

## Reading Between the Lines: A Different Kind of Sunday School

*By Chris Hacskaylo*

When I first came to this small group Bible study, it was not what I expected. I wasn't asked to sit passively while an expert taught me what to think about Holy Scripture. Just the opposite. Class meetings were carefully structured but open-ended, and I found myself exposed to a wide diversity of viewpoints and perspectives. I was surprised but excited. As one of the guidelines for the class states, "The goal is not consensus, agreement or a right answer," but a deeper understanding of the biblical texts.

So what is Reading Between the Lines? It's a guided adult Bible study based on the church's lectionary. Each week we explore a different scripture passage from the New Testament or the Hebrew Bible. Depending on where we are in the church year, we will focus on a psalm of King David one week, then on one of Jesus's parables the next, and so on. Group members rotate facilitating the class, keeping us on track and on time as we navigate a series of questions designed to help us engage more deeply and more thoughtfully with the text.

How does an individual Reading Between the Lines class work? Initially, a set of questions guides us in understanding the content and meaning of the text itself. What exactly is being said and who is saying it? When and where are the words in the text spoken and under what circumstances?

The next set of questions asks us to apply the passage to today. Where do we see this scripture playing out in our neighborhoods, at our churches, our businesses, and in the world at large? Finally, a third set of questions asks us to apply the text to ourselves. How have we experienced these Biblical truths in our own lives? How might we apply them in the future?

The lesson also offers brief but pointed commentary by a variety of Biblical scholars. It concludes with a selection of additional short readings. These can be excerpts from poems, novels, plays, magazine articles, or songs. All are related to the scripture passage, and all encourage us to reflect on the text in a broader context.

When I was asked to write this article for the newsletter, I decided to survey my fellow class members to see what they valued about the RBTL experience. Everyone mentioned appreciating the diversity of participants, the wide range of opinions, and the willingness of people to listen to one another. As one participant put it, "Reading the Bible is not so much about being right but about working with others so that we all succeed in understanding the text."

Everyone feels that the class fosters an atmosphere of respect and acceptance, and while not everyone agrees with one another, there is always space for differing points of view. "We really listen to each other; we bounce ideas off one another." And the resulting discussions are "always thoughtful, even joyful."

# Ke 'Alemanaka

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Want your article or  
announcement published?

Submission Deadline:  
**Third Thursday of the Month**  
September 15, 2022

## STAFF

**Head of School:** Jodi Yoshioka  
**Organist:** Mark Kennedy  
**Office Manager:** Leesa Steadman  
**Sexton:** Stan Ornellas  
**Sunday School:** Jessica Stack,  
Scott & Gail Suzuki-Jones,  
Michelle Comeau

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**Clerk:** Holoua Stender

## Vestry

Jane Anderson      Brian Crow  
Matthew Chapman    Leslie Isaki  
Sarah Palm          Tau'eva Lino  
Susan Palmore      Amy Schafer

## Church Office Hours

Open Weekdays  
9AM to 4:30PM

*\*Closed on Holidays*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Clement's is turning 125 in 2023! If you would like to join brainstorming discussions for the celebratory event, please let us know!

Our food distribution program is still open to receiving donations of canned soup, corned beef, pork and beans, chili with meat, corn, and vienna sausage.

Mahalo to August's Food Distribution crew:  
Holo Stender, Bill and Sandy Souza, Beth Fincke, Liz Baldwin, Terry Ledford, Karen Brousseau, Jane Anderson, and Annette Kirkpatrick

Pledge Statements: Mahalo to those of you who picked up your pledge statements. The rest have been mailed out. If you did not get one, please let the office know..

## ZOOM SERVICE OUTLINE

### SUNDAY

#### **Worship at 8AM & 10:15AM**

ID#: 854 4414 6891

Passcode: 1515

#### **Adult Discussion at 9AM**

ID#: 854 4414 6891

Passcode: 1515

#### **Bible Study (RBTL) at 9AM**

ID#: 661 508 747

Passcode: 1515

You can join any service with your phone! Just call this number: 1 (669) 900-6833 Then enter the meeting ID and passcode when prompted.

Everyone agreed that the course guidelines helped. They ask us to “focus on the text,” to “allow space for others to speak,” and to keep what is said in the group confidential. One participant noted that he was initially “surprised at the diversity of perspectives,” but has come to appreciate “a newfound empathy and insight.” He describes the class as a “multifaceted gem” that offers “new ways of approaching and understanding scripture.”

Another class member said that she found the range of responses fascinating. “We’re not concerned about loss of face when we speak up with our questions and responses. The class is friendly and supportive even when our points of view diverge.”

Other participants remarked that the class offered them the potential for spiritual growth. “Our real engagement with the scripture has helped me to better clarify my faith. And interacting with the biblical texts in discussion has encouraged me to integrate my faith into my life.” Class members talked, too, about benefiting from relationships with others who want to explore Christ’s message. “There is really no other time or place in my life when I sit down and share my spirituality with other Christians.” This weekly engagement “nourishes, sustains, and uplifts me.”

One class member likes that our weekly sessions give him the opportunity to see and consider scripture he has heard and read “time and time again,” but in a new way. He noted that, as Episcopalians, we are encouraged to engage in intelligent discussion. “So, the atmosphere is positive, and it’s okay to bring your own thoughts to bear on the text.” This approach appeals to others as well. One participant calls himself “more skeptical” than the average Christian, but still open to becoming “convinced.” For him, the course is a chance to not only learn more about the Bible but to also get a stronger handle on what it means to be a moral human being. He keeps coming every Sunday to “keep studying to be a better Christian.”

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## SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

The Reverend Richard Shields and The Reverend Alison Dingley will be joining us again in September. Canon Sandy Graham will be leading the service on Sunday, September 18, 2022.

You will find the celebrant schedule outlined below:

### September 2022

9/4	Alison Dingley
9/11	Alison Dingley
9/18	Canon Sandy Graham
9/25	Richard Shields

# September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				4:30 PM Farmers Market  <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b>  BELLA BELL	11:00 AM Zoom Call with Hawaiian Food Bank 8:00 PM Strivers for Sobriety (PH)	9:00 AM Altar Guild (CH) 10:00 AM Compassionate Friends (MR) 6:30 PM Tongan Choir Rehearsal (PH)
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM RBTL 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 1:00 PM Tongan Church (CH) 7:00 PM Daily Reflections	Labor Day 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 5:30 PM Tae Kwan Do (PG) 5:30 PM Hula Class (PH) 7:30 PM AI-Anon (PH)  <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b>  RONAN AMJADI-O'SHEA	5:00 PM Labyrinth Open	8:00 AM SCS Chapel 10:00 AM Food Distribution 5:00 PM Na 'Ohana Meeting (SL) 5:30 PM Tae Kwan Do (PG) 6:00 PM Education for Ministry	4:30 PM Farmers Market	7:00 PM Tongan Bible Study (CH) 8:00 PM Strivers for Sobriety (PH)	8:00 AM DoK Retreat (PH X KCH) 8:30 AM RYSE Meeting (MR) 9:00 AM Altar Guild (CH) 11:00 AM Knitting Group 6:30 PM Tongan Choir Rehearsal (PH)
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM RBTL 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 1:00 PM Prayer Chain Mtg. 2:30 PM Tongan Church (CH) 7:00 PM Daily Reflections	8:00 AM SCS Chapel 5:30 PM Tae Kwan Do (PG) 5:30 PM Hula Class (PH) 7:30 PM AI-Anon (PH)	5:00 PM Property Committee Mtg. 6:30 PM SCS Board Mtg. (PH)	8:00 AM SCS Chapel 10:00 AM Food Distribution 5:30 PM Tae Kwan Do (PG) 5:30 PM NAMI WOW (PH) 6:00 PM Education for Ministry	4:30 PM Farmers Market	12:00 PM Kūpuna Box 8:00 PM Strivers for Sobriety (PH)	9:00 AM Taekwondo Make Up Class (PG) 9:00 AM Altar Guild (CH) 10:00 AM Food Distribution 6:30 PM Tongan Choir Rehearsal (PH)
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM RBTL 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 2:30 PM Tongan Church (CH) 7:00 PM Daily Reflections	8:00 AM SCS Chapel 1:00 PM Parish Staff Mtg. 5:30 PM Tae Kwan Do (PG) 5:30 PM Hula Class (PH) 7:30 PM AI-Anon (PH)	7:30 AM HTY Play – Step by Step (PH) 5:00 PM SCS Board Mtg. (PH)	8:00 AM SCS Chapel 10:00 AM Food Distribution 5:30 PM Tae Kwan Do (PG) 6:00 PM Education for Ministry  <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b>  GRACE PHILLIPS	4:30 PM Farmers Market	7:00 PM Tongan Bible Study (CH) 8:00 PM Strivers for Sobriety (PH)	9:00 AM Taekwondo Make Up Class (PG) 9:00 AM Altar Guild (CH) 11:00 AM USH Cooking (PH X KCH) 2:00 PM NAMI Class (PH) 6:30 PM Tongan Choir Rehearsal (PH)
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM RBTL 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 2:30 PM Tongan Church (CH) 7:00 PM Daily Reflections	Rosh Hashanah 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 5:30 PM Tae Kwan Do (PG) 5:30 PM Hula Class (PH) 7:30 PM AI-Anon (PH)  <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b>  MARIJAYNE NICHOLAS	6:00 PM Vestry Meeting	8:00 AM SCS Chapel 9:00 AM Yo! House Cooking (KCH) 10:00 AM Food Distribution 5:30 PM Tae Kwan Do (PG) 6:00 PM Education for Ministry  <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b>  KARLA BEE	4:30 PM Farmers Market	8:00 PM Strivers for Sobriety (PH)	KEY: PH - PARISH HOUSE PG - PLAYGROUND CH - CHURCH KCH - KITCHEN MR - MUSIC ROOM

# SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS

Summer School Days at St. Clement's



Students in B1 paint with watercolor to create a fun masterpiece.



A student in B3 helps to mix the dough to create Playdoh to build those fine motor muscles.



The students in B4 listen as their teacher reads them a story and asks them questions.



Students in C1 participate in their first Music class of the year by playing their lummi sticks.

# MONTHLY PARISH BRIEF

## School News

- St. Clement's School had its first full day for all students on Monday, August, 22, 2022.
- The School's accreditation process with the National Association for the Education of Young Children continues with an onsite visit that will happen between August 29 and September 16.
- Kuni Wakida, the School's Director of Security and Safety, and Stan Ornellas, our sexton, have been busy making repairs and painting in preparation for the site visit.

## Vestry News

- Stan Ornellas, our sexton, was instrumental in repairing one of the organ's bellows that had split. In December, Mike Fazio will be here with a replacement bellows and to tune the organ before our Christmas services.
- The Property Committee is still exploring ways to improve our Sunday Services' virtual streaming technology.
- Sunday, September 18, 2022, will be Canon Sandy Graham's visit to talk about the search process. He will be both Officiant and Celebrant at both services. After each service, he will be available for an informal chat.

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### SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday
<b>Altar Guild</b>				
8 AM	Sandy Souza	Sandy Souza	Pam Fern	Cecilia Fordham
10:15 AM	Beth Fincke	Beth Fincke	Beth Fincke	Beth Fincke
Flowers	Beth Fincke	Beth Fincke	Beth Fincke	Beth Fincke
<b>Ushers</b>				
8 AM	Sandy Souza	Sandy Souza	The Wongs	Sandy Souza
10:15 AM	Liz Baldwin Terry Ledford	Arthur Buto	Liz Baldwin	Arthur Buto Terry Ledford

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday
<b>Readers</b>				
8 AM	Carol Taylor Kim	Susan Palmore	Pam Fern*	Sandy Souza
10:15 AM	Kathleen Norris	Soane Lino	Beth Fincke	Kathleen Norris



**SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE**

SUNDAY	MONDAY
Holy Eucharist 8AM and 10:15AM Adult Discussion 9AM Bible Study 9AM	Office Open 9AM to 4:30PM
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Office Open 9AM to 4:30PM	Office Open 9AM to 4:30PM Assistance Available 10AM to 12PM
THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Office Open 9AM to 4:30PM Farmers Market 4:30PM to 7PM	Office Open 9AM to 4:30PM Kūpuna Box (9/16) 12PM to 1PM
SATURDAY	SPECIAL EVENTS
Third Sat. (9/17) Food Distribution 10:00AM to 12:00PM	OFFICE CLOSED Labor Day Monday, 9/5