



The Herald

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

Upcoming Events

- 22nd Annual Craft Faire
Nov. 9, 9:00 am—1:00 pm
- Finance Committee
Nov. 13, 12:00—1:00 pm
- Family Game Night
Nov. 16, 5:00—8:00 pm
- Property Committee
Nov. 20, 3:30—4:30 pm
- Vestry Meeting
Nov. 21, 4:30—6:00 pm
- Stewardship Sunday
November 24, 10:00 am
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Nov. 28, 6:00 pm
- Office Closed Thanksgiving
(November 28 & 29)

Looking Under the Hood of Thanksgiving

Andrew McMullen, Rector

As it turns out, much of what we learned in grade school about Thanksgiving has little factual basis. There is not much of a real foundation to support the idyllic and romanticized version of the Pilgrims' meeting with the Native Americans. But here's the thing - perhaps the reality of what took place has a greater and deeper meaning than the Hollywood version of the holiday.

It is true that the Pilgrims, seeking religious freedom and a new way of life, landed in Plymouth, Mass. in 1620. They were not the first; Europeans had been arriving on the shores of North America for decades. It is also true that some of the Pilgrims shared a celebration with members of the Wampanoag Tribe in the fall of 1621. We don't know why. And there is no record of the Pilgrims inviting the Natives, or vice versa, so we can't conclude what brought them together. Early records confirm that produce was abundant (but no sweet potatoes as they had not yet been introduced in North America) and the Natives offered 5 deer (but turkey was not likely on the menu - (continued on next page)

What to do with a Windfall

Lindsay Kamm, Vestry Member

Generosity is encouraged in our faith tradition. Rarely, however, do we in the Episcopal Church discuss the particulars of the practice of generosity. What defines generosity? How is it nurtured? What difference does generosity make to our spirit?

If there is a biblical standard, it would be the tithe, ten percent of your income going to the church. Think

about that for a minute. If your family income is \$60,000, your annual donation would be \$6,000. Who does THAT?!?

Well, we don't know, of course, because we don't talk about it. But some people do! Bill and Maria Skelton began tithing a few years after they were married, several decades ago. Whatever they earned, they gave ten percent to their church. And it became a habit. (Continued on next page).

Looking Under the Hood of Thanksgiving (continued)

ducks and geese would have been the preferred fowl). Sadly, no pie, at least not as we know it, because wheat flour and butter were not available. While the holiday which commemorates this event is now part of our country's tradition and culture, it was not widely recognized outside of New England until the 1830's and it was not made a national holiday until President Lincoln, grateful for recent northern victories in the Civil War, made it one in 1863.

Here's what is least recognized and remembered, and what makes this gathering more remarkable and meaningful. It took place in the midst of a mess. New England in 1620 was often a place of turmoil, conflict and suffering. A few examples prove the point. When the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth, they actually found an established settlement - lands cleared for crops and an existing spring well. Why was it available to them? It was empty, the Natives having been completely eradicated by an earlier outbreak of smallpox, an illness brought by the European settlers and to which the Natives had no defense. Remember the story of Squanto, the Native who served as a translator and diplomat for the Pilgrims? The story is true, but what is also true is that Squanto was earlier captured by the English in 1614, sold into slavery and sent to Spain. He managed to gain his freedom, find his way to England, where he learned the language, and return to his village in Massachusetts in 1617 only to find

every member of it dead from smallpox. After all he had been through, and with every reason not to do it, he still served the Pilgrims when they arrived three years later. And after they arrived, there was frequent conflict between the Pilgrims and the Natives over land ownership and use, conflict that often turned violent and deadly. Fear and anxiety were no strangers among them.

And yet, in the fall of 1621, 50 or so Pilgrims and over 90 Natives, two completely different people and at times enemies, came together for a three-day feast of food and fellowship. They had nothing in common between them - ethnicity, language, politics, religion, education, value systems, worldview, culture - nothing in common other than their basic humanity. And despite this almost complete diversity, these two groups found a way to place everything about themselves aside, to distance themselves from the fear and mess of their lives and the world around them, and embrace the humanity of the other so as to break bread together. For me, this is the Holy Eucharist. So this Thanksgiving, as we rightfully give thanks for all the blessings we have in this life, may we remember and celebrate the courage and heart that started it all, and may we, in our often complex, confusing and divisive world, do likewise. Happy Thanksgiving!

What to do with a Windfall (continued)

They didn't have to wrestle with whether to pledge or how much to pledge; they pledged ten percent.

Then an extraordinary, unexpected thing happened earlier this year. Maria's spinster aunt died and left a fortune to her nieces and nephews. Maria's portion, though only a small fraction, was a considerable amount of money. "Nothing like that ever happened to me before!" she said. What was her response? She wrote a check to St. Michael's for \$20,000. Did that figure represent ten percent of the total windfall? Yes, it did!

Maria had in mind that her donation would help to renovate the church bathrooms. Sue Burriss heard Maria's story and remembered when her great-aunt had left her an inheritance that enabled the Burriss' to purchase a condo on Kauai. She considered that it was unlikely she would even be at St. Michael's if it weren't for that inheritance, and she remembered feeling so grateful for the funds, but "having no one to thank." Now, she thought, she could give a gift of gratitude to St. Michael's.

These two major gifts inspired a \$25,000 grant from Charlie King's family foundation. Along with

contributions in response to Fr. Andrew's Easter appeal and gifts from Joan Loizeaux and Stephanie Ellis, we now have over \$71,000 to renovate all six bathrooms, and we are just \$2,000 shy of the total cost.

Maria is not comfortable being held up as an example. She doesn't think she did anything remarkable and told me, "Anyone would do the same thing if it happened to them." Let us pray that more and more of us invest in our church at the level of generosity shown by these faithful members. Who knows what we could accomplish!



A Revived Grants Committee

Pat Hillegonds, Co-Chair Grants Committee



After a rather dormant past couple of years, a newly revived Grants Committee met recently with Father Andrew.

We discussed what St. Michael's programs and

ministries might benefit from grant funding, and began to explore local trusts and foundations that have provided grant money in the past. The committee is comprised of Madeleine Hiraga-Nuccio and Pat Hillegonds as co-chairs, and members Phyllis Meighen, Loretta Ebnet, Lindsay Kamm, and Sue Macklin.

In the past, St. Michael's has received grant funding for capital improvements, for children's and youth ministries and supplies, for the Jazz Festival, for ReSource programs, and for Loaves and Fishes.

This year, Loaves and Fishes, which relies heavily on grant support, has received \$13,000 in grant funding. The committee hopes to work more closely with the Vestry in the future. As the Vestry establishes goals and priorities for the church, it often needs to look for ways to pay for programs it might want to initiate. We are hoping the Grants Committee can be a resource to the Vestry, and to the whole church, as we move forward in our quest to be the love of God in this world. If anyone would like to be a part of this committee, or if you have a suggestion for a possible grant proposal, please contact any one of the committee members.

HUGS: Family Day and Train Ride

Caring for a seriously ill child can be very lonely. We feel good when families say one of the best things about HUGS (Help, Understanding & Group Support) is helping to connect families with others who have been on similar journeys. Kauai families enjoyed a HUGS Family Day, because of our wonderful partnership with St Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church. And what fun they had!



2020 Pledge Campaign

As of October 30, we have received 22 pledges for \$122,200.00. Last year, in the 2019 campaign, we received 72 pledges for \$241,000.00. We have set lofty goals for this year, hoping to increase the number of pledges and reach a total of \$260,000.00 so that we might build the adequate resources to meet our future ministries as well as to continue to care for our campus. Additional pledge cards can be found in the back of the church or in the Parish

Office. Please see Father Andrew, or one of our Treasurers, Bill Skelton and Sue Burriss, if you have any questions or wish to learn more about our financial campaign.

Parish Life!



Do you enjoy singing? Join St. Michael's Choir for the Advent Lessons and Carols service!

Our choir will be joining with the choirs from Lihue Lutheran, Lihue Christian and Lihue United churches for a special Advent service of Lessons and Carols, taking place on Friday evening, December 20. If you like to sing and are able to sing a part (soprano, alto, tenor or bass), we would love to have you join us! We will have a few rehearsals to practice the music: at 11 am on Sundays, November 17, 24 and December 1, as well as a couple of evenings in December. Please see Alan if you're interested!



St. Michael & All Angels
Episcopal Church
4364 Hardy Street
Lihue, HI 96766