



# St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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

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

## November 2019

It's Thursday evening, and after a long week at work, and our weekly Jazz Vespers service, I step into the Parish Hall. Conversation buzzes around long tables, the air warm with heat and a shared meal. I get my bowl of soup and sit down. On one side of me, a regular attender of our Jazz service sits on her walker, slowly guiding food into her mouth. She's blind, and each Thursday she comes to the church around 4pm, having ridden the Handi-van from Waianae. She comes early so as not to inconvenience anyone. Talking to her, another one of our regulars – he often brings gelato



to contribute to the meal, and talks passionately about some of his favorite flavor combinations. The sound of children giggling and screeching punctuates our time together, as the kids play tag in the big open space.

Some faces are regular members of St Peters, and come to Sunday morning worship services. Often, these people are wearing aprons – either coming out of the kitchen after cooking the meal, or

heading into the kitchen to help with clean up. Other familiar faces are here to eat something before choir practice – sharing fellowship before beginning their faithful practice for Sunday. Some who attend our Jazz Vespers service have other churches or religious communities to which they belong – but for some, this is their primary affiliation – perhaps the only way they are spiritually fed.

At this meal, people from all backgrounds sit together. We share something bigger than just food – we share community. We regularly have visitors to our service and to our meal who are homeless, often struggling with mental illnesses in some way. We regularly have visitors who are well cared for, and make financial contributions to keep our musicians paid and to help offset the cost of food. At the tables where we sit, the groups are indistinguishable. Finances cannot be seen; neither can status, ability, creed, or struggle. Here, we are all hungry – and here, we are all fed.

As the meal comes to a close, one of our regulars walks through the tables, asking if there is a need for urgent prayer. He always calls for this need, and sits with whatever group gathers to share about his week and request prayers for whatever is on his heart. At first, I was confused about the “urgency” of this prayer – now, I find it a good reminder that prayer is always urgent – our need to share with God and to turn to God is always there. In this group, pastoral concerns are often shared, and there is often a prayer update to our prayer circle sent out late Thursday evenings.

If you are a regular, or semi-regular attender of our Jazz Vespers service, you might recognize some of the stories I have shared here. These are only a few of so many – but they paint a picture of the church we are called to be. Our mission is, “A Beacon of Hope, A Call to Serve”. At our Thursday night services we are exactly that – A beacon of hope for those who are in need of it – serving the community in this small way.

I have heard it said in stewardship campaigns that “money follows mission”. This is our mission – to be a vision of God's Kin-dom\*. I see that vision come to life, vibrantly, each week. To keep this vision alive, we rely on financial contributions, and pledges help us to be able to set our budget for the coming year. I hope you see the mission of God carried out in this faith community – and I am grateful for the generosity that enables our work together.

*Rev. Jazzy*

*\*kin within God's community. Not a typo!*



**Thanksgiving Service**  
**Thursday, November 28 - 9:30am**

*With special music by Flutist, Erena Yamatsu*

St. Peter's Lay Associate for Worship and Music, Manny Dayao, has arranged for Erena Yamatsu to be with us this Thanksgiving. Erena is a very accomplished 'Iolani senior who plays flute and piccolo. At 'Iolani, she performs in a wind ensemble, the top orchestra, in musical theatre orchestra pit, and is also the drum major for the marching band. In addition, she plays in the top group of the Hawaii Youth Symphony and has studied privately with Lance Suzuki.

Start your Thanksgiving Day in sacred space, giving thanks to God and enjoying a special gift of beautiful music.

**YOU and the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations**

This congregation is beautifully generous and responsive when a need is expressed. School supplies needed? They show up. Rubber slippers needed. There. Canned goods for a food collection. Got it. Toiletries and rice for a neighbor congregation's outreach program? Ongoing. This congregation organizes volunteers to feed the hungry, to support those building homes for the homeless, to knit love into blankets and hats for the elderly, the newly born, and mariners. Many people far beyond this worshipping community are touched by the living Word of God through the generosity of time, talent, and money of this congregation.

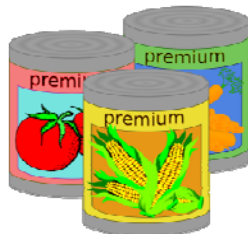
Some of you, though, have expressed concern about issues bigger than any one congregation—issues like caring for the environment, humane treatment of refugees and migrants, prison reform, addressing income disparity and the growing levels of homelessness across our country. You have heard God's call for justice in the readings on Sunday and in Bible study, and you have wondered, how can I possibly make a difference?

You can begin by familiarizing yourself with the Office of Government Relations of the Episcopal Church, <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/OGR>. This is the arm of the church that follows government legislation and policy in an effort to guide Episcopalians in being faithful to the call in our Baptismal Covenant to "strive for justice and peace." There is a wealth of information on this site regarding the "bigger" issues of our day. You can also sign up to be part of the "The Episcopal Public Policy Network" (EPPN), which will provide you with periodic email "Action Alerts" and a simple method for direct communication with our legislators. We are not helpless in a democracy. Our voices matter. Living out our faith by advocating for justice and peace matters.

*Pastor Diane*

**It's CAN, CAN, CAN TIME!!!**

St. Peter's canned goods drive is underway. For the ninth year, we will provide food support to families of the Kuhio Park Terrace Family Center. Bring your contributions to church any Sunday between now and Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> or to Jazz Vespers on Thursdays. There will be a box at the back of the church to collect your donations.



Based on recommendations for healthier choices from the Hawaii Foodbank, suggested

items include canned beans, fruit in juice, vegetables and soup with low sodium, tuna in water, unsweetened applesauce and brown rice.

Please double-check the expiration dates on the canned items. Monetary donations are also gladly received if you would like St. Peter's volunteers to shop for you. Just specify KPT on your check.



**We Honor Our Elders!**

On October 20th, St. Peter's celebrated the annual Elders' Recognition Sunday. A special booklet sharing the stories of our elders was distributed for this special Sunday. We

recognized the following elders:

**Centenarians**

- Eleanor Chang 102 Nora Fong 101
- Bernard Ching 101 Miriam Everhart 100

**Nonagenarians**

- Violet Chew 98 Lily Ing 96
- Loretta Loo 96 Stanley Kau 95
- Velma Kim 95 Annette Besvold 94
- Rosie Ching 94 Helena Won 93
- Adrienne Yee 92 Joseph Chang 91
- Ellen Jean Fo 91 Cedric Ching 90
- David Lee 90 Doreen Yuen 90

In addition to recognition during the worship services, a special brunch in their honor was served after each service. Copies of the booklet are available at the church.

Congratulations to all on living live well!

**Advent and a New Church Year Begin Sunday, December 1st**

On Sunday, December 1st, we will light the first Advent candle! It also marks the beginning a new church year. With a new year, we start a new cycle of readings from a different gospel. This year we have been hearing from the Gospel of Luke. Starting December 1st, we shift to the Gospel of Matthew.

Did you know that the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke are the only two gospels that have stories of Jesus' birth? It's true! But, the stories are not the same -one has shepherds, one has Wise Men; an angel appears to Joseph, an angel appears to Mary. Which is which? You'll find out in December!

## Junior Warden's Corner

Terry Dang, Junior Warden



It has been a busy month.

- Completed installation of the new gas stove in the kitchen. Training sessions for use of the stove will be offered.
- BIG MAHALO to Oriel, Keith, Willis, Bill, Stephanie Goo, Albert, Maureen, Edmund, Jaime, Gail, Jazzy, Olivia, Bruce and Velma for lunch for Office Painting Party 2.0! which included prepping and painting the Main Office Mauka wall, hallway and Rev Jazzy's office.
- Converted the former men's restroom in the Carriage House to an outside storage room. The former women's restroom in the Carriage House is now a unisex restroom.
- Installed condensation pump on the office air conditioner.

## Sunday, November 10th - Painting Party 3.0!



The first two painting parties went so well that our Junior Warden, Terry Dang, has scheduled another painting party for Sunday, November 10th to finish up the final details in the church office. This is your last chance to paint this year!

## Stewardship In-Gathering Sunday, November 17

### *A Beacon of Hope, A Call to Serve*

In early November, we will receive our pledge cards in the mail for the 2020 annual operating budget of St. Peter's. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to contribute to the ministry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in year 2020, indicate that amount on your pledge card, and return it on Sunday, November 17th for the ingathering of pledge cards and a celebration of our ministry together.

Included in the stewardship mailing will be a "percentage chart" to assist us in gauging how we can grow in our giving. The Bible talks about a tithe, that's 10%, given as "first fruits," as trust in God's goodness in our lives and our desire through our gifts to make God's goodness and love known in this world. If we aren't there yet, we can take incremental steps toward getting there.

It is anticipated that the cost of living will expand our expenses by about 2% next year. If our pledge stays at the same amount, we are actually falling behind in our goal to better "grow" into our budget and into our faithful giving in doing God's work in this world. We have made

significant strides over the past few years in both the number of people who pledge and in the amount pledged. That is a very positive indication of congregational health at a time when our rental income has decreased due to a shifting Japanese wedding market and portfolio earnings that have decreased by diocesan recommendation from 5% to 4%. Together we are achieving better control of our budget and spreading out the impact of any major changes. Our income from contributions has increased to 48% of our operating budget from 38% in 2014. That's significant!

Each year is different, though. Some people move away, and new people come. The ministry of St. Peter's depends upon all of us. Please prayerfully consider if you can make an increase in your pledge for 2020, and if you haven't pledged, please consider making a pledge this year. Together we are the church. Together through the ministry of this church, God uses us to touch people's lives with love and hope—now and into future generations. Thank you for your part in this ministry!

## Capital Campaign Homelessness Funds

In 2016, when St. Peter's began its capital campaign, donors were offered the option to designate 5% of their campaign pledge to a fund to address homelessness in Hawai'i. Now, at the end of the campaign, a total of \$13,182.79 has been received. To consider a best use of these gifts, a Homelessness Task Force consisting of Edmund Choy, Beth Cox, Ritabelle Fernandes, Bert Fong, Cheryl Saito, Willis Yap, and Pastor Diane was established, and over these years the task force explored a number of programs and considered various options.

In September, the Task Force presented a proposal to the Vestry to designate the funds in support of the implementation of The Institute for Human Services (IHS) "Assertive Outreach" program for the chronically mentally ill. The past legislative session, IHS worked to pass SB 1124, a law which makes it possible to provide services to the chronically mentally ill who are resistant to care, most often because they don't realize that they are ill. Under that new law, a person can be mandated to receive help not only if a danger to others but also if a danger to himself or herself. This necessitates intense supportive care management, including psychiatric and drug treatment. IHS received a grant from the city to get this program underway, but additional funds are also needed. St. Peter's Homeless Outreach funds will provide services such as copays for medications not covered, incentives IHS uses to build relationships with the mentally ill on our streets (food, coffee, clothing, transportation, etc.), court related fees, initial sheltering in the IHS medical respite house for stabilization and other costs not covered by the city grant. Since we see

a disproportionate number of mentally ill, chronically homeless persons in the area around the church, it is wonderful that we can be part of the work of IHS to more effectively transition this population with such painful needs off the streets.

To tell us more about this work, **Connie Mitchell, the Executive Director of IHS**, will be with us on **Sunday, December 1st**. She will speak after the early service in the Parish Hall and after the second service in the sanctuary. Mark your calendars and plan to attend—both to hear how IHS is addressing homelessness within our community and to show our support for Connie and the IHS staff in this very important, gospel-mandated work.

Many thanks to the Task Force members for their work. St. Peter's homelessness funds will be well used and, hopefully, bring life back to those who have become lost within the illnesses of their minds.

**Bible Studies at St. Peter's**

Wednesday Bible Study - 10:00am, Parish Hall  
Each week we read and hold lively discussions about the Bible readings for the coming Sunday. Drop in any Wednesday!

Thursday Faith Conversations - 7:30pm, Parish Hall  
Currently discussing the Deuterocanonical book of Tobit and then moving on to the Book of Job.

**November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month. Join teens, Sela and Ella Kimura, to hear Sela's journey with epilepsy and learn about epilepsy and seizure response.**



**Sunday, November 10, after both services**



**Sela is Hawaii's 2019 Teen Advocate for the Epilepsy Foundation-Hawai'i.**

**Quick Notes**

- Online Men's Grief Support Group, 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month, 8:00pm. Contact [joseph.eppink@bristolhospice.com](mailto:joseph.eppink@bristolhospice.com) to participate.
- Tyler Dos Santos-Tam was appointed as the Honorary Consul for Portugal in Hawai'i.
- Annual Honolulu Chinese Christian Concert, featuring a variety of Honolulu choirs, is Sunday, November 10, 4:00pm at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 2313 Nuuanu Avenue. Free admission.

**Senior Warden's Corner**

*Velma Lee, Senior Warden*



Highlights of the October Vestry Meeting:

- The church office has been refreshed with a new paint job and new window blinds. Many thanks to those helped after each service on Sept. 15 and Oct. 13.
- The new gas stove has arrived and has been installed. Before using the gas stove, please check with Terry Dang or Keith Lee for training on how to operate it properly.
- The beautiful new St. Peter's t-shirts have arrived! Pre-orders were picked-up, but there is still a limited supply of extra ones available for sale after each service.
- Volunteers are needed to chair the following committees: Nurture and Outreach, Prison "BacPac" Project, and Family Promise. Please see Pastor Diane if interested in helping out with any of these special ministries.
- The first College Student Vestry Care Package Project began with snacks mailed to Nick Allen, who is studying on the mainland.



## Consider the Power of Music

**1976.** I was 11 years old and started my first paid organ position playing for Sunday evening services at my home church, Standale Reformed. The church pews were packed for this service and it always started with 15 minutes of singing with hymns being chosen by the congregation. I learned early to sight-read quickly and support robust hymn singing. This very Dutch congregation wouldn't have accepted anything but full integration of the organ to support the singing and highlight the lyrics. This was also the beginning of not only cherishing these hymns, but my love of hearing stories about why they were important to those that chose them.

**2019.** Here I am 43 years later and now an Episcopalian for over 30 years. I've watched liturgy change, hymns change, and choirs change. Through the mountains and valleys experienced, one thing has not changed in church music. Music is very personalized and all of us have hymns that we want at our special times in our journey including our final service. It is very true that a hymn may be loved by one and not so loved by another.

In my experience with hospice the last few years here on the island, two women come to mind who deeply loved the "old" hymns. Luckily, I knew what they meant by the "old" hymns! As I played my small keyboard alone with the patients or had some singers, something very spiritual occurred and I knew I was in the presence of the holy. These two women were transformed by the music and the lyrics as if they were sacred scripture themselves. Peace was instant, prayers were on their lips and the presence of God filled their soul. As I left their side and returned to my car, I paused and knew that I, too, had seen and felt the presence of God. It is a beautiful and amazing moment in this life when that happens. It is grace in its fullness.

Bringing hymns and singing does not only have to be within the hospice world. There are those in this parish that like singing hymns, but are not able to sing in the choir. Would you like to join me to bring music to those that can no longer attend our services? We could sing for 20 minutes and then leave. This is not at all like the afternoon of caroling we do once a year. Rather, this would be a few folks getting together to bring the power of music and the goodness of God's grace to our family that cannot worship with us. This would not be a performance, but an opportunity to bring their "old" hymns to them and it is about ministry that goes beyond the Sunday service. Please let me know if you would like to be added to this list and join me in this journey of ministry through music.

I will never forget the struggle I had memorizing the answers to questions in the Heidelberg Catechism while

in the Reformed Church. However, one I carry with me always. "Q1: What is my only comfort in life and death?  
A: *That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.*" We do belong and in that belonging shines God's amazing grace as we go through life. Help me bring this grace through music to those that need that special touch of hope to brighten their path.

Dr. Joseph Eppink  
Director of Music  
josepheppink@gmail.com  
225-7906

For more information on the music ministries at St. Peter's, click on <http://www.stpetershonolulu.org/music-ministry.html>



Godly Play - A way for young people, their families and the church at large, to engage with the foundational stories of the Kingdom of God.

Nov 3 **The Communion of Saints** Wonder with your children who the saints are that they know personally – the choice is theirs. Who do they see as saints?

Nov 10 **A Giving Thanks for Service "service project"** We will explore many ways we can do God's work and respond by making "Thank you for your service" tokens of appreciation, to be given to members of the congregation.

Nov 17 **The Circle of the Church Year**  
Our story today centered on the Circle of the Church Year.

Nov 24 **Advent 1 The Prophets** Wonder as a family this week, how does it feel to wait when you are not quite sure what you are waiting for?

### Adult Formation January 2020 Book Group

#### Sundays, 9:00am

The next book for discussion is *Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks*, by Diana Butler Bass. If gratitude is good, why is it so hard to do? In *Grateful*, Diana Butler Bass untangles our conflicting understandings of gratitude and sets the table for a renewed practice of giving thanks. With honest stories and heart-rending examples from history and her own life, Bass reclaims gratitude as a path to greater connection with God, with others, with the world, and even with our own souls. It's time to embrace a more radical practice of gratitude—the virtue that heals us and helps us thrive. (Amazon)

Contact Rev Jazzy for more details,  
[revjazzybostock@gmail.com](mailto:revjazzybostock@gmail.com).



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

**1317 Queen Emma Street  
(808) 533-1943**

**2019 Vestry**

Senior Warden: Velma Lee  
Junior Warden: Terry Dang

Clerk: Karin Kimura  
Treasurer: Nancy Rowe

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

Term expires in 2019: Edmund Choy, Kyle Saito, Jaime Yamane  
Term expires in 2020: Karin Kimura, Steve Mitchell, Barry Wood  
Term expires in 2021: Gail Kuroda, Bill McKinney, Stephanie Wight

Pastor Diane: [pastordianem@gmail.com](mailto:pastordianem@gmail.com)  
Rev Jazzy: [revjazzybostock@gmail.com](mailto:revjazzybostock@gmail.com)  
Church Office: [stpetershonoluluoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stpetershonoluluoffice@gmail.com)  
Bookkeeper in the Church Office: [stpetershonolulu@gmail.com](mailto:stpetershonolulu@gmail.com)