

An Ornament to Kapālama

"The new church, school rooms and residences are an ornament to Kapalama, as well as a most useful and beneficent institution as a whole." – THE ANGLICAN CHURCH CHRONICLE January 7, 1905



Groundbreaking for the new Saint Elizabeth's Church, June 18, 1903. Pictured left to right: Richard C. Ching, junior warden and floorplan keyman; the Rev. Canon Vito On Shin, rector; Kim Loon Ching, senior warden and Building Committee chair; the Rt. Rev. Harry S. Kennedy, bishop of the Missionary District of Honolulu; the Rev. C. Fletcher Howe, associate rector; and Jack Hirakami, contractor. Photo courtesy of The Honolulu Advertiser.



Laying of the cornerstone for the new church building, November 30, 1901. Standing, left to right: Richard Yonashige; Kim Loon Ching; the Rev. Theodor T.Y. Yeh, curate; the Rev. C. Fletcher Howe, associate rector; the Rev. Canon Vito On Shin, rector; the Rt. Rev. Harry S. Kennedy, bishop of Honolulu; Richard C. Ching; and Timo Fong. Kneeling, left to right: Edwin L. Bauer, architect; and Harry Eno, contractor.

On September 16, 1904, groundbreaking occurred for construction of the new Saint Elizabeth's House. Two days later, the cornerstone was laid for the church. The architect for both structures, along with the vicarage, was Edgar Allan Poe Newcomb of the architectural firm of Dickey and Newcomb. William A. Procter, who paid for the land and buildings, requested that a Chinese contractor be allowed to bid on the project. After contractors of different races had submitted bids, the Chinese-owned company of City Mill had the lowest bid and secured the contract.

Saint Elizabeth's House was a two-story building. Staff quarters occupied the upper floor, while the lower floor contained classrooms and a dispensary. A well-equipped kitchen, laundry, and bathing facilities were available for neighborhood use. The nave of the church seated 150 people, while the chancel had room enough for a vested choir of twenty. Bishop Restarick consecrated the completed settlement house, vicarage, and church on May 7, 1905. During the service, addresses delivered in English, Hawaiian, and Chinese bore witness to the ethnic diversity of the congregation.



Father Vito On Shin and Frank Yip '66 greeting the Rev. and Mrs. Burris M. Dougherty during a fundraising luau to benefit the Church Building Fund.



Saint Elizabeth's House and Church, on the corner of King Street and Pua Lani, late 1900s. The large church and cross on the left was dedicated on February 19, 1903. It commemorates the thirtieth anniversary of the mission as well as the death of Charlotte Elizabeth Procter. Present at the dedication were Bishops Henry Bond Restarick and Samuel Harrington Linnell of Honolulu, and Paul Matthews, Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Procter.



Clergy, acolytes and choir take their places in line, in preparation for the dedication of the new church, April 6, 1902. The old settlement house and church were in the distance, as preparation for the dedication of the new church, April 6, 1902. The old settlement house and church were demolished later that year. In their place was a new building that housed Saint Elizabeth's School.

In 1939, a building fund was initiated for a new church building designed by Edwin L. Bauer. It would be the first air-conditioned church in Hawai'i. The Building Committee, composed of Chairman Kim Loon Ching, Richard T. Yonashige, and Kim Kew Chung, raised the necessary funds through bazaars, carnivals, and lu'au. When construction began, men in the congregation made many of the concrete bricks used for the building. Associate Rector C. Fletcher Howe planned the interior. He incorporated many of the furnishings from the old church. Fifty years after work first began at Saint Elizabeth's House, Bishop Harry S. Kennedy dedicated the present church building on Palm Sunday, April 6, 1962.