

The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol 53 Issue 3

March, 2018



Greetings from Charleston, West Virginia!

It feels like Spring is in the air. The sun is shining and the birds are singing. The wild weather of the last handful of weeks has mirrored the wild pace of change in our family's life: our children returned to their respective 'homes' at New Year (Jake (25) to work in Philadelphia, Matt (23) to post-grad studies in Manchester, UK, and Kylie (21) to studies in Chicago), and Mark and I began the interview and election processes to move our home to Lexington.

I am your new Rector for St Raphael's, and the election for Mark to be the Bishop provisional will be on February 24. We are working to be in place for Holy Week - nothing like hitting the ground running! Please join in with any and all services at St Raphael's that week, invite your friends and neighbors, as well as visit the Cathedral for Mark's first services as your bishop if and as you can.

This will be the second move in three years for our family. We have loved being in WV and Appalachia, Charleston and the lives of friends, clergy and churches here. We are glad that this 'moving forward' allows some continuity to new-found learning and relationships. The move in 2015 was from the other side of the world, a very different context, and a place of deep roots and family memories. Mark and I met and married in Mozambique in 1990, both with our single paths to that war-torn country named the third poorest in the world by 1992. We lived in Lichinga, Niassa, from January 1991 to November 2015, with 6 years away at seminary in Bristol, UK, beginning our ordained ministry with the small and wonderful Welsh parish of Bettws in the Diocese of Monmouth. Mark was elected as the Diocesan Bishop of Niassa in 2002, the beginning of an exhilarating roller-coaster of a learning curve in mission and ministry that will provide stories and sermons for the rest of our lives!

And now we are called by God to the Diocese of Lexington and St Raphael's. It will take much conversation and story-sharing for us all to discern what this new beginning means. I can only say that I hope that together we shall see God's love in action as we 'being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.' (Eph 3:17-21)



Rev. Helen Van Koevering

Senior Warden's Corner



In sacred time
At common table
We meet in Blessed intimacy,
All are welcome
All are cherished,
Christ within us,
Living Saviour,
Came and comes Forever more,
Beyond all words,
Beyond description,
Joined in love
Our souls do meet.

I wish all of you a fruitful Lenten season and a quiet time to strip away the excess “stuff” that distracts from relationship with God and those people in our lives who love us and need us as we love and need them.

We look forward to a new chapter in the book of St. Raphael as our new Rector arrives to minister and guide us as we go forth in the name of Christ to “Welcome Regardless” those who need a church home. Rev. Helen will be with us on Palm Sunday to begin our journey together.

We have been blessed to have Bishop Larry with us on Sundays while we conducted our search, and Rev. Jan Cottrell who began a new Eucharist service at noon on Wednesdays for those who do not drive at night or are not able to attend on Sundays. I know you all give them thanks and praise for their service to us. God’s grace is abundant!

CC

Stewardship Report

What a wonderful time for our Parish. Our new Rector, Rev. Helen has been chosen. The Vestry met and confirmed to CC to make the call. Relief, wonder, amazement, and belief in God’s grace were all in the room.

So you ask what does this have to do with Stewardship? Stewardship is not just Treasure. It is also Time. Valuable (and obviously productive) time spent by multiple members of the Nominating Committee (give them a hug or a big handshake next time that you see them). Vetting time from members of the Vestry to meet all the candidates; good candidates all but one who had a bit more of what our Parish was seeking in a new Rector.

It is also Talent. Talents for things like organization. I am relatively “seasoned” and I have never seen such organization and optimal logistics as this process and the people that it took to make it happen.

So. Lest you think that you are off the hook permanently, no next month I will bring back my favorites subject, the Parish Treasure. Everyone deserves a month off!


Congratulations everyone on a fantastic job!

Roger Kirk,

Stewardship Chair

Parish Spring Cleaning Day

Please join your fellow parishioners as we work on both outside and inside cleanup activities as we ready our property for spring on Saturday March 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring your favorite garden tools, power tools and/or cleaning device! Make this years St. Patrick's Day a bit cleaner and greener!



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday - March 25 8:30 AM

10:00 AM

11:00 AM

Palm Sunday - March 25

8:30 AM Liturgy of the Palms beginning at the Columbarium -

Procession into the church for Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00 AM Potluck Breakfast between services

11:00 AM Liturgy of the Palms beginning at the Columbarium -

Procession into the church for Holy Eucharist Rite II

Monday, March 26

8:00 AM Morning Prayer (creative all-ages activity during service)

Tuesday, March 27

8:00 AM Morning Prayer (creative all-ages activity during service)

Wednesday, March 28

12:00 PM Holy Eucharist and Healing Service (creative all-ages activity during service)

6:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Healing Service (creative all-ages activity during service)

Maundy Thursday, March 29

6:30 PM Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, and Stripping of the Altar
(creative all-ages activity during service)

Good Friday, March 30

12:00 PM – Stations of the Cross
6:30 PM Good Friday Liturgy (creative all-ages activity during service)

Easter Sunday April 1

8:00 AM Lighting of the New Fire, and Festive Holy Eucharist Rite I
with Choir. (Note the time change for this Sunday only!)

10:00 AM Potluck Breakfast between services

11:00 AM Festive Holy Eucharist Rite II with choir

12:30 PM Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Invite someone to come to church with you this week!

Let us share God's Love with those around us!



Church mouse in God's house

Repent! Is that what you all do during Lent? It's hard to tell with you guys. Some of you say things more like 'restore my relationship with God' (yes, I can even hear it when you capitalize 'God' ... I don't get that either). Others say "I'll give up ... meat/chocolate/bacon/fun etc..." Others say they'll pray more, read more, meditate more. But mostly it seems like you confess all the stuff you did wrong.

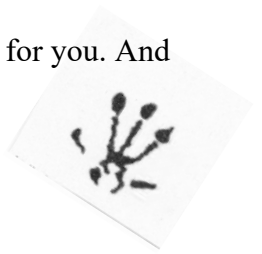
So, here's my list: stayed out with other guy-mice at a party; overate; messed in the kitchen; ate your cheese; ran up someone's skirt; licked donuts between services; overate; broke the elevator; slept in office desk; made fun of fish; overate; watched Dr. Phil; lied to kids about my exploits when younger; overate. I think that sums it up.

Whew, you are on to something. I feel very purged. What kinds of bad things do you do? Haha, just kidding... I watch you, I know.

Would you like to confess to me? I mean, it must be valuable to get things off your chest. And, there are two advantages to telling me: I'm a mouse, so who am I going to tell. Wait... o.k., I write a newsletter, scratch that advantage. And, 2- I know anyway, so if I haven't judged you yet I probably won't.

But, what do you do after confessing? Is this like a behavior modification plan? A counseling thing? And what's the goal? Cause I really don't see me not overeating.

As usual, I'm sure that there is more to it than my mouse brain can handle. I'm glad it works for you. And I'm always here if you want to pour your heart out. Or your cheese dip.



March Anniversaries

Kris & Katherine Olson	March 11
Jeff & Lora Carter	March 15
Dave & Paula Sevigny	March 19
Mary & Rod Glancy	March 27

Birthdays for March

Chris Young	March 2	Amanda Whorley	March 17
Erika Mayers	March 4	Vicki Colliver	March 18
Marla Fox	March 6	Gail Miller	March 19
Kate Melton	March 9	Nancy Marshall	March 20
John Anthony LoBianco	March 11	Jackie Murphy	March 23
Felicity Lorton	March 11	Heather Russell	March 27
Annette Bigler	March 14	Heather Lynn Fraser	March 28
Laura Formisano	March 16	Ron Formisano	March 31
JeanEllen Melton	March 17	Mary Glancy	March 31

A View from the Pew

God over guns, Faith over fear

It has long amazed me that America deigns itself to be a “Christian” nation, yet greedily grasps guns as a holy mission until, by Glock, they pry them from their cold, dead hands. True followers of Jesus, the namesake and author of Christianity (via Paul, without whom there would be no Christian religion, but maybe somebody else would have taken his place?), depend on FAITH in God and Jesus for protection, NOT guns.

In fact, the faithful few depend on God and Jesus for *everything*, not only for protection, but also for provisions, for purpose, for peace and joy. They trust in the Lord with all their hearts, and do not lean on their own understanding. In all their ways they acknowledge God, who then makes their paths straight.

So it seems, no it *is*, contrary to the teachings of Jesus, and the Way of God to pour slavish devotion to—and thereby heap dependence on—guns and other weapons. Either one has faith in the protections of the professed object of devotion, or in manmade instruments of death and destruction. It is God OR guns, not God and guns.

It is hard to tell whether pro-gun fanatics are truly so fearful to believe they need army-grade weapons for defense. Or it may be that some are like many of us who idolize something, i.e., prioritize that passion to the point it overtakes the love we should show to others and to God.

And still others may have let their entire identity become wrapped up in their pro-gun cause. They quite literally lose their true selves to it. For some at least, their holster has become a massive chip-on-their-shoulder, blinding them to a more rational win/win approach that could save lives, and perhaps their own faith.

But this begs the question—if it’s guns for some gun-lovers, what may it be for you and me? What may we be letting consume our true selves and our faith? For some it could be “Go Big Blue!” For others it could be work, a hobby, a “collection,” a game, a food, a habit, who knows.

And yes, it could be your very religion. Anything that unduly detracts from doing good for



the person right in front of you, including yourself, and for the greater good, is a false idol, and to be checked.

Of course, a passion need not and probably does not rise to this level. Responsible gun owners who see the big picture have a passion, but it is kept in perspective for the greater good. Fun-loving fans are full of healthy gusto, as long as they likewise keep it in perspective, i.e., shake hands with the other fans regardless of who got beat to smithereens.

But right now, as it relates to who we are as a nation, our national soul—we are in deep trouble. We have allowed the lever of government, Congress, to subvert who and what we are. Congress makes our laws, laws that reflect our policies, policies that reflect our priorities. These politicians have consistently refused to adopt gun laws that are absolutely proven to work (see Australia, Western Europe, and oh, about most places on earth, except the US), even in the face of unfathomable carnage that simply does not exist in nations with sane gun control laws.

You and me, because of these politicians, have sacrificed our true, noble, faithful American character—who we really are, who our national heritage shaped us to be, who our God has called us to be—on the altar of guns-over-all, either on the basis of fear, ego or both. It is a sickness of the soul, infected by the purse with zillions in political payoffs and an endless line of lobbyists.

Perhaps we can’t change the heart, but we can change the players. Where are they, who are they, how will we get enough of them who will move us back to our true and timeless values? God only knows. And so...

Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

By Richard Dawahare



Music Notes

Calling All Children; Calling All Singers

Our new priest, Rev. Helen Van Koevering, will officially begin her ministry at St. Raphael Episcopal Church on Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018. The following Sunday will be Easter Day, and how lovely it would be to welcome Rev. Helen with the voices of our children and youth. If your child or children are interested in singing for Easter, please speak to me after worship this Sunday. Rehearsals will be held each week after 11:00 worship for twenty minutes, beginning March 1. In order to have a viable choir, we need at least five children/youth.

I would also like to invite older youth and adults to sing with our adult choir! We currently have nine singers, including our four choir scholars/staff singers. But Thomas B is graduating in May and going off to college in the fall! This is a milestone for him, but we will be sad to lose him, because he has a wonderful voice and is an excellent sight-reader of music (not to mention his super personality.) We will also lose Amy S. for the 2018-2019 year as she travels to England with her husband Chris, who will be on Sabbatical. So . . . singers, we need you! Please do consider joining our ensemble. It's a wonderful group and is much appreciated by our congregation.

Friends of Music, thank you again and again for your support of our singers. Without your help, our choir would struggle to provide the level of music we currently offer for our worship each Sunday. Our choir scholars/staff singers plus our dedicated volunteer singers make up a very fine ensemble and provide a variety of music to enhance our services. Bless you.

Please plan to come to welcome Rev. Helen on Palm Sunday! Our Nominating Committee has accomplished its charge and has secured for our parish an outstanding individual to take up the reins and travel with us on our journey of faith.

Blessings for Lent,

Melinda Storey, Organist/Choirmaster

Lenten Study

The Lenten Study began February 21 at 7:00 p.m. following Evening Prayer, and continues throughout March on Wednesday evenings.

This year, we will be using the "What Wondrous Love" series for our Lenten Study. 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. A \$5 donation is appreciated to cover the guide booklet which contains the beautiful art work and is yours to keep. Sign up sheets are available at the church or email Erika Mayers at erika68@gmail.com

Datebook

Lenten Study group will meet on March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 7pm following the Wednesday evening service.

March 15 - Sages - place to be announced

March 17 - Parish Clean up Day

ECW Valentine Luncheon



Shrove Tuesday Fun!

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Articles and news information for April must be submitted by **Friday, March. 23, 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)