

# Saint Elizabeth's Episcopal Church: A Legacy of Service

## Whole-Souled Devotion

*"They loved her because she loved them, and there arose a remarkable esprit de corps in all who were connected with Saint Elizabeth's House."* – THE RIGHT REVEREND HENRY

BOND RESTARICK speaking about Deaconess Emma Britt Drant.



Informal tea at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Edmund T. Simpson on Kaula Street to welcome Deaconess Sands, August 22, 1884. Standing, left to right: The Rev. William E. Pownall, —, the Rev. John Usher, the Rt. Rev. Henry Bond Restarick, —, Mr. Robert Parsons, the Rev. Edmund T. Simpson, Mrs. Luke Asen, the Rev. Kong Yin Tet, Deaconess Emma Britt Drant, Mrs. Kong Yin Tet Seated, left to right —, Mrs. Henry Restarick, Deaconess Sands, Sister Beattie, Sister Ahernah, Mrs. Kong Yin Tet, Others attending but not identified or pictured: Mrs. Edmund T. Simpson, Mrs. L. F. Folsom, Miss Stevens, Miss Marsh, and Miss Pownall.

In 1902, Bishop Henry Bond Restarick assigned Deaconess Emma Britt Drant to the Pālama and Kālihi districts of Honolulu. He stated that "Deaconess Drant had in a wonderful degree enthusiasm, whole-souled devotion, and inspiring and persistent effort." On October 6, 1902, Deaconess Drant opened a settlement house in a rented cottage on Robello Lane. She named it Saint Elizabeth's House after the mother of Saint John the Baptist, and after Charlotte Elizabeth Procter, the wife of her generous

benefactor. Chinese Christian leaders from Saint Peter's Mission, including Mrs. Kong Fai Tsin, the Rev. Kong Yin Tet, and Mr. and Mrs. Luke Asen, assisted the deaconess in her initial work among the Chinese in the area. Outreach efforts soon expanded to Hawaiians and other ethnic groups.

Saint Elizabeth's House offered programs to help participants assimilate into American culture and improve their employment prospects. A night school for Chinese men held classes in



Daniel G. C. Wu (standing, left) and Deaconess Drant (standing, right) with other church workers and mission communicants of Saint Elizabeth's, circa 1905. By the time Deaconess Drant resigned her post in February 1905, there were twenty-five volunteers assisting paid staff in the various programs at Saint Elizabeth's Mission.



Mr. and Mrs. Luke Asen and Deaconess Emma Britt Drant (top row, left) with Chinese men at Saint Elizabeth's House, circa 1902. Classes taught in the night school for Chinese men provided them with necessary skills for future employment. By 1907, the night school also certified Hawaiian, Korean and Portuguese men.

arithmetic, typewriting, and English. For Chinese and Hawaiian girls, there were sewing and cooking classes. Other activities included two branches of the Girls' Friendly Society, and a glee club for older Hawaiian boys.

Religious instruction and worship were central to settlement house activities. There was a Sunday School and weekly worship services conducted by guest clergy and lay readers from the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew. The first service occurred on October 19, 1902. The night school held evening prayer after every class. Through these activities, many were drawn to the Christian faith. Two former night school students were called to the ordained ministry: The Venerable Samuel Kauyang Lee became archdeacon of Hong Kong and Kowloon. The Rev. Daniel G. C. Wu served as a missionary priest among the Chinese of California. For his significant contributions to the Episcopal Church, he is commemorated on April 6 of the liturgical calendar, A Great Cloud of Witnesses.



The Rev. Daniel G. C. Wu

In March of 1905, Deaconess Drant resigned for health reasons. Deaconess Sands continued the work. She established a day school for Chinese women and a kindergarten for Chinese girls. Other deaconesses provided dedicated service to Saint Elizabeth's in the years that followed. Deaconess Evelyn Wile served from 1906-1907; and Deaconess Sarah Frances Swinburne from 1937 to 1944.

