

The Episcopal Church of Grace and Resurrection
100-17 32nd Avenue
East Elmhurst, New York 11369

Parish Profile

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The Episcopal Church of Grace and Resurrection, East Elmhurst

Vestry Members 2021

Carmen DeLeon	Warden, Finance
Calvin Robinson	Warden, Finance, Building and Grounds -Chair
Patricia Christie	Clerk
Valerie Reid	Treasurer, Finance- Chair
Phyllis Browne	
Selwyn Christie	
Stephen Cumberbatch	Finance, Stewardship – Chair
George R. Dixon	Technology – Chair
Sylvestra Hurdle	
Erica Newton	
Herma Phillips	
Weslyn Watkins	Food Pantry – Chair
Kayla White	Technology
Jillian Williams	Episcopal Church Women

Parish Profile

Introduction

The Episcopal Church of Grace and Resurrection was incorporated by the State of New York and The Diocese of Long Island in 2016. Located in the northwest section of Queens—we are uniquely positioned to carry our Lord’s message of love and service, as we minister to our parishioners and members of the community. The members of our parish represent every island in the Caribbean, Central America, South America and the United States. We are delighted to share our story!



Mission Statement

We strive to restore and embrace all people in love and harmony—through worship, prayer and the proclamation of the Gospel.

Our History

The Episcopal Church of Grace and Resurrection

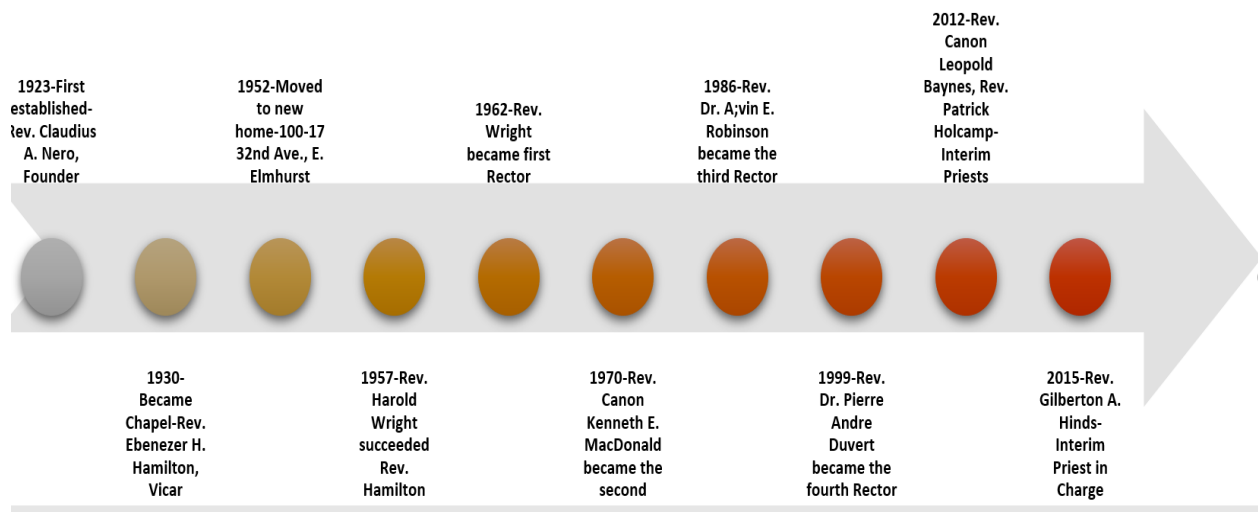


The Episcopal Church of Grace and Resurrection is the result of a merger of two churches, Grace Church, Corona and Church of the Resurrection, East Elmhurst.

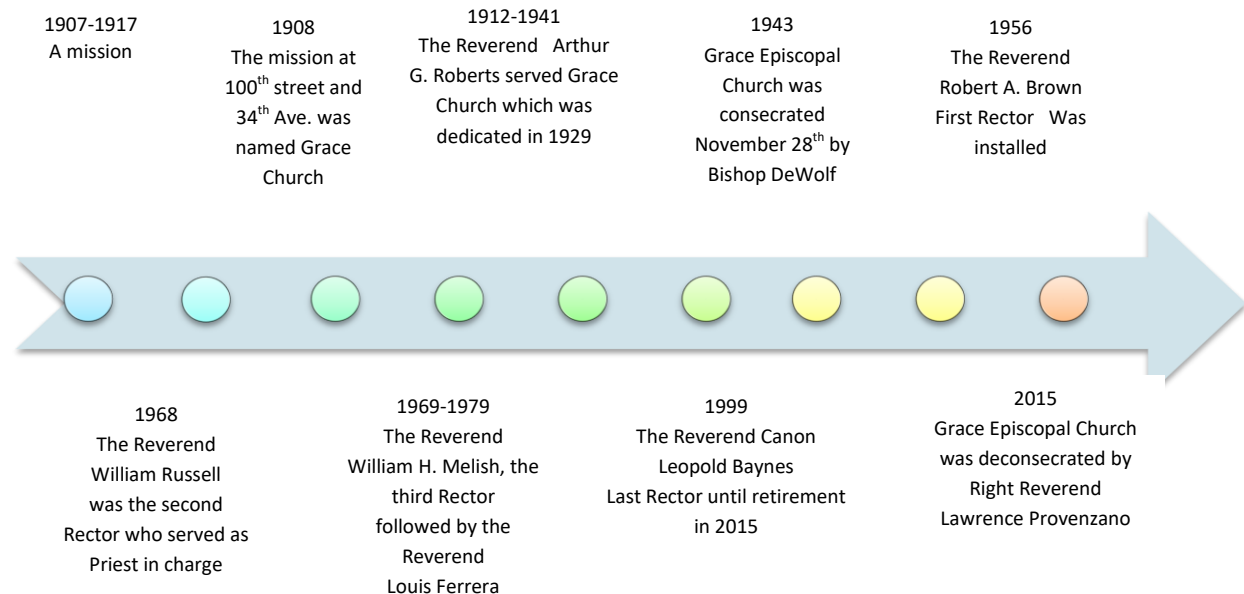
The following is a time line of the history of these two churches:

Parish Timeline

Church of the Resurrection Timeline



The Episcopal Church of Grace Corona



The Reverend Gilberto A. Hinds was assigned on June 1, 2015 as the Interim Priest of the merger. On May 16, 2016 the Episcopal Church of Grace and Resurrection was incorporated in the State of New York and the Diocese of Long Island. The first Eucharist was celebrated on June 7, 2015.

The Very Rev. Gilberto A. Hinds has faithfully served as our Interim Priest from 2016 to present. He has served with love, grace and energy as a teacher, pastor and priest. (A more detailed history of Grace Church and Church of the Resurrection is available in the Appendix.)



Grace And Resurrection Interior



Church Interior

Facilities

Grace and Resurrection has three facilities as well as, two lots across the street from the church, one is used for parking and the other as a playground which is not currently functioning

Church building 100-17 32nd Avenue, East Elmhurst, NY 11369

Rectory 106-01 31st Avenue, East Elmhurst, NY 11369 – The Rectory is not being offered as part of the package as it is to be renovated.

Pre-Kindergarten Facility – There are two classrooms available during the weekdays for rent. Due to the Covid pandemic they have not been utilized.

Prior to Covid the Parish Hall was used for the ESL/Tutorial programs two evenings a week and Saturday mornings. The Food Pantry distributed food in the Parish Hall once a month.

Our Congregation

Traditions

Grace and Resurrection is rich in traditions. Every year members join together to prepare and host, Black History Month (culminating with Ethnic Sunday), Pancake Supper and Maundy Thursday Supper.

Black History Month: Every year a theme is selected to represent a person or organization that contributed to the rich history of Blacks in their communities.

Ethnic Sunday: The parish hall is decorated with flags representing the home countries of our members. After service friends and family enjoy music and food prepared by members from around the world

Pancake Supper: This tradition is held on Shrove Tuesday after the burning of the Palms Service, from which ashes are used for Ash Wednesday services. Pancakes with all the trimmings are served.

Maundy Thursday: Soup is served, after the service of the Washing of the Feet. Members leave in silence in preparation for Good Friday.



Black History Month



Ethnic Sunday



Ethnic Sunday Collation

Current Programs and Ministries

Liturgical: Altar Guild, Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Readers, Ushers and Hospitality, Youth Readers, Senior and Youth Choirs.

Youth Choir



Acolytes



Faith Formation: Our ministries were formed to enhance our spiritual life. However due to Covid many were put on hold.

We continue to have weekly bible study and morning prayer with our Interim Priest through the Zoom platform. The technology team has widened the ability for members to participate in the above ministries. Many are able to call in using the Zoom link and/or use their personal computers virtually.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew's chapter at Grace and Resurrection continue to meet regularly for prayer and Bible study virtually.

The Sick and Shut-in committee continued sharing their spiritual gifts, although in-person visits were not possible, by maintaining contact with those members confined to their homes or in hospitals with regular phone calls, prayers, and cards. They recently resumed visits on an as needed basis.

It is our hope that our new Rector will discern whether ministries that are dormant now need to be rejuvenated or released for new ministry to grow.



Men's Ministry



Youth Ministry

Sunday School

Grace and Resurrection Sunday School is the heart of the Youth Ministry and the foundation upon which the other programs are guided. Our Sunday School classes were suspended from March-August, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we resumed our program in September, 2020 holding virtual classes via Zoom. We meet each Sunday from 9:00-9:45 am. The Sunday School recently purchased *Living the Good News* curriculum to guide our online instruction. Our focus is “Pursuing Peace”.

There are currently 13 students enrolled—including five who reside in different states. Although we were challenged at first by having to communicate via Zoom—our curriculum allows us to thoroughly engage students by integrating art, music and children’s bible videos into our lessons.

In November, 2020—we implemented *Be a Blessing Ministry* into our program. *Be a Blessing Ministry* strives to make the world a better place through ongoing service projects that demonstrate acts of kindness. Student outreach will include church guilds, nursing homes, hospitals and other designated organizations. For our first service project the Sunday School partnered with Silvercrest Nursing Home to provide Christmas cards and letters for its 60 long term residents. Over 100 cards were delivered to the residents along with a donation of 12 Upper

Room Devotional subscriptions. We thank all the children and their families for participating. The residents were very happy!

The children are working on a newsletter that will be published quarterly. Our first issue focused on: Showing Kindness. Our second issue encourages children to show how they can create peace in their homes.

The Sunday School has been blessed with teachers for children in nursery, primary, intermediate and high school.

We thank all of the teachers: Marie Marshall, Valerie Reid, Alison Saydee, Aimee Williams and Deborah Tyson—for blessing us with their gifts and talents.

Easter Sunday School Class



Fellowship Activities: Our fundraising activities provide an opportunity for members to enjoy each other as well as to invite family and friends to fellowship with us. Before the pandemic we held several annual fundraising events:

1. Dinner Dance – This is our annual gathering and largest fundraiser which is held in November.
2. Spring Concert – Held in April usually after Lent, which offered opportunities to various musicians and groups to entertain our members and friends to the joy of music.
3. International Street Fair – Held in July which highlights our diversity in the community. We feature Caribbean and American cuisines, various vendors showcase their crafts, the Fire Department, the Bookmobile from the Library, and other city agencies also participate. There are also activities for the children and of course music provided by a live DJ.
4. Valentine's Affair – Held before Valentine's Day, initially began as an impromptu mini fund raiser for church members to gather and have fun in the Parish Hall. It turned out that members invited others and eventually it turned out to be a beautiful fun-filled affair.

It is our hope to resume the above activities in the near future.



International Street Fair



Underground Railroad Quilt



Liturgical Dancers

Annual Dinner Dance



Community Outreach

Many of the programs we sponsor or support are on hold due to Covid. We hope to resume participation once the Church is fully opened in the near future.

1. Our Food Pantry was formed several years ago to meet the needs of our community. The pantry distributed bags of food monthly.
2. Women's Day and Men's Day (held respectively in March and October) provided excellent opportunities for the members of the church and neighboring churches to come together in song. Neither were fundraisers; they primarily extended our love for one another in the common area of music.
3. The Christmas Party and Adopt a Family programs sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women also gave us an opportunity to reach out to the community at large and to families in need.
4. We have participated and supported the following community programs: Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, The Corona East Elmhurst Clergy Association and the Key Women of America Scholarship Event.



Men's Day



Women's Day

Grace and Resurrection Tutorial Program

The Tutoring and English as a Second Language Programs exist to provide academic support and enrichment activities for children attending local elementary and intermediate schools and adults in the East Elmhurst/Corona community. Our goal is to help children realize their fullest potential and adults gain confidence and mastery of conversational English.

January-March 2020

The Tutorial Program operated every Saturday from 9:00am-12:00pm with an average of 25 children in attendance ranging in age from 3-16 years—and in prekindergarten through eighth grade. Students received group and individual attention in various subject areas. Community members provided lunch for students and families at the end of each session.

April-December 2020

With the onset of the Covid-19 our program had to close for in-person instruction. We stayed in contact with our students and offered support whenever possible. Noting that most of our students were struggling with remote learning, we researched programs and strategies to aid us in assisting our students. From April – October we developed a plan of action for the coming academic year. We purchased an instructional program called Mobymax and conducted

professional development for all teachers from August-October--to assist them with using Zoom and Mobymax. In preparation for the new academic year we:

- Reached out to all of our students/parents in both the tutorial and ESL programs to determine who would participate;
- Conducted informational workshops in Spanish and English--to introduce parents/students to the program and help them access program features and
- Began online instruction for the Tutorial Program on November 5th and for the ESL Program on November 9th.

We thank our teachers: Clarvet Cuddon, Jayden Cuddon, Marie Marshall, Tanya Meikle, Andrew Petrez, Valerie Reid, Alison Saydee, Aimee Williams, Jillian Williams and Deborah Tyson for their dedication and commitment to the program.

[English as a Second Language Program \(ESL\)](#)

The ESL Program helps participants become literate and communicate in English. As a result--many will be able to enroll in GED programs. Having a high school diploma is a pre-requisite for many entry level and civil service jobs. Attaining gainful employment helps individuals provide for their families and maintain financial independence. The ESL Program meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 pm. There are currently 17 adults enrolled.

We have completed the third and final year of our funding cycle with the Diocese of Long Island. Our grant application was approved and we were awarded \$2722.50 for the Grace and Resurrection ESL and Tutorial Enrichment Program. Future funding to support this program will come from other sources.

We remain grateful for the commitment and service of: Patricia Christie, Melissa Diaz, Ed Lanfranco, Andrew Petrez, Valerie Reid, Adrienne Williams and Aimee Williams—as teachers in the program.



Tutorial/ESL End of Year Celebration

Episcopal Ministry Award Ceremony

Our Stories

Female Acolytes (1971)

Reverend Canon Kenneth E. MacDonald will forever be remembered as the first priest to introduce female acolytes to the Church of the Resurrection in 1971. This revolutionary and controversial transformation within the ministry raised many eyebrows among the parishioners in the Diocese of Long Island as it had never been done before. Patricia MacDonald, Kathy Taylor and Myra Scott were among the first young ladies invited to participate in this ministry. Former acolyte Myra Scott noted that Canon MacDonald felt women worked hard in the church and that their work was seldom recognized. He believed women needed a bigger role within the church—and that it would be an honor to serve the parish in this ministry. His vision and courage foreshadowed the ordination of women to priesthood in the Episcopal Church.



Female Acolytes

Our Community

East Elmhurst is a neighborhood in Northwest Queens. It is represented by “Community Board 3 that is comprised of East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights and North Corona—bounded by Brooklyn-Queens Expressway to the west, Grand Central Parkway to the north, Flushing Meadows Corona Park to the east and Roosevelt Avenue to the south. The district encompasses zip codes 11368, 11369, 11370 and 11372.” (7)

Our diverse community is represented by African American, Caribbean American and South American homeowners and residents.¹ “According to NYU Furman Center, 62.8% of our

¹ *Grace and Resurrection has attempted to embrace our immigrant neighbors primarily through our English as a Second Language and Tutoring Programs. The Tutoring Program is open to all children in grades kindergarten to eight in need of remedial support or academic enrichment. Our English as a Second Language Program helps adults develop the skills needed to become literate in English and attain gainful employment.*

population is foreign born and the majority of our citizens originate from Latin America. Nearly Forty Eight percent (47.7%) of these residents have limited English proficiency in contrast to the Borough which is at 28.89% and the city of New York at 23.1%. We have the 4th largest population in the city of New York with residents that have limited English proficiency. The 2010 Census reports that our population is 171,576, which means that our numbers have increased by 1.5%- (2,493) since the 2000 census. It is widely known, however, that New York was severely under-counted in the last census. We therefore believe that NYU Furman Center's single year indicator for 2013 which projects our population to be at 185,815 is probably a more accurate count.” (7) The community has also witnessed an influx of Asians.

Recreational and cultural facilities include:

- Flushing Meadows—Corona Park-Site of 1939 and 1964 World's Fairs (Corona)
- World Ice Arena— (Corona)
- New York Hall of Science— (Corona)
- CitiField—Home of New York Mets (Corona)
- Billy Jean King National Tennis Center—Home of U.S. Open Tennis Tournament (Corona)
- Queens Museum of Art— (Corona)
- Queens Theatre in the Park— (Corona)
- Queens Zoo— (Corona)
- Louis Armstrong House— (Corona)
- Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center— (Corona)
- Corona-East Elmhurst Historic Preservation Society— (Corona)

Schools

Public School 92-Harry T. Stewart, Sr.

Public School 127-Aerospace Science Magnet School

Public School 148

Public School 149-The Christa McAuliffe School

Louis Armstrong Middle School

The Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology

There are no high schools in East Elmhurst or Corona. However, there are several high schools accessible by public transportation.

Our Next Rector

What we envision in a new Rector:

Grace and Resurrection is searching for a priest with strong interpersonal and liturgical skills who is ready to fulfill the needs of our flock with a shepherd's heart.

We hope for a priest with the ability to connect with our church family and put people at ease is paramount.

Our parish is seeking a priest with a passion for being proactive in the community--whether it is outreach, emergencies, counseling or support.

We are looking for a dynamic leader that understands the importance of youth involvement and education.

Our ideal priest will be a true role model in personal and family life that is comfortable leading education for the youth and understands the role technology can play in the growth of our community.

Pastoral Specialties

The members of Grace and Resurrection ranked what they considered their vision of a competent Pastor.

The six most important specialties chosen in rank order were:

Pastor, Teacher, Preacher, Administrative Leader, Trustworthiness, Crisis Minister

Concerns and Challenges

The church members of Grace and Resurrection are a progressive group of people who know where they have been and where they want to go. There are many expressions of concerns that are similar in nature and there are many suggestions for a better future for the church as well. Both areas bring a healthy perspective for future growth.

The onset of the pandemic caused a very real concern. Through the guidance of New York State and the Diocesan Bishop, we were able to continue as a parish. We were able to get members back to church to worship safely.

We needed to upgrade our website and that has been tackled and it will be an ongoing process.

Some members see a lack of growth as the church needs more young people and to reach out to them to encourage them to be active participants. One suggestion is for greater participation of the youth in ministering the Word.

Future growth may be hard to see due to the increase in Hispanic and Asian Americans in the community. A solution may be to have a bilingual Priest who has the appropriate people skills to reach out to the community. “We have to be willing to modify our liturgy/services and outreach to include the Spanish language.

The Parish embraces the Anglican tradition which is very important to us. It is our hope that our ministries will address the challenges of society. “Our parish must do what society has ignored.”

Being responsive to the needs of our community is Grace and Resurrection’s hope and that more community outreach programs will be addressed in future.

Music is important to Grace and Resurrection, our current program needs revitalization and inclusion of a greater variety of music styles, contemporary, praise and worship, recorded or live.

Grace and Resurrection do not want to see our church fail or be perceived as a dying church so the challenge will be for the new Rector to guide us into future growth.

Another challenge is that we must move forward with technology and be receptive to new ideas.

Our hope for the future:

“As a lifelong member of Grace and Resurrection I always look forward to Sunday worship. It gives me immense spiritual satisfaction to worship with other parishioners and to hear the uplifting message of our priest. I feel spiritually blessed when the service ends.”

Our challenge post pandemic will be to 1. Incorporate new members into the church, 2. Revitalize our youth programs and 3. Continue our successful outreach through our weekly Zoom services.

“It’s a pleasure to be with a God-fearing community with a vibrant, active and caring congregation.” “Keep God first in your life. He’ll take you to places you’ve never even dreamed of.”

If you sense that God may be calling you to Grace and Resurrection please send your application documents (cover letter, resume and OTM profile) to graceresearchcomm21@gmail.com, with a copy to the Rev. Cn. Claire Woodley, Transition Officer for the Diocese of Long Island at cwoodley@dioceseli.org. by October 26, 2021

Parish Photos



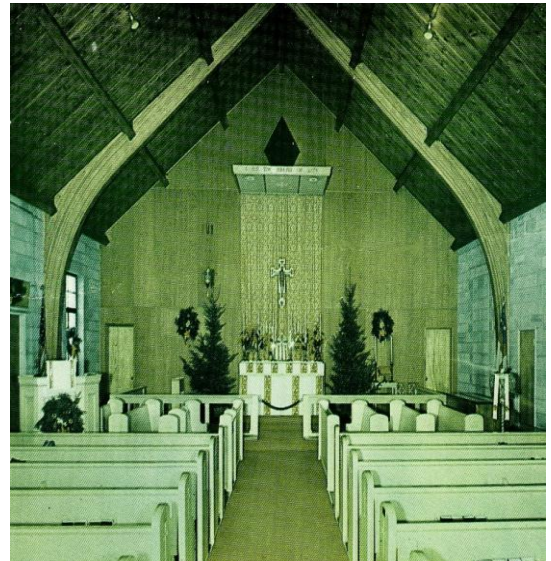
Grace Church



Morgan Hall



Church of the Resurrection Original



Resurrection Original Interior



Muay Thai Class for Youth



Mother's Day Prayers



Pentecost Sunday Preparations



Harvest Thanksgiving Donation



Easter Sunday



Christmas Eve



Mass With Social Distancing

Works Cited

NYC Planning, 2021. "Statement of Community Districts Needs and Community Board Budget", 7.Works Consulted

Works Consulted

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Sengupta, Somini. "Where Jazz Put Its Feet Up, Many Black Musicians Made Their Homes in Queens." The New York Times (Section 1), 20 September 1998, p. 43.

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Our Team

The Episcopal Church of Grace and Resurrection, East Elmhurst, NY 11369

Search Committee

David King	Chair
Aimee Williams	Co-Chair
Adrienne Williams	Secretary
Anita Beckles	
Steve Cumberbatch	Vestry
Harriet Dickenson	
Eboni Newton	
Theodore White	
Cameron Williams	

The Episcopal Church of Grace and Resurrection, East Elmhurst

Website Committee

Valerie Reid - Chair

George R.Dixon

Kayla White

The Episcopal Church of Grace and Resurrection, East Elmhurst

Writing Committee

It was a pleasure in our collaboration efforts to produce the 2021 Parish Profile. We hope that the Lord will continue to bless our church as we search and call a new Rector.

Hyacinth Catlyn

Patricia Christie

Deborah Tyson

Appendix

Grace Church, Corona

Grace Church, Corona Grace Episcopal Church was formed on January 27, 1907 by a group of Episcopalians in a private home on 105th St and 34th Ave in Corona Queens. The first service of Holy Communion was held at this home. Members continued to worship at this location until February 7, 1908 when a mission was officially organized. This mission was named Grace Church. The first service was held in a small building on the corner of 100th St and 34th Ave. In June 1908, five lots on the west side of 98th St between 34th and 35th Aves. were purchased. On November 22, 1908 Morgan Parish Hall was erected on this site and the first service was held in the unfinished building on Christmas day 1908. This building was completed in 1909 in time for Easter service. In 1912 Morgan Parish Hall was extended to accommodate the Guilds and Sunday school. The Rev. Arthur G. Roberts served Grace Church from 1912 until November 1941. On June 7, 1925 the foundation for the church was laid and the first service was held for midnight mass on Christmas Eve in the unfinished building. Grace Church was dedicated on February 13, 1926.

It was consecrated as Grace Episcopal Church on November 28, 1943 by Bishop DeWolfe. The first Rector, the Rev. Robert A Brown was installed in 1956. Later, an extension was added on to the north side of the church to be used as the Rector's office with a lower level for meetings. The Second Rector of Grace was the Rev. William Russell, who had first served the church as Priest-in-Charge. Father Russell served until 1968. The Rev. William Howard Melish was Grace's Third Rector from 1969 to 1979; he was followed by the Rev. Louis Ferrara, who served as Rector from 1979 to 1998. The Very Reverend Canon Leopold C. Baynes was installed as Rector on May 1st 1999 and served until retirement on May 28, 2015. He was the first Black Rector to serve at Grace Church. Canon Baynes also served as Interim Priest-in-Charge at the Church of the Resurrection from March 2013 until his retirement. Grace Episcopal Church held its last service on May 31, 2015. It was deconsecrated on December 7, 2015 at a service officiated by The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano.

The Church of the Resurrection

At the conclusion of World War 1, there was a considerable shift in population throughout the country. Many Anglicans from the Caribbean and Episcopalians from different parts of the country settled in Corona. It was then that the Reverend Claudius Adolphus Nero, who was living in New York City, conferred with Bishop Burgess of the Diocese of Long Island, who commissioned Father Nero to "go and search out those Episcopalians" in the area. Having established a nucleus, Father Nero obtained permission from the Reverend Arthur Roberts of Grace Episcopal Church, Corona, to celebrate a Mass at 6:00am on Easter Day, April 1, 1923. The church appropriated the symbolic name "The Resurrection". In 1930, the Reverend Ebenezer Holman Hamilton became Vicar of the Chapel of the Resurrection, and in 1952, the congregation moved into their new spiritual home on 100th street and 32nd Avenue in East

Elmhurst. Father Hamilton retired in 1957. Bishop DeWolfe appointed as Father Hamilton's successor the Reverend Harold Louis Wright. In 1962 with a congregation of 500 the church became a self-supporting Parish and Father Wright became its first Rector. In 1969 after twelve years of ministry Father Wright resigned. In 1974 Father Wright was consecrated the first African-American Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of New York.

Resurrection was without a priest until August 1970 when the Reverend Canon Kenneth E. MacDonald was installed as the second Rector. Under his tenure, a celebration of the founding of the Church of the Resurrection was held on November 11, 1983 having completed the payment on its mortgage. After Canon MacDonald retired from Resurrection in December 1984, The Reverend Dr. Richard W. Corney served as Interim Priest. The Reverend Dr. Alvin E. Robinson was elected the third Rector on January 1, 1986. After a nine-year tenure, Dr. Robinson retired on January 31, 1995. The following three Interims served: The Reverend Ephraim Goorahoo from February 1995 until January 1996. The Reverend Theodore Bean from February 1996 until January 1997. The Reverend Wilfred S. Callendar from 1997 until May 1999. The Reverend Dr. Pierre Andre Duvert was elected our fourth Rector. He served from June 1999 to November 2012. The Reverend Canon Leopold Baynes and the Reverend Patrick Holtkamp served as Interim Priest and Assisting Priest respectively from 2012 until 2015. At that time, it was determined by The Right Reverend Lawrence Provenzano of The Diocese of Long Island—that The Church of the Resurrection and Grace Episcopal Church in Corona—were to be consolidated into one parish.