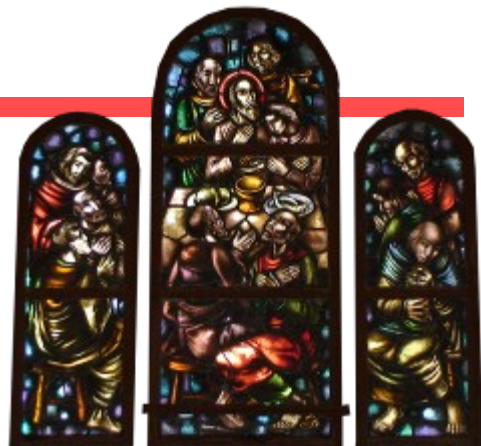




The Journey

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record



November 2019

Let us this month

- * Ask our delegates what happened at the convention
- * Give our Parish Administrator a donation for the homeless
- * Remember and assist the needy, especially during Thanksgiving
- * Read a passage of scripture daily
- * Invite a friend or neighbor to dine
- * Volunteer to help with the homeless ministry

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Convention Delegates



Frank Condello, Pablo Cortez and Gail Hirozawa

Blessing To All

Reflections

by Bill Mok
Senior Warden



We at St. Mary's have been richly blessed by our many visiting clergies. To avoid leaving any particular individual out, I would not list them by name here. But I want to take a moment to thank each of them in a most heart-felt way. I sense their attitude of care and love, going beyond their call of duty to minister to our relatively small congregation. Their willingness and eagerness to serve have been an essential part of our parish life this year, and very much appreciated.

Perhaps because of the variety of preachers, I find myself more attentive to the sermons than usual. A recent teaching on the

Parable of the Unjust Judge, leading to a challenging discourse on Persistent Prayer, prompted me to examine my own prayer life.

Involvement in what I would describe broadly as the Evangelical tradition has been formative in my spiritual growth. While not a convert responding to the altar call at a Billy Graham Crusade, I was a volunteer counselor trained to greet those who come forward, myself having only accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior less than a year prior. Although Evangelism was and is the fundamental core of my faith, I can't say the same about their discipline. The churches and youth groups I attended placed a lot of emphasis on daily reading of the Bible and prayer. As much as I love God, I just never felt the inner drive to read the Bible and pray in a regimental way. I tried, and it felt like a burden.

But I pray...irregularly, but persistently, mostly when I am in distress. I pray when I am in need. I pray when situation is out of my control. As an engineer, I am most keenly aware of the limits of the science and technology, and my own ability. God answers prayers, mostly by working within the law of physics He designed, but bypassing it when He deems fit to so.

Now, let me be perfectly clear. I share this personal attitude not to promote it. Please do not follow my example. It is NOT the right way to relate to God. There is intuitively something wrong when one only prays when in need.

But here is why the Parable of the Unjust Judge resonated with me. So much of the story seems "wrong", the nagging on the part of the widow, bad attitude of the judge. But through these blemishes and incorrectness, persistent prayer emerges as the winner. My prayer life is far from being right, but it is such a blessing knowing God can work miracles despite our imperfections.



Words from the Committee

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Pablo Cortez

Charlene Date

Tatjana Johnson

Laurie Lee

Jacqueline Mok

After these interviews are completed, we will reduce the list of candidates to three finalists and submit their names and supporting information to the Vestry.

Interview weekends for candidates approved by the Vestry will then be planned, organized and hosted by the Search Committee. The Vestry must decide on a "first choice" and discuss it with the Bishop before a Call can be extended to a new Rector.

Although there is still much to be done, the dedicated efforts of your Search Committee, with God's help, should allow us to complete our tasking by early 2020.



Our October Celebrants

October 6



Rev. Heather Patton-Graham

October 13



Rev. Haakeo Guanson

October 27



Rev. Preston Lentz

October 20



Sunday Prayer Group

By James Maruyama



For the past number of years, Ruth Yoshioka have faithfully been leading the prayer group for St. Mary's. Every Sunday you can find Ruth answering prayer requests form the church community and those in attendance in Soldier's Chapel. The prayer group was established in the late 70s during Father McGlynn's tenure at St. Mary's and was enthusiastically conducted by "Prayer Warriors" Thelma Pang, Bill Sumida and Eileen Scroffner who led the prayer group for years up through the building of the new sanctuary in 1985. Since then attendance for the prayer group has slowly dwindled through the years due to the passing of Thelma and Bill. Eventually Ruth took over the prayer group and has kept it going up to the present.

"Giving glory to God is what the prayer group should be doing"

Ruth added that having a prayer group is a major underpinning of any church congregation. It's an opportunity for church members to give glory to God and that's the main purpose. It's a time to give thanksgiving to God. Thanks to the contributions of members like Eugenia Park, Ruth has been able to keep the group going.

Ruth encourages and welcomes all members to come join the prayer group. People can bring prayer requests and communicate with God however they feel. Ruth noted that prayer request can be communicated to her however is most convenient (either by email, mail or verbally).

Although prayer group participation has fluctuated over the years, Ruth feels it's not the numbers that are important but rather the way the group relates to God that is important. Ruth adds, "It goes up and down and in and out but that's how the Sprit works".

The prayer service group meets in Soldier's Chapel every Sunday at 8:15 AM just prior to Church Service.



St. Mary's Delegates Attend Diocesan Convention in Honolulu

James Maruyama reporting

51st Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii

This past weekend Frank Condello, Pablo Cortez and Gail Hirozawa attended (on behalf of the St. Mary's congregation) the 51st Annual Meeting of the Convention



of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii which was held at the Cathedral of St. Andrew, held recently on Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26. The convention was attended by various congregations from around the state and offered the chance for designated delegates to meet for fellowship and attend various seminars to help with spiritual growth.

Each of the delegates had their own reasons for attending the convention:

For **Frank** it was a chance to supplement his studies in pursuit of priesthood. As a Postulant and current enrollee of the Seminar Program, it gave Frank the opportunity to learn the inner administrative workings of the Episcopal Church.

Frank noted that with the progressive outreach into the Community that the Episcopal Church is involved in, it is for the love of Christ and the love in the hearts of Episcopalians that outreach should be done. "Be inspired and think outside of the box", Frank noted.

For **Pablo** on the other hand, it was happenstance. He was a last-minute fill-in. Yet even though this was an unplanned event, Pablo was thankful for the experience and was able to get much out of the experience. It was a time for renewal, both in terms of the parish and for delegates themselves. It gave attendees an opportunity to soul search and see what their congregation is about. “To look inwardly at one’s heart”, Pablo added. While the convention itself was mostly about policies and initiatives, it gave attendees a chance at spiritual fellowship. Pablo noted that the next upcoming three conventions will again be held on Oahu.

Gail went through the submission process to submit her application for the convention and was lucky enough to have been selected to go. For Gail is was both to help the church and for personal growth. The convention was an eye-opening experience and Gail learned a lot from the experience. Gail hopes to be one day be a important voice for St. Mary’s in the future. Gail noted that some of the topics covered during the convention had to be tabled for discussion at next year’s convention.

**Bishop Fitzpatrick
giving the message
during opening
Holy Eucharist**



**So we are ambassadors
for Christ...we entreat
you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.
2 Corinthians 5:20**

Those interested in attending next year’s convention should check the Episcopal Diocese’s home page at <https://www.episcopalhawaii.org/> for the next upcoming convention or contact Charlene Date to submit an application for nomination.

A Senior Seminar Summary



As we get along in years, there are certain considerations that need our attention. Senior Seminar Part 1 & 2 on September 1, 2019 and October 6, 2019 were held to address senior issues.

Part 1 focused on important legal documents that should be discussed with one's doctor and families, completed and stored securely. Examples are legal documents that express your health-care wishes such as Advance Health Care Directive, Providers Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST), Durable general Power of Attorney. Other documents include important financial documents, pre-paid funeral plan, insurance documents, last will and testaments etc.



Jackie Mok, Presenter

Part 2 addresses assistance with daily living activities at home, whether it is for recovery from an illness/surgery/hospitalization or for long term needs. Available services were discussed, such as Home Health, Day Care, private hire caregivers, care homes, assisted living, nursing home. Financial resources were discussed. A senior resource handbook was provided to all. Both sessions were well attended.

Jackie

Opportunities to Serve

To be a blessing to self and others

Aloha Hour Coordinator

Current coordinator retiring at the end of the year. To continue the popular Aloha Hour after Sunday Worship Service, need volunteer(s) for coordinating position beginning January 2020. Please contact Parish Administrator, Charlene Date.

Cultural Night Co-coordinators

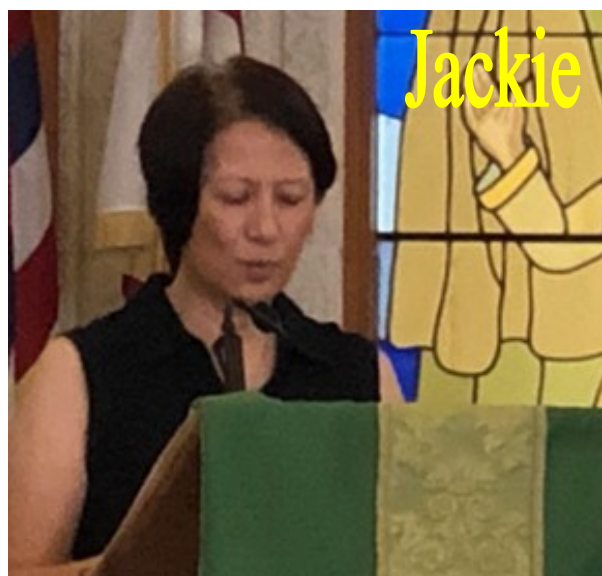
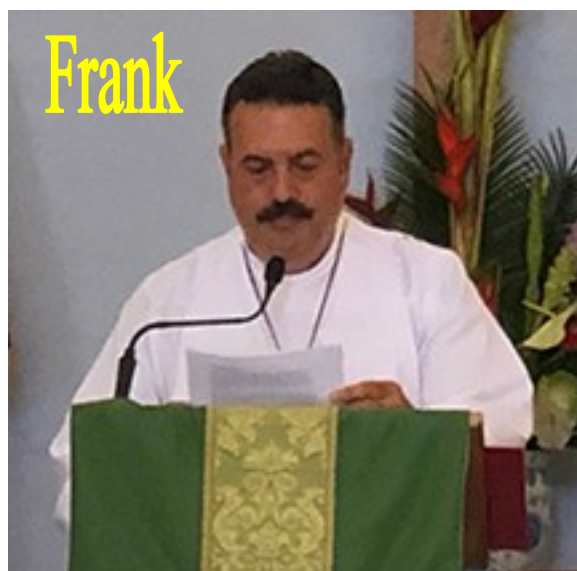
Need Volunteers to brainstorm and co-coordinate a monthly cultural night every 3rd Friday from 6pm to 7:30pm beginning January 2020. Please contact Parish Administrator, Charlene Date or Fr. David Blanchett for more information.



Yoshioka, Pang and Endo Families

Our October Readers





and Pablo

Thank You

READERS

smomjourney@yahoo.com

The Journey Team

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Charlene Date



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Road Map



An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record

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Mo'ili'ili Homeless Outreach Service

No outreach in
November & December.
Resume 1-30-2020



Sunday Worship Service 9:00am

Office Closed

November 5, 11 & 28

Prayer Ministry

8:15am
Sundays in
Soldier Chapel

Vestry Meeting

10:15am
November 17th

November Supply

Rev. Heather Patton-Graham
Rev. Preston Lentz
Rev. Imelda Padasdao



November Birthdays

14-Betty Hardaway
17-Jackie Mok

Search Committee Meeting

November 3rd



Free Health Classes

YOGA

CLASS

Tuesdays 10:00am
Gathering Room

WARRIORS

AT EASE

CLASS

Saturdays 10:00 am
Gathering Room



Service of Singing, Prayer and Healing

Every Wednesday
12pm—12:40pm
Soldier Chapel