

## Rector's Annual Report: 2003

For the Anglican parish of the Resurrection, the year 2003 has been one for the history books. It has been a year of significant administrative development.

### **Administration**

Early in 2003 (after the appropriate congregational meetings in the fall of 2002, and diocesan approval in early 2003), the then four point parish of "Brigus-South River," was reconstituted as ONE congregation, ONE vestry, and renamed as the "Parish of the Resurrection." To mark this historical event, a celebration weekend was organized for February. A supper was held at the Academy hall in Brigus with close to 250 people in attendance, including the Territorial Archdeacon, priests from the deanery, other regional church leaders, government officials, and parishioners and friends of the parish. This was an opportunity for us to tell the region of our new administrative reality. The Bishop of the diocese joined us on the second night of our weekend for a special service inaugurating the new parish. This momentous event was announced in the regional newspaper.

In the spring of 2003, the *new single vestry* for the *new parish of the Resurrection* called a congregational meeting (of the *newly formed congregation* from Brigus, Cupids, Makinsons, and South River) and obtained a mandate to liquidate all church property and reinvest in a new church building for the new parish. The vestry obtained a real estate agent and began spreading the word that the church buildings will be coming on the market early in the fall following the diocesan Administration and Finance committee meeting.

To that end, the vestry, in the spring of 2003, made an offer of \$30,000, and now owns, three acres of land on top of Foley's Hill where Q Sport was located. Also during the summer of last year, an offer \$58,500 was accepted on the hall and property in South River (which is still being processed through legal channels).

When the church buildings went on the market in September, an offer of \$225,000 was made on the St. George's building in Brigus. Consequent to the sale, a "St. George's Heritage committee" was put in place and has been in dialogue with the prospective owner and the parish with reference to the preservation of the building. At the time of writing this report negotiations are still on going between the three parties.

Still with reference to property, the rectory was sold in the spring of 2003 for \$70,000. This capital is invested for housing purposes. The annual interest from this investment, coupled with previous budget lines for "rectory utilities and upkeep", provide what is known as a housing allowance for the incumbent of \$650.00 a month to rent or buy their own accommodations.

On the financial front, the parish, as of 31 December, has combined all parish accounts and presently functioning with one parish treasurer. The financial committee remains in

place, but there is no longer four separate accounts and treasurers. Financially, we are fully operating as a one point parish.

The free will offering is still hovering around \$70,000, and our bare bones budget is around \$100,000. The freewill offering of our people must increase.

Fundraising activity was down this year. In 2004 we hope to be better organized in our fundraising with two main objectives: 1) to raise the present \$30,000 shortfall between freewill offering and budget requirement; and 2) to raise money for the new church. Although fundraising activity fell short of our requirements in 2003, we did have a number of very successful events. 2003's auction raised between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for the new church. The Dinner Theatre and Blueberry Festival were also successful fundraising events.

### **Christian Education**

This past year saw not only two Alpha course run, but also two Marriage courses (a course designed for those already in relationship). In addition, for the first time we ran the fall Alpha invitational supper conjointly with our Salvation Army brothers and sisters from Clarke's Beach. It is our prayer that we will be able to do more ministry work across denominational lines in the future.

Children's church continues as a main ingredient to the Sunday morning worship. The number of children may be down a little. We need to be more forthright in encouraging young families to come and participate in our community of faith.

Confirmation, life in the Eucharist and Cursillio are programs that were also run and participated in this past year.

### **Worship and Music**

The parish band continues to lead the main gathering for worship on Sunday mornings. In addition, the parish band is playing a key role in the development of "Music and Prayer Ministry" one Sunday evening a month. This service is designed to enter a little more deeply in worship, and allow time for people to come forward for prayer ministry. A number of people from the parish band traveled to Toronto in October for a "Worship Together" conference. This was not only a spiritual blessing to those who went, but shows the level of dedication that is put into the worship preparation in this parish.

The parish's "Gospel Friends" have joined up with the pastor to lead in worship at each of the Pentecostal Home and Collingwood downs once a month. This band also participates in a monthly service of "Praise and Thanksgiving" where other worship leaders are invited from around the region. This has been a wonderful addition to the parish's regular worship.

I am very happy to report that a youth band has been re-instituted in the parish, and had their debut at the family Christmas eve mass. I do pray that this ministry will continue.

## **Pastoral Care and Outreach**

Pastorate Ministry: The various small groups continue to meet week by week in the parish for bible study and fellowship. In addition, we have been developing a model of “pastorate ministry” with an open invitation for any and all to come together once a month as a larger gathering for worship, teaching with the pastor, discussion and prayer. Our hope is that this ministry will develop into a forum where new comers can be invited. These small group ministries have also had a role to play in raising funds for ministry.

Gospel Friends and Lay Pastoral Visitors continue with outreach to the shut-ins of our parish.

The parish continues in its involvement with the Helping Hand ministry. This year the parish made a donation, over and above its normal contribution, of a \$1000.00. This is good outreach ministry.

The parish has also continued in its fundraising and outreach for the Janeway.

The parish newspaper throughout the year has kept folk informed of the “current affairs” in the life of the parish and continues to be an important form of communication and outreach.

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list of what has been going on in the parish. There are many other ministries that have also been ongoing and continue to play an integral role in the life of our parish.

## **Conclusion**

2003 has been a challenging year in many ways for the parish. It has been a year in which some parish goals and objectives have been realized. It has been a year in which some of our people have been hurt because of the direction the parish is taking, not only administratively, but in our liturgy and our ministry in general. This is unfortunate, but not always avoidable. In the end, although opinions may differ, we do seek to be reconciled and be at peace. As Anglicans, we are part of a church that is diverse, tolerant, and accepting. We are a school of love where we recognize that we are children learning to receive and experience the love of the Father, and to share that love unconditionally with one another in every imaginable context.

Yours in Christ,  
Father Gerald+