

## **Rector's Report for the Year 2004**

The year 2004, for the Anglican Parish of the Resurrection, has been a year of corporate baptism – a year signifying the final process of death to what we were, and a rising to a new life, a new future to carry on the mission and ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ.

### **Administration**

#### ***Vestry***

The vestry has had a great deal on its administrative plate in 2004. It has been a year in which our limited administrative time and energy has had to be prioritized according to the various issues that has faced us throughout the year.

#### ***Sale of Property***

The big item that has consumed the vestry this year has been the selling of properties. The South River hall, St. George's Brigus, St. Augustine's Burnt Head, and a parcel of land in Brigus, have all been in the process of liquidation in 2004. Not only were many vestry meetings held with reference to the sale of these properties, it has also had to meet and discuss offers (that were not accepted by the vestry) on All Saints and St. Andrew's.

#### ***Theological Concepts for a new building***

Concurrent to the sale of property was the development of theological concepts and engineering design for a New House for the Church. Father Bill Bellemy (Professor of liturgical studies at Queens and past dean of the cathedral), Archdeacon Neil Kellet (retired administrative assistant to the Bishop), Father Andrew Hall (retired rector of St. Michael's) and Father Gerald Westcott had a number of meetings early in 2004 in order to articulate the theological concepts that should be included in a new house for the Church. As a whole, we envisioned a building that could facilitate a hospitality ministry that will enable us to reach out and open up to our region; a building that had the appropriate space to teach and encourage people in Christian living and experience; and a building that could not only facilitate a place of worship, but demonstrate equality in celebration, encourage full participation versus spectatorship, and allow for flexibility in the worship space. Having articulated these concepts at a theological level, the vestry and then the congregation, endorsed the concepts. With this mandate, an architect and engineer were hired to translate the concepts into a functional building.

#### ***"New House for the Church" Project Committee***

With the theological concepts for the new building in place, and the endorsement of the congregation, the "New House for the Church" project committee has been working very hard throughout 2004 (and to the present) to put together a proposal acceptable to the diocese that would allow us to begin construction on phase one of the project (4000sq ft sanctuary).

#### ***Pledge campaign***

With properties selling and a design for a new building in place, our proposal to the diocese for permission to start building would need to include a pledge campaign – not

only to assist in the necessary funds required for a new building, but also to gauge the level of support for the project from the parish. This campaign was launched in September 2004.

### ***Free-will offering***

The free-will offering continues to be a challenge for the parish. On the whole, our free-will offering is not very good. Only a very few of our parishioners are giving proportionally from their income in support of the mission of the church. Approximately 65-70% of our bare-bones budget was given freely last year. This is not good enough. If we are going to be strong and viable into the future, we need to learn to make our free will gift a first fruit proportion from what God has given us. That is to say, our offering needs to be a higher priority in our family budgets, and it needs to be reflective of our level of income. Every person and family in the parish needs to prayerfully reconsider what it is currently offering for the life of the Church.

### ***Fundraise Committee***

Fundraising should only have to be done on a project basis – that is, for other charities and outreach, and for projects like a new house for the church, etc. Until our free will offering meets our basic budget needs, we need to “fundraise” for those basic needs. In addition to presently having to fundraise for budget needs, we also have to fundraise for our “New House” project. A fundraising committee has been put in place and has been working very hard to help meet not only our operating expenses, but to put new money towards our new home. In 2004, through a variety of planned events, \$38,500 was raised.

## **Liturgy**

### ***Various forms of worship***

Recognizing our call to be a mission church – to teach the Christian faith, to learn and practice worship, and to deepen spirituality – throughout 2004 we began using the Sunday evening slot as a time to learn and develop various aspects of Christian worship.

- **Music Ministry:** a more free and extemporaneous approach to worship with emphasis on the music led worship (parish worship band).
- **Prayer Ministry:** In the context of worship and teaching, people are invited to come forward for prayer and the laying on of hands.
- **Intercessory Prayer:** An hour of directed intercessory prayer, coupled with worship, for the needs of the church and the world.
- **Corporate Lectio Divina:** a time of listening, meditating and sharing the Word of God, in the context of silence and contemplation.

### ***Honourary Assistants***

In addition to Rev'd Linda and Fr. Tom Osmond assisting in the parish, Father Paul Bishop has also joined us and assists from time to time with the liturgy.

### ***Altar Guilds***

Also worth noting in this years report, and the final ministry for us to consolidate under one parish umbrella is the ministry of Altar Guild. Before 2004 was completed, ladies

from what were the altar guilds of All Saints, St. Andrew's, St. Augustine's, St. Georges, and other ladies, met and formed one new altar guild for the parish of the Resurrection.

## **Adult Christian Education**

### ***Alpha Stuff***

Although consumed with huge administrative issues in 2004, we consciously did not neglect our core ministries. A number of Alpha resource courses were run. The Marriage course was run in 2004. This course is for everyone in relationship, whether 5 months or 50 years; and it is a course, in due time, we hope to advertise and make available to our region. The Searching Issues Course was also run in 2004. This course examines a number of the difficult issues facing the Church today.

### ***Lectio Divina***

"Lectio Divina" is Latin for "reading the Word of God." This is a form of adult Christian education that we have introduced this year to help facilitate learning to read and mediate on the Word of God.

## **Youth Christian Education**

Although our *Children's Church* continues to be an important part of our community of faith, the numbers have been dropping over the last couple of years. As construction of the new facility gets under way, more energy and time may be available to give to this vital parish ministry. In addition to the Children's Church, the *Life in the Eucharist and Confirmation* were both offered in 2004 with the participation of a number of families.

The area of parish "Youth" is an ongoing and un-addressed issue (youth being defined as the ages of 13-24). This is a ministry area that requires time, energy, patience, and the Holy Spirit. In 2005, we will be proposing at the vestry level the possibility of identifying some funds to begin to explore the possibility of supporting a "youth ministry."

## **Pastoral Care and Outreach**

In 2004, the *Pastorate* (or small group) ministry continued with bible study and fellowship. Presently we have a men's fellowship that meets on Sunday mornings before mass at 9am for breakfast; and two female pastorates that meet on Monday nights. A ministry that the men's pastorate will be experimenting with in 2005 will be Sunday morning breakfast hospitality. *The Lay Pastoral or Friendly Visitors* continued to meet and reach out to the shut-ins of our parish. In 2004 we have continued our participation in the ecumenical ministry of the *Helping Hand*. During 2004, 1721 hampers were provided to those in need; 217 Christmas hampers; 72 back to school hampers; and 81 Easter hampers. In addition to our weekly food contributions and any other monetary offering throughout the year, we also made a \$1000.00 donation. The parish also participated in *Operation Christmas Child* in 2004, as well as the *Janeway Fundraiser*.

The parish, in 2004, has also offered financial assistance to the *Diocesan Anglican Church Women's Association*, and the *Canadian national Alpha organization*.

There has been and continues to be a huge amount of “news” happening in our parish. *The Newsletter Committee* has continued to provide the parish with a very valuable communication tool.

2004 has been a very full year for the Anglican Parish of the Resurrection. A huge amount of work has been done as we continue to lay the foundations for our future and the ministry of proclaiming the Good News of Life in Jesus' Name. Through our baptism each of us has been called into ministry, and ministry requires commitment – commitment to seeking the Lord Jesus Christ, commitment to the work of ministry in our parish family. With a new facility on the horizon, we have an exciting future ahead of us- that is, we have a lot of work ahead of us. I pray for your commitment to our shared ministry in the Good News of Life.

Yours in the Risen Christ,  
Father Gerald+