

The Rest of the First Fifty

We let the story end abruptly because that is the way it was written. Of course there was no abrupt change 25 years ago and there will be no abrupt change as we gather to celebrate the end of the 'First Fifty'. So we will now pick up the threads given to us and continue to bring the story up to date. We will start with the Leadership of the Diocesan Bishop.

Leadership in the Diocese of Hawaii

Changes in the Diocese and in the clergy responsible for Emmanuel Church are as certain as the sun and moon. Bishop Browning left the Diocese of Hawaii not long after his last visit to Emmanuel in 1985. (See picture of the Brownings, with the Shoemakers, at their last visit.) He had been chosen to be the Presiding Bishop, the chief administrative officer of the entire Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S. A. We regretted his leaving but rejoiced at this recognition of his ability and wished him, and his wife Patti, the best in their new endeavors.

A special Diocesan convention then elected George Hart who was ordained and served as Diocesan Bishop beginning in 1986. His first visit to Emmanuel was in 1987 and was celebrated with a picnic at the Lanikai Community Park. He resigned in 1994. Following a difficult time in which Bishop George Hunt served a period as Acting Bishop, the Diocesan convention elected a Priest from Hawaii, The Rev. Richard S. O. Chang. He had served as Bishop Browning's principal assistant, both in Hawaii and New York. He was ordained in January 1997 as the new Diocesan Bishop and retired in 2006. He was succeeded by The Rev. Robert L. Fitzpatrick, who had served at Bishop Chang's right hand as Canon to the Ordinary. Upon ordination in March 2007, he became, and remains, The Rt. Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick, Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Hawaii and Eleventh Bishop in The Hawaiian Islands.

Local Church Leadership at Emmanuel

The Vicars

We left the first half of this adventure with the Rev. Jack Shoemaker as our Vicar in a part-time position while maintaining his regular job as the Chaplain at Punahou School. During periods of Jack's absence several members of the clergy substituted for him, especially Brian Nurdning and Walt Harris. When Jack retired from both of his positions in 1992 he and Roxanne moved to Oregon.

Emmanuel went through the usual search process under the much appreciated guidance of the Rev. Norio Sasaki as Interim Vicar. We found a new Vicar in our own backyard here in Kailua. The Rev. Peter Van Horne, who had recently served as Administrative Assistant to Bishop Hart expressed an interest in the position and was recommended to Bishop Chang by the selection committee. He and wife Beverly (now the Rev. Beverly Van Horne) brought additional family and friends to our congregation.

When Peter Van Horne decided in 2001 that his time in Hawaii was over, and left for a congregation in Missouri, another search process was instituted. In this case, Bishop Chang had a priest on hand, looking for a position. The Rev. Peter Champion was appointed Priest-in-Charge of Emmanuel. Peter's wife, the Rev. Susan Champion, had earlier been chosen as the Chaplain for the Queen Emma Priory School. Several months later it was decided to recommend to Bishop Fitzpatrick that he appoint Peter Champion as Vicar.

Following the return of Peter and Susan to California in November 2006 we spent considerable time with visiting clergy, most notably the self-proclaimed 'Lutherpalian' Pastor and friend, the Rev. Bruce Craft, retired Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Kailua. Meanwhile, Bishop Fitzpatrick provided us with the opportunity to consider two male Priests whom had applied for the opening at Emmanuel. After a visitation from each, the congregation decided that neither was appropriate for Emmanuel. Then the Bishop offered the name of The Rev Kate Lewis and we asked that he invite her to come for a visit. Kate wanted to come to Emmanuel. She had grown up in Kailua, attending school there through grade 10. Kate was obviously the choice of the congregation and the Bishop's Committee, acting as the search committee, recommended to Bishop Fitzpatrick that she be offered the position of Vicar. And so it was in May 2008 and remains today.

Other Priests who have left their mark on Emmanuel

Before we leave this time period, we must mention two priests who voluntarily kept the Sunday evening service alive at Emmanuel for many years, the Rev. Justin Van Lopik and the Rev. Gerald Gifford;

Justin had retired from regular duties as a priest in Northern California and, with his sister and mother moved to Hawaii and settled in Kailua with Emmanuel as their home parish. Justin also filled in occasionally at a regular service but usually officiated at the Sunday evening service. At this time Justin Van Lopik is the only Priest inurned in the Columbarium at Emmanuel, where his mother Alice was one of the first occupants.

The Rev. Gerald Gifford and family were neighbors of Emmanuel while Jerry was Rector of St. Elizabeth's and Chaplain at Iolani School. The family often attended special services at Emmanuel and when the need for a priest at the Sunday evening service was necessary, Jerry volunteered so long as he was able.

The Deacons

As told earlier by her, the Rev. Dr. Eleanore Akina was in the first class of Deacons which included women, ordained in Hawaii. Her leadership in that role at Emmanuel lasted nearly to the end of our First Fifty. During that time another member of Emmanuel, Pat Reynolds was ordained Deacon. Pat served at Emmanuel for some time and was then asked by the Bishop to serve at other locations. Since then she has largely served elsewhere rather than at Emmanuel, and now as The Venerable Pat Reynolds, serves as Archdeacon of the Diocese. In 2008 Emmanuel welcomed, and continues to enjoy the service of the Rev. Pat Hendrickson as a Deacon.

Church leadership from Emmanuel, but not at Emmanuel

Emmanuel has had an influence in church life well beyond her borders. A young parishioner by the name of Lynette Golderman was a Sunday School teacher at Emmanuel who became interested in studying at The Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) with the original intent of specializing in pastoral services in the arena of senior care. Her goal was enthusiastically supported by our congregation, although it was not supported by the leadership of the Diocese. As a result of her theological education, Lynette became more aware of the opportunities for service well beyond adult care. She went on to qualify for the priesthood and was ordained by Bishop Browning as the first female Priest in Hawaii in June 1978. She married Scott Schaefer shortly after her ordination. In August of 1978 she was appointed the vicar of Christ Church, Molokai, thus becoming one of the first, if not the first, female Priest in the U. S. to be responsible for her own congregation. She retired in April 2010.

A second member of Emmanuel, but one who went elsewhere to continue his church work, was Richard Ward. Rick was a member and former Junior Warden of Emmanuel. His wife Donna was the daughter of members of Emmanuel, Evelyn and Ernie Reeves. Rick retired from the ministry in 2009.

Organizations at Emmanuel

We will continue the story of our organizations as it was begun by Deacon Akina, with sub-heads to indicate their evolution into the ministries of today. Quite frankly Emmanuelites are generally unenthusiastic about the formality of committee meetings with officers, minutes, et al, except where business or Church policy requirements need to be met.

THE LAYREADERS no longer exist as an organization, but the work goes on. Recognized Ministries which have evolved are:

CHALICE BEARERS who offer the gift of *sacramental presence*. These are persons who are able to let the sacrament pass through them to others by serving the wine during the Eucharist on Sundays.

INTERCESSORS who offer the gift of *prayer*. These are persons who pray, persons who are intimate with God and care about the needs of the wider world as well as the needs of our own parish. They are able to bring these concerns to the people as leaders of corporate prayer.

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS who offer the gift of *compassion*. These are persons who are willing to take the sacrament to those who are unable to come to church. They are comfortable in any situation and are sensitive to various types of infirmities. This ministry requires Diocesan training and licensing.

LECTORS who offer the gift of *proclamation*. These are persons who are steeped in the Word of God and who are willing to spend time with the reading each week and work on the technical aspects of presenting the reading well.

USHERS and GREETERS who offer the gift of *hospitality*. These persons may seem to be 'border people' but they are the persons who welcome worshippers, especially visitors, at the Sanctuary door. They "keep watch" during the service to see that all runs smoothly from the congregational side.

THE ACOLYTES continue to offer the gift of *service*. These are persons who are attentive to the needs of the clergy during the service. At Emmanuel it is the custom for adults to serve at the 7:30 a.m. worship and our young persons to serve at 9:00 a.m. worship. Both adults and youth are called upon to serve at pastoral services such as weddings and funerals. Jane Tonokawa, Leland Leong and Carolyn Remedios have assisted our Deacons as acolyte trainers for many years.

THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE continues to offer the gift of *leadership*. This is the governing board of our church. Members are elected at the Annual Meeting in January and serve for three-year terms. In addition to leading many of our ministries, they are responsible for all fiscal matters pertaining to our work together.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE members offer the gift of *hard work*. Among their special responsibilities are leadership with regard to maintaining the appearance and up-keep of our physical plant. This has led to the formalization of this committee under the leadership of the Junior Warden. A similar commitment to the promotion of our COLUMBARIUM as a consecrated place for burial of loved one's ashes is a part of their responsibilities.

THE WOMEN OF EMMANUEL also no longer exists as a formal organization. However the ministries of the women in our congregation continue in a variety of ways. In addition to those included above there are:

THE ALTAR GUILD, named for St. Margaret, continues in its faithful execution of preparation of the Altar for regular and special services.

THE ANGELS are an informal group that has existed at Emmanuel for about ten years who offer the gift of *remembrance*. This group of eight women (known to many and not really secret) decided that a part of their personal outreach effort was specifically directed by the idea that one way to keep ourselves together as a congregation was to remember the birthdays, anniversaries, and other special events of each family. As a self-funded group these ladies have played an impressive role in achieving much of their goal by remembrance card mailings in the name of the Emmanuel Ohana.

THE FRIDAY FOLDERS offer assistance in the preparation and presentation of printed material to the congregation. These are persons who gather late Friday mornings, do whatever is required for the weekly service bulletin or other mailings, and then usually adjourn to lunch.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (SUNDAY SCHOOL) and YOUTH PROGRAMS. These services have been and continue to be a concern, usually centered on the low numbers of children in the congregation.

Missing as official congregational organizations, since the end of Eleanore's remembrances, are:

THE PRE-SCHOOL AND DAY CARE CENTER. A change in operation of the pre-school facility at the end of 2009 clearly changed the relationship of the school and the church. Economic and regulatory conditions at the end of 2009 resulted in the transfer of the financial and managerial operation of the school to a major Oahu-based multi-campus organization on January 1, 2010. The school is now officially The Cole Academy at Emmanuel. It is encouraging to know that the tuition in effect at the time of the transfer will remain the same for the duration of a child's participation. The Cole Academy and Emmanuel share in the scholarship program which permits this arrangement.

BOY SCOUT TROOP #179. Emmanuel has ceased sponsorship of Troop #179. Lack of adult leadership and lack of church youth interested in the program led to its ending.

But life goes on and expands into new directions with new leadership. We have passed into the twenty-first century. A particularly exciting time at Emmanuel is the evolution of new ministries aimed at newly recognized needs and desires of the congregation. These include an increased emphasis on serving the needs of our own congregation with:

ADULT EDUCATION. This is a program that offers the gift of *study and struggle*. These are persons who want to understand what modern authors have to say about Church and Society. This group convenes on Wednesdays at noon for a discussion or on Wednesday nights for Evening Prayer, a brown-bag supper (if desired) and a related discussion. In each case the discussion pertains to a portion of the current subject book. Some of the books which have been discussed recently are *The Great Emergence* by Phyllis Trickle and *The Gospel of Mark* by Marcus Borg.

A COVENANT GROUP. This is a program for persons who come together on a weekly basis to share the word of God with an in-depth look at the Lessons for the week. The framework they use is called Look Book Took. First they LOOK at mainly the Gospel reading with prepared questions to reflect on the message as it pertains to their lives. Then they answer questions designed to pull them into the lives of Biblical times – the BOOK. Lastly they answer questions that make them think about what this means for the future – the TOOK. They continue to encourage each other in daily living, and pray together in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The group generally meets at someone's home since it is a relaxed place, free of the hustle and bustle of other church activities.

An ENDURING HEART GROUP. This is a program for a group of persons, usually few in number, to gather and share the Christian journey through change, loss, and grief while looking toward wellness. The group does this by sharing their stories, listening to each other and studying the Word of God. All stories are confidential and this is not a 'problem solving' group, but persons who share in the need for God's comfort.

A CENTERING PRAYER GROUP meets once a week at the church to practice a form of Christian meditation together. By doing the practice together and having a short discussion they hope to make the practice a part of their daily lives. Susan Thornett leads this group.

Emmanuel has also increased our outreach to others with:

FIRST SUNDAY OFFERINGS It had been a tradition of long standing, and continues in many congregations today, that the first Sunday loose plate offering was assigned to the Pastoral Fund of the Priest. During the service of Jack Shoemaker in the 80's, the Priest was not a main source of alms needs. The Bishop's Committee then decided that the First Sunday Offerings could be designated for a charity of choice designated by a member of the congregation. By design, the choice of charities and the amount collected has varied greatly over the months and years. However, records show that several hundreds of dollars per year have been collected and distributed to a great variety of needy groups.

THE CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA (this is a firsthand account by one of the founders, Cindy Nachtigall)

A little over 8 years ago, Father Peter Champion mentioned at a Bishop's Committee meeting that he had heard of a church in Massachusetts that had a successful fundraiser—All you can eat Chocolate! We had been looking for a way for Emmanuel to play a larger role in the outreach to our local Kailua Community. We wondered if perhaps we could do the same type of fund raiser. It would be a fund raiser that would be fun, and at the same time give back to Kailua.

Before too long, we were talking to the Massachusetts Church's chairperson, whom I called "Bill Chocolate." Bill sent us their program, donation forms, contest format, as well as all their PR and decorating ideas. I even paid him a visit while back East and he showed us his church and the High School they had graduated to as their fund raiser grew.

Our first year we did not know what to expect, but we all baked our favorite chocolate recipes, got our friends to do the same and we entered our contest. We had a small silent auction of ~ 8 items which had been donated but could not be part of our 'all you could eat' buffet. We asked our members to play music; Susan Champion played guitar and sang as did Jimmy Remedios' dad, Jaime Dos

Remedios. Wanda Adams gave us free PR in her weekly food column and was even one of our contest judges! The Mid Week sent a reporter to interview and take photos. We grossed ~ \$3,000.00 dollars and were thrilled to donate it to Habitat for Humanity who became our partner for the first few years. It now has evolved into a major fund-raising effort to support 'Family Promise' the windward churches cooperative effort to help solve the homeless problem in our community and other Emmanuel outreach projects.

The rest is history, as Emmanuel is now known—8 years later—as that church in Kailua that celebrates God and Chocolate! Other major contributors of time and talent to this group have included Lee Carson, Jane Tonokawa, Nancy Janczyk, Carolyn Remedios and Lisa Laveti.

FAMILY PROMISE For many years Emmanuel has partnered with St. Christopher's to offer hospitality to the families of Family Promise four weeks per year. The mission of Family Promise of Hawaii is to mobilize existing community resources to aid families with children experiencing homelessness and help them transition to sustainable independence. Members of Emmanuel Church support Family Promise of Hawaii by providing food, personal items, paper goods and household items and cooking and accompanying overnight guests. This has been a rewarding ministry that has involved numerous members of the congregation and in recent years we have increased our support of Family Promise by designating them a partner in our Chocolate Extravaganza fund-raiser.

SERVICE FOR THE STATE HOSPITAL PATIENTS On a monthly basis one or more members of Emmanuel visit the patients at their regular Sunday Evening service and bring simple treats to the attending patients. They often assist in the service itself. This ministry was begun about 15 years ago when Clarence Tam and Yoshi Komoto (each now deceased) began an outreach program to the residents. The Chaplain had asked for persons to help out with Sunday services by bringing and serving refreshments. Clarence and Yoshi, with the financial support of the congregation, began by purchasing and delivering snacks to the hospital on the first Sunday of every month. This ministry has been carried till today by several members of the congregation, especially Alice Boyd, Nancy Janczyk, and Susan Thornett

EASTER DINNER AT EMMANUEL FOR THE STATE HOSPITAL PATIENTS. An offshoot of the first Sunday service has been an annual Easter season dinner which is prepared and served at Emmanuel for a group of 40 or so patients and 10 or so staff from the hospital. This opportunity for the patients to socialize with the members of Emmanuel has been met with accolades from both groups.

And then there often seems to be a Special Project at Emmanuel.

THE SCRAPBOOKS The scrapbook project was begun in 1973 when Mary Lu Merriam and Deloris Robertson realized that there was no one at Emmanuel who was keeping a historical record of the congregation other than the official Parish Record. Their “two years of diligent research through a myriad of material heretofore filed in various locations” resulted in two scrapbooks which were presented to the congregation in June 1975. Sandy Pang became a major contributor to the photo record for many years. In the later years of the ‘First Fifty’ Marjorie Yamanaka began a major project of putting the material in modern scrapbook form and bringing them up to date. Thanks to Marjorie they now number 10!!

THE COLUMBARIUM. The fact that Emmanuel has a Columbarium as the final resting place for inurned ashes of loved ones is not as well known as it should be. The idea was first suggested by Dr. Fred Barnhill who came from a retirement community in Southern California. However several years went by, and our present sanctuary was completed before any action was taken. Finally the idea of an entryway garden and developing a columbarium similar to that at the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew in Honolulu was adopted Memorial funds were used for construction.

THE KNEELERS. When Burnham H. (Hod) and wife Jackie Greeley came back to Emmanuel (they had been members in the early 1960s and Jackie was our first organist), Jackie recognized that kneeling on the newly installed natural tile altar floor was going to be a physical problem as our congregation continued to age. More importantly they did something about it. With a major effort of time and talent, Jackie designed the kneelers, prepared the materials and organized others in the congregation to complete the kneelers we now enjoy. Hod prepared a scrapbook of pictures and text about the kneelers which can be seen at Emmanuel. The story is short here because of Hod’s scrapbook.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR BUILDINGS. Lately we have put a great deal of energy into upgrading our physical plant. Outdoors, we’ve installed new fencing, signage, and made significant improvements to our gardens. On the parish hall side, we’ve replaced the ceiling tiles, installed new lights and fans, repainted and repaired windows. On the church side, we’ve refurbished our doors, painted our walkways, tended to our fountain, added plantings and a bench to the columbarium, re-sealed the roof, installed new lighting both in the transepts and outside, and replaced all of our bulbs with energy efficient ones. We’ve added a computer station to the conference room, refurbished our kitchen area, and created a study area in the north transept.

Our largest project has been to replace our aging sound system with a comprehensive package that we expect will meet our needs for many years to come. We have replaced our speakers and mixing board, added new microphones, and installed cabling to make things easier for musicians, speakers, and projected

information. Our long-range plans include acquiring assisted listening devices as needed.

WEBSITE. An overlooked milestone in the history of Emmanuel is the fact that this year the Bishop's Committee realized the truth that newcomers are infinitely more likely to find us on the web rather than in the phone book. Therefore we eliminated our yellow pages ad and used the money to improve our website. This was a big move for many of us, it truly symbolizes the passing of an era. What has emerged is a beautiful new website, suitable for computer and mobile device viewing, that has already garnered lots of attention and compliments from newcomers and oldtimers alike. Our address is: www.emmanuelkailua.org.

THE WALKWAY ENTRANCE AND FOUNTAIN. The most recent project, and one not yet complete as this is written, is the new sidewalk from the Keolu Drive public sidewalk to our own entryway. Included in that project is a small new garden to replace a couple of tired crotons, and most importantly, a community drinking fountain which is pet friendly. Kate came up with the idea of a pet-friendly water fountain near the well-travelled 3 mile walk around the lake. It appeared to be both a community service oriented project we could, and should, do. But a fountain without a completed walkway toward the sanctuary entrance was thought to be more of a 'turn-off' rather than a 'turn-on'. So the entryway under construction was planned to complete a long range plan thought of years ago.



emmanuel episcopal church

To whomever may read this one day,

I write in July of 2010, amidst interesting political and social times. Across the country the mid-term election season is heating up and so the Republicans and Democrats are at it again, we are waiting to find out if the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is finally contained, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan appear endless, we hope our economy is on the rebound, and things like rail, sovereignty, school funding, and civil unions are the hot-button issues of the day here at home.

What will make the headlines of the newspapers tomorrow morning and next year and next decade? No one knows. But with great confidence, we can predict the future of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Kailua. This community will always be a thriving group of people who share in the holy mysteries of God by worshiping together, caring for each other, and working toward peace and justice for all people.

I am honored to have spent these last two years of ministry here among you. What is most distinctive about Emmanuel is that you are a profoundly welcoming community. No one walks into our doors and feels alone and for this you are all to be commended. Additionally, no one walks into our doors and feels like they can't ask a question or challenge an idea. In other words, you give people the freedom to be themselves—no one has to put on an act to be a part of things here. How profoundly Christian! In a nutshell, didn't Jesus say, "You are loved, therefore go and love others?" You do this well.

As you look to your future, I pray that you will continue to tell the story of Jesus to a world who is hungry for his message of hope and wholeness; that you will continue your courageous path of radical inclusion for all people; and that you will become even more of an oasis of both tranquility and justice for a world that is too often harried and hopeless.

God bless you one and all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate" followed by a small cross symbol.

The Rev. Kate Lewis,
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