

Changing Realities in Today's Church

Many parishes today are not able to afford a full-time priest. The world-wide economic situation, increasing competition for donor dollars, and smaller congregations mean that many churches that once boasted several priests are now staffed by part-time clergy or simply "Sunday Supply".

Here at Holy Trinity, thanks to a tradition of responsible financial stewardship and generous parishioner support, we are blessed to be able to have a full-time priest to lead and serve our parish.

In the past, Holy Trinity has been able to augment its pastoral ministries with the aid of assistant and part-time priests.

Now, as the only clergy, our Rector must manage the many ministries solely with the help of dedicated groups of lay persons whose training, oversight and development he personally oversees.

What can I do to help?

Take a moment to give consideration to the part you can play in funding this ministry which enables us to worship God, and serve the world for which Christ died.

Church of the Holy Trinity White Rock



The Role of your Rector

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The Role of your Rector

In these rapidly changing times the role of a Rector within the Anglican church has, of necessity, changed in order to adapt to the realities of modern demographics and economic strains.

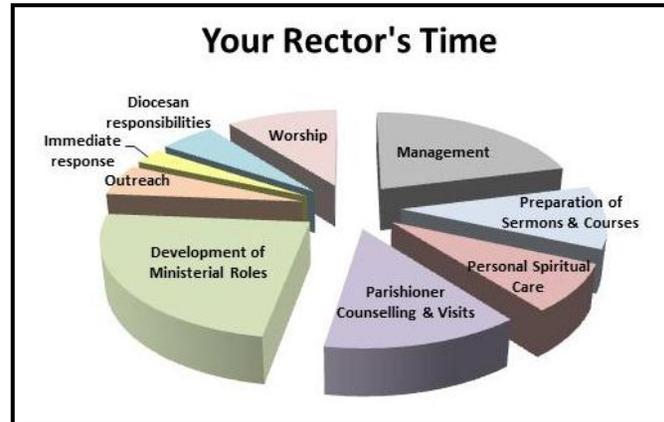
The Rector is in place to provide leadership. He manages expectations, keeps things in perspective and above all else, holds the vision of the Kingdom of God before us.

How does your Rector spend his time?

The Rector is most visible on Sundays, when he celebrates the eucharist and connects with the congregation. But this is, of course, a small proportion of his working week. There are many other responsibilities and tasks to which he must direct time and energy. Many of those are unseen but absolutely essential.

Preparation of Sermons & Courses

We are fortunate to have a priest who takes his preaching and teaching responsibilities very seriously. However, we need to realize that a great deal more time is spent in preparing a sermon or a Lenten course than in actually delivering it!



Immediate Response

Some things in church life occur unexpectedly and require the rector's immediate attention – arranging a funeral, seizing a ministry opportunity or responding to someone in crisis!

Outreach

The Rector is the “public face” of our church. Local outreach initiatives benefit from his personal attention and direct involvement – like the 5k “Run for the Campbell River”.

Personal Spiritual Care

A priest is expected to “keep his conscience in good shape” by regular daily prayer, meditation, reflection and visits to a spiritual director – a duty equally as important as any other required of him.

Development of Ministerial Roles

Helping individuals to identify and utilize their gifts for ministry consumes a very large part of the Rector's time.

Worship: *“Our Sunday service seems to flow so smoothly...” This is the direct result of having **one** person taking responsibility for drawing all the many components into a harmonious act of worship.*

Pastoral Care: *We have wonderful teams of pastoral visitors and lay Eucharistic ministers who help care for all those who cannot worship with us regularly. The Rector is responsible for the vitally important job of educating, monitoring and supporting the members of these teams.*

Diocesan Responsibilities

The Bishop requires all clergy to participate in Diocesan meetings, attend synod and local clergy gatherings, enforce compliance with Diocesan policies, and to submit a range of statistics and yearly reports.

Parishioner Counselling & Visits

The Rector's pattern of visiting parishioners complements that of the pastoral care team. He is also intentional about visiting new parishioners and beginning Christians, as well as being available for the seriously sick, the dying and those who need counselling.

Management

The church is an organization, after all! The Rector tries to ensure the building is properly maintained, the bills are paid, information is current, meetings are effective, deadlines are met, and the staff are happy.