



PARISH^h OF ST. CLEMENT

the
An Inclusive and Caring Christian Community



Parish Profile 2023

The Parish of St. Clement ■ 1515 Wilder Avenue ■ Honolulu, Hawaii 96822



Aloha!

Mahalo in advance for taking the time to read through our profile to get to know us. We are seeking to match a new rector with our vision for the future of St. Clement's. This profile reflects the congregation's thoughts on and desires for our life as Christ's beloved community.

Like the rest of the world, our routine and old 'normal' was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The departure of our prior rector has added to the challenges of moving forward. Fortunately, we do not despair, but see this as an opportunity to write the next chapter of our church story. We eagerly await a new rector to help us create it in this unique corner of the world that is Honolulu, Hawaii.

Our dream for St. Clement's is to nurture, grow, and realize a community that serves God, our neighbors, and each other. The members of St. Clement's value tradition and are connected to our history, but we are also poised to embrace the future and to new ways of achieving our goals. We seek a priest who loves tradition but is not afraid to try new things, who loves people, and who is willing to walk with us towards our full potential and move together into the next era.

Who We Are

The mission of St. Clement's Church and School is to be a Christian community that strives to be Christ's light in the world through generous hospitality and mutual discipleship.

We are a metropolitan congregation located in urban Honolulu. Our parish is a living entity that evolves and grows with its membership and the surrounding community. We are a parish diverse in ethnicity, age, income, political opinion, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other areas as well. We welcome all of God's children and seek a priest who shares our faith and vision, and who desires to live their calling and minister in this place.

Community

St. Clement's is located in central Honolulu in an area known as Makiki. It is ten minutes from both Waikiki Beach and downtown shopping and businesses. Makiki is a mixed-use area with older single family homes, low and high rise apartments and condominiums. A small shopping block has a grocery store, a Korean bar-be-cue, a sushi shop, a pizza place and a wine shop. Within a few blocks are a Catholic church, a Lutheran church, a Church of Christ Scientist, and a Korean Methodist church. There are also two private schools nearby. Directly across the street from St. Clement's is Makiki District Park with tennis and basketball courts, community gardens and large green play areas. The hills above Makiki have many hiking trails with magnificent views of Honolulu and the Pacific Ocean. The residents of Makiki represent the diversity of Hawaii: Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Asians, Caucasians and Latinos.

The average age of the surrounding community is 44, and is rising. There are increasing numbers of both school age children and retirees. The average age of our congregation is approximately 47.



The Experience of Worship at St. Clement's

The church at St. Clement's has an open-air feeling. With warm breezes and the sound of tropical birds in the surrounding gardens, a typical service at St. Clement's features an intermingling of God's natural creation as well as warm welcoming fellowship.

Members whose families have attended for generations, newcomers, single individuals looking for a place to belong, and families looking for a place to raise children all gather in a relaxed but reverent celebration of God's love.

It is not unusual to see many different types of people at St. Clement's, and even well-behaved pets are welcome to share in the celebration on a weekly basis.

Worship at St. Clement's can be described as Broad Church. The Eucharist is celebrated on Sundays at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services. The 10:15 a.m. service includes the volunteer choir which leads the congregation in singing. They also provide either an offertory or communion anthem.

The 10:15 service is commonly known to be the family service. The children attend Sunday School in classes according to age group. On the first Sunday of the month the children attend and participate in the service.

A Tongan-speaking Methodist congregation uses the worship space for services on Sunday afternoons.

St. Clement's School

St. Clement's is very blessed to have a highly regarded school as part of its campus and part of the community. St. Clement's School is licensed through the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services and recently received a five-year accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). It is also a member institution of the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES). The school has both preschool and kindergarten classes with a current enrollment of over 120. The school is rooted in the Christian faith, as interpreted by the Episcopal Church, and welcomes and respects children of all religious, ethnic, and economic backgrounds.

"We are dedicated to deepening our covenant faith with God and each other..."

- *A Comment from the All-Parish Meeting*



The school is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of the rector who is an *ex officio* voting member, the Church Treasurer, two Vestry representatives, two non-Vestry church members, three school parents, and two community representatives. The Head of School is an *ex officio* non-voting member.

The school also has a very active parent association, Na 'Ohana, and benefits greatly from the activities and events of that organization.

Together St. Clement's Church and St. Clement's School make up the Parish of St. Clement. The Vestry oversees the Parish, and the Rector manages the Parish staff. As part of the Parish staff, the Head of School reports directly to the Rector. At St. Clement's School, the Rector also leads an age-appropriate chapel service several days a week. These are school-wide, informal gatherings of song, story, and prayer.

Over the past 6 years St. Clement's School has been blessed with great interest in enrollment but still faces the common financial challenge to all private schools of its size – broadening revenue streams external to tuition payments.



“Parishioners are always seeking to make the world a better place...” - *A comment from the All-Parish Meeting*



Parish Ministries

The Parish of St. Clement reaches out in ministry to the community in various ways with a small but very active group of congregants participating.

Feeding Ministries

St. Clement's maintains several ministries to feed those in need: a weekly grocery distribution in the parish hall; distribution point for Hawaii Food Bank's Kupuna Box program. Quarterly financial support for hot meal preparation at a downtown Honolulu shelter for the homeless - Institute for Human Services (<https://ihshawaii.org>); monthly and special holiday meal for teenagers in Waikiki (<https://waikikihc.org>) and RYSE, (Residential Youth Services and Empowerment <https://rysehawaii.org>), a 24 hour safe haven housing young adults; and participation in the local Meals on Wheels.



Makiki Farmers' Market

Every week we host a Farmers Market as a way to reach out to and connect with our Makiki neighborhood. Before the COVID 19 pandemic, the event boasted some 500+ guests/shoppers a week. It was designed as an opportunity for parishioners and the church's neighbors to gather, talk story, and share a meal at our picnic tables. The market has vendors that provide island grown produce and feature food made by local small business owners. As a result of the pandemic the market transformed into a 'grab & go' event and is still popular. However, someday we hope to return it to its original vision as a community event. The farmers' market has become synonymous with St. Clement's to the residents of our neighborhood and is a positive, healthy symbol of our walk with God and focus on community.



Global Ministries /SABEEL Hawaii

Addressing the oppression of Palestinians in the Holy Land is the work of a Palestinian Christian organization, SABEEL, it was founded in the 1990s by a group including the Rev. Naim Ateek that met at the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Archbishop Desmond Tutu was a patron and supporter.

St. Clement's had a Global Ministry group, but after a trip to Jerusalem, they decided to concentrate on Palestine/Israel. Over 19 years, we have raised money for specific emergency situations, collaborated with Jewish Voice for Peace, and UH Students and Faculty for a Free Palestine. We have sponsored a dozen peace activists, Christian and Muslim, to come to Hawai'i to speak. In October 2022, the collaborative group brought Jonathan Kuttab, new executive director of Friends of Sabeel North America, to speak at our Diocesan Convention, and at churches, a school, and other venues. We look forward to continuing efforts to serve our sisters and brothers in Palestine/Israel.



Family Ministries

The Family Ministries program strives to enrich the spiritual journey of parish children and youth, and to connect them more closely with the life of the Parish. We seek to include the children and youth in ministries, worship services and other aspects of life in the parish including social, outreach and fundraising events. Coming out of COVID the family ministries program is in rebuilding mode, with a small core group, and looking to grow.

We are blessed to have space and resources to support four groups of children and youth: our nursery space provides care for toddlers. Atriums I and II are our Sunday School classes. Atrium I serves our preschool children through younger elementary, and Atrium II serves our older grade school children. The curricula in Atriums I and II are based on the Godly Play Program.

The Youth Group meets in the Parish Hall and ministers to middle school and high school age young people. The curriculum is based on the Confirm Not Conform Program. Though primarily a Confirmation curriculum, the thrust is to inform our young people both scripturally and spiritually, and to give meaning to our shared belief and faith in God in our daily lives. The curriculum is complemented by the involvement of the young people in what is frequently their first ministry, that of assisting our clergy as acolytes in Sunday services and on special holy days.

The Youth Group also participates in KIVA, a global ministry that makes micro-loans to people in developing nations and underdeveloped regions of the United States who are seeking help to start family farms and ranches, begin small businesses, send children to private schools where free public education does not exist, and build basic but decent homes for people living and working in poverty.

In addition to the regular Sunday activities, Family Ministries organizes activities for the Parish throughout the year with Family Sundays which allow the youth to participate in the liturgy, special presentations on major Holy Days, a screening of “Elf” and spaghetti dinner at Christmastime, a Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast, the Maundy Thursday Agape Supper in Lent, an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Day, and an annual parish-wide retreat at Camp Mokuleia on the North Shore of O`ahu.



Reading Between the Lines (RBTL)

A weekly conversation built around lectionary readings and a collection of short texts, RBTL presents a central theme, allowing participants to make room for exploration, for asking questions and for offering interpretations and observations. RBTL provides an opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship through conversation and reflection. New members are welcomed any time.

Discussion Group

Lively conversations take place between services most Sunday mornings, stretching our thinking about God and faith. Books discussed in 2022 included: *Jesus and Buddha* (Knitter & Haight); *Near the Exit* (Lori Erickson); *Faith After Doubt* (Brian McLaren); and *Mere Christianity* (C.S.Lewis). In the latter case, the group prefers *Narnia*, which has aged better.

In recent years, we have invited authors to join us via Zoom: Abbott Christopher Jamison, Elaine Pagels and John J. Collins. We enjoy our differences, always listening with respect. Our group is clergy or lay led, and has continued for decades.

Prayer Chain

Meeting monthly for over 20 years, our Prayer Chain responds to open or confidential requests for prayers for those in need. We each pray daily for all of these.

Liturgical Ministries

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, our current Lectors are composed of those readers who support the clergy. In the past, our Lector ministry included trained Eucharistic support in addition to the readers.

Other Ministries

In addition to these ministries, St. Clement's parishioners also serve in the Altar and Flower Guild, as Ushers, and in the Welcome Ministry. The fresh flowers and foliage on the altar on a Sunday morning may well have come from the gardens on the church grounds.



Our Home

The St. Clement's campus is designed so that the new honors the aesthetics and traditions of the old. The church at St. Clement's was dedicated in 1942. The worship hall is a wooden structure with a high ceiling and exposed rafters. The vaulted ceiling, along with glass-paned doors that slide open on both sides, contribute to its tropical, open-air feeling. The covered lanai that runs along both sides of the church provides shade and protects congregants during the brief showers that are typical of Hawai'i in the fall and winter months.



The Parish House was renovated in 2005 to serve as a small community center and church event space. It includes an air-conditioned meeting hall where many fellowship, school, and other activities are held. The space is also made available for community support groups that include or have included: Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).



The Parish House also features a large kitchen with a full array of appliances, two comfortable meeting spaces for smaller gatherings and a playroom and nursery for our youngest keiki (children). The church offices for the staff are also in the Parish House and have a separate outside entrance.



The Chapel of Peace, home to our columbarium, is part of the church structure and is located directly beneath the Sanctuary. It features an intimate meditative space and is accessed from an outside walkway alongside the church.

The campus includes a parking lot for the church and school, with an embedded labyrinth modeled after the Chartres Cathedral. Extensive landscaping in the area includes palms, ferns, and a butterfly garden. These complement the large kiawe, false kamani, monkeypod, and Christmas berry trees on campus.



Our Staff

In addition to the Rector, the St. Clement's staff also includes the Head of School, school faculty and staff, the Family Ministries staff, Office Manager, a Sexton and an Organist.

Congregational Input

In preparation for creating this profile, the parishioners of St. Clement's gave their input and opinions encompassing all areas of church life by way of an open forum, via written surveys, telephone interviews, meetings with individual ministry teams, and one-on-one chats.

Our Successes

Our congregation values community, but the COVID-19 pandemic represented an unprecedented barrier to togetherness. To balance safety and the need for connection, the parish began live online services for the first time in our history. This was successful in keeping services active during the times when gatherings were limited. Our tradition of early and late services remain important to the congregation. We have resumed these as mixed live online and in-person services to make sure people of all health and comfort levels can be included.

Parishioners at St. Clement's seek to make the world a better place. We treasure the opportunity to host special events and outreach ministries to learn about important issues and take action on them. Recent events have included a presentation by a human rights activist from Friends of Sabeel in North America, a "Book and Treasure" sale, and a Christmas movie night. We look for opportunities to host more speakers, dinners, and discussions, to lend a helping hand, all done in an effort to learn about the world and find ways to improve it. We also open our space to other community organizations such as Strivers for Sobriety, RYSE board of directors meetings, and the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI).

The Makiki Farmers' Market has had a far-reaching and positive impact on the congregation and the community. We enjoy the discussion group as a group of openminded individuals who don't always agree but always respect each other. Our membership finds it important to maintain a space where it is not only allowed but also expected that individuals ask questions and have theological openness.



Our Opportunities for Improvement

The greatest challenge we face is strengthening ties in the parish to become the beloved community we feel called to be. We are looking to heal conflict and reconnect with members we have lost. As we come out of COVID, we want to welcome parishioners back into church, get them actively engaged, and grow the church membership. We are excited to welcome a warm, compassionate, innovative leader who will inspire us to grow as a parish and as individuals in a relationship with God and each other.

Our goals for the future

We continue to search for ways to improve our parish and to better minister to the spiritual needs of both our people and the community. We would also like to enlist a greater number of our current members to be more actively involved in our ministries. We are looking for a leader who is open to listening to the congregation and who will work with and guide us as we grow in faith.

We are interested in creating a stronger bond between our St. Clement's School families and the church itself. As we are interested in keeping the Parish vibrant and growing with young families, the school is a

wonderful resource, and we would like to further nurture the Church's relationship with the school.

We would also like to increase our outreach to our neighborhood. Although we have the weekly opportunity provided by the Farmer's Market, we would like to find new ways to reach out to our neighbors and welcome them to our church family. One possibility is Fernhurst, a women's halfway house near the church run by the YWCA. We had begun by donating backpacks with everyday health items and moved to sharing a dinner at the church for the women to meet us and tell their stories. Some were interested in singing in the choir. COVID brought an end to that but a group in the parish is exploring what can come next.

Other goals that are important to our members as we move forward are being inclusive to all persons including through liturgical language; including more youth and youth programs; and making a renewed effort to be connected with the individual needs of the people of the parish.

Lastly, although we love and value our traditional style and liturgy, we are open to trying new things to meet our goals. This could include modernizing our liturgy, changing seating options, and making worship livelier. We would like to set, work towards, and achieve these goals together with our new rector.

"I love going to Sunday School!" – Laurel S.



Rector qualities we seek

The congregation seeks a rector with the following qualities:

- A priest who listens with empathy and concern, showing warmth and compassion for those struggling with human and spiritual needs
- Who embraces both traditions and new ways of worship
- Who embraces diversity, demonstrating respect for the host culture and for the dignity of every human being
- Who has the ability to bring people together, empowering and inspiring laity to contribute to the work of the church, generating ideas for growth and ministry
- Who enables growth in faith through teaching and dynamic sermons
- Who has management skills and good judgment to manage both a parish and its preschool, is accessible to staff, head of school, its Board, and who fosters strong relationship between the two entities

About Our Past

St. Clement's Beginnings

St. Clement's was established in 1898. St. Clement's celebrated its first service on Easter Day, 1898 and was consecrated as a church of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States in 1910. The present church building was under construction when Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941. Construction was halted until the US Army granted permission to finish the structure to be used as a hospital. The building was completed and consecrated in 1942.



The Episcopal Church in Hawai'i

The Episcopal Church in Hawai'i began in 1862 when King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma, a lifelong Anglican, invited the Church of England to Hawai'i. The King and Queen supported the Church's establishment throughout the islands with gifts of land and by founding the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Honolulu. Queen Emma also founded the Queen's Hospital (now Queen's Medical Center) and St. Andrew's Priory School for Girls in Honolulu.

Today the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i consists of 35 worshipping communities on five islands. About half of these are on the island of O'ahu, where Honolulu is located, while the others are distributed among Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i and the island of Hawai'i.



Ministry in Hawai'i is a special call. Any location has its challenges but serving in Hawai'i brings an additional set of advantages and tradeoffs that must be given serious consideration. We are on islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean living in completely multicultural surroundings. Some congregations were founded to serve particular ethnic groups but have since evolved to include a mix of people of various descents.

For more information about the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i, go to the diocesan page at <http://www.episcopalhawaii.org>.

Conclusion

Our members keenly feel the need for the congregation to grow and particularly to reach out and welcome families with children as the future truly lies in the young. We would like to develop more meaningful and lasting relationships with the school families and with our neighborhood.

We are looking for a strong and effective leader and collaborator to both nurture and guide us as we reach out to grow.

We hope that this has given you an understanding and a feeling of who we are as a parish and also of the community in which we live. We have shared our concerns and dreams for the future and our strong desire for a rector who will join us on this journey. We are excited and very eager to meet and welcome our new rector.

Ke Akua pū

(God be with you)

Application Process

If you discern that God may be calling you to The Parish of St. Clement, please submit the following to:

The Reverend Canon Sandy Graham: acgraham@episcopalhawaii.org .

Resume/CV

A copy of your updated OTM profile

A letter of interest that highlights how you feel you meet the needs of The Parish of St. Clement and why you feel called to serve as our rector.

