

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

...a faith community in the heart of downtown Honolulu

A Beacon of Hope...A Call to Serve!

October 2017

From the Rector



Time is flying and it's been almost two months since we moved back into the sanctuary. How is that possible? We are still wrapping up building issues, e.g. bringing the a/c units fully online (We have been waiting for HECO. They are scheduled to do the work this week as I write this article!), repair of the Bell Tower window frames, which were covered under a Historic Hawaii Foundation grant that Ruth Merz secured for us, gutter/downspout work that is ongoing, termite protection that is being

discussed, PV discussions, permanent signage which St. Peter's lacks, and other projects, so it's not surprising that it feels like we've been continuing on our way with building projects...because we have!

Nonetheless, we are back in the sanctuary worshipping in a beautiful, renovated space with a new altar window that is a blessing to all of us—a window once dedicated as a memorial to the father of the Rev. Canon Yin Tet Kong (priest of St. Peter's from 1896 to 1927) and dedicated now in memory and honor of lifelong friends, Samuel P.K. Liu and Sarah Kau Kong and The Rev. Ernest Kau, brother of Sarah.

The church is currently drawing on an approved loan amount of \$350,000.00 to cover expenses. Your gifts are continuing to make these repairs and renovations possible for a church that has historic significance and that continues to be a beautiful gift and ministry to the wider community. Thank you for your financial support of these capital efforts. In the church, we speak of three kinds of giving—annual giving which supports our operating budget, capital giving which supports the building improvements which we have undertaken, and legacy giving which are gifts through your estate that continue to bless the ministry of this church for generations to come. **We** are the church, **we** are the ones who make Christ known in the world today, and **we** are blessed by one another through our partnership in this ministry.

Your church leadership is currently planning a **Re-dedication Celebration for Sunday, November 19th at 4:00pm**. This is the Sunday before Thanksgiving and the Sunday when the sanctuary was first dedicated in 1914. Now 103 years later, we will celebrate the enduring presence and ministry of this church. Our Bishop, architects, construction workers, Jazz Vespers community, and the wider community will be invited to celebrate with us. Even one of the participants in the Jazzercise class held at St. Peter's asked if we would be having a celebration because she wants to come! Our tenants, too, have observed the progress over these months. While we continue to care for the physical church, we also continue to move ahead in ministry. The Habitat Lunch Bunch, Knit2Pray2, and Soul Food continue their much appreciated outreach. Our partnership with Central Middle School and our

neighborhood partners continues to grow. Conversations are in process

regarding partnership with our neighbors and/or being a site for new ministry opportunities—a low income senior food distribution through the Food Bank and adult literacy and English as a second language classes through the Hawaii Literacy program. Our youth and their families are discussing a trip to Houston this summer to attend a gathering of 30,000 ELCA high school youth to which our youth have been invited as Episcopalians.

There is much happening at St. Peter's! In the midst of all that is occurring within our church and within our neighborhood, we cannot forget the wider world. We live in a time when seeds of division are being sown. We are a community that lives according to the gospel of Jesus Christ and calls us to love God and to love one another. Our baptismal vows call us to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves and to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being. It is our calling to be this voice in the world. We need to be here as the church and to continue to pray for God's guidance in being disciples of Jesus in this world. Thank you for being part of this journey through the community of St. Peter's.

Pastor Diane

“WE ARE
THE
OF
THE

Episcopal BRANCH
Jesus movement”

—Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Pet Sunday in honor of St. Francis of Assisi!

October 1, 2017

Worship Services: 7:30am and 10:00am



In celebration of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4th, St. Peter's is celebrating its third annual "Pet Sunday" October 1st! We welcome your pets or photos of your pets as we remember St. Francis and celebrate the special

relationships we share with our pets. Your pets will be invited to receive a blessing at either of our Sunday morning services--7:30am and 10:00am.

Special treats will be available!

**Please bring your pet on its appropriate leash or in its appropriate crate/cage. If you need hygiene assistance, please see one of the special "pet ushers".*

Allergic? The greeters will direct you to the pet free seating zone.

Checking in with Jesand Amodo

St. Peter's Media Specialist, Jesand Amodo, who has



been with us for almost four years, has embarked on a new career journey in teaching! She has been working as a Program Leader for After School All Stars for the past two months, right across the street at Central Middle School, teaching Hip Hop/Rap and Film. ASAS is a nonprofit organization that

uses after school sports and enrichment classes to teach kids life skills in a fun and safe environment.

In addition, Jesand will begin teaching as a Business instructor for Remington College in October! Jesand describes this year as a whirlwind of events and she feels very blessed to have found such a rewarding career path.

And we are happy to report that she will continue with media activities at St. Peter's.

Shoes and Slippers, Oh My! Michele Baldovi



Thank you to all of you who have participated in the slippers drive for Dole Middle School. Shoes and slippers are needed all year and will be gratefully received at any time.



Youth Grades 8-12, Parents, Grandparents - Mark Your Calendars - Sunday, October 8th, at 4:00pm.

An introductory get together for youth and parents/grandparents to learn about the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston next summer will include a skype **Q & A session** with Amanda Pulos, gathering coordinator for our region. You will be able to ask any and all questions that you have and even those you might not know that you have! Youth and pastors from two other churches (Lutheran Church of Honolulu and Calvary by the Sea) will be there too.

October 8th is an informational meeting and not a commitment to attend the gathering. Registration materials will be available and explained. Please come and learn more about this **AWESOME** opportunity! RSVP to Pastor Diane.

The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering will bring together 30,000 youth from around the country during the week of June 27 to July 1, 2018. Youth currently in 8th through 12th grade are eligible to attend. We are going to have a **BLAST!**

Highlights from the September 19th Vestry Meeting

Velma Lee, Senior Warden

The repair of the window frames in the Bell Tower has been completed! Following a report to the Hawai'i Historic Foundation, the HHF grant will be released to the church.

The tile on the church lanai needs to be cleaned. Vestry members are exploring companies who may be able to do the work.

AAA Termite & Pest Control, contractor at the Priory, will perform a formal inspection of the termite status of the church and parish hall.

The Annual Recognition of St. Peter's Elders will be October 15th when 16 Nonagenarians and one centenarian will be honored.

A technician from Rogers organ company will repair the organ pipes and as much as he can during the week of Nov. 6-10.

The parish hall floor will be cleaned and waxed on Nov. 10-11 by the AA group. Other sprucing up of the church will occur on Nov. 4 from 9-11 am for polishing the brass items, and on Nov. 11 from 9-11 am for polishing the pews and walls.

The Re-dedication of the Sanctuary will be Sunday, November. 19th at 4:00 p.m. Plans are underway for this special celebration to thank everyone who participated in the renovation.

Ken Kau has begun work on the updated St. Peter's Pictorial Directory for 2018. Please let him know if a new photo of you or your family is needed. Otherwise, he will use the four year old photo of you or your family.

Blue Zones: What is This All About? How Do We Fit In?

Jaime Yamane



I admit it; I like to watch The Dr. Oz Show from time to time and am one of those people who can become consumed with reading the latest buzz about how to live a healthy life. So, more than 10 years ago, when I first heard the term "Blue Zones" to describe the characteristic lifestyles and environments of the world's longest lived people, I was quite captivated. The term first appeared in 2005 as the National Geographic Magazine cover story by Dan Buettner, "The Secrets of a Long Life," in which he identified five areas with the highest percentage of individuals who have reached their 100th birthday, a rate of ten times greater than the average person in the United States. Particular regions of Greece, Sardinia, Costa Rica, Loma Linda and Okinawa, Japan, claim the title. Wouldn't it be

incredible if the individuals in our congregation, no matter what age, could follow this secret recipe to longevity and enhance the quality of our lives?

What are the common lifestyle denominators amongst these places? A team of medical researchers, anthropologists, demographers and epidemiologists arrived at nine characteristics highlighting the lifestyle of Blue Zones people. Buettner subsequently wrote a best seller and took the topic to Oprah, TED Talks, to Bill Clinton's Health Matters Initiative, and yes, appeared on The Dr. Oz Show. This led to an effort focused on quality of life and longevity of the general population in the United States. Partnerships with AARP and health care providers have resulted in "Blue Zones Projects" to build healthier cities and communities across the country. A pilot city in Minnesota has added almost 3 years to participants' lives and a 49% decrease in health care claims. Here in Hawaii, the Blue Zones project is a community wide well-being initiative aimed at helping individuals make better choices, which will in turn increase productivity, lower health costs and enable people to enjoy an enhanced quality of life.

Let's see how we at St. Peter's can improve our lives by acquainting ourselves with the "Power 9" lessons! The Nurture & Outreach Committee likes to think of this effort as the "Nurture" part of our mission, to care for/malama our congregation.

- 1) Regular, moderate physical activity
- 2) Life purpose
- 3) Stress reduction
- 4) Moderate caloric intake
- 5) Plant-based diet
- 6) Moderate alcohol intake
- 7) Engagement in spirituality or religion
- 8) Engagement in family life
- 9) Engagement in social life

These nine lessons will be explored over the course of the next several newsletters so that we will hopefully take some of these principles to heart and change our lives for the better. For now, I am very excited to tell you that #7 above, "Engagement in spirituality or religion," directly involves us in a meaningful and impactful way. Did you know that belonging to a faith-based community such as St. Peter's can add up to 14 years to your life? That may explain why we have so many nonagenarians, and even some centenarians, in our congregation!



Green Faith at St. Peters

Elizabeth Winternitz

Climate refugees are nothing new. Jacob, son of Isaac, fled with his entire family from Canaan to Egypt to survive; for famine had become "severe throughout the world." They ultimately came to "reside as aliens in the land," and were made welcome there. (Genesis 41:57; 47:4)

Like their biblical predecessors, today's climate refugees flee their homes, and come to "reside as aliens in the land." Most climate refugees from Micronesia find themselves "as aliens" in Hawaii. The island nations of Micronesia are among the places most threatened by climate change. Many are atolls that lie just a few feet above sea level; stronger storms, beach erosion and sea level changes have eroded coasts, destroying ancestral homes and agriculture, and infiltrating freshwater reservoirs. Many don't want to leave, and resist the idea their homes might become uninhabitable.¹ The social, cultural, and psychological impacts of dislocation are enormous, and this wave of climate change refugees is rapidly swelling, joining the growing ranks of environmental refugees worldwide.²

The Bible has a great deal to say about the care of the land. According to Yale Divinity School professor Ellen Davis, "you can't go more than a few chapters without seeing some reference to land, water, its health, its lack of health, the absence of fertile soil and water." She recognized there is a "huge gap between the kind of exquisite attention that the biblical writers are giving to the fragile land on which they live and the kind of obliviousness that characterizes our culture in respect to our use of land."³

Beginning to unpack how we share responsibility for the very climate change that is displacing Micronesians, requires we unflinchingly examine our participation in structural injustice, or what Franciscan monk, Richard Rohr, calls "structural sin." According to Rohr, it is difficult for us to see the evil we are inside of, a system built on colonization, capitalism, and consumerism. As he puts it, "Our culture is built upon the idea that there's not enough, that we must always seek more – at others' expense."⁴

We are called, as Christians, to care for all of God's creation, including one another. As the sixteenth century Carmelite nun, St. Theresa of Avila, wrote in her poem "Christ Has No Body:"

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

¹ Scientific American, "As Pacific Islands Flood, A Climate-Driven Exodus Grows." September 9, 2013

² For instance, according to the National Geographic, scientists predict Bangladesh will lose 17 percent of its land by 2050 due to flooding caused by climate change. The loss of land could lead to as many as 20 million climate refugees from Bangladesh.

³ Krista Tippett, *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*. Penguin Press, 2016

⁴ Center for Contemplation and Action, *Daily Meditation*, Tuesday, September 19, 2017.



Christian Formation for Youth

Changes coming for the Rock Group - Christian Formation gatherings for the "Rock Group" will be a little different this year.



Young people from both St. Peter's and St. Andrew's congregations, in grades 5 through 8, are invited to gather monthly to participate in special events planned by their adult teaching team. We hope this abbreviated, but enriched schedule will appeal to our young folks as well as their families.

Schedule is as follows. (details will arrive in an e-mail to families)

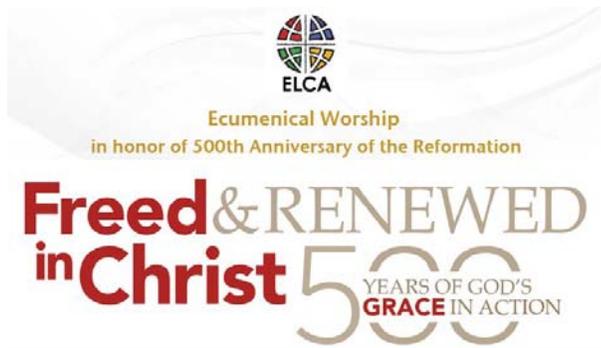
Rock Group gatherings for the 2017-2018 school year.

- October 29: Saints, Heroes, Martyrs and regular folks!
- November 26: Make an Advent Wreath and take it home.
- December 17: Christmas Pageant practice (you are never too old to be a sheep, angel, narrator or director)
- January 14: New Year service project
- February 18: Beads + Prayers = Prayer Beads (we will be making and using them)
- March 15/16: participation with HIM (Hawaiian Islands Ministry) youth seminar and concert. (Many more details to follow)
- April 8: Labyrinth walking. The most influential journey you can make without leaving home.
- May and June dates and topics are TBA.

This group meets in the "Sun/Son" Room located at the rear of St. Peter's Parish Hall. (enter from the outside).

Sessions begin 9AM and conclude by 9:50AM. (Food is always involved) Hope to see you there.

Contact Stephanie Wight with any questions.



In recognition of the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the Cathedral of St. Andrew will hold an ecumenical worship service on Saturday, October 14th at 3:00 p.m. The Rev. Dr. David Lose, preacher at this service, is Senior Pastor of Mount Olivet Church in Minneapolis, MN, a faith community of 14,000 members. He also served as President of Lutheran School of Theology in Philadelphia and taught on the faculty of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN for 14 years where he was Academic Dean and director of the Center for Biblical Preaching.



Dr. Lose will also offer a lecture and conversation on the Reformation and its historical importance, how it helped us get where we are today, and what it means moving into the future. The free lecture will be Sunday, October 15th 2-4 p.m. in Tenney Theater at the Cathedral of St. Andrew.

Have you considered leaving a gift for the church in your will?

The Episcopal Church often refers to theology as a three-legged stool--equal reliance on scripture, tradition, and reason. Likewise, the financial well-being of a church is dependent upon three forms of giving--annual giving that supports the operating budget, special "above and beyond" capital campaign giving that support projects such as we just undertook, and legacy gifts that form an endowment ensuring a healthy future for the church. If you haven't considered a legacy gift to the church in your will, now is a great time to do that. In this way, you can continue to bless the ministry of this church long after you are gone. Speak with your estate planning attorney regarding options that are available to you, and thank you!



Did you respond to the Time and Talent Survey? Please help shape St. Peter's future ministries with your preferences. Surveys are on the greeters' tables in the sanctuary or on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Electronic Giving

Support the work of St. Peter's through electronic giving. Have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from your credit card or debit card and transferred directly to the church account safely and electronically. You'll never have to remember your checkbook again. AND it's easy. Visit our website and click the Donate button. Set up and manage recurring donations, make one-time contributions, and view your online giving history.

A new option to offset the payment card processing fee has just been added. Select this box and the processing fee will be shown and added to your transaction.

Elders' Recognition Sunday

The Annual Recognition of St. Peter's Elders will be October 15th when 16 nonagenarians and one centenarian will be honored. A special coffee hour will follow each service. Our centenarian is Eleanor Chang. The 16 nonagenarians are: Annette Besvold, Violet Chew, Bernard Ching, Rosie Ching, Barbara Chung, Miriam Everhart, Nora Fong, Lily Ing, Stanley Kau, Velma Kim, Theodora "Teddy" Luke, Lynda Pang, Helena Won, Adrienne Yee, Laura Young, and Alfred Yuen.

This year we also fondly remember two of our nonagenarians, Eleanor Kashiwada and Gladys Ho, and one centenarian, Roberta Dang, who was our oldest member. Roberta celebrated her 101st birthday on August 21st and passed away on September 23rd. Her funeral will be October 28th at St. Peter's.

St. Peter's Church 2018 Parish Directory



In the next few weeks members of the directory committee will begin collecting and/or updating member information for the new photo directory to be published at the beginning of the year. The church photographers will schedule sessions for those who have become part of St. Peter's since the last directory was published and those who wish to update their photo. Watch for details in the weekly bulletin.



Jazz Vespers at St. Peter's Thursdays, 6:00 pm

Light refreshments from 5:30PM

Following the service, home made soup and fellowship.

Join us for **Jazz Vespers** on **Thursday evenings**, featuring Reggie Padilla (Saxophonist), Dan Del Negro (Pianist), Jon Hawes (Bass), and Starr Kalahiki (Vocals). Experience a unique mix of prayer, reflection on scripture, and music in the beauty of St. Peter's worship space. For more information, visit the Jazz Vespers page by clicking [here](#). Jazz Vespers begin at **6:00pm**.

Join us for a soup & salad fellowship in the Parish Hall following the Jazz Vespers.
All welcome!

**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 2019: Edmund Choy, Kyle Saito, Jaime Yamane

Joette: stpetershonolulu@gmail.com

Estelle in the Church Office: stpetershonoluluoffice@gmail.com

Pastor Diane: pastordianem@gmail.com