



St. Michael & All Angels, Kaua'i Monthly Newsletter February 2018

Upcoming Events

- Adult Formation –Christian Theology of Death
Sunday, February 11 and 18,
Goodale Center
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
- Shrove Tuesday Burning of Palms, February 13, Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 14
6:00 p.m.
- Praying the Lenten Journey
Explore a variety of prayer forms to enrich your Lenten journey. Potluck soup supper followed by discussion.
Tuesdays, February 20 –
March 20, Parrish Hall;
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- Adult Formation – Lenten Bible Study, using lectionary readings for the Lent
Sundays, February 25 –
March 11, Goodale Center
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Annual Meeting Celebration

Gail Smith

St. Michael and All Angels parishioners gathered for the annual meeting on Sunday evening, January 28, in the parish hall adorned with Marilyn Allen's candlelight ambiance of fine dining, and a delicious lasagna dinner prepared by our chef-duo Willie and Marj Stanphill. They were assisted by the vestry members.

Fr. Andrew commenced the meeting expressing gratitude for the privilege to serve as Priest in Charge, and for the kindness extended to him and his family. He also thanked the many volunteers who have stepped forward to help our church.

One of the major challenges has been finances, which have undergone a complete overhaul, enabling us to continue with our ministries of worship, outreach, adult formation, child/youth formation, and building/grounds. Under the leadership of Bill Skelton and Sue Burris as co-treasurers, records were audited and reformatted. We hired part-time Parish Administrator, Loretta Roof, and contracted with bookkeeper, Kathleen Robb. The vestry members worked to reduce our expenses. Our financial records are now accurate and transparent. The Pledge Campaign showed increased giving, and for the first time in several years, we have been able to pass a balanced budget for 2018!

Worship continues to be a strength, especially the music ministry under Alan Van Zee; Outreach: Loaves and Fishes program continues

Live Love Louder: 12th Annual Jazz Festival

Pat Hillegonds

The 12th Annual Jazz Festival is over! Most people will continue to remember snippets of the music for some time. This year featured Latin jazz. The rhythms of local group, Rumba de Fuego, had many people on their feet, dancing and swaying their hips. The music wasn't all Latin, however. There were plenty of jazz standards both nights, as well as jazzed-up popular tunes.

The theme of Sunday's masses was Live, Love, Louder. This year, rather than a 30-voice choir, there was a seven-voice vocal ensemble, along with instrumentalists, and Matt Lemmler on piano, who performed and led congregational singing. The inspirational sermon told the story of a severely disabled boy, Patrick, and Davis, who

cared for him. They both lived their love. Loudly. All of the music reinforced that message. Following the masses, we headed for the feast laid out in the parish hall. And now, another festival is over.

An event like the Jazz Festival doesn't happen on its own. Under the leadership of Alan Van Zee, so much took place behind the scenes in the weeks and days and hours before the festival. The coordination of so many component parts, so many details, took an incredible amount of thought, an incredible amount of time, an incredible amount of effort. And an incredible amount of love. The whole event was an act of love that we gave to each other and to our community. Hopefully, we did it loudly.

Happy Birthday, Mr. Lincoln

The Rev. Andrew McMullen

On February 12, we observe the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. Like many others, and for several reasons, I greatly admire and respect him, both as a man and leader of our country. Perhaps I inherited this fondness from my father who, like me, has read just about every book written about Lincoln. There are many qualities about the man to admire, but for me, it comes down to two. First, Lincoln was an incessant story-teller. He would share simple stories, often humorous and cloaked with hidden meaning, with just about anyone and on any occasion (this reportedly drove his Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, nuts, who often left the room when Lincoln started in on a tale). But these were not just stories. They had a fundamental purpose to them. Lincoln used the power of story to connect with those around him, to reveal their common bonds and the connections that we all have to one another. It was here that Lincoln was able to understand and appreciate the person or circumstance before him, and it was this quality, more than his raw intelligence (which was formidable), that enabled him to effectively engage others and lead our country.

Second, Lincoln overcame several challenges and obstacles in his life. Self-educated and self-taught,

he emerged from his common beginnings to build a successful law practice. Convinced that he had the vision to lead others, he sought to serve the greater good. He ran for public office several times but with mixed results. As a rather unlikely candidate, he was elected as our 16th President only to find a divided country at war with itself. Through it all, Lincoln refused to give up, even when those around him did so. It is a lesson in perseverance. Striving to achieve the vision, even in the darkest of times.

If you were to visit my father's library in his home, you would find dozens of biographies on Abraham Lincoln. If you were to pick out any one of them, and leaf through it, you would discover, towards the end, a dog-eared page. This marks the point in the book where the author offers the story and details of Lincoln's assassination. It also marks the point in the book where my father had stopped reading. When I asked him why, he responded, "I just find it unbearably sad to read about the world silencing this man and his vision. I like Lincoln alive." Seems like the world has a nasty habit of silencing the good. However, as a faithful parish, with our own story and vision, our own call to serve the common good, it turns out that the life of Lincoln continues to have much to teach us.

Annual Meeting, continued

to be successful. Island Eats youth ministry is discerning how to best reach and serve the homeless; Adult Formation: meetings are thriving as the thirst to study and grow spiritually continue; Child/Youth Formation: The children's program is slowing growing, but there is no organized youth program; Buildings and Grounds; deferred maintenance and improvement issues can now be tackled because of improved financial situation, and money will once again be put aside for ongoing maintenance.

We bid farewell to Vestry members, Marilyn Allen, Deborah Baumung, and Julie Hagensen, and welcomed newly elected Vestry members Madeleine Hiraga-Nuccio, Matt McGinness, and Brian Pearson. Amy Null decided to step down as Senior Warden, but will continue to serve on the vestry. Gary Ellwood will serve as new Senior Warden, and Dana Bekeart will continue as Junior Warden.

The evening ended with a prayer circle, with offerings of thanksgiving and love.



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