



# FEBRUARY

## 2016

### We are heading into Lent....

Wednesday, February 10th, we hit that somber day in our liturgical calendar when we allow our foreheads to be smudged with ashes and the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" pronounced over us. How dire! Why would anyone submit to that? No one...if he or she felt their life was perfect and they were immortal. But, alas, there are few mortals alive who live under those illusions. Most of us know only too well the sorrows, shortcomings, and weaknesses in our lives, and with each passing day we all become more aware of the startling brevity of life. That could be rather depressing, but Christianity is full of paradox. Christianity takes a square look at death and says, no, that's not the end. Christianity takes a square look at broken hearts and says, no, they can be healed. Christianity takes a square look at the brokenness within our lives and says, no, you can be made whole. By receiving those ashes and hearing the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," we are accepting our dependence upon God and God's claim upon us. God gave us life, God journeys with us through this life, and God will be there to receive us when this life ends.

The season of Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday will lead us to Holy Week—that painful and revealing revelation of the depth of God's love for us—and then dawn into the glorious promise of Easter resurrection and joy. At the heart of our faith is the promise of forgiveness and redemption, new beginnings and new life. But first we must make the choice to travel the journey. Join us at one of our Ash Wednesday services and then select a devotional for the season of Lent from the options that are listed in this newsletter. Pick up one of the mite boxes to use during Lent. Your offerings will go to a local organization serving the homeless in our community. Consider fasting and placing the money for that meal into your mite box. Consider volunteering some hours in service to one of our partner agencies or join in one of our church ministries. Whatever you do, know that this is season to re-evaluate your walk with God and to grow deeper into an awareness and understanding of how deeply God loves you.

*Pastor Diane*

Ash Wednesday Services  
Wednesday, February 10th  
11:30am Mid-day Service  
6:00pm Evening Service



### Lenten Mite Boxes

Mite Boxes invite us to make available during Lent some of our treasure for the relief of our needy neighbors. We do this by placing money in the box on a regular basis throughout the Lenten season. The money that is received will go to local organizations that assist the houseless.



Pick up a box at the Greeter's Table at the rear of the church, place your coins or bills in it between Ash Wednesday and Easter, bring it filled to church on Easter Sunday and place it in one of the baskets available on Easter Day.

### Historic Downtown Churches Walking Tour

St. Peter's has been chosen by the Historic Hawai'i Foundation as one of four historic churches in downtown Honolulu to be featured in its walking tour on Saturday, February 13th. HHF Docents will provide information about the history and architecture of the churches. The Walking Tour provides St. Peter's to showcase our unique stained glass windows as well as to share a little about our history and role in the downtown religious community.

Many thanks to Ruth Merz who is coordinating the St. Peter's stopover and is planning some special things to things to help highlight our parish.

## Devotions For Lent

### Day by Day

Did you know that the St. Peter's provides a daily devotional booklet, **Day by Day**, for your use? Day by Day has been published since 1935 by Forward Movement, "an official, non-profit agency of the Episcopal Church whose mission is to create compelling content for Christian living." These three month devotional booklets, in both hand size and large print, can be found throughout the year on the back table behind the pews. This Lent we have ordered a larger number of copies to introduce more of you to this resource.

The Executive Director, Scott Gunn, writes about the latest issue for the months of February, March, and April:

*Dear friends in Christ,*

*It has become fashionable to soften Lent, to redefine it to suit our preferences. I wonder what it might be like to let Lent work in us by undertaking it the old-fashioned way. It's tempting to see Lent as the time to try out a new diet or to try on a new practice. What if we took seriously the opportunity it provides for us to repent, to acknowledge our sins, and to try to grow more deeply into the full stature of Christ?*

*What if we took stock of those things that take us away from God and gave some of those things up? Giving up chocolate for the sake of deprivation isn't very spiritually noble for most of us. Giving up television, if that's the thing that keeps us from spending good time with our loved ones, might be worthwhile.*

*We don't need to be miserable to practice Lenten discipline. In fact, it's pretty great to spend a few weeks intentionally working toward being more Christlike, to turn away from our worldly temptations. Let us grow together on a Lenten journey.*

Inside the front cover is "A Morning Resolve" that you may want to pick up as your morning resolve this Lent:

*I will try this day to live a simple, sincere, and serene life, repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity, and self-seeking; cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity, and the habit of holy silence; exercising economy in expenditure, generosity in giving, carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust, and a childlike faith in God. In particular I will try to be faithful in those habits of prayer, work, study, physical exercise, eating, and sleep which I believe the Holy Spirit has shown me to be right.*

*And as I cannot in my own strength do this, nor even with a hope of success attempt it, I look to thee, O Lord God my Father, in Jesus my Savior, and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Pick up a copy of *Day by Day* this Sunday and immerse yourself on a devotional journey this Lent!

### 'Walk the Path of Lent' with Episcopal Relief & Development's 2016 Lenten meditation

Program staff, disaster response volunteers, board members and others share the breadth of spiritual practices that give them strength for the Lenten journey. Digital versions are available online at [episcopalrelief.org/Lent](http://episcopalrelief.org/Lent), and all are invited to sign up for daily email meditations.

### House of Bishops offers Lenten meditations on 'economic imagination'

This Lent, the theology committee of the House of Bishops invites the church to explore ways to recover and renew economic imagination with a new resource, *Repairing the Breach: Discipleship and Mission in a Global Economy*.

Produced in partnership with Forward Movement, *Repairing the Breach* provides daily meditations and videos during the season of Lent. The meditations move through a pattern of reading, watching, reflecting, and praying, and each week of Lent is devoted to a particular aspect of economic life.

The reflections examine the causes of economic injustice and our role, both personally and corporately, in unsustainable patterns of consumption and self-interest. The project also highlights specific practices where the Spirit of God is moving in local congregations and communities to bring new life.

Visit [repairingthebreach.forwardmovement.org](http://repairingthebreach.forwardmovement.org) to learn more, register to receive daily meditations and watch for the first meditation on Ash Wednesday. A print-friendly downloadable PDF of the reflections is also available for download.

### E-Donors - Please Check Your Account

As 2016 settles in, it is a good time to check your e-give account. Does your account reflect your 2016 pledge amount? Is all of your information correct and up to date? It is also a good time to update your password (and keep it in a safe place) since updating is typically done only once a year.

## Guest Preacher February 28th

Terry Yasuko Ogawa, Chaplain and Community Liaison at the Institute for Human Services (IHS), will be preaching at both services on **Sunday, February 28**, and will speak in the Parish Hall between services about the state of homelessness on Oahu and the current effort to move people into housing. IHS is one of the community agencies we support through our budget and for which we are collecting items for the "welcome baskets." IHS is a comprehensive social services agency working to prevent and end homelessness in Hawai'i.



Terry graduated from the Pacific School of Religion in 2013 with a Masters of Divinity and a Certificate in Asian and Oceanic Cultures and Faith Traditions from the Graduate Theological Union. Terry previously worked as an environmental and cultural planner in Honolulu and in Hartford, Connecticut, after completing

a Master's in Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Michigan. She served as the Charles E. Cobb Environmental Justice Resident 2001-03 for the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries in Washington, DC, where she handled the environmental public policy portfolio for the denomination.

## Feasibility Study Update

During the fall and winter of 2015, with the help of Jerry Campbell, consultant with the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF), St. Peter's conducted a Feasibility Study to determine the willingness of the congregation to support a proposed capital campaign for a Phase One repair and renovation project that would focus on the sanctuary building as well as three immediate need issues in the Parish Hall (ADA accessible family unit bathroom, acoustical absorption in the Parish Hall, and repair of the fire escape). The total estimated cost, as described in the Tentative Case Statement that was distributed to all households, was \$665,000. After careful study of the church's financial holdings, the vestry determined that \$150,000 could be applied as seed money, making a total goal to be tested of \$515,000.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Fifty-two percent responded to the survey via personal interviews with Jerry Campbell, our ECF consultant, by direct mail, or by e-mail. Based upon ECF

experience, our response rate is considered excellent. Ninety-seven percent of respondents support a capital campaign, and eighty-six percent expressed a willingness to make a financial contribution. Using the ranges of estimated gifts indicated by respondents and applying a formula which takes into account as yet unidentified gifts, ECF estimates that St. Peter's has the capacity to exceed its goal of \$515,000 and can certainly proceed with a capital campaign.

With that very encouraging news, your vestry has signed a contract with ECF to proceed with the Capital Campaign. Next steps include revision of the Tentative Case Statement to make the **Case Statement** for the campaign. Based on the results of the Feasibility Study, the vestry has decided to include the addition of Wi-Fi for the sanctuary, and based on the economy, will add a 6% anticipated construction cost increase. The vestry is also exploring adding an option to designate a percentage of the capital gift to the efforts to alleviate the houseless crisis in Honolulu per Resolution 5 of the Diocesan Convention that called upon all congregations of the diocese to be intentional in addressing this issue.

Jerry Campbell will meet with the vestry on Sunday, February 7th, to begin preparations and a timeline for the capital campaign. Watch for more details to follow! This is going to be an exciting year!! If you have interest in serving on the capital campaign committee, please speak with Pr. Diane or Velma, your Sr. Warden.

## Harris Church Society and Ministry Program

Our neighbor, Harris United Methodist Church on the corner of Vineyard and Nu`uanu, has invited us to a presentation on **Sunday, February 21st at 11:50am** with featured speakers Natalie Nimmer, Ed Noh, and Jerelyn Watanabe, UH-Manoa doctoral students and educational leaders. They will be discussing their research: "Feasibility of Establishing a Micronesian culture-based charter school or other education program." Their research is from five state-wide focus groups regarding Micronesian cultural values, the aspirations of Micronesian parents for their children's futures, and the nuts and bolts of launching new educational initiatives including after-school programs, in Hawaii. The Harris Church & Society Ministry Team will prepare a simple lunch. All are invited, but reservations are needed. Call the church office or let Pastor Diane know **before February 15th**.

## Inquirer's Class - Refresher Course

Inquirer's Class / Refresher Course for Members - 9 sessions beginning Sunday, February 7, 9:15am will be held in the Tangerine Room in the Parish Hall. If you want to learn more about what we believe and how we practice our Christian faith, join the discussion. Whether you are a newcomer to the tradition, a long-time member who wants a refresher, or somewhere in between, join the discussion! We will use the book *Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church*, by Jenifer Gamber. The book is available on Amazon.

## Lenten Soup Suppers

Come for Jazz, Stay for Soup. After Jazz Soup Suppers continue on the six Thursday evenings during Lent in the Parish Hall. Join the community of regulars who gather for a light supper and conversation. And, if you can help provide a soup, a salad, and/or bread (no desserts) for one of the evenings, please sign up on one of the sign-up sheets either in the back of the church or in the parish hall.



Many thanks to those who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Pounds of food were collected for Hawaii Foodbank and the First United Methodist Church Food Pantry.

Special thanks to the members of the Jazzercise Classes and to the students at Queen Emma Ballet who also participated in the food drive!

## Every Sunday:

7:30am Rite II Eucharist with piano  
 9:00am Christian Formation for Children and Youth  
 9:15am Adult Forum (Tangerine Room)  
 10:00am Rite II Eucharist with organ

## Every Thursday:

6:00pm Jazz Vespers followed by Fellowship and Soup Supper in the Parish Hall

## One Tomato Plant

Louise Stromberg

This year I bought one tomato plant so that I could have a few small tomatoes for a salad each week. I expected to pick about a half a dozen a week at most.

By the time I remembered to purchase a tomato rack for my plant it had grown rather large so I put the rack around it as best I could.

Buds were forming into little tomatoes. The plant continued to grow. And I waited expectantly for the sweet red fruit to ripen.



The first time I went to pick the ripe tomatoes I brought a small bowl. It was filled to overflowing. I took a small zip lock bag of tomatoes to work to share. The second time I went out to pick, about a week later, I filled a mixing bowl. I took three bags to work to share.

Not even a week later, I picked two mixing bowls full.

This time I brought an ice cream container of sweet, red fruit to share. My tomato plant continued to bear an abundance of tomatoes right up until a hard frost came in October. As I thought about my expectations and the reality of the harvest I realized that this was a wonderful example of God's abundant blessings. God gave far beyond my hopes. The more I shared with others, the more that this plant seemed to produce.

How like God's love was this abundance. The more we share of God's love and blessings the more God gives us to share. Whether that be through words of witness to God's love for us or gifts of material wealth, God blesses all we share and never forgets to rain down upon us continued love and gifts to sustains us in our existence on this earth.

*Pastor Louise Stromberg, Cross of Christ Lutheran in Houston, MN*



**Red or Blue or BOTH?**

Have you noticed the two boxes on the greeters' table at the back of the sanctuary?

**The Blue Box** is for St. Elizabeth's collection. St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church serves the houseless population a hot breakfast every Saturday morning. Donations of bags of rice and travel size toiletries—shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, body wash, lotion—are always needed.

**The Red Box** is for Central Middle School - composition books (wide or college ruled), binders, pens, pencils, crayons, markers and erasers, and **rubber slippers** (sizes 8-15)

Donations will be received every Sunday!



**Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Parish was held between services on Sunday, January 31. St. Peter's signature fried rice (thank you Willis Yap and crew!) and a fresh fruit salad were served to a full house. An overview of 2015 and a look toward 2016 topped the agenda. Michele Baldovi, Beth Cox, Bryan Matsumoto, and Kyle Saito were newly elected to the vestry; Tim Yuen was elected Junior Warden. Delegates to convention are Michele Baldovi, Norma Chun, Ron Kim, Bill McKinney, and Tim Yuen. A slide show of 2015 events was on the big screen.

Information on St. Peter's ministries are in the Annual Report. If you were not able to attend the meeting, please pick up your blue-covered report on the table at the back of the church.

February  **BIRTHDAYS** and Anniversaries

**Birthdays**

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Kathleen Chang  | 6 Shayden Tialavea |
| 7 Valerie Baldovi | 7 Pomai Savala     |
| 12 Norma Chun     | 14 Taka Kimura     |
| 14 Rie Connors    | 19 Roland Tam      |
| 22 Jonalyn Uehara | 23 Colbie Chun     |
| 25 Anthea Wang    | 27 Pauline Au      |
| 27 Ernelle Lum    |                    |

**Anniversaries**

- 11 Pokhui & Bill McKinney
- 14 Audrey & Robert Effler

**The Art of Narcissus**



The Annual Narcissus Carving Exhibit will be Saturday, February 13th from 10 - 2 and Sunday, February 14th from noon - 3. Narcissus bulbs carved in a variety of styles by students in both and advanced and beginners workshop will be on display. There will also be a carving demonstration during the exhibit hours and you will be able

to ask questions about this carving technique.

**In the Mailbag**

**From St. Elizabeth's Church** *Deep thanks for your monetary donations for our ministries. These funds will go to Laundry Aloha!*

**From the Hawaii Foodbank** *Your gift is very important. It will help to feed Hawaii's hungry families, including parents who have little in their refrigerator to serve their young children.*

**From IHS** *On behalf of our IHS team and the over 5,000 people we served last year, we thank you for your gift of \$424.75. We very much appreciate St. Peter's Episcopal Church being part of our `ohana and partner in caring, in bringing Christ's love to the poor and need in our midst.*

**From River of Life Mission** *Your support of the Mission is so important, and it reaches a wide variety of people. We are so privileged to partner with you to provide a "home" for the homeless who visit the Mission. Thousands of meals are distributed weekly throughout Oahu. Your faithfulness does make a huge impact in the lives of those who are needy and alone. Thanks for remembering the poor.*

**Mahalo for your Financial Support**

Thank you to all who pledged to the 2016 ministry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. You and fellow parishioners have helped increase giving by over \$20,000 from last year for a total of 66 pledging units contributing \$193,000 toward the annual operating budget. The balance of the budget is covered by rental income and interest on investments. As our pledging strengthens, our goal is to move away from using interest monies to meet our budget and from relying too heavily upon rental income. This is another year of solid growth in pledging, and we thank you!

Pastor Diane  
Rector

Ed Casebier  
Stewardship Chair



# ANNUAL MEETING



Photos: Karin Kimura

Annual Meeting of St. Peter's Episcopal Church - January 31st, 8:45-9:45am, Parish Hall

St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Honolulu HI 96813

1317 Queen Emma Street  
(808) 533-1943

**2016 Vestry**

Rector: The Rev. Diane Martinson  
Jr. Warden: Tim Yuen

Sr. Warden: Velma Lee  
Treasurer: Nancy Rowe

Term expires in 2016: Kyle Saito, Elizabeth Winternitz, Clint Yee

Term expires in 2017: Michele Baldovi, Beth Cox, Ron Kim

Term expires in 2018: Bryan Matsumoto, Pokhui McKinney, Stephanie Wright

Joette: [stpetershonolulu@gmail.com](mailto:stpetershonolulu@gmail.com)  
Estelle in the Church Office: [stpetershonoluluoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stpetershonoluluoffice@gmail.com)  
Pastor Diane: [pastordianem@gmail.com](mailto:pastordianem@gmail.com)