it cannot be personal; if it is not also public, it cannot be private. Faith is our crying together to God, and giving thanks to God together in community.

So where do we find him, this Jesus who died for Mother Theresa, and for Adolph Hitler? Who died for Osama bin Laden and for Barack Obama? He's right here. In these pews. But true to form, you probably won't see Jesus in the guy or gal sitting next to you. Because most of us sit with people we like. This Jesus put his own 12 sons together, the new tribes of Israel for the whole world. And they were zealots and tax collectors, fishermen and a Pharisee. They were a band of people who, before Jesus, wouldn't have been caught dead together.

Will Jesus treat us any differently?

If you are in the back pew, and you want to meet Jesus, go talk to someone up front. If you're on the left side, slide on over to the right. Sitting outside? Come on in!

Jesus comes to us in the faces of those we have to work at to like. So if you want to meet Jesus, you gotta do the work. And maybe Jesus does it that way because, as we do the work of looking for him in the faces of those we don't care for, perhaps we will come to see that others are working hard to see him in us, and those doing the looking didn't care very much for us either.

So here we are. In a rickety ship. On a stormy sea. The descendants of Israel's 12 fractious sons.

Keep your eyes locked on Jesus my friends, he's right here in these pews. Would that we could see him in each other.

I end with these words of St. Paul in his letter to the Romans:

"For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace, as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

+Amen.





As part of a cultural exchange, a group of us who will be traveling to Maupiti, French Polynesia. We've been meeting at St. John's By the Sea every Thursday evening to practice songs, chants, dance and protocol. We will be there from Saturday September 13, 2008 to Sunday September 21, 2008 to participate in the King's Jubilee.

The group will include (see photo):
Tori, Randy and Akahi
Tualatamalelagi, Keala and Tereanne
Tau'a, Nuu and Nyla Lolotai, Tutu Cat
Paoao, Ed, Kona and Kuamo Pelekai,
Carol, Ted, Pomai, Sheena, Tara,
Hulali, Kealii, Wailea and Asher
Paoao and Pauline (Carol's co-
worker)—*Tori*

STRANGE BREED by Steve Langille



DING DONG BELL!

It's back-to-school time at St. John's

Sunday School resumes SUNDAY, AUGUST 31.

Registration and activities will begin in Ho'okano Hall at 9:30. Children will join their families in church at the time of The Peace. The curriculum will be the same PowerXpress program that everyone enjoyed last year with some exciting new units, including "Jonah and the Whale!" All children three and older are welcomed with enthusiasm! Youth in seventh grade or older are encouraged to join our corps of shepherds.

Please call me with any questions.

Vicki Fay 282-0878
Sunday School Coordinator

The Maori Are Coming

BISHOP OF NEW ZEALAND JOHN GRAY, ARCHDEACON HIRINI KAA AND TEN YOUNG ADULTS (FIVE *WAHINE* AND FIVE *KANE*) will visit Honolulu, Oct. 22- Nov. 3. The meeting between **Bishop Gray and Bishop Fitzpatrick** is to explore the possibility of developing a companion diocese relationship between Hawai'i and New Zealand.

The young adults, who range in age from 17-29, are all up-and-coming leaders and are active in ministry to young and



native communities in their homeland. Their visit will coincide with the 40th Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i.

If you and/or your congregation are interested in getting

involved in activities for the young adults, please send an email with your full contact information and "ENZ 2008" in the subject line to the Bishop's Office.



Mahalo to **Fr. Darrow Aiona** for being our priest while **Fr. David and his family** were on vacation in July.

Here he is, standing among church members from Australia. As part of the Anglican Indigenous Network who went to an event in Arizona, the delegation made a quick stopover in Hawaii, on their way home to Queensland.

Damon Lefwitz is the son of the current Anglican Aborigine Bishop and **Lasserman** is the nephew of the previous Bishop. They came here through contact with **U'i Bernholz** and her meetings with **Cassandra**.

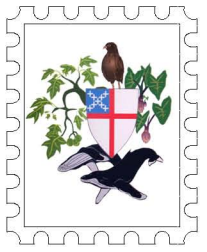


...And an especially *BIG mahalo* to everyone who helped out in the church cleanup!





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



Interested in learning more about our new music-filled Youth Group?
Contact Fr. Saimone Lino at saimonelino@gmail.com or see him in church.

E-mail to editor: MC_L@hotmail.com



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

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 Youth Group (led by Fr. Saimone)
Wednesday Afternoons at 3pm (see photo)