

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH  
140 FOURTH STREET NORTH  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

October 12th. 1942.

My dear Mr. Simons,

It is good to hear from you a cross the years. I often think of the happy years in Lawrence and the good friends there.

The Saturday Night Club gave me more than I realized at the time in the association with men of such varied interests.

I have been helped by learning from your attitude a certain breadth and tolerance which has been of great help in my peculiar work here.

No matter how keenly you felt you were right, you always listened to the other man's side of the question, and no matter how prejudiced, you always gave him credit for what seemed reasonable in his argument even though you disagreed strongly with the rest of it.

That quality gave you a certain charm in association- as I have tried to follow it, it has certainly given me opportunities and made for me friends.

This city is now an army camp. They have taken over all the leading hotels. A cartoon in a daily paper represented a private writing home from the Vinoy (our swankiest hotel). He writes "I see by the sign on the door this room is \$30 a day. I don't know when I shall ever pay for it."

There are 17000 men here, and they are a fine lot. Well behaved, orderly and courteous. But when I think of Camp Doniphan I wish I might soldier in this war rather than the last.

You are very kind, but there is no reason I should be in "Who's Who". The growth of the city has resulted in a great growth in the church. As my Bishop reminded me recently there may be other Episcopal churches that total a hundred thousand a year in congregations, but they have a staff of clergy and all preach at different times, while I am alone. But I feel utterly inadequate.

Last Spring I reached 68, the retiring age, and offered my resignation. The parish insisted that I remain, and I am doing so with pride and with humility. My health is good and I get through with a tremendous lot of work, thanks to Mrs. Edwards who keeps me well and remembers everything. She is the one who should be in Whos Who.

Thank you again for your letter- and for yourself.

Faithfully yours,

Evan A. Edwards.