



## St. Michael & All Angels, Kaua'i Monthly Newsletter February 2020

### Upcoming Events

- All Angels Music Festival, February 7-9. Concerts February 7 and 8, 7 p.m. Jazz Mass Sunday, February 9 at 8:30 and 11 a.m.
- Adult Formation: The Gospel of Matthew, Sunday, February 16 Goodale Conference Room 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- Adult Formation: The Gospel of Mary Magdalene, Sunday, February 23 Goodale Conference Room 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- February 25, 6 p.m. Burning of the Palms/Shrove Tuesday. Central Courtyard and Parish Hall.
- February 26, 6 p.m., Ash Wednesday service, marking the beginning of Lent.

### The State of the Parish

Andrew McMullen, Rector

On January 27, 2020, the Annual Meeting of St. Michael and All Angels was held in our Parish Hall. It was an evening of fellowship and celebration as we gave thanks for our presence, relationships and ministries in this place. We also did the annual work of the church (please see separate article below for details!) and during our time together I presented my State of the Parish report. Perhaps a summary of my comments is in order.

I recognized several notable developments of the past year. We have strengthened and solidified our relationship with the Jewish Community, celebrated the arrival of their new Rabbi and established their community as our Synagogue in Residence. A Vestry Leadership Retreat resulted in several initiatives which are now focusing on specific issues – homelessness, campus renovation, website overall and disaster preparedness among others. Our Loaves and Fishes ministry continues to thrive and we have lived into our new HUGS ministry with three events – Oahu Memorial Celebration, Gaylord's train outing and parish Christmas offering. (Continued on page 2)

### 2020 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. 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 57 people attended the event. Dinner was an assortment of pastas, catered by Kauai Pasta. Service was provided by Vestry members.

Following dinner, Fr. Andrew briefly summarized the state of affairs of the church, (Continued on page 3)

## The State of the Parish (continued)

The parish is sound financially – a slight surplus for 2019, a balanced budget for 2020 and full, accurate record-keeping. We have completed some significant renovation work – campus bathrooms, security gates, tree trimming, etc. – to continue our stewardship in this place. All the while, we have gathered for worship, shared fellowship and managed a busy and active campus. We are blessed by the true and authentic hearts of the faithful who call this parish home; it is the primary strength of who we are and it is this reality that gives St. Michael's unlimited potential.

I also noted some of the challenges that face us. We still have identity work to do, discerning who we are and what we are called to do in the future as a faith community. This, more than anything, will sustain our common parish life and allow for growth opportunities. Climate and heavy use take a toll on our buildings and campus which need our attention and investment. There is a need for us to increase and diversify participation in our worship and parish activities, better harnessing the strong volunteer spirit that rests among us. The life of our children's ministry, and the formation of more family oriented gatherings, need our attention. Lastly, we need to look for opportunities for fundraising and other income generation so that we may continue to thrive in this place.

There are several points of emphasis for the coming year which I offered during the meeting. We will strive to nurture and more fully live into community with our Jewish brothers and sisters. In the coming weeks, the Vestry will again retreat with an emphasis upon identifying our core ministries and

discerning ways to make them our focal point as a parish. The 2020 Budget allows for a Reserve Study, a thorough and complete review by a qualified, 3<sup>rd</sup> party to evaluate in detail the condition of our physical plant and assess what work will need to be done, and when, to care for our buildings and campus. We will look for ways to lift up our children's ministry, more regularly involving them in our worship and looking for other opportunities to incorporate them and their families into parish life. We are discerning ways to diversify our traditional jazz festival to make sure it has new life, gently changing the name this year to All Angels Music Festival to start us off. And lastly, as I am now in my fourth year with you, I intend to take this year and discern our worship life – what we are doing and why, what is working and what may not, etc.

It continues to be an honor and joy to serve this parish. I am so grateful for the life and ministries of St. Michael's and the privilege to be part of its remarkable story. And lastly, on a personal note, I give thanks for all the kindness and support which this parish abundantly gives to me, Renate and our family. Thank you!



## Tis Always the Season for Giving

**Pat Hillegonds, Director of Loaves and Fishes**

Approximately forty preschoolers and fifth graders from Island School, coordinated by preschool teacher, Sue Macklin, came to Loaves and Fishes the week before Christmas, bearing gift bags packed with canned goods, fruit, crackers, cereal, and sweet treats; bags of oranges and apples, and

socks, carefully tied with a ribbon around them.

The children gave away their gifts to each of our Loaves and Fishes recipients. They also stood in the regular food distribution line and gave away the food that we normally give. The younger ones were paired with an older child, while our regular volunteers assumed the roles of supervisors. (Continued on page 4)

# Annual Meeting (continued)

Bill Skelton presented the 2020 budget, approved by the Vestry. Once again it is a balanced budget, reflecting the financial health and stability of the church.

Outgoing Vestry members, Geoff Wall, Neil Husband, and Gary Ellwood, were acknowledged and thanked for their service. Sue Burriss, Carla Baker, and Glenn Takenouchi were elected as new Vestry members, and Brian Pearson was re-elected as the Junior Warden. Gary Ellwood, whose position is by appointment, will remain on as Senior Warden. Bill Skelton and Sue Burriss

were re-elected as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, and Sue Macklin, Brian Pearson, Phyllis Meighen, and Bill Skelton were elected as Convention Delegates. Finally, Loretta Ebnet and Renate McMullen were given special thanks for making it possible for Fr. Andrew to carry out all his responsibilities as Rector.

Once again, this year's annual meeting was more than just 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 Homeless at St. Michael's

### Geoff Wall, Homeless Committee Chair

Many parishioners are aware that there has been a growing number of homeless on St. Michael's campus. Many are spending the night, and there have been a number of problems, from congregating at the entrance to church on Sundays to leaving messes to be cleaned up.

There are a number of reasons for people being homeless which can be broken down into three main areas. **Income:** People living economically on the edge may have some catastrophic event, loss of job, medical bills, etc., that leaves them unable to afford rent. **Mental Illness:** From the mentally ill to substance abusers, there are many who can not cope with the normal complexities of life such as holding a job or paying bills. **Those who opt out** of the system and its inherent responsibilities. They prefer living outside and from day to day.

These areas can be broken down further and it can be any mix of reasons people are homeless. It's a complex issue with complex solutions. Most experience and research points to permanent housing as a primary part of any solution to the problem.

Some of the specific problems identified on St. Michael's campus include: some parishioners feel intimidated by homeless people loitering about, possibly keeping

people from attending services, homeless people are interfering with tenants and their clients by blocking stairwells and leaving messes, and there is liability for the church if anyone, homeless or not, should suffer any kind of loss or injury attributed to the homeless on campus. St. Michael's is not equipped to provide shelter and housing to a homeless population on campus.

The Homeless Committee has identified two priorities, we believe, for St. Michael's:

1. Protect tenants, congregation and campus. To this end we contracted a security company to inspect the campus early in the morning throughout December, to give notice to anyone found on campus that they are trespassing and need to leave. These patrols were effective at discouraging most of the people sleeping on St. Michael's campus. Also, security gates have been installed at the two stairwells to the second floor of the office building and by the Adam & Eve restrooms at the church breezeway. Tenants have been very positive about the gates.
2. We should help the homeless where we are able. We do this in small part with our Loaves and Fishes ministry. Other possibilities are providing information on services and facilities available to the homeless on Kauai. We might develop or identify and support programs that help with homelessness in our neighborhood.

## 'Tis Always the Season for Giving (continued)

Some of the preschoolers could barely reach the top of the table, but the older children helped them. Some were very timid, but most seemed to take great pride and pleasure in giving food and gifts. Although it took considerably longer to distribute the food, I heard no complaints. In fact, many commented to me that it was a real joy to see children being taught at an early age the importance of giving.

We tend to think of Christmas as the time for giving; and so it is. But as I've been reflecting this past month over the children's visit, I'm struck by a few things. The kids did several activities when they visited us that morning: they played on the playground equipment, they gave away food and gifts, they ate their snacks, and they helped each other. All in the course of one morning. And they seemed to find joy in each thing they did. Playing on a

new piece of playground equipment was as amazing as putting a can of soup in a stranger's bag. All a part of life. And that is what giving can be - not something we undertake at special times of the year, but a seamless part of our everyday lives.

Our heartfelt thanks to Sue, the other teachers and parents who helped with the effort, and the children for reminding us that it's always the season for giving.

And that is what giving can be - not something we undertake at special times of the year, but a seamless part of our everyday lives.



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