ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MONTHLY NEWS MAGAZINE ISSUE 7 // VOLUME 1 // JULY 2023

# TALK STORY 2

St. Jude's Episcopal Church // Where Jesus Talk is a Daily Walk



#### Church Happenings

Wednesday showers have been growing steadily so we are happy that we had the volunteer power to handle them. Two of our patrons, one male, one female, have said that they were able to get jobs because they were able to go to the interview with clean body and clothes. They both thanked everyone for making the mid shower time possible. We're so happy!! Ministering to our local population with hot showers and food makes us feel that we are doing the work that God has given all of us to do. Come on down and get involved with us and feel good about the time you're spending working for the betterment of our community.

We had a wonderful time with Stephen and Kate and their Texas Chili over rice was a hit on Saturday. Kate was a real trouper while she was here and washed all the shower towels on Saturday and Wednesday since Gregg's washer was broken. This isn't the usual responsibility of the priest's wife but Kate offered and we accepted. We will happily welcome them back in 2026. Aloha and Safe travels.

Continued on next page.

Rev. Meg, husband Eric and their two girls will arrive on the 22nd of June and stay with us through July. It will be wonderful to have the girls with us and receive the joy of having young people in church with us. Thank you God for children!!

Bless our family Lord and keep them safe. Heal those who are ill and give them strength. Be with those who are suffering any difficulty and give us all peace for the time ahead.



"Smell the sea and feel the sky.

Let your soul and spirit fly."

# Big Island Bites BY KAREN PUCCI

There is no review this month because we could not go out like we like to do. COVID found me for the 3rd time along the way and it really messed a lot of things up. There must be a sign out there that says "viruses welcome here" pointing at me.

I attended services the first day symptoms appeared because I stupidly thought I just had caught a cold. The next day I woke with a killer headache and thought "uh-oh". I tested and yep. It went to positive in less than a minute and stayed there. OH MAN! I may have just killed our congregation! Happily no one else, including Anna, contracted it.

None the less, it ruined most of June. We could not attend nor hold our end of the year EfM lunch. Richard had to once again cover the bulletin production. We could not work 2 Saturdays and did not attend church. We missed the latest appearance of Pele at the Park which REALLY irritates me. We could not host the priest for a dinner with the Wild Wahines. Whine, whine, WINE.

Bottom line: we have to face it that this virus is never going away. All it is going to do is continue to mutate and make us miserable.

This bout was far more severe than any of the previous ones. The paxlovid whatever worked very well thankfully. Started feeling better within 12 hours. However, the brain fog is still with me as is the fatigue. While isolating, I managed to do a few things but this resulted serious down time and/or naps. The dog loved having me around but not happy that we weren't doing dump runs. We certainly caught up on some streaming shows although it is all kinda blurry now. My short term is noticeably impacted but I am trying to bring some of it back. Hah!

My words of wisdom are to stay vigilant. Wear masks when you go into public places and keep washing your hands. Keep up with the boosters. We have more than a few friends who are "tired of the boosters" and won't take them anymore. Well, the virus doesn't care about our attitudes. It is an opportunistic predator and will happily hitch a ride on your hands or through your respiratory system.

Live in the Sunshine
Swim in the sea.

Drink in the wild air.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

### The Funny Pages

## GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always Catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food..
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair..
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.

## GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED

- Raising teenagers is like nailing Jello to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.



#### Library Corner by anna towner

I promised myself to write about Doona Leon's books and I will, but must first chat about my discovery of writer Angeline Boulley. I often check out teen/young adult fiction looking for something special and hit the jackpot this time. Boulley has won the Edgar for best young adult fiction. The Edgar acknowledges an outstanding mystery book; I did not know that they awarded Edgars for young adult fiction. Apparently it's true that education can be a life long learning experience.

Boulley has always "worked to improve education for indigenous children" (Wikipedia) both on a tribal and federal level. Federally she headed the Indian Office of Education within the U.S. Department of Education and wrote her first novel, Fire Keepers Daughter (2021), while still working in education.

Daunis Fontaine, of the Fire Keepers, has a foot in each world, white and Chippewa/Ojibwe and sometimes her footing is shaky. Her white mother comes from a well to do and well known family and her deceased Ojibwe father, a honored and much respected Keeper of the Fire. It is ironic that neither of her parent's families see the value or importance that the other holds in their respective societies. However, each of these worlds share a common problem - meth.

Meth kills and whatever it doesn't kill, it can destroy. This is especially true on Indian reservations where kids are bored, educational opportunities limited if existing and drugs seem to provide a cheap, easy way of escaping one's problems. Daunis becomes aware of this rapidly growing problem when her best friend Lily is killed by her boyfriend, a meth addict.

Daunis agrees to work as a CI, a Confidential Informant, for the FBI and tribal police who are working together to catch the meth makers and distributors. She learns a lot about human nature, trust, not taking the easy road even if it seems to lead to the quicker solution. She learns who she is and how she wants to grow. Maybe even who she wants to grow into.

The author is able to sound so real, so honest about straddling the two worlds and their starkly different cultures as she is biracial. She is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa in Michigan and knows what it is to be the Fire Keeper's daughter as that "her father is a traditional fire keeper, who strikes ceremonial fires at spiritual activities in the tribal community and ensure protocols are followed, while providing cultural teachings through stories told around the fire." (Wikipedia)

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Can't tell you anymore as you should ride the rollercoaster of surprises I did. But, just read that Netflix made a series based on the book and I can only hope that it turns/turned out better than Hillerman's Dark Winds.

Also her second book, Warrior Girl Unearthed (2023) is out and I am almost done with that gem. Boulley keeps the setting the same, but now problems are affecting the next generation.

Dear Bible Study friends,

Remember a couple years back, when Judy was absent from Bible Study because she was filming a movie?

Well, guess what? Judy's film is about to launch and oh-my-gosh-I can hardly wait! It's titled The Hill.

Judy is way too humble to tell y'all about it, BUT she's been rubbin' elbows with some of Hollywood's best- including my favorite Dennis Quaid. And if you like movies like Hoosiers or Rudy, you are gonna really enjoy The Hill.

The movie is based on a true story, it's inspiring and authentic and amazingly even GOD PLEASING! The men in your life will want to watch it, because it's a baseball themed movie. So, set your calendar reminders to check your movie theaters for August 25th, and look for the premiere showing of THE HILL.

Congratulations, Judy! I'm so proud of you!

Love to you all, Cindy



## I Come to this Church Because... BY GARY JOHNSON

One of the questions I asked myself before preparing to write a sermon was "Why do I go to church?" and more specifically, "Why do we go to church?" What is it that we bring to church each time we attend and what is it that the church offers us that is so unique in our lives?

I know I come to be humbled. We come to find hope. Within this sanctuary we are able to give up our daily lives and embrace the spiritual life we know is present and waiting for us. We can close the door on our lives and find refuge, and respite and redemption. We come here to take on the cloak of God. This is our closet into which Christ tells us to withdraw and pray.

And yet we know that we are not perfect in this regard. Our daily lives do follow us into this church. I suspect that I, at least, come to church because I can't separate my daily life from my life in the church. I come here because we are a community that is both spiritual and secular, both of God and man. We bring our lives into this Church and we bring the spiritual message of the church into our lives.

This is all well and good, but I also want to think about why I come to church in concrete, tangible terms. As I made a list of examples, I realized how rich the experience of coming to church really is. And I realized how rich we, as a congregation, have become.

So here's a list, partial and incomplete as it is, and I can only hope that each of you will have your own list in your own hearts and minds.

I come to church because...

We survived Covid and realized how much was missing in our lives when we could not get together to worship. Anyone want to return to social distancing and Zoom services?

I come to church because St. Jude's mission to provide showers and meals needs us to help continue this inspiring outreach to the needy in our area.

I come here to sit beside members in our congregation who have sat in these seats for over 20 years, and that's a good enough example for me.



I also remember saying to one of our visiting priests that there was always something in the service that surprised me, spoke to me, or that was memorable. It could be something musical, something scriptural, a testimonial, or the extra effort someone made to make the service richer.

Because, like my home in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, the Southwest Kingdom of Hawaii, has attracted people who are unique, a little bit crazy, talented, independent, and committed to the community beyond the church.

I like being here because we have two sets of chairs, but the conservatives don't all sit on the right side and the liberals don't all sit on the left side.

I come to this church because...

People who move to the Big Island can find welcome and common ground and feel that they have not left the spiritual circle of their lives behind.

When someone who has grown up in this church and moved away, and then returns, they still find the church waiting for them. And if someone has moved away from their faith and returns, the church is still there waiting for them.

The sounding of the conch brings me into the moment of worship, even as I am seeing small views of the blue ocean through the palm tree.



I come to church for the same reason many of you do, we all have had teenagers.

The members of this church set a daily example by administering to the homeless, the lonely, the aging, and the lost.

Because we all, without question or prejudice, can receive the blessing of communion at the altar rail.

And because coffee hour after church is also a breaking of the bread that we share together.

When I think of St. Jude's, I think of music. David Madson's improvisations, Dan's hymns and solos, our hula dancers, and the exuberance of our congregation, are devotions of the heart.

And when we are good, we are very, very good, and when we are bad, I can't tell the difference.

I come to St. Jude's because the expressions of faith are everywhere – in Deb's Christ Cards, in the lay ministers who assist the priests, and by those who keep us connected to the wider missions of the diocese.

The Easter service is the celebration of the spirit manifested in the church's decorations and flowers.

Our church has a faithful and fruitful Bible study and prayer circle.

During funerals and celebrations of life we share the same griefs as individuals, and as a community....and the same hopes and assurances.

We have the most beautiful flowers on the altar every Sunday.

The light that comes through the doors illuminates the worshippers, and it's a warm and breezy Hawaiian light.

The liturgy is one of the many ways that we are drawn into the ceremonies of faith. But this service would not be complete without Richard's dedication to the prayers of the people, the bulletin and the music for each week.



We are blessed that someone changes the vestments and altar cloths with each season of the Church year.

And we are blessed with the scholarship of our visiting priests and the way they explain the history and language and culture of the stories of the Bible. We have had many inspiring and welcoming ministers who have led us with compassion, with understanding and who have revealed the messages of the Bible to us.

Our members are willing to serve on the BC committee and a faithful servant is willing to be the treasurer and accountant and keep the books for our congregation.

We are thankful too for the computer talents of those who publish the voices of Talk Story, and also for those who record our services.

In our church, no one complains if they have to fix a leaky toilet, or find out why there is no hot water, or clean out the storage shed or repair the copier. We have willing workers who make Kona runs to pick up the new priests, stock up at Costco, or take people to medical appointments.

We gather at St. Jude's to share the concerns and celebrations of the people, which can include everything from the blessing of a someone who has a birthday, to comforting a person who is sick, to prayers for our children and grandchildren who embark on new adventures.

Our congregation is caring and sheltering without being intrusive when tragedy strikes.

The doors of our homes are always open and there is real joy in sharing our homes and food with other members of the church.

A number of us have carried our faith and our sense of community and our mission into the schools.

We come together and make Christmas dinners, and Cinco de Mayo community dinners, and we celebrate the way that food breaks down all barriers.

When we are broken and bruised, physically or psychologically or spiritually, this is our place to heal and rebuild our lives.

And so it appears to me that we are rich, that we have a great deal of accumulated wealth, our storehouse is full.

And it appears to me that Cordelia's guiding hand is in all the things I have listed so far.



And because of all these things, we will always have our shared faith that God will provide, God will comfort, and God will show the way.

Because when we cast our bread upon the waters it comes back to us in joy.

Continued on next page.

I'd like to finish with a piece that Deb wrote a while ago, but which is worthy of rereading. It is titled "What Church Means to Me."

Imagine that St. Jude's has disappeared from the face of the earth.

There would exist a space, maybe even a hole, a hole much larger than the physical one that we visualize in our imagination.

I was so fortunate to find St. Jude's in a most serendipitous way, and to be drawn in to the ohana that has become such a part of my life. I think of St. Jude's as a living being: we give life to it and it gives life to us.

I am a beacon of hope.
I am a sanctuary from chaos.
I am here to teach you.
I am here that you may serve.

It reminds me to give my best self because I am praising God by expressing my gratitude for his infinite gifts. It stands on a firm foundation because that is what God asks of us, to stand in awe and to be clearly focused on him.







### Flavor of the Month

I currently serve as the rector of St. Anne's in Lee's Summit, Missouri. I am also the middle school counselor in Pleasant Hill, Missouri.

I'm married to Eric and we have two amazing daughters- Weslee (11) and Caroline (9). We have a house full of animals so be prepared for us to beg to cuddle any pet you have. We are so excited to be a part of the family of St. Jude's this summer!

--Rev. Meg



"Summer afternoon-summer afternoon; to
me those have always
been the two most
beautiful words in the
English language."

**HENRY JAMES** 

July Anniversaries

25

Rev. Lester and Angeline Mackenie

# About Hymn

Rejoice as
summer should
... chase away
sorrows by
living.

**MELISSA MARR** 

Summer is singing with joy, and the beaches are inviting you with dancing waves.

**DEBASISH MRIDHA** 

Years Frank Miller, an amazingly talented ago, knowledgeable organist who hired me as bass soloist at Christ Anglican, Columbus, Ohio, where I would sing for many years, was a bit flustered when he called me to let me know that I had been requested to sing at the funeral of a longtime member. " The family would like you to sing, 'Just As I Am'! I haven't told Father yet, but in the twenty years I've been here, it's never been used! Other than Billy Graham, I haven't heard it since I was a kid in the Methodist Church!" I assured Frank I was thrilled to sing it, and that I doubted any lasting repercussions would face either of us. I knew that several of the members had an often-voiced concern about music they saw as too sentimental, or linked to any expression they considered "emotional".

For me, the irony was substantial, as I had heard it used as an "altar call", "invitational hymn" and "communion hymn" in nearly every place of worship where I had worked as a musician or attended. My sense of irony was that the words of the hymn had been written by Charlotte Elliot, not only a member of the Church of England, but also the child, grandchild, and sibling of rectors, vicars and deacons in the Church of England, the editor of multiple collections of hymns and devotionals, and the author of numerous poems and hymn texts.

The product of the sort of "extensive education" that was given to English women, " of a certain class", Charlotte, brought up with substantial privilege, was the granddaughter of the Reverend Henry Venn, one of those responsible for the "Great Awakening" of the 18th century in the churches of Great Britain. As a young woman, she was admired for her talents for portraiture and poetry, and spent her social life in a circle that rarely discussed religion or spiritual matters.

Continued on next page.

Charlotte likely was impacted by a prevailing theme of human sinfulness in the preaching she heard in worship. After suffering serious illness in 1821, at the age of 32, she decided to commit to Christ as a result of an initially contentious meeting with Rev. Dr. Caesar Malan, who was visiting in her father's house. Malan asked her if she was at peace with God, a question she resented. She refused to discuss it during that meeting, but several days later, sought Malan's counsel about cleansing her life in preparation to accept Christ. Malan reportedly told her, "Come just as you are." The remainder of her life was spent writing poems and hymns and editing multiple collections of worship materials, including "The Invalid's Hymnbook" which, in its 1836 edition, included her "Just As I Am."

She wrote around 150 hymns and even more poems while also editing collections of worship and devotional materials for the rest of a relatively long life, (she lived to the age of 82), much of it as an invalid. Her own faith was often asserted in the belief that all people are sinful, and should not wait to seek God's grace, but come to God as we are, knowing that God accepts all who come. Her hymn that so clearly describes this belief is one of the most popular of all, appearing in 1,991 hymnals at this writing. In the 1982 Hymnal, it appears as 693 in the Christian Life section.

Sentimental and emotional? Maybe, but also accessible, meaningful, and universal in its message. Thank you, Charlotte Elliot.



Cynnie, Faye, Karen, Anna, Diane and Teri at EfM graduation.



EFM Graduates Faye, Karen, Anna, Diane

### July Dates to Remember

| 1  | Lemonade Party: Work in the yard 9 a.m 11 a.m.  Showers and Meal: 9 a.m. and on Please sign up for showers by 11:30 a.m.  Hotdogs, hamburgers, and haircuts! |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2  | Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Meg Rhodes Hamburgers and Hot Dogs to celebrate 4th of July during Aloha Hour Bishop's Committee Meeting after church     |  |  |
| 4  | Happy 4th of July!<br>Celebrate the Day with Family and Friends  |  |  |
| 8  | Showers and Meal 9 am<br>Please sign up for showers by 11:30 am  |  |  |
| 9  | Sixth Sunday after Pentecost   |  |  |
| 15 | Showers and Meal 9 am<br>Please sign up for showers before 11:30 am  |  |  |
| 16 | Seventh Sunday after Pentecost   |  |  |
| 22 | Showers and Meal 9 am<br>Please sign up for showers before 11:30 am  |  |  |
| 23 | Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  |  |  |
| 29 | Showers and Meal 9 am<br>Please sign up for showers before 11:30 am  |  |  |
| 30 | Ninth Sunday after Pentecost<br>Farewell to Rev. Meg and Family  |  |  |

# Readings on the Episcopal Church: History, the Ordination of Women, Ethics, and Feminist Ethics BY MOTHER LINDA

#### A WING AND A PRAYER: A MESSAGE OF HOPE (2007)

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefforts Schori's book presents profound truth and vivid images of a more peaceful and just world. She speaks to the critical role of faith and hope in addressing the world's greatest needs. A collection of sermons gathered around social justice and the responsibility of all baptized persons to participate in lay ministry; it is a series of daily meditations.

## GOD'S TROUBLEMAKERS: HOW WOMEN OF FAITH ARE CHANGING THE WORLD (2008)

Jefforts Schori engaged eleven women in extensive interviews to hear them explain and described how they invented organizations or movements to repair the world. This book is a discussion of how a progressive social agenda and faith are partners.

## THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD: FINDING THE SACRED IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING

People of faith are called, or any tradition is called to tend to the needs of the least among us. God gives a new heart to do this. We are to examine our connections as human beings of all nation and our environment.

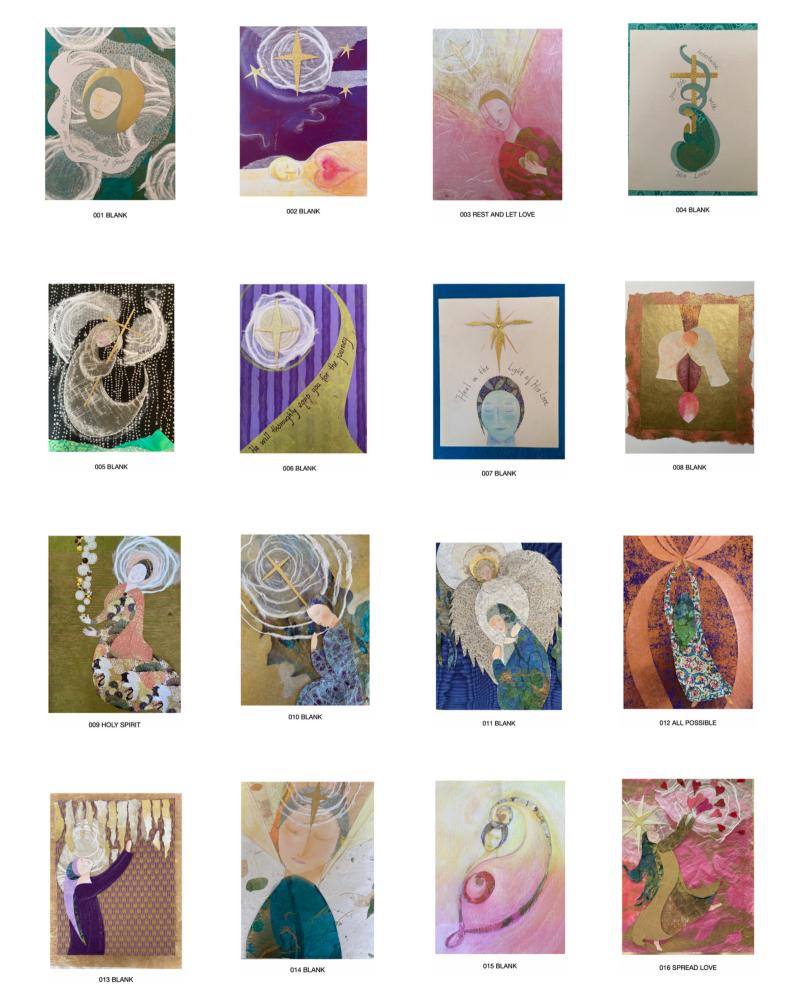
"I have only to break into the tightness of a strawberry, and I see summer - its dust and lowering skies."

TONI MORRISON

| July<br>Birthdays |                       |  |  |  |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| 7                 | Conny Santana         |  |  |  |
| 15                | Diane Nelson          |  |  |  |
| 20                | Jerry Cutts           |  |  |  |
| 24                | Zachary<br>Debernardi |  |  |  |
| 25                | Cindy Cutts           |  |  |  |
| 28                | Buddy Sherfield       |  |  |  |
| 30                | Carl Nelson           |  |  |  |

"The summer night is like a perfection of thought."

WALLACE STEVENS



Christ Cards made by Deborah Johnson. Please see next page for ordering information.

#### CHRIST CARDS

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|                   |          | Total          | \$0.00 |

### Ministries at St. Judes

#### **Monday**

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Senior Nutrition Program

3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Pahala School Tutoring

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Full Gospel Men's Bible Study

10 AM - Womens' Bible Study (online event)

#### **Tuesday**

3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Pahala Schol Tutoring 9:00 AM - Education for Ministry (online event)

#### Wednesday

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Senior Club

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - St. Jude's Hula Halau

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - NA

#### **Thursday**

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Kau'Keiki Choir

#### **Friday**

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Senior Nutrition Program

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Ohana Health Care

#### **Saturday**

8:30 a.m. - and on - St. Jude's Showers and Meal Service

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.- NA

#### **Sunday**

9:30 a.m. - St. Jude's Episcopal Church Service

1:00 p.m. - Full Gospel Worship Service

6:30 p.m. - First Assembly Worship Service

### In Our Prayers

#### Thanksgiving

We offer thanksgiving for the many answered prayers we have received at St. Jude's.

This month we pray for:

Kindness, tender-hearted forgiveness and love in our relationships;

The people of all nations: give us a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will;

Health protection, in COVID post-pandemic: for our kupuna, our loved ones, our leaders, our medical personnel, ourselves. We pray for an end to health issues that impact the ebb and flow of St. Jude's ministries.

Healing: Pastor John Mark, Bob, Sherry, Elaine, Carl, Faye, Cynnie, Angie, Austin, Phyl, Caroline, Ginger & Brian, Fr. Richard, Sandra, Pastor Constance, Butch, Don, Jeanne, Ron, Zach, Sigi, Richard M, Warren, Buddy, Thom, Dan, Sharon, Vickie, Bishop Gretchen, Robin, Loren, and Debbie.

Comfort & Peace for all caregivers.

Strength and comfort for those who suffer loss.

Healing and restoration of broken hearts, families and relationships.

Safety for all who are traveling, comfort for all those who are unable to travel.

Safety, wisdom and courage for those in protective or public service (firefighters, law enforcement, emergency responders, military personnel, teachers, administrators, clergy, physicians, nurses, medical team members, civil leaders, cashiers, truck drivers, postal employees, and all workers);

For protection from COVID-19, natural disasters, violence and tragedy: we pray for restoration of lives, financial loss and displacement of families forever impacted;

For our church and all her ministries, re-ignite us Lord, in a safe environment of warmth, music, Holy Communion and divine connection. Bring us new volunteers to help us continue our many outreach projects;

Blessings, wisdom, energy, enthusiasm, discernment and encouragement for the leaders of St. Jude's, our visiting priests and for the many volunteers who keep our church operating; and for local, national and international world leaders, help us to work together for peace.

#### Talk Story 2 welcomes submissions!

Submission Guidelines: 500 words maximum. Uplifting, informational and reflective stories, news, recipes, photos, memories, etc. Photos must be submitted as jpgs & emailed as attachments. Talk Story 2 editors reserve the right to edit submissions.

Submit via email to: StJudesNewsletter@gmail.com. Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20th of each month. Authors retain copyrights to their submissions. The views in these articles are the Authors own and do not reflect the opinions of St. Judes.

For more guideline details visit www.stjudeshawaii.org.



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