

"I Am The Resurrection & The Life"



# Resurrection Connection

Summer 2008 - Volume 5 - Issue 6

*We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe*

## Mission Statement

The Church of the Resurrection is an apostolic community of baptized Catholic Christians committed to embracing the mission of Jesus Christ by proclaiming and witnessing to the Good News of the Gospel. We are family oriented, liturgically centered and mission bound. We are rooted in faith and prayer, sharing our gifts wherever they are needed. We respect human rights and protect human dignity. Through outreach services we are responsive to the poor and oppressed. Embracing all, rejecting none, we refuse to accept any form of prejudice or discrimination. We are a parish committed to the education and needs of young and old alike. It is in this spirit that we carry out our parish mission to remember, to celebrate and to believe

## *From The Desk...*

*Dear Parishioners,* *of the Pastor...*

Recently, I was re-reading the talks given by Pope Benedict during his visit to the United States. While reading the homily he gave at St. Patrick's cathedral, I was struck by his observation that the cathedral stood as "a testament to the countless men and women who have gone before us, who labored for the growth of the Church in the United States." However, he reminded the congregation that the "growth of the church" was not only about the building, but about the "lasting legacy of faith and good works" left by the church in the United States over the years. This, of course, must be continued in a legacy of hope that will continue to build into the future.

This immediately brought to mind our own celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Resurrection Church. Our church building, too, stands as a legacy to the countless men and women who have gone before us, and who have left us a legacy of faith and good works.

As I have said before, our church building is a gift given to us by those who came before. It represents a legacy of faith and good works to be passed on to a future generation. But at the same time, a church building reflects our belief about who we are as Church. For we, the People of God, are the Church that the building houses. So, for example, in the early days of the church, the congregation met in a space where they could gather around the "table of the Lord", and where there was a water supply for Baptism. Later church buildings were structured to meet those needs. They understood that they were a people whose lives centered on Christ, and who were created in the image of Christ through the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist.

In later medieval times people understood their faith in a more personal, individual way, when worship belonged to the priest more than to the people, churches were built long and high, pointing to heaven and separating people from the altar.

In our times we are trying to rediscover the Church's mission as proclaiming the Kingdom of God to the world. We are trying, as the Pope says: "to be strengthened in holiness and unity for the effective proclamation of the Gospel in today's world". Therefore, we define ourselves as a people united around the Altar of the Lord once again so that we can work together as one to build the Kingdom of God. Our church buildings are meant to capture that mission.

Our goal and hope as part of our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration is to reconfigure our sanctuary to reflect who we are, and to help fashion who we are in our use of the building. So once again altar and font should be the focal point of our building as we create and recreate a new People of God to do the will of God into the next 100 years.

Building and People: one interacts and influences the other. Let us pray that our labor and effort for the growth of the Church in our day will become a legacy of faith and good works for the generations of Brookline Catholics to come for another 100 years. Your contributions and support of our capital campaign will help us meet these goals.



Fr. Frank Mitolo

*We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe*

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Please feel free to contact any of the members with any questions

### Minutes from the Centennial Anniversary/Capital Campaign will be available on the Parish Web Site and at the Rectory

Please be advised the minutes from the Committee and its various sub group (working) committees will now be available for review on the Parish Web Site [www.eressi.com](http://www.eressi.com) or at the Rectory. Advanced notice is required for review at the rectory for the purpose of scheduling and coordination

### Friends, Family and Alumni of Resurrection

As part of the Centennial Anniversary/Capital Campaign a major effort is underway to contact and reach out to all those who in some way shape or form have had experience/contact or been involved in the "Ressi Experience" To date several hundred have been identified. A data base is being built and maintained so these individuals can be kept up to date on the various activities and programs in order to solidify bonds and relationships. If you know of anyone please contact the rectory at 412-563-4400 or e mail to [ressi@earthlink.net](mailto:ressi@earthlink.net)

## WOMEN'S GUILD

Resurrection Women's Guild is a spiritual and social organization for Christian women of all ages. The Guild meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. from September through June. The meeting includes a spiritual program, entertainment, and coffee and snacks. Recent programs included Stations of the Cross during Lent and a social celebrating the Irish.

We welcome all women of the parish to join us. If interested, call Nancy at 412-341-4207 or Eileen at 412-835-4256 for more information.

## ANGEL TREE

I have always known our parishioners to be very generous, but this is never more evident than at Christmas, with the Angel Tree project. Our Ladies of Charity organization started the Angel Tree at Resurrection approximately ten years ago. It continues to grow each year. This past year there were almost 500 angels, and every person was taken care of. Our recipients range in age from infancy to seniors, and are from our immediate area and nearby locations. We receive the names for the Angel Tree from local nursing homes, BRC, St. Vincent de Paul, and various parish contacts. The names of the recipients are kept in the strictest confidence.

The front of each Angel tree ornament contains the first name and age of the individual. The reverse side offers suggestions for gifts. We ask that each Angel gift be in the \$20 to -\$25 range. Although we stress that it is not necessary to purchase *all* items on the back of the angel (as they are suggestions only), many people generously purchase everything listed. Sometimes we are given extra gifts to be used as needed. During the occasional instances where Angel gifts are not returned (or not returned in a timely manner), our organization shops to make sure no one is without a gift. The funding for this is made possible with donations from the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Knights of Columbus, and with cash donations from our parishioners.

Although the Angel Tree Project is the largest activity of the Ladies of Charity, our other activities include the Prayer Shawl Ministry, assisting with the annual anointing Mass for the sick and elderly, and also making visits to nursing homes. In addition, we send birthday cards and Christmas cards to parishioners over the age of 80, and Easter cards to the homebound and nursing home residents.

We are always looking for new members. This past March, three new members were invested at St. Paul's Cathedral by Bishop Zubik. Locally, there are more than 800 Ladies of Charity. For any questions, or if you are interested in joining, please call the rectory at 412-563-4400 and leave your name and phone number.



**Rich Longo**

## Editorial:

## What Does It Mean To Be A Centenarian?

Several months ago ABC presented a magazine documentary on the lives and experiences of several individuals who had reached the grand old age of one hundred years and beyond. Their lives were chronicled with special emphasis placed on the attributes, mind set and way of life of these amazing people in order to determine what contributed to such longevity.

A resounding theme was that a positive out look on life coupled with a strong sense of family, friends and believe in God all contributed to a long, healthy and peaceful life. One particular individual John when asked by Diane Sawyer “John, so what in your opinion is the major reason for your long life” responded by saying “making lemonade out of lemons”. When further probed he went on to say “that having a positive attitude about life and seeing the good in things is what makes for a long and prosperous life”.

As Resurrection soon approaches its Centennial Year, the words and wise sense of John have particular meaning. Our Church and its Parish Community have had a profound effect on the citizens of Brookline and surrounding community for close to one hundred years. Just think about all of the up, downs, trials and tribulations the community and its people have been thru over the years. Yet the Church has been here as the ever present beacon of hope and stability for all whom its has served over the years

Just think about how many people were influenced by Resurrection from childhood to adult hood and into the golden years. Teachers, Clergy, Parishioners etc have all played significant roles in the lives of many. The Masses, the sports events, the dances, the community events and the list goes on!! So many family, friends and alumni have begun to share their memories and stories with the underlying theme of how grateful and appreciative they are for all that Resurrection did for them in molding and shaping their lives and for what they hope Resurrection will continue to be in the future.

While the spirit and intent of Resurrection is forever strong, with the “*grandeur of age over time*” comes the need to address and update those physical and tangible aspects of the Parish so that the “spirit and service” can continue for another one hundred plus years. The Centennial Capital Campaign that is being embarked upon is intended to do just that: update, restore and refurbish the Church so that it can continue to do God’s work. Just like with a home, which periodically needs to have up keep performed, so does the Church. The goal over the next several years is to raise anywhere between *five hundred and seven hundred thousand dollars*. Many will conclude this to be a large amount and rightly so, but with what is planned and the cost of things today it is truly a realistic amount. Immediate plans and the priority for the various projects/initiatives are as follows:

| <u>Project/Initiative</u>                 | <u>Estimated Costs</u> |
|---|------------------------|
| · Restoration of the Sanctuary/Main Alter | \$ 75,000.00           |
| · Painting of the Church/Restore Mural    | \$ 125,000.00          |
| · Electrical, Sound and Lighting System   | \$ 125,000.00          |
| · New Entrance Doors                      | \$ 25,000.00           |

These have been identified as the priority projects. Other ones that are being considered pending the eventual availability of funds include: *Move the Confessionals to the back of the Church; Move Choir Area to the Front of the Church; Create a Gathering Area under the Choir Loft; Create a Memorial Space in the Existing Vestibule for the Parish Family Trees and the Restoration of the Pews and Refinishing of the Main church Floor.* Also keep in mind that with any “physical plant” there is always a need for reserve funds so that when things break, unexpected happenstances occur etc there are available funds to address these issues.

It is therefore hoped that you will give generously to this campaign in order to keep the Mission and Service of Resurrection going strong. Like John, Resurrection’s zest for life and service to the community along with its unique ability to take on challenges and turn these into opportunities is a true test to its long and treasured existence and what will ultimately contribute to its continued success for the next one hundred years to come!

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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### 2007-2008 Reflection on the “Keys” to a successful Religious Education Program

- The **Catechists** are “key” who for their love of God, and their willingness to share their faith with the children is significant, these men and women hold the “key” to teaching our children their Catholic Faith.
- The **Office Staff** are “key” in that they make sure the buildings are always safe (doors are locked), as well as making sure that children are in class and taken care of when needed. In addition to their clerical responsibilities, they make calls to the families for various reasons; they help in the preparation of the Sacraments and with materials to the children being Home Schooled.
- The **Clergy** are “key” in providing the Spiritual support and guidance for all the staff and families.
- The **Maintenance Staff** are “key” in making sure the buildings are clean, safe and conducive to learning.
- The **Volunteers** are “key” in all the support they provide for the programs throughout the year from registration to First Holy Communion Retreats.
- The **Parents** are “key” to making sure their children are given the opportunity to learn about God and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word Program (aka as LINKS)** – This year the program was re-activated with great response. **LINKS** is a way of allowing all children from kindergarten to fourth grade to share in learning about the Word of God in their terms. The children are dismissed from the main assembly after the opening prayer, and return during the offertory hymn. Although the readings are adapted for them, the children’s Lectionary contains the same readings that are at the main assembly. The Children’s gathering includes: the first reading, the responsorial psalm, the Gospel acclamation, the Gospel, a discussion of the readings (the homily), and the prayer of the faithful.

Special thanks to the following lectors: **Bridget Burns, Rich Longo, Tom Tambellini, Joan Cotter and Donna Dusch** for their help this year, along with the Catechists and Parents who help make this a successful program. The **LINKS** program will begin again in September at the 11:30 Mass.

**Teen and Adult Volunteers welcome** -We welcome anyone who would like to become a leader or an assistant (**LINKS** Program). It is a wonderful way to share your faith with God’s most precious gift of all, **our children**. The commitment is minimal. Leaders take turns every 3rd or 4th Sunday depending on how many leaders are available at the time. You will be provided with a book that has the readings and guidance for the discussion. You do not have to be a theological scholar or a teacher. It takes about a 1/2 hour to prepare and 10 or 15 minutes during Mass. We strive very hard to have two adults present so there is always help. It is a great idea for seniors, anyone ready to take that first step into this ministry, and any others who has a love for children and the Word of God!

**2008-2009 Religious Education classes start Sunday September 14, 2008 and Tuesday September 17 and Wednesday September 17, 2008. New this year is kindergarten classes.** Registration forms can be located in the back of Church or on the Resurrection website at [www.eressi.com](http://www.eressi.com) or by contacting the Religious Education office at **412.343.9551**. Completed forms and payments (check made out to Resurrection Church) can be returned to either the Rectory or on the first day of classes.

**VOLUNTEER CCD TEACHERS.** Can YOU help our parish children to learn about their faith? Are YOU willing to become a Catechist, Office or Classroom Aide? If you would like to explore the possibility, please call the Faith Formation office at **412-343-9551**.

### **Vacation Bible School**

Come Visit the Faith Formation Booth at this year’s Fun Flair and registration forms and envelopes for VBS are located in the back of Church. Completed Forms with payment (check only) can be dropped in the weekly collection. Please mark VBS

This year’s theme for VBS is Discovering Jesus’ miraculous power and it will give your child (ren) a new enthusiasm for God’s Word—and for Jesus! As we will engage kids with fun, science-themed surprises, and they will see amazing things happen. There will be bible points, songs, games, and experiments that add up to making a life-long difference in the lives of our children!

**WHEN: Monday July 28 through Friday August 1**

**WHO:** Children that are in Kindergarten through sixth grade (starting in September 2008 school year)

**TIME: 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

**FEE: \$ 5.00 per child – includes lunch, snack and supplies**

**WANTED:** Adult and Middle & Senior High School Students Needed for leaders and aides

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## FAITH FORMATION

Under the umbrella of Faith Formation fall the School of Religious Education and Adult and Young Adult Formation. The school year 2007-2008 had a great beginning with a 2% increase in enrollment in grades 5 through 8. The statistics are as follows:

### Brookline Regional Catholic Enrollment (grades K-8)

Total number of Brookline Regional Catholic - Resurrection Families is 46

Total number of Brookline Regional Catholic - Resurrection Children is 65

### Resurrection Religious Education (CCD) Enrollment (grades 1-8)

Total number of Religious Education - Resurrection Families is 141

Total number of Religious Education - Resurrection Children is 202

### Volunteers

Total number of Catechists -16

Total number of Office Staff and Aides - 9

### New and Re-Activated Faith Formation Positions

This year the position of *Parish Special Needs Advocate* was re-activated. A new position for Youth Ministry was created and three new services/positions were added. They are as follows:

1. **Youth Ministry** – Caitlin McNulty has accepted the position as Youth Minister. Some of the programs offered are as follows:
  - Meetings are held Wednesday in the Youth Group Room from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. To reach this location, enter the new school building's main doors (Faith Formation Building doors) and follow the signs.
  - In addition, the Youth Group Room is open Monday thru Thursday from 2:30-5:30 for anyone in grades 6 thru 12 who would like to use the room for doing homework, having a meeting or to play games.
2. **Home School Liaison** – this person is responsible for making sure that parents who wish to teach their children in the home receive the appropriate work and then follow-up on the assignments.
3. **First Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist Liaison** - this person is responsible for making sure that all necessary communications and follow-up paper work are verified. This allows the teachers and catechists to spend more time with the children.
4. **Confirmation and Holy Eucharist Liaison** – this person is responsible for making sure that all necessary communications and follow-up paper work are verified. This allows the teachers and catechists to spend more time with the children.

If anyone wants further information, please contact the Faith Formation Office at **412-343-9551**.

## THE RESURRECTION WELCOME WAGON

In our January 2008 issue of the newsletter, we included an article dedicated to newcomers in the parish. That issue included persons registering between May 7 and October 10, 2007. The Resurrection Community now welcomes the following 58 new parishioners who registered between October 11, 2007 and May 3, 2008:

|                          |                                 |                      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Rita Mason               | Angela and Martin McDonagh      | James Ross Shepherd  |
| Maryann Varricchio       | Amy and Robert Dallas           | Chris Conway         |
| Kevin Super              | Kevin and Jaime O'Malley        | George Zupcic        |
| Tiffany Solomon          | Mr. & Mrs. Steven Boss          | Robert Cox, Jr.      |
| Lisa Young               | Kevin and Caitlin McNulty       | Christine Tryczynski |
| Donna Marzan             | Mossie and Abbey Murphy         | Christine Koziak     |
| Jessica Price            | Stephen and Laura Caruso        | April Keenan         |
| Richard Stern Family     | William and Patricia Keller     | Jennifer Elardo      |
| Sheilah Barnes           | Lisa and Christopher Richardson | Sherry Schipani      |
| Jamie Kine               | John and Eileen Weinheimer      | Cynthia Pail         |
| Anita Spano              | William and Rose Rupert         | Kathleen Diulus      |
| Joy Erny                 | Christy and Ryan Flanagan       | Joanne Sasser        |
| Virginia Barnes          | Henry and Suzanne Cafardi       | Chris Hess           |
| Mr. and Mrs. Eric Newell | Della and Mark Pantelis         | Jacquie Pantelis     |

If any new member(s) of the parish would like to learn more about the ministries and/or activities of Resurrection, please contact the church office at **412-563-4400**.

## YOUTH GROUP CORNER

Where Youth Group Members Answer Your Questions!



*Catilin McNulty*

### **What is youth group?**

Hannah – Youth Group is where you can go to learn about things and sometimes play games. Also you can do activities with Youth Group, such as ice skating and helping in the soup kitchen and other places.

Desiree - *It's a group of kids in middle school and high school who get together to help their community, participate in fun activities and learn more about their faith.*

### **Is youth group like CCD?**

Hannah - No, because you don't just learn about God and Jesus, you can go and have fun and do activities.

Desiree - *Youth Group is far from being like CCD. We do still talk about religious topics, but it's much more relaxed and hands on.*

### **Why should I join youth group? What do you like about it?**

Hannah - You should join because it is FUN!!! Besides, we have fun while learning!!! What I like about youth group is the activities that not only are fun but help others.

Desiree - *The great thing about youth group is that you get to meet others, make tons of new friends, help your community, participate in fun activities, and learn about and discuss your faith.*

### **When and where do you meet?**

Hannah - Every Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. at Resurrection Church in the youth group room on the ground floor.

Desiree - *We meet in the youth group room below the Faith Formation Building next to the Church of the Resurrection at 6:30 every Wednesday night.*

### **Do you do community service?**

Hannah - Yes, the soup kitchen, canned food drives, and Souper Bowl Sunday.

Desiree - *We do community service all the time. There is not a month that goes by without us finding some way to help our community.*

### **Why do you like community service?**

Hannah - Because it isn't always fun just to keep doing things for yourself. I like giving to the people who have less than we have.

Desiree - *I like to help out and do good things for other people who may need it. That's what community service is all about.*

To learn more about the youth group, see upcoming events and pictures of past events please visit [www.eresi.com/youthgroup](http://www.eresi.com/youthgroup)

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***For all your printing needs, please call  
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## SPOTLIGHT ON THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Many in the parish are still asking, “What is a Parish Pastoral Council and what is it that the Parish Pastoral Council does?” Let me try to answer the question as briefly as I can to everyone’s satisfaction.

The Parish Pastoral Council is an advisory group (usually between 6 and 12 parishioners) who “assist the pastor and the parish staff in fostering the pastoral life of the parish.” Each member of the Council embraces his/her baptismal call to stewardship with regard to prayer, service, community, worship, education and leadership in the parish. The primary responsibility of the Council is to develop a pastoral plan that serves to provide direction for the mission of the entire parish. This plan, based on the needs and priorities of the parish, provides goals and objectives to be carried out with input and backing from the members of the parish, the plan is to be a working document that shows shared commitment to the future of the parish.

Since the Parish Pastoral Council of the Church of the Resurrection was established by Father Frank in 2003, we have worked quietly on learning how to be a Council, while at the same time developing and implementing some important goals based on the results of the 2005 Census, our first major project. We have initiated a parish newsletter, parish town hall meetings, a small church community, a parish leader’s retreat and a stewardship enhancement program. The men’s group and the youth group became realities because of our research and discussions

### FOCUS ON STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Team has planned a “*Stewardship Year*” to coincide with the parish’s *Anniversary Year*. During this time the team will highlight the organizations and ministries already at work in the parish and provide opportunities for members of the parish to utilize their special talents in a variety of ways. The events of the year will consist of the following:

1. The last weekend of each month, from June 2008 to May 2009, will be known as *Stewardship Weekend*. On that weekend we will focus our attention on our baptismal call to be *stewards*.
2. In the fall of 2008, an evening social will be held for all members of parish organizations, ministries and staff.
3. A directory will be prepared to explain parish ministries and organizations in order to make them more visible to the community.
4. One organization or ministry of the parish will be highlighted in the bulletin every two weeks throughout the year to give witness to its contribution to the parish and the community in general.
5. Plans are in place to invite a visiting choir to sing at one of the Stewardship Masses during the year in order to build community with that parish.
6. Once every other month there will be a pamphlet on stewardship in the pews for people to read and learn more about stewardship and service to others.
7. A Ministry Fair will be held to provide parishioners with insight into what our many organizations and ministries do for the parish and the community.
8. A parish celebration will be planned for Shrove Tuesday, 2009.

During this year of stewardship, many parishioners will discover that they are already living a life of service as modeled by Jesus. Others will see that it really isn’t too difficult to be involved, once their talents are identified and accepted as gifts from God. One thing that we will all learn during the coming months is that this is the year that Resurrection Church will be challenged to become a total *Stewardship Parish*.

During this coming summer, the Parish Pastoral Council will evaluate its progress thus far and make plans for its future, as well as the future of the parish. Parishioners are encouraged to get involved with members of the Council by sharing in writing their concerns and complaints, as well as their compliments and suggestions. Your insights are very important to us. If you accept this invitation you can drop off your comments at the parish office *c/o Parish Pastoral Council*.

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**Mass Schedule:**

**Saturday Evening.....5:00 PM**

**Sunday.....8:30 AM, 11:30 AM, and 6:30 PM**

**Daily:**

**Monday.....6:00 PM (Miraculous Medal Novena Follows)**

**Tuesday thru Friday.....9:00 AM**

**Holy Days.....See Schedule in Bulletin**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Daily.....After the Mass    Saturday.....4:00 PM to 4:30 PM or by Appointment

**Sacrament of Baptism:**

First and third Sunday of each month. Advance notification is required as well as participation in a Pre-Baptism class for parents.

**Sacrament of Marriage:**

Prospective Bride and Groom are required to make arrangements in person with the pastor, at least six months prior to the anticipated wedding.

All couples are required to attend a Pre-Marriage preparation program.

**Ministry to the Sick and Shut-Ins:**

Please call the Parish Office to arrange for Pastoral visits for Holy Communion, Confession, and Anointing of the Sick.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are also available for home visits.

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