

RETIRED CLERGY FAMILIES OF HAWAI‘I NEWS

Volume I

September 1, 2021,

Edited by Carol Arney

CHURCH PENSION FUND ANNOUNCES NEW HEALTH CARE ADVANTAGE PLAN TO TAKE EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2022

Better Plan for Retirees

We are pleased to announce that The Episcopal Church Medical Trust (Medical Trust) has chosen a UnitedHealthcare® Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) plan to provide eligible retirees and their dependents with health and prescription drug coverage, effective January 1, 2022.

In addition to delivering all the benefits of Medicare Part A, Part B, and Part D in a single plan, it provides additional coverage for hearing aids, travel insurance, fitness programs and other benefits that are important to overall health.

As a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan, it allows members to see any provider (in-network or out-of-network) at the same cost share, as long as the provider accepts Medicare.

Optimizing the Healthcare Experience

They made this decision after a review of the Medicare landscape concluded that Group Medicare Advantage (GMA) programs offer improved value, lower cost, and easier benefits management than our current Medicare Supplement Health Plan.

Continuity of benefits

They chose UnitedHealthcare because it has the resources and tools in place to help ensure that retirees experience little to no healthcare disruption while transitioning to the new plan. UnitedHealthcare also offers continuity of service as our current Medicare Supplement Health Plan provider – in almost all cases, retirees can keep their current doctors, as long as they accept Medicare.

Designed especially for our retirees

Not to be confused with individual Medicare Advantage plans, this is a custom Group Medicare Advantage plan designed exclusively for Medical Trust retirees and their dependents.

For more information, see this link: <https://www.cpg.org/redirects/cpg-group-medicare-advantage/>

Or Call: **United Healthcare's dedicated call center** (866) 519-5401 For questions about Medicare, Group Medicare Advantage for group specific coverage details

What Retirees Should Expect



Annual Enrollment Letter
Mailed late September



Plan Guide
Mailed late September



Annual Enrollment Begins
Login to enrollment website
beginning October 15



Deadline to Enroll
Annual Enrollment period ends
November 12



**Quick Start Guide and
Member ID Card**
Mailed mid- to late December



Coverage Effective Date
Group Medicare Advantage
coverage begins January 1, 2022

New—A 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



Dee



Carol & Nani



Frank and Norma

Chaplains to Retired Clergy, Spouses, and the Widowed:

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

mail: 518 Melemele Street, Wailuku, HI 96793, <revdegooyer@gmail.com> 808-740-8316

The Rev. Heather Mueller, **Ministry to those on Maui, Molokai, and Hawai'i Island**

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

Mrs. Delia Chang, **Ministry to the Widowed**

1760 S Beretania St #11C, Honolulu, HI 96826 (808) 942-0266 (home), (808) 554-3281 (cell) 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 (808) 938-2284

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

Mail: revfchun@gmail.com (Frank); nfchun@gmail.com (Norma), 518 Melemele Street, Kailua, 96734 (808) 96734-4553



The Rev. Bruce DeGooyer:

I was ordained a vocational Deacon in 2004 at St. Paul's Cathedral, in Springfield, Illinois. I was ordained a Priest on St. Francis' feast day in 2012.

I supplied for two months at St. Augustine's on Hawai'i Island in 2014, and again in 2015. What a blessing! And it was with joy that I was called to join Trinity by-the-Sea in Kihei as Vicar in 2016. I retired in late 2019. Joining this Chaplain Ministry to our Retired Clergy and Families is such a blessing. In addition, I enjoy supplying on Maui and across the Diocese. I serve on Diocesan Council and the Commission for Finance and Administration. As others have said, it will be a relief when we are able to gather again and see each other face to face. God bless you all.

Bruce



I **The Rev. Heather Mueller:** I was ordained at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Lahaina, Maui on April 22, 1981. Just a few months later, November 1981, I was called to be the rector of St John's Episcopal Church, Kula, Maui. I served St John's for 29 years, until October 2010.

I served at St George's College, Jerusalem for the year 2011 and then a year and half at St Augustine's on the Big Island of Hawaii. Starting in June of 2013 I served as a volunteer in the Diocese of San Joaquin, for five years. I have organized two pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and I hope to organize another one in the future...if this nasty Covid can be contained! Two years ago I moved back to Maui, and I am doing supply work at various churches almost every Sunday. I love supply work...😊💕 I get to preach, celebrate, and worship with many longtime friends. I have no budgets, no vestry meetings and then I go home with a check in my pocket! I am very honored to be serving on the Chaplain team for retired clergy, and God Willing we will be able to gather in person in the not-too-distant future! **Heather**

The Rev. Carol Arney: After 25 years in the Hawaiian travel industry, I headed to Sewanee (School of Theology) for my M.Div. I was ordained in 1996 at St Michael and All Angels in Lihue, where I spent 1½ years before being called to be Rector of Christ Church in Kealahou. After 11 wonderful years there, I relocated to Oahu for my mother's health. I was first priest in charge at Good Samaritan, and after I retired, I worked in the Diocesan Support office as event planner for the Sesquicentennial in 2012. I also worked part time as P.I.C. for Emmanuel Church in Kailua. I have good memories at more Hawai'i churches, as I was a seminarian intern at Holy Nativity and at St. John's, Kula, and supplied many at more!

The dog in the picture is my comfort pet, Nani. I adopted her after I moved to Minnesota for a more sedentary retirement. Nani has comforted me throughout this lonely pandemic! She is a blessing, as you can tell from her smile.



The Rev. Frank Chun and Norma Chun: Greetings from Kailua!

We met each other at Canterbury House, while attending U.H., Manoa. Carol Arney, Winston Ching, and Ric Simpson (who were also called to the priesthood), were members of C-House at that time too. Our chaplains, were Father Mori Kaneshiro, followed by Father John Engelcke. In later years, Brian Grieves and Greg Johnson were also C-House members.

Frank attended Church Divinity School, and was ordained in 1968, serving churches on Kauai (St. John's and St. Paul's), and mostly on Oahu (St. Peter's, the Cathedral, and Epiphany), including The Priory and 'Iolani School. He retired in 2008. He has been part of a team, translating the Bible into Pidgin -- Da Good An Spesho Book is now available as a hardcopy and online!

With her teaching degree, Norma has taught at almost every grade level, pre-school to college (except middle school). Her longest position was at 'Iolani School, 26-years, from where she retired in 2006. She presently volunteers at the Diocesan Support Center, sending the Chronicle and other information to those (in our retired group) who are without e-mail access.

Unable to gather monthly with Oahu's Retired Families as we used to, we hope, when the pandemic lessens, to plan smaller gatherings by geographic areas.

God be with all --*Norma & Frank*



Mrs. Delia Chang: In 1965 I fell in love with the islands during a 3 day stop on a trip around the world by myself. A year later I was teaching at Punahou. Dick and I started dating 3 years later and we were married in 1969. He served 4 years at Holy Nativity, 9 years at All Saints' in Kapaa, then back to Honolulu to work with Bishop Browning, and in 1996 we moved east so Dick could work at 815 with +Ed. +Dick was elected Bishop of Hawai'i in 1996 and we moved back home. In the meantime we had two wonderful daughters, and I became a certified meeting professional, organizing meetings not only in 6 hospitals in Honolulu, but around the world. Dick and I had a wonderful 10 year retirement but he died suddenly in 2017. I enjoy touching base with the other widows and widowers of our diocese.



Letter from the Editor

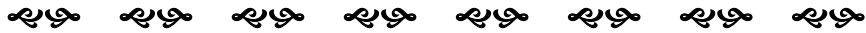
In our new plan as a team of Chaplains to the Retired clergy, I have been charged with writing the newsletter. I have some plans for making it a newsy, entertaining letter. However, it depends on YOU. Please send me your (short) news and pictures to me, so I can get to know you and share them with everyone. For an email, please put NEWSLETTER in the subject line. Deadline for next issue: Sept 30 for October 15. **Special Christmas Edition will include your ONE PAGE Christmas Letters. Deadline Dec. 1 for December 15.**

Here's how to reach me:

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News from around the world



Texas Buecheles June 12, 2021

We are excited to be fully vaccinated and move beyond the immediate fear of Covid-19 and begin again our participation in Sun City clubs and groups and travel some to see the expanse of Texas. We are enjoying getting back to swimming and playing pickle ball on a regular basis. Our first trip outside of Sun City was to Galveston, Texas. It is remarkably a part of the deep south with old Victorian Mansions,



great sea food, old, barely above ground, cemeteries, and a “rise again, hope-filled” attitude. The greatest disaster in USA history happened there in 1900. This week we will leave and travel back to the Big Island of Hawaii.

Tom has a priest “gig” at St. Columba’s Church on the Hamakua Coast. It will be a great chance to visit old friends, swim once again in the Pacific and enjoy the island breezes and Maluhia of Hawaii. Tom served just about all the congregations on the Big Island from time to time.

Love Tom and Jean

From Donor Macniece I now live in Phnom Penh and have done since I retired some 15-years ago. As many people ask where is Phnom Penh, I should add it is the capital of Cambodia. I love it here and wouldn't want to live elsewhere. I am doing fine with no problems, Life is good, the people are all so nice and helpful if you need anything and it is very affordable. Unfortunately we now have the virus circulating thanks to some overseas tourists skipping out of their isolation, but the Government acted very quickly and did a lock down everywhere and closed all borders - land, sea and air which was a good move. So not even a flight coming in or going out for several weeks. Now we have just two flights a day to each of Taipei and Seoul. So we stay home. We are hoping to be able to fly out to Kauai at some point to see friends there, so we will wait and see when that can happen.

Regards to everyone and stay safe and well.

Donor

Paula Rudinoff writes: This will be the last installment of my Venice Covid Chronicles. The last six weeks have been full of art, concerts, parties, a wedding, and fun in the sun. I am fully vaccinated and have an Italian residence permit. I will return to Kauai on July 28 and hope that they don't make me quarantine for 10 days because my vaccination is European, and my PCR test will have to be done in Venice

The Venezia Football Club won their division and moved up to the big leagues, so the city had a parade to honor the team. The players are on the big boat.





❧
**Birthdays in
 August
 and
 September!**

August and September Birthdays

Clergy

- **Carol Arney** August 7
- **Dallas Decker** August 10
- **Franklin Chun** August 13
- **Nancy Hite Speck** August 18
- **George Clifford** Sept. 1
- **Vincent O’Neill** Sept. 5
- **Richard Winkler** Sept. 11
- **Imo Tiapula** Sept. 13
- **Timothy Sexton** Sept. 19



Clergy Spouses

- **Elizabeth Hart** August 18
- **Mary Pat Hathaway** August 18
- **Richard Speck** August 27
- **Geraldine Aughton** Sept. 3
- **Simeona Geston** Sept. 5
- **Joanne Coon** Sept. 7
- **Gwynn Johnson** Sept 22

Surviving Spouses

- **Louisa Quintero** August 2
- **Myrtle Kaneshiro** Sept. 1
- **Rebecca Kennedy** Sept. 18
- **Patricia Browning** Sept. 30
- **Delia Chang** Sept. 30



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.*

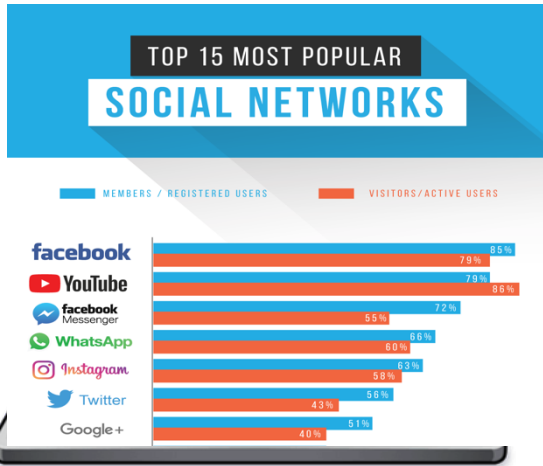


IN MEMORIAM
 REV. DR. GERALD G. GIFFORD II
 BORN ON MAY 4, 1924
 ENTERED LIFE ETERNAL ON
 DECEMBER 26, 2019

Excerpt from the Homily by the Rev. David Gierlach:
 I’ll never forget the scene when I went to visit Gerry at the Chinese Palolo Home. There he was on this narrow, short, single bed, all 6 feet plus of him. When he saw the questioning look in my eyes he said with that great big grin of his: “I spent my whole life with the Chinese people — and I intend to die with them too!”
 And so it’s no coincidence that the gospel lesson our dear Gerry chose for today is the story of the good shepherd. Gerry lived the example given to us by Our Lord every day of his life. Good shepherds are gentle, vigilant, and kind, all of which defines our friend Gerry in every aspect of his life.
 Gerry swam in the waters of these truths.
 Which is why he exuded kindness, compassion, a thirst for justice, and a hilarious sense of humor — every day of his life. And so, we bid him not goodbye, but a hui hou, until we meet again.

And a tribute from Heather Mueller

Dear ones,
 Gerry Gifford was a very important person in my journey toward ordination and in ministry. He preached at my Ordination to the priesthood, April 22, 1981, and before that during the excruciating process of discernment and then qualifying, he was there for me.
 Dear Wonderful Gerry...he was a wonderful loving gift to me, to Polly, the church and to the world.
 Aloha, Heather Mueller



I always liked computers! It’s probably because I was a travel agent in the 1980s, just when the airlines were putting their computers in our offices. Whatever the reason, I’ve always considered them a tool for communication.

These days I use social media as a tool. I use messaging and Facebook + Facebook messenger. (No Twitter!) With Facebook, I have disciplined myself to avoid the trolls and arguments and focus on learning and keeping up with my friends. I belong to several “affinity” groups—for cooking, dogs, neighbors, church, etc. They have kept me in touch with friends I might have forgotten or lost without FB.

Now I have many **new** friends, the retired Hawai’i clergy on the mainland. I am planning to create an affinity group for all retired Hawai’i clergy. There we can keep informed of new grandchildren, weddings, moves and the trials of our lives. If you are not already my FB friend but you are on Facebook, you can expect an invitation to be my friend. Or send me an invitation yourself. <https://www.facebook.com/arneycm>



Speaking of Phone Numbers...



On October 24th, Hawai’i residents will need to include the area code 808 before dialing a phone number. Even devices that utilize telecommunications (e.g., life safety systems, medical monitoring devices, fax machines, etc.) will have to be reprogrammed to include the area code.

The reason: Federal Communications Commission adopted 988 as the new three-digit nationwide number to get in touch with the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline. 988 is just a simpler number to remember; It’s easy and fast just like 911. So for an important service like a suicide prevention lifeline, the FCC wanted to have a three-digit number for folks to reach them if they need it. In order for 988 to work, all service providers must implement a mandatory 10-digit local dialing.

Further information: <https://www.hawaiiantel.com/Residential/Support/Home-Phone-Support/Home-Phone-Support-Dial-808>

This probably means you will need to add **808** to all the phone numbers you have entered in your phone directory. 😞 Most mainland states won’t need to worry about this, as usually a state has more than one area code.