

RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

2017

The Rev. Dr. Brent Was

Grace and peace to you! My friends in Christ, I am so happy to be writing to you and offer my annual report on the life of the Church of the Resurrection.

We are now in our 6th year of ministry together and I want to start this report by offering my gratitude. The Church of the Resurrection is an exceptionally generous community. You all have been generous to my family and me in uncountable ways: taking care of us, allowing us to carry out our ministries in the world, and being very forgiving of me in my shortfalls. It is a great joy to serve you as your priest, a joy I hope to continue in for a long time. Thank you!

You all are also incredibly generous with each other. A member was in the hospital recently for a very scary surgery, and it was heartwarming the way the emails and calls came in all making sure they were getting the help that they needed. Folks are ready to help keep this ship afloat by lending a hand when needed, offering themselves for leadership and service, and by pledging your resources to support the ministries of this place. Thank you!

You are also phenomenally generous to our community. Much of this generosity is offered to the people who need it the most in our city, our brothers and sisters who find themselves on the streets with no one to help them. You all show up and so generously help. We shelter people in the parking lot, during Shelter Weeks and during Egan season; we feed people downtown, we stock homes with needed supplies, we give grants, we offer prayer, and we empower each other to go out and do the hard work that is needed. Those big red doors are open a lot (especially recently)! On behalf of a grateful community, Thank you!

It is satisfaction rather than pride that is the appropriate feeling to have when you think of all of the ways that the Church of the Resurrection is generous in the world. Truly, you all, by simply being a part of this community and taking on our identity as God's emissaries in the world, should feel satisfied in your souls. And it is with that feeling that we can move ahead to take on the work that God has laid before us.

The year of Our Lord 2016 was good year here at Resurrection. It has been a year of growing and deepening.

We are growing. As a parish we have continued to grow in numbers as well as in the scope of our ministry. Our Average Sunday Attendance has not been calculated for the year yet, but the pews feel more full, and the energy in worship has been excellent! There are also a lot of new faces around, and faces that were new are really fitting in. It is wonderful that the Word is getting out there.

Our budget is growing. We had an excellent showing for our stewardship campaign, with the largest number of pledges ever (106), and the highest dollar amount pledged (\$230,000)! Thank you!

Our staff is growing! We were so please to bring Mia Hellman-Crump into the nursery, and are thrilled with what she offers our children. We were also so incredibly pleased that Tina Heidrick continues to develop our children and youth ministries. She and her team have really direct our programs to be very child centered, focused on attending to their needs as young people. Our girls squeal when they get the monthly newsletter in the mail that is addressed to each child. And it is working! Have you seen how many children have been at church this year?

As we grow, we are also deepening.

Doris Payne has taken on the amazing work of developing a children's chapel program for our young ones. Marsha Crosswhite and the Godly Play team infuses the children with the biblical narrative, the stories and images of our life in Christ together. The chapel then brings music and liturgy and the Word to them in a very different form. I could not be more pleased with the way our children are learning about God and how to be a Christian in this world.

Another deepening has occurred with our children: Choristers. Who would have known that such a brilliant youth choir leader was sitting right there in our choir loft? Lucy Strandlien's work as the Chorister Director has transformed the Choristers. By bringing the children right into the choir under the mentorship of wonderful choir members, the children are happy, relationships are deepening and the music being offered is the best it has ever been. Bravo!

Our social life is deepening, too. With Debbie Cullen's wonderful hospitality and organizing skills, and with the move of the coffee hour to the sanctuary, more of us are getting to spend more time together every week! It is working splendidly! Thank you to Debbie and everyone who participates in our Sunday ministry of Hospitality.

Our outreach ministries have also been deepening, in particular with the advent of Hospitality Village. Over the course of one year, a small group of parishioners (and a couple of people from the wider community), brought in over \$100,000 (\$40k in gifts, \$60k in grants), built 2.5 tiny houses, began development of a program of advocacy and spiritual friendship with our guests and housed three people for a year. I took a call from the city just today as they want to see what we are up to!

God was worshipped with grace and beauty. Spirit-filling music was offered. Prayers were given. Quilts (and curtains) were sewn. Children were steered towards God. Adults learned a bit. Friendships deepened. Comfort was given. Hospitality was offered. Lives were saved. Not so bad for a little church in the South Hills. I am very satisfied!

Looking forward, we have our work cut out for us. Our stewardship season was successful because we put a lot of work into it. Going forward, we are going to be talking about stewardship a lot more and in a lot of different ways. The Bishop (and Patty Krier) are helping to introduce a new process of stewardship to the diocese, so that is something to look forward to. Remember, the more resources we are able to gather, the more work we are going to be able to do in the world, spreading the light of Christ in word and deed throughout our community!

We are also going through some much needed administrative tightening. This is not my forte, but with the skills of Sandi Orbell, our intrepid Senior Warden, Patty Krier our Clerk of Vestry, and a whole vestry full of willing and skillful people, we will be working very hard this year to improve our administrative ministries.

Similarly, our financial life together will also continue to improve under the wise eye of Katherine Moyer, our treasurer, Kay Marietta our Auditor, and Linda "patience of a saint" Schield, our bookkeeper, and a wonderful finance committee and board of trustees. Thank you!

Looking forward we are about to welcome a new priest into our midst. Anne Abdy will be ordained to the priesthood on January 28th (with Iain Stanford). Anne will be staying on with us as our priest associate for the coming year. We will serve as a sort of *Curacy*, or first ministry for her, giving her a chance to learn and us a chance to receive her manifold gifts. We are blessed to have her in our midst.

This year is also the year of my sabbatical! The week after Easter my family and I head off for three months of rest and renewal. I was blessed to receive financial support for this sabbatical from the Lily Foundation. After a couple of weeks of vacation, we will return to

Jasper where I will immerse in the life of farm and home school for half the week, then retreat to a tent in the hills to work on a writing project for the second half. I will return at the beginning of August. Thank you so much for giving me this chance to breathe in a more prolonged way. I promise that it will be a good investment for all concerned!

In my absence the soon to be Mo. Anne will fill in for liturgical and pastoral needs and Sandi, our senior warden, will assume the ecclesial authority as the Senior Warden.

There is a lot going on in the world right now. The world needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We need the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God that the Church of the Resurrection exists to bring us together with God to make real the Commonwealth of God right here, right now.

May the Almighty Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

In Christ,

Brent