

## FROM PASTOR TOM

### WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN THINGS

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to  
Leave the examination room and said,  
'Doctor, I am afraid to die.  
Tell me what lies on the other side.'  
Very quietly, the doctor said, 'I don't know.'  
'You don't know? You're a Christian man,  
and don't know what's on the other side?'  
The doctor was holding the handle of the door;  
On the other side came a sound of scratching &  
whining,  
As he opened the door, a dog sprang into the  
room  
And leaped on him with an eager show of  
gladness.  
Turning to the patient, the doctor said,  
'Did you notice my dog?  
He's never been in this room before.  
He didn't know what was inside.  
He knew nothing except that his master was  
here,  
And when the door opened, he sprang in  
without fear.  
I know little of what is on the other side of  
death,  
But I do know one thing...  
I know my Master is there and that is enough.'

May today there be peace within you

May you trust God that you are exactly  
Where you are meant to be.  
I believe that friends are quiet angels  
Who lift us to our feet when our wings  
Have trouble remembering how to.

*Warmest blessings,  
Pastor Tom*

## VISITING ASSOCIATE PASTOR NEIL

Aloha to the Holy Cross Family from your new  
"visiting associate".

Kay & I arrived on Tuesday, October 16, and  
were greeted by Tom and a parsonage stocked  
with wonderful fruit and breakfast fixings and  
made beautiful by striking flower

arrangements. Thank you to everyone who  
helped prepare the way for us.

Our accommodations are more than  
comfortable. The view is spectacular. The  
University is handy. We even have pets – a  
couple of cute anole lizards. We're still  
searching for the right names for them.

We've had people drop in – to help orient  
us to the city. We've experienced Qi Gong  
exercise. Tom has introduced me to the  
members who are in nursing homes. I'm  
looking forward to visiting them and praying  
with them every other week.

I'm grateful for the chance to meet many of  
you in church on October 21 and my mouth is  
watering as I think about the church pot luck  
on October 28. Names are really easy to  
pronounce and not so easy to remember, so  
please be patient with me as I do my best to  
connect with you.

Please let Tom or me know the ways that I  
can be helpful to the Holy Cross congregation.  
I have a couple of ideas. Stay tuned for  
announcements on Sunday mornings.  
Mahalo nui loa !

NOTE: Pastor Neil & Kay Deupree arrived last  
Tuesday and joined in worship on Sunday. He  
will serve as the visiting associate pastor until  
the end of January. Please extend your 'aloha'  
to this couple. The parsonage phone number  
is: 315-7181

## ALL SAINTS DAY

Please join the congregation for a special  
Homecoming and All Saints Day worship on  
Sunday. Following the remembrance service  
will be a church wide potluck luncheon. Your  
chance to share your favorite dish and recipe.

## CHC MEETING

The membership meeting held on Sunday had  
two items on the agenda:

1. No term limits on Boards - approved
2. 2013 CHC Budget - approved

## SENIOR MINISTRY

Senior Ministry THIS Thursday, 10:00 - 12 noon  
in the Building of Faith. Our program topic will  
be relating to Medicare fraud. Join us for

fellowship, delicious lunch and to learn more about this topic which is very important for seniors! Call the church office if you're able to make it so we can have an idea for our lunch count!! HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

**VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY**

**USHERS:** Ben Masutomi, Reiko Masutomi, Tammy Nagami, Sets Takemoto, Dorothy Matsui

**FLOWERS:** M/M Richard Miyake

**CHILDCARE:** Lolita Tanouye

**LAYREADER:** Woody Kita

**VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER**

**USHERS:** Kenneth & Stefan Tanouye Families

**FLOWERS:**

11/4: Irene Okada

11/11: M/M Ken Tanouye (Mem), M/M Stefan Tanouye (Mem), M/M Joel Santo (Mem)

11/18: Mae Kawahara, Moira Tanaka

11/25: Connie Yoshiyama

**CHILDCARE:**

11/4: Jeanne Hernandez

11/11: Carolyn Lum-Bellem

11/18: Lei Jack

11/25: Tricia Kimura

**LAYREADERS:**

11/4: Dorsett Fredrick

11/11: Wayne Suzuki

11/18: Gloria Kobayashi

11/25: Reilly Narruhn

**NOVEMBER PRAYER LIST: Birthday**

Please pray for and send a greeting to these Birthday people

01 Gersting, John

03 Halloran, Kayla

04 Suyama, Esther

05 Yamauchi, Darlene

09 Kimura, Tricia

13 Benavente, Taylor

16 Nakayama, Robin

19 Kamimura, Hatsue

Halloran, Henry

20 Kobayashi, Raymond

Ota, Laura

23 Miyashiro, Mildred

24 Gota, Margaret

Inouye, Gordon

Yamane, Joy

25 Koga, Tomiko

28 Selifis, Rosendo

29 Tanouye, Lois Jean

30 Ushijima, Kendal

**Make a life, Make a living... Make a difference**

From *Three Letters from Teddy*

By Elizabeth Silance Ballard

This is a story about more than kindness; it's about the essence and the power that compassion offers all humanity. Written by Elizabeth Silance Ballard, it was originally published in 1974 issue of Home Life magazine as "*Three Letters From Teddy.*"

It has become a classic that has been passed from person to person for almost four decades.

As she stood in front of her 5<sup>th</sup> grade class on the first day of school, she told the children an untruth. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same.

However, that was impossible, because there in the front row slumped in his seat was a little boy named Teddy Stallard.

Miss Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he didn't play well with other children, that his clothes were messy, and that he constantly needed a bath.

And Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Miss Thompson would actually take delight in marking his paper with a broad red pen, making bold "x's" and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Miss Thompson taught,, she was required to review each child's past records, and she put off Teddy's off until the end.

However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise.

Teddy's first grade teacher wrote: "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners. He is such a joy to be around."

His second grade teacher wrote: "Teddy is a excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness, and life at home must be a struggle."

His third grade teacher wrote: "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best, but his father doesn't show much interest, and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken."

Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote: "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and he sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Miss Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's.

His present was clumsily wrapped in heavy brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Miss Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents.

Some of the students started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing and a bottle that was one-quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist.

Teddy Stallard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Miss Thompson, today you smell just like my mom used to."

After the children left she cried for at least an hour. On that day she quit teaching reading, writing and arithmetic, instead she began to teach children.

Miss Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind began to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded.

By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class, and despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door from Teddy, telling her that she was the best teacher he'd ever had in his whole life!

Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school. He'd stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. Again he reassured Miss Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he'd ever had.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. After he got his

bachelor's degree he had decided to go a little further. She was still the best and favorite teacher he'd ever had. But now his name was a little longer... the letter was signed "Theodore F Stallard, MD"

The story doesn't end here....

There was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he met this girl and was going to be married.

He'd explained that his father had died a couple of years ago, and he was wondering if Miss Thompson might agree to sit at the wedding in the place that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom.

Of course, Miss Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. Moreover she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other, and Dr Stallard whispered in Miss Thompson's ear, "Thank you for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference."

Miss Thompson with tears in her eyes, whispered back, she said, "Teddy you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you!"

You can never tell what type of impact you may have on another's life by your actions... or lack of action.

Please consider this fact in your venture through life, and just try to make a difference in someone else's life today.

# *GOD'S MANY BLESSINGS ENABLE FULLFILLMENT OF MY SPIRITUAL JOY IN GIVING EVERY DAY*

*Dear Friends,*

*At our all-church meeting on October 21, together, we adopted a budget that both sustains our ministry and is challenging. This budget expresses our faith that with trust in God's guidance we will be able to strengthen our ability to minister in ways that meet the needs of our congregation and our community.*

*More than one member has noted in different ways that we are asking each other to find ways to expand our personal or family considerations to increase our sustaining support by \$5 or more each week. You may be assured that in providing our ministry, we seek careful oversight of expenses, while desiring to provide solid services and ministry each and every day.*

*Our Church of the Holy Cross, UCC, is a friendly, strong, and caring congregation where we honor the blessings God has brought to us in both our history, in this present day, and as we look toward the future. We continually provide many opportunities to share our hospitality with many diverse churches, organizations, and families from our community. This in itself is good stewardship (however, this also helps with everyday maintenance and up-keep).*

*Our belief is that Holy Cross is really God's church and mission. We have been entrusted with mutual care and guidance to offer support for each other in fellowship and outreach toward others. Enclosed, you will find a pledge card for you to review your support for presentation at our Thanksgiving and Commitment Sunday on November 18<sup>th</sup>.*

*You are invited in the weeks ahead to pray each day and reflect on the strength of our friendship in the life and ministry we share with Jesus Christ as a blessing of the Holy Spirit.*

*May God continue to grant us grace and favor in our ministry,*

*Pastor Tom*

**Sunday:** As you take to heart the gift of your life – your body, mind, soul, and spirit – you will find yourself expressing thanks to God for the creative opportunities God has used to shape your character - through relationships, skills, time, and energy. We are fortunate to be sustained and nourished in so many ways by family, friends, home, employment, leisure activities, food, education, events, and our environment. God is with us in so many ways.

***"Gracious Lord, help me value and share my blessings with sacred thankfulness. Amen"***

**Monday:** Speaking to God with an open heart, you can admit how nourished we are as your faith and your church impact your life each and every day. How will you express your character's commitment to treasure each relationship with people in every age group of our church? How has worship, music, Bible study, ministry, and mission become part of the friendship we enjoy? ***"God, I thank you for helping me participate in sustaining and contributing to our church family. Amen."***

**Tuesday:** Each day we make choices to balance the way we give as well as receive in every decision and action we commit to. We are helped when we help others with our best. Our moments together, and our shared insights become part of our mutual care and fellowship. ***"Lord Jesus, guide my compassion as a partner in discovering your message of***

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***mercy and forgiveness. May my efforts overflow with loving generosity for others as I have been loved, cared for, and helped? Amen"***

***Wednesday:*** Constantly God inspires every day with encounters that strengthen us in good times and in difficulties. God's presence sustains and nourishes our character with growth that guides our lives. ***"Holy Spirit, open up my eagerness to develop and use my resources wisely so that in everything I receive I will be able to overflow with gratitude in your love through all I do. Amen"***

***Thursday:*** God surprises us with unexpected encounters each new day. These come as challenges, routines, responsibilities, and even as chores we humbly embrace as ordinary. God enables us to do our best, to turn our worries over with sacred reassurance. Jesus' words continue to inspire us. We accept these gifts of grace as we embrace our memories of every encounter. God does not require us to do more than we are able. God desires us to ask for encouraging love welcoming his Son to participate in our decisions. ***"Here, God, enter my life. Show me the pathway of grace. Guide my spirit. Amen"***

***Friday:*** We always need wisdom as we seek faithful compassion moment-by-moment. ***"God I need courage to face both big events and small ordinary circumstances in my life. I know you care. Grant me the comforting strength of sensing I walk within your Holy Spirit's trust and forgiveness. Allow me to share this assurance from my heart and soul. Amen."***

***Saturday:*** ***"Today, God, I will renew my personal commitment to support our church. Guide me in remembering the joy I find in the mission and ministry of sharing with others in the work you have given us to do as a congregation faithful to Jesus Christ. I especially mention these partners in faith by name: \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ . God, may Your holy grace reach out to comfort them. Help me look within my heart, my mind, and my spirit so that my gifts of friendship will become my offering of blessing now and in the year ahead. Let the grace of your Son inspire me. Amen"***

God so loves the world that He gave...gave His only son, Jesus Christ,... so that we might know the blessings of abundant life. "Thank you, God!"