

# RETIRED CLERGY FAMILIES OF HAWAI‘I NEWS

Volume I, Edition 2

October 15, 2021, 2021,

Edited by Carol Arney

## All Virtual Online Education Day and Annual Meeting of Diocesan Convention October 22 and 23, 2021

As October comes again, the Diocese looks to the Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i. Oftentimes it has been referred to as a great big family reunion. Unfortunately, like so many things, the pandemic has taken that away, at least for one more year. However, some found pleasure in last year’s virtual convention. There still was a touch of humor—and the voting went even more smoothly than the paper ballots did. Remember, retired clergy have the right to vote, even if you don’t have any “skin in the game” because the budget doesn’t affect your church (usually). We encourage all retired clergy to register and attend! Spouses and friends can observe by accessing the link as well. I have it on good authority that there will be a special SURPRISE! You will want to be there.

Just go to the diocesan website <https://www.episcopalhawaii.org> and click on the box “CONVENTION 53 WEBPAGE.

Here is the bishop’s letter regarding the Convention.

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My dear Siblings in Christ Jesus,

With the current surge in COVID-19 infections caused by the Delta variant of the virus and the uncertainty this causes for the next few weeks, I have decided that it is prudent for the 2021 Education Day (Friday, October 22) and this year’s Annual Meeting of Diocesan Convention (Saturday, October 23) to be held entirely online (as we had to do last year).

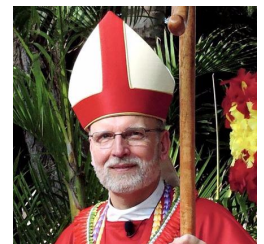
This was certainly not my hope. The hall we were planning for the gatherings at ‘Iolani School does not provide the space needed for six feet of social distancing. While the current surge might well – hopefully – have abated by mid-October, we cannot count on that reality. The Diocesan Support Center staff and Convention committees needed direction by mid-August for organization and logistics. So, all voting Clergy and lay Delegates need to be prepared for an online Annual Meeting of Convention (everyone is welcome to watch online as well). I also hope that an online Education Day can mean more people in the Diocese will take part.

The Convention Theme this year is “Remembering those who have gone before.” As a Diocesan ‘Johana, we need to take some time to remember those who have died but are still our spiritual guides. This includes those who died in our congregations during the isolation of the Pandemic (of COVID-19 and otherwise), but also our spiritual ancestors as we face a “new” normal and changed reality. While we are in the midst of the Pandemic, we are actively grieving for those we have lost, and we are still looking to the future as a people of the Resurrected Christ. We can celebrate the new ways we have learned to be God’s Church and care for God’s people. Grief, joy, and hope are not contradictions, but realities of the human condition. It is from our ancestors that we can gratefully learn how to face the challenges of our time. We are strengthened by their faith. As Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 15:54-58: *“Death has been swallowed up by a victory. Where is your victory, Death? Where is your sting, Death?”* Death’s sting is sin, and the power of sin is the Law. Thanks be to God, who gives us this victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! As a result of all this, my loved brothers and sisters, you must stand firm, unshakable, excelling in the work of the Lord as always, because you know that your labor isn’t going to be for nothing in the Lord.”

As we did last year, I ask that all congregations celebrate the Convention Eucharist in all of our churches on the Sunday before Convention (October 17). Special lessons and prayers will be sent to all Clergy, Wardens, and Administrators. I will also provide a pre-recorded Convention sermon for the entire Diocese to be shared as each congregation thinks best.

Your Brother in Christ Jesus

**The Convention Theme this year is “Remembering those who have gone before.” As a Diocesan ‘Ohana, we need to take some time to remember those who have died but are still our spiritual guides.**



## Our Chaplain Team:

Recently, Bishop Fitzpatrick reorganized the Chaplaincy of the Diocese of Hawai'i. Now we have several Chaplains for the various geographic areas of Hawai'i and the world.



Bruce



Heather



Delia



Carol



Norma and Frank

## Chaplains to Retired Clergy, Spouses, and the Widowed:

**The Rev. Bruce DeGooyer, Coordinator and Ministry to the Widowed**

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155 Cross Road, Kula, Maui, Hawaii 96790 (808) 446-3545 / Cell. (808) 430-0120

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1760 S Beretania St #11C, Honolulu, HI 96826 (808) 942-0266 (home), (808) 554-3281 (cell) [promeethi@gmail.com](mailto:promeethi@gmail.com)

**The Rev. Carol Arney, Newsletter and Ministry to those outside Hawai'i**

Mail: 1840 University Ave. # 104, Saint Paul, MN 55104 Email: [arneycm@earthlink.net](mailto:arneycm@earthlink.net) (808) 938-2284

**The Rev. Frank and Mrs. Norma Chun, Ministry to those on Oahu and Kauai**

Mail: [revfchun@gmail.com](mailto:revfchun@gmail.com) (Frank); [nfchun@gmail.com](mailto:nfchun@gmail.com) (Norma), 1163 Lunaanela Street, Kailua, 96734 (808) 262-5387



## Chaplains' Column



### The Rev. Bruce DeGooyer

Aloha everyone! I'm Bruce DeGooyer, the Chaplain Coordinator and also Chaplain to Clergy Widows (along with Dee Chang). In addition to sending birthday cards and other greetings, I take care of a lot of the administration of this ministry. And, as a friend said recently of me, "you can't keep a good priest retired!" Starting October 1, I am also the part-time Vicar at Holy Innocents in Lāhainā on Maui (in addition to Diocesan groups on which I serve). I'm glad to be back in active ministry with this wonderful congregation.

Blessings,  
Bruce+

### The Rev. Heather Mueller

Dear Friends,

It is a joy to be serving on the chaplain team for the retired folks, canonically resident in Hawaii. This ministry puts me into contact with people who have been important to me in my ministry, over the years. Frank Chun and I are looking for stories and memories from our friends. This has become a very interesting process.....we all have some wonderful stories!

Aloha, Heather Mueller

155 Cross Road, Kula, Hawaii. 96790  
808. 446-3545

### **The Rev. Carol Arney**

I have recently made a life changing decision. I am moving back to Hawai'i. This has taken me a lot of thought and self-examination. It was 6 ½ years ago that I left Hawai'i for St. Paul, MN. I moved into Episcopal Homes, a continuous care retirement community. I have a nice apartment, good friends, and management and staff that does a good job of keeping us older adults busy, creative, and content.

I love Minnesota, which I left as a teenager for a full life and career in Hawai'i. I especially love the spring flowers, the summers at the lake and the changing colors of fall.

But the winters have become an increasing burden to my mental health. I have S.A.D. (Seasonal Affective Disorder) also known as winter depression. This past winter, confined by the pandemic lockdown, I had plenty of time to examine my life. I concluded that Hawai'i is calling me home. I will arrive November 12. I look forward to seeing my old friends again.

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### **The Rev. Frank and Norma Chun**

Norma and I are on vacation, visiting our daughter and our young grandsons in Napa, CA where they live.

Blessings -- *Frank*

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### **d. Chang**

I just returned from a month with grandchildren in Georgia. My mailbox was full of information about my new United Healthcare insurance. I must put in some reading time because I will be making some changes. If you have any questions, make a list and call United Healthcare at **866-519-5401**, a line dedicated and staffed by knowledgeable, friendly professionals. Spending time on a zoom call can also help you to make the best choice for you. Happy Halloween!

Aloha,

d. Chang

### **Letter from the Editor**

In our new plan as a team of Chaplains to the Retired clergy, I, Carol, have been charged with writing the newsletter. I have some plans for making it a newsy, entertaining letter. **However, it depends on YOU.** Please send your (short) news and pictures to me, so I can get to know you and share them with everyone. For an email, please put NEWSLETTER in the subject line. Deadline for next issue: December 1 for December 15. **15. Special Christmas Edition will include your Christmas Greetings. Send a picture of yourselves and a short greeting telling us how you are!**

Here's how to reach me:

By email: [arneycm@mac.com](mailto:arneycm@mac.com)

Or: [arneycm@earthlink.net](mailto:arneycm@earthlink.net)

By postal mail: Rev. Carol Arney,

By phone and text message: (808) 938-2284



# News from around the world

## From Marilyn Watts, February 11, 2021

We love our new place at Rossmoor (Walnut Creek, CA.) . . . . I have been swimming 3 times a week (until I broke my wrist walking three weeks ago). Both John and I are doing lot of walking... I also have a trainer from the fitness center — we meet weekly outside masked six feet apart and he keeps me going. We are planning on driving back to Denver in April ( well after our second dose ) to close out our storage we hastily left last March just as the world closed down!!!

A joy for me has been reconnecting with my former spiritual director— an insightful gracious and wonderful woman... and she has taken me “ back on” .... a wonderful blessing !

## From Dale Hathaway, May 29, 2021

I would be happy to share the link to my sermons with the retired clergy or anybody else that might be interested. It is, again, <http://sermons-fr-hathaway.blogspot.com/>.

My current efforts at spiritual/physical discipline, includes a 3 mile walk every day. I generally listen to a lecture or blog. I am fond of "On Being" and "Poetry Unbound". I also continue to pay attention to a range of subjects connected with the courses I continue teaching at Winthrop. These include Introduction to Religious Studies, Introduction to Scripture Studies, Modern Christian Thought, and Introduction to the Hebrew Bible.us Studies, Introduction to Scripture Studies, Modern Christian Thought, and Introduction to the Hebrew Bible.

Along with the rest of humanity we have made huge adjustments over the last year plus. All of my teaching has been virtual since then. And my supply work has been creative and unlike anything we prepared for in seminary – back in what seems like an aeon ago. The request for my time as supply priest has increased substantially over the last couple of months, as more and more flexibility is available to the churches. I supply in the Diocese of North Carolina and in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

Mary Pat retired from Winthrop University in the spring of 2019. That was the last time we saw you all and we did a good bit of travel on the mainland – all up until we didn't anymore. March 2019. So we anticipate a slow return to traveling, and even today beginning to plan for a cruise in 2022. Mary Pat's mother died in February, and that has impacted us in both larger and smaller ways. My children are spread from Indiana to Colorado and the west coast. My oldest grand child is scheduled to graduate from college next year. The youngest just entered kindergarten. Faithfully, Dale

## On July 4, 2021, Carol Connell <[cnbc@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:cnbc@hawaii.rr.com)> wrote:

John sees his cardiologist every 6 months. As to his Alzheimer’s, we just must watch and be alert, Take it one day at a time. He is still a very caring person. We are fortunate to have some family here and they are a tremendous help, especially our two granddaughters. If anyone does want to visit, I suggest late morning or early afternoon. But please call first.

## Buechele Update

Dear Friends: October 6, 2021: By the grace of God, it is with joy and honor to tell you that Tom has been selected to be the new **Seasonal** (May through October) **Vicar of Resurrection Episcopal Church in Little Switzerland, North Carolina**, beginning in 2022. Little Switzerland is located along the 469-mile Blue Ridge Parkway in western North Carolina. It is a tiny alpine-like village with nearby summer resident homes plus lots of summer and fall tourists. The village was founded in the early 1900’s and the Church in



1913. The area is stunningly beautiful with the international Penland School of Craft nearby, a little over an hour’s drive from Asheville, N.C., and close to some of Jean’s extended family in Brevard/Etowah, N.C. As always, you are invited to come and visit. We will be journeying to visit the folks and Bishop José McLoughlin in late October. We are excited and extend our love and blessings to you all. **Love from Tom and Jean**



**Jo Piltz**, Guy’s+ widow, is still situated in Waimea on the Big Island in their large family home. She is proud of the work the church does weekly, feeding around 900 people in the community in two different places. Before Guy died, she was more active in the project. She went to the Saturday evening Eucharist on the beach last week and was surprised to see +Bob Fitzpatrick there. Nearly 60 people attended, respecting social distancing, and sharing only the wafers. She is enjoying her second EfM series. (No, she didn’t fail the first one!) Jo enjoys the participants on zoom and says that it keeps the moss from growing on her head. She said she would love to hear from other “crotchety ladies” by email. She misses that ‘ole community.

In September, **Kate Cullinane** along with **Kit and Jodene Hawkins** made a trip to Greece and to some of the islands there. Entering the country was easy if you were fully vaccinated. Greece has made extra efforts to keep their tourism industry open and safe at the same time.

While everything was beautiful, one of the more fascinating aspects of the trip was the visit to the Eastern Orthodox monasteries of Meteora. A number of these monasteries built high upon natural rock formations and cliffs are still active today and the collection of monasteries is second in importance after Mount Athos. Two of the monasteries are currently used by nuns while four of the monasteries are used by monks. Monks and nuns no longer use ropes to be lifted up to the monasteries, but they do use modern day cable cars to get to and from their perches up in the heavens.



Kate Cullinane at the iconic spot on Santorini



A monastery on a rock pillar.

A



Kit and Jodene at an olive farm near Monemvasia



monk takes a cable car from the monastery to his car

x

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## OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER! Birthdays



- Fane Lino Oct 11
- Charlesta Snyder Oct 22
- Barbara Longo oct 29
- Marcia Dettweiler Nov 5
- Florence Sasaki Nov 5

### *PRAYER #50. For a Birthday* *BCP 830*

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on these your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



#### IN MEMORIAM

Susan Wirtz, 80, of Wailuku passed away on June 18, 2020. She was born on October 26, 1939, in Massachusetts.

Susan is predeceased by her husband, Richard Wirtz, who was a deacon at Good Shepherd, Wailuku Maui. She is survived by her children, Amy (Alan) Hall, CJ (Shauna) Michaels, Anne Galko; brother, Bruce (Ellen) Godfrey; grandchildren, Rebekah Glaser, Rachel Snyder, Brienna Hall, Sarah Hall and Simcha Galko. Private services were held.



Anna Marie Kennedy, the wife of the Reverend Canon David Kennedy, died on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, in Spokane, Washington, after a long illness. There are no plans for services at this time.

Notes of condolence can be sent to David at:  
The Rev. Cn. David Kennedy  
1824 E. 49<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Spokane, WA 99223

#### Clergy

- Dale Hathaway Oct. 4
- Tom Buechele Oct 5
- Marion Keator Oct 7
- James Loughren Oct 13
- Honey Becker Oct 19
- Bill Aulenbach Oct 28
- David Kennedy Oct 29
- Linda Decker Oct 29
- Bill Albinger, Jr. Nov. 27
- Frances Johnson Nov. 29



#### Clergy Spouses



- Pamela Vanwechel Oct 2
- Shirley Cannon Oct 22
- Carol Connell Oct 25
- Mark Ledoux Nov 09
- John Whitlock Nov. 19
- Catherine Brown Nov. 12

#### Surviving Spouses





## Social Media!

Some people like it, others disdain it. However, I did a little research of our mailing list and looked everyone up on Facebook... I found that about 50% of our retired clergy have a Facebook account.

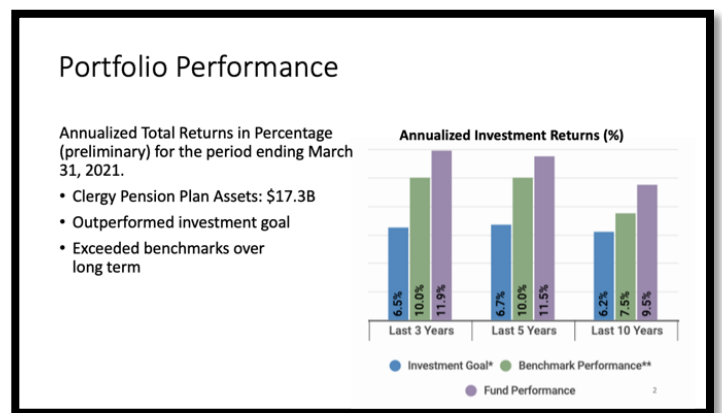
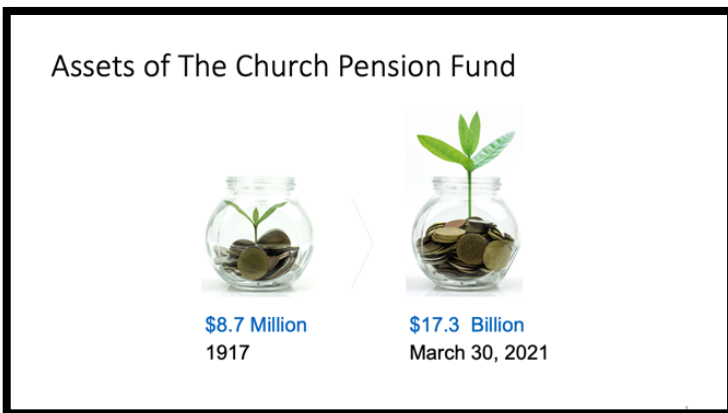
**I have created an affinity group for the retired clergy, and it has 8 members already. A few of them are not “canonically resident” but they spent most of their ministry in Hawai‘i. If you are a Facebook member, look! It’s called “Retired Hawai‘i Clergy (Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i.)**

<https://www.facebook.com/arneycm>



## NEWS FROM THE CHURCH PENSION FUND

Recently your Chaplains attended a Provincial zoom meeting of Chaplains. One of the topics covered was the financial health of CPG. They shared some very interesting statistics. On the next page we have some reminders regarding the new Health Plan that will start January 1



# Notes from the CPG meeting for the Retired Clergy Chaplains!

- \* Annual enrollment takes place, October 15, 2021, through November 12, 2021.
- \* If you don't choose between the "Comprehensive" or "Premium" plan, you will then be automatically enrolled into the GMA "Premium" plan.
- \* Enrollment may be made at: [annualenrollment.cpg.org](http://annualenrollment.cpg.org) / 800) 480-9967 (, 8:30 a. - 8:00 p. ET).
- \* Leftover subsidy from the "Comprehensive" plan may be used towards one's dental.
- \* You may use any Medicare provider that accepts the plan. No referral is needed to see a specialist.
- \* Prescriptions will now be through "OptumRx Home Delivery" and not "Express Scripts". It's a good idea to get your refills in December 2021, to give the new RX provider time to get them set up in January.
- \* The red, white, blue Medicare card need not be presented at all. Only use the UnitedHealthcare GMA ID card.
- \* ECMT will later contact each Retiree and Surviving Spouse (Widow) to complete a health survey.
- \* All updates (land addresses, phone numbers, e-addresses) must be done personally by each Retiree & Spouse and Surviving Spouse) to **CPG** (Church Pension Group): [www.cpg.org](http://www.cpg.org) / 800) 223-6602

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**RE: The Group Medicare Advantage PPO webinars.** CPG has realized (!?) that not everyone has a computer or internet access... so below are the call-in numbers for the webinars. If you know of someone who should be attending one of the webinars but does not have access to a computer, please feel free to give them this information.

Notice that the call-in phone number is the same, but the webinar ID is different for each session.

**Be careful about the Time difference, all times are Eastern Time!**

**Group Medicare Advantage PPO webinar dial in information using your phone:**

Oct 19, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Dial In #: 646-558-8656  
Webinar ID: 959 3658 5224

Oct 26, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Dial In #: 646-558-8656  
Webinar ID: 951 4228 6525

Nov 3, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Dial In #: 646-558-8656  
Webinar ID: 957 8488 8959

Nov 10, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Dial In #: 646-558-8656  
Webinar ID: 913 5376 1682

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**SAVE THIS PAGE!**