

When I returned to Kailua in January 2011 it wasn't too long before Fr. Kennedy asked me to consider running for vestry. Annual meeting is in January, and y'all ought to be thinking about that opportunity to serve on vestry. Having been on vestry as a youth member in the 80's, having just arrived, it was very easy to laugh it off and say heck no! I'm not crazy! That didn't mean I wasn't going to get involved. I have a history of bringing my two hands and doing what I can, when I can.

Why do I have that history? Upbringing at St C's. Sunday school, work day Saturday's with my dad, potlucks, youth member, some of you let me be your babysitter, (looking back, and knowing me as you do now, I have to ask, did my dad put you up to it? And isn't great no disasters happened?)

But, like most folks, and cause I'm ADD, I digress. Divine intervention ... College, Sermon heard "he calls me by name", gpa and drinking, a couch to sleep on at my aunts, a healing service before I married my husband, my siblings rallying to care for my dad, the support of friends when I most desperately needed their cheer over the summer, and at some point the realization that it begins with me, if I want this to be a better place, a healing, spiritually enriching place, and a fun place, it begins with me I must be willing to do the dirty work, I must be willing to give, and when I give, I have to give and let go. For the times that I have given and let go the joy has been tenfold!

Master grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be loved as to love....

For its in giving that I have received

That in loving I have been loved

In forgiving I've been forgiven and healed.

It comes to me tenfold over and over again. I've had a life full of blessings. I am compelled to honor that.

That's why I can give ... Whether it's in my time, or in treasure, if it's for him it's never too small, it's always enough.

Mary Smith