

Hawa Chronicle

Diocese of Hawaii Edition of Episcopal Life

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We Are Thankful for God's Blessings

Beauty For Ashes

Grace Church Moloka'i had a real chance to do church as a team during a recent brushfire. Ten members of Grace Church spent two days on Oahu at a "Doing Church As A Team" (DCAT) conference in early August, thanks to a continuing education fund established by Olive White from Holy Trinity in Gillette, Wyoming.

They learned the importance and diversity of their gifts and how God calls each believer to serve in the Church. Little did they know that within weeks their ministries would be called into immediate service. A brush fire swept through Moloka'i leaving over 25,000 acres in cinder and ash. While no homes were lost, the fire threatened many homes within the first 24 hours. It was during those times that church members and their families pitched in and helped the local community with their gifts. Some dragged hoses, some made lunches, some helped put out fires, and some used their intercessory gifts and "prayed us through." God's hands protected the volunteers as there were no serious injuries. The fire came so close to the Schaefer's home (Lynette is the vicar of Grace Church) that it set off all the smoke alarms as the flames came roaring through the gulches. The fire also came within shouting distance of church members' Weymouth and Jule Kamakana's home. They were on their honeymoon on the mainland. Friends and neighbors pitched in those areas and all over the island as Moloka'i "Did Fire As a Team."

DCAT was sponsored by New Hope Christian Fellowship and had four tracks as members explored spiritual gifts, leadership, small groups, and a creative worship track. The purpose of the conference was to see God's design for our lives and our church.

As for the fire, with the help of the entire community, with the professionalism of the Fire Department, with the valiant efforts of the Public Works Department (headed by Steven Arce, Jr. whose wife Hana and son Micheal were also DCAT attendees), with the aid of helicopters, and by the grace of God, the fire is finally out. We are so thankful that our homes were spared and that God can use us in so many diverse ways.

The Rev. Lynette Schaefer



Edward Dixon Stroup (January 5, 1998 - September 30, 1998) was memorialized in a service at St. Andrew's Cathedral on Saturday, October 10, 1998. He was one of the first bell ringers at the cathedral and was honored with special pealing of the bells, *Nine Tellers*, which is a traditional for the passing of a bell ringer. The *Peal of Plain Bob Major* was also rung unmuted in his honor.

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Community Comes Together to Build Safe, New Playground

Community Foundation Grants Make It Possible.

On Saturday, September 19, 1998, groups from the Pearl Harbor/Hickam area came together at St. George's Episcopal Preschool to construct a new playground. The playground, made possible by generous grants from the Henry and Dorothy Castle Memorial Fund of the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation and from the Atherton Family Foundation, and other private donations conforms to American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards and will follow American Disability Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines.

Members of the community, including USS Lake Erie sailors, wives from USS Charlotte, Rotarians, some of the class of 2000 from Moanalua High School, church parishioners, and family, friends, and neighbors of children in the preschool assembled from 8 AM until the project was finished at about 6 PM. This was a true example of people giving their time and energy to make the world a little brighter—and safer—for our keiki.



Because falls to the surface are the leading factor in playground injuries, in addition to actually assembling the apparatus, a new safety surface was also installed under the new playground equipment.

St. George's Episcopal Preschool is an outreach of St. George's Episcopal Church. Located at 511 Main Street in Honolulu, the church is officially designated as "The Pearl Harbor Memorial Episcopal Church."

United Thank Offering Sunday, November 8, 1998

The United Thank Offering is a way for each person to express tangible thanks to God for the stream of blessings, great and small, that have poured through our lives. This year, this month, today, through the United Thank Offering Fund, hundreds of people throughout the world have had some aspect of their lives bettered because pennies, nickels, dimes, and dollars are deposited in "blue boxes" in countless homes every day.

Thought for the Month

Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer, but wish we didn't.



BISHOP'S LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Two days before the end of the Lambeth Conference, Dee mislaid her purse on the campus of the University of Kent. Besides the usual contents of credit cards and family pictures, there was her passport without which she could not leave England and reenter the United States. To replace her passport we had to get to the US Embassy in London, a two-hour train trip from Canterbury. She informed her Spouses Bible Study group about her problem and her trip to London. As this was their final meeting, Dee wanted to personally say goodbye. They had met for the length of Lambeth struggling and laughing together in their study of II Corinthians as they shared their understanding of scripture and witnessed to their faith. Their small group conversations stretched their minds as well as their patience as they wrestled with Paul's letter to the people of Corinth. Dee frequently commented on the depth of their disagreements on issues and scriptural passages, as well as on the intensity of their discussions.

After Dee had said her goodbye, she went to call the local police to report the lost purse. While she was in the phone booth, one of the spouses from her Bible group came and gave her a 20-pound note (\$34) to help with her London expenses. Shortly thereafter, two other spouses came and brought her 70 Pounds (\$100) which the small group had collected to help pay her train fare and the cost for replacing her passport. Needless to say, Dee was totally overwhelmed by these acts of compassion and generosity.

Within minutes after receiving the gift, Dee was informed by campus security that her purse had been found with its contents intact! Before picking up her purse, she went to her Bible study group with the gifts that expressed their care for her. As she returned the money, Dee thanked them for their generosity and compassion. She told them that the purse had been found and she had no need for the money. Rather than each spouse reclaiming their contribution, the group gave the money to two spouses from the Church of Myanmar (Burma) for the ministry they had described to the group during their Bible study.

The bonds of affection that had been forged during their time of sharing in Bible study held this diverse group of bishops' spouses together despite their cultural, theological, and political differences. For Dee their gift was a strong statement of faith and compassion. The spouses were able to move beyond their diversity and differences. Through their daily time of prayer and study, they had come to know each other individuals and as faithful members of the Anglican Communion. They had become sisters in Christ sharing a common faith and exercising a variety of ministries in witness to that faith. They were shaped as a community in communion gathered to study Holy Scripture, to pray, and to share their personal stories. From those daily gatherings they continued in fellowship throughout the Conference and continue to pray for each other after their return home.

The Diocese of Hawaii is as diverse as Dee's spouses group. Let us give thanks to God for this gift of diversity. Let us willingly and boldly share our faith and our stories, so that we may know each other as fellow pilgrims walking in the footsteps of Christ. Let us serve each other out of our diversity. Let us continue in communion as we come together to know the Risen Lord in the breaking of the bread. Let us use the gifts from God to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed. "He Lanakila Ma Ke Kea."

Yours in Christ
+Richard S.O. Chang

Bishop's Calendar

NOVEMBER

1st All Saints'
8th St. Peters'
15th Holy Innocents'
22nd Schofield Chapel
29th St. Thomas'

DECEMBER

6th St. George's
13th Holy Nativity
20th St. Stephen's

Presiding Bishop's Fund Sends Relief to Alaskan Natives

The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief released \$83,000 in emergency relief funds at the end of September to aid victims of raging floods, civil unrest and food shortages.

The Fund responded to a food emergency in the Diocese of Alaska. The chum salmon that serve as a food source in the upper Yukon and Tanana have returned this fall in numbers too low to satisfy the needs of the villagers. The John Watts Food Bank of Alaska offered a supply of fish from a hatchery in Valdez, but it must be transported before the rivers freeze. The emergency grant of \$23,000 aided in the immediate transportation, freezing and storing of the fish from Valdez.

Flood victims in China also received emergency assistance from the Fund through the China Christian Council. More than 2,000 people have died and more than 240 million have suffered from the flooding that has swept through the country for more than two months. The Council and the Amity Foundation distributed food, clothing, blankets and other necessities to twenty-two thousand families. A \$20,000 emergency grant from the Presiding Bishop's Fund supports the continued supply of such items.

An emergency grant of \$15,000 will assist refugees from Senegal and Guinea Bissau in the Diocese of

Gambia, West Africa. More people are forced to take refuge in the face of increased fighting in these regions. The Diocese provides counselling and trauma healing, education and training, and Spiritual development for the refugees as well as urgent supplies of food, shelter and medicine.

To help those who lost everything in the wake of tropical storm Charlie, the Fund sent \$25,000 to the Diocese of West Texas. The city of Del Rio lost its drinking water supply and portions of the city were washed away. Shelters and medical supplies were needed for those who have become homeless and face the risk of disease. The overflowing of the Rio Grande River caused power outages, road closings and bridge collapses.

The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief is the compassionate arm of the Episcopal Church reaching out to those in need throughout the world. The organization receives and distributes funds for emergency relief, rehabilitation and development in the United States and around the world.

Contributions can be made to the Fund by credit card by calling 800-334-7626 Ext. 1529, or by check made payable to the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, and mailed to the Fund, c/o Banker's Trust Company, P.O. Box 12043, Newark, New Jersey, 07101.

Holy Nativity to hold Holiday Festival

The Church of the Holy Nativity in Honolulu will be holding its Annual Holiday Festival on November 7th from 9.00a.m. - 2.00p.m. at the Church premises - 5286 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Aina Haina, Honolulu.

This year there will be an outstanding display of silver, crystal, and antiques, as well as art objects, paintings and jewelry. A clothing boutique, baked goods, jams and plant will be on sale, and the Food Court will be open from 8.30a.m. until 2.00p.m. However, the Silent Auction tables will close between 11.00a.m. & 12.30p.m.

This will be a "fun" day at the church, so do come along and enjoy yourself.

- Java Sparrow

Thank You In Advance

Many people have asked how much is the subscription to the *Hawaiian Church Chronicle*. The annual subscription is \$6.00, (or a larger amount if you wish) and this is used to defray the cost of producing the paper, which is a vital organ of communication in the Diocese.

Included with this issue is an envelope provided for your kind donation. We hope that you will assist us in this Ministry of Communication and mail the envelope with your subscription to the **Diocese of Hawaii, 229 Queen Emma Square, Honolulu, HI 96754.**

We would like to thank you in advance for your help.

Just a Note For Your Information

The staff of the Chronicle would appreciate it if contributors to this paper submit materials as early as possible for each issue. If articles arrive at the last minute, they may not be included due to lack of space.

If you wish to have your name and address changed or removed, we would ask you to send such information directly to Episcopal Life at: P.O. Box 928, Vineland, New Jersey, 08362-0928 - and not to the Diocesan Office.

Hawaiian Church Chronicle

(Editor: Rev. Donor Macneice)

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or Fax: 808-538-7194
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Anglicanism: A Thinking Person's Faith

Our Assisting Bishop, Jackson Gilliam, shares this summary of an article from The Paraclete, the Parish Newsletter of Holy Spirit Parish in Missoula, Montana. It was written by its Rector, The Rev. Steve Oreskovich, who came into the Episcopal Church as a Lay Theologian from the Roman Church.

"What I like about the Episcopal Church, the former Roman Catholic husband said, is the freedom of thought. You're right I said. But let me explain, there is also a tremendous personal responsibility given with that freedom. It is the responsibility to truly study, contemplate and pray the faith. It's not the nature of Anglicanism to tell you what to think, but there is an unquestionable expectation that you will think. He paused for a moment and then said: I love it.

A true story that I have been privileged to witness many many times among those who come to our denomination from other churches, both dogmatic and fundamentalistic. They are enchanted by our freedom of thought. In the 20 years that I have shared in the grace and freedom of the Episcopal Church, I have come to realize that this extraordinary gift of freedom brings out the best and worst in us as a community. When we honestly struggle for the truth together, as

in the question of the ordination of women, God's grace abounds and wonderful things happen to us and for us. Witness the ordained women who work among you.

But when we stop thinking, barricade ourselves behind the bulwark of habit (which we mistakenly designate as "tradition") and deny our responsibility to think and struggle as an entire community in search of truth, we are in danger of losing that essential element which makes us what we are. Yes, we are free...free to be responsible: morally, socially and, as awkward as it may sound, theologically.

The Bible cannot be understood nor reward us with the deeper riches of its treasures unless it is studied. The Nicene Creed we say each Sunday has little impact on our faith and daily lives unless we unpack and re-image the truths cloaked in its lovely but archaic language. In the deeper recesses of our hearts we may know God's unconditional love, but until the strength and sweetness of that love is articulated can hardly nourish us the way God intends.

Faith words (theology) provoked by study and massaged by prayer, is the life blood of the Christian Community.

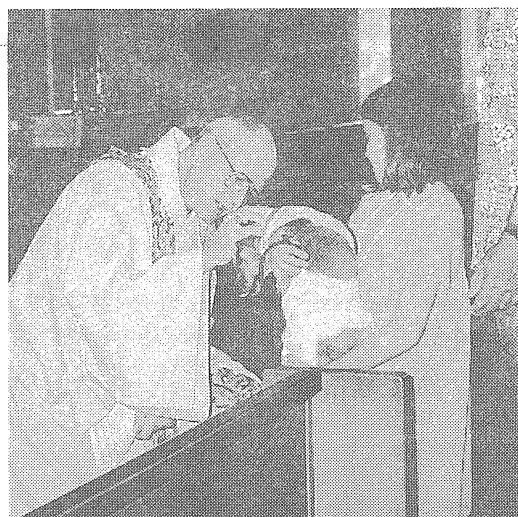
+ Jackson Gilliam

St. Francis' Day Celebrated in Lihue and Kailua

An island-wide Blessing of Animals and Pet Show was held on the lawn beside St. Michael and All Angels', Lihue, on the St. Francis' Day weekend. Dogs of all sizes and shapes and colors attended with their owner-friends; host Zach Rudinoff (belonging to Fr. Jan Rudinoff) was obviously in his glory sharing his home premises with others of his species. Two lovely cats attended; one, Kitty Kalli, belonging to Krista Speroni, was adjudged the most striped. Another beautiful blue gray feline snuggled safely wrapped in a cloth, carried lovingly by his owner.

Our worship was an original Litany for the Blessing of the Animals, as we stood in a large circle beside our pets, with priest and deacon in the center. Each pet was individually blessed; then Fr. Jim Hargis of All Saints', Kapaa, and Pat Posner who is Education Coordinator for the Kaua'i Humane Society, gave awards for the longest hair, the most obedient, the best kisser, the pet looking the most like Fr. Jan, and additional categories, as each animal had a chance to show off innate talents. Each pet attending received a gold ribbon and a prize. Prizes were donated by local stores and veterinarians. Refreshments (for the people) and a social time rounded out a delightful afternoon festivity.

- Deacon Barbara Coan



Kana, being held by Lauren Merriam as her grandfather, Robert Merriam, looks on, receives a blessing from Fr. Peter Van Horne at Emmanuel Church's Blessing of Animals on October 4, 1998. Sixty-five people brought dogs, cats, fish, and one turtle to celebrate the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. Photo by Marjorie Yamanaka, a member of Emmanuel Church, Kailua.

The Widow's Mite

by - Nancy Ries, St. George's

(from The Stewardship Committee)

I am a witness to a modern day widow's mite story. Like its biblical counterpart, this story also took place at church, though not two thousand years ago. This really happened to me, one sunny summer Sunday last year.

We had a collection of junk which had been piled up beside our church dumpster for what seemed like months. The grass grew up around it, creating a nuisance and an eyesore. Nobody really knew what to do about it, and while we all shook our heads and muttered about what a shame it was, the situation wasn't getting any better. The junk, worthless to most of us, was actually aluminum components to a playground structure that a generous parishioner had dumped on the grounds but never assembled. On this particular Sunday morning, as we were assembling for service, a ratty-tatty, broken down old van drove noisily into the parking lot. I knew right away that it couldn't possibly be anybody who went to MY church. It drove straight to the dumpster, and a scruffy looking man jumped out and started trying to put the playground components in the back of his van.

So I marched myself right over there to see what he thought he was doing, and that's exactly what I demanded. He explained that they - at this point I looked inside the van and saw that there was an equally unkempt woman with him - had been driving by and had seen the aluminum beside the dumpster. He said that they assumed it was trash, and that they wanted to take it to the recycling center to get cash to buy food for the dogs.

Again, I looked inside the van and this time I noticed two mangy, scraggly dogs, one with a bandaged paw. And then he said, "God has really blessed us today." That's hard to argue with.

I was really torn in two directions about this. On the one hand, I knew that many people would be glad that the junk was gone. On the other hand, if it had any value, maybe we should keep it for ourselves. And just who were these people who could just drive up and take whatever they wanted. I almost told them to put it all back and leave. But it was the sight of the poor sad hungry dogs that won me over. I said OK - secretly hoping that they would be gone before too many more people came to church. When they filled up their van and drove away I breathed a sigh of relief, and promptly forgot all about it.

About half an hour later, right in the middle of the sermon, I heard the distinctive sound of the muffler-less van returning and then more banging and clanging going on out in the parking

lot. They were back for more, and this time needed tools to break some pieces apart so that they could fit in the van. They were making quite a racket and disturbing MY worship time.

I sent my husband out to tell them to go away. Enough is enough, I thought to myself. He came back and said that while they weren't yet finished loading, they promised to be quiet. And so they took all that they could take and sputtered away for the second time. And that was the end of that, or so I thought.

After church, one of the people who sits near the back came up to me with \$6 in her hand. She said that the woman brought it to her and said that it was ten percent and that she wanted to give it to "him". That really blew me away. Nothing in my conversation with these people suggested that they owed anything for the privilege of removing our junk. And yet, without being asked, they voluntarily gave ten percent of their proceeds, right off the top, joyously and thankfully. What a blessing. And the more I thought about it, the more I was struck with how generous a gift that mere six dollars really was. It was the equivalent of six hundred, no - maybe six thousand dollars - to me. Freely given without any expectations of anything in return. What a lesson! What a miracle! It was I who was blessed by God that day!

Being witnesses to that miracle, my husband and I resolved that very day to double the amount we put in the collection plate each week. And when the time came to make our pledge for this year, we doubled it again. It is the least we can do to express our gratitude for all the blessings that we have received. Thank God we are not living out of our car scrounging for aluminum. Thank God we have food for ourselves, our children, and our dogs. Thank God for allowing us to see his hand at work in our lives.

Terry Parsons tape available

Frank Embree - the Planned Giving Officer for the Diocese of Hawaii has five copies of the video tape made by the National Church Stewardship Officer - Terry Parsons, especially for this Diocese. In the tape Mrs. Parson reinforces the subjects she discussed at the training sessions last February. For a copy of the tape, call Frank Embree at 808-536-7776, Ext 109.

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

- 2 East Honolulu Clericus
- 4 Finance & Real Estate Department
- Diocesan Institute Board
- 5 Commission on Ministry
- 7 Lay Readers' Workshop
- 8 Oahu Ultreya
- UTO Fall Ingathering
- 9 Chronicle Deadline
- 11 Veterans Day - Offices Closed
- 12 Camp Mokuleia Golf Tournament
- JAMC
- 13 HEPAM
- 14 Diocesan Institute ECW Meeting
- CONHM
- 15 Big Island Ultreya
- Clausura at PECUSA
- 18 Stewardship Committee
- 19 Cathedral Chapter
- 20 Standing Committee
- Diocesan Council Orientation
- 21 Diocesan Council Orientation & Meeting

DECEMBER

- 2 Finance & Real Estate Department
- 3 Commission on Ministry
- East Honolulu Deanery
- 7 East Honolulu Clericus
- 9 - 12 Clergy Retreat
- 12 Diocesan Institute
- HEY Board
- ECW Christmas Luncheon
- 13 Oahu Ultreya
- 17 Cathedral Chapter
- 18 Standing Committee
- 19 Congregational Development
- Diocesan Council
- 20 Big Island Ultreya
- 23 Stewardship Committee
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25} DIOCESAN
- 26} OFFICES
- 27} CLOSED
- 28} "
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE
- (Diocesan Offices Open)

Equipping the Saints for Ministry



St. Andrew's holds Stewardship Brunch

The Stewardship Committee of St. Andrew's Cathedral, headed by Melvia Kawashima, held a kickoff brunch in Davies Hall on October 10, 1998. Bishop Coadjutor Burrill of the Diocese of Rochester New York is of the most inspiring and energetic speakers on the subject of stewardship. Over 100 guests from the cathedral and other parishes in the diocese attended.

Pictured are Bob Verry; Sr. Warden, St. Andrew's; Susan Hayes; Bishop Coadjutor Burrill, and Melvia Kawashima, Chairman.

Hawaii Episcopal Youth Board Meets

Two of the most popular events for students were on the agenda of the H.E.Y. Board meeting on Saturday, October 10, 1998. The Senior High Retreat for students from all islands is planned for December 4, 5 and 6 at Camp Mokuleia. *Happening* for tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders will February 5, 6 and 7, also at Camp Mokuleia.

Pictured are members of the Board: David Caldwell, Jeana Nakamura, Lucille Tamura, Kua Apple, and Josh Dela Cruz.



Appreciating Diversity Dialogue

Although, billed as a workshop, the Appreciating Diversity Dialogue, held on October 10, 1998, was really an opportunity for participants to have good discussion about how our roots, families, communities, social ways, and spiritual life leads to our unique expression of all the influences in our lives. This was the first in a series of eleven dialogues planned by the Anti-Racism Commission.

Pictured are: (Seated) Rev. Ricky Melchor, Clint Marantz, Arminta James, Margaret Tabor, (Standing) Cecilia Fordham, Mrs. Quintero, Jan Ibara, Hazel Yee, Rev. Marvin Foltz, Zeny Cabading, and Eugene Pancho.

JUST A REMINDER

This is just a reminder to all our readers and contributors, that the next issue will be a combined December/January publication. The Editor would like to ask all churches who wish to have their Holiday Service Schedule listed, to submit these as soon as possible. Please make sure they are addressed to: The Editor, Hawaiian Church Chronicle, 229 Queen Emma Square, Honolulu HI 96813 to e-mailed to <chrncle@aloha.net>

Diocesan Institute Classes in Full Swing

"Prophets, Psalms, and Wisdom" is being taught by the Rev. Dr. Gerald Gifford. The Rev. Canon Kay Johnson is teaching "Spiritual Formation: A Group Experience in Prayer/Meditation and Spiritual Direction." Many laity, who are not on the ordination track, are registered for these courses. Courses offered by the DI are open to everyone for a fee.

Pictured are: Gregory Holmes, Holly Gifford, David Barrett, and Rev. Dr. Gerald Gifford.

