



The Spring Edition

June 1, 2011

The eNews is a periodical newsletter published 4-6 times a year by the EAM Chinese Convocation network...

**We, as members of the body of Christ, pledge to be guiding lights
and conduits of God's Love.**

The Chinese Convocation eNews

Dear Friends in Christ,

The world has been turned upside down since the beginning of the year, first the earthquake in New Zealand, then the unrest in Middle East and Africa, followed by the most devastating earthquake, tsunami and radiation crisis in Japan and all the deadly disasters from floods, wild fires, storms, twisters and tornadoes that struck different part of the country here at home in the United States. We are reminded of life's fragility and unpredictability as we watch the news reports and see the devastation of human lives.

“Every adversity brings new opportunity; every tragedy brings new hope; every challenge brings new victory. In the midst of calamities, destruction and death around us, there are values that endure: faith-community, family and friends. We believe that our humanity, with God's help, will not simply survive but shall prevail.” As our EAM missionary stated in his prayer request for Japan.

Lent is a time that Christians are called to live and think about solidarity to humankind, a time to be more compassionate with God's creation and our own community as the Presiding Bishop reminded us to not only focusing on reading, studying, fasting and traditional alms giving, but to look around us and think about how we live our lives on earth each day as disciples of Christ Jesus in her Lenten message...that is to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. In our urge to be compassionate in the aftermath of such disasters, we discover that we are so interconnected that we no longer can simply talk about the suffering of Japan and other countries but to tell the story of all the suffering in our midst, about the people and bereaved members of the entire human family. Truly, when disaster strikes one of the least of these, it strikes all of us.

As we are approaching the end of Easter session and will soon celebrate Pentecost, may our hearts be filled with the Holy Spirit so we may go forth in the name of Christ. Blessings to you all in this season of Eastertide! Christ is risen indeed, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Yours in Christ,

*Ada Wong Nagata, Convener
Paul Lai, Co-Secretary*

*Peter Wu, Vice-Convener
Joyce Lok, Co-Secretary*

Convocation News Updates:

- **2011 Chinese Convocation Leadership Gathering.** The 2011 Chinese Convocation Leadership Gathering (CCLG) was held on January 24-26, 2011 in Los Angeles, California. The theme this year was “Life in the Holy Spirit”.



2011 Chinese Convocation Leadership Gathering

Over 30 church leaders representing congregations in the Chinese Convocation from Hawaii to east coast participated. The gathering began with lunch after being welcomed by the convener, the Rev. Ada Wong Nagata. It was followed by Holy Eucharist to celebrate the Feast Day of Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first female priest ordained in the Anglican Communion. The service was most appropriately celebrated by our beloved Rev. Dr. Fran Toy, the first female Asian priest ordained in the Episcopal Church. Homily was by the Rev. Dr. Winfred Vergara. The Rt. Rev. Mary D. Glasspool, Bishop-Suffragan of the Diocese of Los Angeles gave the closing blessings.

In the gathering, there were wonderful presentations looking at different perspectives of life in the Holy Spirit. Presentations consisted of Christian spirituality by blending scriptures with the Confucian spirituality, Asian American spirituality, Benedictine Spirituality, Holy Currency, spiritual experiences from sabbatical leave and ministry. Presenters included the Right Rev. Diane Bruce, Bishop-Suffragan of Diocese of Los Angeles; the Very Rev. David Jackson, Rector, Epiphany

Church, Honolulu, Diocese of Hawaii; the Rev. David Lui, Rector, Church of Incarnation, San Francisco, Diocese of California; the Rev. Dr. Winfred Vergara, Missioner of EAM; the Rev. Dr. Sze-Kar Wan of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Texas. There was even presentation via cyber space by the Rev. Eric Law, Executive Director, Kaleidoscope Institute. The first two days' music was played by Dr. Godwin Chou, Music Instructor, South Suburban College, South Holland, IL. This gathering was Godwin's first time joining the convocation. He also shared his spiritual journey and music composition with the convocation.

Something new, the individual spiritual consultation was added to the consultation gathering this year. It was offered by experienced spiritual consultants: The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Battle, Rector, Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel, Diocese of Los Angeles, faculty member of CREDO; The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Jew, St. Stephens, Santa Clarita, Diocese of Los Angeles, Professor, School of Education, California Lutheran University; The Rev. Dr. Gordon Lau, retired priest, former rector, Church of Our Saviour, Oakland, Diocese of California; and The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy, retired priest, former faculty member of CREDO. Quiet time was also offered for the participants to rest and to reflect. Updates from church wide ministries were given by Mr. Peter Ng, Partnership Officer for Asia and the Pacific in the Episcopal Church's Office of Anglican and Global Relations and Mrs. Mimi Wu, Asian Ministry Coordinator, Province VIII and Vice President of EAM Council. Celebrations and challenges were also shared by participants.

In the last day, convocation business was conducted which included the discussion of a simplified mission statement, "*We, as members of the body of Christ, pledge to be guiding lights and conduits of God's Love*", resulting with a new vision statement and the consolidation of existing funds and some guidelines of its disbursement. (See our new revised mission statement and vision statement below) In the evaluation, the participants stated that they enjoyed the fellowship, the learning, and the hospitality offered by the Retreat Center. The tentative date for next year's gathering will be February 9 to 11, 2012. It will be from Thursday to Saturday to accommodate the laity. Location may be at northern California, alternative is Los Angeles.

May our life be filled with the Holy Spirit as we continue to serve God and God's people.

For documents presented in the convocation, please visit: www.eamchinese.org
Please check out this site, it has been updated.

使命宣言

聖公會華裔事工會是個中央聯絡組織，旨在步向以下目標:

- 活出我們作為基督門徒的呼召，以彼此和睦、合一的心同作基督肢體的工作。
- 協助華裔聖公會信徒尋找附近的聖公會堂會，作為屬靈的家。
- 接受並給予資源，幫助有需要者訓練或在財政、運作和屬靈上支持他/她們的宣教事工。
- 處理不同年代信徒之間的文化張力。
- 幫助我們的華人教會能更有效地在這個多元文化，多元種族，幻變不息的世界事奉。

Mission Statement:

The Chinese Convocation is a central networking body working towards these goals:

- Live out our call as disciples of Jesus, working with harmony and unity as one Body in Christ.
- Assist Chinese Anglicans/Episcopalians to find an Episcopal Church in their surroundings to call home
- Receive and provide resources to those in need of training and/or support (financially, functionally, and/or spiritually) in their ministries.
- Address cultural tensions between generation
- Enable our Chinese churches to minister more effectively in this Multicultural, multiethnic, diverse changing world.

Vision Statement:

We, as members of the body of Christ, pledge to be guiding lights and conduits of God's Love.
(Chinese translation pending)

- **The Rev. Arienne Davison named Canon for Multicultural Ministries.** Bishop Greg Rickel has announced the appointment of the Rev. Arienne Davison as the next Canon for Multicultural Ministries for our diocese.

Since her ordination in 2007, Arienne has served as associate priest at Emmanuel (Mercer Island) where she was the first recipient of funding from the Curates of Color program to help retain ethnic minority ordinands from the Diocese of Olympia. Currently, she serves as associate priest at Grace (Bainbridge Island).

Arienne is a northwest native whose ministry interests have been greatly influenced by growing up in an "unchurched" home and in a multicultural family. She writes, "Attending seminary in Virginia reshaped how I understood who I was as a creature that happened to have White, Black, and Asian-American parents. I became increasingly conscious of my own need to honor the cultures that formed me as well as create spaces in the church for people (like me) and communities that don't fit neatly into racial, ethnic and language groups."

As Canon for Multicultural Ministries, Arienne looks forward to working with multicultural ministers throughout the diocese to (1) discern a vision for multicultural ministry in the diocese in this ever changing environment, (2) strengthen leadership in and make diocesan resources more accessible to ethnic congregations, and (3) focus on supporting young leaders who embody the changing face of the church.

Arienne will continue in her role and ministry as Associate Priest at Grace, Bainbridge Island while also filling the Canon position. Her primary office will be at Grace but she will also have an office at DHouse. She begins her duties January 1, 2011.

- **The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Jew** was ordained to the Holy Order of Priests on February 12, 2011 by The Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno, Bishop of Los Angeles

- **Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church, Monterey Park** which was partly destroyed by fire in 2010 and celebrated their Rededication Service on May 1, 2011. (See letter from the former Senior Warden below)



Photo by KP Leung

聖加伯利堂失火後重建獻堂禮

去年六月中的一個中午，我剛剛回到家裡就收到一個緊急電話，才知道我們的教堂失火，我馬上開車趕去現場。去到時，見到街的兩頭有警車攔住不讓任何人進入。後經我向警官解說我是該堂的堂長，才讓我進去。當我走近停車場時，見到濃煙仍從教堂的鐘樓冒出，火勢相當猛烈。過了半個鐘頭，經消防員合力搶救，才將火勢撲滅。可是停車場的週圍就像一片汪洋，燒焦的雜物四散於地。無數長而大的水管互相纏繞，瘡痕滿目。眾人見狀，無不搖頭嘆氣，黯然無語，惟有各自祈禱，互相安慰。

災後，最迫切的問題是如何繼續舉行崇拜。幸好教堂仍有部份建築物如副堂、廚房、辦公室和十年前加建的兩層房舍沒有禍及。因此我們向保險公司請求將副堂的一半，改為一個小禮拜堂，暫作崇拜之用。在主的指引下，工程在一個月內完成，才得以繼續我們的崇拜。其他的工作，可以說是千頭萬緒，如堂內之裝修，新風琴的按置和各樣的裝飾等。化了整整十個月才把復修工程完竣。

此次本堂失火及重修期間，承蒙各地主內弟兄姊妹及社區人士，送來慰問及支援，隆情厚意，不勝感謝。又得主任牧師盧君灝帶領全堂上下教友，抱著同一個夢，同一個信心，終於在本年四月下旬全部完竣。

我們已於本年五月一日(復活節後第一主日) 舉行獻堂禮，由唐金瓊輔理主教 (The Right Reverend Diane Jardine Bruce) 主禮，共証主的大愛和恩典，多謝大家在這個奉獻禮中作的祈禱。

聖加伯利堂前任堂長 關甘澍

- **Mrs. Mei Kwan**, wife of the Rev. Dr. Franco Kwan, Rector of True Sunshine, San Francisco passed away on May 18, 2011. Family and friends were invited to attend a funeral service to celebrate her fruitful life on Saturday, May 28th, 2011, at 10a.m. at St. George's Episcopal Church, 135-32 38th Ave., Flushing, NY 11354. Please continue to pray for Fr. Kwan and the family.
- **The Rev. Judy Lin** was awarded the Doctor of Ministry by CDSP on May 20, 2011

Upcoming Events:

- **The Rev. Paul Lai**, Transitional Deacon of the Diocese of Long Island will be ordained to the Holy Order of Priests by The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano on June 4, 2011 at 4pm, St. Luke's Church, Forest Hills, NY
- **Dr. Fennie Hsin-Fen Chang** of the Diocese of Los Angeles will be ordained to the Holy Orders of Deacons by The Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno on June 11, 2011 at 10am at the Pro-Cathedral of St. John, Los Angeles, CA.
- **EAM Commission of the Diocese of California** will hold the first diocesan-wide EAM Consultation on June 9-10, 2011 in Christ Episcopal Church, 1700 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, Ca.94501. Keynote speaker on the theme "Asian Spirituality of Stewardship" is the EAM Missioner, The Rev. Dr. Fred Vergara. Workshop presenters include Dr. Boyung Lee, the Rev. Deborah Lee, Dr. Russell Jeung, Rev. Michael Yoshi and Rev. David Ota. Visit <http://www.diocal.org>. Contact: The Rev. Connie Lam at clams168@yahoo.com.
- **The Rev. Dr. Fran and Mr. Art Toy** will celebrate their 55th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, July 3, 2011 at 11 o'clock in the morning at Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, 1011 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94607-4426. The Toy Family is hosting a luncheon following the worship service.
- The four Chinese Episcopal Congregations in the Diocese of Los Angeles: **St. Gabriel's, St. Thomas', St. Edmund's, and Church of Our Saviour** will have a joint outdoor service on July 10, 2011 at 10am at the Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel. The Rt. Rev. Diane Bruce will be the preacher.
- **The Kaleidoscope Institute** is offering the following training July 25- August 1, 2011 in Los Angeles at the St. Paul's Cathedral Center:

Fundamental Skills for Building Inclusive Community

(July 25-27, 2011)

Media and Faith (July 28-August 1) -- Creating Audio-Visual Electronic Media to Build Inclusive Community

It is best to send an intergenerational team to attend this course. They are very interested in increasing youth and young adult participation in this course.

You can register online at www.kscopeinstitute.org

For more information, email : kscope@kscopeinstitute.org

Or call 1-800-366-1636 x216

- **The EAM Council National Strategic Planning Meeting** will meet this fall in conjunction with the "Everyone Everywhere Conference" which will bring Black, Hispanic, Native American and EAM groups together in Colorado, from October 13 through 17 in Estes Park, Colorado.

In Memory of Mei Bak-Kwo Kwan

June 27, 1949 - May 18, 2011

By Grace Kwan

Mei was one of eight children born to the late Jun Choi Kwo and Bic Yuan Lee and the beloved wife of The Rev. Dr. Franco Kwan for over 34 Years. She will forever be remembered by her loving children, Grace, William, and Calvin, son-in-law, Alejandro, daughter-in-law, Vanessa and treasured by grandchildren, Zachariah, Gabriella, and Zoe. And along with countless relatives and friends who were blessed to know her.

Mei was born and raised in Taiwan. She was the pearl of her parents. Mei graduated from Domestic College of Tainan. Then she became the director of the advertising department of a general construction company in Taipei. Mei met Franco when he went to Taiwan to attend college. Their romance was almost like the 1970's television show, "Three's Company". They married on July 4th, 1976 in Taiwan, when Franco graduated from college. Franco was called to serve The Church of Our Savior, New York in December of 1983. She and the three children joined him in May of 1984. She studied at the Fashion Institute of Technology and was a talented dress maker but she never made clothes for other people except when she worked in the garment industry for a short time. Besides sewing and making most of her own clothes, she enjoyed flower arranging and knitting. She frequently travelled with Franco between San Francisco, New York, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mainland China. Mei devoted her whole life to bringing up her children and volunteering at churches. Most recently, the joys of her life were her grandchildren. Mei lived a fulfilling life.

At the tender age of 62, Mei was still a very active individual even though she had a stroke, a fall that broke her kneecap and endometrial cancer. She walked constantly up and down the hills of San Francisco and grocery shopping in the streets of Flushing. A week before her demise, she and Grace walked from Time Square to Lincoln Center for a charity concert because the subway service was temporarily suspended. Mei passed away suddenly but peacefully at her home in Flushing, New York.

Family and friends are invited to attend a funeral service to celebrate her fruitful life on Saturday, May 28th, 2011, at 10a.m. at St. George's Episcopal Church, 135-32 38th Ave. (at Main Street), Flushing, NY 11354. Refreshments will be served in the parish hall following the service. Cremation will take place at 1p.m. at St. Michael's Cemetery, All Soul's Chapel and Crematory, 7202 Astoria Blvd., East Elmhurst, NY 11370. A memorial service to celebrate the life of Mei will also take place in late June at True Sunshine Episcopal Church, 1430 Mason Street, San Francisco, CA 94133.

Many thanks to friends who sent cards, emails and called to show their love and support for the Kwan Family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Mei Kwan to support the ministries of True Sunshine Church, San Francisco or St. George's Church, Flushing.

FLORENCE LI TIM OI AND THE ASIAN AMERICAN STRUGGLE

(Homily by The Rev. Dr. Winfred B. Vergara, Asian American Missioner of the Episcopal Church at the Chinese Convocation Leadership Gathering held in Cathedral Center, Los Angeles, January 24-26, 2011)

“Then he (Jesus) appointed seventy others and sent them ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go ... to heal the sick and proclaim that the kingdom has come near.” (Luke 10:1-9)

Throughout history, God has called certain individuals or groups to become trail blazers, pioneers, explorers, discoverers, entrepreneurs, the *avant garde* of the march towards the future.

Today, January 24, we celebrate the feast of Florence Li Tim Oi, the first woman to be ordained in the worldwide Anglican Communion. We also read about the calling of the seventy disciples to go ahead of Jesus to announce that the kingdom of God has come near.

I was privileged last year during my Sabbatical, to have the opportunity to visit Morrison Chapel in Macao where Florence Li Tim Oi served as deacon and priest. As I was looking at her photo on the wall (and the photo of Bishop Ronald Hall who ordained her), I kept thinking what kinds of struggle that she and the others who trailed the blaze towards new frontiers had experienced, and I came up with three struggles: the struggle for meaning, the struggle for vision, and the struggle for acceptance.

Now some of you know by now understand why I am a three-point preacher: first, I am a Trinitarian; second, I am the third child in my family; and third, three points are the most that people can remember. I just turned 60 and I am learning that as you grow older you tend to lose three things: first is your memory, the second and third, I can't remember...

1. Struggle One: The search for meaning.

Why am I doing what I am doing? Pioneers and trail blazers are not really persons say, “ours is not to reason why but to do or die.” Rather they are persons who constantly seek for meaning to what they are doing. Karl Bushby, an ex-British paratrooper who wants to be the first one to walk around the world---on foot. He started in 1998 and still walks on. He was in his late 20's when he began his walk from Chile and if ever he survives and succeeds in this mission, he would be able to reach his hometown in Hull, England at least in his fifties. So far, he has surmounted seemingly-impossible obstacles including walking the sea-ice of Bering Strait from Alaska to Russia. When asked why he does what he does, he replied, “Because no one else has done it.”

The struggle for meaning must have plagued Li Tim Oi even when the Chinese culture is one of pragmatism. She knew that her ordination was done because of practical reason. There was a crisis in 1944 brought about by the invasion of Japan to China. The ordination was conducted by Bishop Hall in order that Anglican Christians in Tim-Oi's parish of Macao, the Portuguese island colony, could receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. There was no male priest who was available to supply the needed ministry. But the ordination of women was a controversial issue in the mainstream Anglican Church and the ordination generated tremendous amount of pressures to the point that Lim Tim Oi was being pressed to renounce her ordination. The pressure on Li Tim Oi was so much that she was forced to resign her license (though not her orders) and gave in to the dominant culture. It would take thirty years before the ordination of women would be regularized.

There is a saying that the early bird catches the worm but there is another one that says it is the second mouse that gets the cheese. Frankly, I would rather be the second mouse than the first. But the struggle for meaning is the first struggle of the pioneers.

2. Struggle Two: The Struggle for vision and to give shape to that vision.

Clearly the vision is clear to the visionary but how would he communicate the vision and give shape to that vision? Deng Shao Ping, the Chinese Premier who gave shape to the new economic vision of China said, "I don't care a black cat or a white cat so long as it catches mice."

The call to the seventy disciples must have been crystal clear to Jesus but to the seventy, there are a lot of questions and bewilderment. They were asked to go ahead and act like sheep in the midst of wolves. They were to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out more laborers; they were told to carry no purse, no bag, no tunic, no sandals and to greet no one of the road. They were told to eat whatever is set before them; to say peace to those who welcome them and if they encounter hostility, to get back the peace. They were told to heal the sick and to announce that the kingdom has come near.

If I were one of the seventy, I may have a lot of questions. "Lord, are we to reason why or to do or die?" How are we to see what you see; and how are we to do from the meager resources that you provide? Lord, we've never built a kingdom without purse, without tunic, with out sandals? What kind of kingdom are you talking about? We've never done it that way before.

As missioner for Asiamerica Ministry, my vision to to see Asian ministries move from the margins to the mainstream of the Episcopal Church and become integral parts of its total life and mission. I want to see more Asians in the leadership of the church at all levels of our life and at all structures of our activities---in the parishes, in dioceses and in the national church. I want to see more Asian American rectors, bishops and maybe even presiding bishop. This is not easy because Asians are known in many circles as either "model minority" or "forever foreigners." Model minority, because they do not complain; forever foreigners, because they do not assimilate. Rather than confront, they bend like the bamboo and act with their feet. If they see hospitality, they come in; if they sense hostility, they walk out, quietly.

The struggle for vision and how to give shape to that vision is the second struggle of the pioneers and trail blazers.

3. Struggle Three: the Struggle for Acceptance

By the way, I learned that the best three-point sermon was done by John Wesley, the Anglican who became the pioneer of the United Methodist Church. Wesley's three point sermon was about money and it was addressed to the Anglicans. Wesley said, "First point, earn as much money as you can." And all people said, "Amen." "Second point, save as much money as you can" and all people said, "Amen." Third point, Wesley said, "give as much money as you can" and all people said, "Lord, have mercy."

The Asian struggle for Acceptance: Whenever I think of this third struggle, I am reminded of the Asian pioneers in this country, how they suffered in order for us to be accepted by the dominant culture. Let me cite three examples. They are stories of historical proportions and stories we can learn from and lessons we can by.

The Chinese pioneers came to this country in mid-1800's mainly to work in two areas: the mining industry and the transcontinental railroads. They were recruited as cheap laborers and became the fodder for dynamite blasting and so suffered the most in the loss of lives and limbs. But when the mining industry and the railroad industry were accomplished, the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 was promulgated---and the Chinese were forced out of the country. It is a blight in American hospitality that there are two islands in the U.S. that speaks about this disparity: the Ellis Island in New York which welcomed the European immigrants and the Angel Island in San Francisco which processed the deportations of the Chinese.

The second story is about the Japanese immigrants. They came to this country after the expulsion of the Chinese. They took over the Chinese work in railroads, agriculture and small business. They became exemplary citizens but when the Japanese imperial army bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941 and the Second World War erupted in the Pacific, these Japanese American citizens were herded like cattle and banished and relocated into internment camps in remote and uninhabited areas in California, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. Although they were not gassed like the Jews in Germany, these “internment camps” were actually concentration camps. They were told that were done to protect them but the guns were pointed inside the camps not outside the camps.

The third story is about Filipino-Americans. Did you hear of the U.S. “anti-miscegenation law?” It was promulgated to safeguard the purity of the Caucasian race. The Filipinos first came to this country when Philippines became a colony of the United States from 1900-1946. Like the Chinese and Japanese, they were recruited as cheap labor to farm the fields of California and Hawaii and to work in the canneries of Alaska. They were all young males when they came but were not allowed to go home, to marry and bring their wives---and under the “anti-miscegenation law,” were prohibited from marrying Caucasians. Thus they ended up old, lonely and childless bachelors until they died.

Today things have changed and much have improved. For example, just in the Bay Area, the new deputy Mayor of San Francisco is Chinese; the Filipino mayor of Milpitas is Filipino and the San Jose international airport was named after the Japanese congressman Norman Mineta. These are just some of the few gains of Asians in the American society but it can be said that “if the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church,” the blood, sweat, tears and prayers of our forebears brought the blessings that we get today.

Conclusion

In another way of saying, “we are standing today on the shoulders of the Asian American pioneers and trail blazers who opened the gateways for us from their blood, sweat and tears.” In the Church, the tears of Li Tim Oi had flowed into the mainstream and created a river of acceptance. Thirty years later after her controversial ordination, in 1971, the Anglican Communion agreed to the ordination of women. In 1976, the Episcopal Church approved the ordination of women and in 1989 ordained Barbara Harris to become the first female bishop in the Episcopal Church.

The question for us today as descendants of Florence Li Tim Oi and our Asian American pioneers, is how we can use our historical and cultural experiences to feel the pain of others who likewise suffer from the many “isms” of our time. For while it is true that things have improved since the time of our forbears, the evils of racism, sexism and discrimination continues to plague the structures of our church and society. Often they do not die but simply mutate and morph into new forms and against new minorities as against the gays, lesbians and other gender minorities. A few weeks ago, I listen to an Arab-Muslim American who express their desire to be accepted in light of the current “Islamophobia” in the United States.

The challenge for us who are the legacies of Li Tim Oi and the early Asian American pioneers is how to become the new trail blazers, explorers, discoverers, entrepreneurs, pioneers and *avant garde* for change. Today, as we engaged in holy conversation in this holy place, may the Lord speak anew, through the Holy Spirit and commission us afresh to come laborers and to bpray for more laborers and to heal and to proclaim the “the kingdom of God has come near.”

Season's Recipe



JOONG



- 1 pound dried black-eyed peas**
- 5 pounds sweet (mochi) rice**
- 3/8 cup sea salt**
- 54 (1-inch square) pieces pork belly**
- 1 teaspoon sea salt**
- 1 teaspoon powdered Chinese five-spice**
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil**
- 1 pound lup cheong (sweet Chinese sausage), chopped fine**
- 20 large and 20 small fresh green ti leaves, washed**
- 20 bamboo leaves**
- 18 to 20 salted duck egg yolks**

Cover black-eyed peas in water by 2 inches; soak overnight. Drain.

Soak mochi rice with 3/8 cup salt in water to cover for 2 hours; drain. Combine pork belly with 1 teaspoon salt and five-spice; mix well and set aside.

Using a very large bowl, combine peas, mochi rice, oil and lup cheong; mix well.

To form wrappers: Use a pyramid-shaped joong mold (available in Chinatown). Line the mold horizontally with two ti leaves slightly off the apex, overflowing the sides. Fold a bamboo leaf in half to form a V; the shiny side should be out with the back of the leaf facing the filling. Fold corner of the base from the center to form an "ear" or cone. Push into center of mold, 45 degrees off the horizontal so that the lined mold will look like a star-burst pattern.

Place a serving spoon's worth of filling in bottom. With fingers, make a well in the rice mixture. Place duck egg yolk into the depression and surround with pork pieces. Cover with rice and tamp down. Fold leaves over mixture. Trim as needed and tie with cotton string.

Steam until done, 5 hours or 2-1/2 hours using pressure cooker. Serve hot or at room temperature. Makes 18 to 20.