



Talk Story



St. Jude's Episcopal Church ~ Where Jesus talk is a daily walk.

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HOLIDAY EDITION

Convention 54

By Dan Garrett

It was my great honor and pleasure to represent St. Jude's as a delegate to convention on Oahu this year. I had been elected as second alternate at our congregational meeting, but, as is the case in many congregations with aging members, things happen, and I accompanied Cordelia to Honolulu.

The 54th convention was the first in person event since the onset of Covid 19, and was impacted in both obvious and subtle ways by the pandemic. Masks were worn during inside events, and where there was prolonged close contact. Our beloved Bishop's warden was honored, along with a few other notable servant-leaders with the Bishop's

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Holiday Dates

November 19

Community Thanksgiving Meal
10 am – 1 pm or
until food runs out

December 17

Keiki Christmas Party
Giving Tree
Lower parking lot
9 am to 11 am

December 24

Showers, Soup, Fellowship,
Haircut's & Decorating church
9 am – 1 pm

Carols - 3:30 pm
Christmas Eve Service - 4 pm
Aloha hour after service



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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By Cordelia Burt, Bishop's Warden

We had a wonderful time in October with Pastor's John Mark Beam and Constance Garrett, very faithful ministers that have been a part of the family since October of 2016.

Pastor Constance first came on an SOS call when a priest was unable to fulfill their commitment in October of 2016 and once again she has stayed one week longer because our November priest is in the hospital and the SOS priest that will fill his slot was not available for the first Sunday. Thank you Lord for faithful ministers who answer St. Jude's call for help whenever needed.

This brings me to the sad news that Father Tom Eklo is in the hospital in Minnesota battling pneumonia along with a kidney illness instead of here with us in Ocean View.. Please be sure that you keep him in your prayers for a quick recovery to good health.

Our Oktoberfest was a great festival for everyone in attendance. The hall was decorated in Oktoberfest fashion by Steve, dinner was cooked by Cordelia and Richard with help from many servers from the community. We served around 120 dinners both take out and eat in. The "Last Fling Band" played polka music and we danced the chicken dance, sang some songs and enjoyed an evening

of fun and friendship. Thank you to everyone who made it a great celebration.

In November we will be having our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner with eat in or take out service on November 19th. Last year we served almost 140 dinners in less than 2 hours.

Last year we had take out only but this year we want to provide more fellowship by making it your choice to sit and eat with us. Showers will be going on at the same time so it will be a jumpin' time around St. Jude's.

In December we will once again pass out stockings and books to the keiki of the area. This year we'll go back to tents set up in the lower parking lot and children being able to talk to Santa, get their books and a treat from Mrs. Clause in the kitchen. This event is scheduled for Saturday December 17th from 9 to 11 am or until we run out of stockings.

Senior Nutrition

Seniors continue to meet and enjoy Monday's and Friday's with fellowship, card playing and a meal. Theresa still delivers Meals on Wheels on Wednesdays and drives the van to town on Thursdays. Please keep all our seniors and

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GOOD CHOICES

BY PHYL LAYMON

My children, Cherie & James, are “NOT” coming in December to help me celebrate my 87th. birthday, after all. Here is why!

Life is full of choices! A mother is proud when her children are able to make right choices, even when it is hard. Cherie and James had to choose to take their leave time to go to Corbin, Kentucky, the very small town where James’ mom has lived her entire life.

I talked with Cherie and James just now. They had two beautiful days, Sunday and Monday, with Mamaw, clear as a bell, laughing and joking. The Mamaw they knew and loved! They called it a gift from God! Monday night Mamaw slipped into full blown dementia, tearing out all her tubes and lines, totally unreachable! The Doctor says he doesn’t believe she will come back, ever again.

They pretty well have a plan in place: if she is released from the hospital, she will go back to her same room at the nursing home which has a big window with a beautiful view. It is right by her bed!

It is best to keep things as familiar as possible. Hospice has been called in. They will watch over her until God takes her home. No narcotics, no tubes, just comfort care.

They have met with all the doctors, nurses and staff at both the hospital and the nursing home. They truly believe everyone is doing the best they can to make Mamaw’s last days peaceful.

It was good for Cherie and James to go there at this critical time—so when that final day comes they will know that everyone did their best for their Mamaw. They thank everyone for their prayers. They have so needed them as they travel this rough road.

Thanks to our loving families, both blood and hanai! We are so blessed to have each other to lean on.

Mahalo & Aloha!

Phyl



CHRONICLE OF THE COMMONPLACE

BY CYNNIE SALLEY

Recently, I had the week that was...Ray was sick...We thought that he might just have long haulers...but it was cough cough cough...We went to the ER three times and finally an ER Dr. gave him a nebulizer treatment and it made a huge difference for the better...But ER Dr. #2, gave him these little pills for his cough...so when we got home he took the first one and it didn't take long for him to start to hallucinate.

I read the paper that comes with the pills and sure enough that can be a side effect...So, Ray is in bed hallucinating and little dog Sammi is in our bathroom whimper/growling at something behind the door that is open against the wall and then I hear a hiss coming from there...So, I'm standing at the hinge side of the door that has the dog and the hissing behind it and out pops a mongoose tail...So, I'm still standing there not knowing whether I should

deal with "Looney Tunes", who is in bed, or the hissing mongoose.

I decided not to deal with anything that hissed so I picked up Sammi and shut him in the back room. As I was returning to the bedroom...there went the mongoose tail under the couch in the area next to the kitchen...Decided that that was a Ben the yardman problem...

When Ben arrived at 7:00 he looked under there but couldn't find any mongoose. So, I opened all the doors and got outta Dodge...actually took Ray to the ER again. When we came home which was hours later, Sammi once again was after something, this time behind the refrigerator...

That went on all night until Ben came the next morning and sure enough, the mongoose

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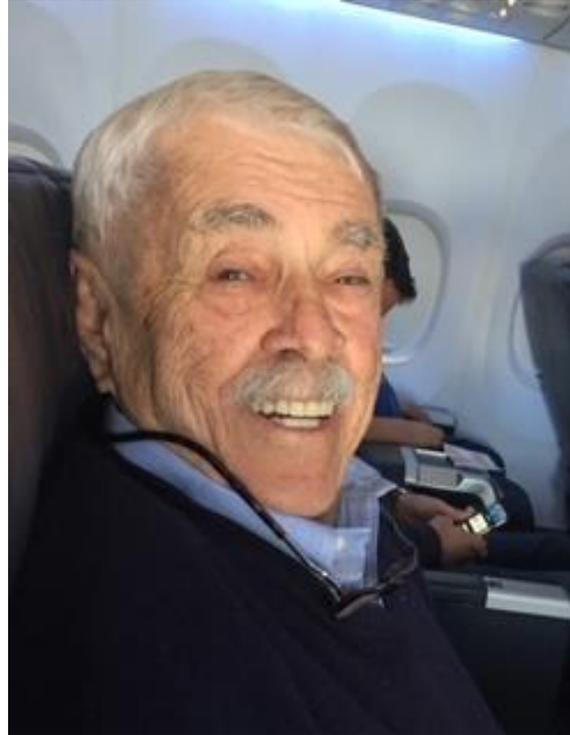
Chronicle

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was there...He ooshed it out with a broom...not the sweeping side, the stick side and that's the end of that story ! So much for life at the Ranch... I am much too old for this kind of excitement.

Which leads me to a lot of sadness. As you all know, Ray didn't make it. I am so appreciative of all of the love and support you all have sent my way. It makes me feel like....well, like if I collapse, there are so many hands and arms there ready to catch me and support me. I thank God every day for the wonderful families and friends I have.

Ray and I grew up together. I was a child bride and he was in his early twenties. We met my freshman year in College at a bar down the road from school...Charlies. He had recently been honorably discharged from the Marine Corps after a stint in Korea and had come home to Attleboro, Mass, where his family lived and where he was born and raised. We had a good



time together, dancing to juke box music and drinking beer. We started dating which led to marriage and two children (Cynda and Holly). After a few years of living on the East Coast, we moved to Hawaii and Kona.

He immediately started working at Sid's Hawaii, a building supply store in Kailua where the Pottery Terrace is now. A few years later, he struck out on his own, starting Kona Sporting & Marine Goods, which was located in Kainaliu, where Wally's Watch Shop

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More Chronicle

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was. When the “big” stores started opening in Kona, he had a going-out-of-business sale and next started diversifying the businesses on the family Ranch. He was a hunting guide, he filled in with the cattle work and then took over the logging arm of the Ranch, which he did until retirement.

He was a great father, teaching the girls how to play golf and fish and hunt and most memorable to them, ride dirt bikes. The weekends were filled with camping and dirt bike riding.

During all of this, we were able to travel, which he truly enjoyed. Probably, the thing he enjoyed the most, was following Max around the country. We both were football groupies with not a care in the world other than getting to the next game and winning it. A good metaphor for his life...

Well done Raymond!



November & December Flavors of the Month

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The Reverends
Celine Burke &
Elaine Barber



Coming back to serve St. Jude's for a second time in November is The Reverend Celine Burke. She and her husband, Dick will leave their Oregon home, to lead us through November. Welcome home Rev. Celine!



Coming back to serve St. Jude's again in December, The Reverend Elaine Barber will leave her Minnesota home to lead us through Advent and Christmas.

Welcome home, Reverend Elaine!

See more from Reverend Elaine on page 11

Free Christmas Haircuts for our Shower Family!

Drew and Kady are back!

They offer free haircuts for our shower family.

Their next date to be at St. Jude's is:

Dec. 24th,

(yes the 24th we want you spiffed up for the holidays.)

Kady and Drew have provided valuable client services to our shower family, before the pandemic, and we are thrilled to have them back!

www.fosterhair.com

SAINTS ALIVE!

BY THE REVEREND CONSTANCE GARRETT



Father Tom and Stephen are much on my heart as I say aloha to my St. Jude's ohana and head back to North Carolina. As we paused to surround Father Tom in worship yesterday with our love and healing prayers, we also held Stephen close. I can only imagine how much they long to be here at St. Jude's as they had planned to be this November. They may not be aware of the wonderful gift of one more St. Jude's Sunday that their absence provided for me. I am deeply thankful for that gift.

I love All Saints Sunday! To celebrate the lives of the generations of our spiritual heritage and those saints alive as we all gathered at Holy Communion yesterday morning filled my heart with praise and thanksgiving. The joy of a birth announced by Conny Santana brought us full circle as candles flickered. Voices joined enthusiastically to bless each other as we concluded sermon time by speaking these words to the person sitting closest. "God loves you. You are a blessing to me!"

For those who are just now reading these words, please hear the blessing that is held within them for you.

The community and ministry of St. Jude's never cease to recharge and bless me with the love of God at work through us ordinary saints.

I have been particularly touched by the number of folks whom I have met on Saturday morning who regularly return on Sunday morning to worship. Saints Alive...that's us!

I close this mahalo message with overflowing gratitude for my time in Ocean View. I leave you with a quote from the founder of l'Arche ministries, Jean Vanier who writes, "To love someone is to reveal to them their capacities for life, the light that is shining in them."

Dear saints, "God loves you. You are a blessing to me!"

God be with you til we meet again, Pastor Constance Garrett



Editor's note: *Father Tom Eklo is unable to come to us in November as scheduled, due to a health crisis. He shared the following with us, before he knew that he would not be able to be with us. Please keep Father Tom in your prayers.*

Anticipating the Love

As I sit here anticipating my fourth time as your “Flavor of the Month”, I am flooded with the memories of my time in your midst – from the somewhat comical to those places, people, and times that changed my life. Prior to my first time in April/May of 2016, I had read all I could about the history of Hawaii, about Kamehameha I and all those royalty that ruled the islands for years until these islands were eventually claimed as territory by others. There is a bit of history buff in me that loves that stuff. And then there was this image that I carried of this church called St Jude’s located on Paradise Circle. Paradise Circle – must be a place of vast green manicured lawns, vibrant tropical flowers, and palm trees swaying in the ocean breeze. I was

a little bit off on that one. I remember my very first Sunday at St. Jude’s. As was my tradition when the service was over, I moved to the back of the church to greet people as they left. I don’t recall who it was, but someone lovingly said, “You better get out of the way Father, we have tables to set up.” I soon learned that gathering together in fellowship was an integral part of both worship and establishing that sense of community, and all were welcome. I remember my astonishment at the vast fields of lava flows just south of Ocean View where nothing seems to grow. I remember sitting mesmerized as the tumultuous azure blue

To be in your presence is to feel and know the love of God, and that, my friends, is the gift you have been given and the gift that you share.

Father Tom Eklo

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Father Tom

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waves crashed against the rocks at South Point, and then there is that almost magical curve in the road to Na'alehu where all of a sudden before you are the majestic green slopes of Mauna Loa. A small sampling of the many amazing experiences etched into my memory!

But it was the people and ministries of St. Jude's that opened my heart. Here in this somewhat remote part on the southern end of the big island is a community of faith that discerns, believes and acts upon the calling of Jesus in their lives. And what a ministry it is – weekly showers and lunch for those within the community that do not have access to running water. Senior programs and dining, a computer lab for local school children to be able to catch up on homework and other learning tasks, seasonal meals where the community is invited to come and feast whether they can pay or not, the keiki Christmas celebration, 24/7 Wi-Fi, and a myriad of other ministries and activities that engage the community of Ocean View. In general, the church has a tendency

to be clergy centric. But here at St. Jude's the model is uniquely different. It is the belief that all of us who follow Jesus are called to bring the message of love and wholeness to the world we encounter in our everyday lives. And that message necessitates a ministry of members looking out into the community that surrounds you and asking the question, "How can we make a difference in the lives around us. How can we share the love we have been given with others?"

It is those many concrete ways of sharing Christ's love, embedded in the belief that every single person is beloved of God that captured my heart.

Every time Stephen and I have been blessed to come and join this family of St. Jude's, we have felt your outpouring of love – not only for us, but for each other and the wider community of Ocean View. To be in your presence is to feel and know the love of God, and that, my friends, is the gift you have been given and the gift that you share.

My thanks and prayers as you continue to be that place where the love of Jesus is proclaimed and lived in very concrete ways.

Father Tom Eklo



ADVENT ANTICIPATION

BY THE REVEREND ELAINE CLAYBORNE BARBER

Dear Members of St. Jude's Episcopal Mission on the Big Island of Hawaii,

I will be heading to your church to be with you as we begin our Second Sunday of Advent on December 4 this year. That means I will have the privilege of being with you in one of the most important preparation times of the liturgical year.

The Season of Advent is setting the four weeks aside to focus on the anticipated birth of the Messiah. Each week brings us closer to that event, and our churches have traditionally used an Advent wreath to visibly allow us to do a 'countdown' of those weeks by lighting each of the candles as reminders to focus on the theme of the week. Three of the candles are purple or blue, one candle is pink, and the center candle is white in color.

There are several traditions, which have been used for centuries in the Christian churches and homes, to enhance our prayer life by lighting each candle with a particular name and focus point for the week.

I personally have used several versions of these traditions. But I will mention one possible outline to use for assigning a symbol to the four preparation weeks. If you and your family have a different method of "naming" each candle I would celebrate and enjoy hearing of your individual way of honoring the Advent Season.

One possible way to begin the First Week of Advent is to light the candle with the idea centering on the importance of the **Prophets and people who prophesied** the coming of a Messiah into our broken world.

The Second week of Advent brings us to the time of **Hope and Expectation** for the arrival of the Messiah. We are just one step closer with our anticipation.

The Third week is celebrated with the Rose colored candle, which now turns our thinking to **Joy and Love** that we are closer to our expectation of the fulfillment of the promise of the Birth of the Messiah.

See "Rev. Elaine," continued on page 12

A very special visitor in October

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In October, we were delighted to have a visit from The Rev. Dr. Canon Sandy Graham, Canon to the Bishop. Canon Sandy is currently on sabbatical, touring small churches across the U.S. He spent some time with us, and made his first sabbatical blog about St. Jude's. You can view it here:

<https://youtu.be/xx8cglswCLk>



ly

Reverend Elaine

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We then return to our last purple or blue candle, which could be labeled as the **Angel Candle** or the **Bethlehem Candle**.

Our larger white candle in the center of the wreath is to represent the Nativity of the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, who was born in the stable in Bethlehem. So we at last come to our Christmas Eve and our Christmas Day. This is the true celebration day as we end our liturgical and calendar year for 2022.

I also have found a lovely poem by Jeanne Kun from *The Word Among Us*, which speaks of that "*Road to Bethlehem*" I will use the full poem when I am with you, but I will share just one paragraph of it now as we too travel the road forward during the month of December together.

"What relief had been Mary's when Joseph's light filled eyes and gentle smile had let her know that he, too, had received the angel's message!"

And we too are God's children so I rejoice with the words from Psalm 139...

O God, you have searched me and known me. It was you who formed my inward parts,

You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you for I am wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works, my God.

The Rev. Elaine Clyborne Barber

November & December Dates to Remember

November

- 1 Pahala School Family Conference Day 8 am – 6 pm
- 6 All Saint's Sunday
Daylight Savings Time ends on Mainland
Bishop's Committee Meeting TBA
- 13 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost Proper 28
- 19 Community Thanksgiving Meal 10 am – 1 pm or until food runs out
- 20 Christ the King Sunday Proper 29
- 27 First Sunday of Advent – Last Sunday with Rev. Celine Burk

December

- 4 Second Sunday of Advent
Bishop's Committee Meeting TBA
- 11 Third Sunday of Advent
- 17 Keiki Christmas Party Books, Stockings and Cookies 9 am - 11 am
- 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Showers, Soup and Fellowship every Saturday 9 am – 1 pm
(must signup for shower by 11:30 am)
- 24 9 am – 1 pm Shower, Soup, Fellowship,
Haircut's and decorating of church
Carols at 3:30 pm
Christmas Eve Service at 4 pm Aloha hour after service
- 25 Last Sunday for Rev. Elaine Barber



November

- 3 John Fowler
- 7 Ted Sokal
- 10 Ray Hatch
- 28 Sam Quenon

*No Anniversaries in
November or December*

December

- 2 Vinnie Rexroat
- 2 Isabelle Williams
- 4 Phyl Laymon
- 4 Faye Miller
- 13 Thom White
- 27 Mary Beth Fink
- 29 Diana Livingston
- 31 Don Hatch
- 31 Ginger Stewart

In our prayers...

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Thanksgiving:

We offer thanksgiving for the many answered prayers we have received at St. Jude's.

This month we pray for:

Kindness, tender-hearted forgiveness and love in our relationships;

The people of all nations: give us a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will;

Health protection, in COVID post-pandemic: for our kupuna, our loved ones, our leaders, our medical personnel, ourselves. We pray for an end to health issues that impact the ebb and flow of St. Jude's ministries.

Healing: Pastor John Mark, Bob, Sherry, Thom, Elaine, Carl, Faye, Ed, Kathy, Amanda, Cynn timer, Diane, Angie, Austin, Phyl, Caroline, Ginger & Brian, Fr. Richard & Michael, Sam, Pastor Constance, Butch, Fr. Tom E. and Stephen, Don, Jeanne, Ron, Zach, Sigi, Dave, Richard M, Warren.

Comfort & Peace for all caregivers.

Strength and comfort for those who suffer loss.

Healing and restoration of broken hearts, families and relationships;

Safety for all who are traveling, comfort for all those who are unable to travel.

Safety, wisdom and courage for those in protective or public service

(firefighters, law enforcement, emergency responders, military personnel, teachers, administrators, clergy, physicians, nurses, medical team members, civil leaders, cashiers, truck drivers, postal employees, and all workers);

For protection from COVID-19, natural disasters, violence and tragedy: we pray for restoration of lives, financial loss and displacement of families forever impacted;

For our church and all her ministries, re-ignite us Lord, in a safe environment of warmth, music, Holy Communion and divine connection. ***Bring us new volunteers to help us continue our many outreach projects;***

Blessings, wisdom, energy, enthusiasm, discernment and encouragement for the leaders of St. Jude's, our visiting priests and for the many volunteers who keep our church operating; and for local, national and international world leaders, help us to work together for peace.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Church Happenings

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those who serve them in your prayers for good health and happiness as the darker/colder days of winter approach.

Soup and Showers

We continue to be busy at the showers with 159 bodies made clean this month, 353 plates of food were served and 15 haircuts were given by Kady and Drew Foster. It's always a good day when Saturday rolls around and we're able to see our shower family and it's extra special when the Foster's are there to make people feel better with a great haircut.

Thank you everyone who gives of their time and talents to serve our extended family members. We could still use more people to help with these outreach ministries. If you're available to give just one Saturday a month it would be a BIG help to those who show up every Saturday and I'll guarantee you'll have lots of fun and hear lots of laughter. If you don't feel you are venturesome enough to cook, come and serve and that takes the cooks off their feet.

Ray and Lodema Hatch have gone back to the mainland, Pastor Constance will return to her home and husband in North Carolina and Diane will be off for awhile keeping a close watch over her husband Carl as he regains his health and strength. That will leave Karen and Anna, when available, Marvelle, Phyl, Steve, when available and Cordelia to be on deck for Saturday meals.

Oh yes, Greg will be around to clean the towels used each Saturday. Come on down enjoy the fellowship and join in on the fun!!

Showers are really in need as Elaine has health problems that prevent her from assisting so that leaves Teri and Lyn and Shannon when she is available to assist with the shower ministry. The last few months we have had the assistance of a member of Pahala High earning his 60 hours of credit for his Civics class. What a gift that has been for all of us. He will soon have the hours completed and we'll really miss him.

Christmas Eve

December 24th Christmas Eve will be a very busy "three ring circus" day for all of us. We begin with showers at 9 am to signup by 11:30 am and then stay until everyone is clean, feeding everyone, hair cuts for those who want them, decorate the church for the evening service, sing Christmas Carols at 3:30 pm and church service at 4 pm with dinner to follow. I hope everyone will come out and stay to enjoy the day of celebration. There will be no Christmas Day service because we'll all be recovering from Christmas Eve, which has always been the main service of St. Jude's.

Elaine Barber will be celebrating Advent and Christmas with us this year. It will be good to have one of our first priests to serve us back home again.

See "More Happenings" continued on page 16

An Old Nun Story

Submitted by Cynnie Salley

An old nun who was living in a convent next to a construction site noticed the coarse language of the workers and decided to spend some time with them to correct their ways.

She decided she would take her lunch; sit with the workers; and talk with them. She put her sandwich in a brown bag and walked over to the spot where the men were having a lunch break.

Sporting a big smile, she walked up to the group and asked: "*And do you men know Jesus Christ?*"

They shook their heads and looked at each other very confused.

One of the workers looked up into the steelworks and yelled out, "*Anybody up there know Jesus Christ?*"

One of the steelworkers yelled down, "*Why?*"

The worker yelled back, "*His Mum's here with his lunch.*"



More Happenings

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St. Jude's Family

Once again we said goodbye to another important couple in our family. Jerry and Cindy Cutts moved back to California to be closer to children and grandchildren. Cindy was the editor of Talk Story and also the web master for St.

Jude's. Cindy also helped us write the story of St. Jude's ministry, gathering stories from members, priest that served and then edited it and it became "Devine Aloha" .

Cindy was always the go to person for computer questions at home or at church. I'm going to have to learn a lot of stuff in a short amount of time. Cindy was a musician and offered her talents to St. Jude's in many different ways. She wrote a parody about "The Little Red Church at the end of the road" that everyone loved.

Enjoy your new home in California, your children and grandchildren, your new church family but please don't forget that your family in that "Little Red Church at the end of the Road" still loves you and will miss you very much.

Aloha



ADVENT

BY CORDELIA BURT, BISHOP'S WARDEN

Advent: The first season of the church's liturgical year, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (Advent Sunday) and running until the first Eucharist of Christmas. Advent is a season of preparation for remembering Christ's incarnation at Christmas and for the fulfillment of his promise to return in power and great glory. This accounts for the emphasis in many of this season's biblical readings on the end time and on God's promises for the people of Israel and the church of Christ. Advent has received renewed emphasis in recent years as the church has sought ways to counter the secularization of Christmas as a cultural holiday characterized by conspicuous consumption. The liturgical color is purple or, in some places, blue (St. Jude's uses the blue).

Advent Calendar: Used to mark the passing of days in the doors to open, one for each day in the season. Behind each door is a picture or object leading up to the nativity scene revealed on December 24th. Since Advent has not exactly the same number of days each year, commercial Advent calendars usually have 24 doors, one for each day in December before Christmas.

Advent Wreath: A circle, usually covered with evergreen, four purple or white, or three purple and one rose or pink. A purple candle is lighted on the first Sunday of Advent and each day thereafter until Christmas. A second purple candle is lighted on the Second Sunday and so on until all are lighted on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. If a rose or pink candle is used, it is first lighted on the Third Sunday, reflecting the tradition that the lessons for the Third Sunday are more celebratory than on the other Sundays. A recent development in Advent wreaths is the Christmas candle usually a larger white candle in the center of the wreath, lit on Christmas Eve midnight services. While large Advent wreaths are used in churches, smaller versions can form the focus of family devotions in the home during the season.



Advent

Convention

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Cross, an award that had not been bestowed since the last in person meeting of convention. The award recognizes exceptional dedication to ministry within the diocese, usually over a period of many years.

The convention's primary purpose is to do the business of the diocese, by electing new leaders to the diocese wide governing and advising bodies, approval of budget for the coming year, and the adoption, amendment, or rejection of proposed resolutions. All this business was duly dispatched.

Most significant this year, in my opinion, were two oral presentations, the Bishop's address and a brief address presented at the most recent national convention in support of adding Queen Liliuokalani to the Episcopal Church Calendar that had been made to that body by Deacon Steve Costa.

The former, available by links on episcopalhawaii.org centered on a call to new flexibility learned from lessons during the pandemic, specially a call for lay involvement and commitment that truly

frees clergy to be shepherds and ministers, and not business and property managers. (This sounded affirming and familiar for us, as our model of visiting clergy is centered on encouraging clergy to celebrate, pray, and recharge, while laity lead community care, outreach and operation.)

Deacon Costa's brief but incredibly moving address spoke eloquently to the witness of Queen Liliuokalani to faith in Our Savior, demonstrated by her commitment to walking in the reign of Christ, even while held prisoner in her own home.

I thank our community of faith for allowing me to represent us at convention, and hope that folk who have never been will consider representing us at convention in the future. It is an incredible way to both serve and learn.

I also pray that everyone in our community will routinely explore the incredible amount of information available to us on episcopalhawaii.org. Just adding it to your regular media routine will enrich your knowledge and familiarity with our wider church tremendously.

LAZARUS AMONG US

BY GARY JOHNSON

I was “recruited” (they couldn’t find anyone else) to give the sermon in church last Sunday. I had St. Jude’s in mind.

Luke 16:19-31

At the end of last week’s service at our church in Irasburg, I asked our minister about the image of Lazarus at the gate of the rich man, and if the gate that divided them wasn’t significant also.

She had focused on the second half of the parable and the rich man’s pleas to Lazarus to quench his thirst and to return to his family and brothers to warn them of their fate.

But the image of the gate is an image that is still with us.

Deb and I have seen it many times in our travels. The wealthy and the privileged live behind gates. The intent is clearly to separate themselves from the poor, the undesirables, the sick and ostracized, the displaced and homeless, criminals, immigrants and those who are racially different.

Those who can, build elaborate security systems. Almost anywhere you travel in the third world, where there is a disparity of wealth and opportunity, people wall themselves in. For protection. This is the case, mostly in cities, in Costa Rica

and Mexico, Morocco and Buenos Aires, Haiti, and South Africa.

In Capetown, we stayed with a black woman who was a professor and a director of one of Nelson Mandela’s trusts. To get to her apartment in a high rise you drove through a gate with two security guards, took an elevator that had two security doors, then entered her apartment through two more security doors.

But the most graphic and powerful experience we had was in Sedgefield on the south coast.

The homes of the whites had high walls, barbed wire, guard dogs and armed alert security systems. And private schools, clubs and beach houses. At the other end of town was a mile long township, a shanty town, rife with tuberculosis, hunger, poor schools and few services.

In the middle, between these two districts, was a mission house. No gate, no fences, no security system. The couple who established it had sold everything they had previously owned to buy this house. They provided health clinics, maternity classes, a food bank and scholarships for students. Their house had never been broken into.

See “Gary’s sermon,” continued on page 20

Gary's Sermon

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They were the ones who understood Jesus' answer to the question, "Who is my neighbor?"

Actually, this parable says that people brought Lazarus to the gate each day. Other poor people certainly who had pressing and dire needs and should have been looking out for themselves.

The parable also says that Lazarus was not depraved, not a criminal, not someone who was a threat to the rich man.

Rather, it is implied that the rich man was indifferent, that the gate prevented him from seeing Lazarus, and we can assume that whatever crumbs Lazarus received were delivered by servants, not by the rich man.

So it is a parable of negligence – he had the means and he probably had influence in his society and he had knowledge of the law – he had the ability to do something and he did not.

He did not have compassion. This is why there is such a great chasm between Lazarus and him in the afterlife. It reflects his lack of awareness towards Lazarus in his worldly life.

He retreated into his own gated world. Small and shadowed.

His concerns were always centered on himself, on his own wants, some of which may have

been justified in his eyes and in the eyes of those within his circle, like-minded and insular, but he was not concerned with the needs of those who were not as fortunate as he was.

Another question arises out of this parable. Is the rich man keeping out the people like Lazarus, or is he walling something in? Is he protecting his own self-esteem, his image of himself, his own judgment of others, his fears, his insecurities, his own vanity? If so, then the walled gate is as harmful to the rich man as it is to Lazarus, and this is what is implied by the second half of the parable in which the rich man is a lost soul in torment.

There is another theme as well.

To those who have been given much, much is expected in return.

Jesus has many parables about our being stewards of God's gifts. In this case, the rich man is an unfaithful steward of God's grace and goodness. He appears to believe that God's gifts are unequally given, that he is somehow more privileged, more worthy, and therefore doesn't need to see Lazarus at his gate. Let the poor take care of the poor. However, Abraham tells him that he should have lifted Lazarus up, he should have been an agent, an expression of

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Photos
by
Marvelle Rau



More Gary

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God's grace. It is Lazarus is eventually lifted up in heaven. The rich man is shocked to find that he could not justify, rationalize the way he had lived, that he could not justify or excuse his negligence and indifference to the needs of Lazarus.

It becomes clear that if the rich man (or any of us) are separated or separate from our neighbors, we are separated from God.

Jesus admonishes us again in Matthew. "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?

When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?

When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

I think of all the people who understand this, who take down walls, and who see that behind the walls are people in need. Hospice caregivers, first responders during Covid, teachers, foster parents, sanctuary churches who take in immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and so many others.

I think of St Jude's outreach through the showers, the food shelf, the Thanksgiving meal, hosting the Giving Tree, our soup kitchen, Bible Study and EFM, and the countless times that church members recognize the needs and provide care for the people in Ocean View.

There will always be Lazaruses among us and we are called as individuals and as a church to take down the gates that separate us from each other and from God.

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL WELCOMES YOU ALL



St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Presents its annual FREE! FREE! FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER
Turkey, cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, green
beans, rolls, dessert

DINE IN Or TAKE OUT.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19 10A-12P or PAU.

FREE hot showers will be available at their usual time

St. Jude's Episcopal @ Paradise Circle & Ke'aka, Ocean View

St. Jude's Christmas

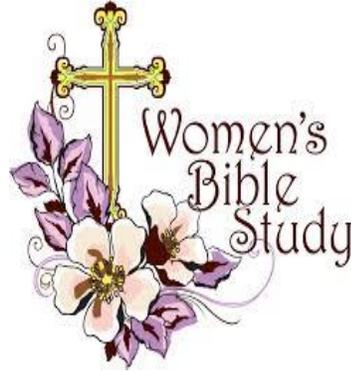
December 17
Keiki Christmas Party
9 am to 11 am

December 24
Showers, Soup, Fellowship,
Haircut's & Decorating church
9 am – 1 pm

Carols - 3:30 pm

Christmas Eve Service - 4 pm
Aloha hour after service





**Mondays 24
10 a.m.**

HST

On ZOOM
Check email for
Zoom links

Tuesdays at 9 a.m. HST



Lemonade Party

First Saturday of the Month

Monthly church yard clean up

All are welcome to join us!

Followed by lemonade & hot dogs.

Talk Story

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Uplifting, informational and reflective stories, news,
recipes, photos, memories, etc.

For more guideline details visit www.stjudeshawaii.org



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Submit via email to: cynthiaanncutts@gmail.com

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