

The Herald



St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol 52 Issue 1

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Search Process Update

The Search Process continues, but we're getting closer to finding our new Rector. The Nominating Committee has interviewed via video conference the candidates who applied, and will be conducting in-person interviews in the first two weeks of January, 2018.

At that time, the candidates will meet with the Vestry and the Nominating Committee for a more in depth interview. Following that, the Nominating Committee will make a recommendation to the Vestry as to which candidate is the best fit for St. Raphael's, and the Vestry will make the final decision and the Wardens will issue a call.

It will most likely take some time for the Rector to make the transition to St. Raphael's, but with luck and a lot of planning, we hope to have the Rector installed in the first quarter of the new year.

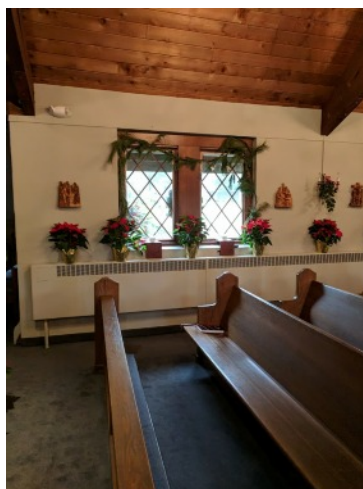
Please continue to pray for the Nominating Committee for guidance and wisdom. This is not an easy process, and we have really excellent candidates - so the decision will not be an easy one!

Christmas at St. Raphael's



A huge THANK YOU to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas Eve Services. The Altar Guild and all their helpers did an outstanding job in making the church look incredibly beautiful!

Side window decorations for Christmas Eve Services



Senior Warden's Corner

The Babe,
so small,
Born in a lowly place,
Who knew?
Mary and Joseph
And Angels and
Shepherds are in
The Story.
You and I are
In the Story, too.
It is for us
He came.
It is for us
He lived and died.
He is for us
The greatest teacher
Of all time to be.
The love He gave
To all to free
Us from the
Worst of ourselves,
To take us
Close to God
In holy passion,
Came that day
So long ago
In that common
Place.



Christmas isn't over until January 6th so we are still in the glow of celebration. The good news is that we are close to calling our new Rector! Pray for the Vestry and give thanks to the Nominating Committee for the work they have done during the long months that have passed since we began our search. Happy New Year to all as we begin a new journey for St. Raphael where all are Welcome Regardless!

CC

Stewardship

Well, all good things must come to a close. I was elected, a little over a year ago to fulfill one last year of a Vestry term. This will be my last newsletter article. I dove in to work with the treasurer and other members of the Stewardship committee to work toward some better systems. Working first with Amy Smereck and then with Paula Seigny, we have improved how we operate, solved some mysteries (thanks to Bonnie too!) and worked toward being ready to call our new Priest. As I write this, our nominating committee is preparing for the in-person interviews of our new Priest Candidates. I'm excited and happy.

But there is one last thing. We came to you this fall and asked for a Pledge total of \$150,000. This was based on a lean, but solid budget that would allow us to pay our new Rector and have some money for programs such as Children and Youth ministries and keep the lights on. Unfortunately, we are not there. We are close. I'm pleased to report that we have nine new pledging units (individuals or couples or families). But there are ten units that pledged last year, but have not this year. If you are one of them, please, PLEASE, renew your pledge. I know that times are uncertain. I know that money is tight. But we are close. With your support we can show our new Rector a budget that gives them a little breathing room to start with.

I hope that the new year brings you Peace and Joy.

Chris Bollinger, Stewardship Chairperson 2017

Donations & Discounts

We want to thank those who recently made donations to purchase new appliances in the downstairs kitchen this year.

Recently, the dishwasher was replaced by a donor, and we wish to thank them, and Pierratts for giving us a huge discount so that we could purchase the machine that best suits the needs of the parish!

What is Epiphany? Here are 10 facts about the history and meaning of Twelfth Night and Three Kings Day

What is Epiphany?

Epiphany, or the 12th day of Christmas, falls on January 6 and marks the official end to the festive season for many Christians. These days, Brits tend to associate Twelfth Night with removing Christmas decorations because according to tradition, anyone who forgets to take them down by the night before Epiphany must leave them in place all year to avoid misfortune.

However, up until the 19th century, the Epiphany was more important than Christmas Day, and it was used to celebrate the three kings' (or three wise men's) visit to Jesus shortly after his birth and Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist.

The ancient Christian feast day is significant as a celebration of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, as well as a more general celebration of his birth. The six Sundays which follow Epiphany are known as the time of manifestation.

The Twelfth Night (Epiphany) also marks a visit to the baby Jesus by three Kings, or Wise Men. The word 'Epiphany' comes from Greek and means to show, referring to Jesus being revealed to the world.

In the West, Christians began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century, associating it with the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus.

According to the Gospel of Matthew, the men found Jesus by following a star across the desert to Bethlehem.

The three men - named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar - followed the star of Bethlehem to meet the baby Jesus. According to Matthew 2:11, they offered symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The gifts were symbolic of the importance of Jesus' birth, the gold representing his royal standing; frankincense his divine birth; and myrrh his mortality.

During the medieval period, Christmas was celebrated for the 12 days from Christmas Eve on December 24, until the Epiphany. Even up until the 19th century, January 6 was as big a celebration as Christmas Day.

When is the Epiphany celebrated?

For many Protestant churches, the season of Epiphany extends from January 6 until Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. The last Sunday of the Epiphany is celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday.

Others, including the Catholic church, observe Epiphany as a single day. Some Catholic dioceses in the US mark the Epiphany feast on the Sunday after January 6.

Orthodox Christians, however, celebrate the holiday on January 19 each year.

Across the world, the day's festivities vary. In the Spanish speaking world Epiphany is known as Dia de los

Reyes (Three Kings' Day). In Mexico, for instance, crowds gather to taste the Rosca de Reyes - Kings' bread. In other countries, a Jesus figurine is hidden in the bread.

As recently as the 1950s, Twelfth Night in Britain was a night for wassailing. Wassailers, like carol singers, go from house to house singing and wishing their neighbours good health.

The Drury Lane Theatre in London has had a tradition since 1795 of providing a Twelfth Night cake. The will of Robert Baddeley made a bequest of £100 to provide cake and punch every year for the company in residence at the theatre on 6 January. The tradition still continues.

Celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany Around the World

- The three Kings (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) represented Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively.
- Hundreds of years ago, roast lamb was traditionally served at Epiphany in honour of Christ and the three Kings' visit.
- Whoever finds the small statue of a baby Jesus hidden inside their slice of the Rosca de reyes throws a party on Candlemas in February.
- In some European countries, children leave their shoes out the night before to be filled with gifts, while others leave straw for the three Kings' horses.
- According to Greek Orthodox Church's traditions, a priest will bless the waters by throwing a cross into it as worshippers try to retrieve it.
- In Bulgaria too, Eastern Orthodox priests throw a cross in the sea and the men dive in - competing to get to it first.
- In Venice a traditional regatta that started as a joke in the late 70s has been incorporated in the celebrations of Epiphany Day.
- In Prague, there is a traditional Three Kings swim to commemorate Epiphany Day at the Vltava River.
- In New York, El Museo del Barrio has celebrated and promoted the Three Kings' Day tradition with an annual parade for more than three decades. Thousands take part in the procession featuring camels, colorful puppets and floats.
- The day's activities involve singing holiday carols called aguinaldos.

By Rozina Sabur

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/music/music-festivals/12082544/What-is-Epiphany-Here-are-10-facts-about-the-history-and-meaning-of-Three-Kings-Day.html>



Church mouse in God's house

Testing time is here. That's what we call your "January." For once I'm not going to discuss your calendars and festivals, I am just going to write about our's. We call this testing time because it separates the mighty from the meek. We can all make it through your big feasts, and harvest time is our favorite season of the year. But testing... the long cold un-celebratory dark night of the lonely mouse. Well, yes, it requires more than my prosaic wit.

Does it take hope you ask? NO! Hope is the luxury of those who think they know their future; of species with life spans greater than half-decades.* It takes perseverance. It takes staring death in the face and shrugging your shoulders. I would say that it takes friends, but I've known some for

whom it hasn't. Sometimes it just takes luck.

We are tested. And our passing grade is not cause for celebration. If I pass... if we pass, we may not be 'better', 'wiser,' etc... we may only be older. It is better than the alternative. Life may be difficult during testing time and I will not guarantee rainbows and happiness at its end. But I can guarantee you that myself and mine will be going through it too. It is our condition and our tradition. And as a wiser mouse than myself once said to me, 'may you meet the test.'

*Editor's Note: the life span of a typical white-footed field mouse averages one year in length, barring predators, and other challenges that affect the length and quality of their lives. I added this just for perspective purposes.



Parish News and Events

Birthdays for January

Allison Carter	January 7
Dana Berry	January 9
Al Smith	January 9
Zachary Monk	January 11
Carol Summers	January 14
Patty Bond	January 15
Paul Wilson	January 18
Michael Summers	January 19
Maya Monk	January 21
Sonja Gaitskill	January 29
Trevor Krolak	January 29
Katherine Olson	January 29
Heather Matics	January 31
Jan Williamson	January 31



Anniversaries for January

Don & Vicki Colliver January 1

Datebook

Wednesday Services: 12:00 pm - Holy Eucharist and Healing Service. 6:30 pm Healing Service & Evening Prayer

Dec 31 10:30 am - Service of Lessons & Carols - one service only - no Sunday School

Jan 6 Amick Epiphany Party

Jan 14 12:30 pm Daughters of the King meeting

Jan 18 Sages will be Jan. 18 11:30 am at Roosters, 124 Marketplace off Man o' War or Nicholasville Rd. Paula Brockman is the contact person. 859-554-6055

Jan 21 12:30 Vestry meeting

If you are scheduling an event for the church, or an event to be held at the church, check with the Wardens and put it on the calendar so we don't over schedule things.

A View from the Pew

The church through my ages

The arrival of a new priest got me thinking about my experience in churches throughout my ages. I started life in Whitesburg. We lived my first year or so above the store on Main Street. Then we moved to a new house that Italian immigrant-mason-come-closest-thing-to-a-grandfather-I-would-ever-know, Uncle Joe Romeo, built on Hayes Street just across the way.

Best way to describe Whitesburg—it was just like Mayberry. There were no traffic lights, my dad resembled Andy Griffith, with both sharing the same kind of down-home humor and wisdom. There was a gas station man named Otis (but he was not a drunk), my grandmother's name was Bahia, "Bee," who wore her hair in the same sort of bun, and Opie and I were the exact age. Not only that, Barney Fife was a mixture of two of my uncles, one who was always coming up with off-the-wall ideas like Barney (that seemed to always work!) and the other who had a comical hair-trigger nerviness just like Barney.

My early religiosity was complicated. We went to the Methodist church right across the street (situated on the lot between Hayes and Main Streets right next to the house my grandparents built for them and their eleven children). But my parents came from deep Orthodox roots, being the first American-born generation of Syrian/Lebanese immigrant parents, and they, well probably more dad than mom, wanted us baptized in the one and true original faith of the first church. When the Orthodox priest from Charleston finally made his way to our little hamlet, he performed a triple-header: baptizing me, age 5, my sister, Miriam (4), and my little brother Willie (3) in the basement of our home. There's a picture somewhere of me in my suit, crying my eyes out, my cute little sister, next to me, and little Willie next to her.

Little Willie (named after dad's older brother) died within a year in a horrific car accident near Stanton. Dad was driving him to a Lexington doctor's appointment, he when he fell out of the right rear door, with dad stretching in vain to pull him back in. This was 1960, before the Mountain Parkway, when a trip to the mountains was a curvy, dangerous 7-hour trek. The tragedy was disastrous for our family, but with God all goodness is possible as mom and dad proved by moving to Lexington in 1961 and opening the first of many Dawahare stores outside the mountains, then moving on, finding peace, and having another son, my wonderful brother, Mark.

One of my first church memories date from one Sunday sojourn I took with my mom after little Willie's death. While I couldn't process it all at that time, I am sure my parents were in a deep state of emotional turmoil. I don't know why, but on this Sunday morning it was just me and mom. Mom drove the curvy country road to who knew where. We finally stopped at a little church, nestled deep within the woods of what was destined to be a mystical mountain valley experience. I remember kneeling, and praying next to mom.



By Richard Dawahare

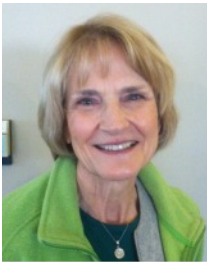
I then looked up into the beautiful, but forlorn face of my mother, a single tear streaking down her cheek. And what struck me then, and will always strike me, was the sense of peace and grace that came over her, and that remained with her throughout her life. It could be nothing other than the Holy Spirit at work, for it always seemed to me that things got better after this, our first and only visit, to this little church in the woods.

We then moved to Lexington the next year. We first tried the old Greek Orthodox church on High Street. The service was three hours, in Greek, and we were the only ones there besides the black-robed priest with the long white beard and funny hat, dispensing incense up, down, and all around. It was our last visit. Dad dropped his romantic notions of fidelity to the faith of his fathers and we found our way to Good Shepherd as mom had frequented both Episcopal and Orthodox churches growing up in St. Louis, Oklahoma City and Detroit.

Thus, my first priestly memory was the Rev. Clarke Bloomfield. Rev. Bloomfield was one of the kindest men I have ever known. I can still hear his flawless singing, always hitting the notes perfectly on key. I was a little young to fully understand his excellent sermons, but I remember wishing I could. Then came Confirmation and Bishop Moody. Mischievous boys that we were, we glopped our heads with a thick layer of Brylcreem, giddy with the anticipation of holy hands plopping in the middle of our greasy mops.

I then met Dr. Professor Reverend Father John Madden, who was my economics professor at UK. Dr. Rev. John was a fascinating mixture of the football coach of the same name, and King Henry the Eighth, or any one of several English monarchs as he knew everything about English history. He became a kind of guru for me. When I was struggling to decide whether to go into law or retail it was Dr. Rev. John who recommended I take the first job offer, which I did when Macy's asked me to join their executive management program in Kansas City. He was a fine man, and I continue to pray for his soul and his spirit.

When I moved back to Lexington in 1982-83, I tried the new St. Andrews Orthodox church that my uncle and aunt had started with three other families. I quickly discovered that Orthodoxy was not for me. As Dr. Rev. Madden loved to tell me, the Episcopal church was the only one that I could belong to with considering my philosophy. I started coming to St. Raphael's, where my dad had started attending. My first visit was my dad's wedding, with the incomparable Rev. Summers officiating, his last duty before departing. Rev. Joe Ashby was the next priest. I liked Rev. Joe. He had an understated style, but was a caring soul.



Music Notes

Even So, Another Beautiful Christmas at St. Raphael

Even without a resident priest at our parish, the office staff, Vestry, and parish members have kept the church running smoothly. Christmas was as beautiful as ever, thanks to our Altar Guild. Bishop Maze was present for all three services on Christmas Eve, and we were treated to two of his excellent messages at 10:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. In addition, those in attendance at the 5:30 p.m. service had the distinct pleasure of seeing the children's Christmas pageant, under the direction of Dana Berry.

Even with one third of our choir members absent due to illness and travel, there was beautiful choral music for each of the three services on December 24. We are so fortunate to have singers – both volunteer and choir scholars/staff singers - who are dedicated to the music program at St. Raphael. I marvel at times at their willingness to come out after dark, often in inclement weather, and most of them after working all day, to attend choir rehearsal. But they do come, and rehearse, and learn music so that we can offer songs of praise to God during the worship services week after week.

Finally, even without funding from the church budget, our program of choir scholars/staff singers (two each) has continued throughout 2017, thanks to financial support from the newly-formed *Friends of Music at St. Raphael*. Thanks to the *Friends of Music*, we have been able to continue supplementing our volunteer choir with former and current music students: Kris Olson, Carolina Fernandez, Junghyun Lee, and Clement Baloyi. The result is a very fine and dedicated choir which is a credit to our parish.

This Christmas, the Melton family became our newest *Friends of Music*, with their donation in honor of Patty Bond and Jack Supplee, Amy Smereck and Chris Bollinger. The choir and I would like to thank the Meltons as well as the charter members (previously listed in The Herald) of *Friends of Music* who have contributed to our music program. We look forward to their continued support in the new year, and we invite others in the congregation to join them as we strive to provide the best possible music to the glory of God.

Blessings for the New Year,
Melinda Storey, Organist/Choirmaster

A View from the Pew

Continued from page 5

After Joe came Rob Matheus. Fr. Rob (I stopped calling priests 'father' as I came to the realization we have one father on earth and one in heaven and that was enough for me) was a tall, friendly, and effective priest. During his term, I served on the vestry twice, helped approve John Dews on his priesthood path, helped oversee the first expansion, and found us the contractor, who did a splendid job, with Rev. Rob encouraging us all the way.

After Rob came Rev. Sally. She was a wonderful priest, and beautiful to boot. I always joked that it was like taking communion from Diane Keaton. Rev. Sally introduced the arts into our church life. She'd orchestrate dramatic Easter renditions and under her watch we had what I think was the best fundraiser we ever had as we turned the undercroft into an art auction house on a fun October Saturday night.

We then came full circle with the return of Rev. John Dews. John was supremely talented, blessed as he was with wisdom, compassion, and humor. His sermons were some of the most "impact-ful" of all that I have ever heard. We miss him very, very much. I pray for his soul and his spirit, and look forward to our heavenly reunion someday.

And then came Johnnie. Who boy, Rev. Johnnie was, and is, a hoot. Johnnie was equal parts reverent biblical scholar and irreverent--but holy--brewer, baker, and candlestick maker. He is a creative genius who loves his flock, showering them with grace, humor, and a positive can-do spirit. I can still see him swaying up and down the aisles and across the altar, which was a sanctuary for his unorthodox style.

Rev. Karen kept us moving forward after Johnnie's departure. I loved her astronomy themed vacation bible school program. It took me beyond our earthly existence to the unfathomable beyond, as mysterious as the God we know so little about.

But as inscrutable as God's nature may be, if we know and live with love, that's all we really need to know about God. This is the essence of Bishop Larry's message. Bishop Larry has been a tremendous presence. His closing exhortation is a perfect encapsulation of all we need to think, say and do to have the peace of God. Just from memory, he calls us to do good, reject evil, act courageously and faithfully, protecting the weak, doing justice, treating others as we want to be treated, and celebrating the spirit as it works through our lives and our church. We need to memorialize his exact words on a plaque, because they are perfect.

And soon we will have a new priest, who will enrich us with their own unique mark just as all who came before.

Happy New Year!

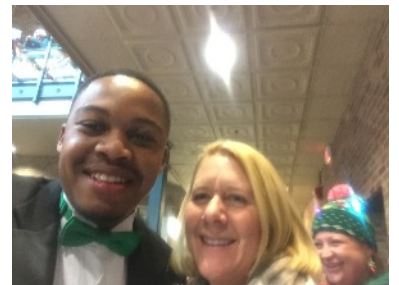
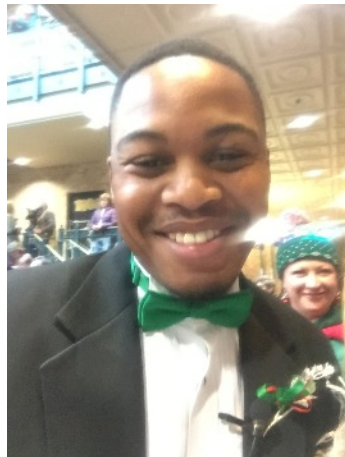
Richard Dawahare

Christmas Eve Children's Play

The Night the Animals Talked



Here are some pics of our wonderfully talented choir members Junghyun Lee and Clement Baloyi performing at the Alltech Celebration of Song in December at The Square.



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Articles and news information for February must be submitted by Monday, Jan 22, 2018 to Dana Berry at danabruceberry@gmail.com

Sunday Services

8:30 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

10:00 am Christian Education for all ages

Nursery provided from 10:00 am to end of 11 am

service for children: infant to 2nd grade

11am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Wednesday

12 Noon Holy Eucharist with Unction

6:30 pm Evening Prayer with Unction (healing prayers)