



Resurrection Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Reports for 2023
9th Annual Meeting
January 28th, 2024
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Agenda

9TH Annual Meeting of Resurrection Episcopal Church

January 28, 2024

Noon

Call to Order & Opening Prayer

Pastor Terri

Grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may preside over us now in all our concerns and deliberations for the welfare of this church. We thank you for all the blessings of the past year, and pray that we may go together from strength to strength in the year before us. Help us to dedicate ourselves to you and to be ready to commit ourselves to the mission of your kingdom through our offering of time, talent, and treasure.

Guide us in the choice of vestry members, and may they discharge their duties faithfully.

We praise you for your servants who labored and worshipped here with us, and especially for those who have departed this life since we last met together.

People Amen.

Approval and additions to Agenda

Warden

Recognition of Minutes: Annual meeting minutes

Warden

Reception of Reports for the Committees by Title

Warden

Vicar's Report:

Thank You: Outgoing Bishop's Committee members

Pastor Terri

Class of 2024: all members continuing for one more year

Class of 2025: Steve Carroll, Hazel Scott

Class of 2026: Craig Curry, Anne Fidling, Liz White

Report of the Nomination

A. Presentation of Nominees:

B. Nominations from the floor

C. Balloting or Election by Acclamation

Wardens' Reports

Celebration of Commissions, Committees and Ministry Teams

Finance and Budget

Craig Curry Treasurer

A.The Treasurer’s Report of 2023

B.Review of the 2024 Budget (approved by Bishop’s Committee on January 7, 2024)

Other Business

Warden

Courtesy Motion

Pastor Terri

“If there is no objection I move that we send our greetings to former Vicars and Clergy: .”

Adjournment and Closing Prayers

Pastor Terri

Almighty and ever-living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Vicar's Report

About a year ago the Bishop's Committee extended an offer to me to become the next Vicar of Resurrection Episcopal Church. This was the culmination of meetings I had with the Bishop's Committee and other leaders in the congregation, and many phone calls with Doug Haas, who Sr. Warden at the time. It just so happened that I was in Arizona having a belated family Christmas when the Bishop called me with the news. We spent the next couple of days in Arizona house hunting and in short order bought a house! We moved in April and my first day with Resurrection was April 23. The day before, on Saturday, April 22, my husband and I had an open house with parishioners from both Resurrection and St. Michael's, to begin our shared ministry.

I have had a lot of fun getting to know the people at Resurrection. You are a creative, engaging, delightful congregation and I enjoy doing ministry with you.

This first year has been primarily spent just getting to know one another. It's also been a year where we decided to slow down and be intentional about praying, listening, discerning, what God is imagining for Resurrection. Yet, even as we slowed down and practiced listening for God's nudges, we also engaged the community around us spreading God's love to the many people we encountered through outreach and Root Thrive Soar opportunities. We offered a community wide viewing of the film Mission Joy with Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama and then built our fall stewardship campaign and adult forum off of the theme Together for Joy and reading the book, AWE. We're exploring what it means to find joy, and be joy, in these challenging times. More on this can be found in the Stewardship and Christian Formation reports.

We're also exploring a cycle of worship that leads us through a variety of words, images, and concepts that describe God, humankind, and creation. We've used Celtic liturgy from the ancient Scottish island of Iona, Season of Creation liturgy, Enriching our Worship, and all four liturgies found in the Book of Common Prayer. The Episcopal Church offers a wonderful array of worship materials to expand our awareness of God in creation. More on this can be found in the Worship report.

These are just a few of the ways we have begun to get to know one another and consider who Resurrection is, where we are being called to serve, and who we are being called to be in relationship with. The primary opportunity for congregations in the world today is get clear on our purpose - why are we here? As we clarify our purpose, why we are here, we will also gain clarity on who we are to be in relationship with and where we are to be. Identity is critical to understanding who we are and being able to effectively articulate our meaning and our purpose. Eventually we will be able to state who we are and we'll define for ourselves our mission - essentially our purpose, who we are and who we are getting in relationship with, and what we are doing to make a difference in the world - our goals. We'll start to work on these with some intentionality in April, though it may take some time to discern, articulate and begin to live into.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Terri C. Pilarski, Vicar

Sr. Warden's Report

Dear Resurrection Episcopal Church Friends:

It has been my honor to serve as your senior warden in 2023 - a year that God has blessed us with continuing opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service. We welcomed a new vicar and new members and said good-bye to others. We go into 2024 with discernment in our hearts and in our prayers. This report is a reflection on where we have been and where we might seek to continue.

We acknowledge:

- Activity and growth of our Outreach Committee, chaired by Karen Issit
- Service of Altar Guild, chaired by Teresa Gordon
- Selection of Worship Music by Fr. Steven Carroll
- Bible Study by Fr. Craig Smith
- Coordination and set-up of worship co-chaired by John Issit and Craig Curry

Highlights of 2023:

- Shrove Tuesday pancake supper
- Participation in Diocesan leadership conference
- Lenten Prayers-in-the-Park Compline
- Maundy Thursday Outdoor Eucharist
- Good Friday Stations of the Cross
- Mission Joy
- Barktoberfest
- Diocesan Convention
- Blessing of 24 blankets for AZ Blankets 4 Kids
- Blessings of backpacks for student

This past year brought us Rev. Teri Pilarski. Rev. Pilarski came to us from a diverse congregation in Michigan. Her wisdom and experience have been invaluable during this year of change and transition. With her guidance, we continue our time of discernment of God's plan for Resurrection.

Fr. Steven Carroll and Fr. Craig Smith anchored our worship before Rev. Pilarski's arrival. By the grace of God, both have continued in their spiritual support of our congregation, offering their gifts in furtherance of our worship and growth as Christians.

We continue to discern the role of our congregation in providing lay pastoral care of our members and the community.

On a personal note, the annual report would not be complete without acknowledging the tremendous work of Junior Warden Craig Curry. One cannot overstate Craig's role in transforming the financial, administrative, and technical functions of Resurrection's mission. Behind the scenes, Craig brought our Church Trac (churchtrac.com) up to date, super-charged the Weekly Wisdom blast, overhauled our financial reporting for transparency and accuracy, and

(in his spare time) ran technology for our services with John Issit. He is meticulous and unfailingly cheerful. We are blessed that he is in our community.

As we continue into 2024, we acknowledge our Core Values and Goals:

Core Values:

- Our love of God is at the center of our lives at Resurrection.
- Service to others is our priority through hands-on outreach to our community and other communities in need.
- The Book of Common Prayer and the Eucharistic Liturgy strengthen us continually.
- Our Resurrection family delights in generously welcoming all who visit, from all situations and all walks of life.
- We value creative Christian development opportunities, and a diverse leadership team.

Goals

- Continue to transform lives through the love of Jesus Christ.
- Ignite more growth by re-imagining our youth programming and attracting more families.
- Review our location options, and secure a dedicated building space for Resurrection Episcopal Church.
- Seek stronger stewardship and proceed to become financially self-sufficient.
- Focus on other creative ways to add to our Resurrection family including encouraging diversity and inclusiveness, expanding our choir and music program, and allowing more lay involvement at the altar.

May we love and seek the good in our neighbor, act with justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Findling, Sr. Warden

Jr. Warden's Report

My Fellow Parishioners,

This past year as your Junior Warden has been fulfilling and filled with learning. 2023 was also filled with making new friends and getting to know everyone. at a much deeper level.

I started the year with some uncertainty and on what my role would look like but counting on God to show me the way. Had some unexpected events happened early in the year which altered my role, but I've totally enjoyed it and, in the end, wouldn't change a thing. I am truly thankful to God for guiding me and giving me the knowledge and direction for this journey.

Here's a top-level look at what I worked on this past year:

- Pull together all passwords and site and application usernames / passwords needed to maintain sites and access relevant sites for current and future vicar and lay leadership
- Updated our church management program (ChurchTrac) database of member/visitor names
- Utilized existing and newly available church management program features to create:
 - An online calendar of events
 - A mobile app to view your giving, church directory and more
 - A new online giving site for Resurrection (rolling out January 2024)
- Implemented and documented a records retention best practice policy that conforms to Church guidelines
- Documented with photos, descriptions, serial numbers and valuation all of the church property and equipment per Church business guidelines (ongoing process)
- Worked heavily on the church budgeting and accounting processes:
 - Created and documented an accounting chart of accounts conforming to Church and 501c3 guidelines
 - Increased the transparency of our church accounting and budget process:
 - Easy to understand revenue and expense category names
 - Some new budget lines created to make everything clearer
 - Consistent application of including detail for expenses
 - Redistributed a portion of church funds into a Money Market account which will provide improved dividend growth for 2024 while being 100% insured by NCUA (Credit union equivalent of the FDIC)

I'm looking forward to continuing to serve each of you and God's mission in 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Curry, Junior Warden / Treasurer

Assisting Priest, Interim Vicar, Bible study Report

Craig Smith, a Dominican Friar, was ordained an Episcopal Priest in June of 2022. He served as Interim Vicar at Resurrection until April 2023. He lead Resurrection during a time of transition with grace, compassion, and humor. Since April 2023 he has continued to serve Resurrection as a retired assisting priest, preaching, presiding, and assisting in worship on a regular rotating schedule with Steve Carroll and the Vicar, Terri Pilarski. He's a valuable member of the leadership team.

Rev. Craig has also offered Evening Prayer on Wednesday nights via Facebook Live. And, he offers a weekly Sunday morning Bible study on the readings for the week.

Assisting Priest's Report

It isn't often that a congregation the size of Resurrection is blessed with an abundance of clergy. Here at Resurrection, we have The Rev. Terri Pilarski who serves as Vicar, The Rev. Craig Smith, and The Rev. Steven Carroll who though retired still enjoy the opportunity to Preside, Preach, and Teach.

Each of us brings to the congregation unique talents and styles and it is my hope that the congregation derives some benefit from the perspectives we bring. I find that I enjoy learning from the homilies and liturgical approaches of both Rev. Terri and Rev. Craig. I also enjoy the collegiality we have.

I am grateful to be afforded the opportunity to share in the life of Resurrection Episcopal Church and I am grateful to The Rev. Terri Pilarski for her support and encouragement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Carroll+

Christian Formation

Christian formation for children has been one of the goals of this congregation. Camille Senter has worked with the children, and has many gifts for leading children in their faith formation. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons beyond our control, we've been unable to retain children and families at Resurrection.

Christian formation for adults has had a bit more success. During the summer months when we were worshipping with Celtic liturgy we held two sessions of adult forum on Celtic Spirituality. In these two sessions we learned about Celtic Spirituality and we listened to some audio recordings by John O'Donohue and his presentation on "The Divine Imagination." We explored different ideas and images for God and creation. We talked about O'Donohue's belief that God created diversity in the world because God is diverse in God's being, God expresses God's self in a many ways, and God values creativity as an expression of diversity.

In the fall we offered a community viewing of the film Mission Joy with Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. We had follow up discussions on the concept of joy as a state of being and incorporated joy into our stewardship campaign with the theme Together for Joy. We are now in the process of reading and discussing the book AWE by Dachner Kelter which explores the concept of Awe and its relationship joy as a state of being. We meet once month and discuss one chapter each month.

For 2024 one of the goals for Christian formation is to hold conversations, beginning in April, about our discernment process. We have been intentionally praying and discerning what it means to be followers of Jesus, to be disciples. As disciples we are exploring what it means to live a life of meaning and purpose - to know who we are and whose we are. And, to know why we are here in this place and time. What purpose does God hope for us? How can we live more meaningful lives and how can we support others in living meaning lives? How and what can we do to make a difference in the world. As I've said often, many little people doing many little things in many places can change the world. What is it that we are being called to do? We'll consider this and eventually articulate our mission into a statement with goals that we are striving to live into.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Terri C. Pilarski. Vicar

Outreach Committee's Report

The Outreach Ministry made a positive impact on many people and organizations in 2023. Our activities included, packing Mana at Feed My Starving Children, collecting bread for Paz de Cristo, creating affirmation cards for the children serviced by Free Arts of Arizona, serving meals at Ronald McDonald House, supporting the American Service Animal Society for Veterans, the Arizona Blankets for kids organization. We also gave money to United food Bank.

All these organizations appreciated our help and generosity. I feel honored and thankful to be part of the Outreach Ministry. We are a compassionate and giving congregation. We are excited to continue our outreach in 2024 and live up to our mission statement "Loving through Serving

Faithfully Submitted,

Karen Issitt, Outreach chairperson

Root, Thrive, Soar & Community Engagement

Overview:

In 2023, the Root, Thrive Soar (RTS) team at Resurrection continued to participate in the national RTS program through monthly seminars and coaching sessions. These were primarily focused on developing a church's identity through establishment of their Mission, Vision, and Values. In addition, the team focused on spreading the love of Christ through community engagement throughout Gilbert.

The RTS team organized a number of our own community events and participated in several Gilbert organized community events. These are shown in the accomplishments below. Looking forward to 2024, we will continue to find opportunities to interact with the community of Gilbert and help guide our parish as we develop our Mission, Vision and Values.

Accomplishments:

- Music and Spirituality Workshop
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Service
- Lenten Compline in the Park (Thursday service throughout Lent at various parks in Gilbert)
- Maundy Thursday Service in the Garden
- Mission Joy
- Blessing of the Animals at Barktoberfest

Future Plans and Events:

- Community Engagement Training
- Ashes to Go
- Gilbert Global Village Festival
- Game Night (all ages)
- Support for development of Mission, Vision, Values

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz White, Root, Thrive, Soar and Community Engagement chairperson

Stewardship Committee's Report

The stewardship campaign this year built off of our Root, Thrive, Soar initiative for a community viewing of the film Mission Joy. The film is a documentary of the friendship between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama, of the struggles each faced in their lives and yet the joy they find in life despite the struggles. Mission Joy offers an invitation into living a life of joy as a state of being. This is not a naive process, but a profound effort live with gratitude and compassion. From this concept of moving through life's challenges while striving to develop an inner state of being that is grounded in gratitude and compassion, we developed a stewardship campaign on the theme of "Together for Joy." The foundation of the campaign and its emphasis on joy as a state of being that is grounded in compassion and gratitude was articulated in a five week daily meditation series that I wrote. The meditation series leaned into the book "Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries". Each week reflected on one of the blessings: Gracious Leadership, Truth, Wellness, Time and Place, and Money. The sixth blessing, Relationship, was built into each of the five weeks as the fundamental component for the blessing. These blessings flow into, through, and out of one another. Each blessing relies on the others to be effective. Week one reflected on the ways that Resurrection strives to be gracious leaders, listening to and lifting up others in our congregation and in the world around us, so that all people can live whole and healthy lives. Week two reflected on the value in being truth tellers and how telling the truth of who we are, even in our brokenness, can lead to healing and wellbeing. The third week focused on wellness which flows naturally from truth telling. Time and place for the fourth week invited interesting observations about where Resurrection is right now and our year of discernment as we listen for where God is calling us to be. Money was the final week and it led into our pledge commitment on All Saints's Day. We brought our pledge cards to the altar, offered gave thanks for the gifts of our lives, and then shared a meal in the activity center. Our worship service ended in the activity center with the shared meal, a blessing and song. Though the number of people who pledged did not increase, the amount of pledge income did increase. This reflects our combined effort to let our gratitude for all the blessings God has given us to be returned to God for the mission work of Resurrection.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Terri C. Pilarski, Vicar

Worship Committee's Report

Reflecting back on 2023 I want to first offer a big thank you to our worship leaders: John Issit who schedules the Sunday morning readers and who, along with Craig Curry, manage the sound technology on Sunday mornings. Sara Haas helps with making sure that our service is live streamed to Facebook Live. Anne Findling, Elle Sandru and I have taken turns making communion bread. Our retired assisting priests share preaching, presiding, and assisting, in a weekly rotation. Anne Findling and Camile Senter make sure that the candles are lit and the collection takes place. Many others participate as readers and chalice bearers in the service. Worship is better because of all of you, it is a community effort.

A Worship Committee was formed and met for the first time in July of 2023. Attending that meeting were the retired assisting priests Craig Smith and Steve Carroll, Teresa Gordon (altar), Hazel Scott (chalice), John Issit (readers, technology and music), and Craig Curry (technology and music). We discussed some of the concerns regarding worship such as the role of the chalice bearer and the various hopes people had for worship like using liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer, which is familiar and comforting. Others voiced their appreciation of worshipping with a variety of liturgical resources like the Celtic liturgy.

We planned the basic structure for worship:

- Fall: Season of Creation for Sept, ending near the feast of St. Francis in Oct. with a blessing of the animals, using prayer C
- Late Fall: prayer A
- Advent: Prayer C but with the addition of some female imagery to lift up the pending incarnation and the role of Theotokos, Mary, the God-bearer

In October we had a second meeting and planned Christmas and Epiphany:

- Christmas: Prayer B, Christmas Eve depending on availability of the church and what FUMC was planning
- Epiphany: Prayer B

In January we planned Lent, using Prayer D, with Thursday night prayers in the park

In Easter we'll return to Prayer A. As of this writing we still need to plan Holy Week and Easter Day services.

Generally, we have tried to keep liturgy engaging and lively while exploring the options available to us through the Episcopal Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Terri C. Pilarski, Vicar co-chair of worship

The Rev. Steve Carroll, Assisting priest (retired) co-chair of worship

Treasurer's Report

See the addendum, a separate pdf document, for the narrative budget for year-end 2023 and projected budget for 2024. See also the Jr. Warden's report.