NEWS OF ST PETERS
JANUARY, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ:

Recently I read a wonderful reflection on Christmas by the former archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, It is worth sharing:

“At Christmas — and at all times of the year — we need reminding, believers and unbelievers alike, of what sort of difference can be made to the world because of that birth in Bethlehem. Not only can be made, but is made: whether in Congo or in the back streets of our country, plenty of people know that it's only because of those who believe the Christmas message that they have recovered hope for their lives.

And the message is that God has told us he is not going to give up on us: he appears to us in the life of Jesus, a life of complete identification with human suffering and need. And he makes it possible for us to identify in the same way with those who suffer and live in hopelessness and need. He makes it possible not to give up, even where there seems least chance of change."

As I write this, I am still in the midst of Advent celebrations, but I look forward to that time when we will be able to Celebrate together the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It has been an amazing time with great fellowship, welcoming new people to our community, reconnecting with those whom we haven’t seen in awhile, and watching our youngest (and young at heart) marvel at the Christmas message in our “first in many years” Christmas Program. What a joy to witness!!

And for all those who have struggled with grief, anxiety, personal and family difficulties, these words of hope that ring out on Christmas Day: remind us, as Archbishop Canterbury Rowan Williams said, God “makes it possible not to give us”.

I am grateful that our Christmas Season lasts into January, so that even when the world has rushed on to newer distractions, we as Christians can continue to reflect and bask in the glow of God with us, Emmanuel.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Pastor Ruth

More on our Moai’s

Our next meeting to discuss the formation of more Moai’s here at St Peter’s (as referenced in the December newsletter) will be in early February. Watch the bulletin for time and date.

MENS BIBLE STUDY

Come one come all! A new Men’s Bible Study for all Congregations on the square is beginning in the new year. This is the first of our new “Moai’s” that we are discussing. One of the volunteers who has stepped forward to organize this, Glenn Pang, sees this as an avenue to help develop friendships, and a sense of community. He also hopes the group help members in their spiritual journey by providing avenues to deepen their faith through bible study and prayer together. Glenn also sees it as an avenue to help develop leadership and service within the community. All men are invited to come to a meeting at the home of Glenn Pang, 1428 Alewa Drive, Honolulu on Sunday, January 11, at 4pm. Pizza and beverages provided. Please RSVP to StPetershonoluluPastor@gmail.com by Sunday, January 4th.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2025 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 25 at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary. The Vestry will present the budget for 2026, and we will be electing new Vestry members as well as those who will represent us at the 2026 Diocesan Convention (there are actually two this year: one in May to elect the Bishop and the 2nd at our normal time in October). Questions? Talk to Pastor Ruth or any member of the Vestry.

A REMINDER ABOUT END OF YEAR GIVING

We are grateful for all those who so generously support St Peters and our ministries throughout the year. The deadline for end of year giving needs to be received or postmarked by December 31 to appear on your 2025 Giving Statement.

SPECIAL VESPERS SERVICE HONORING ST PETER AND ST PAUL

Please plan to come to the **Square-Wide Evening Celebration on Sunday, January 18th at 5:30 pm.**

We will join with the congregations of St. Paul's and the Cathedral of St Andrews in a special Vespers service

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOSHUA BALDOVI

Joshua Baldovi was named the Grand Marshall of the 2025 Kaneohe Christmas Parade. The theme was "Hometown Heroes" and Josh was recognized for his diligent community work.

K2P2 MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Did you know that we have a group of dedicated volunteers who gather twice a month to knit lap robes and other items to share with those in need? Although the recipients have usually been local organizations and individuals (Like Hope Lodge), last month, over 150 hats, scarves and lap robes were sent to the Pine Ridge Episcopal Mission in South Dakota. The thank you note they received was beautiful, and we wanted to share some of it with you all.

"Grace and peace to you and all your beloveds from the Pine Ridge Episcopal Mission!... I wanted to let you and the St. Peter's knitters know how very grateful we are for your generous gifts. I will tell you the story of two of the recipients of the lap blankets. Ann is 82, and in home hospice. Ann is a lifelong Episcopalian and an Oglala Lakota grandmother. She and her husband live in Porcupine, and they attended St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, though she cannot travel now. As I visited her this week for anointing and communion, she was overwhelmed by the beauty and the softness of the lap blanket. Her eyes filled with tears at the kindness of other Episcopalians to think of her. Please keep her and her husband Ernest in your prayers. Ann loves to sing hymns in Lakota when we meet.

Clementine is the widow of a priest who faithfully served the churches on the Pine Ridge. She and her family have suffered the loss of the physical presence of many relatives in the past year, and she is home bound, though her children bring her to church when her strength makes that feasible. This year, we buried her youngest daughter, which was an additional blow to the family. Clem's life experiences on the Pine Ridge and as the spouse of a priest provide a rich history of resilience and hope. She is grateful for the beautiful and warm lap blanket made with such care and consideration.

The hats and scarves are being distributed through social workers in the schools, since these are the folks who know which kiddos are lacking in warm clothing for these snowy and cold days.

I will be visiting nursing homes to distribute the other lap blankets in the week to come. Again, the oyate (people) are so very grateful for your kindness.
Mitakuye oyasin (We are all related)

Gratefully, Michelle+

IT'S NOT TOO LATE……

Mahalo Nui Loa to everyone who has turned in their pledge cards for 2026. According to the budget team, we are still waiting for some of our Ohana to let us know their intentions for the coming year. We realize that with inflation on the rise and economic uncertainty this is a difficult time for many. However, we are asking for your kokua: if you have not filled out and turned in your pledge for 2026 yet, please do so. The vestry cannot plan for ministry for 2026 until the budget is prepared.

BLESSED BY OUR YOUNGEST MEMBERS

Sunday, December 14 at the 7:30 service worshippers were treated to a wonderful retelling of the Christmas story by the youngest among us. Thanks to Chucky Nakoa and Beez Zane for all their hard work organizing and directing the children. And to Stephanie Wight and Maisha Stovall-Nakoa for helping with all the logistical support. What a wonderful time!!

January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
			10 am Bible Study	6:00 pm Jazz Vespers 6:45 pm Dinner		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2nd Sunday of Christmas **7:30 am worship** **9:00 am Fellowship Hour** **10:00 am Worship** **9:00 am Fellowship Hour**			10 am Bible Study	6:00 pm Jazz Vespers 6:45 pm Dinner		9:30 am K2P2 (knitting group)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Epiphany **7:30 am worship** **9:00 am Education Hour** **10:00 am Worship** 4pm Men's Bible Study			10 am Bible Study	6:00 pm Jazz Vespers 6:45 pm Dinner		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
2nd Sunday after Epiphany **7:30 am worship** **9:00 am Education Hour** **10:00 am Worship** 11:30 Vestry **5:30 pm Vespers**	*Newsletter Deadline*		10 am Bible Study	6:00 pm Jazz Vespers 6:45 pm Dinner		9:30 am K2P2 (knitting group)
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
3rd Sunday after Epiphany **7:30 am worship** **9:00 am Annual Meeting** **10:00 am Worship**			10 am Bible Study	6:00 pm Jazz Vespers 6:45 pm Dinner		