

A Beacon of Hope, A Call to Serve

2017



Lenten Journey...

Wednesday, March 1st, we once again allowed our foreheads to be smudged with ashes in the sign of a cross and heard the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Those are sobering words. Why would anyone submit to a ritual like that? Probably no one...if we felt our lives

were perfect and we were immortal. But, there are few humans who live under those illusions. Most of us are only too aware of the sorrows, short-comings, and weaknesses in our lives, and with each passing year the startling brevity of life becomes more apparent. That could be depressing, but Christianity is full of paradox. Jesus looks at death and says, no, that's not the end. Jesus looks at wounded and grieving hearts and says, no, they can be healed. Jesus looks at the brokenness within our lives and says, no, you can be made whole. When we received those ashes and heard the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," it was an acknowledgement of our dependence upon God and the promise of God's claim upon us. God gave us life, God journeys with us through this life and God will be there to embrace us when this life ends.

The season of Lent which began with Ash Wednesday leads us to Holy Week—that painful and revealing revelation through the cross of human sin and the depth of God's love for us. But through that pain, through that death came the dawn of Easter resurrection and joy. At the heart of our faith is the promise of forgiveness and redemption, new beginnings and new life. First, though, we must make the decision to travel the journey to the cross. Lent is a reminder and call to be more intentional in listening to God's presence within our lives and our need to respond to that presence. Here are a few possible ways to do that:

Consider adding a devotional reading each day of Lent (There are some opportunities listed below.).

- * Intentionally spend more time in prayer each day.
- * Add Lenten Jazz Vespers to your week.
- * Pick-up a mite box in which you can place Lenten offerings. You might consider fasting and placing the money for that meal in your mite box. This year part of the collection will support St. Andrew's Priory students ship their "Hope Boxes" to Syrian refugees in Lesbos, Greece. Thankfully, the shipping challenge has been resolved and they will be shipping their boxes to LA where the parent organization will ship them on to Greece.
- * Consider volunteering some hours at one of the ministries to the homeless at our sister churches, e.g. St. Elizabeth's welcomes us to join them on Saturday mornings to serve breakfast to the homeless and St. Mary's, along with folks from Good Samaritan

and St. Luke's, provides lunch and a "one stop shop" of services coordinated by IHS the last Thursday of every month. I highly recommend experiencing both.

- * Consider joining one of St. Peter's ongoing church ministries—Soul Food, Habitat Lunch Bunch, Knit2Pray2, Jazz Vespers soup supper, Central Middle School.

However you mark this Lenten season, know that these weeks are a time to evaluate and re-orient your walk with God, a time to grow into deeper awareness and understanding of how much God loves you and wants to remove the burden of brokenness in your life enabling you to be a source of light and hope for others.

Pastor Diane

Lenten Devotionals

Day by Day devotional books are available on the back table for you to use on your journey through Lent.

2017 Lenten Meditation' with Episcopal Relief & Development's (ERD) A digital version as well as a downloadable version is available online at episcopalrelief.org/Lent

The House of Bishops offers Lenten meditations on 'economic imagination' – Visit repairingthebreach.forwardmovement.org to learn more.

Society of St. John the Evangelist – 5 Marks of Love Lenten Devotions

Sign-up to receive the daily morning email at www.ssje.org



ANNUAL MEETING

Here are some highlights of the Annual Meeting that took place on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 8:45 am in the Parish Hall:

Mahalo to the following people for preparing the delicious brunch: Paul Yuen, Willis Yap, John Afong, Franklin Lum, Michelle Baldovi, Cheryl Fong and Stephanie Goo! Also, Mahalo to Oriel for setting up the tables and chairs, and to Stephanie Wight for the special Chinese New Year's decorations!

Many thanks to outgoing vestry members Elizabeth Winternitz and Clint Yee who faithfully served three year terms! Elizabeth chaired the Nature & Outreach committee and Clint provided insights with the Finance Committee.

Special thanks to Elizabeth Winternitz & Steve Mitchell, co-chairs of the successful Capital Campaign. The Post-Campaign Management Committee is being chaired by Pokhui McKinney with Nancy Rowe, treasurer, Joette Comstock, bookkeeper, and Pastor Diane. Due to everyone's generosity, \$676,681 was raised, which exceeded our goal of \$590,145. However, costs have risen because by the time we went out to bid, the final amount is beyond the 6% anticipated increase. There will also be some unexpected "surprises" as the church building is 100 years old.

Pastor Diane announced that Hawaii Constructors, Inc. will begin the renovations on Mon., April 24 and will finish at the end of July. Church services will be held in the parish hall during this time. Timing is critical because of loss of \$60,000 revenue from the Watabe income. The sound system is being handled outside of the general contractor. The repair of the fire escape will be completed separately. The renovation of the Aloha Room has been postponed. The chancel window will be replaced within the time frame of the construction.

Tim Yuen, Junior Warden, explained that the installation of the solar PV panels has been put on hold until the renovations of the sanctuary is completed so that the work is not delayed per our contract with the general contractor.

Nancy Rowe, Treasurer, presented the budget for 2017. Much appreciation was given to the finance committee and the executive committee for the countless hours of diligent work that is needed to complete each budget!!

Election results: Tim Yuen for Junior Warden and Edmund Choy, Kyle Saito, and Jaime Yamane for the Vestry for three year terms. Delegates to the Diocesan Convention will be Janet Kim, Karin Kimura, Nancy Rowe, Stephanie Wight, and Willis Yap.

Tim acknowledged the dedication and diligence of Pastor Diane as she leads us to be better followers of Christ and as we forge ahead with the renovations of our 100 year old church building. Everyone gave her a round of applause!!!

-Velma Lee, Senior Warden

Lenten Mite Boxes

During Lent, Mite Boxes invite us to offer 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.



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. A portion of the money that is received will assist the Priority Hope Box project

On Sunday, February 26th, students from The Priory who are studying the Syrian refugee crisis shared what they have learned and invited us as well as the Cathedral community to participate in a "Hope Box" project (Operation Refugee Child) that they are organizing to send care boxes to children in the refugee camps in Lesbos, Greece. Both care box items and donations for shipping are being requested. Watch for more information to come regarding this project. A portion of the money that is received will assist the Priority Hope Box project.

"WE ARE
THE
Episcopal BRANCH
OF
THE Jesus movement"
-Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Hui Pu Summer Camp at Camp Mokule'ia S.W.A.G.

Hui Pu 2017 will be a huge event with all three camps for the different age groups taking place simultaneously. The theme is "S.W.A.G. (Saved With Amazing Grace)" and will be full of new experiences, re-kindled friendships and most importantly full of praise and worship with unconditional love!

Although the camp will begin on the same date for all age groups, it will end on different days. Register before May 1 and save! The camp dates and costs are as follows:

- AHE (9-12 years): July 2 - July 5, \$350 (By May 1- \$320)
- LOKAHI (13-14 years): July 2 - July 6, \$450 (By May 1- \$420)
- `OPIO (15-18 years): July 2 - July 7, \$550 (By May 1- \$520)

Giving: A Multitude of Reasons

Cathy Clement

Why do people give? That's a question that was asked many ways at last year's Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) conference. In considering why I give to my parish, I came up with the following:

No. 10: It's a habit. It's how I was raised. From my earliest days in Sunday school at Holy Faith in Inglewood, California, I remember folding little blue mite boxes for depositing my weekly offering every Lent.

No. 9: The Bible tells me so. From kindergarten in a little Christian School to my master's at Fuller Theological Seminary, I learned that the Bible teaches us to give back. Sharing my resources is clearly a biblical value.

No. 8: Giving to my parish is fun. Stewardship at All Saints always involves a party. As our rector said in a recent sermon, Jesus' parables often ended in a party. And as I understand it, heaven is going to be one mega-party.

No. 7: Giving to my parish feels good. I think Jesus was on to something when he said it is more blessed to give than to receive. And studies show that people who give live longer.

No. 6: I give to change the world. My parish is plugged in to where I can make the most difference in addressing the world's greatest needs. My parish stretches me.

No. 5: My parish is my community. I have made lifelong friends there; I was married there, and will be buried there. At my parish I'm part of something larger than myself.

No. 4: My parish is inclusive and not only with a capital "I." I was tenderly included when I was out of work, when I battled cancer, and when my husband died.

No. 3: I've been blessed and want to be a blessing to others. I am blessed to be able to continue to tithe my income in my retirement. My parish is a priority in my budget.

No. 2: I want to leave a legacy. I am indebted to visionary parishioners from whom I inherited the church I love. I owe the same to future generations.

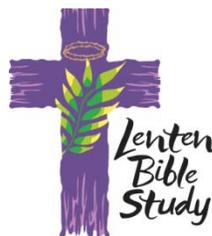
No. 1: I give because I was asked. In turn I'd like to ask you. Won't you join me in pledging your financial support on this awesome journey of faith?

Cathy is a member of All Saints Episcopal Church, Pasadena and the President of the TENS board of directors.

Many thanks to the congregation's generosity in supporting Waikiki Youth Outreach (YO!) through the Souper



Bowl of Caring. There was a generous donated assortment of food, socks, boxer shorts, backpacks, and toiletries along with a very generous cash donation and a large assortment of gift cards from places like McDonalds, Foodland, Safeway and Jack-in-the-Box. YO! is the only agency serving homeless youth in Honolulu. They operate a drop-in center in Waikiki and encourage youth participation on their board. Every youth who participates receives a gift card as a thank you for their participation. A big Mahalo to St. Peter's parishioner, Jen Stasch, for coordinating this effort along with Valerie Baldovi.



Lenten Bible Exploration and Discussion - Looking to add an intentional activity to enhance your faith journey this Lent? Join Pastor Diane for Bible exploration and discussion during any of the following times: Wednesdays at 10:30am; Thursdays at 7:15pm following Jazz Vespers; Sundays at 9:15am. We meet in the Tangerine Room (mauka, Ewa corner) of the Parish Hall.



House-A-Family Challenge

Every child deserves a home. Yet we all know homelessness continues to plague our islands. There are simply not enough affordable rentals, and our families compete with those earning much higher incomes. Many landlords require tenants to have credit scores of 650 or higher and earn income three times the rent amount. Even with two full-time working parents, many of our families do not meet these requirements. We provide temporary shelter for homeless families through a network of faith communities that provide accommodation and meals, St. Peter's being one of those churches, but we struggle to find the next step--permanent housing.

To address that problem, we are excited to announce a new program--the House-a-Family Challenge. The House-a-Family Challenge asks us as a congregation to reach out to our networks. Family Promise is challenging each host and support site to find ONE rental for a family. If each faith community that is involved with Family Promise does this, we will have homes for dozens of children and their parents.

The request is simple--connect landlords and rental managers you know with the Family Promise team. Your introduction and good word can go a long way in influencing landlords and rental managers to give families from the Family Promise program a chance. The Family Promise staff will take it from there. Each site or community group that secures a rental will be acknowledged in the Family Promise newsletter with a photo and/or short story about the family who was given a home. The goal is to secure 50 rentals for Family Promise families in 2017.

Contact Christy MacPherson, Family Promise Housing Specialist, with questions, ideas, and your rental connections. Call 548-7478 or email christy@familypromisehawii.org.

The Bishop's Lenten Message

I have just returned from the service of imposition of ashes at the St. Andrew's Schools chapel. I was reminded of both the innocence of youth and the frail reality of our world. Looking out beyond the faces of the boys and girls, I could see past them through the great doors of the Cathedral to the houseless person walking by in the rain. The reality of the simple phrase "[r]emember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" was incarnated all around me. These young ones, like me, are walking along a path that

might drive them far from other people (even to houselessness in the rain), but not from the love of God. I know too well that I have been "deaf to God's call to serve, as Christ served us" and that I "have not been true to the mind of Christ" (see BCP page 267). Yet here I was in the moment of forgiveness with children made in the very image of God. Renewal beckons. Love abounds.

This Lent I am committing myself to seek that forgiveness and love "by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." Specifically, I will be reading (and listening closely to the words of) St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) and studying the Gospel of John. I have much travel in the month of March and that means the quiet of airplanes.

We live in unusual times. I pray that this Lent provides a time for your reflection and renewal for the days ahead. I hope you can find the time to pray and welcome God's love.

Your servant in Christ Jesus, +Bob



Capital Campaign Update

As promised, I am keeping you informed regarding the progress of our Capital Campaign. Fortunately the giving is coming in steadily. The renovation and improvement of St. Peter's building is programmed at \$841,442. Our total capital campaign is projected at \$832,999 (three-year pledges, funds from church reserves, and other sources of funds).

The pledge balance outstanding until 2019 is expected to be \$290,778. Currently our cash on hand is \$553,405. We need \$288,036 to complete the project.

Our loan request has been approved and we are expecting to get a loan to cover the shortage. Of course, if incoming pledges are received in a timely manner, we will need a lower loan amount, which would lower our interest payments.

Again I appreciate greatly your continued financial commitment to this Capital Campaign.

The Facilities Ministry will provide information on the scope of the work as we go forward.

-Pokhui McKinney, Post Campaign Chair

Lenten Soup Suppers

Each Thursday night, following Jazz Vespers (6 pm), a light supper of soup, salad, and bread is served in the Parish Hall. Please join in the fellowship.



Preparing The Ashes For Ash Wednesday



Annual Meeting



**St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Honolulu HI 96813**

**1317 Queen Emma Street
(808) 533-1943**

2017 Vestry

Executive Committee:

Senior Warden: Velma Lee

Junior Warden: Tim Yuen

Rector: The Rev. Diane Martinson

Clerk: Stephanie Wight

Treasurer: Nancy Rowe

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

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

Term expires in 2017: Edmund Choy, Kyle Saito, Jaime Yamane

Joette: stpetershonolulu@gmail.com

Estelle in the Church Office: stpetershonoluluoffice@gmail.com

Pastor Diane: pastordianem@gmail.com