



The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol 53 Issue 4

April, 2018



This week is a week of change for me as I leave WV for Lexington; move from one community to another; one home to a new not-yet-ready home. I'm ok with it all, though the inevitable emotional ups and downs catch me off guard sometimes! I look forward to being with you all on Palm Sunday and to take the journey of Holy Week as our first week together. It is a very special time of year that marks new life, offers a new start and recognizes that the impossible is possible because of Jesus.

As I begin this new part of my journey, I came across a reflection by Jaspreet Kaye at the Commonwealth Day celebration on March 12 at Westminster Abbey, London, attended by Queen Elizabeth. He talks about transformational moments in life, and one of those moments being when 'you realize that life will always be about mastering and relearning, hunkering and climbing, [and then] your journey will begin to feel so smooth... go live your moments!'

We've got some learning and traveling moments to share together over the next part of our journeys. It starts with the journey Jesus took for us. Come join in and live this moment!

Helen



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

Easter Sunday Services & Activities

8:00 AM Service - Lighting of the New Fire & Holy Eucharist with Choir

10:00 AM Potluck Breakfast

11:00 AM Festive Holy Eucharist

12:30 PM Easter Egg Hunt

INVITE SOMEONE TO COME
AND JOIN YOU

Saturday, March 31 10:00 AM

Help Decorate the church for Easter



Senior Warden's Corner



Come with me,
He said, I am the way.
Come with me,
Live in my love.
Go forth, He said,
Spread the word.
I will feed you
With the Bread of Life
And slake your soul's thirst
With the Cup of Salvation.
Tell everyone, Tell everyone.

Aren't you glad to have the Alleluias back? I am! We have so much to celebrate this Easter Season. Our new Rector is with us at last. We have a bright future in this new relationship and are ready for the life of St. Raphael to continue and grow in new ways of service to God. Remember our wishes, hopes, and dreams? Let's roll up our sleeves and get busy. It takes a congregation to make sure we are the place where all are "Welcome Regardless"

Happy Easter to you all!

C.C.

Stewardship Report

By the time that you read this Reverend Helen will be among us. What a joyous time! So you ask what does this have to do with Stewardship? More specifically, YOUR stewardship?

In the past several months, this parish stepped up with its pledges and put forth the financial commitment for St. Raphael to have the financial means to hire Reverend Helen. I am so proud of how we ALL stepped up and made that happen. Equally proud am I that we are on track after almost three months with our pledges to date. Those who committed are living up to that promise financially.

Lest you think that your Stewardship Chair only thinks about the small things like money, I was so very impressed with how our property and grounds looked as I drove up this past Sunday. Professionals could not have made our property look better. That is just one more instance of stewardship...the time devoted to coming out for our Spring clean up and doing various tasks around the grounds and building.

Yet operating our Parish does take money. Just in the past several weeks the church has experienced a need for a plumber (who among us has never had issues with those wonderful inventions called toilets). And also with a small (blessedly so financially) heating issue downstairs. These things that those of us who show up on Sunday take for granted get handled since we have the financial resources to plan for those type of expenditures.

UTO: How many of you have heard of UTO? Think "blue boxes". Spare change going to a National Fund that grants out nationally EVERY DIME that it receives in donations. Who does it go to? Parishes across the nation, including Kentucky. More details coming, but see Carole Mize if you don't already have a "blue box".

As always, should you have any questions regarding the Parish's stewardship or financials, please feel free to ask, and I can bore you more data than you wish to obtain.

Roger L Kirk
Stewardship Chair



Church mouse in God's house

He or She is risen! See what I did there? I have been reading up on gender inclusive language. It's a great concept! We mice probably couldn't adapt to it very well. Our roles are really well defined. But you people (see, I usually would have said 'guys' there) seem to have become pretty fluid in your roles.

Like I have this one friend, and s/he lives in a church where they always refer to their priest as "he." So I said to him or her, "well what if your priest is a woman?" Well, you would have thought I left droppings on the cheese! But I kept at it, and pointed out how the church that I live in doesn't even refer to God as "he" but usually just says "God." And sometimes that one priest would refer to God as "she" just to throw us off. That really didn't sit well.

I guess most mice and maybe some people just aren't ready to make the switch. I get how difficult it can be. My spouse isn't exactly thrilled and the kids think their parent has lost his/her mind. But I keep telling them, "look, just try it." The benefits far outweigh the costs. Like, what if someone had a bad experience with their "father" and you're really conjuring up bad memories? Or maybe you'll stereotype someone incorrectly? And what if you start thinking that your God is not just a "man" but also a human?

So I for one am making a conscious effort not to put gender labels on living things. Easter seems like a great time to start. I just love thinking about she or he rising from that tomb, walking amongst his or her siblings for forty days before ascending to sit at the right hand of the parent. It just kind of flows off the tongue. Oh who am I kidding? I need to do some more reading.



Datebook

Sages will meet Thursday, April 19 at 11:30am at the Olive Garden restaurant, located in a free standing building at Fayette Mall on the Nicholasville Rd. side. Make reservations by Tuesday April 17 with Rose Canon, 859/312-6156, canonrose@twc.com.

Birthdays for April

Isaac Whorley	April 2
Virginia Dixon	April 6
Richard Dawahare	April 8
Larry Whorley	April 11
Marie Jacobs	April 13
Heidi Hayse	April 19
Helen Massaquoi	April 24
Doris McNally	April 25
MacKenzie Fagan-Bardin	April 27

Graduation Information - If you have a student graduating this May, please send the information to Dana Berry to be included in next month's Herald. Send the name, what school they are graduating from and where they will be attending college, or their future plans to danabruceberry@gmail.com by April 20.

April Anniversaries

Michelle & Ron Binkauskas April 13

A View from the Pew

Sell Jesus--or show him?

Should we be selling Jesus, or showing him? And by 'showing him' I mean living as he taught without public displays of piety. I ask because I've always been skeptical about evangelism. No, not skeptical—contemptuous. I despise it, and always have. I'm not sure why, but I will attempt to put my finger on it.

Partly because it's self-serving. For decades evangelism has been more about lining preachers' pockets than promoting the teachings of Jesus. Worse, the hypocrisy of the holier-than-thou pitchmen of piousness leaves me sprinting as far and as fast away as possible. If that's Christianity, no thanks. I think Jesus would agree.

In fact, he did: "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.'" MT 15:7.

Yes, there is a difference between that sort of evangelism and the natural outpouring of gratitude for a life lived according to the Way. Grateful believers want others to experience the same joy. That's a pure motive and when large numbers of like-minded believers act in a united movement of sharing, that does seem different.

Still, ulterior motives lurk beneath the pews—namely, to get more people to fill them. And why not? After all it's a win/win proposition: share the gospel, enrich earthly lives en route to the eternal, and strengthen the church in the process.

Perhaps it's a matter of balance and execution. Merriam-Webster defines evangelism as, 1 : the winning or revival of personal commitments to Christ; 2 : militant or crusading zeal. The Presbyterian Church definition: Joyfully sharing the good news of the sovereign love of God, and calling people to repentance, to personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, to active membership in the church, and to obedient service in the world.

The Episcopal Church promotes an Evangelism Toolkit. Its Introduction explains that "Through the spiritual practice of evangelism, we seek, name



and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in the stories of all people - then invite everyone to more. The Evangelism Toolkit helps us to live into that call" and found here:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/episcopal-evangelism-toolkit-reclaiming-evangelism-going-public-our-faith>.

The section called Evangelism 101 touts the Jesus Movement: "As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, and followers of Jesus' Way, we seek to live like him. We're serious about moving out to grow loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with God (evangelism); to grow those relationships with each other (reconciliation); and to grow those relationships with all of creation (creation care).

This is certainly the thing to do. But I would not call that evangelism. I'd call it being natural and true. And out of naturally living the Way, without pomp or pretense, will flow peace, joy, and success. And perhaps even more parishioners. Can I get an AMEN?!

By Richard Dawahare



Music Notes

“Welcome, Happy Morning”

Easter is glorious and it is the high point of our Christian year. Regardless of the weather that day, it will be a beautiful and festive celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. Our church will be adorned with flowers, paraments, and candles; the choir will lead the congregation in celebratory song; and Helen, our new priest, will be in place to lead us in worship on this festive “day of days, whereon the faithful give God praise; for Christ is risen from the tomb, and light and joy have conquered doom. Alleluia!” (quoting from the hymn “On Earth Has Dawned”!)

So, by all means, come to worship on Easter! But don’t neglect the beautiful and meaningful services leading to that joyful day. Maundy Thursday celebrates the institution of the Lord’s Supper, the Eucharist, the “most excellent” of the Sacraments. There is washing of feet, following the example of Jesus himself in his graphic demonstration of servanthood. On Good Friday, we observe the Crucifixion of Christ in a somber and moving service, reflecting on the sacrifice made by Jesus for our salvation. There will be Veneration of the Cross, as each member of the congregation (who chooses to do so) has the opportunity to approach the cross in prayer and adoration.

These two special services will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday evenings, March 29 and 30. On Easter, the choir will sing at both the 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. At the latter service, the congregation will be invited to come forward (again, those who wish to do so) to join the choir in singing Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus,” for a festive conclusion to Holy Week.

Thanks very much to the children and youth of St. Raphael who sang on Palm Sunday, as we welcomed Helen to our parish! What a wonderful treat for our congregation to hear those sweet voices. And thank you as well to the *Friends of Music at St. Raphael* for their continuing support of our choir scholar/staff singer program. We are extremely fortunate to have such a talented choir – as anyone who was present on March 18 for Bishop Maze’s farewell service can testify!

Blessings for a joyous Easter season,

Melinda Storey, Organist/Choirmaster



Invitation

Please join us for the opening reception of an
exhibition of digital art by

David Arnold and Sonya Blades

April 13, 2018 6-8 pm
Art Space at St. Raphael

“We use digital photos to produce mandalas that make us stand still and breathe”

Palm Sunday Photos





Saying Good-bye to Bishop Maze. The parish presented him with a gift card to thank him for all his wonderful services these past four months



Palm Sunday Photos



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The Herald is a monthly publication of St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church, 1891 Parkers Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40504. Phone 859.255.4987. Our newsletter is mailed or e-mailed free of charge to approximately 250 members and friends. If you have someone whom you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter, please notify the Church Office and have them added to the list of friends.

Articles and news information for April must be submitted by **Friday, April. 20, 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)