ho`oulu

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

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

September 2007 issue

Priest's Post-Its

Leo and **Melody's** wedding was a joy for them and for all who attended! **Melody** was beautiful in her gown and **Leo** looked quite elegant in his suit! Lots of family and friends attended, including the very special guests: the moms and dads of the wedding couple. **Leo and Melody** also made a very generous donation to St John's. The fruit of that donation will be our new Church sign, complete with changeable message board (this will be fun!) soon to be arranged for the front yard of the church!

Please start thinking about a family reunion smoked meat picnic at the Ho`okano Hall at some point later this year. We have some 350 people on our church rolls, and, I have recently noticed that not all of them attend church every Sunday...! Maybe a picnic, using a smoker for the meat (no work for us) and some fixin's (a little work for us) and some music (a lot of work for a few of us) will give us a chance to reconnect with some of our brothers and sisters...Whaddaya think?

Since July 22, we have had 4 baptisms and 2 weddings at St John's By-The-Sea! If there is interest or desire (either one will do) I am happy to start a confirmation class for any of our teens or adults who feel so called. Wink twice when you pass me and I'll take that as a signal to start the class...

The bench fund is fully funded with **Phyllis and Butch Chang** bringing us over the top with their very kind and significant donation! **The Willigs** are working with yours truly and the Bishop's Committee to select the best benches and to make other improvements to the lanai area around the church. Thanks to all!

The Wednesday program continues! **Uncle Gene Naipo** graciously led morning prayer in my absence (due to the OTHER job!). Bible Study resumes September 19, 2007 when I can be back for the Wednesday activities. The topic will be escaping slaves, stuttering messengers, and stubborn leaders with some infidelity and stupidity thrown in the mix... Rated R.

Tori and Kalele and the usual posse of *tutus* have the reading/art program flying full ahead! Reading, arts and crafts and lots of children! Heartfelt thanks to the dedicated folk who so selflessly give of their time and talent for these little ones!

The baptism of **Father Charlie Hopkins'** two GREAT grandchildren, **Jade and Tamahere**, was a moving and wonderful experience! **Fr. Charlie**, St. John's vicar emeritus, baptized these two lovely children into the household of God. And we welcome you!

The annual diocesan convention is coming up October 26 - 27, 2007. There are a number of committee positions available if any of you would like to serve in the larger church. Please see **Nahoa Lucas** for a listing. Also, if you ordered a blue denim shirt, I will have them for you on October 19. Thanks to all who purchased them!

We have a new votive candle stand so that those who feel moved can light a candle for a loved one (or anyone else too). This gift is courtesy of yours truly, **Ida** and children. **Auntie Lois** notes that we are getting kinda Catholic....Did someone say holy water fonts?

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

the opportunity is in the asking

by **Maurice J. Seaton**,
Episcopal Church Foundation

Recently a priest told me that his parish had received a large bequest of $20,000, from a long time parishioner who had died. A few weeks later he shared his disappointment in discovering that the balance of that parishioner's multi-million dollar estate had been left to a large, secular charity. Suddenly $20,000 seemed rather minimal. The parish had never had a conversation about planned giving with the parishioner, and so the motivation for the gift and its size were unknown. How often has someone in your congregation died and not left any bequest to the church you know they loved?

The Church is often neglectful about asking people to remember the parish's future in their will or to create a life-income gift to benefit the parish. In aging congregations an essential component of an effective planned giving program requires that we explain how valuable a planned gift can be in continuing mission and ministry. We also need to be bold enough to ask people to consider giving back a portion of the abundance God has entrusted to them in their lives.

In 2005 only 35.8% of charitable funds given away by Americans went to religion, down from 49% in 1991. (USA Today, July 2007). The competition faced by religion in the U.S. for philanthropic dollars is increasing. Congregations must be proactive in educating its members about their financial needs that cannot be met by plate and pledge alone.

One of the enduring ways of building a secure financial future is to encourage bequests and other forms of planned gifts that are large enough to generate an annual sum equal or greater than the amount of your yearly pledge. Church finances suddenly become more predictable and stable, and remind us that the community of the saints involves those past, those present, and the generations to follow. A well-structured planned giving program teaches good stewardship and sets the challenge to take every the opportunity to ask! ECF can help you create a planned giving program that is appropriate for the needs of your church.

For more information, see the Planned Giving section of the Treasurer's Page on the diocesan Web site
www.episcopalhawaii.org

'operation backpack'

The Fall collection for Operation Backpack - an Episcopal/Lutheran ministry that distributes toiletries, school supplies, and paper goods to Oahu's needy - is starting up with short information meetings. Two have already been held; one more is scheduled for Thursday, August 23, at St. Christopher's, Kailua, at 7 p.m.

The Fall collection runs from September 23 to October 28. Congregations should collect supplies and deliver them to Calvary-by-the-Sea in Aina Haina (a Lutheran congregation) on Sunday, October 28, between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. for sorting and distribution.

For more information, call **the Rev. Teresa Bowden** at 622-4308 or **Caitilin Embree** at 261-2409.

SOURCE:
www.episcopalhawaii.org

auction to benefit global ministries

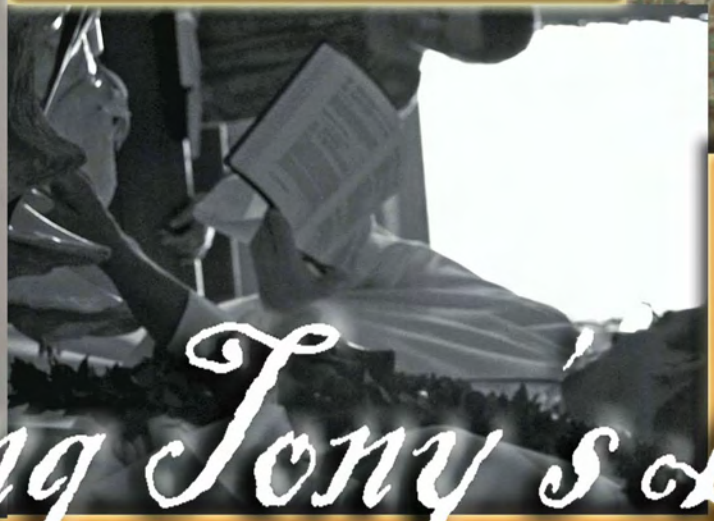
The Global Ministries group at St. Clement's, Honolulu, will hold their first annual Autumn Auction on Saturday, October 13, beginning at 3 p.m. A silent auction will be held from 3:00 to 5:00, while a live auction starts at 4:00 p.m. Both items and services will be included in the auction. The money raised will help those in need around the world. The afternoon will include food and beverage.

There will be plenty of items in every price range:

- Gourmet dinners - Some prepared for up to twelve persons
- Luxurious week-long vacations in Laie or Mokule'ia
- Crèches, necklaces, and embroidery from the Holy Land
- Individually taught computer classes
- Sumptuous Cambodian silks
- An heirloom quality handmade quilt
- Exquisite hand-thrown ceramics
- Golf items, baked goods, antique jewelry, books, wine, art
- ...and many more unique and interesting things to bid on.

For more information or to donate items — contact:

Leslie Isaki	738-5815	ISAKIL001@hawaii.rr.com
John Williamson	292-0628	champagnecellar@yahoo.com



Celebrating Tony's Baptism

Reflections

I've heard that planning full-blown weddings is quite time-consuming--Melody and I only had less than three weeks! But by the grace of God and everyone at St. John's and our own families, the whole experience was surprisingly stress-free (wink!) I am still amazed at how wonderful the people of St. John's are, practically jumping in to help even before Melody got here.

Personally the most amazing part of the service was the Eucharist itself. Our intention with the service was to take the focus off of us and to direct it towards Christ. After all, Christ prepared us for each other; Christ led us to each other; Christ bound us as husband and wife. But it wasn't until the Eucharist that I got to relax and see His handiwork in action, seeing my family--by blood, by marriage and by spirit--partaking of the bread and wine. It struck me quite emotionally. Especially when I saw my dad at the altar.

Like all dads, mine influenced my life greatly. I remember how uncomfortable he was with me going to church, because he believed that churches "only want you for the money". And though he's been married to my mom for almost 40 years, I've never seen a wedding ring on him. He mildly brushed it off, saying that a ring as "just a ring". I just assumed he felt that the ring was a mere symbol...*or maybe he just didn't like jewelry!*

Can you imagine how *amazed* I was to see my agnostic dad receiving the Eucharist? And when we returned from our honeymoon, I was shocked to see a gold wedding band around his finger! Perhaps the whole wedding experience truly affected him, reminding him of his own vows long ago to God and to mom.

I've been with St. John's for about three years, maybe more (I'm not good in math, I tell my wife.) I've got to watch babies baptized and sadly had to sit through the funerals of many dear friends. And as I grow older, I am finally starting to see Christ's touch in our day-to-day lives, happy and sad, "good" and "bad". What I love about St. John's is that they remind me of this by simply living their lives. At St. John's, I would sometimes sit back and really look around and see the beauty that Christ has created.

Remember and cherish your vows to Christ always. And may He bless all of your lives as He has mine.

--Editor.

MAHALO TO CLIFF BARRACLOUGH FOR THE PICS

What's new for our Sunday School children? Starting in September, we will be exploring the tale of Noah's Ark. It is the Bible story of a faithful man named Noah. His story is one that reminds us that God loves all creation and that God made a special covenant with Noah and all living things.

The Noah's Ark unit uses the Bible story included in Genesis 6:9 - 9:17. In the story of Noah, God destroyed the world with a flood. God told Noah to build an ark to save his family and the animals. Noah obeyed God, built the ark, and gathered two of every animal. When the flood was over, God promised Noah that God would never again send a flood to destroy humankind. The rainbow set in the clouds was a reminder of God's promise.

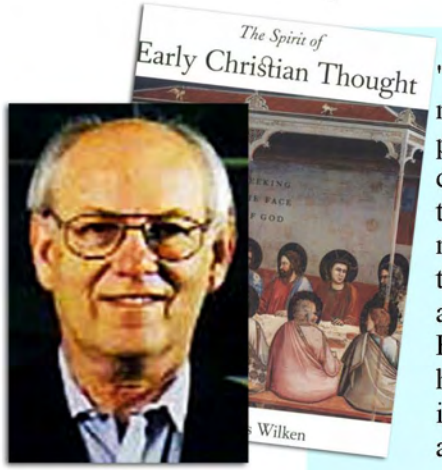
Children will explore the following concepts:

- God loves and cares for all living things.
- Noah obeyed God and completed a difficult job.
- Because he trusted God, Noah completed a difficult job.
- Noah worshiped God.
- Faithful people make choices that honor God and show love and concern for others.
- A covenant is a promise or agreement.
- God made a covenant with Noah that a flood will never again destroy all living creatures.
- The rainbow is a sign of God's covenant with Noah.

Our Sunday School program is open to all kids. So bring your kids to Ho`okano Hall before the Sunday Service at 9:30am. It promises to be a fun and exciting time to learn about God's love for us.

Questions? Please call Vicki Fay, our Sunday School Coordinator at 247-4981.

Quotable Quotes from Notable Folks



"For us, the term happiness has come to mean "feeling good" or enjoying certain pleasures, a transient state that arrives or departs as circumstances change or fortune intervenes. For the ancients, happiness was a possession of the soul, something that one acquired and that, once acquired, could not easily be taken away. Happiness designated the supreme aim of human life...living in accord with nature, in harmony with our deepest aspirations as human beings."

Dr. Robert Louis Wilken, *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God* (New Haven, CT: Yale Univ Press, 2003), 273

For more on what makes him notable, check out this audio interview online:

http://www.pepperdine.edu/pepperdinepeople/podcasts/pepperdinepeople-02-wilken.mp3

Highlights of the East-West Center Luau Fundraiser

An atheist was walking through the woods.

"What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he said to himself.

As he was walking alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot Grizzly charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him.

He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw that the bear was right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him. At that instant the atheist cried out, "Oh my God!"

Time stopped.

The bear froze.

The forest was silent.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky.

"You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to cosmic accident."

"Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer"?

The atheist looked directly into the light, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the bear a Christian"?

"Very well," said the voice.

The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed. And the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke: "Lord, bless this food, which I am about to receive from thy bounty through Christ our Lord, Amen."

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "It was a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theater seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "And you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock 'n 'roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony."

"Thank you, Father," answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth."

"All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest, "but I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional."

"But, Father," protested the young priest, "my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

"Yes," replied the elderly priest, "and I appreciate that. But the flashing neon sign 'Toot 'n Tell or Go to Hell' cannot stay on the church roof!"

NB New Beginnings #10

New Beginnings is a unique weekend specially designed to respond to the issues, concerns, and needs of teenagers in grades 7, 8, and 9 (mature 6th graders may also attend). The program is designed to help participants grow in their love of themselves, others, and our Lord Jesus Christ. The next New Beginnings weekend is scheduled for October 5-7. More information and registration forms are available at **www.episcopalhawaii.org**

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

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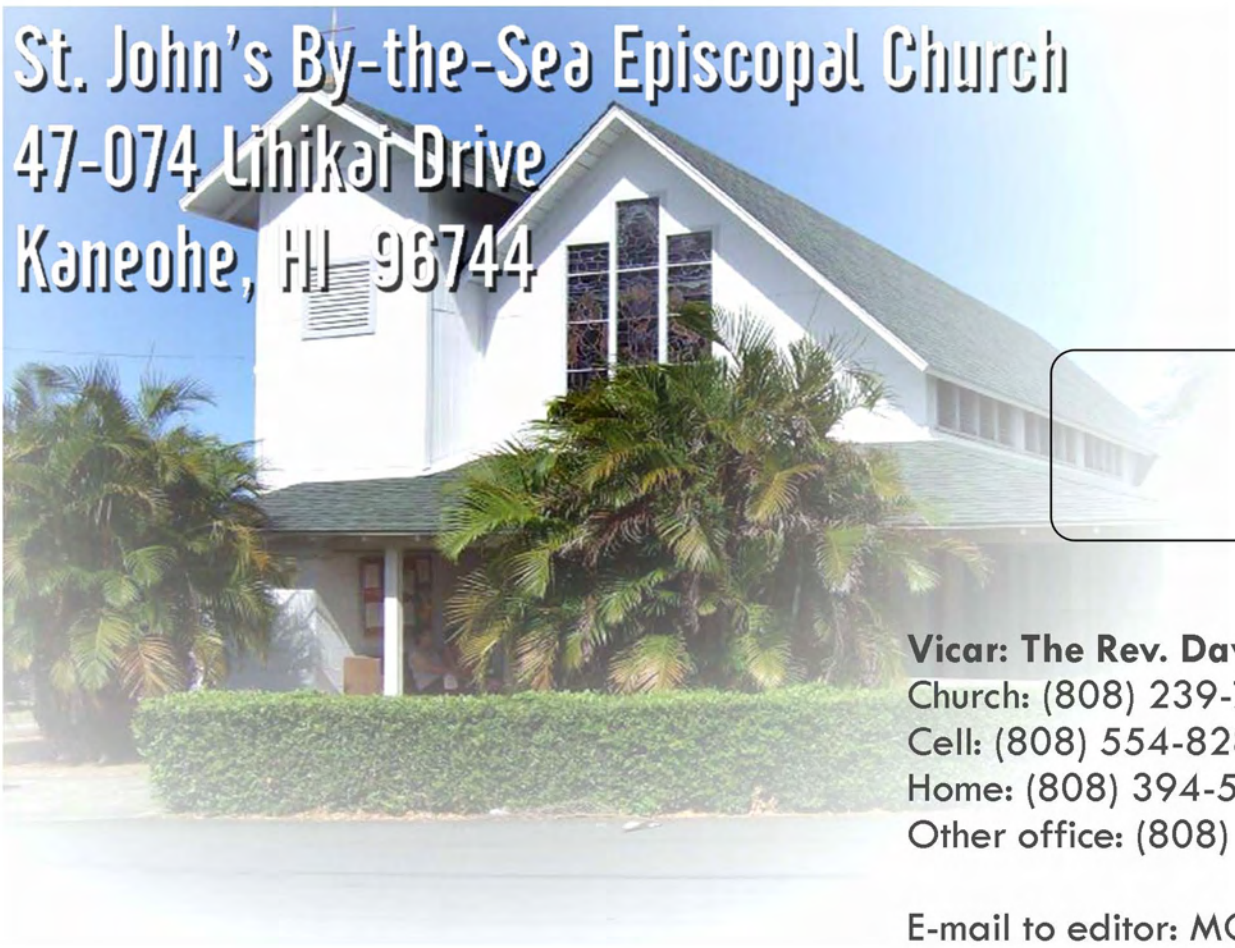

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welcome to st. john's by-the-sea

sunday service (church hall)
and 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