



The Fall Edition

November, 2013

*The eNews is a periodical newsletter published 3-4 times a year by the EAM Chinese Convocation network...*

## The Chinese Convocation eNews



*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*Leaves are falling everywhere, a bit chill in the air, it's time for food and galore, for turkey, pumpkin pie and more. On this Thanksgiving, let us remember to give thanks to God for his abundant blessings for the past and pray for his continue guidance as we begin a new chapter into the future and celebrate legacy of ASIAMERICAN MINISTRY.*

*Over 250 people attended the EAM@40 consultation that took place at the Hyatt Regency Airport Hotel, and offered a number of diverse topics, well-known speakers, and dignitaries from around the Episcopal Church. The event included a colorful and energized service at Grace Cathedral where various Asian cultures were expressed. Japanese Taiko drummers, Korean drummers, Igorot gongs, Filipino-Ifugao and candle dancers, led Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori and a procession of Bishops, priests, deacons and lay participants into the nave. Hymns, readings and Prayers of the People were offered in multiple languages. What a joyous and memorable moment! Thanks be to God.*

*To read more about this event and to view video clips, visit the Episcopal News Service coverage [HERE](#).*

*Peace and blessings to you all.*

*Yours In Christ,*

*Ada Wong Nagata+, Convener  
Peter Huang, Co-Secretary*

*Peter Wu, Co-Convener  
Adlai Jew, Co-Secretary*

*Special Announcements:*

**Celebration of New Ministry.** The Rev. Diane Martinson was installed by the Rt. Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick, Bishop of Hawaii as the Rector of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Honolulu on Sept. 15, Sunday, 3:30pm followed by a High Tea Reception. Congratulation Pastor Diane!

**Clergy Transition.** Episcopal Church of Our Savior, New York has called the Rev. Noel Bordador as their Priest in Charge.

**Congratulations to The Rev. Canon Connie Ng Lam.** Since August 29, she has been named Canon for Asiamerican Ministries of Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. May God bless her and her ministry abundantly.

**An Open letter from the Convener on Upcoming Event:**

Dear friends, Greetings from Los Angeles! Thank you for re-electing me to be your convener for another three-year term. I am honored to continue to serve the convocation. Together with the co-convener Rev. Peter Wu, and the two newly elected co-secretaries Adlai Jew and Peter Huang, I hope we can serve the convocation faithfully and fruitfully.

The first activity we are planning is the Chinese Convocation Leadership Gathering (CCLG) in February, 2014. In our last convocation meeting during the EAM Consultation in June and in Burlingame, it was decided to hold the next gathering from Thursday to Saturday in hope to accommodate both the laity and clergy. The tentative dates are now set from February 20-22, 2014 Thursday to Saturday.

When we inquired about the availability of rooms, we found out that Friday February 21 is all booked at both the Bishop’s Ranch in N. Cal and the St. Paul’s Retreat Center in Los Angeles. However, St. Paul’s Retreat Center, L.A. has rooms available on Wednesday February 19 instead and has graciously allowed us to use the facility the whole day on Friday February 21. I would like to suggest that out-of-town participants to arrive on Wednesday February 19 at their convenient time. The early comers can rest, join a planned program or have fellowship. Other folks can come in the same evening after work and rest for the night. The formal gathering will start on Thursday morning and continue till Friday afternoon around 4pm. Participants will then move to a hotel for the Saturday program, or fly home if so desire. I have reserved a block of rooms with reasonable rate for both Friday (with subsidy) and Saturday (at your own cost, should you decide to stay extra as a mini vacation) at the Hilton’s Hotel, San Gabriel, located in the center of many Asian restaurants and shops and very close to Church of Our Saviour for the Saturday program.

Wed 2/19	Register/ Relax or participate in a program	St. Paul’s Retreat Center (paid by convocation)
Thurs 2/20	Formal Program starts in am	St. Paul’s Retreat Center (paid by convocation)
Fri 2/21	Program ends by 4pm, move to Hilton in the evening and dinner in San Gabriel City or leave for home	Hilton, San Gabriel (subsidized)
Sat 2/22	Program at Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel and ends at noon	Hilton, San Gabriel (on your own)

I am sure this leadership gathering will be educational, spiritual, and enable us to further develop ways to serve collaboratively and creatively in our ministries, at the same time foster our Christian fellowship. If there are any topics you would like to discuss or share, please do not hesitate to contact me at [revadarn@gmail.com](mailto:revadarn@gmail.com) or 626-382-8465, or to contact any one of our other officers.

Thanks to the EAM Office and our own fundraising supports, the registration fee is \$30 per person and there will be scholarship available for those who travel by air. Please save the dates, encourage your parishioners to join us at the CCLG 2014 and more details to come soon.

Faithfully, Ada Wong Nagata+, Convener, EAM Chinese Convocation

### Meet Our New Officers:



Peter Huang is excited to serve as the co-secretary of the EAM Chinese Convocation. He has been attending and serving at St. James' Church in South Pasadena for the past five years. Peter is currently a postulant for Holy Orders in hopes for ordination to the priesthood and is studying at Bloy House for the Certificate in Anglican Studies. Among his responsibilities at St. James', he oversees the Welcoming/Newcomers Ministries, assists with the worship services on Sundays, and serves on the Vestry. Prior to his current work as a Marriage & Family Therapist in Pasadena, California, he worked as a pastor in an American Baptist church serving an Asian American congregation. Peter was born in Taiwan and grew up also in Hong Kong and Japan before immigrating to the United States.



Mr. Adlai Jew is a long term member of True Sunshine Episcopal Church. He has served as vestry member and Senior Warden. He is currently the Chair of the Stewardship Committee at True Sunshine Church. Adlai graduated from UC Berkeley with Masters in Civil Engineering. Retired from working for the City and County of San Francisco, Airport Department as a civil engineer in their pavement session. Currently working part-time as a financial advisor with a broker-dealer in SF. Volunteered in the past for a duration of 5 years serving one night a month for the SF Night Ministry as a crisis phone line counselor, helping people who are lonely, depressed, and suicidal. His hobbies are photography, drawing, and painting. He is also a member of Toastmasters International, Lions Club, and Freemasons.

We welcome Peter and Adlai to be the co-secretary of EAM Chinese Convocation.



## Want to know what's happening in the Diocese of Hawaii?

Click on the Diocesan Seal, or read our bi-weekly E-News and bi-monthly E-Newspapers:

▶ [Archived E-News](#)

<http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/E-News/links-to-archived-e-news.html>

▶ [Archived E-Chronicles](#)

<http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/E-Chronicle/links-to-archived-e-chronicles.html>

### Convocation News Updates:

**Church Pension Group Consultations at EAM (2013)** On Saturday June 22nd at the 40th EAM consultation, the Rev. Laura Queen and the Rev. Canon Bruce Woodcock held two pension workshops and individual retirement planning consultations for over 30 participants. This education service follows a long standing agreement with the EAM Council and Episcopal Church Center staff (for Diversity and Asia Pacific Partnerships) to provide culturally appropriate settings for Asian American clients of the Church Pension Group. CPG looks forward to continuing these services and meeting support at EAM. Our thanks go out to Fr. Bayani Rico, Fr. Fred Vergara, Ms. Angie Cabanban and Canon Peter Ng for making this partnership event possible.



### **Episcopal Asiamerica Ministries Chinese Convocation meeting, Friday, June 21, 2013**

#### Minutes for the first half of the meeting

1. The meeting was called to order by Convener Ada Wong Nagata at 1:20pm, PDT at the Hyatt Regency, San Francisco Airport, Burlingame, California. A list of those present appears at the end of these minutes. Due to the absence of both co-secretaries from the meeting, the Rev. Thomas Eoyang, Jr. was asked by the Rev. Nagata to take the minutes for the meeting until the election of new officers. This request was approved by those present.
2. Opening prayer was offered by the Rt. Rev. Diane Jardine Bruce, Bishop Suffragan of Los Angeles. This was followed by a moment of silence, led by co-convener Peter Wu, for the late Rev. Winston Ching. The Rev. Nagata concluded the moment of silence with prayer.
3. The Rev. Nagata offered thanks to Franco Kwan and Merry Chan Ong for organizing the special dinner welcoming the international guests of the Chinese Convocation, who were then

introduced: the Rev. Peter Koon from the Province of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, the Rev. Richard Lee from the diocese of Taiwan, and the Rev. Vivian Lam from Vancouver, diocese of New Westminster, Anglican Church of Canada. The Rev. Nagata also thanked the Church of Our Saviour, Oakland, for their part in hosting the Convocation.

4. The Rev. Peter Koon relayed greetings from the Bishop of Hong Kong and presented a report on the Province. One of the largest providers of education in Hong Kong, the Province currently plans to build a new hospital of 330 beds to replace the previous hospital of only 80 beds. Awaiting governmental approval, which requires new hospitals to be no smaller than 274 beds, the new hospital will be sited in a prime location. Fr. Koon asked for our prayers as this project moves forward. The Archbishop has just been re-elected for another six-year term. There is a new election pending for the diocese of Eastern Kowloon, due to some constitutional confusion (concerning what constituted a clergy majority), which resulted in a failed election process. There had been four bishop candidates, including the Rev. Thomas Pang, and the new slate may contain some overlap with the previous slate. In order to hold the new election, there may need to be some changes made to constitutional policy.

The Province may also be facing the need for some restructuring of their welfare organizations, as well as challenges regarding their educational institutions in relation to political controversies over specific schools.

5. The Rev. Nagata called the meeting to honor the Rev. Dr. Gordon Lau, retired priest for his extensive service to EAM, particularly in relation to his work on the translation of the Book of Common Prayer and other documents.

6. Mimi Wu, Vice-President of EAM Council and Co-Dean of this consultation then made logistical announcements regarding the buses to San Francisco, for the closing Eucharist at Grace Cathedral and the closing banquet in Chinatown.

7. The minutes from the 2012 Convocation were distributed and read for approval. The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy corrected the mention of “Mr. Hung” to “Francis Hung, the husband of Angela Hung.” With this correction the minutes were approved.

8. The Rev. Nagata then presented the Convocation Report.

(a) There is a revised website for the Chinese Convocation, which includes a section on “Friends of the Chinese Convocation.” It also includes a bi-lingual lectionary for all years—A, B, and C. The Rev. Nagata proposed that an electronic newspaper be issued three times a year and that responsibility for each of the three issues rotate among the three general regions—East Coast, West Coast, and Hawaii—so that all constituencies might be heard from during the course of a year. There is need for additional assistance with translations, because of flaws in the Episcopal Church Center’s translation of articles.

(b) The Leadership Gathering had to be combined with the New Community Clergy & Lay Conference in San Diego, February 29-March 4, 2012.

(c) The Rev. Fred Vergara made a plea to raise funds for the EAM Council through the sale of the booklet, “Being Episcopalian,” authored by Fr. Vergara. The price is \$10 for seven copies, and the proceeds will go to the EAM Council. Fr. Vergara also announced the Constable Foundation award grant of \$66,000 to support the EAM Doctor of Ministry program at Episcopal Divinity School.

(d) The Rev. Nagata announced that around \$2,000 had been raised for relief of the victims of the Sichuan earthquake, and this had been wired directly to the Chinese Christian Council instead of having to make its way through the Chinese government bureaucracy.

(e) The Rev. Nagata asked for help from those with technical gifts to revise the EAM

Facebook page.

(f) The Rev. Nagata reported that funds supporting the Chinese Convocation had a balance of \$14,000. More translation projects are being planned that will provide some funds to the convocation. Moving forward, the Chinese Convocation will have to become more self-sufficient financially as funding from both EAM and The Episcopal Church will be reduced.

9. Election of officers was then held. Last time there was not a quorum. A quorum of the 16 active churches of the Chinese Convocation was established for this meeting. Officers needed were convener, co-convener, and secretary. The Rev. Nagata and the Rev. Peter Wu expressed their willing to stand again for convener and co-convener. The Rev. Nagata then turned the meeting over to the Rev. Franco Kwan to chair, as she was standing as a candidate. The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy nominated the Rev. Ada Wong Nagata and the Rev. Peter Wu to be convener and co-convener, respectively, and they were elected by acclamation.

For the post of secretary, the Rev. Franco Kwan nominated Adlai Jew, and Thomas Ni nominated Peter Huang. The Rev. Connie Ng Lam nominated the Rev. Thomas Eoyang, who declined the nomination. Both Mr. Jew and Mr. Huang spoke briefly about their backgrounds and experience. Mr. Thom Chu rose to move that, as we had just had co-secretaries, and in light of the continuous need to develop new leadership, that both Mr. Jew and Mr. Huang be elected as co-secretaries. This motion was approved by acclamation. The meeting was then turned over to the new officers, and the task of taking minutes assumed by Adlai Jew.

Respectfully submitted,  
(The Rev.) Thomas Eoyang, Jr.

#### Minutes for the second half of the meeting

2014 Chinese Convocation Leadership Gathering (CCLG) – Connie Lam moved that the next CCLG be held from February 20 to 22, 2014 with a venue to be determined. (M/S/C) Suggested locations are Los Angeles, Long Island, and the Bishop’s Ranch. The Rev. Thomas Chesterman will check on the availability of the Bishop’s Ranch to accommodate from 25 to 40 people. Also to be determined are, the theme, speakers, and subject manner.

eNews – It was proposed to have an electronic newsletter posted three times per year. Suggested article contributors once a year from each of the three areas: East, West, and Hawaii. Suggested times for the postings are the Lunar New Year, Easter (or Pentecost,) and Thanksgiving. Peter Wu will help with the layout of the newsletter.

Facebook Page – The Rev. Connie Lam suggested Eric Ling to work on it.

Sunday Morning Discussion Time with the Presiding Bishop – The following were suggested questions to ask the Presiding Bishop:

The Rev. Franco Kwan wanted to know what is the current Episcopal Church policy for Asian ministries. There was funding in the past to start new churches. Now, we are on our own. Can the Episcopal Center provide financial and professional help?

The Rev. Peter Lam suggested to reframe the questions to ask how will “815” work with the local diocese to build Asian ministries. Many ordained clergy don’t have deployment.

Canon Peter Ng said that in order for “815” to help, we need an invitation from the local bishops. The fellow churches within each diocese need to work together to get the support from the diocesan bishops.

The Rev. Gordon Lau suggested that we look at our local churches and ask how we could become stronger and grow spiritually as well as in numbers. We should encourage people to empower themselves.

Warren Wong stated the importance of attending the Provincial meetings

Presentation from the Diocese of Taiwan – The Rev. Richard Lee showed a power point presentation. (See report)

Presentation from Global Partnership, Episcopal Church Center – Canon Peter Ng, Officer, Asia and the Pacific & Anglican Relations, Global Partnership also gave a presentation.

Congregation Sharing:

The Rev. Vivian Lam said that she has been the Rector at a church in Vancouver for one year. She is facing many challenges but is open to experimenting and trying new programs. There are a large number of Chinese immigrants in the area.

The Rev. David Lui announced that the Church of Incarnation in San Francisco has established a Healing Center and distributed brochures to the audience.

The Rev. Connie Lam announced that she is the new rector of Boston starting June 1, 2013. She also distributed brochures of the Episcopal Boston Chinese Ministry.

Thomas Chu said that his church in Manhattan provides medical screening.

Monica Whitaker announced that she is attending seminary at St. John’s in Oakland.

Ivy Chan also introduced herself as one of the attendees from True Sunshine Church in San Francisco.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30PM.

Submitted by,  
Adlai Jew  
Co-Secretary

Participants present at the Episcopal Asiamerica Ministries Chinese Convocation meeting, Friday, 21 June 2013, Hyatt Regency, San Francisco Airport, Burlingame, California:  
Alistair So, Peter Koon, Thom Chu, Diane Jardine Bruce, Debra Low-Skinner, Adlai Jew, Fran Toy, David Lui, Peter Ng, Warren J. Wong (St. James, SF), Mary Louise Gotthold, Esther Xiaohui Liu, Joshua Ng, Becky Shan, Chunhoi Hung, Jane Wong, Linda Wong,

Michael Zhou, Hannah Zhou, Charlotte Fong, Warren J. Wong (St. Ambrose, Foster City), Nellie Wong (St. Ambrose, Foster City), Fred Zhu, Ivy Chan, Franco Kwan, Audrey Huie, Santos Lam, Connie Ng Lam, Pei Han Peggy Lo, Monica Whitaker, Vivian Lam, Jeffrey Ma, Henrietta Ma, Peter Huang, Tom Chesterman, Kenneth Chow, Carl Chan, Gary Bradley, Si Yu Qian, Ronnie Nagata, Thomas Ni, Roger Magnuson, Richard Lee, David Allan, SSJE (Boston), Thomas Eoyang, Jr., Peter Lam, Gordon Lau, Yvonne Nan, Merry Chan Ong, Carole Jan Lee, Lelanda Lee, Ada Wong Nagata.

### *News from Our Parishes and Missions:*

#### **St. JAMES IN ELMHURST IS “ON FIRE” AGAIN**

Report by The Rev. Canon Dr. Winfred B. Vergara, Missioner for Asiamerica Ministries

St. James Episcopal Church at 84-07 Broadway, Elmhurst, New York 11373 is a historic church of Anglican heritage. Begun in 1704, it saw the struggle for American independence and the birth of the Episcopal Church. One of its earliest rectors was Rev. Dr. Samuel Seabury who became the first Episcopal bishop and presiding bishop and another was Rev. Dr. Benjamin Moore who became the first president of Columbia University.

Fast forward to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, St. James experienced the ups and downs of congregational life and demographic shifts. Elmhurst was once a Dutch neighborhood and St. James a predominantly white church but rapid immigration altered the racial and ethnic landscape. Elmhurst in Queens District is now a multiracial, multicultural community with as many as 172 languages spoken within a two-mile radius. It is considered the most diverse community in New York as well as the world.

In 2005, the largely conservative congregation of St. James voted to leave The Episcopal Church in disagreement with TEC’s theological stances on women’s ordination and gay rights. The Episcopal Diocese of Long Island sued and won the church back in 2008 but it left the congregation sorely divided and its membership greatly reduced. The past four years were a struggle to put back St. James to financial and church growth standing, drying up its reserves until they are unable to afford a full-time priest.

It was at this point that the Rev. Dr. Winfred Vergara was asked by Bishop Lawrence Provenzano to help revive the parish by serving as a part-time priest-in-charge, as he serves as full-time missioner for Asiamerica Ministries of the Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church. Fr. Fred immediately addressed himself to revive the church by restructuring the parish, organizing lay leadership and inspiring them to vision of a “healing, welcoming and serving church.” The church began to reawaken and many new comers have come and decided to stay and become members. In just a month, there was a confirmation of 19 new members.

A couple of months after Fr. Fred’s arrival, St. James also received the Rev. Paul Lai as associate priest. Paul, who happens to be the son of Bishop David Lai of Taiwan speaks Mandarin and is gifted with administration. With a renewed Bishop’s Committee, the church is on its fast track of recovery and revival. When Fr. Fred started on April 1, 2013 (which he



called my “April Fool’s Day”), there were only 25 people average Sunday attendance. At the time of this writing, which is six months thereafter, the church has now reached an attendance of 100 of diverse peoples---Chinese, Filipinos, Caribbean’s, Indonesians, Indians, Bangla Desh and Anglos. St. James is on revival fire! To God be the glory!



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### **Episcopal Boston Chinese Ministry**

by The Rev. Canon Connie Lam

On June 1st, the congregation of the Episcopal Boston Chinese Ministry (EBCM) welcomed our new vicar, the Rev. Canon Connie Ng Lam, who moved from the San Francisco Bay Area to Boston. We are delighted. Her leadership and pastoral care are nurturing us all. Our strong lay leadership was the key to maintaining the ministry of EBCM in the absence of a vicar in the past years and helped us make a smooth transition to the new vicar.

We have maintained all the church activities. These include the rehearsal of the two choirs, adult Sunday school, prayer group meetings, lunch after service, three weekly youth fellowship gatherings, three monthly senior fellowship gatherings and some small-group Bible study meetings. We recently developed a new Christian Education class for young Christians which meets every other Sunday. Also in September, we coordinated with the New York Short-Term Mission Training Center, Inc. to establish a two-year seminar which meets every Saturday. Those who successfully complete the program receive a Certificate of Short-Term Mission Training.

The Eucharistic services on the first and third Sundays are in a contemporary liturgical style to appeal to the younger church members. We sing “praise hymns” and use power point presentations. On the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays, services are more conservative with traditional hymns and organ music. The average attendance at the Sunday service is about sixty, and more than half of them are youth and young adults. Several new comers have joined our Sunday service since summer, while a few old members have had to work on Sunday and, therefore, have not been able to keep attending.

We also have strong staffs working in our outreach program site, the Episcopal Quincy Chinese Center (EQCC), located at St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church. We had a productive and fun eight weeks summer tutoring outing program for the children of elementary school age. In July, our first Chinese Youth Music Concert in Quincy was held at the EQCC. It was a great success and everybody felt "cool" with the performance of sixteen youth bands and singers on a hot summer evening. In August, our popular annual Summer Car Wash fundraiser and Watermelon Fun Festival were held at the center. This year, the games, foods, yard sales and door prizes of the festival attracted almost a hundred Chinese neighbors of various ages to come and see our programs at EQCC. In this fall, we continue to do our best in serving the community with our tutoring programs and enrichment activities for elementary and high school students.

In addition to the exciting summer programs for youth and young adults, there were or will be several joyful celebrations of church and family. In August, we welcomed two new babies and celebrated a wedding. In October, we will have eight people receiving confirmation and three weddings. In December, the Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, Suffragan Bishop, will make her visitation and will do baptisms.



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### **50 Years at St. Thomas Episcopal, Hacienda Heights**

St. Thomas has just celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September, 2013 with the blessing of our Bishop Diane Bruce, the suffragan Bishop of Diocese Los Angeles.

In 1961, a small group of Episcopalians, with the help of the Rev. Dean Leovy of St. Mathews, Baldwin Park and Dean Thomas Marshall, began services at the VFW Hall on Gale Ave, La Puente. Chuck White, one of the early pioneers remembers clearing the beer cans from the front before each service.

1963-64 – Property on Tetley Ave. in Hacienda Heights was purchased and limited services were held on the property site, utilizing the existing Tetley House, parishioners homes and the Women's Club. In 1965, Chaplain Adams was appointed by Bishop Bloy as first Vicar of St.

Thomas.

1966, Groundbreaking for Parish Hall and first services in unfinished building Christ Eve, 1966. Father Ward DeBeck was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Vicar of St. Thomas in 1968,

Plans to build a new Sanctuary were begun in 1970 with ground breaking in April, 1979. Fr. DeBeck retired and St. Thomas welcomed Fr. Dean Farrar as its third Vicar. Fr. Dean oversaw the progress on the new Sanctuary with the dedication service in October, 1980.

We weren't finished with construction yet, with plans underway to build an education center. Farrar Center was completed in December, 1989.

Fr. Farrar established a relationship with Pastor Stanley Huang and his Taiwanese congregation. They began using the church for Sunday Services and the combined congregations worked together for several years before leaving for a church in Rowland Heights. The grand piano in the sanctuary was a generous gift from the Taiwanese group. In 1993 Fr. Farrar was called to be rector at St. Francis in Palos Verdes. In the interim, Mother Toni Stewart served the congregation as we awaited the selection of a new Vicar.

In 1994 Mother Betsy Rosebrook became the 4<sup>th</sup> Vicar of St. Thomas. She was joined by Fr. Don Armstrong as her assistant. In 1999, Mo Betsy resigned and Mo. Judy Turberg served until Mother Deborah Dunn was appointed in 2000 as the 5<sup>th</sup> Vicar.

In 2001 in a historic merging of two congregations, Bishop Bruno officiated at the "wedding" of St. Thomas and St. Francis, the Cantonese congregation. St. Thomas has become multicultural congregation. In 2013 Fr. Joshua Ng begins as intern under Mo Deborah, and Rev. Michael Cunningham begins the RedShirt Ministry to the Indian Reservation in Pine Ridge. St. Thomas raised many clergies, few Asian priests, like Mo. Ada Wong Nagata, Fr. Thomas Ni, Deacon Judy Lin, and Mo. Fennie Chang. St. Thomas will continue to raise more clergy person in the years to come. In July, 2007 Fr. Joshua Ng become the 6<sup>th</sup> Vicar. St. Thomas plays a leading role in the Diocesan Los Angeles EAM program. The SGVCCA Chinese Cultural Association made St. Thomas their home for their school and youth activities. The Montessori School leases Farrar Center and renovates and adds playground for their students. And a memorial garden was built in order to remember the saints of "St. Thomas".

Our prayers and goals are to continue to serve the community, reach out to the new immigrants that from China, and looking forward to live for the half of centenary.



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## **Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, Oakland**

by The Rev. Merry Chan Ong

This is what our church is doing lately, we collaborate with other Episcopal churches in Oakland, in doing the food pantry at St. James Church in Oakland.

Serving 200 families, every Wednesday. Out of the 200 families, 170 are chinese families. This helps our church member to collaborate with other diverse group, since last month, I couple from the food pantry came to our church regularly, mandarin speakers. They feel a sense of community connection, they come forward to receive blessing during the communion, and also come early to attend our healing prayer ministry.

Merry Chan Ong (Note)... Working with St. James and St. John's on the weekly food pantry has given Our Saviour the chance to learn that we are an Episcopal community; Chinese, English and Spanish-speaking together. We enjoy so much working collaboratively with other churches, and I believe it works so well because we have one common goal: to help needy people. We share our love with them and we make sure their voices are heard. And when see their faces smile, that brings us all satisfaction.





**From one pumpkin to another!!!!!!!**

**A woman was asked by a coworker,  
'What is it like to be a Christian?'**

**The coworker replied, 'It is like being a pumpkin.'**

**God picks you from the patch, brings you in,  
and washes all the dirt off of you.**

**Then He cuts off the top  
and scoops out all the yucky stuff.**

**He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed.**

**Then He carves you a new smiling face  
and puts His light inside of you to shine  
for all the world to see.'**