

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.

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.

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.

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+