



September 2018

Called to Dirt

September 2nd sermon by The Rev. Dcn. Jazzy Bostock
Scripture reading: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

God, help us to remember that we are but dust, and to dust we shall return. Amen.

Over the years, the Pharisees have gotten a bad reputation. We hear Pharisee, and we think to ourselves – oh, gross. I know them. The religious elite, who always had it in for Jesus. But I think we might have more in common with them than we think.



Pharisees were part of a religious sect, we might call it a denomination, which was big into rules and traditions. Hmm. Sound familiar?

All of a sudden, now, I hear Jesus words' not for the Pharisees. But for me, for us, for the Episcopal Church. The Pharisees have become so embedded in the details. About washing their hands, and who is defiling

the space, the rules and rituals that must be followed: "we do things like this, not like that", they seem to be muttering to one another – they have forgotten how freely the Spirit moves – how unbridled our God is.

I remember, when I was in seminary, searching for a place where I could fulfill my internship credit. This meant, basically, looking online for episcopal churches in the area and visiting on Sunday. Unlike some of my classmates, I didn't like to introduce myself to the priest or make it known that I was coming. I liked to slip in the back, and observe, to see what I could tell about the culture of the place from their service. In one church I went to, there were some small kids running around. I settled in. I thought this was a good sign. They got more and more rambunctious, as the service went on. The priest was getting flustered – Finally, about midway through his sermon, he cleared his throat. "Parents, could you please watch your children? I can't hear myself!" he said. I quietly got my things and walked out.

While, yes, a sermon is important, it is not the only way to hear God's word! God can be felt and seen and heard and experienced as much through those children running around as through the words of a priest. Nobody has a monopoly on God.

In our reading today, the Pharisees have built these rules around defilement. They want to keep everything pure, to keep it safe, to keep it holy. But the thing is, when Jesus is birthed into the world, in a messy barn, and laid in a manger full of hay, with cows and goats and sheep beside Him – He shows us that holiness isn't about being all cleaned up Freshly scrubbed and in your Sunday best. Holiness is about wholeness –

bringing the entirety of yourself to God, and allowing God to use you, where you are, in the state you are, to reach the people around you.

The Pharisees have built up all of these rules around how God behaves, the right way to worship, the rituals that must be in place, and Jesus comes in to this scene and gives us a completely opposite teaching. It is not what goes in to the mouth, but that which comes out, which defiles. There is no amount of ritual we can create that will confine the movement of the Holy among us.

We might have rules about who can celebrate the Eucharist and how we receive it. But in fact, gathered around a thanksgiving table, with family, breaking bread, Jesus is there, too. This, too, is a kind of communion.

We might have patterns to our worship, a particular number of hymns, and recitation of creeds, but in fact, sometimes, when I am driving alone, I feel a sense of worship and wonder at the beauty around me. We might have ideas about what a worship space should look like, the configuring of the pews, the altar at the front, but in fact, Jesus says that wherever two or three are gathered, God is in the midst of them. We might try to build walls around the experience of God, but in fact, God is wild, and unruly, and shatters all of our expectations.

The Pharisees here haven't done anything wrong. It is important to remember that they are trying to lead a people in worship – to stay true to the traditions they have inherited, and to maintain a natural order of things. But, Jesus isn't interested in

maintaining boundaries around who is in, and who is out. Jesus is interested in inviting all. No one is too dirty to sit at a table with him. We are a people of dust, and dirt, and grime. In Genesis we have been made of muddy clay. In Jesus' words in this gospel, we are reminded of all the ways in which our human hearts are broken. Inside of us, we have malice and anger, Jealousy, greed, and pretension. We are dirty. But, not too dirty for God. God looks on us with all of our human failings, and loves us fiercely. Instead of creating rules, or restricting access, Jesus comes down into the mess and the mire with us, and touches our faces, and washes our feet, and eats with us.

Our challenge in this gospel, I think, is to see this radical hospitality, this open, unbridledness of God, And to loosen the rules we so tightly cling to. To be willing to see the ways God is still speaking, still moving in the world. To open ourselves up to God in the world around us.

This openness is scary. There is safety in walls, safety in boundaries. But God is not just in here, but out there God is with the vulnerable, the broken, and the least. And by shutting them out, we shut God out.

Good gifts are given not from our own goodness, but from the goodness of God. While we alone might not have the capacity to live open-heartedly, tenderly, boldly, with one another, God gives us the strength and the capacity to do so. Our religion, then, is not self seeking, or ego-driven, but rather driven by the desire to have an encounter with the Living God, one which transforms us, and transforms the world.

We are not to be hearers of the Word who deceive ourselves – but doers of it.

Amen.

From the Rector

“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?... Truly I tell you, as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me.” Matthew 25:37-40



A new ministry has begun in our neighborhood! It is providing dignity and hope to our houseless neighbors. This once a month program began August 16th, when the HieHie shower trailer (This is a mobile trailer with three shower compartments within it.) was set up on the grounds of Harris United

Methodist along with service providers from IHS (Institute of Human Services) offering housing, employment, and other legal and social services. On August 16th, St. Peter's members, Velma Lee and Haroldwyn Chang, provided hospitality with coffee and healthy sack lunches complete with a prayer for the guests. Diane Matsuura, a member of Harris United Methodist who checked in the guests, had this to say about her experience of that day: *“This was a truly inspiring morning! I wondered about each guest's situation, what their story is and thought, for that short time, they were received with love and respect regardless of their life circumstances. It was a privilege to serve them and work with all of you, our awesome partners. Thanks to all and we look forward to seeing everyone again next month!”*

Pastor Rona Mangayayam of Harris expressed her gratitude: *“I give thanks to God because of all of you and my heart is still beating with joy! Our ministry/ program this morning flowed very well because of all the hard work you did. Our first guest arrived a few minutes after 9:00 am and others just keep coming in. All of you were making sure that they are directed to where they could get their clothes, coffee, shower and other services. I am very inspired by your hospitality, welcoming our guests/neighbors and making them feel at home. You planted seeds of hope to everyone and God must be smiling.”*

Jake Rachels from the HieHie shower team wrote: *“Yesterday's success was a great example of our community's potential when working together! We would like to thank each of you for your time, passion, attentiveness, hospitality, and hard work! The HiEHIE team provided 18 showers yesterday! Furthermore, as we were often the first to greet individuals entering the property, we witnessed the changed expressions of those who entered the social hall and felt the outpouring of love shared there. This change in countenance is something we often see after a shower, but it was truly special to see it before the shower as well. And again, this is a testament to the aloha shared and the event's effectiveness. Mahalo nui loa to all and we can't wait to work with you again!”*

Therein lies the key to the importance of this ministry— not only is it connecting those who are troubled, economically, emotionally, spiritually, with necessary services, but it is also providing these brothers and sisters with dignity through the very fundamental experience of a warm shower in which to clean up and be refreshed and then a set of fresh, clean clothes. The morning ritual of showering and refreshing ourselves before sitting down to a cup of hot coffee is a luxury of dignity that those who are struggling or lost on our streets do not typically have. We now have the

means to offer that in our neighborhood while at the same time working to connect these folks with services that can improve their lives.

From the moment Bishop Michael Curry became Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, he called us to be "the Jesus movement." At this summer's General Convention, Bishop Curry asked every Episcopalian "to make a commitment to throw yourself into the hands of Jesus, and then live life out of that." He offered a "rule of life" that he calls "The Way of Love."

- TURN: Pause, listen and choose to follow Jesus.
- LEARN: Reflect on Scripture each day, especially on Jesus' life and teachings.
- PRAY: Dwell intentionally with God each day.
- WORSHIP: Gather in community weekly to thank, praise and dwell with God.
- BLESS: Share faith and unselfishly give and serve.
- GO: Cross boundaries, listen deeply and live like Jesus.
- REST: Receive the gift of God's grace, peace and restoration.

Explaining "The Way of Love" to his diocese, Olympia Bishop Greg Rickel said this, "Any rule of life takes practice, and really that's the point, practice. In a sense we never stop practicing. It's a lifelong practice, one most of us never get to be perfect, but in this, the practice is the gift." This way of living into the "The Way of Love" involves spiritual formation as well as working for justice in the world as Jesus' followers. Our neighborhood, collaborative effort offered every third Thursday of the month, 9:30am-12:30pm, at Harris United Methodist is one way to put the "the Way of Love" into practice. We need a coordinator for this new ministry as well as meal support. Might God be leading you to consider this? Please speak with me, Rev. Jazzy, Elizabeth Winternitz, or Velma Lee if you can assist with this ministry. If you are free on the third Thursday (The next date is Sept. 20th.), do stop by to see this ministry in action for yourself!

Pastor Diane

Hie Hie at Harris

Velma Lee and Haroldwyn Chang



On August 16, St. Peter's and Harris United Methodist Church participated in an I.H.S. community outreach project called the Hie Hie Hygiene Center. The "Center" is a 26-foot trailer with three shower stalls and guests have a maximum of 15 minutes to shower.

Water comes from the church's spigot and is heated through coils. Toiletries and towels were provided by Hie Hie. Harris provided a change of clothes. The CHOW (Community Health Outreach Work) Project provided ziploc bags of travel size toiletries and a comb/brush.

St. Peter's provided the morning coffee and granola bars and prepared sack lunches to go. The sack lunch included a ham, cheese, turkey, salami and lettuce sandwich along with a bag of chips, a clementine and a bottle of water. Pastor Diane, Rev. Jazzy, Haroldwyn and Velma made up the first team. Although the schedule was from 10-noon, guests arrived a half hour early and we arrived a half hour late. The 30 sandwiches took longer to prepare than anticipated. In September we will aim to be there by 9:30 am. We also gave them a huge box of 10 sets of towels of various sizes, and a large sack of various bottles of shampoo, conditioner, & body wash, which were gratefully received.

Our partnership with Harris and Hie Hie will be the third Thursday of every month. Please let Pastor Diane, Rev. Jazzy, Elizabeth Winternitz, or Velma Lee know if you can spare a few hours to help prepare the sandwiches, pack the lunches and serve them on the counter at Harris.



CHOIR BEGINS!! It will be great to have the choir back and I look forward to the season ahead. Rehearsals will be on Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:15 and on Sunday mornings at 9. We would love for you to join us! Our first

Sunday to sing will be Sept 9. The rehearsal schedule is kept up to date on our church website: <http://www.stpetershonolulu.org/music-ministry.html>

What do we do at rehearsal? We definitely have fun making music! We'll start with some warm-ups, sing through a couple of hymns (especially if they are new!), learn some anthems and we end with Compline where we have an opportunity to add our own prayers. You don't have to be a musician or even read music to join us. It is a group that loves music and we help and support each other. Contact me for more information! josepheppink@gmail.com or 225.7906.

UKULELES RETURN!! Do you play ukulele or want to learn? We have an awesome group of ukulele folks that play on Sunday mornings. They rehearse right after the 10:00 service for about 15-20 minutes. This group is amazing at helping each other with the music! We'd love for you to join us. Our first Sunday to play and have a rehearsal will be Sept 23. Contact Barbara for more information! barkvlachos@gmail.com or 258-8401

Bishop's Annual Visitation



Bishop Fitzpatrick will be with us on **Sunday, September 23rd** when he will preach at both services and meet with the congregation during both coffee hours. The Bishop visits each congregation in the diocese every year alternating between Sunday worship visits and social visits. The Sunday visit provides opportunities for the members of

the congregation to meet with him in a variety of ways to share mutual concerns and joys of the ministry of the congregation and the diocese.

Please help us welcome Bishop Bob!

Receiving Holy Communion

Holy Communion is the sacrament of the church in which we fully receive Christ's presence in the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ. Through this sacrament we are strengthened in our walk as Christ's disciples in this world. In August, Bishop Bob offered guidelines on receiving Holy Communion in this diocese. You can read those guidelines on the diocesan website at the following link:

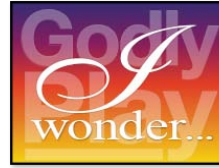
http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/uploads/2/5/4/8/25486559/diocesan_guidelines_on_receiving_holy_communion.pdf

Bishop Bob encourages drinking from the common cup as a visible symbol of our unity in the Body of Christ. Intinction, the dipping of the bread/wafer in the wine by oneself or by a priest who then places the bread/wafer on the tongue, is a secondary method. The third method is to receive the sacrament "in one kind" (typically just the bread alone) for reasons of personal health or wellbeing or because of personal piety and practice. Typically, this is practiced by taking the bread alone and then crossing one's arms over the chest when the wine is offered. Those who are not baptized or those who, although baptized, decide not to receive the sacrament for personal or spiritual reasons, are invited and encouraged to come for a blessing. This is also indicated by crossing one's arms over the chest.



If you are interested in the sacrament of baptism or further discussion regarding the sacrament of Holy Communion, please speak with Pastor Diane or Rev. Jazzy. The sacraments are God's gifts in our life with Christ. Through them Christ is fully present and with you. Thanks be to God!

Christian formation gatherings for children are beginning this Sunday September 9, 2018. Young people from both services are invited to participate. Those attending the 7:30 AM worship are encouraged to come to the parish hall at the service conclusion, enjoy some delicious



hospitality and then gather in "the Loft" (located on the old stage), enter through the kitchen or the Diamond Head door at the back of the parish and up the stairs. Young people and their families who regularly attend 10:00 AM worship are encouraged to come directly to the "Loft" at 9:00AM. Families coming with their children are welcome to join the hospitality time and participate in the adult formation offerings.

In other words, children ages 4 through grade 5 are most welcome to join us in "Godly Play", Sundays 9:00 - 9:50 AM. Families will be asked to register their children in order for us to provide a safe and caring environment in the classroom. (These forms are available in the classroom).

The children in the "Loft" will be working with stories from the Bible, in the manner of "Godly Play". The stories presented will be appropriate for the church seasons, but will not strictly follow the Lectionary readings. In "Godly Play" classroom, our time together is part play and prayer, part stories and reflection, part praise and thanksgiving and entirely wrapped in a loving caring Christian community.

Beth Young from St. Andrews' and Stephanie Wight from St. Peter's are the leaders for the "Godly Play" group. Please feel free to contact either of us.

P.S. Church membership is not a requirement to participate in "Godly Play", all children are welcome.



Next Movie Night hosted by Paula Choy and Sheri Yoshida
Friday, October 5th
Featured Film: *Wonder*

Following the hurricane-forced cancellation of the August 24th showing of *The Shack*, the next movie night date will be Friday, October 5. Hosted by Sheri Yoshida and Paula Choy, dinner will be provided. Dinner begins at 5:30pm with the movie to follow. The movie is *Wonder*, a heartwarming story for the entire family about love and sacrifice, courage and triumph over bullying and adversity, starring Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson as parents, Izabela Vidovic as the older sister, and Jacob Tremblay as "Auggie," the boy we come to love.

Central Middle School Needs You!

Needed: Classroom Aide for the 6th grade STEM teacher who can work with 12-15 students (half of the class) while the STEM teacher works with the other half of the class in the school aquaponics garden.

Task: Ms. Moylan, the STEM teacher, will prepare a lesson for the volunteer, or there is flexibility for the volunteer to prepare a lesson, art project, etc. of interest to the volunteer.

Days: Mondays and Fridays; Initial dates for September include: **September 8 and 10 and September 24 and 29.** CMS hopes that this partnership will continue through the school year.

Time: Three 45 minute teaching blocks--9:51am, 1:03pm, 1:52pm (The afternoon blocks are back-to-back.). Volunteers may provide coverage for one, two, or all three teaching blocks. By facilitating all blocks, the volunteer would get to know all the 6th graders at Central Middle School!

The Monday and Friday classes are different groups of students, so the same lesson plan would be facilitated during each 45 minute block in any given week.

This is an immediate need opportunity! Please contact Pastor Diane for details.

K2P2 - How God is Knitting Us Together Blessing of the Knitting

Sunday, September 16th at both Services

The second and fourth Saturday of each month at about 9:30 a.m. you can find a group of knitters laughing and knitting somewhere on St. Peter's campus. The Sun/Son Room has become the permanent home because of the excellent lighting and air conditioning. K2P2 is a charity knitting group, but everyone is encouraged to work on our own projects as well. Items lovingly crafted will be blessed on September 16th before they are sent off to Seamen's Church Institute and the Pineridge Indian Reservation. Baby blankets and lap robes stay at St. Peter's for our ministries.



Ready to learn to knit? Or just to knit with fun folks? Please join the group.

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

Quick Thoughts

- ✓ **Pauoa Cemetery Plots** The Chinese Christian Cemetery Association is selling 12 plots at Pauoa Cemetery. For members of St. Peter's Church, the cost is only \$1,000 per plot, which is a bargain because at other O'ahu cemeteries the charge is between \$3,000-\$10,000 per plot. The price is valid only until December 31, 2018 after which the price will double. If interested, please contact the Church Office.
- ✓ **The Braeded Chord** Friday, September 14, 6pm, St. Elizabeth's. A musical duo, Sharon Dennis and Doris Au MacDonald, sister of our friend Kathy Crosier, have released six CDs of original work that draws from acoustic folk, jazz, rock, and gospel influences. With that, they write, perform, teach, and lead worship and train others to do the same. They write using multiple genres for an intergenerational audience and attempt to reach as many as possible with their music and message. They have received recognition for their songwriting and performance. Weaving guitar, piano, and lyrics, they have played throughout the U.S. and internationally to Kenya, Haiti, Lebanon, and Northern Ireland. Now you can hear them at our sister church, St. Elizabeth's. Mark your calendars for a fun and inspirational evening!
- ✓ Conversation with Whitney Blandford, development manager of **Family Promise**, September 9th at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Learn more about the work of Family Promise in its effort to mobilize existing community resources to aid families with children experiencing homelessness and help them transition to sustainable independence. St. Peter's is a partner church, providing a meal quarterly to families participating in the program.
- ✓ **Church Audit Completed** Mahalo to the audit team of Sim Kau, Chair; Janet Kim, Kyle Saito, and Robert Wight who reviewed the financial records and protective systems in place for 2017. The committee's report was presented to the vestry and to the diocese.



Lunch for Hie Hie at Harris

Memorial Garden of Peace

Steve Mitchell

St. Peter's has an open-air Columbarium on the mauka side of the church that serves as a final resting place of beauty and serenity for those parishioners, family members, and other Episcopalians who desire inurnment.

A few reasons to consider St. Peter's Columbarium are:

- ❖ The St. Peter's columbarium provides a place of remembrance for families wanting that connection with the church throughout all of life's great events. The church wants to be there through all of life's phases, from celebrating births and marriages, to commemorating a life once lived and all of those wonderful and challenging days in-between. The columbarium provides the congregation with that close connection to those who once passed through the church doors.
- ❖ The columbarium is a monument that honors past members of the congregation who have contributed to the church community. A well designed and beautifully constructed columbarium not only acts as a meaningful architectural feature to the church landscape but it also represents the historical contribution and legacy of those who helped to build the faith community.
- ❖ The columbarium provides a service for church members by providing a meaningful place of interment. After the funeral service, the congregation can simply walk outside together for the interment ceremony. There is no need to drive to the cemetery. The entire funeral service can remain on the church property: from the service, to the interment, to the family gathering.
- ❖ Paying respects is much easier for families as they can visit the columbarium whenever they attend church, church meetings or those times when they wish to be closer to their place of spiritual connection.
- ❖ Visitations to the columbarium garden also reinforce the meaningful connection with the family's faith and church. It provides a close link to the community that cares about them and the family they love.
- ❖ Cremation Statistics in 2017 are projected to have surpassed in-ground burial 51.6% to 42.3 %. By 2030 the National Funeral Directors Association is projecting statistics to increase to 71.1% to 23.2%. The trend towards cremation is fast becoming the norm.



Senior Warden's Corner

Velma Lee, Senior Warden



Many thanks to Jaime Yamane for spearheading the Signage Task Force! After several months of planning, the three signs are now posted on the front of the church. Mahalo nui loa to the families of Steve and Gladys Ho, as well as Helena Won, who donated the funds in memory of their loved ones.

The Chinese Christian Cemetery Association is fortunate to have Willis Yap as the new President and Myron Chang as the new Treasurer. We give thanks to Jerry Liu, who faithfully served many years as the Treasurer!

The Vestry passed two motions regarding the budget midyear review and proposed changes, as well as an update to the gift acceptance policy to include retirement of gifts when appropriate. Also, the Audit Report prepared by Robert Wight, Janet Kim, Kyle Saito, and Sim Kau was accepted by the Vestry.

There are several Diocesan Lay positions that are open for nominations:

Diocesan Council = one 3-year
 Standing Committee = one 4-year
 Cathedral Chapter = one 2-year
 Secretary to the Convention = 1-year term

If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Diane.

Jazz Vespers, September 13, 6pm (Homemade soup and fellowship to follow in the Parish Hall) - **A SPECIAL evening!**

Have you been to Jazz Vespers lately? A special evening is planned for Thursday, September



13th. The **Braeded Chord**, an acoustic guitar and piano musical duo, **will be joining our regular band.** Sharon Dennis and Doris Au MacDonald of The Braeded Chord have one mission: to make music and faith music in particular accessible to all! A light supper and fellowship follow in the parish hall.

Habitat Home Dedication



Laureen Kukino was honored at the completion of her home renovation by The Honolulu Habitat for Humanity with a



dedication celebration.

St. Peter's Habitat Lunch Bunch fed the volunteers who built Laureen's home. If you are interested in being part of the Lunch Bunch Ministry, please contact Elizabeth Winternitz, ewinrus@gmail.com. The group can usually be found in the St. Peter's kitchen on the second Saturday of the month at 9ish.

Pictured above: Steve Mitchell with Laureen Kukino; Pictured right: Steve Mitchell with Jim Murphy, Honolulu Habitat Executive Director

Thinking About Stewardship

Rev. Dcn. Jazzy Bostock

This is the first salaried position I've ever had. And, in part because of that, it is also the first time in my life I have had to think about tithing. Don't get me wrong – I've always put some loose change into the offering plate when it was passed around on Sunday morning. And, I think for some time I even pledged – but it was a nominal amount, and I wrote the check all at once. It wasn't based on much other than the amount of cash I had in my wallet at the time.

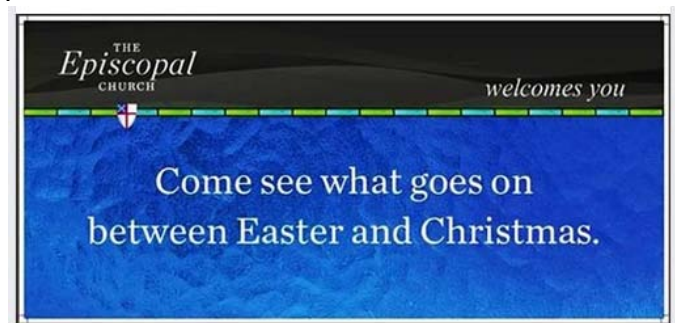
Through my time in seminary, I gave an offering when I was in church and remembered – which usually meant Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. Again, it was

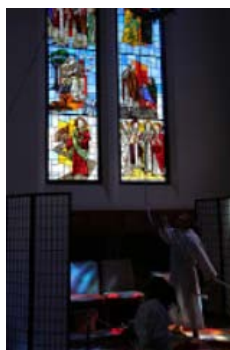
usually the small change I had with me – no more than \$5, and it was never something I kept track of.

Knowing I was going to be in a real job, and a salaried position, where I could depend on my paycheck (as opposed to other hourly positions I've had which make calculating things difficult), I began to ask some of my friends. How do you pledge? Do you tithe? Do you calculate the ten percent before taxes? After? Before social security gets taken out? Do you do it all at once, or every month? Every paycheck? From this curiosity, I had some of the most interesting conversations with friends. As many of you know, Yale Divinity is an ecumenical school – there are lots of different denominations, not just Episcopal. So, people ran the spectrum of practices when it came to pledging and offering money. For some, they were exposed to their parents practices – for some, they had to make their own commitment and practice. One of the common denominators between us was that we were all trying to do the right thing – all trying to be faithful stewards of our financial resources.

Conversations about money are hard to have – but they are important. In some ways, where we put our money determines what we focus on – and what our focus becomes. Tithing isn't always putting money only towards the church – some people spread their pledge (or would-be-pledge) money over a few organizations, giving some to the church and some to other nonprofits.

I don't think pledging is about an amount, or a percentage, or even giving all of our charitable gifts to the church. I think, rather, it can be a way to more intentionally choose where our focus in the world is. It can be a way to look for where God is at work, and become part of it.





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

**1317 Queen Emma Street
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2018 Vestry

Senior Warden: Velma Lee
Junior Warden: Terry Dang

Clerk: Karin Kimura
Treasurer: Nancy Rowe

Rector: The Rev. Diane Martinson
Curate: The Rev. Dcn. Jasmine Bostock

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

Term expires in 2019: Edmund Choy, Kyle Saito, Jaime Yamane

Term expires in 2020: Karin Kimura, Steve Mitchell, Barry Wood

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