

The Angelos

Anglican Parish of the Resurrection
(Serving the southern regions of Conception Bay North)

Newsletter
Vol. 8, No. 1, March 2007

Rector's Report for the Year 2006

2006 has been a tremendous year with much ministry ongoing. It is not my intention to report of all ministry within the parish, but to highlight some of the major themes and developments of this past year.

The Invitation

Having moved in to our "New House for the Church" in August of 2006, we have realized a dream and a vision. A dream of one "House" for the Church in our parish; and a vision of positioning ourselves to reach out to our region for Christ more effectively.

Oratory

Liturgy in our new Oratory is truly a transforming experience where we are drawn into shared baptismal life and ministry; where we are changed by the proclamation of the Word from the ambo; where we are united with Christ and one another in Communion. Liturgy in the new Oratory is changing us from being spectators to being participants in the life and mission of our Risen Lord. It is indeed a place of change and transformation. It is a place where we should not hesitate to invite others to hear the Good News of Life in Christ.

Emmaus Room café

The Emmaus Room is also proving to be a place that is changing us. Not only are we developing a shared common life day by day – stopping by for coffee, conversation, fellowship, pastoral care, prayer – but the wider community has also been responding to our open invitation. It is my hope that we can not only continue to "grow" our daily common life together, but that we will be untiring in our invitation to others to join us in our Emmaus Room Café.

Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday morning Breakfast Bible Study continues to be a wonderful gathering for fellowship and Christian teaching. The invitation to breakfast is an open invitation, and a great opportunity to invite others, and to be integrated into the faith community.

Seniors Café

The "Senior's Café" is a new ministry that began this fall with our Emmaus Room. This is another exciting opportunity of invitation and gathering for our seniors and shut-ins. There has

been a very good response to this ministry thus far, and it has good potential for further development. This café gathers on the first Thursday of the month and is another opportunity to invite others to our new Home.

Youth Café

The Youth Café is yet another new ministry that was born with our Emmaus Room. Some youth meet every second Saturday for supper and some form of activity. There are six or so youth from the parish that gather, and they are encouraged to bring friends. There are presently six adults who take turns facilitating the café. This ministry has potential, but if it is to grow and be effective, it needs – not only the invitation and welcome of youth - but also a dedicated youth leader. Let us continue to keep this ministry need in our prayers.

Alpha

Our first Alpha course in our Emmaus Room was run this fall, with seven of the group being new to our parish. Our Alpha programming continues to be not only a vehicle for Christian Education and Experience, but also another opportunity to invite others to enter and share the Christian journey.

Children's Church

The Children's Church is also operating out of our Emmaus Room at the Proclamation of the Word during the liturgy. The new doors to the Oratory, being closed when the children go out for children's church, allows both the Oratory and Emmaus Room to be used simultaneously. The Children's Church has also showed signs of some new growth this fall. We need to continue to invite and encourage families with young children to come and participate in our life together.

New Growth

Since moving into our "New House for the Church," there has been new growth in our congregation. This is exactly what we hoped would happen. There are many opportunities for us to invite others into our new home. There should be new faces amongst us all the time. We are now very well positioned to welcome others for Christ. Let us get on with the inviting! Come and see!

The Dedication of the Oratory and Mission Weekend

On the weekend of September 22-24, we celebrated a beautiful mission weekend with Bishop Eddie and Emmie Marsh, who

came and encouraged us in our mission as a church. The celebration culminated with the dedication of the Oratory on Sunday evening with Bishop Pitman. The Lord calls us to be a "MISSION" church, to be reaching out to others, setting hearts and minds free in Christ. Now that we are in our new home – a home whose building principles are hospitality, mission, and liturgy – we need to LEARN to be more effective at doing MISSION.

The Furniture

Liturgical Furniture for Oratory

All of the liturgical furniture for the Oratory has been made by local artisans, with all the labour being a donation of love to the parish: Altar, Font, Ambo, Presider's chair and table, Tabernacle, Ambry, credence table, gifts table, candle holders. We are thankful for the simplicity of our Oratory, and for the simplicity of the furniture that better enables us to encounter the Lord when we gather for liturgy.

Emmaus Room Furniture

Our Emmaus Room is a beautiful space for gathering, building relationships, and encountering God in Love. Every piece of Emmaus Room furniture – from the children's table in St. Nicholas play room, to the pictures on the wall, to the fireplace – all was generously donated. Thankyou. Thankyou. Thankyou.

The Money

Pledge campaign

Now that we are in our new Home, pledging is more important now than at any time in the process. We do now have a loan against the new facility of approximately \$150,000 (in addition to the \$60k against St. Andrew's). Consequently, over and above our basic operating costs, we now have an additional annual \$6303.00 to pay against our line of credit on the building. Therefore if you are not already offering an additional weekly or monthly gift toward the building fund, I am asking that you do so.

Free-will offering

In 2006 it cost approximately \$108,000.00 for the basic operation of the parish and its ongoing ministry and commitments (this figure does not include capital costs for the New House Project). 69.7% of that requirement was given freely in 2006. That is to say, 31% of our basic operating costs had to be fundraised. I am

asking all families and individuals to look carefully at what they are giving freely in support of ministry & mission in this parish, and to begin and continue to increase annually on a percentage basis. 100% of our basic operating costs should be given freely from our people. We should only be fundraising for projects and to support other charities. I am asking you to make annual increments to your free-will offering in support of the mission of this parish.

Having noted the above, and on a positive note, the free-will (envelope only) offering is continuing to go in the right direction and is up \$13,000.00 over 2005 (from \$62,239 in 2005, to \$75,332 in 2006). In addition to the envelope offering moving in the right direction, an additional \$31,000 has been given freely toward the New House Project in the form of pledge commitments and donations. In other words, with our "overall" givings for 2006 reaching a total of \$106,332.00, it is obviously realistic for our parish to reach our basic operating budget through free will giving. Let us continue to strive to meet our basic operating costs by increasing, on an income percentage basis, our free-will/envelope offerings.

Unsold Property

We still have one property that remains unsold in Makinsons. There have been many viewings, but little or no interest. If we can't get the value we want for the property, we may consider the materials in the Makinsons building for future development on our new House for the Church. We borrowed \$60,000 against this property, which is currently a liability.

The Thank You

2006 has been a phenomenal year for our parish. A tremendous amount of work has been accomplished. A tremendous amount of people have offered of themselves in many different ways. As your Rector, as your Priest, as your Pastor, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Our ministry is a shared ministry. Our work is a shared work. Our joy is a shared joy. Our love is a shared love. Thank you.

Fundraise Committee

In 2006 the fundraising committee grossed \$80,091. The fundraising events were the Honda Gold Wing; Golf Tournament; Dinner Theatre; Auction; Fish and Bruise; Table Cloth; Blueberry Festival Concession; and Salmon Dinner. \$17,000 went to general operating; remainder to building fund.

Thankyou to all those who have worked, and continue to work so hard to help us make our financial commitments.

The Going Forward

Positioned for Mission and the Building up of the Church

The Lord has led us to a very exciting juncture in our life as a parish and as a people of God. All of our liturgical, catechetical, architectural and administrative renewal and restructuring since the fall of 1999, has brought us to this moment. We have been putting foundational stones in place over these years, foundational stones to build on. The Risen Christ is the chief cornerstone; the apostles, the Holy Scriptures and the Living Tradition are the foundational stones; and we, the people of God, are the Church that is being built upon the Rock. We are now strategically positioned for this time to reach out for Christ, to build up the Church, and to proclaim freedom for captives.

Let us continue to step out in faith, and win this place for Christ.

Yours in the Risen Lord Jesus,
Father Gerald+

Annual Meeting 2006

By Melvin Piercey

On March 6th the first annual meeting since the opening of the new facility took place in the Emmaus Room. Annual meetings are normally something that people don't look forward to, but this one was a little different. People had been noticing for some months that there were more people attending each Sunday and the place was alive with activity. There was a positive air afoot and people were being caught up in it. The meeting would be a time when we could see the bottom lines and get a better idea of the progress that was apparent around us.

The rector gave his annual report which is recorded in this newsletter. The outgoing treasurer, Allison Taylor, then gave her financial report followed by the proposed budget for 2007 presented by Alfred Efford.

A number of new members were elected to Vestry including Darlene Mahoney, Janice Mercer, Ben Grunert, and Eric Snow. They replaced Jackie Taylor, Robert Taylor, Rodney Mugford and Patsy Sommerton. Ben Grunert was also elected as people's worden.

In addition Gladys Harvey, and Floy Doull were elected to attend this year's Senod with Melvin Piercey elected as an alternate.

Highlights of Financial Report and Budget

- * Free will offering 2006**\$75,332.**
(This amount is up from 2005 when \$62,239 was offered in regular weekly offerings...an increase of \$13,093 or 21%)
- * Donations, pledge commitments to "New House for the Church Project was app. **\$31,000.**
- * Fundraising Income before expenses was \$80,091 and after expenses **\$35,421.**
- * Cost of New Building Project

Land.....	30,000
Building.....	647,394
Furniture and equip....	33,519
Sign.....	1,472
Total	\$ 712,385
- * Long term debt

Bank of Montreal	\$142,482
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 (This debt is in the form of a line of credit with monthly blended payments of **\$1,224.**)

A Remarkable Journey

By Winston Bishop

Although some people may not realize it, I truly believe that God has a plan for each and every one of us. It's a journey that sometimes is very hard and may even make us question our faith in God and in humanity itself. My family and I have been on such a journey. One that has had many twists and turns, many ups and downs, but through the grace of God, we always managed to get through it all. But something was always missing from our lives, something that I wish I had found many years ago. That something is our new faith in Jesus Christ who I now know, was always with us. Only He could have brought us out of the storm that we were in. As it is written in John 6:20, "So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which we were going."

The way in which everything has unfolded for us is truly remarkable! It started with a simple decision one Sunday back in September to finally take our family to church. We somehow knew that this was going to make a difference to us. The greeting we received from Father Gerald and other members of the congregation that day was something that would be the beginning of a life changing experience. The Christian atmosphere that we felt here was incredible! After a few weeks or so we were invited and encouraged by several members of the congregation to come to the Alpha Course which was about to

begin. It was to become the single most important decision that we have ever made. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all of you who are carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest."

They say that for some people, becoming a true Christian takes time but for others, it can come all of a sudden like a rush of energy through your body. I guess for us, we were in need and were ready to accept this new faith. On the first night of Alpha, as we listened to Nicky Gumball speak about who Jesus was and what he did for us, he presented it in such a way that I have never heard before. As one woman put it, it was as though I was in darkness all of my life and someone had just turned on the light. All of a sudden our world made sense and we realized that Jesus has been leading us all along to get to this point. The emptiness that was always in the pit of our stomach was gone and we were filled with such a joy that I can only describe as amazing! The message we received from Alpha has been further developed by the leadership of Father Gerald and the fellowship we have enjoyed with the wonderful people of our congregation.

For those of you who may have some doubt as to what I am saying, I am encouraging you to please give it a try. You have nothing to lose. In a society such as the one we are living in today, a Christian way of life is the only way of life. It's not boring, it's exciting! It's not fake, it is very real! We have laughed more together as a family in the last 6 months than we have in the last 6 years. Even our kids are experiencing the same kind of happiness. My family and I are living testimonies that Jesus can really change your life if you would just give Him a chance!

I was deeply moved by a painting I saw of Jesus standing outside a door with only a handle on the inside. Under the picture was this verse from Revelation 4:20. "Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his house and eat with him, and he will eat with me."

I'm so glad we opened that door!

Visitors from Far Away

By Olive Grunert

It was a beautiful service in the Oratory of the Parish of the Resurrection in South River on a cold February day. It had been a wonderful weekend - a mission weekend with Bishop Len and June Whitten. Father Gerald welcomed the visitors as he does at every service and my eye caught two people, sitting there faces beaming and I decided I would sit with them at the end of the service.

They were both so impressed with our Emmaus Room and Oratory and THE SERVICE that they readily agreed to this little write up in our next Angelos newsletter.

First, there was Gwen Wildman, a very nice English lady who

was visiting Father Gerald and family from London England. In her own words she said, and I quote "The people are so genuine, warm and embracing, the service was so moving. . "I am so impressed with the Emmaus Room and the Oratory and I was really comfortable in there."

Then there was Frances Fedorowicz from Headington, Oxford. She too was visiting the Westcott's. The warm smile filled this lady's face as she spoke softly and genuinely about her wonderful visit.. She was amazed at the parish building, the Oratory and the Emmaus Room and found it comfortable and inviting. She was moved with the service.

These women spoke on and on about the wonderful service, how they were moved by the spirit. They told me they were heading for St. Anthony the next week and to the United States on their continued journey together. I extended our best wishes on behalf of the parish and the staff he Angelos.

Two lovely ladies, retired nurses in our midst, feeling the blessings of our beautiful HOME FOR THE CHURCH. I felt so proud to have them with us, proud to be a part of this parish, as we took our plates and lined up for a pot luck lunch together.

Thanks be to God.

Stewardship

By Melvin Piercey

At our annual meeting on March 6, my eye caught a line on the financial report that generated no discussion at the time, but which I believe has to be explored as a major avenue of stewardship for our people to think about. The line read: Bequest.....\$24,000.

What it says is that a person who is no longer with us had the interest and the faith in our parish that it would continue building God's Kingdom after s/he had gone.

People whom we would consider experts in financing present day churches tell us that at this time when we have a rapidly aging population many millions of dollars are due to change hands over the next few years. Already charities of all stripes are lining up to take advantage of this reality. People who have saved to give to their children or who have property to leave are sometimes unaware of the most effective way to do this. One thing for sure is that property can not be passed on without coming to terms first with the tax man.

The rules about leaving financial and real property to your heirs

or to some charity like your church has not been explored to any great degree by most people. It is a common fact that many people die without a will. This is the first step in taking action on estate planning.

The church encourages you to consider ways of making some type of planned gift to allow the church to continue its work. Many people have supported the church all their lives and, like the person that I referred to at the beginning of the article, have an interest in seeing that work continue. But the time to plan for the transfer of the assets of your estate is now. You cannot plan without information. To that end I encourage you to give it some thought, pick up some pamphlets that are available in the Emmaus Room and come to an information session that is being planned with Kevin Smith for later this spring. Kevin who has a regular article in "Anglican Life" is the *planned giving* representative with our diocese. Kevin can be reached at 709-576-6697 or k_smith@nf.sympatico.ca. More information on the time and place of Kevin's visit will be made when final plans are made.

Parish Fundraising

By Mary Jane Norman
Rector's Warden

At the annual meeting of March 6th the proposed budget for 2007 was presented by Alfred Efford and it included a minimum fundraising target of \$28, 144 or approximately 19.7% of total budget.

A meeting of the Fundraising Steering team met on March 13th to begin organizing for this years events. As good stewards of the wonderful gifts that God has given us, we are called to give our time and talents as well as our financial resources to further the Kingdom of God. The fundraising effort of our church can be most effective when the organizers can call upon a wide group of people in our congregation who are willing to offer their time and talents. Fundraising is not the responsibility of a few; it is the responsibility of many.

I ask you to let us know first of all that you would like to commit to this effort and then discuss with us how you are able to make a contribution. To enable us to do this in an organized way, we ask you to let Melvin Piercey know (528-4247) so that he can generate a list of people that the Committee can call upon.

The Faithful Church

A church is just a building
Until it's filled with LOVE:
It then becomes a worship place,
With blessings from above.

A church is just a building,

Until it's filled with PEACE:
Where bitterness has disappeared,
And deeds of love increase.

A church is just a building,
Till PATIENCE fills the air;
With tender guidance for the flock,
That everyone can share.

A church is just a building,
Until it's filled with trust;
With GOODNESS and SELF CONTROL,
and with FAITHFULNESS,
Forgiveness is a must.

A church is just a building
With windows, doors and walls;
Til GENTLENESS
and SELF CONTROL,
And KINDNESS fill the halls.

A church is really people,
Who love and serve the Lord;
And care for the needs of others,
According to God's Word.