



St. Michael & All Angels, Kaua'i Monthly Newsletter February 2019

Upcoming Events

- Adult Formation: The Gospel According to Luke, Sunday, February 3 and 10, Goodale Conference Room 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- Adult Formation: Life of the Twelve Disciples. Sunday, February 17 and 24, Goodale Conference Room, 6:30-9:30 a.m..
- Matt Lemmler's Jazz Singer Night 2 featuring Matt Lemmler, Greta Matassa, Clipper Anderson, Alan Van Zee, and KISS Vocalists. Friday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, www.KISSKauai.org or www.brownpapertickets.com.

Burnt Ends

Andrew McMullen, Rector

Setting aside all the debate surrounding the best, authentic BBQ in the world, I was born and raised in Kansas City; so with my apologies to the Carolinas, Tennessee and Texas, it is not even close. And Kansas City offers something that none of those do: burnt ends, the meat cut from the "point" end of a beef brisket. If the cook master knows what he is doing, and many in Kansas City do, these ends are lovingly smoked low and slow until they will literally melt in one's mouth.

Ever since I could drive, I found myself in pursuit of the best burnt ends. Well-known places, like Arthur Bryant's, Gates and others, make very good burnt ends, but I suspected the best out there might be found elsewhere. So, I searched. I ate a lot of burnt ends. After over ten years, well into my lawyer days, I found them in the most unlikely of places – a small, run-down shack of a place nearly on the Missouri River called Harpers. Four enormous picnic (continued on page 2)

2019 Annual Meeting

Pat Hillegonds

Our church bylaws require that we have an annual meeting in January to elect new vestry members and convention delegates and to conduct any other church business as may be appropriate. In the past, meetings were held after the 9:45 Sunday service and were often not very well attended. For the past three years, however, the meetings have been held on a Sunday evening and have included dinner. According to Fr. Andrew, the annual

meeting is a time to celebrate who we are as a church, and calls for a party.

And so, celebrate we did. Approximately 55 people attended the event. Dinner was an assortment of pastas, catered by Kauai Pasta. Service was provided by vestry members. I happened to be sitting at the table with Fr. Andrew. At some point during the meal, he told the people at our table to look around, and asked us what we saw. At each of the tables, there were animated conversations, with people actively (continued on page 3).

Burnt Ends (continued)

tables filled the dining room but there was no waitress service. Rather, you went to the back where under a large, worn tent you would meet Gerald, an elderly, rotund black man with scars on his hands and grease on his apron seemingly from the Civil War era. Gerald was the cook master. He tended the fire. And he was a genius. He would set you up with a pound of ends with two slices of white bread, wrapped in cheap wax paper. Pay the lady at the counter, get a soda from the vending machine, take your ends to the picnic tables, and cram in among friends and strangers. Heaven.

I got to know Gerald pretty well over the years, enjoying my conversations with him almost as much as the ends. I learned that he had been smoking meat at Harpers in the old, converted oil barrels for decades. He didn't own the place, just worked there and took home his paycheck. And he tended the fire in all weather, with only Christmas and Easter off. On the day I was born, Gerald tended the

fire. While I was in grade school and high school, Gerald tended the fire. When I was in law school and became a lawyer, got married, had children, Gerald tended the fire. He tended the fire while I went to seminary, became a priest, remarried and came to this parish. Year after year after year, people came, gathered and were fed. It was his life.

Last month, I learned that Gerald died at the age of 91; a humble and gentle man who spent 72 years tending the fire and offering to countless people the gift of his cooking. Just about anyone can prepare food that fills the stomach. Gerald did that, of course, but it was sublime; it brought joy and fellowship and fulfillment to thousands and thousands of souls. People sometimes ask me what a truly authentic church looks like. And I have come to the conclusion that it is Harpers. If so, it is Gerald that preached its gospel. He gave his life away so that the blessings of his heart and hands might touch others and bring to the world something good that it had not known before; it is what love looks like. Well done, Gerald, a good and faithful servant. Welcome home.

Thirteenth Annual All Angels Jazz Festival

Alan Van Zee, Director of Music Ministries

The 2019 All Angels Jazz Festival has come and gone, and by just about every measure it was a wonderful success. We had outstanding artists participating from Kauai, the Hawaiian Islands and the mainland. The Friday and Saturday night concerts were amazing, exciting and inspiring. The Sunday Jazz Masses were full of inspiration and beautiful worship through music. And just as important, the St. Michael's 'ohana came together and worked beautifully as a team to make it all happen seamlessly. There are so many people who gave so much time, talent and gifts, it's impossible to start naming them, so it will have to suffice to say a huge Mahalo to everyone who helped in any way. I feel that over the three days of the festival we showed the Kauai community and those visiting what we do so well at St. Michael's:

reach out, welcome and show love to everyone who crosses our path. And they numbered in the hundreds!



Annual Meeting (continued)

engaged with each other. Fr. Andrew said one of the strengths of St. Michael's church, one of the things that sets it apart from many other churches, is the fact that its people actually like each other, and care for each other.

Following dinner, Fr. Andrew talked about the various ministries, and thanked the ministry leaders for their service. Bill Skelton presented the 2019 budget, approved by the vestry. For the second consecutive year, it is a balanced budget, reflecting financial health and stability. Outgoing vestry members, Sue Burriss and Amy Null, as well as outgoing Junior Warden, Dana Bekeart, were acknowledged and thanked for their service. Marilyn Allen and Lindsay Kamm were elected as new vestry members, and Brian Pearson was elected as the new Junior Warden. Gary

Ellwood, whose position is by appointment, will remain on as Senior Warden. A third vestry member had to back out at the last minute, so a new one will be selected by the current vestry. Bill Skelton and Sue Burriss were re-elected as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, and Matt McGinness, Sue Macklin, and Sue Burriss were elected as delegates to the 2019 Diocesan Convention. Two more delegates need to be selected. Anyone interested should contact Fr. Andrew. Finally, Loretta Roof and Renate McMullen were given special thanks for making it possible for Fr. Andrew to carry out all his responsibilities as Rector.

This year's annual meeting certainly was more than a time to conduct the necessary business of the church. It was a time to come together, to enjoy each other, and to celebrate ourselves as a thriving faith community.

The Great Treasure Hunt in God's Creation

Sue Macklin, Director of Children's Ministries

There is no better way to connect to God than through one of his greatest gifts; "nature". The children beg all year long to return to Kokee and the wonderful lodging at Waineke Cabins. The families and the children have a chance to unwind, connect, and spend quality time together.

To kick off the first evening, we cooked together and especially enjoyed Matt McGinness' homemade pizza. We closed the first evening with Creation Pictionary. This was a little different as we used play-dough instead of pen and paper to deliver our clues to key things in the creation story.

Saturday morning was the "The Great Treasure Hunt". Each team had to piece together each clue that took them all over the meadow area of the park to find the treasure. The treasure was shared by all that

included treats for the campfire and slime making materials.

We concluded our weekend on Sunday morning with each team presenting what discoveries they made during the weekend about creation. Team one created a book and team Life composed a song. We presented these at the following service with the congregation.



Life in the Parish!



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