

The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol 53 Issue 2

February, 2018

Meet our New Rector -

The Rev. Canon Dr. Helen E.P. Van Koevering

The Vestry of St. Raphael's Parish is pleased to announce that the Rev. Canon Dr. Helen Van Koevering, recently of Charleston, West Virginia has accepted the call to be our Rector. Mother Helen holds a Doctorate of Ministry from the Virginia Theological Seminary; a Masters of Philosophy: Theological Studies from Trinity College, Bristol, UK, and was ordained a Priest in June of 2003.

From 1985-2015 she served in various positions in the Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique. Her last position prior to moving to the US was serving as Rector of the Parish of Sanjala; building the church literally from the ground up to 800 members. Mother Helen speaks English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. She was instrumental in developing curriculum for children, youth and families; not only for this parish, but for the entire Diocese of Niassa.

She most recently has been serving parishes in Charleston, WV as a supply priest since returning from Mozambique. Her husband, the Rt Rev Mark Van Koevering has accepted the nomination for Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Lexington from the Standing Committee, and they should be moving to Lexington in the near future. The Van Koeverings have three adult children; Jake, Matt and Kylie.

We will be providing further information as to how soon the Van Koeverings will be in residence in Lexington as soon as it is made available to us. In the meantime, please join the Vestry in giving thanks to



God for providing us with our new Rector, and pray for a safe and efficient transition for their family as they move to Lexington!

We will keep you posted on more details as we have them.

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 14th Services

Noon - Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist with Rev. Jan Cottrell

6:30 pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist with Bishop Maze

Senior Warden's Corner

Horizons change
As pilgrims walk,
Beckoning ever Christ is calling
Waiting as each Step leads on
To union with The Holy.



Each day anew. Each day an invitation and adventure to know the perfect love so freely given. I feel like a toddler just learning to walk. I rush headlong on unsteady feet, faster and faster, as my days unwind. I know I will be safe when I reach those welcoming arms.

We have been on a journey with the Wise Men and soon we will begin our walk through the Lenten Season. Our St. Raphael family has been on a journey for more than a year as we have been searching for a new Rector. What have we learned about ourselves while traveling these paths? It has not been easy to have patience while we walked through the process and I am proud of the way in which the parish has continued to "Welcome Regardless" those who have come through our doors, and kept the church Outreach programs going. As Lent begins our time of spiritual introspection and meditation I pray that each of us discovers new insights and spiritual growth as we live each day and ponder in our hearts the wonder of God's love for us.

Lenten Study for 2018

This year, we will be using the "What Wondrous Love" series for our Lenten Study. This is a little different than the way we have done our Lenten Devotion in years past, but we believe that this will be just as enlightening. The study is an exploration through Art about Wondrous Love.

There will be a short video commentary on the art work of the week and we will have study guides with both the art work and discussion questions.

We will begin 2/21/2018 and continue through to Holy Week. Evening Prayer is at 6:30 pm and the Lenten study will begin at 7:00 pm. Feel free to bring snacks. We will meet downstairs in the parish hall for both evening prayer and the study. We suggest a 5\$ donation to cover the guide booklet which contains the beautiful art work. Sign up sheets are available at the church or email me, erika68@gmail.com

Erika

ECW Valentine Luncheon

Where: Friendship Tea Room Gift Box

3330 Partner Place Keithshire Plaza

When: February 10 12:00 pm -2:00 pm

RSVP by 2/7 to Patty Bond, text or

call 859-333-8566

CC

Stewardship Update

Our Parish is awesome! This calendar year the Vestry set a very aggressive goal of \$150,000 in pledges. This would put our new Rector on firm ground for a year so that he/she could move us forward without looking over his/her shoulder about every dollar.

While we came in just a few thousand dollars short of that goal, this year's pledges were very healthy (\$146,216) and allowed the Vestry to present and approve a balanced budget for 2018. Our total budget for 2018 is \$180,378. My, and my peers', gratitude is boundless in thanks for our mutual blessings.

A few other things of note. St. Raphael has received two grants from the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government/Wastewater Reserve. The project is named Tobit's Trace, for the "stream" that crawls through our property at the rear of the church. It is also tied into the larger overall Wolfe Run grant endeavor for 2018. This first phase will essentially restore native species and the rolling and uncluttered ground to the property on both sides of the stream. We are hopeful that a separate UTO grant to flesh out some of the more grand ideas for this area will come to fruition. The UTO grant application is in progress.

All of our separate "Funds" [examples, Music Fund for our Choir, Outreach Fund for our James Lane Allen Backpack Program, etc.] start out the year in good or great shape, thanks to the largesse of this congregation and its special hard-working stewards. As I understand it, that is a 180 degree turn from this point one year ago. Again, this Parish is Fantastic!

Let's keep the momentum rolling as we near the selection (Call) of our new Rector. And BTW, if any of you ever feel the need to become totally bored and imbued with data and facts surrounding our finances, feel free to ask me. I am always available to help someone realize the promise and the blessings of St. Raphael.

Roger Kirk, Stewardship Chair

The Season of Lent begins

Feb. 14, 2018

The time of Lent developed as part of the historical Christian calendar and is celebrated by Catholics, Episcopalians and other mainline Protestant churches that follow a liturgical calendar. Although its format has varied throughout the centuries and throughout different cultures, the basic concept remains the same: to open our hearts to God's refining grace through prayer, confession, fasting, and almsgiving as we anticipate Holy Week. Lent traditionally lasts forty days, modeled after Christ's forty day fast in the desert, and ends on Good Friday. In the Western Church, Lent officially begins with a reminder of our mortality on Ash Wednesday (this year, falling on Feb, 14th).

The below scriptures will help you focus on repentance and reflection during the season of Lent. Use this time to grow in your faith as you think upon all that Jesus Christ has done for you!

Joel 2:12-14	Matthew 6:16-18	
Philippians 3:10-11	1 Peter 5:6	
Mark 1:12-15	Isaiah 58:6-7	Mark 9:2-10
Luke 13:3	Ezekiel 18:21	John 17:17
John 12	Joel 2:1-2	Matthew 11:21
Psalm 91	Mark 7:7-9	

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018

5:00pm - 7:00 pm

Volunteers are needed to help with the supper. Sign up sheets are at the back of the church and above the cart by the kitchen door. You may also contact the church office by phone 859-255-4987 or email at office@sreclex.org.

Jonathan & JeanEllen Melton are serving as coordinators this year.



Church mouse in God's house

I know something you don't know! Sometimes I think you forget that I can hear your conversations. Yes, even your 'very secret, closed door confidential' conversations. Even your meetings that happen in your houses sometimes (provided I get word of them ahead of time... but I usually have my ways). I'm not claiming to be omniscient. I'm just small, fast and observant. Wait... is that what omniscient means?

Anyway... here's what I know. I know who your new rector will be if they accept the call. Maybe by the time you read this you will too, but I know NOW. How's that feel?

And I'm not going to tell you. Maybe I even subtly shifted the balance between the candidates... No, I didn't. Probably. I just enjoy teasing you. It's pretty powerful to have inside knowledge. I would offer to let you buy my knowledge, but I think it's more valuable this way.

I do wonder though... will you be patient? Open? I've got to say, there were A LOT of meetings that I had to sneak into. And a lot of really long conversations. You all are serious about this. I mean, at least your committee was. I kept trying to guess... who will it be? Who will they choose? They asked questions I never would have even thought of. And the answers – wow! I'm glad it wasn't left all up to me. That's a big decision.

O.k., I will tell you this. My impressions changed over time. I went back and forth on my guess. And when I heard the final decision I was relieved, not because this one was my favorite (I had given up trying to pick a favorite at this point), but because that committee really put their heart and soul into the process.

So, yes, I could ruin the surprise. But really, I want you to be surprised. I think you're going to like what happens.

P.S. O.k., I see word got around faster than I thought, but I was in the know for a FEW days before you!"



Parish News and Events

February Birthdays

Thomas Bollinger	February 2
Joseph Hayse	February 2
Mark Matics	February 2
Natalie Fagan	February 3
Hunter Mathews	February 4
Kim Lorton	February 5
Doug Clarke	February 6
Bill Thompson	February 7
Ray Davis	February 8
Jodell Massaquoi	February 14
Jennifer Krolak	February 15
Lee Davis	February 17
Marthanne Manion	February 21
Sandra Keller	February 22
Diane Whorley	February 23
John-Michael Lorton	February 28
Barbara Connell	February 29



Anniversaries for February

Sharon & Bill Thompson February 6

John-Michael & Kim Lorton February 12

Datebook

Feb 9th Art Gallery Reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m

Feb. 10th ECW Luncheon - 12 pm - 2 pm

Feb. 13 Pancake Supper 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Services - Noon & 6:30 pm

A View from the Pew

The Church's role in gender inequity

Are you in on ending sexual assault and harassment, anywhere and everywhere? Me too! That it was always wrong is a given. But in varying degrees harassment and outright assault of women by men went on forever. It was not only tolerated, but considered a job pre-requisite in some industries. The ubiquitous casting couch was frequent fodder for foolhardy joking. Anybody old enough to remember Howdy Doody surely knows this.

But suddenly, in a flash, it all changed. Now, even behavior on the less severe side of the scale is justly exposed, condemned, and declared unacceptable. What caused this sea change, which is nothing less than an epiphany of intergalactic proportions?

Perhaps we can attribute it to the electoral-college election of Donald Trump, and the juxtaposition of the obviously hideous nature of his character with that of decent folk. No doubt the hypocrisy and crudeness surrounding that man hastened the "Me Too" movement. For we've already come a long ways, with employers long enforcing harassment-free workplaces. Yet the men at the top still got a pass.

Until now. Power and privilege will no longer trump moral, righteous, and—by the way—constitutional values. That is the universal resolve underlying the Me Too movement. It won't be realized in a day, but over time fair and equal treatment of all will prevail.

Future generations will look back in utter disbelief that society once allowed the powerful to prey upon the powerless. Along with such outrages as slavery and the genocide, they'll wonder how it ever came to be. They'll study history, going back to the earliest times. They'll note the male-centric order of the world. They'll come to understand that the infallible, all-powerful status of men was a given. It was bedrock truth, like the earth being flat and lying at the center of the universe.

Small wonder, therefore, that a review of the supposed true happenings of the past is called HIStory. HERstory will result in an entirely different—and more realistic—retelling (I'm waiting for that herstory, should be a dynamite read!).

So how did male supremacy become such an unquestioned state of righteous reality? We may not have to look much further than the Bible. Unquestionably, the Bible's male-centric orientation contributed, if not justified, male power and privilege throughout the centuries. God is always referred to as "He" and "Him." Virtually every reference to power, to instruction, to praise is addressed to men. So pervasive is this Biblical bias that even our modern day Book of Common Prayer lays its blessings upon "man" or "men."

The Bible's elevation of the male gender to godlike status cemented the role of male supremacy throughout herstory er, history. So consecrated, men have enjoyed a wide margin of error. Not that this was ever the Bible's intention, to the



By Richard Dawahare

extent the Bible has any intentions at all, but humans are, well, human.

And throughout the ages men have manipulated Biblical imagery and verbiage, creating a grotesque distortion of its truth for personal gain or prejudice. By such they justified slavery, genocide and every sort of mistreatment of "the other."

Goodness, righteousness, love and justice are universal imperatives that existed with God before the evolved creation of the world. These eternal values predate the Bible. The Holy Book is an instruction manual, teaching humans how to apply these values to our everyday life, and showing us how to think, live and interact with each other on earth, en route to a celestial eternity.

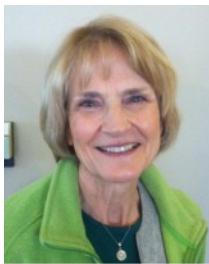
But unwittingly or not, the Bible's male-concentricity hampers its intended mission. This is true not only for gender-inequity, but also for all unjust treatment of all humans on the lesser scale of power. This is especially so because white male power and influence has long fueled, formed and defined western Christianity. This aligns with the fact that this same structure controls the world's economic power.

The irony is that the values that predate the Bible—goodness, righteousness, love and justice—are universal values that exist apart from Christianity, or any religion. Similarly, the Constitution of the United States of America may well be the most righteous and holy document in the world as its sole aim is to order our society in a fair and righteous way, while ensuring the sanctity of a secular state, i.e., a nation that is completely detached from the control or influence of religion—any and all religions.

Hopefully the values of God—goodness, righteousness, love and justice--reign in the hearts, minds and souls of us all, whether Christian or Jew, Muslim or Hindu, atheist or agnostic. So infused we can do right by each other.

And for the redress of injustices wherever they exist we must depend on our rule of law—our secular, but righteous, embodiment of the values we hold dear.

Richard Dawahare January 25, 2018



Music Notes

Onward to Lent

It's the time of year when we move on from the beautiful three-tiered season of Advent, Christmas, and

Epiphany.

Lent is coming up – on Valentine's Day this year, no less: a dilemma for those who give up chocolate as part of their Lenten sacrifice! And flowers? They are not normally placed in the sanctuary during this penitential season.

Lent is the traditional time of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting, based on (and modified from) the example of Christ's forty-day fast in the desert, contending with Satan. This trial is described in several of our Lenten hymns, including "The Glory of These Forty Days:"

The glory of these forty days, we celebrate with songs of praise;

For Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.

It is a beautiful season in its own right, although stark and spare. The music is especially moving and lovely, many times in minor mode to reflect the serious, somewhat solemn nature of Lent. A stanza from the hymn "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" points to the spirituality encouraged by our faith, yet so difficult to attain in our materialist society:

*As thou didst hunger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.*

The hymnal is an excellent resource for meditation during Lent. Even if you do not read music, the poetic texts include Scripture, theology, and prayer: plenty of food for thought!

Another thought: perhaps our new priest will be in place to travel with us on our Lenten journey, and to celebrate "*an Easter of unending joy!*"

A Blessed and Holy Lent to our wonderful congregation and friends of the parish,

Melinda Storey, Organist/Choirmaster

The Artist Gallery

At age four I learned to embroider, at seven I taught myself to knit, and as far back as I can remember I could, and did, use pieces from Mom's "scrap fabric" drawer to make things. Adventures involved going to unfamiliar places and trying new, maybe risky, things. Though my adventures have these things, they are much quieter and homebound than most. Making art, exploring ideas, techniques, and challenges are adventures that thrill and satisfy an important aspect of me.

They take me to new places physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. For me, the process is more important than the product. The goal is "to do" much more than "to complete". The work always causes me to reflect on how some (or all) of a piece is like life in some ways.

For example, one sculptural basketry series I titled, "Twists and Turns," and another, "Wisdoms Growth." Since the growth of wisdom is a never-ending process, parts of that piece are "unfinished" also. Also, like life, at the beginning of any piece I am never sure how it will turn out. That is part of the adventure. Usually the way the materials work with a technique will let me know what works well, and often what does not. Changes are inspired, or required, and in the end the challenge is completed.

Learning new techniques and materials is another important way the creative process is an essential part of this adventure. I know that some things I've spent much time and thought in will never be finished works. That's OK with me, since I know that this gift God has given me, is just that, a gift in my life. A gift I treasure and am meant use.

Bonnie Conaway

Some of Bonnie's works are featured in the Gallery by the church office.

The Opening Reception celebrating Bonnie's works will be Friday, February 9th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served and you will have the opportunity to talk with the artist about her work and enjoy the company of other art aficionados.

Art Gallery - Fabric Works by Bonnie Conaway

All Things Wise and Wonderful

Artist Show and Reception

Please join us for the opening reception for
an exhibition of works by
Bonnie Conaway

February 9, 2018 6-8 p.m.
Art Space at St. Raphael
1891 Parkers Mill Road, Lexington
859-255-4987

"All Things Wise and Wonderful" will be on display thru March. The Art Space
at St. Raphael Episcopal Church is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
<http://sreclex.org/st-raphael-art-space/>



Welcome Mazie - our new Church Fish!



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Articles and news information for February must be submitted by **Monday, Feb. 19, 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

11 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Wednesday

12 Noon Holy Eucharist with Unction

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