

MARQUAND READER

Volume 8, Issue 14: Week of January 31, 2011

A newsletter furthering the educational mission of Ecumenical Daily Worship at YDS.

THIS WEEK IN MARQUAND

Services begin at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!

Monday, January 31: *Great Expectations: A Service of Love*, graduating student Fannie Braboy preaching

Tuesday, February 1: *Listening for God*, in the style of Quaker Meeting

Wednesday, February 2: *Sung Morning Prayer*, drawing from African-American traditions

Thursday, February 3: *Celebrating Lunar New Year*, led by Yale Divinity Korean Association/
Pan Asian Community

Friday, February 4: *Community Eucharist*: Prof. Teresa Berger preaching, and Prof. Jan Holton presiding

Roundtable Discussion ~ Wednesday February 2, 12:30-1:15 p.m. in the Common Room.

Lunar New Year

By Blenda Im and Joan Javier

This Thursday, February 2, will mark the beginning of Lunar New Year, an East Asian celebration of the new year according to a lunisolar calendar. It is commemorated in Mainland China (as *Chūn Jié*), as well as regions with significant Chinese populations such as Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore and Taiwan. The Lunar New Year is also a major holiday in countries that follow the Chinese-influenced lunisolar calendar, such as Vietnam (*Tết*) and Korea (*Seolnal*). These celebrations share common themes and rituals such as family reunion, paying respect to elders, and sharing blessings.

In China, the New Year, or Spring Festival (*Chūn Jié*), has been celebrated in January or February for millennia, usually on the second new moon after the winter solstice. New Year is a time of sweeping out the old and welcoming the new, symbolized by wearing new clothes. Debts are paid up or canceled, and houses are decorated with papercuts and auspicious poetic couplets. New Year visits are paid to friends and relatives. The biggest part of any Chinese New Year celebration is the New Year's Eve dinner shared with family. Many mainland Chinese will travel back to their natal homes to celebrate with a New Year's Eve feast with traditional dishes.



Paper lanterns help decorate for Lunar New Year.

During Lunar New Year, Koreans are almost bound to encounter jam-packed highways while traveling back their hometowns. After reuniting with family members, Koreans savor a warm serving of *tteokguk*. *Tteokguk* is a traditional Korean dish that comes hand-in-hand with *Seolnal*, and consists of sliced rice cakes in seasoned broth, typically topped with julienned eggs, marinated meat, spring onions and edible seaweed. A Korean symbolically becomes a year older upon eating a bowl of *tteokguk* – perhaps this reflects the communal emphasis in Korean social structures, as one’s age is determined not solely by the day and month in which she/he was born, but together with one’s peers at the beginning of each new year. Another major custom of *Seolnal* is *saebae*, in which the younger generation bows to parents and grandparents to thank them and to wish them good health and fortune for the incoming year. In return, the older generation members that have received *saebae* bless the children and grandchildren by providing *saebae* money and well-wishing remarks.

In China, red packets containing cash are also given out as presents to children and unmarried family members by their elders. The traditional Chinese, lunisolar calendar works on a 60-year cycle, combining ten Heavenly Stems and twelve Earthly Branches. The latter correspond to certain animals--this is the year of the Rabbit. Those born in the Year of the Rabbit (i.e. those who will turn 24, 36, 48, 60 or 72 this lunar year) may wear red at a New Year celebration. New Year is a colorful, noisy celebration - firecrackers have been banned in many cities but they are still ubiquitous in the Chinese speaking world.

We hope you will join the Yale Divinity Korean Association/Pan Asian Community in Marquand on Thursday as we celebrate the blessings, prosperity and newness of life that is accessible and available through God whenever we begin anew. And if, this lunar year, you will turn 24, 36, 48, 60, or 72, you are invited to wear something red to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit. We look forward to seeing you in worship.

Round-Table Discussion

Join Adele Crawford, Colin Britt and Christa Swenson on Wednesday for a roundtable discussion of worship in Marquand Chapel, what it means for ecumenism, and how you can apply it to your home or future church. Wednesday, February 2, 12:30-1:15 PM in the Common Room. All are welcome.

The Marquand Reader is edited by the chapel staff and issued every Monday when classes are in session. It highlights the week’s services and other special opportunities and events. Additional articles by the Chapel Staff and the faculty in Liturgical Studies will explore historical, liturgical, and denominational topics, in order to further the educational goals of Marquand Chapel. Contact one of the chapel staff if you have any suggestions, comments, or questions.

The Marquand Chapel Team:

Adele Crawford, *Interim Dean of Chapel* * Colin Britt, *Acting Director of Chapel Music*

Christa Swenson, *Liturgical Coordinator*

Kyle Brooks, Christian Brost, James deBoer, Alex Peterson, *Chapel Ministers*

Mark Miller, *Gospel Choir Director* * Sara Marks and Michael Sansoni, *Chapel Choir Directors*

Nat Gumbs, Benjamin Straley, Noah Wynne-Morton, *Organists*