ho`oulu

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

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

Summer 2007 issue

fr. david gierlach returns home

It was nearly a year ago when St. John's By-the-Sea said goodbye to the recently ordained **Rev. David Gierlach**. More recently, St. John's said *aloha* to the **now-Rev. Canon Liz Beasley. Liz** was given new responsibilities as Canon for Communication and Ministry Development, working directly with **Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick**. This left St. John's without a vicar...*until now*.

A long-time St. John's family member, **David**—along with his family— will return as our new vicar on Sunday, July 22. Welcome home!

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

inside this issue...

- fr. david's first address to st. john's as vicar
- rev. canon liz beasley's final column ...and more!!

Letters from the Vicar

I have called this the "Vicar's Column," as usual, but it is my last column as your Vicar, and technically as I write this I'm not even your Vicar anymore!

April 8, Easter Sunday, was my last day as the Vicar of St. John's By-the-Sea. As most of you know, I have accepted a position full-time on the staff at the Office of the Bishop as "Canon for Communication and Ministry Development." I started this position on March 1. The last issue of the *Ho`oulu* contained some information about it.

Some of you have expressed to me your congratulations (thank you for that) and also a sentiment along the lines of "this is a better — or loftier — thing to be doing than serving our small church." I want to dispute that. When I was in seminary, I had a mentor who was parish clergy and felt that for an ordained person, the parish is the only true place to be. He was always a little suspect of ordained people who served on the staffs of dioceses and other similar bodies.

While I may not agree with him wholeheartedly, his influence remains with me. And so while my new position can be seen as a "promotion," I also know that it exists to serve God first but secondly the congregations and clergy of this Diocese. In other words, without the congregations and all those clergy who serve them, my position would not exist. Especially in my position as "Canon for Ministry Development," my job is to support clergy and the licensed ministries that are part of congregational life.

So do not think that I have gone on to something "bigger and better." The congregation is where we worship God in Christ, grow in faith, and have very hands-on experience in learning to live together as people of God in this world. The congregation, you might say, is "where it's at."

My prayers and best wishes will be with the congregation of St. John's By-the-Sea and all who are part of it. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your priest and Vicar for the past almost two years. Be joyful. Be generous. May God be with you.

Aloha,
Liz+ (April 19, 2007)

To the good people of St. John's, *aloha kakou!* "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!" Coming home is often one of the very best feelings in the world. Particularly when home is so full of wonderful memories of love, laughter and life. So it is with great joy that I am able to come home to our beloved St. John's! Thanks to each of you who asked the Bishop to make it so! It is my hope that together, we can continue to be embraced by the Spirit of the living God, that we will continue to be yeast and salt in this world that so desperately needs the love of God, and that in all that we do, we shall keep our eyes on the prize, life in its fullness both here and in the world to come.

While there will be more to report soon, please know that for now, I will be your Vicar on a half-time basis. I will be at St. John's all day Wednesdays and Sundays. Wednesdays will have a morning eucharist/healing service, followed by Bible Study, followed by an afternoon program for the neighborhood children (reading/art/etc.). Sundays will be our principal service as always, Bishop's Committee meetings, and other tasks as needed. Home/hospital visits will occur as needed, both by me and our lay eucharistic visitors. (If you are counting, 2-4 hours each week will be spent doing sermon and bible study preparation...)

I'd like to talk to whoever is interested about opening the church on the days I'm not there. The office mail/phones need to be checked and most importantly, the more often the church doors are open, the more opportunity people have to spend time with Our Lord in quiet prayer. I look forward to spending time in the neighborhood, getting to know who our neighbors are and helping the already good work there that we are doing. My cell phone number is 554-8281. Home is 394-5222. My "other office" is 523-1332. Please let me know ASAP if anyone is ill, hospitalized or in need of the sacraments. Better to have 2 or 10 calls about the same person than no calls at all!

May God bless you all as we continue our journey together.

david+ (July 7, 2007)

Letter from the Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In keeping with the Constitution and Canons of our Diocese, I write to inform all members of the Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i that our 39th Annual Meeting will be held at the Cathedral Church of Saint Andrew, Honolulu, and at the Hilton Waikiki/Prince Kuhio Hotel, Honolulu, on Friday, October 26, and Saturday, October 27, 2007.

This will be my first Annual Meeting as Bishop. The theme of our time together will be "You Are Called to Tell the Story," the first line of a hymn's lyrics written by the **Reverend Ruth Duck**, professor of worship at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois. I hope we can learn this hymn in our time together. It challenges us to make Christ known in all that we say and do. Our chaplain will be the **Reverend Susan Sherard**. **Susan** has been a priest in rural North Carolina serving small churches while using her gifts in quilting, other visual arts, and as a retreat leader in service to the broader church. She has a gift of weaving the stories of people's lives with the abiding love of Christ.

We will gather for the Holy Eucharist in the Cathedral at 10:00 a.m. A box lunch will then give those gathered the opportunity to greet old friends, to talk story, and to eat. The meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m. in the Cathedral's Tenney Theater. Recessing by 4:30 p.m., we will have plenty of time to make it to the Hilton Prince Kuhio Hotel for the 6:30 Convention banquet. Our work in Convention will continue the next morning in the Hotel.

As has been the practice for several years, all Convention materials and announcements will be posted on our diocesan Web site.. We will have the business of our Diocese to tend: the budget, reports, elections, and resolutions. Please prepare with care and prayer. It is through our work that we will shape the mission and ministry of our Diocese. As you read the material and discuss it with others at the pre-Convention meetings, you are engaging God's mission. You are putting into place the structures that can make Christ's Body, the Church, an active and vital force in the world. This is very important ministry to our common life. Thank you for serving our Church.

Aloha i Iesu Kristo ko mākou Haku,

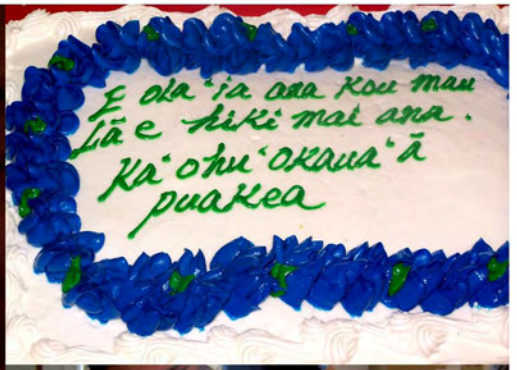
+Bob

SOURCE:
http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/ViewArticle.php?key=725
(Original Publish Date: June 1, 2007)

Thank you to **Cliff Barraclough** for submitting this photo taken during **Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick's** first visit to St. John's after his ordination as Fifth Bishop of the Hawaii Diocese.

Seasons Change

A Pictorial of Rev. Liz Beasley's Last Days with St. John's


E ola 'ia ana kou mau
lā e hiki mai ana.
Ka'ohu 'okana'ā
puakea

easter baptism

E ola 'ia ana kou mau
lā e hiki mai ana.
Ka'ohu 'okana'ā
puakea

The Spirit of St. John's By-the-Sea

There is something special about the congregants at St. John's-by-the-Sea. Although raised in the Episcopal Church in Buffalo, N.Y. where I sang, first in the boy and then in the adult choir, at the onset of graduate studies I ceased to attend church. Upon retirement after forty-two years of university teaching **Jim** and **I** decided to spend our retirement years in Hawaii, a place which had already felt like home whenever we made frequent visits to it during the late 70's and early 80's. **The Soli family**, close neighbors of ours, suggested we come to visit St. John's. We did and were immediately drawn into its family. **Father Charlie Hopkins** and his dear wife **Pua** showed us such kindness and love and soon we felt we were members of a family. **Pua** always placed great value on the social hour after services and whenever someone failed to show up with substantial food, she would drive to the nearest market to return with material food for the body and so much more for the soul.. While sharing this food with the other parishioners we "talked story" and shared much more than mere food.

Here she (photo top right) is guarding the refreshments from the many flying insects always present in our Hawaii Nei.

On the last day of 2000 dear friends from Vienna, Austria were married at St. John's, and they, too, felt the warmth and love of the church and its members. **Gerlinde and Manfred Schulze-Reinisch** returned for a visit in January-February of last year and again in December and into January of this year.

They, too, especially enjoyed the communion of fellowship and wanted to contribute an Austrian specialty, *Schinkenfleckerl*, a noodle casserole with ham and cheese in a béchamel sauce. **Gerlinde** prepared the dish downstairs and then baked it in our oven.

Cliff Barraclough's photo essay illustrates "how clearly all are affected by the love which flows so freely at St. John's."

Fortunately, both **Gerlinde** and **Manfred** speak English quite fluently and enjoyed conversing with members of our church.

Butch Chang took over dear **Pua's** job and chased away the unwanted flies.

Yes, in St. John's By-the-Sea there is a spirit moving us all and infecting all who visit. It is simply the spirit of love.

aloha, readers:

Here's **your** chance to share your experience at St. John's By-the-Sea with our readers.

Simply send us your story and accompanying photos to the editor at **MC_L@hotmail.com**

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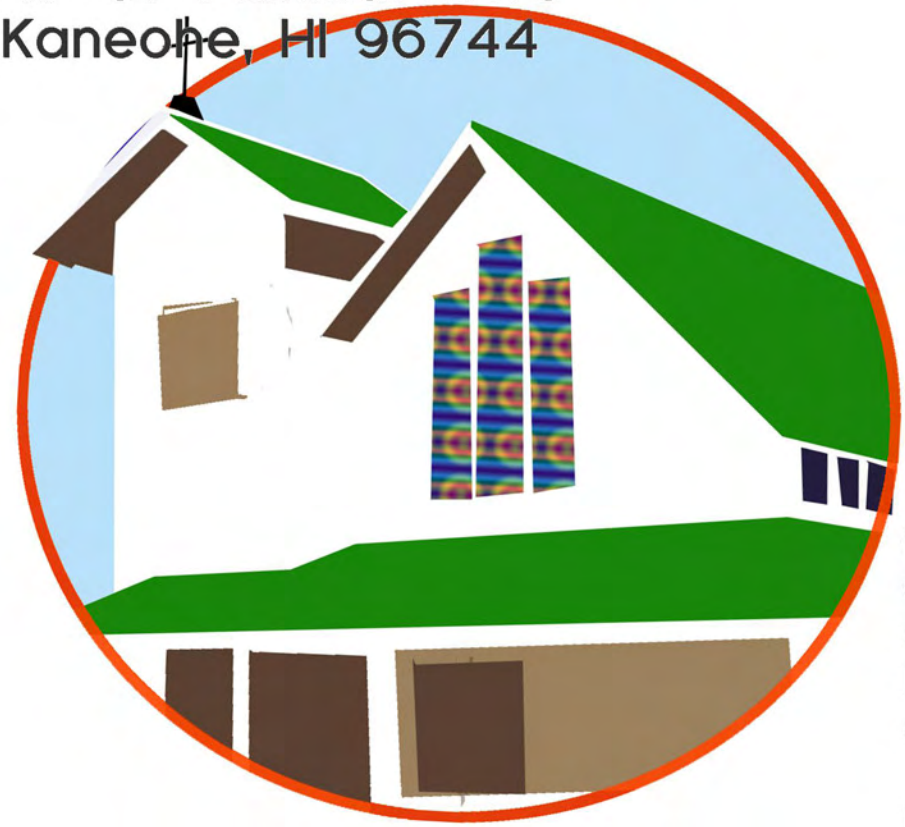

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E komo mai

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

sunday service
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