

## **Rector's Report for the Year 2005**

2005 has proven to be a very busy and productive year for our Anglican Parish of the Resurrection. Short of commenting on all the various ongoing and important ministries within the parish, I do want to highlight significant events, developments and changes over the 2005 reporting period.

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

The year 2005 witnessed the sale of two of our remaining three properties. The Brigus waterfront land was liquidated in the spring or early summer 2005; and the All Saints building was liquidated this past fall. The only remaining property for sale is the St. Andrew's Makinsons building. With the sale of the All Saints building, for the first time since the fall of 1999 (when we began rotating our liturgical gathering from building to building), we have settled into ONE location. With all the hard work of redefining our congregation and changing location Sunday to Sunday, it has been a breath of fresh air to settle down in one location...although still temporary...until we move into our New House for the Church!

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

The project committee has worked very hard especially during this last year, and must be commended by the entire parish! Alfred Efford as chair, Josh Parsons as project manager, Bob Bishop, Melvin Piercey, Fred Taylor, Eric Snow. This committee's hard work and proposals for both phase 1 (the Oratory) and phase 2a (Emmaus Room, Kitchen, office, bathrooms) in 2005 has worked its way through vestry, congregation, diocesan properties and Administrative & Finance Committee, and Government, Lands and Services. An amazing amount of planning and administration has been done, on behalf of the parish, by this committee. For this we thank them...knowing that there is a lot of hard work still to come.

The proposal for phase 1 (Oratory) was given the green light in the spring 2005. This proposal included a temporary bathroom and porch in order to get the project moving during the summer months. When the financing for phase 2a (Emmaus Room) was in place, Diocesan approval was given in October 2005. We lost approximately 10 weeks of the construction season waiting for Government, Land and Services processing and approval, which didn't happen until the middle of December. With that final approval, the foundation for Phase 2a was poured before the Christmas holidays. Construction continues on phase 2a, as weather permits, and we hope to be in our "New House for the Church" by summer 2006.

### ***The "Shed"***

Every home needs a "shed" – for storage, and sometimes for refuge! With a work grant from HRDC, and under Bob Bishop's direction, we have been able to build a new storage shed on our new property.

### ***Liturgical Furniture for Oratory***

A number of new liturgical items have been constructed for our new Oratory, all made of oak. Melvin Piercey has constructed our new altar table; Loyd Piercey has built our new

ambo (table of the Word); Barry Norman has constructed our new free standing tabernacle for our chapel for the Reserved Sacrament; and Ray Maloney has made our new presider's chairs and tables. A number of other liturgical items need to be made for the new oratory, including a new baptismal font, of which Barry Norman has committed himself. Another item for our new "Place of Prayer" will be the cabinetry for the sacristy, of which Gerry Warford will be putting in place.

### ***Chair campaign***

In 2005 we launched a "Chair Campaign" asking for donations of \$50 per chair for our new Oratory. We will need about 250 chairs, and up until the end of December, we have approximately 120 pledged. If you haven't already, do help us make the 250 chair mark.

### ***Pledge campaign***

The "Pledge Campaign" for the New House for the Church, although going in the right direction, is not where it could be. Approximately \$62,000 has been pledged, of which approximately \$26,000 has been collected. As we get nearer to occupying our New House for the Church, my hope is that more families and individuals will show their support for the project by pledging some amount towards our new home.

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

It presently costs approximately \$100,000.00 a year to operate the parish and its ongoing ministry and commitments. 62% of that requirement was given freely in 2005. That is to say, 38% 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 in this parish, and to begin and continue to increase 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.

Having noted the above, and on a positive note, the free-will (envelope only) offering is beginning to go in the right direction and is up \$5000.00 over 2004 (from \$57,311 in 2004, to \$62,238 in 2005). In addition to the envelope offering moving in the right direction, an additional \$26,000 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 2005 reaching a total of \$96,622 (an amount approximately \$19,000 over 2004), 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.

### ***Fundraise Committee***

The Fund Raising Committee again worked very hard in 2004 to help the parish meet its basic operating costs, and in 11 events netted \$29,000. Those events included a roast beef dinner; Loonie Plate; Gospel Hymn Sing; Fish & Brews takeout; Annual Auction; Salmon Dinner; Blueberry Festival Concession; Dinner Theatre; Memorial Hymn Sing; Quilt Draw; and card games.

### ***Property Committee***

There is a parish Properties Committee in place that is slowly but surely getting its feet wet with property issues and recommendations to the vestry. One of the property issues that the committee looked at last year, recommended to the vestry and was approved, was a \$300.00 ground breaking fee for all the parish graveyards, which is to be administered according to past practice.

### ***Settlement Fund***

As we all know, our diocese, as part of the Anglican Church of Canada, has made a commitment to the Residential School Settlement Fund. In 2005, our parish picked up its share of the commitment and made it part of our assessment (and extra \$2000.00 a year for a total of 5 years).

### ***Outgoing Vestry Members***

At this time I would like to thank the outgoing members of our vestry (Sylvia Snow, Pat Mahoney, Barb Parsons, Dave Chafe, Alfred Efford, and Bob Bishop). These people have worked very hard over the last number of years on behalf of the parish, of which we appreciate and are thankful. We look forward to their continued commitment to the ongoing ministry in this parish.

### ***Vespers with Lectio Divina (Christian Meditation)***

The one significant addition to our worship in 2005 has been the consistent practice of Sunday Vespers with Christian Meditation. This is an important addition to our corporate liturgy in that it fosters fundamental Christian Spirituality principles of listening, learning and practicing meditation and contemplation, with reflection on Gospel application to our lives. This wonderful Christian practice is done in the spirit of silence – a rare commodity in today's world. I encourage all of you to at least come and try this ancient Christian practice.

### ***Bishop's Visits***

Bishop Pitman made a number of visits to the parish in 2005. On February 13, he came to encourage us to persevere in the work of restructuring and our plans for our new House for the Church. On April 17 he visited the parish for confirmation. And on April 24 the Bishop was with us for the historic Ground Breaking Ceremony and the blessing of the site for our new home.

### ***New Seating arrangement***

On the 25 of September Father Bill Bellemy joined us for an "Instructed Liturgy," with St. Andrew's re-ordered according to the layout for our new Oratory. This was a valuable experience to at least provide some sense of participating in sacred liturgy "around" the altar and ambo as we continue to prepare for our new liturgical space.

### ***Alpha***

The Alpha ministry continues to be at the heart of Christian education programming in the parish. In the winter of 2005 the "Searching Issues" Course was offered with 15 people participating. And in the fall of 2005, the "Challenging Lifestyles" course was offered, with 20-25 participants.

### ***Children's Church***

Our Children's Church program has been an ongoing challenge for us over the years, especially with the rotating of the program and materials from location to location, Sunday to Sunday. This past fall not only has Sylvia Snow has taken on the task of building up this important ministry, but we have settled down in one location in Makinsons. As we look forward to our New House for the Church, let us pray that the stability and the one location, will both factor into a growing children's church ministry.

### ***Youth Worker***

Youth ministry is a big challenge facing our parish and our church. It is very difficult to find someone capable and willing to offer the time and energy required to facilitate youth ministry. With this in mind, the vestry, in 2005, passed a motion to explore the possibility of hiring a youth worker with an honorarium of \$150 a month. This motion has not as yet been acted on, but it is there for us to seek opportunities in this area of youth ministry.

### ***Sunday Morning Breakfast Fellowship***

One area where there has been some change in our pastoral care and outreach ministries has been in the 9am Sunday Breakfast Fellowship. This ministry began as a fruit of the Alpha program in 1999/2000 in the form of a men's Sunday morning pastorate – with breakfast. Responding to the Lord's call to invite others into the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, this ministry is now known as the Sunday morning Breakfast Fellowship (with Gospel reflection), and is open to all people to participate in. All are encouraged to come for breakfast (sometimes light, sometimes not so light!) and Christian fellowship. Let us commit this ministry to our prayers as we continue our shared ministry in the Vineyard of the Lord.

### ***Stewardship Committee***

Stewardship is our responsibility for the proper use and care of the gifts that God has entrusted to our care. It begins with the realization that all that we have, in fact, all that we are was given to us by God. The work of the stewardship committee within the parish is an ongoing work in the area of education, awareness, and challenge. To date, the main forum for stewardship education has been through our parish newsletter "Angelos." As we prepare to take up residence in our New House for the Church, of which we have a vision that requires many to be involved in, we hope to do more work in the area of encouraging commitment – in all its various forms - to our shared ministry in Christ.

### ***Conclusion***

Since the fall of 1999, when we first began the process of restructuring our parish and articulating a vision of ministry, we have been positioning ourselves to break the shackles of the "maintenance" minded church of our recent and extended past, and to become a ministry-focused church. We are now on the threshold of being the church in a new (yet ancient!) and exciting way. Our worship in the new Oratory will amplify our sense of inclusiveness and participation in the sacred mysteries of God; and our Emmaus Room will allow us to exercise hospitality and welcome to all people in such a way that permits

us to meet folk where they are. We live in an un-churched society, we live in a society that does not know who Jesus Christ is. Let us learn how to open our doors to our region, meet people around our fireplace with warm hospitality, and maybe, through our love in the Power of the Holy Spirit, some of those same people will choose to join us around the Table of the Lord.

Yours in the Risen Christ,  
Father Gerald+