



The Angelos

Parish of the Resurrection Newsletter

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Rector's Christmas Message:

Dear friends in Christ,
Christmas! What a beautiful time of year for the Christian. The Christian pilgrim spends the four weeks of Advent preparing spiritually – practicing the inner watching and waiting for the Lord, the being inwardly still in His Love, simplifying our “outer” activities, striving to not be influenced by the



material and commercialized society around us. At Christmas, the Christian is called to be free from the noise of our society, from the interior noise in our minds, in order to hear the Word of God, and, like Mother Mary, to conceive and give birth to Christ within us – to co-operate with the Love of God at work in us...changing us, changing our homes, communities and world into places of peace and love. Peace, hope, joy and love to you all this most Holy Season.
Father Gerald+

The Fruit of Advent

By Floy Doull

In the booklet of reflections that a few of us are using for Advent, it was suggested that each day we write down two things – something, and then someone, in our lives for which we give thanks. On the first day, I wrote “the Parish of the Resurrection”, and in revealing this to a dear friend, I found that she had written the same thing. Many of us can easily understand this, because we have found abundance of life here.

It is apparent within our parish life, and evident also to those who visit us and to friends who know us individually and rejoice with us that we have found our way to this spiritual home.

To call this parish a “spiritual home” does not diminish its importance in our everyday lives, as we drop by for coffee or lunch at the Emmaus Room, or meet one another there for other activities and just pleasant companionship. It is the hub of our lives, where we go forth to other things, and then return to a warm hearth and warm friends. But it is far more than a drop-in center because principally we find our relation to God there, not just in the Sunday and Wednesday liturgies, but in the call to us to the service of others in His name. When we tally up all the hours and effort that are given to the various ministries of this parish, it is an extraordinary commitment. Think of what has gone on just this fall: the Emmaus Room Café, the Alpha course, Children’s Church, the music ministry, visiting shut-ins, and the production of our much admired Nativity display, to mention some that immediately come to mind.

We might belong to clubs or engage in team sports, to which we have a certain devotion. But some aspects of our lives have such wide significance that they are one with life itself. Our families, sometimes our work if it is to us a vocation, have that character. For me, and not only for me, the Parish of the Resurrection has that sort of importance.

Ramblings

By Melvin Piercey

Today I took the time to briefly review all the past editions of our parish newsletter. The newsletter

began back in the summer of the year 2000 with the aim of communicating to our parishioners and friends what was going on in the parish , then called the Parish of Brigus South River with its four separate churches each struggling with trying to pay its share of the cost of having a full time clergy, paying Synod assessment and trying to maintain six different buildings. There seemed to be very little time and energy left to focus on the important things in the life of a Christian community which, I believe, is so amply summed up in the mission expressed by our diocese...*to know Christ and make him known..*

Today our outlook is very different. Surely, we still have to face the reality of our free will revenue falling short of our operating expenses, but we are not consumed by that reality. Our focus is on the more important goals of developing a caring welcoming community, reaching out to others in a variety of ways, learning to know Christ through Christian Education programs and being innovative and progressive in our style of worship in order to make it meaningful to a new generation of people. As a result of that new focus, we now have a congregation that is growing in an area of a very static population. We have a church which is different in many respects

from other churches in our area..a church which can provide a real alternative for people. We have a church which offers to people not just a place of worship on Sunday morning, bur a vibrant Christian community where individuals find comfort, support and where they can live their faith seven days a week..

This rich *community* experience was brought home to me during the past few weeks as I became involved in the Christmas project of creating a nativity scene. Several years ago my wife bought for me a set of plans from the Winfield Collection.. (I think she may have had something else in mind.) Our dear Father Gerald upon hearing of the plans in my possession very quickly seized the opportunity and asked me to lead the project for our church this Christmas.

On a Sunday morning in mid November, we asked our congregation for their support and help,

calling for anyone with artistic talents to volunteer their time and for others to support the project financially. The response was very impressive. Several men volunteered to cut out the nine pieces and a group of very talented people took on the painting. With a little carpentry and electrical skills the job was completed in plenty of time for the Christmas season.

Support for the project did not end there. A goodly number of people contributed more than enough money to cover the cost to date and allow for the completion of the project with three additional pieces at a future time. We also acknowledge the contribution of paint. from Crag Smith of Smith's Home Hardware, Topsail Road.

I have chosen to talk about this project, not because it is unique in any particular way. In fact it is only one of many projects that people of our parish are only too happy to



Shirley Holden performs her magic one of the Maji.

support. I am thinking about the many hours of volunteer time contributed to committee work, to Children's Church, to our youth, music and adult education programs, to fund raising and a host of other ministries. It is simply that the effort put into this project and the enjoyment that seemed to emanate from it made this project a little special for me and helped me to appreciate the value of being involved in a Christian community that is alive and well. Or then again, maybe I may have been touched with a little of the spirit of Christmas.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in bringing this newsletter to you during the past year and encourage others of you who wish to write articles for this important communication tool to do so

.
Have a wonderful Christmas season with those you love.