

Steward of God

"I am only acting as a steward of God; you must thank Him." – WILLIAM A. PROCTOR



William A. Proctor, circa 1880. The generosity of Mr. Proctor financed land acquisition, building construction, and staff salaries for Saint Elizabeth's during its formative years. Photo courtesy of Procter & Gamble Company Archives.



Charlotte Elizabeth Proctor, wife of William A. Proctor. Mrs. Proctor's image served as the model for the face of Saint Elizabeth in the Tiffany altarpiece given to the church by the Proctor children. Photo courtesy of Glendale Heritage Preservation.

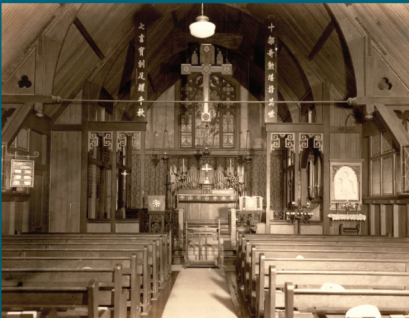
The establishment of Saint Elizabeth's was due, in large part, to the financial support of William Alexander Proctor of Glendale, Ohio. He served as first president of the Procter & Gamble Company, from 1890 to 1907. He was a faithful member of the Episcopal Church. His philanthropy extended to many organizations in Ohio and elsewhere.

When Deaconess Drant sought a sponsor for her missionary work to Hawai'i, Mr. Proctor willingly paid her travel costs, salary, and annual living expenses. As the work of Saint Elizabeth's expanded, a more permanent location was sought. In 1904, Mr. Proctor provided the necessary funds to purchase a half-block of land bordered by King and Kanoa Streets and Pua Lane. Upon this property, he financed the construction and furnishing of a church, settlement house, and vicarage.

In 1906, Mr. Proctor funded the purchase of a property on the other side of Kanoa Street. It extended from Pua Lane to the middle of the block.

The remainder of the block, ending at Banyan Street, was purchased through the generosity of another benefactor, Stephen A. Palmer of New York. These combined properties became the site of an affordable housing development for mission communicants. Mr. Proctor also realized that church

workers needed an occasional respite from their labors. Through his generosity, a vacation home in Waiahole Valley was purchased for their use. It was named the Olivia Proctor Rest House.



Interior of Saint Elizabeth's Mission, circa 1927. Mr. William A. Proctor provided the funds for construction of Saint Elizabeth's first church building. It was consecrated on May 7, 1905. The calligraphy panels flanking the chancel cross proclaim: "The Teaching of the Holy Word for Thousands of Years" and "The Work of the Cross Glorified from Generation to Generation."



Saint Elizabeth's Mission cottages, circa 1906. The affordable housing development on the Saint Elizabeth's Mission grounds consisted of cottages for married couples and young families, and a two-story dormitory for single men. By 1927, there were a total of seventy-six cottages. They occupied the area across Kanoa Street between Pua Lane and Banyan Street and the site where the present church now stands.

Mr. Proctor unexpectedly died on Good Friday in 1907. In paying tribute to Mr. Proctor, Bishop Restarick remarked: "He had been a very large giver to many charities, and to the Church, but nothing had given him more genuine pleasure than the work at Saint Elizabeth's, in every detail of which he was kept informed by letters and photographs. It was a pleasure to be told by his children that his interest in this work had been a great blessing to him."

The children of Mr. Proctor continued to support the work of Saint Elizabeth's that had meant so much to their father. They presented the stained-glass altarpiece in 1907, in memory of their mother. Created by Tiffany and Company of New York, the altarpiece shows Saint Elizabeth and Saint John the Baptist receiving a visit from Jesus. The generosity of the Proctor children also made possible the acquisition of the remaining portion of the block on King Street in 1911.



The Rev. Canon William E. Rutledge was Saint Elizabeth's first priest-in-charge. After seeing people living in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in nearby tenements, he immediately addressed this housing crisis. With the financial support of William A. Proctor, he built the first affordable housing development in Honolulu in 1906.