

# Hawaiian Church Chronicle

VOLUME 100, No. 7

NEWS OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF HAWAII

OCTOBER 2001

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Convention To Be Held on October 26 – 27, 2001

Submitted by Nancy Rowe, Assistant Secretary of the Convention

Countdown continues to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Convention, which will be held on October 26 – 27. Exciting opportunities this year include our conversations on the Call to Common Mission with members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, who will be joining us for the Friday sessions and the banquet.

Two convention mailings have been sent to delegates. The first was mailed in June. It contained information about the processes for nominations, submitting resolutions, the *Makule e Akamai* Award, and the ECW luncheon. The second mailing, on September 29, contained information about nominees, resolutions, and the draft convention agenda. A draft budget was sent to delegates, and conversations have been held in all regions. Also included was parking information for Friday at the Ilikai and Saturday in the Cathedral surrounds.

Please prayerfully consider candidates and nominees for the elected positions in the Diocese. Our elected leaders make important decisions about the mission, ministry and future of our

Diocese. If you are invited to stand for nomination, please say, "Yes". In addition to the many local positions to be filled, Deputies to General Convention will also be elected this cycle.

Additional convention information was sent in the Bishop's mailing to clergy in July. Included was the convention registration form, shared travel information, hotel room reservation information for the Ilikai Hotel (where we will have our Friday afternoon sessions and the Friday evening banquet) and the Outrigger Hobron. Also included were the Necrology list, the Baptismal list, and a Convention exhibit request form. Please see your clergy or senior warden for any of these forms. Convention information and forms should also be available to download from the diocesan intranet, [www.lanakila.org](http://www.lanakila.org). Your attention to the convention deadlines will be appreciated:

<b>Necrology List</b>	<b>October 10</b>
<b>Baptismal List</b>	<b>October 10</b>
<b>ECW Meeting/Luncheon</b>	<b>October 22</b>
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>October 26-27</b>



Tannis Grimes, Organist & Choir Director shows off new bells

### Good Shepherd Forms Handbell Choir

Submitted by The Rev. Marvin L. Foltz, Rector

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church has become the first Episcopal Church on Maui to form a handbell choir. The custom manufactured bells, cast in bronze, arrived recently after more than a four month wait.

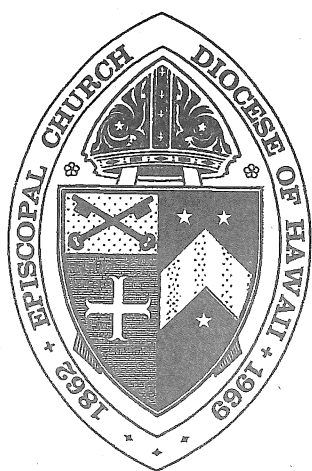
Tannis Grimes, Organist & Choir Director, stated: "Our new bell choir will not only enhance our worship services, but will give some of our teens and adults a musical alternative

to singing in the choir. The bell choir can become musical ambassadors in our community."

Each of the 33 bells has a story; each bell was sponsored by a donor in memory of a loved one, or to honor someone special. Without the support of these donors, it would not have been possible to order the bells and purchase the special equipment needed for this project.

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## Hawaiian Church Chronicle

VOLUME 100, No. 7  
OCTOBER 2001

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The Chronicle cannot assume responsibility for the return of photographs or manuscripts.

**Editorial deadline for the November issue of The Chronicle is October 9th. The editor must receive all material at the Keaau address by that morning. Mahalo!**

# Bishop's Letter

The Right Rev.  
Richard S. O. Chang

BISHOP OF HAWAII



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

While on vacation Dee and I went to church where our daughter Hannah has been attending for several months. I was struck by the ministry of hospitality offered by the members from the moment we arrived at the door of the church until the time we left for the parking lot. People were very intentional in welcoming us before, during and after the service.

The spirit of the service welcomed the visitor. The comfort of the Book of Common Prayer was experienced. As strangers we felt welcomed as Dick and Dee Chang, parents of a young adult working in Silicon Valley who were attending their 10:45

am Sunday Eucharist. More than a dozen people came up to chat with us after the service to extend a word of welcome and an invitation to return next Sunday. We were simply the parents of a new member of that congregation visiting from Hawai'i. And warm and genuine was the welcome we received as newcomers in their midst.

How is the ministry of hospitality exercised in our congregations? How do we welcome the stranger, the poor, the outcast, the friendless, people who are different from us? These words of Jesus, "just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40) tell to whom our hospitality is to be offered. The Gospel imperatives of Jesus and our Baptismal Covenant shape how we exercise our ministry of hospitality as God's faithful people.

Let us open wide our doors and our hearts to all who come among us that they too may come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. May our faith be challenged and strengthened, and our lives changed as we exercise ministries of hospitality with glad and loving hearts. "He Lanakila Ma Ke Kea."

## ST. Michael and All Angels Establishes Endowment

The Vestry at its August meeting established The St. Michael and All Angels Endowment Fund. The Fund has received a most generous lead gift from Mrs. Samuel Wilcox a member of the parish.

The endowment offers members and friends a way to continue ministry of the parish to the community beyond itself. Endowments offer the possibility for many to contribute in creative ways, stock transfers, real estate, remainder trusts, wills, and insurance.

These are but a few of the financial ways folk can say YES! to the continuing ministries of the church.

Frank Embry, Planned Giving Officer of the Diocese and Mr. Nelson Secretario, Chair of the Endowment committee of the vestry were instrumental in bringing the Endowment Resolution to approval.



## Bishop's Visitations

October

14	Good Samaritan
20	St. Columba's
21	Holy Apostles and Resurrection
***	

## Cathedral to Present Evensong-Organ Recital October 3rd, 7:30 p.m.

The Cathedral of St. Andrew's in downtown Honolulu will present an Evensong/Organ Recital on Sunday, October 7th, at 7:30 p.m.

Organ works of J. S. Bach, including the lovely *Schmucke dich* and the glorious *Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major* ("St Anne"), will be played by Cathedral Musician Dr. Arlan Sunnarborg. Choral works to be presented by the Cathedral Choir include Rheinberger's *Abendlied*, Gardiner's *Evening Hymn*, and Stanford's *Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in B-flat*.

The Cathedral welcomes parishioners from the Diocese to this meaningful service of music and worship. The church is located at the corner of Beretania and Queen Emma Streets. A calabash offering will be received.

The opening Evensong/Organ Recital of the fall season was held the first Sunday of September at the Cathedral. The new format combining the Service of Light with the order of Worship for the Evening and an Organ Recital was very well received. The delightful evening interspersed the liturgy with choral and organ selections and concluded with a celebration of September birthdays at the reception in the nave of the church.

Looking ahead to November, the Cathedral's Evensong/Organ Recital will be presented on November 4th at 7:30 p.m. with special guests, members of the Hawai'i Vocal Arts Ensemble.

The Cathedral Choir and HVAE will combine voices to sing Finzi's *Magnificat* and Parry's *I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me*.



# NOMINATIONS- DIOCESAN COUNCIL / STANDING COMMITTEE

## Standing Committee-Lay

*Elect one lay person for a 4-year term*

### Nelson J. Secretario

Diocesan Council '99-'01  
Rotary Club of Kapaa, President, 2001  
Kauai County Council, 3 years  
Kauai Shriners Club, President



Having just served three years on the Diocesan Council, I would like to use my experience from the Support Committee (previously the Finance and Real Estate Department), to continue working for our *Diocese and Bishop Richard Chang* by serving on the Standing Committee.

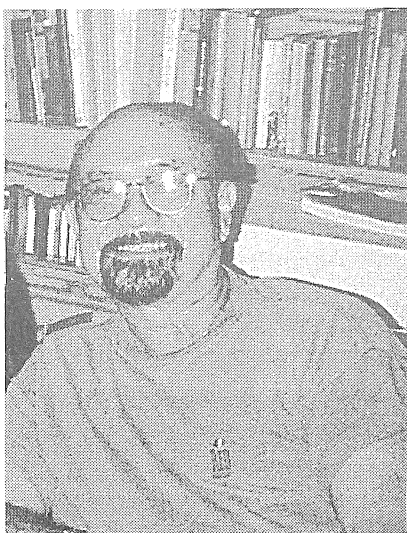


## Standing Committee - Clergy

*Elect one clergy for 4-year term*

### The Rev. Darrow L. K. Aiona

Commission on Hawaiian Ministry  
Joint Nominating Committee  
for the election of the Presiding Bishop  
Board member, Catholic Charities and  
Immigrant Service  
Diocesan Standing Committee



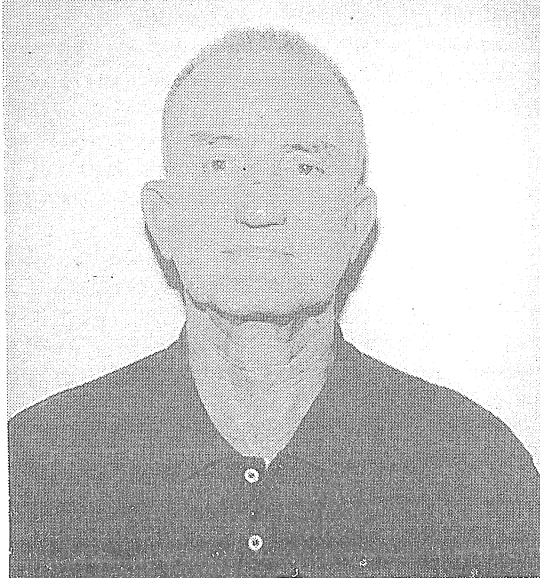
As a senior priest of the diocese, I believe that I can contribute my knowledge and gifts to the diocese as we move into the new millennium.

## Diocesan Council - Lay

*Elect five lay persons for 3 year term*

### Ernest W. Knutzen

Vestry member (VA, CA, AZ, HI)  
Convention Delegate (CA, HI)  
Sr. Warden (VA)  
Layreader/Chalice Bearer



I believe that the diocese, while being the titular head of the statewide Episcopal Church, should be a service organization for the parishes and missions within the diocese. The efforts, this year, by the Hawaii Diocese in this direction are greatly appreciated, and I would like to help.

### Joel L. Merchant

Convener, Communications and Management Information Services Committee  
Bishop's Task force on Technology and Communications  
CREDO participant  
Society of Financial Service Professionals,



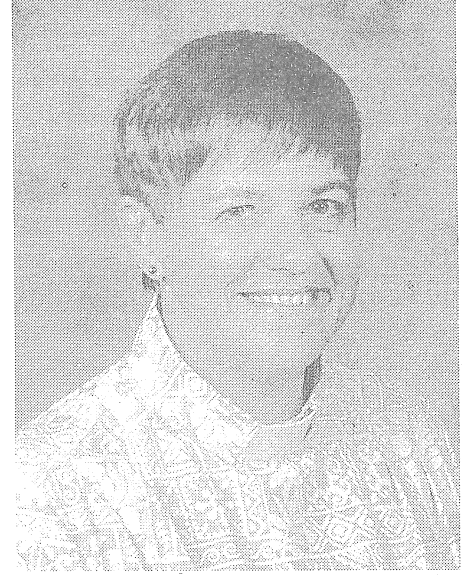
It's right to ask, in this time of change, what do we want the Church to be? What kind of future do we want? What should we tell others about ourselves? What things should change, and what should stay the same? I want to help people participate in important conversations about the future of the Church.

## Diocesan Council - Clergy

*Elect two clergy for 3 year term*

### Alison M. Dingley

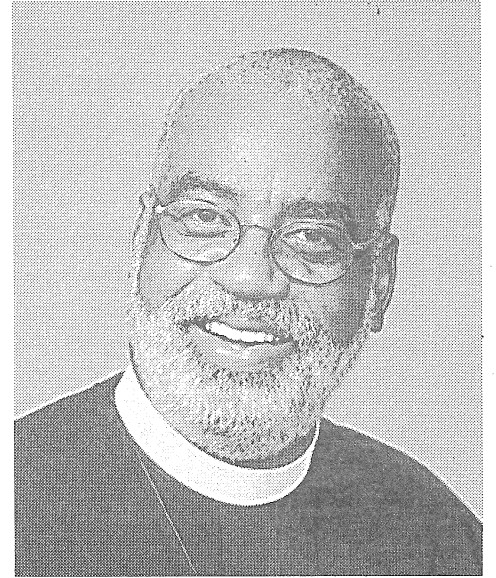
General Convention Deputy, 2000  
Compensation Review Committee  
Diocesan Council, 87-89, 95-98  
Commission on Ministry, 95-97



I would like to offer my skills and experience in congregational and organizational development to assist the Diocesan Council in implementing the mission of the Diocese through its new structure.

### Walter A. Stevens, III

Spiritual Director,  
Diocesan New Beginning Youth Weekend  
Pastoral Associate for Children and Youth  
Mayor's Initiative on Human Rights,  
Cambridge, MA  
Episcopal Ministry on Aging, 96-97



My varied parochial experiences will enable me to be a valuable member of Council. If elected as a member of Council, I will use those experiences and be a faithful steward of God's gifts while addressing the diverse needs of the Diocese.

# Nominations - General Convention

Lay Delegates -Elect four lay persons

## Bettye Jo Harris

Standing Committee, Former President  
Diocesan Council, Former Vice Chair  
Former Senior Warden, St. Christopher's  
Member St. Christopher's Choir  
(No picture submitted)

I wish to serve as a Deputy to General Convention because of my love of service in continuing the Lord's work in this way; with my skills, experience and commitment. I feel stronger than ever about what I am able to accomplish through his grace. I also feel called as a lay minister to help spread his word through my actions and service.

## Arthur K. Kusumoto

Trustee, Church Pension Fund, 94-01  
Deputy, General Convention  
Standing Committee, 2 terms  
Senior Warden, St. John's, Kula  
(No picture submitted)

General Convention means legislation and as Trustees of the Church Pension Fund, we are asked to be on board to act and participate on matters concerning the welfare of our clergy and their families as well as the lay employees. I am also aware of issues concerning our diocese and, of course, the welfare of our whole church.

## James D. Putnam

Bishop's Warden, St. Hearge's  
Diocesan Council, 96-2000  
Compensation Review Committee  
Convention Deputy First Alternate, 99-02  
(No picture Submitted)

I would like to continue representing and serving the diocese at General Convention. I offer a strong management, leadership, and financial background coupled with a strong spiritual commitment. I continue service with the Diocesan Investment Management Committee and on the Camp Mokuleia Board. I manage the Navy's Kaho'olawe clearance project.

## Cynthia M. Salley

Family support Services of West Hawaii  
Diocesan Standing Committee, President  
National Convention Deputy, 2000  
Senior Warden and Junior Warden  
(No picture submitted)

I offer experience and continuity at National Conventions, having served as a deputy in 2000. Also, with God's help, I have the ability to speak out on issues which affect us all.

## Nelson J. Secretario

Current Diocesan Council Member  
Rotary Club of Kapaa, President, 2001  
Kauai County Council, 94-96  
Standing Committee, 90-94



Raised a Roman Catholic, my first experience with an Episcopal service was in the fields of Vietnam at age 25. I became an active Episcopalian, by marriage. I serve actively on committees, vestry, Diocesan Council, Deputy '85. I would like to represent our diocese with experience in 2003.

## Rachel M. Secretario

Vestry  
Campus Ministry



An Episcopalian by birth, I am currently at the University of Hawaii and a member of Campus Ministry. I would like to learn more about our National Church by serving as Deputy to General Convention 2003. I believe the future growth of our church is involving the participation of our youth.



## Nancy W. Slain

Vestry Member, 7 years, St. Christopher's  
Hawaii State Council on Mental Health  
founder, "Operation Textbook"  
Co-leader, Congregational Care



I have been actively involved in a variety of programs and have served in numerous leadership capacities for the Episcopal Church in Hawaii as well as on the mainland and in the Anglican Church in Australia. These experiences, coupled with my professional teaching and facilitating skills, will enable me to represent Hawaii, and in turn, to convey back to the diocese what transpired at the convention.

## Linda A. Sproat

Diocesan Council  
Standing Committee  
National Anti-Racism Committee  
Member/Delegate to Anglican Indigenous  
People Conference, Australia 2001



I have served this Diocese of Hawai'i on the Diocesan Council as well as the Standing Committee and the Commission on Hawaiian Ministry, and the National Church appointed me to the National Anti-Racism Committee. Being a Hawaiian, and with my past experience in the Church at home and overseas, I feel I can contribute much as a Deputy.

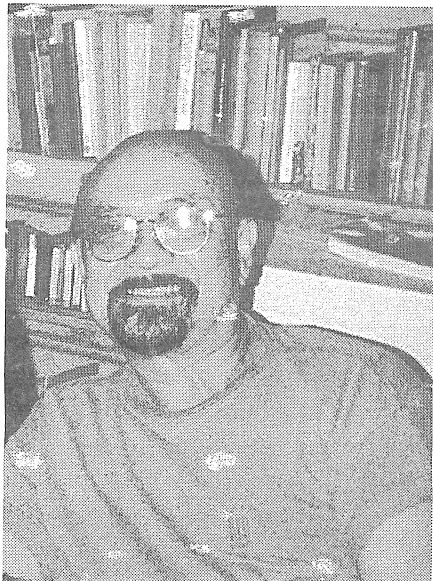


# Nominations - General Convention

Clergy Delegates - Elect four clergy

## The Rev. Darrow L. K. Aiona

Commission on Hawaiian Ministry  
Joint Nominating Committee  
for the election of the Presiding Bishop  
Board member, Catholic Charities and  
Immigrant Service  
Diocesan Standing Committee



As a life-long indigenous Hawaiian priest of this Diocese, and knowledgeable of the Pacific Region, I feel that I can contribute my heritage and gifts to the National Church. I am committed to the future of our Church, and yet always conscious of the past. I also am committed to an ever-changing Episcopal Church with understanding and compassion.

## The Rev. Carol M. Arney

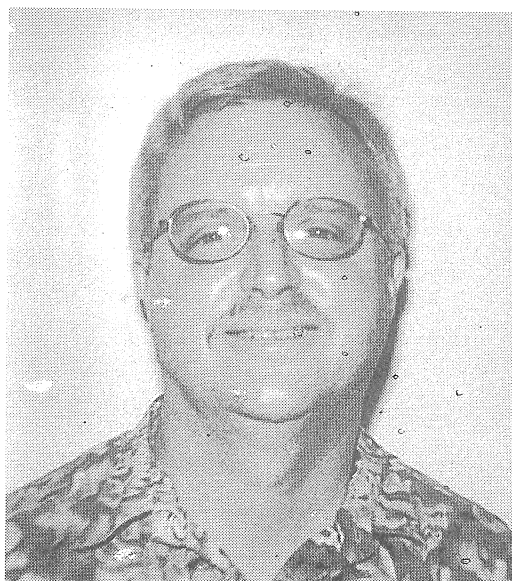
Diocesan Council, through 2003  
Kona Hospital Chaplain, Vice President  
Rotary of Kona  
Deputy to General Convention, 2000



As a Deputy to the General Convention of 2000, I gained a wealth of experience in the General Convention process while I served our Diocese. I will be even more effective in a second term. I bring to the Convention experience and special interest in evangelism, ecumenism, and liturgy.

## The Rev. Joseph J. Carr

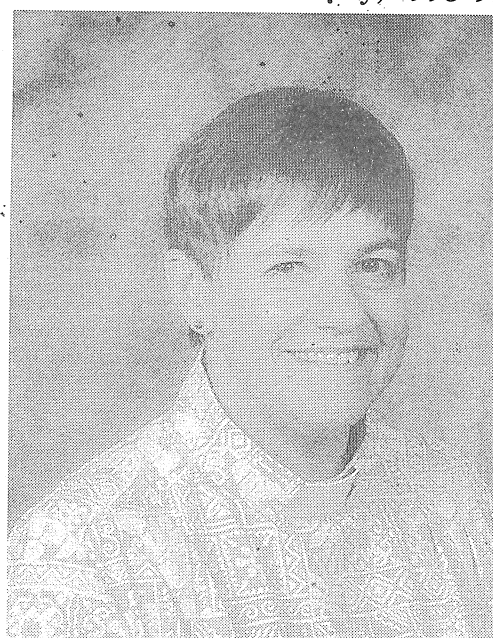
General Convention Deputy, 1991, 1994  
Standing Committee, President, 2000-01  
Diocesan Youth New Beginnings,  
Spiritual Director  
Diocesan Christian Formation Committee



Having attended past General Conventions, I know how important it is for the whole church to gather and discern God's will for the upcoming mission and direction of the church. I wish to contribute my gifts and my experience of the 'local church in action' to the discussion.

## The Rev. Alison M. Dingley

Deputy to National Convention, 2000  
Compensation Review Committee,  
1998-Present  
Diocesan Council, 1987-89; 1995-98  
Commission on Ministry, 1995-97



Through attending my first General Convention as a deputy last year, I became familiar with its processes and procedures. I would like to return as a deputy in 2003 in order to focus on ministry development issues and hopefully to have an impact.

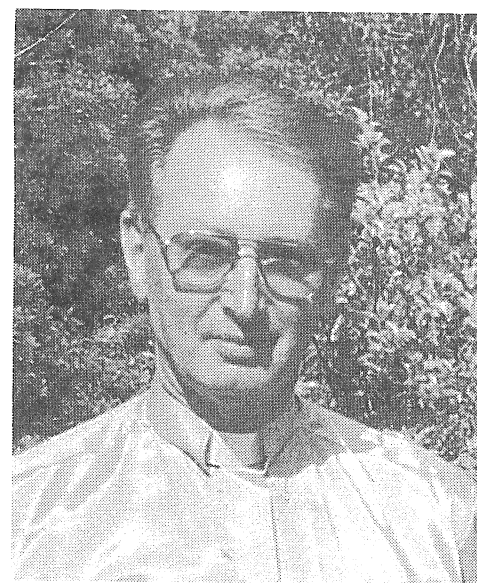
## The Rev. Morley E. Frech, Jr.

Diocesan Council, 2000-03, Chair  
Standing Committee, 1986-90; 1992-96  
Deputy to General Convention 1991, 2000  
Alternate Deputy, 1985, 1994 and 1997  
Commission on Ministry, 1997-2000  
(No picture submitted)

I believe that I can bring a solid perspective of ministry in Hawaii to the General Convention as a deputy. It is important to attend at least two conventions for appointment to the critical committees where the business of the convention gets started.

## The Rev. Donor Macneice

Diocesan Council, 1993-97  
Standing Committee, 1998 - Present  
General Convention, 1997; alternate, 2000  
Standing Committee on Anglican  
Peace with Justice, 1997-2000



I would like to serve again as a deputy from Hawaii to the General Convention. I have attended as deputy or alternate at four General Conventions - two from this diocese, and having served also on Diocesan Council and Standing Committee, as well as National Church committees, I feel I can put my experience to good use.

## Nominations Will be Received From the Floor

At present there is no nominee for the following positions:

Diocesan Council, 3-year term  
three lay

Cathedral Chapter, 2-year term  
one clergy, one lay

Secretary to Convention, 1-year term  
clergy or lay

Ecclesiastical Court, 5-year term  
one clergy

# LITURGY

## NANA IKA 'OIWI AT ST. JOHN'S BY-THE-SEA

by

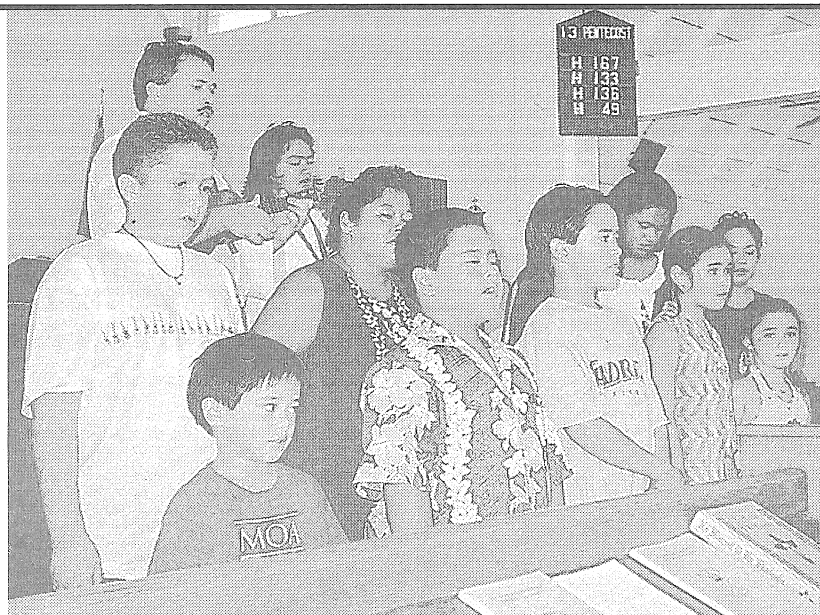
The Rev. Charles G. K. Hopkins

The theme of this year's celebration of the birthday of Kamehameha the Great, *Nana Ika 'Oiwī* (Look to the Native Resource), is exemplified in the life of St. John's by-the-Sea.

November 25, 2001 St. John's will celebrate the Feast Day honoring the cofounders of the Anglican Church in Hawai'i, King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma, with a Hawaiian language Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. The eighth annual celebration, all the speaking parts, all the hymns and the choir anthem will be in the native tongue of *Hawai'i nei*. Only the lessons and the sermon will be in English. The congregation of St. John's by-the-Sea invites all in the Diocese to worship with them at this service.

A Hawaiian language Eucharist had its beginnings 70 years ago when this Episcopal congregation, the first on the windward side of O'ahu, was founded by Native Hawaiian fishermen and their families living on Wailau peninsula in Kahalui'u. From this beginning, Native presence in the congregation has persisted. Today Native Hawaiians still number more than 70 % of the membership, many of them children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those founding families. In addition, St. John's has the distinction of having been served for 25 consecutive years (1971 — 1996) by two Native Hawaiian priests.

Throughout its early history the host culture left its mark on the way faithful living was carried on at St. John's. But it was not until the tenures of Fathers Aiona and Hopkins that the impact of a Hawaiian perspective pervaded all areas of the congregation's life, from the warmth and genuine inclusion of others into the 'Ohana, to the frequent use of socials to bond with one another



*St. John's by-the-Sea keiki prayed, sang and recited their genealogies in Hawaiian at the Queen Lili'uokalani Sunday service on September 2, 2001*

in celebrating major feast days. These were milestones in a member's faith and brought closure to the loss of loved ones. This acceptance extended to consensus-based decision-making, accommodating the widest range of differences and to calling on the members' network of relationships to build and maintain facilities. Buildings and grounds were opened to their surrounding natural setting for an appreciation of nature's rightful place, enhancing the 'Ohana's weekly mountain top experience.

Since it was the 'olelo makuahine (mother tongue) of so many in the congregation, Hawaiian language naturally found its way into the liturgical life through the use of Hawaiian prayers, blessings and the traditional purification ritual, *pikai* in its pastoral services. In the Sunday Eucharist the congregation sings both Hawaiian and English hymns. The Queen's Prayer and the fraction anthem are sung in Hawaiian, while the choir sings anthems, communion and closing hymns in Hawaiian. Classes in Hawaiian language, translation of Hawaiian hymns from *Na Himeni Haipule O Hawai'i* and discussions of cross-cultural communication have been held for the congregation and the larger community in Ho'okano Hall.

As recently as this summer, programs for children were offered focussing on Hawaiian cultural arts and language. The first, *NaMea O Hawai'i*, was held in collaboration

with Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center and included art and craft classes for both keiki and their families from St. John's and the surrounding community. In the second program, Hawaiian language was taught to St. John's keiki primarily in song in preparation for singing at the Queen Lili'uokalani's birthday Hawaiian Eucharist September 2.

The printing of *Ka 'Eukalikia Hemolele* in 1992, the Hawaiian translation of Rites I and II of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer by Pua Hopkins, reopened a vista of Hawaiian language in the liturgical life of the Episcopal Church in Hawai'i, a vision of its cofounder, Kamehameha IV, with his translation of the Church of England's Prayer Book in 1863, and one which was lost by the turn of the century.

In the introduction of *Ka 'Eukalikia Hemolele*, The Commission On Hawaiian Ministry "urged congregations and individuals to use this material as it meets their needs and abilities." For those who would hesitate, a proverb from our kupuna was offered. 'A 'a i ka hula; waiho i ka hilahila i ka hale." (Dare to dance; leave embarrassment at home.)

Eight years ago on Sunday, March 28, 1993, in honor of the birthday of Prince Jonah Kalaniana'ole Kuhio, St. John's

congregation took up the Commission's challenge and dared to dance, leaving our embarrassment at home. Except for the Collect of the Day, readings, sermon and announcements, all the speaking parts were in Hawaiian, and only Hawaiian hymns were sung that morning. That was the first of four Hawaiian Eucharists that year. The other occasions were the Sundays nearest to Kamehameha the Great's birthday, Queen Lili'uokalani's birthday, and the feast day of our co-founders, King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma.

Except for a few, it wasn't easy for the congregation that first year. Some were rusty from not using their mother tongue regularly while for others it was their first attempt to speak in Hawaiian. A special vocabulary of theological terms made it all the more difficult for everyone. But the congregation persisted in the next three commemorations that year, thereby establishing an annual tradition of celebrating four Hawaiian language Sunday Eucharists to honor the life and works of our Ali'i: two kings, two queens and a prince.

These celebrations bestowed honor and dignity upon a people's mother tongue and encouraged them toward its further use. They also honored members from other cultural backgrounds who were not only willing to worship in another language but also encouraged its continued use as necessary for the well being of the congregation. So in the ensuing years the congregation has become more comfortable and confident with their speaking parts. From this experience has emerged six lay ministers who can lead the prayers of the people, four of whom can also read all the celebrant's parts of the Liturgy of the Word.

*E hele mai a waiho i ka hilahila i ka hale* (Come and leave embarrassment at home). If you cannot make it in November, all four Hawaiian Eucharists will be repeated next year and the year after, *a mau loa aku*.



# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## ST. THOMAS' FOLK VACATE

by Java Sparrow

The members of St. Thomas' Church in Hanalei on Kaua'i have become known over the years for two things - their food, and their love of adventure.

When it comes to going on holiday, they take the word "vacation" - which means "to vacate" - very literally. For the past few years they have left behind their normal every day life and have headed off together to places distant, strange and exciting.

Last year they set out for Ulaan Baatar in Mongolia, and then headed out across the Steppes to stay with the nomads in their *ghers* and watch as they herded their horses and yak. In the evenings they drank fermented mare's milk with the local people.

This year was no exception. At the end of June, the bags were packed, and the small congregation flew out of Honolulu en route to Sarawak and Sabah in Borneo. Their goal in Sarawak was to travel into the jungle by canoe to meet, learn from and stay with a group of Iban head-hunters in their village.

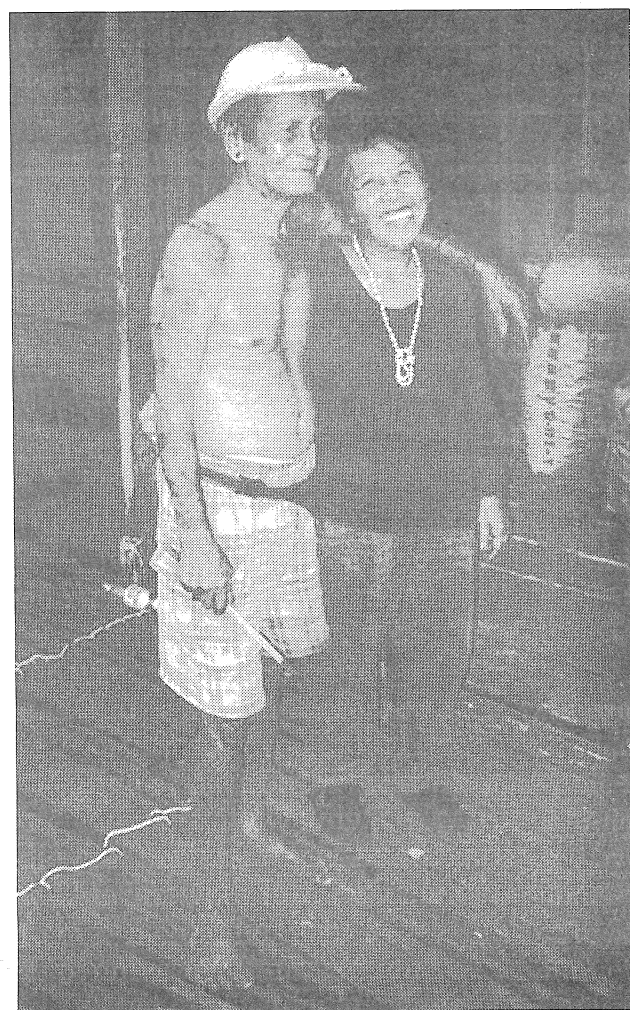
As they flew in to Kuching, there was much anticipation among the group as to what they would find, but they were soon surprised to see a beautiful city along the banks of the Kuching River where, in the

evening, people sat and talked at riverside cafes. St. Thomas' Anglican Cathedral, of course, was a place that had to be visited. It is a large and beautiful building and has a congregation that works closely with the other local Christian and Moslem communities alike.

The long journey up river in a canoe with an outboard motor was an experience in itself - especially in the way the local Iban people manoeuvred the craft round the many twists and turns and over the rapids.

On arrival at their destination, the canoes were met by the Elders of the village who escorted them into the village. Although the group had been told their hosts were head-hunters, most did not really believe it until, after a short while, they were shown the heads hanging from the ceiling, and realized the older men were those who had taken the heads!

During their stay in the village, during which they ate the local food, the group slept together in a village Longhouse - a large bamboo building built on stilts to keep animals out at night. They were taught how to hunt with a blow-pipe, and as they went on long treks through the dense jungle, learned from the Ibans about jungle life and how to survive on jungle plants and fruit.



*Nancy Kobayashi with an elder from the Iban Village.*

Leaving Sarawak, the group flew to Sabah, and once more headed for the jungle to search for Orang Utang. They were escorted this time by a member of the Mulot tribe of East Borneo who taught them much about these fascinating animals.

Poachers kill these animals but the babies are often rescued and brought to a rehabilitation station for several years until they are old enough to be released. The folk from Hanalei were fortunate in finding eight Orang Utangs in the jungle - a couple of which came close to observe the visitors.

On their return to Hawai'i, the travellers all agreed that although the heat was intense, the humidity was as high as it could be and the "going" was rough at times, the journey was well worth doing.

*This journey gave them a wider knowledge and understanding of God's creation, and a great respect for people of a completely different culture. They gained a greater realization of the responsibility we all have to protect the creation in all parts of the world.*



*Members of St. Thomas' Church, Hanalei, Kaua'i, prepare for a river trip.*

# COMING SOON

OCTOBER

## 3 Wednesday

♦Compensation Review 12:30pm

## 4 Thursday

♦Commission on Ministry 3:00 p.m.

## 5 Friday

♦Maui Clericus 9:30 a.m.  
♦Journaling the Journey,  
Holy Apostles, Hilo

## 6 Saturday

♦Sexual Misconduct Awareness  
Training 8:30 a.m.

## 7 Sunday

♦Clergy and Spouse Picnic, Oahu  
1-5:00 p.m.

## 8 Monday

♦Discoverer's Day -  
Diocesan Office Closed

## 9 Tuesday

♦Chronicle Deadline

## 11 Thursday

♦Campus Ministry Commission  
4:30 p.m.

## 13 Saturday

♦Hawaii Spiritual Directors 9:00 am  
♦ECW Business Meeting 9:00 a.m

## 16 Tuesday

♦Big Island Clericus 9:30 a.m.  
♦Support Dept. Meeting 11:00 a.m.

## 17 Wednesday

♦Oahu Clericus 12 Noon

## 18 Thursday

♦Cathedral Chapter 4:30 p.m.  
19 Friday

♦Standing Committee 9:30 a.m.  
♦Journaling the Journey,  
Christ Church, Kona

## 20 Saturday

♦Council Depart. Meetings 9:00 a.m.  
♦Diocesan Council 12:00 Noon

## 25 Thursday

♦Clergy Community Dinner 6:00pm

October 27-29, Friday, Saturday, Diocesan Convention



## CHURCH? BOORING!

Submitted by Frank Chun



... besides that, it's a waste of time! That is what I had thought when I was growing up. I wasn't raised going to church. My dad was of the Buddhist/Taoist/Confucian tradition which was so prevalent in the Islands. And so, I slept in, read through my comic collection, and watched television.

When I became a very young teen, my mother decided one Sunday (and then every Sunday thereafter, even during summer!) that I needed Christianity! I'd lie in bed on those Sunday mornings, hoping that mom would forget and go off without me. I would feign illness after illness. I promised to do the yardwork, all of it. Somehow, those ruses never worked. I prayed to God to erupt Punchbowl or Diamond Head! For whatever reason, that prayer was never answered. I suppose that God also wanted me to go.

When I first attended St. Elizabeth's Church in Palama, the worst part was not only sitting in "big people's church." Those of you who remember traditional Episcopal worship, know that it involves standing, then kneeling, and sitting, followed by more standing, kneeling, and sitting, again and again. In addition, the pew was anything but comfortable. Most of the time, I would daydream in church, sometimes about the choir singing off-key; or, about Father Wai-On Shim running out of Communion bread, after just having read about

Jesus feeding the 5,000.

To get out of the uncomfortable pew, I joined the acolytes' corps, and got to sit on a padded stool. I joined the church's scouting program, and discovered an entirely different worship experience on Sunday mornings whenever we went camping. I also involved myself with the church's youth group, finding camaraderie, age-related programs, and sometimes even, commiseration about being forced to attend church. Without my realizing it, worship for me, was evolving into participation.

You and I get so used to being spectators. We watch such events as the Iolani teams competing with other schools, or the Miss America pageant on television or attend drama and theater premieres. Almost similarly, when we attend church, we watch the lay leaders and the acolytes do their parts in worship. We watch the choir sing an anthem. We watch the clergy do the primary roles. Its no wonder that we identify worship as a staged performance.

Worship is really a blessed change of pace. All week long, we've been like the Energizer Bunny, always on the go. In church, away from the busyness of the world, we can slow down, reflect, and simply be. As we enter the worship area, the word is reverence! We have reverence for each other, for God, and for the sacred space itself, just as we would at the Arizona

Memorial, or a Hawaiian heiau. Worship gives us a context to practice the art of listening. Intently and intensely, we listen to the Scripture read, and the sermon-presentation. In addition, because worship is also participation, we join-in the singing of hymns and songs. Sincerely, we follow the prayers which are said. After any and every prayer, we say with boldness the Amen!" (pronounced "ah-men" or "aey-men" depending on your tradition). At the end of worship, we greet one another in love.

Worship then is not a spectator sport. Instead, we are the principals, and God is the audience. True, not every worship experience will be filled with New Year's fireworks. Worship, however, can be just as meaningful. Even when we don't feel God's presence in church, and it feels like He is millions of miles away, I can still trust that He is present in my life. And though He may not be doing any miracle in my life at the moment, I trust that He is still working overtime, in the lives of others.

Song and hymns, Scripture, sermon, and prayers are opportunities with God that would have been lost, had we skipped church. ***Church and worship, boring? Not if we've properly prepared and also participated.***

