



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

## Upcoming Events

- **Adult Formation:**  
Comparative Religions. An overview of some of the major religions in the world, including Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam.  
Sundays, April 8 – May 6  
Goodale Conference Room  
8:30-9:30 a.m.
- **Mother's Day Reception**  
Sunday, May 13 following  
9:45 service, Parish Hall
- **Adult Formation:**  
Conversation with Father Andrew, Sunday, May 20  
Goodale Conference Room  
8:30-9:30 a.m.

## So What's in a Name?

**The Reverend Andrew McMullen**

On April 1, 2018, I became the third Rector of St. Michael and All Angels. Some might be wondering what this means, both as a title and in my relationship with the parish. I thought that I would share some background and my initial thoughts as we begin this new journey together.

As the early Christian movement began to diverge from Judaism, the followers had no use for the title, or leadership, of a priest. There were no temples, no distinct spaces for worship, and gatherings tended to be quite informal and in private homes. As things evolved, as what we might think of early churches emerged, only two leadership roles are mentioned in early Christian writings: Bishops, as the leadership heads of the churches, and presbyters, the pastors and teachers within the community. Once the Christian movement had significantly spread, both numerically and geographically, bishops found themselves unable to attend to the various sacraments and duties of leadership, and they delegated these responsibilities to specially ordained leaders, what we today call priests.

From there, the need arose to distinguish some priests from others, so that today there are a variety of titles, and all of them basically fall into five categories – Canons, Curates, Vicars, Interims and Rectors. Canons are priests that directly serve the bishop, usually on his or her staff. Curates are typically newly ordained and are placed by the bishop in a particular ministry for training and experience.

Vicars are the leaders of church missions, communities that are directly under the leadership of the bishop. Rectors are leaders of free-standing, independent parishes, and while still under the authority of the bishop, they are largely autonomous. Interims are placed by the bishop, typically for one year, in parishes searching for a new Vicar or Rector. So, where did Priest-in Charge come from? It

## St. Michael's Welcomes Newest Member

**Pat Hillegonds**

The St. Michael's community welcomed its newest member on Sunday, March 18. John Etherton was confirmed by the Right Reverend Robert Fitzpatrick, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Hawaii. John and his wife, Cathy Winters, split their year between their summer home in eastern West Virginia and their winter home in Poipu. They started attending St. Michael's church approximately five years ago. They were drawn by the music, the worship service, and the fellowship, and have been coming ever since.

John is a mostly-retired public safety engineer, with a focus on workplace safety. For fun, he plays the penny whistle. (Rumor has it that he could be heard performing on St. Patrick's Day). He also likes to swim, and tries to do so daily. He has been a regular volunteer shopper at Loaves and Fishes for the past few years, and is also interested in becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Although he has been a person of faith for many years, the aloha spirit he finds at St. Michael's has energized him. We are happy to have him here! E komo mai!

# Words from the Senior Warden

Gary Ellwood, Senior Warden

What a joy it is to have *The Herald* back, and to be able to reach out to everyone. I am glad to be able to share with you some of the things your vestry has been up to.

Several weeks back, we held a retreat for the vestry to prayerfully look at where St. Michael's is now, and where we should be heading. We all spent a while individually with a summary of the surveys everyone filled out. Together, we identified four things: our strengths, our weaknesses, what we should keep doing, and what we should add to our parish life.

We saw that the parish felt our strengths included our current leadership, namely our clergy and vestry, our improved financial condition and the newly balanced budget, our warm and welcoming community, our worship and liturgy, and our music program. Overall, the surveys showed us that our parishioners feel optimistic about our future, and that we are poised to grow.

Our two biggest weaknesses were expressed as a desire to see growth, particularly with new

families, children, and youth. There was also a concern that we are spread a bit too thin; we need more volunteers throughout the year, so that some of our "old faithfuls" don't carry too much of the load.

The things we should keep doing? They included worship, adult formation, having fellowship, and keeping Fr. Andrew. It seems we like to hang out with each other. We also discussed things we should add to our parish life. There were many ideas, but the one that rose to the top is that we should have more than our one big outreach event, Jazz Fest. We agreed that we should look at having two or three events, where we open our doors to our community. In the days to come, we will work to come up with ways we could do that. When we put our ideas in place, please know that we will be asking for your ideas, opinions, and participation.

In the near future, we will have a Celebration of New Ministry service with the Bishop to appoint, anoint, and accept Fr Andrew as our Rector. Watch for the details!

## So What's in a Name, continued

is a relatively new role for parishes in transition and the search for a Rector has been delayed; the bishop, working with the vestry, places clergy leadership for a three-year term. Which leads us to the only difference, at least as a matter of definition, between Priest-in-Charge and Rector: the former is under contract for a specific time and the latter is not.

So, what does this mean for St. Michael's? Very briefly, I do not see any title as defining my role and responsibilities among you. I see

myself simply as a parish priest, and I remain one just as much now as I did a month ago. On the other hand, taking on the trust and commitment as your Rector allows me to more fully enter into our common journey; it increases the level of my investment, and in doing so, increases my responsibility. And, at the outset, I want to offer my gratitude for your invitation to join you in this way, and share my joy and hope in all that we can be, and will be, together.

Andrew+



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