



## From the Rector

Christ the King on November 24 is the end of the church year. This makes November the month when church leaders are looking at annual reports to both their own congregations but also to the diocese. This is the time to reflect on the past year and consider the new year.

Back in the summer, another report came out, based on the annual parochial reports across the Episcopal church and seen as one benchmark for church vitality. Reports like this often produce hand-wringing and soul-searching as the easiest numbers to report are membership and attendance, and across the Episcopal domestic dioceses (the Episcopal church includes 19 different countries, which includes ‘domestic’ USA) it seems, as one report said, “the news is bad.” More helpful are those who are looking forward prophetically, like the Wisconsin rector, who recently wrote in Episcopal News Service: “The church will shrink until it rediscovers its primary purpose, which is to be a community of pilgrim disciples, supporting one another in the art and craft of prayer.” That speaks of being church to me.



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen  
Van Koevering

Of course, we aren’t the only denomination nor developed nation experiencing concerns about religious affiliation and participation. Broad social change is ongoing and we are not raising our children in the same world that we or our parents were raised in. But the numbers don’t tell the good news stories nor the mission and ministry that is expanding the spiritual footprint of a church. And by ‘church’, I mean a denomination, its dioceses as well as each congregation.

I don’t have space in this parish newsletter to detail all the good news happening in the Anglican Communion and “the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement”, as our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, likes to say. There are websites dedicated to that, and DioLex weekly emailed news itemizes some of the news. Our own Diocese of Lexington has recently held its Convention and participants would’ve heard much shared good news as well as a vision to see more of the same happening in our church in our part of Eastern Kentucky. If you want to hear exciting good news about the church, it is most definitely out there for our encouragement if we so choose to read, join in and share.

Other reports are coming out that seek to describe the meaning of ‘church’ hidden from parochial reports. One such report, from Forward Movement, classifies half of Episcopal congregations as ‘restless’, meaning parishioners are seeking ways to grow spiritually. We at St Raphael’s have a good news story to support that understanding: 39 members have been reading ‘The Way of Love’ together for 26 weeks, a book that introduces and defines the Episcopal church, the meaning of Anglicanism, and our churchwide vision. As a result, 9 adults will be admitted to the Episcopal church, 5 will be confirmed, 1 reaffirmed and 1 baptized when the Bishop visits us on November 10. Another good news story is that after 11 adults enjoyed spending time together on our four-day VBS this summer, they joined together to support our Sunday School program which now has somewhere between 6-12 children attending. And another good news story is the quiet support of our small team of Eucharistic visitors who take our message of Eucharistic welcome and inclusion out every Sunday to members unable to be present in church. And then there are all the good news stories of ongoing ministries that make this congregation so special in its volunteerism, care for one another, outreach and worship.

And, yes, our parochial report this year will show that we have grown numerically. But you can see that for yourselves on Sundays!



### Diocese Convention - Special Election for our Bishop Nov. 1-2, 2019

Below is the biography for the incumbent Bishop Provisional, who is up for election to become our Diocesan Bishop.

The Right Reverend Mark Van Koevering

A Michigan native, Mark completed a BS degree in Crop and Soil Sciences, and MS in Genetics and Plant Breeding at Michigan State University. His academic background took him to do work in the Peace Corps in Thailand as well as time teaching in China. Mark’s first experience in Mozambique from 1987-1997 was during a time of war and upheaval, where he promoted peace and reconciliation through the Mozambican Council of Churches.

Mark was selected as an ordinand of the Diocese of Niassa, Anglican Church of Southern Africa and completed his theological formation at Trinity College, University of Bristol. He was ordained deacon and priest in the Church in Wales, where he served as a curate and priest-in-charge. Mark was elected the third Bishop of Niassa in 2002 and served as the diocesan bishop in Mozambique until the end of 2015. During his time as bishop, the diocese grew significantly, with over 200 new church plants, 50,000 baptisms and 19,000 confirmations during his tenure. In addition, Mark empowered local leadership to initiate comprehensive, holistic social development with over 500,000 beneficiaries annually. In January 2016, Mark was welcomed into the Episcopal Church and called to serve as the Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of West Virginia until his move to Lexington in April 2018.

Mark is married to The Reverend Canon Helen Van Koevering, the Rector at St Raphael’s Episcopal Church in Lexington. Mark and Helen have three grown children, Jake, Matt, and Kylie.



### St Raphael Annual Meeting Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>.

At our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday 11/17, we will elect members of the Vestry (three with 3-year terms and one with a 1-year term). We will also elect members to serve as Diocesan Candidates for 2020 (a total of 4 plus also 2 Alternates in case of sickness or illness).

To serve on the Vestry, you would need to be able to meet at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month (12 meetings per year). You would also serve on one or more committees from time to time. You must be at least 16 years old and been regular worshipers in the parish for at least six months, and have been regular contributors to the support of the Parish.

For Diocesan Candidate, you would need to commit to attending the Diocesan Convention in November 2020 on behalf of the Parish. You must be at least 16 years old and been regular worshipers in the parish for at least six months, and have been regular contributors to the support of the Parish.

Vestry members conduct the “business” of the church, in conjunction with our Rector, Reverend Helen. Diocesan candidates represent the Parish in matters before the Diocese at a convention. We need to hear from any interested Parishioners before Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Reverend Helen.

## Sr Warden’s Corner



Tony Lo Bianco,  
Sr. Warden

Here is what I want to see sometime: a burn victim who rescued children, old ladies and puppies from a burning house being interviewed by a reporter who asks the inevitable question, “Do you think of yourself as a hero?” And I want them to look right into the camera and say “yes.” I think we are so conditioned to shy away from accolades that we miss out on the good they do, not just for others but for ourselves.

We are in the midst of a stewardship campaign which has the theme “Blessed to be a Blessing.” The “blessed” part is easy: I think most of us can talk pretty freely about feeling blessed. Most of us have been blessed in many ways – too many to count, and even though I know that I take many things for granted I also don’t need too much prodding to begin listing my blessings. But sit with this and go ahead and let it make you feel uncomfortable: you are a blessing.

Uncomfortable enough? O.k., try this: you are a blessing to me. You are a blessing to St. Raphael’s. I get something out of it when you are present at a Sunday service or other event. If you really want to delve into some unease, list some things that make you a blessing. Maybe what you do, more importantly who you are.

Yeah, it’s not easy. Someone called me an “inspiration” the other day and I wanted to get away from them as quickly as possible. Most people with disabilities that I know think of “inspiration” as a code word for acknowledging the fact that one hasn’t completely given up on life. That we’re doing the same things others are, but seem to be awkwardly shoved up onto a pedestal just so others can feel better about themselves. But really, who knows? Maybe something in me genuinely inspired this person, and who am I to take away that feeling? Honestly, I think it would just about the definition of inspirational to deny someone else of a blessing that they felt.

If we are going to live into our calling to be the blessing we can be, we need to put ourselves out there. I promise I will try to continue to bless you with all the sarcasm and dark humor peppered with occasional insights that I can offer. It’s my little blessing to you! And I expect that you will uphold your end of the bargain too: bless me with your voice, whether it sings from the choir or is boldly off key. Bless me with your opinions, be they well formed proposals or bizarre thoughts you had during the sermon. Bless me by giving generously to our ministries, by making a stretch with your pledge and fulfilling it throughout the year. Bless me by being yourself – and here’s a little side note: some of you are really annoying! Well, good! Bless me with that unease, that discomfort. God does not call us to be either soft-spoken or comfortable. Bless us with your Abilities to plan and organize, to lead a class, to give to one of our projects or ministries, to leave a contribution in your will, to cook and deliver a meal when you don’t have the time or recipe. Be the boldly imperfect blessings that God calls you to be and that we need you to be.

And next time you are counting all of those blessings that you have received, remember to add yourself to that list. You are blessed to be a blessing.

*Tony*



## Stewardship Corner

Roger Kirk, Stewardship Chair

The Stewardship Campaign is full steam ahead with our primary theme this year being “It is Blessed to be a Blessing”! Our 2-minute talks have been going well and will continue until our Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday 11/17/19. Please submit your pledge as soon as possible. Your pledge campaign results will determine the direction of the Parish budget.

Now keep in mind that “campaign” is a very generalist term. It is just a series of actions to bring reverent and Godly focus to those pledging to support the Parish for its Operational expenses. Expenses such as a Rector salary and benefits. Or the heating and air conditioning bills. Or snow removal and mowing expenses. Or insurance expenses. And so on down the line it goes. Note again that the campaign will culminate on Stewardship Sunday 11/17/19, which will be a huge day. We will conduct our Parish Annual Meeting at a COMBINED 10:30 Service, during which we elect the 2020 Vestry and Diocesan Convention Delegates. That day the tentative plan is also to honor the Sages for their diligence over the years with a food celebration (I know, the concept of a food celebration is just shocking!) after church.

And we will bless the entirety of your Pledges to the Operations of this Parish. Now below is a new feature of the Stewardship Corner that the Vestry thought might be of benefit to the General Parish. Each month I will give the latest Monthly Fiscal Year-to-Date Percentages, for both income and for expenses. We welcome your feedback.

NOTE: Figures are for YEAR-TO-DATE through September, which is 75% of the Budget Projection Year.  
Income January to September 2019 is running at 72.57% of Budget, or 2.43% under Projection.  
Expenses January to September 2019 is running at 74.15% of Budget, or 0.85% under Projection.  
The overall Budget is running 3.60% under Projections (Perfect Balance would be zero).  
Let us give thanks for God’s blessings at St. Raphael (with a bit of fun added in to show our humanity).

Roger L Kirk, Stewardship Committee Chair

## A View from the Pew

### Put on your PJ’s: morning, noon and night!

The first evening chill sent me to my sweats. I keep my house around 60 during the winter months, both to save money and because it is more comfortable to get warm under the covers than to sweat all night. Donning my adult version of pajamas is another advantage.

As I slipped on a pair of plushy athletic socks to complete my evening attire, I was reminded of the kind of PJ’s I wore as a little boy: a soft, one-piece pajama set with padded feet attached. There was never anything in the history of wardrobing that was as comfortable as those pajamas!

Then I outgrew those pj’s. The replacements were of the conventional two-piece variety, with no footie in sight. While I missed the comfort of the old. I was elated by the new realization that I was growing up. Footies were for children—onward and upward!

And now, as I enjoy today’s version of my boyhood PJ’s, I realize that I never wanted to leave the comfort and security of those old PJ’s behind. It was just that the thought of growing up, of doing and being what “grown-ups” do and are, smothered the essence of that childhood innocence.

As I got older it became more important to “fit it,” to follow traditions. ‘Be a man’, ‘don’t cry’, ‘be careful they’re from the other side of the tracks’, ‘watch ‘em, they believe we came from fish’! Protesting, pot-smoking hippies—shun them! Godless Communists—hate them! Other “traditions” seemed innocuous, even normal; they were so well-entrenched. ‘Women can’t do that, or must do this because, well, they’re women’, for example.

But the Holy Spirit-fueled search for truth opens our eyes to the errors of such traditions—“the traditions of man” Jesus so warned about. Once exposed, these “traditions” become decidedly UN-comfortable. We become uncomfortable with the status quo of those false traditions, of prejudices, of falsities and of the fear and disfavor accorded to the human victims thereof.

This discomfort torments in marked contrast to the pure comfort of childhood innocence. Before they are taught these wayward traditions, children have the purity of angels. They love all, trust all and see only goodness in all. And that is why Jesus venerated children as the model for souls wishing to enter heaven: “He called a little child to him and placed the child among them. And he said: ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’” MT 18:2...“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” MT 19:14.

This is my Personal Jesus, my real set of PJ’s. Comfortable and simple. Just love all and put your trust in God and rest easy. Like my childhood PJ’s, I love wearing them. But unlike them, I try to leave my PJ’s on, morning noon and night.

Perpetual comfort guaranteed!

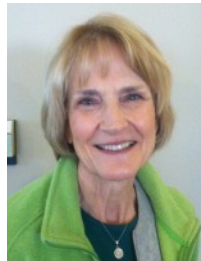
*Richard*



Richard Dawahare

## Music Notes

### Don’t Overlook November



Melinda Storey

November marks the end of our Liturgical Year, Lectionary Year C, with the new Year A beginning on December 1, the first Sunday of Advent. There will be a flurry of activity during the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons. But November has plenty to commend itself as well. We will begin the month by observing All Saints’ Sunday on November 3, as we celebrate our communion with those who have gone before us: “all the saints who from their labors rest.” The choir will sing “The Souls of the Righteous,” by Stanley Marchant (1883-1949), with beautiful text from the Book of Wisdom:

“The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise, they seemed to die, but they are in peace; they are in peace.”

On November 10, in the Gospel reading from Luke, Jesus explains what it means to be “children of the resurrection.” The choir will sing “Ain’-a That Good News,” a beloved African-American Spiritual arranged by William Dawson (1899-1990). Listen also for some favorite Thanksgiving hymns and anthems during November: “We Gather Together” and “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come.” The choir will sing the lovely harvest anthem “Fear Not, O Land,” by William Henry Harris (1883-1973) with text from the Book of Joel: “The floors shall be full of wheat, and ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied. “

The final Sunday of the Liturgical Year is November 24, Christ the King Sunday. Our Offertory Anthem that day will be the lively Spiritual “Ride On, King Jesus,” in the well-known arrangement by Moses Hogan (1957-2003).

Even if you are anxiously anticipating Advent and Christmas (as I am), don’t overlook the beauty and liturgical significance of the month of November. And best wishes for a Blessed Thanksgiving as well!

Melinda Storey, Organist/Choirmaster



### A Collect for our Diocesan Vision

Gracious Father, your Spirit connects and restores all life to unity with you and each other in Christ Jesus. Energize our faith so that we may courageously live into our calling to be the church by praising your Holy Name, making disciples and discovering your presence at work in our neighborhoods. Shape us to be the change that brings hope and joy to an aching world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

# A Church Mouse in God's House



Well it looks like it's time to grow another winter coat. Did you know that November has the biggest change in average daily temperature over the course of a month out of any month of the year? It's true, at least around here. And it's not just the weather that changes either. It starts with election day when your hopes and fears quickly change to joy or sorrow. It ends with a day of "thanks" followed by you all trampling each other to get the next flat screen TV. And for us mice, it's a big change from scavenging for food to hoarding what we have (and eating your leftovers).

What do you think about change? I hear you talk a lot about things in your life that you want to change, but it rarely seems to happen and when it does you tend to kind of freak out about it. You do have longer lifespans than us, and maybe that's just it- you think you're going to live forever so are afraid to make any real life changing commitments, while we hardly have time to get into a routine until our lives are over.

But things do change, like it or not. I gather this is the basis for many of your strong relationships. You need each other when things change... sometimes even to help them change. I've told you before that I'm not quite sold on this whole "God" idea, but if God causes change to occur, maybe it's a real thing. I mean let's face it, if we waited for you all to change on your own, we'd be waiting a long time.

So I'll leave you with this thought: Thank God for change. We never really know what it will bring, but maybe living into the uncertainty of life is a good thing.



## Up-Coming Events At St Raphael's

### Crafter's Circle

The Crafters will meet downstairs in the main parish hall on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am. Everyone is welcome to come and work on quilting projects, or knitting or crocheting. If you'd like to learn how to knit, crochet or quilt, we have several very experienced crafters who would love to teach you!

### BUILD Upcoming Events

Nov. 4th, 7pm, Community Problems Assembly, Consolidated Baptist, new offers are elected, new congregations are welcomed, discussion and vote on established and new issues facing the community. It is the culmination of House Meetings from various churches.

Dec. 9th, 6:30pm, Research to Action Kick-Off, beginning of the research process for clergy, team leaders, and network members.

### Sages

Sages will meet at Ramsey's Diner 151 W. Zandale Rd, (off Nicholasville Rd) on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30am. Call Jeannie Graham, 608-1891 to make your reservation.



### Outreach Opportunity

Kimberly Siahkoohi will be joining a small group from ABRO (American Belarussian Relief Organization) visiting orphanages, children's homes, shelters, hospitals, and villages affected by the radiation from the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant accident. They plan to see approximately 200-250 children.

The organization arranges for children to stay in the US for six weeks annually for medical and dental attention. A dentist has donated 200 toothbrushes and travel toothpastes. One church has donated 72 small stuffed animals. Lufthansa Airline is allowing each of us a free fifty pound suitcase for the relief effort. Desirable items are:

Winter hats \* Gloves \* Winter weight Scarves \* Small toys/stuffed animals

If you would like to participate please let her know. They leave December 29. Thank you!

### Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes will be held Nov. 2nd, and Nov. 9th at noon at the church.

### Events at Cathedral Domain

Happening Weekend for 10th-12th grades: Nov 8-10

'New Year in the Spirit' for 7-12th grades: Dec 27-30

For more info and for online registration, go to [www.cathedraldomain.org](http://www.cathedraldomain.org)

If anyone needs financial assistance, let Rev Helen know.

### The Bishop will visit November 10

Baptism, confirmations, admissions and reaffirmations at 11 am service and followed by a lunch of soup and sandwiches (Please contact Carol Summers with contributions at [carol.summers@uky.edu](mailto:carol.summers@uky.edu)).

### Annual Meeting, Stewardship Sunday and Lunch November 17

Parish Annual Meeting, Stewardship Sunday and 'Thankful for our Sages' meal - all welcome! (Please contact Carol Summers to sign up for contributions at [carol.summers@uky.edu](mailto:carol.summers@uky.edu))

### Book Study: Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices, 10 a.m. Sundays

All are invited to take part in our book study. The book "Walk in Love" is a 'Journey through The Book of Common Prayer, the Christian life, and basic beliefs of our faith, guided by two Episcopal priests.' The group discussed chapter 23 last Sunday, but it's an easy read and you can catch up or read independently at your own pace. A few books are available for purchase in the box in the back of the church. Just leave a check or cash Sunday and it will be collected. Or, order one for yourself here: <https://www.amazon.com/Walk-Love-Episcopal-Beliefs-Practices-ebook/dp/B079H3N7XG/> Facilitators are needed for upcoming Sundays. Sign up to lead discussion on a Sunday. The signup sheet is in the box with the books. All are welcome to join the book study at any time.

### Reading Camp - Kids don't just read, they soar!

Childhood illiteracy in Kentucky is a problem. Reading Camp offers a life-changing solution. Each camper receives the following, at no cost to the families:

- A full week of day or overnight camp
- Over 17 hours of intensive, small group reading instruction
- Fun, confidence-building activities
- New, age-appropriate books
- A high-quality backpack
- Time and attention of caring adults and teens
- Meals and snacks

**In 2019, contributions to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund will go to Reading Camp. This funding will be used to increase the Reading Camp Director's working hours. This will allow Reading Camp to offer training, grant application assistance, and organizational support to our Diocese congregations that operate Reading Camp programs and those who would like to start new programs.**

Learn more online at [www.readingcamprocks.org](http://www.readingcamprocks.org) or at our Facebook page, Reading Camp! If you are interested in volunteering with Reading Camp or if you have any questions, please email Sarah Harcourt Watts, Director, at [info@readingcamprocks.org](mailto:info@readingcamprocks.org) or call the Reading Camp office at Mission House: 859-252-6527.



## Set your clocks back one hour Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2:00AM!



**Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5:30 PM Parish Trunk or Treat & Potluck Supper**

This event for all ages will include outdoor games with John Hazlett, a potluck chili dinner, night walk through Tobit's Trace with Tom Kimmerer, and Compline. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. RSVP to the office at [SROffice@sreclex.org](mailto:SROffice@sreclex.org). If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Carl Fosnaugh IV or Amy Fowler. Carol Summers is organizing the food. If you can help, email her at [carol.summers@uky.edu](mailto:carol.summers@uky.edu).

Update - Carol still needs two more offerings of Chili - so grab your favorite recipe and let Carol know if you will be helping out by providing these 2 pots!

**Birthdays and Anniversary Celebrations**

November Birthdays		November Anniversaries	
Tony LoBianco	Nov 2	Debbie & Steve Rice	Nov. 7
Kris Olson	Nov 2		
Roger Kirk	Nov. 11	Steve & Ginger Garvin	Nov 11
Alaina Whorley	Nov 11		
Jan Thompson	Nov 15	Patty Bond & Jack Supplee	Nov. 30
Nancy Christiano	Nov 21		
Ann Rogness	Nov 22		

Please let us know if we missed a birthday or anniversary! We try to keep the records up to date, but if you’ve recently joined the parish, we want to celebrate your special days with you! So, let us know! Contact Dana Berry, ([danabruceberry@gmail.com](mailto:danabruceberry@gmail.com), or the parish office.

**Parish Events Photos**

Congratulations to Carl & Liz Fosnaugh on their wedding



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Articles and news information for September must be submitted by **Friday, Nov. 22, 2019** to Dana Berry at [danabruceberry@gmail.com](mailto:danabruceberry@gmail.com)

**Sunday Services**  
8:30 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)  
Christian Education all ages 10:15  
11am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)  
Children are welcome during each service - there are activity sheets and coloring pages at the back of the church for their enjoyment.

**Wednesday**  
12 Noon Holy Eucharist with Unction  
6:30 pm Holy Eucharist with Unction