

The Anglican Parish of the Resurrection
Rector's Annual Report for the year 2002

2002 has been a monumental year for, what is now called, the Parish of the Resurrection. The restructuring that began in the fall of 1999 culminated in the fall of 2002 with a series of congregational meetings seeking the mandate to legally dissolve the four congregations and vestries of All Saints, St. Andrew's, St. Augustine's, and St. George's, and to be legally identified as one congregation, one vestry with a new name – the Parish of the Resurrection. In essence, we were asking to make official what we had already become. The diocese approved our request in late 2002, and the celebration of the fact has happened in this new year (and will be an item to recall in next year's report!). The restructuring of our parish is not only significant for us, but it will be a prototype for what will become the norm in the rest of the diocese and throughout the province. We need to congratulate ourselves and thank the Lord for the work that He is doing in our midst.

There are two other administrative issues that I would like to highlight. The first one is the auction that was held in 2002. A huge amount of leadership and work went into this very successful event: a first rate evening with very good dividends. This event was designed to look outside the parish, as much as possible, for potential financial support - and it worked. As we look to the future and the potential needs of our parish, we will need to plan more events of this nature.

The other administrative issue I would like to raise (no pun intended!) is that of freewill offering. This is a big issue and one we need to come to terms with if we are to have a successful future. Only 70% of what is required to meet basic budget needs comes in freewill offering, which leaves us having to fundraise for 30%, just to stay afloat. Fundraising efforts should only be project oriented (ie. New building, roof, other charities). As we pray about the future plans for our parish, we need to own more responsibility in what we give regularly and freely to support our mission.

Liturgically, our 11am Eucharistic gathering continues to have good numbers of worshippers as we move to the different locations, with the parish band raising our hearts and minds to God. The evening worship continues to be mostly traditional BCP, and the number of worshippers are few. We have started to have a regular monthly Praise and Prayer service with our Gospel Friends leading in the worship.

The JAM (Junior Anglican Musicians) had a fairly active year up until the fall, when the director, Sherry Andrews, moved for employment reasons. We want to thank Sherry for her ministry with JAM. Her moving on has left a void that is yet to be filled and therefore is certainly missed.

Not only is there at present no youth music, there is little youth ministry happening. The CLB, because of enrolment reasons, has also folded this past year. Children's church, confirmation and our church servers are the only youth activities presently happening. Identifying and equipping an adult leader to facilitate youth ministry at the post confirmation ages is, to say the least, very challenging. Two areas that we need to intentionally pray about are adult leadership in the area of youth music and in the area of post confirmation.

We have had another good year in Christian education. Alpha and after Alpha programs that have been run in 2002, are not only having an impact on our parish, but also involving people from other denominations. This is truly the work of the Church! A number of people from the parish attended an Alpha conference held at St. Thomas' church in the fall in order to educate and equip more people about the running of Alpha. One of our hopes for the future is to be able to run Alpha on an ecumenical basis in our region, to do the shared work of the Kingdom of God recognizing no denominational or geographical boundaries. Another exciting thing happening in the Alpha world, although an item for next year's report, is the introduction of the marriage course into our Christian education program.

The Pastorate ministry (small group) has continued to be an effective tool to build up faith and relationships in the parish. This past year we have begun bringing the various pastorate groups together every four to six weeks for common fellowship and teaching. Although the primary objective of the pastorates is spiritual companionship and faith development, there also has to be a "works" element to the fellowship. As we

continue to evolve as a parish, the pastorates will hopefully continue to develop ways of financially supporting ministry in our parish.

Pastoral care has entered a new level this past year with the additions of the Rev'd Linda and the Rev'd Tom Osmond. Having easily become part of our parish family (and officially honorary assistants), they have put into place a lay pastoral visiting team that meets regularly for training and support as it reaches out to our shut-ins.

It is also worth noting that during this past year Valerie and I have built our own home in Cupids and have moved out of the rectory. This move has made a huge difference to our quality of life and has impacted the entire family very positively.

Although this is not an exhaustive list of all that has been happening in the parish over the year 2002, it does give some indication of how busy we have been. The quality of leadership amongst our people and the degree of commitment that we have in our midst is a gift of God, and will enable us to move into the future meeting our goals and objectives.

Jesus is Lord of life and love, and as we know and experience His Kingdom and reign in our lives, let us do all we possibly can to share this Good News with everyone around us.

Yours in Christ,
Father Gerald+

Parish Statistics: Baptisms 13; Confirmation 23; Marriages 1; Funerals 16