

## FINDING GRACE IN JESUS & BUDDHA

By George Clifford

In *The Lost Sutras of Jesus: Unlocking the Ancient Wisdom of the Xian Monks* authors Thomas Moore and Ray Riegert recount the somewhat historically dubious story of Christian monks from Persia who traveled to China:

Something happened to [the] party along the way, something that transformed the monks and led them to 'translate' the documents they carried from Persia into a collection of 'sutras' that melded the teachings of Jesus with the beliefs of Buddha and Lao Tzu. The people they met along the Silk Road and their later contact with the religions of China must have altered their world view so dramatically that when they came to render the sacred texts into Chinese, they rewrote large sections, transforming Jesus into a wise leader who saved humanity not from sin but the wheel of reincarnation. (p. 13)

The Sunday morning adult discussion group is currently reading and discussing Paul Knitter and Roger Haight's *Jesus and Buddha: Friends in Conversation*. The two authors are longtime friends. Knitter is a former Roman Catholic priest who, following Vatican II, left the priesthood, married a Buddhist and now teaches at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Haight remains a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Jesuits. Knitter writes as a self-identified Buddhist Christian and Haight as a Christian.

Living in Honolulu, it's difficult to avoid religious pluralism. Our city has religious facilities that belong to a multiplicity of religions. Families frequently have members who identify with different religions or no religion at all. Interfaith organizations such as The Interfaith Alliance and the Samaritan Counseling Center of Hawaii fill important community roles.

St Clements mirrors that diversity. Members of the adult discussion group include former Buddhists whose spiritual journey brought them to Christianity, Christians with Buddhist family members seeking more knowledge of Buddhism, persons who are Christians but who wonder if dialogue with Buddhism will deepen their spiritual life and persons uncertain of their spiritual identity. The group's heterogenous composition enlivens the conversation and ensures opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. Every time I lead an adult discussion group on an interfaith topic, I end the series with an enriched spirituality and increased understanding of my own spiritual journey.

My interest in interfaith issues began in college. I could not reconcile Christianity's *prima facie* claims of exclusivity (e.g., Jesus in the gospel of John saying that he is the way, the truth and the life and that no one comes to God except through him) with billions of people following other religious paths. I avidly read books by authors like Alan Watts, an Episcopal priest and Zen practitioner.

For me, the simplest, most liberating and life-giving reconciliation of belief in one God with the existence of multiple religions starts by acknowledging that although religious language and structures vary widely across cultures, each religion represents a different path to a common destination. My studies in mysticism (alleged direct experiences of God) and religious ethics reinforced my intuition that each religion teaches a different path to a common destination. Both Knitter and Haight agree, but reach that conclusion traveling their individual paths.

Discussions in the Sunday morning group range widely, delving not only into the book being read but also applying the content to individual struggles and social concerns. Questions are often more important than are answers. Thankfully nobody in the group wants to translate the gospels into sutras. Members do seek better understanding of spirituality in general and their spiritual journey in particular. Group members generally listen to one another attentively and with caring. During the pandemic and enforced limits on social gatherings, Sunday morning sessions have helped us remain connected to one another. I often observe members drawing strength and hope from one another.

Most significantly, some members find the Sunday morning sessions sacramental. The outward sign (gathering in community) points to an inner grace (help in experiencing the presence of the one, loving God). I find the hour a time of vital spiritual renewal. I invite you to join us.

# Ke 'Alemanaka

Published monthly by  
The Parish of St. Clement  
1515 Wilder Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
(808)955-7745  
stclem.org

Want your article or  
announcement published?

Submission Deadline:  
**Third Thursday of the Month**  
November 18, 2021

## STAFF

**Rector:** Rev. Heather Hill  
**Associate:** Rev. George Clifford  
**Head of School:** Jodi Yoshioka  
**Music Director:** Karol Nowicki  
**Organist:** Mark Kennedy  
**Secretary:** Alofa Carpenter  
**Sexton:** Stan Ornellas  
**Sunday School:** Jessica Stack,  
Scott & Gail Suzuki-Jones,  
Michelle Comeau

**Senior Warden:** Beth Fincke  
**Junior Warden:** Gail Suzuki-Jones  
**Treasurer:** Martha Morgan  
**Clerk:** Holoua Stender

## Vestry

Jane Anderson Brian Crow  
Matthew Chapman Pam Fern  
Cathy Overstreet Glenn Moir  
Susan Palmore Amy Schafer

## Church Office Hours

Open Weekdays  
9AM to 3PM

*\*Closed on Holidays*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Clement's is turning 125 in 2023! If you would like to join brainstorming discussions for the celebratory event please let us know!

Stitched Together With Love, St. Clement's newly-formed knitting and crochet group, is meeting every second Saturday (11/13) at 11AM under the church porte cochere.

Our food distribution program is still open to receiving donations of canned soup, corn beef, pork and beans, chili with meat, corn and vienna sausage.

Mahalo to this month's Food Distribution bagging crew:  
Michelle Comeau and Danny Schoen.

Thank you to Rev. George Clifford for serving as the guest contributor for this month's newsletter!

## ZOOM SERVICE OUTLINE

### SUNDAY

#### Worship at 8AM & 10:15AM

ID#: 854 4414 6891

Passcode: 1515

#### Adult Discussion at 9AM

ID#: 854 4414 6891

Passcode: 1515

#### Bible Study (RBTL) at 9AM

ID#: 661 508 747

Passcode: 1515

### TUESDAY

#### Compline at 9PM

ID#: 823 5666 8373

Passcode: 1515

You can join any service with your phone! Just call this number: 1 (669) 900-6833 and enter the meeting ID and passcode when prompted.

# CREATION CARE

Are you interested in becoming the church contact?

The Diocesan Creation Care Task Force is putting together a contact person from each parish to help spread the news about how all the Episcopal Churches in Hawai'i are working to help our environment. This person would communicate to the Task Force about how St. Clement's is working to care for the earth and to St. Clement's about what the Diocese and other churches are doing. Would you be interested in helping the earth through this communication role in our parish? Please speak to Pastor Heather

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## SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE

Food Distribution Statistics from September

In September 2021, the Parish of St. Clement distributed 249 bags of canned goods and rice to community members in need. Those 249 bags went on to feed 259 adults and 145 children. Out of all of our recipients, only 10 of them are employed and only 23 receive government assistance. If you are interested in helping with our food ministry, there are multiple ways you can get involved...

- We are looking for a new Food Distribution Coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for enlisting volunteers and assigning them to various tasks that make up our Food Distribution ministry.
- You can volunteer every Wednesday from 10am to 12pm or on the third Saturday of each month from 10:30am to 12pm. Tasks include manning our "Free Items" table, bagging the canned goods, checking IDs to sign recipients in on our computer system and handing out grocery bags.
- If you have a large vehicle (ex. minivan or truck) and are available in the morning on weekdays, you can join us on our foodbank runs. With an influx in need for food, we began going to the foodbank multiple times a month recently. We'd meet at the foodbank, do our shopping, load our cars then drive back to St. Clement's to unload at the Parish Hall.
- Can't make it in-person? No problem! We are still open to receiving food donations. A comprehensive list of goods can be found under the "Announcements" section on page 2 of the newsletter. You can drop off a food donation, or you can use an online grocery service and have them delivered to St. Clement during our office hours

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## DINNER & DISCUSSION POSTPONED

Thursday, Oct. 28 Gathering has been moved to January

The gathering centered around discussion of Yolanda Pierce's *In My Grandmother's House* has been moved to January. We will notify you of the new date and time in the coming months. In the meantime, *In My Grandmother's House* is still available for purchase (\$10) at the church office.

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Farmers Market

Our Market Director will be going on vacation and we are in need of a volunteer to open and close the Parish Hall for the Makiki Farmers Market on November 11 and 18, as well as December 2 and 9. We ask that you are present from 3:30 to 7:30PM, but you are welcome to come with family and/or friends to enjoy the market while you're there. Our Market Director will walk you through the tasks, such as unlocking and locking the bathroom and kitchen, and we will ensure that you get a set of keys.

# November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 9:00 AM Apt Flooring 1:00 PM Parish Staff Mtg.	2 Election Day 5:00 PM Labyrinth Open 9:00 PM Compline	3 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 5:00 PM Na 'Ohana Meeting	4 Diwali 4:30 PM Farmers Market	5 Clergy Sabbath 8:00 AM SCS Chapel	6 9:00 AM Altar Guild
			HAPPY BIRTHDAY RICHARD LOWE		HAPPY BIRTHDAY EDIZA TAMURA	
7 Daylight Saving Time End 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 9:00 AM Bible Workbench 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 2:30 PM Tongan Church	8 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 1:00 PM Parish Staff Mtg.	9 5:00 PM Property Committee Mtg. 9:00 PM Compline	10 8:00 AM SCS Chapel	11 Office Closed No School Veterans Day 4:30 PM Farmers Market	12 Clergy Sabbath 8:00 AM SCS Chapel	13 9:00 AM Altar Guild 11:00 AM Knitting Group
				HAPPY BIRTHDAY BETTY SUZUKI		HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELIZABETH MCCUTCHEON JOHN MARLOWE
14 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 9:00 AM Bible Workbench 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 1:00 PM Prayer Chain Mtg. 2:30 PM Tongan Church	15 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 1:00 PM Parish Staff Mtg. 5:30 PM NAMI WOW	16 5:00 PM SCS Board Mtg. 9:00 PM Compline	17 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 8:00 AM SCS Food Drive	18 4:30 PM Farmers Market	19 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 10:15 AM Jayne Farris Svc 12:00 PM Kūpuna Box	20 9:00 AM Altar Guild 10:30 AM Food Distribution 1:00 PM Tourist Wedding
	HAPPY BIRTHDAY SANDY SOUZA	HAPPY BIRTHDAY GLENN MOIR	HAPPY BIRTHDAY DANIEL KALI		HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOBBIE BRODHEAD	
21 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 9:00 AM Bible Workbench 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 2:30 PM Tongan Church	22 No School 8:00 AM Parent/Teacher Conference 1:00 PM Parish Staff Mtg.	23 8:00 AM Parent/Teacher Conference 6:00 PM Vestry Meeting 9:00 PM Compline	24 11:00 AM Yo! House Cooking	25 Office Closed Thanksgiving 4:30 PM NO FARMERS MKT	26 Clergy Sabbath 8:00 PM Strivers for Sobriety	27 9:00 AM Altar Guild
	HAPPY BIRTHDAY GAYLE CHANG BILL MARKEVITCH				HAPPY BIRTHDAY MICHELLE COMEAU BENJAMIN SCHOEN	
28 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:45 AM Eucharistic Visitors 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 9:00 AM Bible Workbench 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 2:30 PM Tongan Church	29 Hanukkah 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 1:00 PM Parish Staff Mtg.	30 9:00 PM Compline				



# SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS

A sneak peek into a school day at St. Clement's



Our St. Clement students...  
made ghosts out of plates,  
had a scavenger hunt,  
dressed up as farmers,  
waited patiently for their  
turn on Pet Blessing day,  
& played in the sandbox,  
*(listed clockwise from top left)*



## THANK YOU, PETER PEREIRA!

The longtime Diocesan Treasurer is beginning his much-deserved retirement



On behalf of our community here at the Parish of St. Clement, the Church Office sent Peter orchids (pictured on the left) and a card.

Here is a message from Peter:

I am very touched to receive you card and the beautiful vase of flowers. You made my day. Thank you for taking the time to do this.

It has been an honor serving the church and especially friends like all of you at St Clements. I am so blessed to know you all.

I wish you all the best in your ministry. Please keep me in your prayers. Love you all.

Thank you.

Blessings,  
Peter

# A MESSAGE FROM YWCA FERNHURST

The Vestry voted to send Fernhurst \$1,000 in celebration of their 100th Anniversary

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
O'ahu

**YWCA Laniākea**  
1040 Richards Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
(808) 538-7061

**YWCA Fernhurst**  
1566 Wilder Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
(808) 941-2231

**YWCA Kokokahi**  
45-035 Kane'ohe Bay Drive  
Kāne'ohe, HI 96744  
(808) 247-2124

October 1, 2021

The Parish of St. Clement  
Rev. Heather Hill  
1515 Wilder Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96822-4614

Dear Rev. Hill,

*Rev. Hill -  
thank you for  
all your support  
of the Fernhurst  
women we are  
to you and so grateful  
we are your  
wonderful  
Cara*

We are so grateful for The Parish of St. Clement's gift of **\$1,000.00** to YWCA O'ahu received **October 1, 2021**, in support of our **Fernhurst 100th Anniversary**. Due to the generosity of our Challenge Match donors, Alexander & Baldwin, Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation, Grace Pacific, Jodi Lam & Tim Takaezu, we are able to match your gift! You can feel great knowing your gift will have double the impact.

Whether it's a business owner struggling to provide for her family, a teenage girl building her self-confidence, or a woman transitioning out of incarceration, YWCA O'ahu helps women and girls from all types of backgrounds and ages, by giving them a hand up, not a hand out. Together, we can empower and uplift these women, bettering their families and our community.

Your gift supports Ka Hale Ho'āla Hou No Nā Wāhine, the state's only community-based work furlough program for women transitioning out of incarceration. At our Fernhurst facility, women are provided a safe and healing setting for them to learn, set and accomplish attainable goals, build resiliency, manage emotions, and make positive changes. **YWCA O'ahu is the place where those women rebuild their lives and we couldn't do it without the generous support from people like you.**

Thank you,



Cara Mazzei

Director of Development & Community Relations

**YWCA O'ahu provided no goods or services in consideration of this gift. EIN 99-0073534**

**YWCA IS ON A MISSION**

[www.ywcaoahu.org](http://www.ywcaoahu.org)



## NOVEMBER AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY	MONDAY
<p>Holy Eucharist 8AM and 10:15AM</p> <p>Adult Discussion 9AM</p> <p>Bible Study 9AM</p>	<p>Office Open 9AM to 3PM</p>
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>Office Open 9AM to 3PM</p>	<p>Office Open 9AM to 3PM</p> <p>Assistance Available 10AM to 12PM</p>
THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Office Open 9AM to 3PM</p> <p>Farmers Market 4:30PM to 7PM</p>	<p>Office Open 9AM to 3PM</p> <p>Third Fri. (11/19) Kūpuna Box 12PM to 1PM</p>
SATURDAY	SPECIAL EVENTS
<p>Second Sat. (11/13) Knit/Crochet Group 11AM to 1PM</p> <p>Third Sat. (11/20) Food Distribution 10:30AM to 12:30PM</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED Veteran's Day (Thurs 11/11)</p> <p>+</p> <p>Thanksgiving (Thurs 11/25 + Fri 11/26)</p>

