

January 2024

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

EPIPHANY SUNDAY/BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sunday, January 7

7:30 AM and 10:00 AM Worship

First-Sunday-of-the-Month Coffee Hour



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Wednesday, January 10

10:00 AM

Zoom



K2P2 KNITTING/CROCHETING MINISTRY

Saturday, January 13

9:30 - 11:30 AM



VESTRY MEETING

Wednesday, January 17

6:00 PM

Zoom



Q&A IN ADVANCE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 21

8:45 AM

"In Person" in the Sanctuary and by Zoom



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Saturday, January 28

8:45 AM

"In Person" in the Sanctuary and by Zoom



A blessed New Year to all!

As we turn our calendars to 2024, our attention shifts to preparations for our Annual Meeting which is held the last Sunday in the month of January. This year it is January 28th. Once again we will hold a "hybrid" meeting in the sanctuary between services with both an "in person" and Zoom option. Besides a review of the year and looking ahead to ministry in 2024, we will vote on a slate of new Vestry members and Diocesan Convention delegates. In the coming weeks, both the Annual Report and the budget will be prepared with the Vestry voting on the budget at their January 17th meeting. The following Sunday, January 21st, we will have a Q&A between services prior to the Annual Meeting.



A Christmas gift!

Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, which burned to the ground in Lahaina, had an original piece of artwork of the Madonna and Child carved on its altar. An image of that artwork was on the sign welcoming all to the church. In the horrific fire that destroyed the church, this artwork was lost but amazingly the sign survived.

In memory and honor of the church, Lahaina town, and the beauty of this art, the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i made a copy of the print for each congregation of the Diocese. Robert & Stephanie Wight took that print and had it beautifully framed in koa wood. The print now graces the 'Ewa wall of the church (see photo). Thank you, Robert and Stephanie, for this beautiful, poignant, and hope-filled addition to our worship space!

Holiday Gathering with Tokaikolo

Since 2014, we have been blessed by the presence of the Tokaikolo Church on the St. Peter's campus. The congregation worships every Sunday at 1:00pm in the sanctuary, and they meet for Bible study and prayer at other times during the week. Over the years, they have lovingly assisted us in caring for the church and have participated in numerous work projects around the church. Occasionally we have gathered for a social gathering and a meal. Sunday, December 3rd was our first gathering since COVID, and what a wonderful time we had! Thank you to Stephanie Wight who organized the activities, Chucky Nakao who provided the music, and Velma Lee who organized the potluck.

As folks arrived they were instructed in making two hands—one to place on a wreath that included both our congregations and one placed in a bowl from which folks chose one as they left to pray for that person during the month of December. While the two congregations shared their stories—Velma for St. Peter's and Vili and Pesu for the Tongan congregation of Tokaikolo, children had their own activities out in the garden. Throughout the evening, Chucky provided festive music for the evening, and everyone enjoyed a feast from the potluck that Velma had organized!



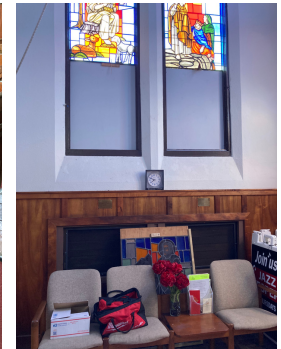


The Bell Tower Window Repair Has Begun!

In March of 2022, we discovered a rock in the Bell Tower and shards of glass sprinkled over the floor. Two holes were discovered in the stained glass windows facing Queen Emma Street. There is only one artisan on this island who is experienced at this kind of repair, Jim Erickson, and he is in high demand. We immediately got on his list! To prevent the possibility of further damage, he and Jim Harvey prioritized adding plexiglass protection to the stained glass windows along the street.

The last week of December, they were able to return to remove the two damaged panes of glass so that Jim Erickson could take them up to his workshop for repair. In their place, they installed solid coverings. The repair work is expected to take a few months. Fortunately, the church has insurance that has already covered the cost for the repairs.

Jim's expertise is a treasure on this island, but he is looking for an apprentice to take over his work. Anyone interested?



Shave Ice for Ballet Students

Our Jr. Warden, Dan Ching, along with his spouse, Mei, sisters Cheryl Bochentin and Laura Thue, a former employee of Dan's, Wynette Kam, and Bert Kwok have been serving up shave ice to the ballet students of Queen Emma Ballet. Queen Emma Ballet has been a tenant of St. Peter's for decades on the second floor of the Parish Hall. They are so appreciative of the "cool" aloha from the church! Thank you, Dan, and thank you, Laura, for the photos!



Sunglasses needed in the Parish Hall!

Check out the Parish Hall floor! It sparkles!! A huge mahalo to Terry Dang and Leonard Lester. Leonard is a floor expert, and Terry organized a work crew to strip and polish the Parish Hall floor. Additional thanks to Oriel Agacoili, Fr. Frank Chun, Justin Deloss, Wendell Halemanu, Konstantinos Karampakakis, Stacy Lewis, Frank Lum, Robert Wight, Willis Yap, and Beez Zane. They spent all day Saturday, December 30th, stripping and polishing. They moved furnishings, prepped the floor, stripped and waxed (seven coats!), vacuumed, managed mop buckets, and cleaned the fan blades. The Parish Hall floor gleams! Thank you, Guys!



**Annual Holiday Collection for PACT (Parents and Children Together)
at The Towers at Kūhiō Park**

Thank you for your generosity in contributing to the annual holiday collection for the families at The Towers at Kūhiō Park. This year the congregation gave \$1,000 to PACT. Thank you to Haroldwyn Chang who coordinates this annual collection.

Pledge report for 2024

Thank you for your generosity and support for the ministry of this church. We have had an excellent pledging response for 2024. As we near the end of December, we have 64 pledges totaling \$275,803.00. This compares to 73 pledges in 2023 totaling \$217,294.00. This year we took on a deficit budget knowing that our primary tenant, Watabe, a Japanese wedding company, has had a slow recovery from the pandemic. How much business we will recover from Watabe post-pandemic is yet to be seen. That congregational giving is increasing to offset the impact of Watabe on the budget is very positive. Thank you!

If you haven't pledged yet and wish to do so, you can find pledge packets by the side door in the sanctuary or in the church office. Pledging serves an important purpose in guiding the Vestry in their budget deliberations for the coming year. A pledge is a monetary commitment, but when circumstances change it is understood that pledged amounts may change. Thank you again for your part in making this ministry possible!

St. Peter's Monetary Outreach in the Community

Each year St. Peter's Vestry designates a schedule of monetary gifts to support organizations doing work beyond what we can do as a congregation. In 2023, St. Peter's has supported IHS (The Institute for Human Services), Family Promise, River of Life, Honolulu Habitat for Humanity, the Foodbank, Hawai'i Meals on Wheels, Lanakila Meals on Wheels, Hope Lodge, Kōkua Mau, and Camp Mokulē'ia.

In December we received the following letters of thanks:

From Lanakila Meals on Wheels: Thank you for blessing our organization and the people we serve with this generous gift. May the season bring you peace and joy!

From Hawai'i Meals on Wheels: Thanks to your generosity, Hawai'i Meals on Wheels will continue to deliver more than 150,000 nutritious meals to O'ahu's most vulnerable and isolated kūpuna. Thank you for remembering our kūpuna neighbors. You are helping them age with dignity and without fear of hunger.

MEET THE NEWER FOLKS IN THE PEWS

The St. Peter's community has been richly blessed by the presence of new folks in the pews! Here are some introductions to assist us all in getting to know one another better. See what connections you have in common!

The Rev. David and Rev. Martha Blanchett

HAPPY NEW YEARS from the "Blanchetts from Alaska"

Greetings and the Lord be with you! We are the retired reverends Martha and David, also known as the "Snowbirds" from the 49th State of America. We have attended many years prior when in Honolulu, the best kept secret in Hawai'i - St. Peter's Episcopal Jazz Vespers on Thursday evenings. But now we confess that in the recent past, we also have attended the 10am worship service where we have been extremely blessed with the preached Word and the worship and fellowship of the congregants. God is Good! ps. We love talking about Alaska, especially Tuntutuliak.



Justin DeLoss

I'm Justin DeLoss and I usually attend the 10AM service on Sundays. I've been stationed here on O'ahu with my family for 11 years now and I love it. My hobbies include running, hiking and making ice cream. My work keeps me on the road sometimes so if I'm absent for a while just know that I'll be back soon.



Hal "Paul" Halvorson

I was born in Rochester NY. My dad was a Lutheran pastor and my mom was the daughter of one. I've grown up filling many roles in the church, including shoveling snow from the sidewalks before worship, to setting up folding chairs for a function and have served on church councils and committees. My wife Lisa, a Priory graduate, and I met in church in Chicago after our college years. She brought me here to Hawai'i where we raised two sons and had a rewarding life with her parents.

I worked in Information Technology for many years for the Judiciary of the State of Hawai'i and now help out there part-time. We also watch our two grandkids, 4 and 2, part-time. That keeps us busy! I attend the 7:30 service and enjoy the sermons and hymn singing.

Celia Langford

Hello, everyone! My name is Celia Langford. I started attending the 10:00 services last fall, and am thrilled to have discovered the St. Peter's community! I am currently pursuing my master's degree in Asian Studies at UH Mānoa, where my partner, Xiaobo Liang, and I live on-campus. I grew up in the Episcopal church in Redmond, Washington, and have been so blessed to become a part of your wonderful community at St. Peter's during my years on O'ahu. I look forward to getting to know you all even better as months go by :)
Best wishes, Celia





Diane O'Reilly

My start with St. Peter's began several years ago when a friend was talking about Jazz Vespers. Loving jazz, and being fascinated with the structure and history of St. Peter's, I went and fell in love with it. When the pandemic arrived and everything went on line I was able to attend the Sunday services. I realized what I was missing were Pastor Diane's sermons which I found uplifting, educational, inspiring and soul nurturing. I have found the members to be very friendly and welcoming and feel at peace being in this beautiful church. I have a wonderful son named Justin who married a wonderful woman named Tina and have two beautiful granddaughters, an adorable great grandson and a 16 year old grand doggy. I grew up in a loving family of seven. I had wonderful careers in my life and retired 11 years ago from the City & County of Honolulu. I have been able to see a lot of the world. Retirement is wonderful....I am blessed!

Jon Rasmussen

Born in North Dakota and raised in Spokane, Washington, Jon is a graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington where he lived for 13 years before moving to Honolulu in 1989. He has been a marketing and advertising executive in Honolulu for 35 years. He enjoys movies, books, Scuba diving, and riding his motorcycle. He also enjoys dotting on his classic cars, but is noticing this joy is starting to ebb. He joined St. Peter's Episcopal Church in mid 2023 and likes the 7:30 service.



Brian and Cathy Riordan

Brian and Cathy are midway through a one year military tour in Hawai'i. They moved from Upstate South Carolina, where they still have a small farm, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This is where they raised their three sons, Thomas, Aidan, and Sean. Brian is in the Marine Corps and Cathy teaches English at St. Andrew's Priory.

After raising three boys, they are now the "proud parents" of two Australian shepherds, Bert and Ernie, who had to stay on the mainland to watch over the farm and Cathy's spoiled cats, Possum and Pumpkin. Without vegetable gardens and chickens to keep them busy here in Honolulu, the Riordans are taking advantage of city life in paradise.

Brian and Cathy are enjoying the tropical weather of O'ahu. They like traveling together and exploring the many beaches all over the island. They attend the 7:30 service where Cathy occasionally reads.



Char Sinclair

Char Sinclair is an island girl raised in the Kuli'ou'ou area of O'ahu. She attended Kamehameha Schools, Hawai'i Loa College and the Richardson School of Law. Her passion has always been painting. She was awarded the master's of native art award "Mamo", and currently has works displayed at Cedar Street Galleries as well as Nā Mea at Ward Village Center. Her other passion is to be an Episcopal Nun in the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i, which she is currently working towards. She loves being a member of the St. Peter's parish and serving as one of the church's lectors. At St. Peter's she feels that she has found her true place of worship.

Connor & Isabelle Zale

Connor and Isabelle met in 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. They hiked, beached, and quarantined together - ultimately getting married at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in March 2023. Connor and Isabelle connected to St. Peter's church through Isabelle's family, who can be found at both the early and later Sunday services.

Isabelle Zale (formerly Yuen) grew up here in Hawai'i. She went to college in Los Angeles, then came back to Hawai'i and has been on the island since 2017. She currently works in administration at a fertility clinic. On Mondays, Isabelle can be found helping coach Police Activities League (PAL) volleyball. Otherwise, she is at home watching Netflix or with friends and family. Connor Zale is from Scranton, Pennsylvania. He went to both undergraduate and medical school in Pennsylvania, then moved to Hawai'i in 2019. He joined the military through the Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP), and has been stationed at Tripler Army Medical Center as a resident. He spends his free time playing video games, watching movies, and exercising to ensure he can pass his Army physical fitness tests.



Bryant "Beez" and William Zane

Hi, my name is Bryant Zane. You're welcome to call me by my childhood nickname, Beez or B.Z. Bryant is fine as well. I have been attending St. Peter's Episcopal Church since the start of 2023. I had been watching the live-stream for a little while before that. St. Peter's is my family's church. My great grandparents, last name Zane, were founding members. My grandmother attended regularly probably up into the 80s. My parents were married in the church. They never attended. My brother and I were baptized by Father Chun around 1980. I accepted Jesus as my savior when my classmate witnessed to me in my junior year of high school. I was later confirmed by Bishop Hart in 1988. I live a block away on the corner of Pali and Vineyard. Since October, I have had the pleasure to teach Sunday School with Chucky and Muffin.

I'm otherwise a District Court judge in my day job. The courthouse that I work at is just down the street. I went to 'Iolani School for 13 years. I have a lot of 'Iolani connections at St. Peter's including Norma Chun, my 5th and 6th grade music teacher. I got my undergraduate degree from UH Mānoa and my law degree from Howard University, a historically black college in Washington D.C. I enjoy playing golf and running (but not this year). I am married, but separated now. Our son, William, is 9 years old and a 4th grader at Assets School. He is named after his great, great, great grandfather, William Goodness. William Zane is a tremendous athlete, amazing in memory and sense of place, and a considerate friend. He recently started serving as an acolyte which he looks forward to doing on Sundays. I'm a little shy, but if you come up to me I'll talk to you. Thank you for welcoming William and me into the St. Peter's 'ohana and letting me share a bit about us.

Christmas at St. Peter's!
Thank you for to The Rev. David Blanchett for the photos!



Legacy Gifts

Have you considered St. Peter's in your estate planning? By remembering St. Peter's, you ensure a lasting legacy to God's ministry in and through this church. Some of the planned giving options that you can discuss with your estate planner include: bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, memorial endowment funds, gifts of stock and real estate, donor-directed distribution agreements, charitable remainder trusts, and qualified charitable distributions. Designating gifts for "unrestricted use" is best as that allows the vestry to make decisions regarding best use of the bequest over the decades to come. Thank you for considering a gift that will further St. Peter's ministry for years to come!



2023 Vestry

Senior Warden: Velma Lee

Junior Warden: Dan Ching

Treasurer: Nancy Rowe

Clerk: Karin Kimura

Rector: The Rev. Diane Martinson

Term expires in 2023:

**Karin Kimura, Bryan Matsumoto,
Barry Wood**

Term expires in 2024:

Sue Jennings, Janet Kim, Stephanie Wight

Term expires in 2025:

Paula Choy, Chucky Nakoa



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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| JAN 02 | Bella Phang |
| JAN 03 | Tricia Matsumoto |
| JAN 06 | Ashlyn Kim |
| JAN 08 | Jason Baroza Aleah Peterson |
| JAN 09 | Colin Leong Sheri Yoshida |
| JAN 10 | Kristen Connors Ricky Dang Lois Gray Paul Yuen |
| JAN 11 | Susan Dang Reid Kagemoto |
| JAN 16 | Sophie Choy Derek Ho Chucky Nakoa Cathy Riordan |
| JAN 17 | Robert Wight Bryant Zane |
| JAN 18 | Catie Wiecking |
| JAN 21 | Leila Diamond |
| JAN 22 | Kyle Chang |
| JAN 25 | Mischa Kawamoto Liliana Wond Jan Yap |
| JAN 30 | Cedric Ching |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

JAN 09 Colin & Pamela Leong