



St. Michael & All Angels, Kauaʻi Monthly Newsletter June 2019

Upcoming Events

- Pentecost Sunday, June 8/9
One of the high feast days of the Christian calendar, marking the gift of the Holy Spirit. Wear red!
- Ti Leaf Lei Making Workshop, June 15, 9:00 am—noon
- Father's Day, June 16
Reception following 9:45am service hosted by women of the church.
- Property Committee
June 19, 3:30—4:30 pm
- Vestry Meeting
June 20, 4:30—6:00 pm
- Annual Picnic, June 30 after 10:00 am worship

A Deep Breath

Andrew McMullen, Rector

Everywhere except on our calendars, it seems summer has arrived. The days are a bit longer; the heat and humidity rises; we begin to watch the weather channel with more attention, mangoes are more plentiful and the vibe on the island, with children out of school and adults taking vacation time, is different. Life in the parish is changing as well. Some of our ministries rest; attendance at worship becomes more sporadic, and overall, the pace of life slows. Each year brings this cycle. We are, after all, liturgical people, wired for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Eastertide. When we hit the season after Pentecost, entering the somewhat undefined territory that we call, "ordinary time," it seems that we are called to take a deep breath. And, each year, I write the same article for the June edition of The Herald, emphasizing that we should not ignore this call to rest; it is, in some ways, as necessary to our faith community and spirituality as all the other seasons of the year. (continued next page)

Remembering Kalaupapa

Phyllis Meighen, Rev., Director RSCS

"Once, when he was in one of the cities, there was a man covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground and begged him, 'Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.' Then Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, 'I do choose. Be made clean.' Immediately the leprosy left him.

-- Luke 5:12, 13

On January 6, 1866, a boat anchored in Kalawao Bay, Molokai. Twelve passengers disembarked, the first of more than 8,000 who

would live and die in forced exile, separated from their loved ones, because they had leprosy. For 103 years **fear** of contagion underlay government policy: even after science determined leprosy posed little risk to 95% of the population; even after sulfone drugs proved effective to arrest the disease in 1947.

It wasn't until June 30, 1969, that the Hawaii State Legislature restored full civil rights to the people of Kalaupapa. The name for the disease was officially changed to Hansen's Disease to diminish social stigma. Still, the stigma remained to fade only very slowly. (continued next page)

A Deep Breath (continued)

The obvious, available metaphor here is sleep. The average person sleeps 8 hours a day, which is one-third of our life over time. If someone lives to be 75, that is 25 years of sleep. That's a lot of sleep! But as we all know, we need it. Science has shown that we process our memories and regulate our narratives and identities while we sleep. Lack of sleep can cause significant mental and emotional disabilities; a complete removal of it ultimately results in death! We cannot pursue our lives in any meaningful way without the rest and benefit of sleep. Some actually fight this biological, emotional and spiritual need, claiming that so much sleep is a waste of their precious time. But they do so at a cost, sacrificing the quality of their lives awake for simply more time. In my view, this is a mistake.

The sleep metaphor quickly breaks down in the present context; I am not suggesting that we should completely ignore our discipleship of Christ and this faith community for the summer. We cannot afford to do so and meet the calling to be the love of God in this world. However, I am suggesting that brief times of gentle rest are necessary for us to meet the demands of our lives and ministries in this place. We will not be able to engage our faith and service with the joy, energy and drive they deserve without it.

Just as with sleep, we need rest to find ourselves, to maintain our balance and identities in addition to rejuvenating our bodies. So, as the summer unfolds, I invite all of us to take a deep breath and find ways to disconnect and rest. Ditch the cellphone and read a book. Sit in paradise. Let the saltwater embrace your body and spirit. Take a long lunch. Watch two movies in a row. Throw a dinner party just because it is a Tuesday. Nap on the beach. However you may find it, give peace to your mind, body and soul. September, and the time for our renewed commitment to the life of St. Michael's, will soon be upon us. Be rested!



Remembering Kalaupapa (continued)

Today the Kalaupapa is a National Historical Park with a new mission and new life. Kalaupapa history tells the story of the brokenness of humanity and the new life God gives in Jesus Christ. ReSource for Christian Spirituality is involved with Kana`ana Hou-Siloama Church, to lead retreats and develop a living museum for present and future generations.

ReSource is leading a multi-church effort on Kauai to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Kalaupapa Independence Day. **Please join us on Saturday, June 15, 9:00 am – noon, at Lihue Christian Church, social hall, to make green ti leaf lei.** Ida Furumoto, Alice Brown, along with 7 others and myself, will then get the lei to

Kalaupapa and personally place them on grave sites. Please contact Phyllis Meighen for more information at spirituality@stmichaels-kauai.org or 647-4346.

**We need green
ti leaves!
We need
helping hands!**



Homeless Community on Campus

Loretta Ebnet, Parish Administrator

As mentioned in last month's article under *Vestry News*, one of the six focal points that has the attention of our Vestry leadership is in addressing and creating a parish policy as it relates to the homeless population here on St. Michael's campus. As the growing concerns from our tenants arise and we acknowledge the need to tend to this population as a faith community, we realize there are no easy solutions, no quick fixes. However, St. Michael's can play an important role in how we respond to these delicate challenges. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the ten states with the highest homeless rates account for 55 percent of the homeless population. New York, Hawaii, Oregon, California, and the District of Columbia top this list. It is not surprising that we are being called to look at ourselves as a faith community as it relates to the impact of this population.

Geoff Wall has been appointed chair of the Vestry Committee on Homelessness, and has started to explore and investigate the relevant resources that may be available to us. He has begun having important conversations with others that are familiar with the widespread homelessness on Kauai and here at St. Michael's.

The shelters on Kauai available to the homeless are severely lacking, to include providing such facilities for people to do laundry, take a shower, or get out from the rain. Additionally, there are those with alcohol and other harmful drug addictions for which there is a lack of treatment options on-island.

As to our situation at SMAA, we are doing a lot, mainly with our Loaves and Fishes program. The number of persons we are distributing food to has been increasing. On average, we are currently distributing food to 85-95 persons per week. We also host support groups such as AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) and NA (Narcotics Anonymous) from which the homeless may indirectly benefit.

There is a growing need to address the homeless population who are seeking St. Michael's as a place of refuge, and to maintain a safe and clean campus for our tenants, as well as for you, our parish Ohana. These are just a few ways in which the committee will be reflecting and making decisions on how to best strike a balance on what we can do to serve God, to serve those in need, and to serve one another.



Parish Life!



St. Michael & All Angels
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