

Greetings,

We, the family of five, wish your merry Christmas and happy New Year! Over the last decade, we've shared with you how God blessed us. It has been a family tradition. Again, this year we are glad to share a bit and pieces of God's blessings.

"I'll Be Home for Christmas" was Christmas music we have heard most time this season of Advent and Christmas. The song had to do with the Advent ministry of Saint James United Methodist Church, West Friendship, Maryland, United States of America—our church!

So far, everyone in our family seems to accept this year as the year of learning.

**Theodore Atticus**, 4 this month, must be the one who learned something new the most. Beginning with hundreds of "why questions," Theodore has mastered all the reasons why one would cause the other. Sometime ago he stopped asking those why questions. He began to show strong interest in numbers and characters of English. Mother YoungHoon has been busy placing little notes with numbers and words Theodore may learn all the time.

Theodore has been popular to many folks, including the young and old members of the church, neighbors in Olney community, and store managers at a couple of grocery stores, such as H-Mart. Theodore would talk to others what's going on at home. We had to be careful of our behaviors. He never failed in saying a hello and a goodbye to the workers of the stores and made them happy.

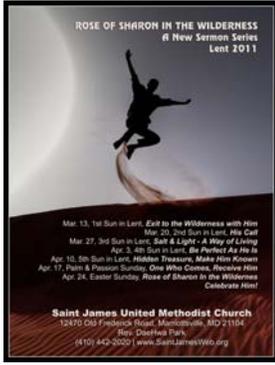
**Jeremy Solo**, 11, finished Elementary education at Cashell ES last June and began his Middle School at Redland MS, Derwood, MD. He chose "mocktail" for apprenticeship. Shirley Temple was popular. From being a senior at ES to a freshman at MS seemed to be a challenge, yet Jeremy settled down without any problem. Surrounded by many competitive kids, Jeremy never missed his championship in Math. During summer, Jeremy enjoyed as a part of Olney Swim team. He wasn't an excellent swimmer, yet never gave up swimming a couple of hours each day. "Learning Upgrade" had been a computer software for Math and Reading and Comprehension program Jeremy enjoyed over the last couple of years. He started a new program, called "Brain Pop." Currently, he subscribes it and spends a couple of hours to check it out a day after school. I-pod Touch has been his No. 1 asset for fun stuff. Early this year, Jeremy loved to play "Call of Duties" with PS III with others through online network. Over the last couple of months, he showed a great interest in "Hot Shots," a golf video game with PS II. He says now he would like to play real golf, once he never showed interest before. Interesting! Playing piano mostly at home, Jeremy also played violin at school.

**YoungHoon**, mom, has been busy working on her master's program in the instrumental education at the University of Maryland. Her daily commuting mileage was more than 70 miles round trip. She seemed to forget fatigue with her own joy from the learning opportunity. Rather than how to teach kids, like me, she seems to spend much time to learn about how to be a nice teacher for equal and effective teaching for all kids, even for the kids with learning disability. Her graduate study seems to take mom away from us. I am thankful for mom, who never failed in helping us ready for school each morning as early as 6 a.m. Meanwhile, mom offered a piano lesson for about a group of 10 kids. She had an annual recital with these children at Oakdale Emory UMC, Olney, MD. Jeremy and I played, Handel's Sarabande and Elton's John's Crocodile Rock, and Bach's Two Minuets.

Dad, **Rev. DaeHwa Park**, called by many, had a pretty busy year. He would violate a daily routine he set for his family at the beginning of the year, especially for 4:30—6:30 p.m., a family time for us. I can count with fingers how many days he was with us in those early evenings.

Dad used to say that God allowed him to learn about something new all the time. This year at Saint James, according to him, God allowed him to learn about a unique ministry at a church, located in a rural area that seems not to be a rural district any more.





Dad would make strange sound and accent while driving for us during weekends. He said that the oral practice made him sound like English as Native. He also said that people from the church wanted him to be more like them in speech as well as in behavior. It seems to be hard tasks for dad English as the Second Language.

Changes took place all the times around the church. Dad showed us an impression to make a constant effort to help out those who feel challenged by those changes that were actually inevitable. In April, dad went to Orlando, FL for Exponential Conference 2011. Since then, he often spoke something about multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-racial, although I don't feel we would need to specify a racial distinction in our lives. The experience seems to help dad a lot for his leadership in the Church and its connection. In August, dad also went to a leadership training, called "Global Leadership Summit." He would talk about a website he developed for Grow Congregation through the Asian American Ministry at [www.journeyforthebread.org](http://www.journeyforthebread.org). Actually, I haven't chance to check it out.

**Gideon Thory**, 14 in January, is getting closer to the age with a driving permit. Ha ha. That's me. Throughout the year I have felt much responsibility to look after Theodore as well as Jeremy. While mother was on her way for the study and dad on his way home, I had to take care of Theodore. For Jeremy, I had to tell him about how to survive Middle School days. Somehow, I would feel sleepy almost all seasons of the year. Taking a nap right after school became a routine. This is the year I started drinking a bottled Starbucks's coffee. I also learned a lot this year. Hip-hop was one I like the most. One thing that I would like to lift up is what I learned from Crossover Community Church, Tampa, Florida. Dad and I were invited by Pastor Tommy Kyllonen to Flavor Fest 2011, in which we learned a new way of praising God through hip-hop music. BSA activity was the other learning opportunity as an extracurricular.

As usual, **our family** traveled this year for fun as well as for rejuvenation. Beginning with a clergy family retreat of Yonsei University at Virginia Beach, VA in June, our summer was a series of road trip, to a beach to the other. Miami Beach wasn't excellent than we thought. Our trip to Key West was cool: Feeding a large fish in a heavy tropical rain, reaching up to the south end of the States, visiting Earnest Hemingway's home, and an afternoon on a glass bottom boat. We learn how big our country is. On our way home we stopped by Myrtle Beach, where dad met an old pastor friend, Rev. Pai. Howard County Fair was a new experience for us explore the unique lifestyles of the children of farmers, known as 4H kids. Jeremy and I had a week long BSA camping in Penn State. Our summer ends with another week at Somerset, Pennsylvania without wi-fi at all.

We also visited **our friends** in Greenbelt, Maryland during Labor Day weekend. This year we felt sad, because we could not see any more our beloved friend, Virginia L. Hunt, who passed away from weakness caused by a bad fall during Summer. A couple of other friends, Louise, Maxine and Kitty whom we used to see didn't show up during the Labor Day Festival.

**Michael and Chadan** invited our family several times over the year. We came over their house in Pasadena, MD for overnight or weekend walk. Walking around a regional park was what the grown-ups liked to do, Jeremy and I loved to watch Television, a nice, thin and BIG! Michael and Chadan invited our family to Hershey Park, PA when Michael bought a new car, KIA something. We made our own chocolate bars. Another learning opportunity for a long way of chocolate we enjoy! Great to have an extended family!

Over the year we visited the Gate of Heaven to say a hello to our beloved uncle, **InHwa** and our beloved grandaunt, **HanJung Kwac** at George Washington Cemetery. We miss them badly. I hope they are happy with God in heaven.

We always pray for **our friends** closely connected with us here in the States and overseas in Uruguay, in Guatemala, in Mexico, in Ukraine, and in South Korea in particular. Some are known to us through dad's recent mission trip and global ministry, others are known directly from my recent trip to South Korea or our sponsorship through Compassion International. We hope everyone a very merry Christmas. We hope Mr. C brings the very Christmas wish for each one of the friends of ours.

Peace,

The Park Family.

