



THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

JANUARY 2015

Greetings from Taipei

Dear Friends,

Following our joyful Christmas celebration together at Saint Luke's, I boarded a flight to Taiwan to continue an education project I have been working on for the past two years. Immediately upon landing, my Chinese-language learning was tested because Earl was unable to make the trip, given his own research obligations in NY. So here I was, and presently am as I write this to you, getting quite a "Rector's Continuing Education" in second language communication—negotiating transportation, food purchases, and even a laundromat the other day.

Of course, that is not my primary focus for being in Taipei. Rather, the general, overarching theme of my ongoing project is *Asian Spiritualities*. In brief, I am exploring Christianity in the context of contemporary culture here in Taiwan as a sort of real-life classroom for better understanding the position of and possibilities for the Church in Asia. My previous study included an overview of the History of Christianity in Asia, and an appreciation of the various expressions of spirituality present in Taiwan (Daoism, local folk deities, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam). During this trip, I have been meeting with people from various religious communities (Christian and Buddhist) to better understand the extent to which these religious communities do or do not interact with the larger culture on both the pressing social issues of the day as well as their faith perspective on these key concerns. In addition, I am learning about the look of ecumenical and interfaith relations in Taiwan and throughout Asia.

WHY? To describe succinctly: In a world where there has been an ever-increasing turn to the Pacific, I am asking how the kind of open and embracing Christianity we know as the Episcopal Church can

have a future in the countries of Asia. In a way, I am asking a missional question in the post-missionary world: How might local communities align regionally so as to form global partnerships for the greater good of the Gospel, such that through mutual respect, honest dialogue and joint ventures, we might be agents of Christ who fashion locations of empathy, compassion and action.

These days, too many conversations are about shrinking dollars, teetering congregations and holding on to what is had. Instead, I want to be part of the conversation on growth. Call it the turn to the Pacific, if you like; I see it as the turn to what can be possible, anywhere, in the name of Christ.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom".



ANNUAL MEETING **SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015** **10:30AM**

All members of the parish are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the meeting which begins with our Sunday worship, the Rector's Annual Report to the Parish, and then continues in the parish hall with elections, committee reports and all such business as is scheduled. This year will include a Q&A time period when the Rector will respond to any and all questions on any subject parishioners choose to ask about. A parish potluck luncheon concludes the day. Please sign up indicating how many will attend and what dish (main, side veggie or starch, salad or dessert) you will bring to share.



Saint Luke's presents

Ivy Adrian in Concert

Sunday, January 18 at 3:00PM

Forest Hills native Ivy Adrian will perform a solo piano recital featuring the music of Debussy, Brahms, Chopin, and others. The latest installment in our concert series *Wings of Song*, the performance will take place on January 18 at 3:00. The audience is invited to meet the artists at a reception following the performance. Suggested donation \$12, \$10 for seniors and students.

For reservations, please call 718-268-7772 or visit www.gingerbreadplayers.org.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 Christopher and Claire Dippel (A)
- 5 Tess Conte
- 5 Tyson Ho
- 6 Florence Amato
- 6 Titcha Ho
- 8 Michele Kasper
- 12 Nancy Northrop
- 13 Anthony Lenti
- 14 Kim Su Ouellette
- 14 Alice Chodkowski
- 15 Kaden Zacarias
- 19 Ann Chamberlain
- 19 Andrew Dinan
- 21 Zoe Smith
- 21 Michael Riley
- 22 Laura Wang
- 22 Helen Wang
- 24 Kai Laatikainen
- 24 Evette Keating
- 27 James Jonah
- 28 Corinna Schotte Hanson

The Bellringer
is published by
Saint Luke's Church (Episcoapal)
85 Greenway South
Forest Hills, NY 11375
www.stlukesforesthills.org
718-268-6021
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