

2007 Reports, Anglican Parish of the Resurrection

## **Rector's Report, 2007**

Dear friends in Christ,

2007 has been a tremendous year of blessing for the Anglican Parish of the Resurrection.

It has been a year of affirmation, a year of solidifying our ministry dreams and mission directions.

Having only moved in to our new House for the Church in August of 2006, there were many – in the parish, in the region, and in the diocese - who were not convinced that we were going in the right direction, and in fact were not convinced that we would succeed in our ministry and mission objectives. And even myself, although confident that we were discerning the right direction for the parish, was in no way certain that we would succeed. We were stepping forward in faith.

Thankfully 2007 has been a year of affirmation for our ministry and mission. The congregation has grown in numbers – not only some of our lapsed returning, but with brand new families joining our parish community.

We have had young families joining us because of our vibrant children's church program. We have had people new to the area join us after searching the bay for a church to become part of. We have had people living in the area come to faith through our ministry and join our faith community.

The Lord is at work in the hearts and minds of our people. People are being changed. The Lordship of Christ is being more and more realized in our midst.

We know that "church" is not a game to be played, but a life to be lived – a life to be lived in common; a life to be lived for and in Christ. And that shared life in Christ, in Love, is attracting others.

We have growth, we have life, we have a future. We are making a difference in our region for the reign of Jesus our Lord. We are positioned for growth. We are experiencing growth.

For a tiny rural parish, we have a lot of ministry going on.

We open our Emmaus Room Café to the wider region on a daily basis offering lunch and refreshments. We have a monthly seniors café that is open to the region. We have a youth café that meets twice a month in the Emmaus Room.

We have a vibrant adult Christian education program: including Monday night Christian education with varying themes and teachers; Thursday night alpha programming; Wednesday afternoon spiritual reading group; Sunday morning breakfast Bible study.

We have a vibrant children's church program.

We have a Sunday (and Wednesday) liturgy that the Primate of Canada has said is "inspiring and uplifting."

We teach and practice Christian Meditation.

We reach out to the region and wider world through ministries such as the Helping Hand; Coffee with a Mission; and are now involved in the Guatamaula mission.

We have a pastoral care team that reaches out to the sick and shut-in of the parish.

We may be a small parish, but we are a parish with vision and with a purpose.

Part of that "purpose" at this time, and over the last year, has been hosting other parishes and Queens College, not only to tell our story of the last 8-9 years, but to allow for others to learn from and be encouraged from our experience and growing ministry.

Let us continue to learn to keep our eyes centered in Christ.

Let us continue to know that we live in Him, and in Him to know the Father's Love.

In the Father's Love, let us continue to love one another, to love the stranger, and to love the world.

Peace and Joy in Christ who is our All.

Father Gerald+

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## **Parish Administrator**

2007 was a relatively routine year in the Administrative activities of the Parish. Notable highlights include:

- a. Final sale of the former church building in Makinson's . Although market conditions did not allow us to realize our original anticipated price, we felt that the final sale price was more valuable than the potential liability of no sale.
- b. We still struggle with leaks in our Emmaus Room as a result of extreme fluctuations in winter weather conditions. This matter will be reviewed this year and we hope to initiate a long term resolution.

- c. Fundraising events in 2007 were well below that of previous years. In view of that, we were challenged with cash flow requirements causing short term deferrals in our financial responsibilities. We are pleased to report that we were able to balance that account at year end. In spite of those challenges, we are now in a position to more accurately determine our fundraising needs as well as recognize our free will giving potential . This information is important to us as we develop our plans for future growth.

I would like to extend my personal gratitude to your generous support for my ministry of administration over the past year. At the pleasure of our rector, I look forward to continuing in this service as we grow in the faith and for His kingdom.

Peace & Plenty,

Alfred Efford  
Parish Administrator

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### **EMMAUS ROOM HOSPITALITY ACTIVITY UPDATE;**

The Emmaus Room Caf  operation has been a very successful one since its onset. A number of visitors have expressed the warm, inviting atmosphere of the Room itself and of the people volunteering there. The tea and coffee are always available along with a variety of munchies. A number visit regularly and express the idea of it being another “home “.

There are currently some 48 members on the Hospitality Team and a regular schedule of duty is posted .

The weekly schedule is Monday through Friday-11:00 – 2:00 , with meditation in the Chapel on Wednesday at 11:30, followed by Holy Eucharist at 12:15 and then lunch. Sunday starts with breakfast and Bible Study at 9:00 am, followed by Family Service and Holy Eucharist at 11:00 am, with lunch following the service. Plus, Sunday evening at 6:30 pm, Vespers and Christian Medication (Lectio Divina)

There have been numerous visits to the Emmaus Room, both by individuals and by groups who meet for the food and the hospitality. The sheer numbers are indeed a measure of the success of the concept and, because it is God's will, the Room will continue to be a source of hospitality and good will to all who enter.

Remember, the coffee pot's always on, the hand is extended and all are welcome.  
COME AND SEE !!

Bob Bishop

Chair, Emmaus Room Hospitality Team

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## **Youth Café**

Under the direction of Sharon Myrden and Valerie Westcott, the parish runs a youth café. The café concept is meant to create a safe and comfortable space in which youth from our area can gather. It has been more of a socialization tool last year and this fall. We host the youth and offer them a simple meal and then a movie or board games night. It has been fun. We have had a familiar consistent group of 6-8.

However, as a parish we want to offer something more. How do we reach youth on the issues of God, church, faith, commitment to Christ? As of February 2008 we are offering the "Quest" course. It is a 7 week course on issues facing the church today with respect to youth. It is similar to the "Alpha" program which this parish is very familiar with. Unfortunately weather has not been our friend the past 2 youth nights and we have had to cancel. The first session will run on Feb 16/08.

As a parish we need to prayerfully support this endeavor. Sharon and I need your prayers as leaders, so that we are offering an effective, God centered gift. As adults, we need to encourage young people we know to come. Our local youth need your prayers too. We cannot run this course without them. We need to change hearts for God in our young so they are empowered to be different in a culture that demands so much of them. Also pray that God will raise up other leaders within our parish who are willing and able to help lead this valuable ministry.

Valerie Westcott  
Co-Leader to the Youth Café

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## **Seniors Café**

This is a relatively new ministry in the life of the parish and as such it is experiencing some growing pains. Response from certain segments of the community has been weak. However, there is a core group of seniors who gather each month, and each month sees new people participate.

A special thank you to the many volunteers who make this ministry and outreach possible each month.

Father Paul Bishop, Co-ordinator of Senior's Café

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## **Christian Education and Prayer Ministry 2007**

2007 was a busy and productive year for Adult Christian Education.

In the winter and spring of 2007, we facilitated a marriage course for 5 couples which involved many of our parishioners in preparing, serving and cleaning up after wonderful meals. We ran the 12 week Alpha course with 21 people attending and many people from the parish volunteering to help with the meals as well as serving on the team. The course began in the fall of 2007 and was completed in January of 2008 and was followed up with the development of a home-based pastorate group

Monday nights changed from a ladies' only night to a Christian education night for all.....

We had teaching from Father Gerald and Rev. Joe Burton. Father Paul Bishop taught a 7 week course on Revelations and we also ran a four week video course called "Just Walk Across the Room" by Bill Hybels of Willow Creek, Chicago which taught us how to reach out to others for Christ.

We have a Spiritual reading group led by Floy Doull which takes place on Wednesdays at 2 pm following Eucharist. This group studied, Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict by Esther de Waal (8-10 participants) and Living Jesus by Luke Timothy Johnson (10-12). The participants found this to be a very stimulating and most enjoyable exercise.

We believe as the Church of the Resurrection that everything we do should be undergirded in prayer and so we have set up an Intercessory Prayer group of 16 people who cover the parish in prayer 7 days a week. We pray for Father Gerald, our Bishop, the Parish and all events taking place there. In 2007, we also had volunteers doing mid-day prayer as well as Intercessory prayer on Mondays. Also, in unity with our brothers and sisters of other faiths, we host or meet with an interdenominational group for prayer every third Tuesday morning at 10 am in the various churches in the area. The main purpose of this group is to pray for our clergy and the various churches in the area. I would like to encourage our people to consider participating in the various education programs or intercessory prayer groups in this new year ...2008.

Gladys Harvey  
Chair of Adult Christian Education

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## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH REPORT**

As Children's Church Coordinators we began our new ministry plan with a meeting with Father Gerald on August 27, 2007. This meeting was to outline the expectations and course of action we were to take in the upcoming year.

Our Children's Church is being coordinated and led by Denise and Winston Bishop who also work very closely with Corrine Ash who leads the program every second Sunday on a rotation basis with Denise and Winston. This is done to ensure that the leaders have a chance to take part in the regular Liturgy at least twice a month. We also have two assistant leaders who work with the leaders also on a rotation basis. They are Pauline Evans and Cynthia Morgan. A number of parents of younger children generally take part as well and assist where they can.

Children's Church takes place every Sunday morning in the Emmaus Room at 11:15am-11:40am during the Liturgy of The Word. A Lectionary based program called Seasons of The Spirit is currently being used which was purchased for two age groups, 6-8 and 9-11. This program follows the regular Liturgy and is comprised of an opening prayer with ritual practices such as using a colored seasonal Liturgical cloth on a table and a candle during opening prayers. A Bible story is then read which reflects the Gospel of the day and is followed by various questions and related activities. Sometimes drama or puppets are used to enlighten the Bible story and to keep the children excited and interested. A craft will sometimes be done if we have time but usually are sent home with children to be completed there. We are currently experimenting with different ideas in an attempt to bring more excitement to our Children's Church as we feel that children become bored very easily and have a very short attention span. Some success has recently been experienced in this area. Unfortunately we are still waiting on a music CD since September which was suppose to accompany the program. Music is a very important tool when working with children so this has been a bit of a disadvantage for us. We hope to receive this CD soon and incorporate this into the program.

As an invitation we have sent a letter to All Hallows Elementary School in North River which in turn was given to all the children who attend there. This was done in September, 2007 and again in January, 2008.

New decorations, toys and books have been added to the St. Nicholas Room and we are currently trying to establish a nursery program for toddlers up to the age of 5 years. Nothing official has been put in place yet but we continue to pray for and work on this ministry.

Children's church outings are a very important part of this ministry. In the fall of 2007 a trip to the Cathedral in St. John's was organized to take part in the Blessing of The Animals service. A bus trip was enjoyed by 28 children and approx. 12-15 parents and leaders who arrived at the magnificent building in awe of its size and architecture. The children were completely amazed and referred to it as "Hogwarts Castle" from the movie Harry Potter. A packed lunch was provided for all the children and later they had a wonderful time exploring the Cathedral and more especially, the animals. A good time was had by all and was a great day of fun, songs and fellowship.

During Advent, an Advent wreath craft was completed by several families in the Emmaus Room. It was another great example of fellowship as the families involved took great pleasure in constructing and decorating their Advent wreath to be used in their homes.

Perhaps the most significant event to date was our Children's Church Christmas Pageant which took place on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007. Approximately 50 children were involved and each had their own little part to play in our Christmas musical called "A Mouse Christmas". It was a very moving night as the children came all dressed up in their costumes to re-enact the Nativity Story as told through the eyes of a family of mice who were there to witness the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Oratory was filled to

capacity with over 200 parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and many friends who came to enjoy the children's performances. A cake and lunch followed with loot bags given out to all the children involved. It was an event filled with the Holy Spirit and enjoyed not only by the children but by all who attended.

Several fundraising events have been organized and have taken place with great success. One of those was a Christmas craft and bake sale which took place in the Emmaus Room in November. More importantly than the funds raised was the involvement by many members of our Parish who donated not only money, craft and baked items for sale, but their time as well. Several new people became involved as well and spent the day in the Emmaus Room greeting people and helping out in every way that they could. It was yet another great fellowship experience and went on to raise over \$1000.00 for our Children's Church.

Another fund raiser was made possible by the donation of a beautiful framed needle-point picture which was done by Corrine Ash. Tickets were sold and the draw took place on the night of the Christmas Pageant. It was won by one of our Parish Leaders, Mary Jane Norman.

To date we are very pleased with the progress our Children's Church has made but also realize that there is much more of His work to be done. We thank God for the opportunity to be a part of His ministry in this way and pray for His blessing on us as we continue to work with Father Gerald and the rest of the Parish to continue to grow this very important ministry.

Denise and Winston Bishop  
Children's Church Coordinators

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## **Music Ministry**

Music ministry continues to have a busy year within the parish. Our participation in weekly liturgy and any extra events such as the mission weekends, memorial hymn sing and advent carol service have kept us all on our musical toes.

As the non-professional worship leader I always endeavor to present the heart of God in song in such a way that complements the scriptural message for the day. This is meant to draw us deeper into what God is teaching us through His word, a form of reinforcement or compliment to what Father Gerald brings out in his teaching. This is done through a mixture of old, hymns, contemporary hymns, worship songs and choruses.

Music ministry has its challenges for the worship leader and the worshipping body, particularly when it comes to learning new congregational songs. Over the years however, I sense an increasing willingness to move beyond our musical comfort zones. As one of my favourite songs states, "it's all about you Jesus".

Valerie Westcott  
Music Director

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## **Stewardship**

Stewardship and being a good Christian are two different concepts, but very closely related.

The writers of the gospels tell us that Jesus came among us , not to be served, but to serve. Serving others is stewardship. Followers of Christ are asked to serve. Offering our time, our skills or our financial resources to our local church is a very necessary and important way of serving God and “the other”.

For the past number of years the main thrust of educating our people on stewardship matters has come from the homily on Sundays and by a series of articles in the Angelos. Kevin Smith also visited our parish on one occasion this past year and spoke to a small group of people during lunch. Kevin is the Stewardship chairperson and Planned Giving consultant with our diocese. In November a new thrust in making our people aware of stewardship issues was initiated. The initiative is based on the premise that our parish needs to do a much better job of informing our people of the many things that the Parish of the Resurrection does in its various ways of serving God and His people. We want no longer to say to our people “ Support your church with your time, talent and money because your church needs it .” Rather we want to say “ These are the ways that your church serves God and the people in your area and around the world. This is the vision and mission of your church. Please be a part of this vision and mission by offering, your time, talents and financial resources in support of the ministries of your church”.

In November a committee was organized to work with the rector to set this initiative in motion. Members are Boyd Greenland, Floy Doull, Lynn Clarke and Melvin Piercey. We will be hearing a great deal more from this committee in this new year.

Melvin Piercey  
Chair of Stewardship Committee

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## **Pastoral Care Team Report**

The team has shared a responsibility with Father Gerald to be made aware of, and ensure the sick and shut-ins are visited. I also have a responsibility to visit any in the parish who are sick, in hospital, or in need of a parish visit. The team has the responsibility to visit, on a regular basis, shut-ins whom they are responsible for. The pastoral care team are also responsible for the music and the caring presence to the residents of the Pentecostal Home and Collingwood downs.

Hubert Sommerton  
Chair of Lay Pastoral Visiting

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## **Third World Missions – Guatemala 2008**

In 2007, a commitment was made by the Parish of the Resurrection to commence activities that will make a difference in helping to alleviate Third World Poverty.

Under the auspices of “The Arms of Jesus Children’s Mission, Inc” (which is headquartered in Pickering, Ontario) teams of temporary workers rotate in an out of Parramos, Guatemala on a bi-weekly basis. Needs of the residents of that town are identified by the on-site Mission Directors and Social Workers and related special projects are assigned to the teams. In November, Canon Shirley Noseworthy, Glenn Winsor, Patricia and Wilson Peddle, in our Emmaus Room, gave a presentation based on their June 2007 Mission to Guatemala. Following this presentation a 14 people were selected from the parishes of Heart’s Delight, Heart’s Content, Whitbourne, Bay Roberts and the Resurrection our 2008 “Pennies from Heaven” team.

The first bi-weekly team meeting was held on January 26, 2008 with the co-chairs presenting outlines of projects to be undertaken by our team along with the commitment by each Parish to sponsor the construction of one new home. The team will construct these 12’ x 16’ homes using const pre-fabricated walls and corrugated tin roofs built upon a poured concrete floor. These will replace the families’ existing homes made of cornstalk walls and roof (which leak) over earthen floors that quickly become mud when it rains. Each new home consists of two rooms: one for sleeping and one for cooking and living. The homes will be furnished with a bed, table and chairs, a cooking stove and cooking utensils—all of which will be purchased in Guatemala. Members of our parish will sew and provide the quilt for the bed, the quilted decorative wall hanging and the curtains for the windows and “doorway” separating the two interior rooms. We will take these with us. Please put your suggestion for the name of our house in the Box located on the long side table in the Emmaus Room

In addition to home construction, “Pennies from Heaven” team members will also undertake a number of special projects: providing 200 baby kits; 100 kits of new clothing for children aged 3 – 12; 100 men’s kits; 200 women’s kits; school supplies; craft supplies; conduct a sewing clinic for the women of the village; conduct a medical clinic. As well, we will be contributing financially to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor expansion of the school and the salaries of the staff. The on-site Mission Directors receive no salaries, relying solely on the generosity of visiting mission teams and we will be providing a contribution to them as well.

To meet the financial obligations of our Guatemala Mission on the Parish level, contribution envelopes have been provided and along with the request for contributions of Air Miles to offset transportation costs. Additionally, we will be co-ordinating a number of fund raising efforts. Budgets to achieve the team objectives have been identified and approved by the team members. To meet these, each Parish has been

allocated the responsibility to identify a “team building fund raiser” with all team members participating in each of these five special projects.

Another significant aspect of this Mission activity is sponsorship of a child for about \$27 per month. This enables that child to attend school, receive medical care and receive food for the family on a monthly basis. Photos and correspondence to and from each child are exchanged and there is an Arms of Jesus catalogue from which to choose gifts for special occasions.

On the street I saw a small girl, cold and shivering in a thin dress,  
With little hope of a decent meal. I became angry and said to God:  
“Why did you permit this? Why don’t you do something about it?”  
For a while God said nothing. That night He replied quite suddenly,  
“I certainly did something about it. I made you!”

~Author Unknown~

submitted by Lynn Palmer and Larry Stephan

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## **Helping Hand Report**

The Helping Hand completed a successful year in 2007. The store sales were up, but not as many food hampers delivered. It was decided that extra food would be put in the Christmas hampers. There were food vouchers given to school children in need in September.

This success is due to a great extent because of the donations from corporate sponsors, gifts of food from church congregations, and the dedicated volunteers who serve the general store and food bank. Our continued support is requested in the future.

Tina Legge  
Parish Representative to Helping Hand

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## **Chief Recorder**

Recording activities in the Parish has now matured to an intuitionalised level. Along with three volunteers, we have recorded all income for the Parish on a timely and consistent basis.

I would like to extend my personal appreciation to the recording team for their patience and co operation in allowing us to maintain a high level of confidential service to the congregation. We trust that we will be able to maintain your continued support for our ministry in the coming year.

With God’s riches Blessings

Glenda Efford  
Parish Chief Recorder

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## **Altar Guild**

There are 22 members of our Church family sharing in the ministry of the Altar Guild. These members are responsible for altar preparation each Sunday and clean up after Eucharist Sundays and throughout the week. Responsibilities also include keeping the Oratory clean. New members are always welcome to share in this ministry.

Dot Bishop  
Altar Guild Chair

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