



The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol 53 Issue 5

May 2018



Greetings from one of the newest arrivals to Lexington, KY!

Yes, we have moved – for the umpteenth time in 28 years of marriage! It wasn't as hard work as the intercontinental moves we have made three times; it wasn't such a leap into the unknown as when we moved from Mozambique to West Virginia in 2015; it wasn't as disconnecting as many past moves, thanks to social media, the proximity of WV, and the continuity of mountain life.

The wildest thing has been the 'Spring' weather in which we have moved – and the loveliest thing has been sharing Easter with you all at St Raphael's!

Thank you for being part of this transitional time, for your welcome to the church and Lexington, and your encouragement, conversations and meals! Together we have been journeying with thoughts on practicing resurrection in this Easter season, with ideas about the frame of our lives as well as forming priorities for our shared mission and ministry. I look forward to our midweek and Sunday Eucharists, our participation in 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer activities after Ascension, and baptisms at Pentecost.

I am learning about the needs of our neighbors, the value of support for all generations, the commitment of volunteers, the beauty of worship, and community potential for good. And I am glad to be in this place at this time!

Peace and blessings,

Helen



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

Interested in Baptism or Confirmation?

Wednesday evenings, from 6:30 pm join us for a service of Holy Eucharist and healing, followed by pre-baptism conversations. All are welcome to come and join in on the conversations.

We are planning on having Baptismal Services on Pentecost Sunday.

Let Rev. Helen know if you are interested and come be a part of the learning process.

Senior Warden's Corner



I should not wonder
at the mustard seed
God made the atom
It is the wisdom of creation
That sings down through the eons
That growth begins in tiny bits
And will not be denied
Like the sprout that cracks the stone
To grow upon the mountainside
Or through the pavement of a city street
A dream begins by listening for the first
Note of the Godsong deep within.

This is the season of new growth, even though Mother Nature has been playing tricks on us. It certainly is the time of renewal and growth as a parish. I can feel the excitement in the air as we step out in new ways with a new Rector. As we approach Pentecost, and celebrating again the coming of the Holy Spirit, we can reach down deep inside to find the music of that Godsong. It will guide us as plans are made for our church life together. We need the ideas, the plans and the volunteers to make things happen. Maybe your song leads you to the children's program. Perhaps you lean toward the music program as it needs Friends of Music to support it. The Daughters of the King may appeal to you women who seek a deeper spiritual life. A Men's group would be wonderful and could help support our Outreach. In the past the men sponsored a Special Olympics swim team by selling the Christmas wreaths. We need to have social events as a church family to just have fun and really get to know each other better. It's not hard to accomplish these things if we join together and not leave them to a small group of people. Listen to your own special Godsong and follow the message you find there.

CC

Stewardship Report

Welcome back to the Stewardship Corner!

So, has anyone in the past couple of weeks spread their wings and soared like an eagle? It is surprisingly easy; try it. Great lesson from Reverend Helen; I have even used it on my staff at work.

Stewardship is sometimes viewed as a dirty word; a transgression which your mother used to make you wash out your mouth with soap as repentance (or was that sentence). Slipped up, that shows my age. No one would dare do that now, or they might have Facebook or Twitter or child protective services breathing down their neck.

Stewardship helps run the Parish. It pays for Reverend Helen and Bonnie to be here. It pays for that wonderful heat and air conditioning (okay I promise not to go down the Kentucky spring weather path). It pays for insuring our property and lives. It pays for wafers and wine and all that you see (Reverend Helen, are you getting the message that people are paying attention in your sermons?).

Stewardship is much more than that. Do you think that all those gorgeous outdoor plants and trees and shrubs arrange themselves and reward themselves with mulch? No, many of our Parish members take great pains to contribute the other parts of the Stewardship tribunal. Namely the other two legs of that stool are time and talent.

More on that another time as we take on our own Parish "visioning" event, on the Tobit's Trace opportunity on our grounds. Dave Sevigny will be sending out more information, probably in this month's Herald edition.

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

P.S. My mother is still alive and working full time at 83 years old, bless the Lord. And if you talk to her, she will affirm that my mouth and the soup bars were well acquainted.



Church mouse in God's house

I've noticed something about you humans: you are obsessed with sports. Basketball season seems to be over, and now it's on to horses. Basketball I kind of understand – you throw a ball through a hoop, keep the other team from doing so, and whoever does it better wins. Not fascinating, but pretty straightforward.

But the horse racing... Let's ignore for a second that it's animals that are doing the work, and how as a fellow non-human I might take some issue with that. But, the fact that it's about speed is what really gets me. Yes, horses are fast. So are mice. In fact, most creatures are pretty fast, with the exception of (sorry) humans. You may live your lives at fast paces, but really you're a pretty slow lot. Maybe that's why you like watching other species go fast?

But here's what you miss: try a slow race. Have you ever seen a mouse casually strolling around outside? No, I bet you haven't. We run because that's what we do. Sometimes fear encourages us too. So, if you want a real challenge, line up a bunch of mice (or some other animal) and see who can make it to the finish line last! Because, really, outrunning everyone isn't that hard. But showing restraint, a lack of fear, appreciating your surroundings... that takes talent. Perseverance. Hard work. Sometimes we do this when we're sure there's nobody else around. But you all, you act like everything's a race even though you could challenge yourselves to slow down without much fear of ... well, anything really.

So here's what I'm going to do during your big Derby and other races. I'm going to cheer for the horse that takes things nice and slow. When that horse crosses the line I will make my kids cheer its name and make cheesedip in its honor. If things go right I'll be watching the most exciting three or four minutes in sports!



Birthdays for May

Ron Binkauskas	May 1
Bill Price	May 3
Pat Dinsmore	May 5
Marguerite Emmons	May 13
Rod Glancy	May 13
Peggy Oakes	May 13
Rose Canon	May 18
Bonnie Conaway	May 18
C. C. Johnson	May 21
Jackie Laborda	May 21
Lizzie Lorton	May 23
Logan Jacobs	May 24
Kayla Colliver	May 25
Rony Massaquoi	May 26
Emma Mathews	May 30
George Stevenson	May 30

May Anniversaries

Beverly & Robert Bouse	May 26
Jennifer & Steve Krolak	May 28

Datebook

Sages will meet at Ramsey's off Nicholasville Rd. (W. Zandale first light after Southland Dr. going south) 11:30 Thurs. May 17. Hostess is Marguerite Emmons, 967-7991.

Wednesday, May 2 - 6:30 Pm Eucharist and healing, followed by pre-baptism conversation

Wednesday, May 9 - 6:30 Pm Eucharist and healing, followed by pre-baptism conversation

May 10 thru May 20 - "Thy Kingdom Come" (Diocesan program) with prayer stations and prayer walks here at St Raphael daily (times will vary - more information to come)

May 18-20 - ECW Retreat weekend at Cathedral Domain (Helen here Sunday morning)

Wednesday, May 23 - 6:30 Pm Eucharist and healing, followed by Confirmation and Affirmation conversation

Wednesday, May 30 - 6:30 Pm Eucharist and healing, followed by Confirmation and Affirmation conversation

A View from the Pew

WAFER MADNESS

I got my communion indoctrination growing up in Good Shepard. While I was in no hurry to do so, I do remember wondering what it would be like to take the wafer with the wine. Kneeling at the rail, I'd get that whiff of port as the chalice skipped by.

But I was I was content to do as children do. We'd make the long walk up the center aisle, all eyes on us—as ours was on them as they made their similar sojourn to the holy grail. We'd take our knees, and the kindly Rev. Clarke Bloomfield would place the little white wafer in my cupped hands. Then I'd look up at mom, or dad, as they took sipped from the cup, solemn-faced. Then they crossed themselves before rising, family in tow.

Mom always taught that we should never let the wafer touch our teeth, for it was the body of Christ. We were to let it sit on our tongue and let it just dissolve, musing about Jesus, his love and sacrifice. This always made complete sense to me. Letting the wafer slowly meld into my mouth helped manifest my communion plea that “that he may dwell in us, as we in him”—both physically and spiritually.

Later, some churches started using real bread. I never like that. While they used bread at the last supper, this was while Jesus was still with them, eating and drinking with them. Anything other than a morsel and you have to eat the bread, which is just not kosher.

Then came the gluten-free wafer. Good idea for those with intolerances to wheat as me. Or so you'd think. Turns out the gluten-free wafer does not dissolve! You must chew it or it will be still be in your mouth through the next Sunday. Also, it doesn't absorb the wine at all. Being a dipper [this always bothered me because on the one hand, I do care about germ prevention, but on the other, is not the taking communion from a common cup the perfect opportunity to exercise FAITH!?!], I like the wafer to soak up as much wine as possible.

Thus, I am back with the wafer—the one, the only, the original little white wafer. And I love it! It dips perfectly, it absorbs the wine, and it melts away beautifully.



Go ahead, take my MTV all you want. Just leave the wafer. The perfect, un-improvable symbol for the reason we are having this discussion at all.

Richard Dawahare

Thy Kingdom Come - A message from Bishop Van Koevering

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Eastertide is a time of celebration, and there is so much to celebrate in the Diocese of Lexington. In just a few short weeks I have heard many good news stories and met so many Easter people. God is at work in this place.

I have been reflecting on how we might begin a Great Conversation in our diocese to describe the good that God is doing in and through us so that we might describe a common vision. Any such work needs to be steeped in prayer. I suggest that we spend the time between Ascension and Pentecost to focus our prayer on discerning God's design for our diocese as we join in with sisters and brothers across the Anglican Communion to pray for Thy Kingdom Come. Please [click here](https://www.thykingdomcome.global/?language=EN) to link to the website with its many resources. (Or copy and paste this address in your browser: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/?language=EN>)

There are three aims:

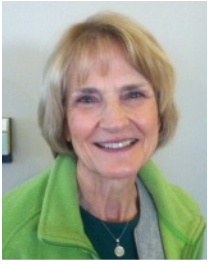
- To join in prayer with the whole family of God the Father
- To pray for the empowering of God the Holy Spirit
- To pray that we might be effective witnesses to God the Son, Jesus Christ.

This is an invitation for individuals, families and churches to spend 10 days (May 10 -20) in concentrated prayer on the theme of Thy Kingdom Come. As you pray, inquire how you might better live out your call to be the Church and participate in bringing the way of God to grow in the Diocese of Lexington.

We will collect your stories and begin our Great Conversation to describe our collective diocesan vision after Pentecost.

May this time of prayer bring you clear vision and greater strength,

+Mark



Music Notes

“The Whole Bright World
Rejoices Now . . .”

Again, another Easter season has come and . . . still continues.

After Holy Week, with its solemn and moving services, the church burst forth in beauty in so many areas: flowers in profusion and splendid altar cloths, paraments, and candles; the Easter liturgy and Helen’s inspirational sermon; and of course, the joyful music, all to the glory of God and with grateful rejoicing for the gift of our salvation bought through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On May 20, we will observe the Day of Pentecost, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and the birth of the Christian Church.

Our beloved choir will recess for the summer after Trinity Sunday, May 27. Again this year, I invite anyone who is interested in singing or playing an instrument to join in providing music during the summer months. If you are interested and available, please speak to me after worship any Sunday.

Friends of Music, please do remember our choir during the summer. The need to build our scholarship and stipend fund is always present, and especially after Easter with its extra services. Our choir is first-rate and is greatly appreciated by the congregation. We are indebted to the *Friends of Music at St. Raphael*: their continuing support makes the program possible. Thank you!!

With best wishes for a Blessed Easter Season,

Melinda Storey, Organist/Choirmaster

Tobit’s Trace Visioning Committee Formation

Background

In early 2017, the Diocese facilitated “Holy Conversations” with our parish, as we began our search for a new rector. We were asked to consider our unique resources as a church within the Diocese of Lexington. We explored the resources of expansive property (the 2 acres behind the parking lot) that no other urban episcopal congregation in our city had. This discernment about what our property’s role is to the mission of God has led to several grant applications that have been awarded to St. Raphael’s and will provide about \$29,000 for us to begin the fulfillment of a vision for this land. We have gathered the funds and now a more complete vision of how this activity can fit into the overall mission of St. Raphael’s Church is needed.

Call to Action

We would like to do have a kickoff meeting after the 11 a.m. Service, the date to be determined soon. At that time, please join us for a light lunch in the church hall to begin to vision what this exciting ministry might bring to the community.

Summary

The project at the rear of the property owned by St. Raphael’s Episcopal Church, that adjoins the Colony Neighborhood contains a tributary to Cardinal Run that makes its way to what is known as “Blue Hole”. We were awarded a series of grants (currently around \$29,000) to clear out invasive plant material like honeysuckle and poison hemlock and create a more natural stream bed feature to use for walking trails, and replant of native flowering, fruit and nut bearing trees, shrubs, and plant materials.

A Web Based Outdoor Educational Experience

Stream cleanup is just one aspect of this project as a community feature. St. Raphael’s approved grants include a contemplative educational walking trail thru this area connecting the rear acreage of the site to our existing campus. We have plenty of parking and by opening ourselves to the neighborhood, they can easily experience the site on a frequent basis.

The Tobit Trace Educational Experience approved grant envisions a trail with wayfinder markers along it which will sync to a new web page at www.sreclex.org/tobittrace. The environment will be park-like and will lend itself to walking and learning.

Imagine a museum tour, with "walking points." This will be a rather unique and adaptive technology, rather unusual in this area. All subject matter will be delivered through cell phones, tablets, and other electronic media that will directly access the webpage. Experts in the field of stormwater and stream water ecology will be recorded in infotainment style to engage the audience. Sites along the trail will be marked and there will be corresponding icons on your smart phone to listen to a short discussion about that item. Such educational experiences provided through electronic means in both video/graphics and text. Local ecology experts will be recorded discussing topics like stormwater management features of the property that include improving stream quality, sharing best management practices, natural filter technique, and invasive plant management, as examples.

The best thing about using web-based education is that is very easily kept up to date. Although the trail for this grant will be approximately 600 ft long as it meanders down the bank to the stormwater stream project, the trail that runs through the property could eventually be about 2500' long. There will be multiple types of outreach opportunities along the trail and the project can be completed in stages. As each part of the trail and project is complete, a new educational experience will emerge on the website.

By entering a different educational track on the web, at the same station, a pilgrim can learn about nature and/or racial reconciliation and/or the stations of the cross. The church is meant to provide thought-provoking social change and needs to engage people where they are with various multisensory educational experiences using the same technology and built out features.

The projects brilliance is our church's transformation utilizing natural gifts and the integration of technology as a creative way to have multiple learning experiences for multiple audiences and opens ourselves to our community in enriching ways.

Questions:

If you have questions about the project or can't make the meeting, when the date is finalized, please email Dave Sevigny (thekydude@gmail.com) so you can be a part of this exciting opportunity at St. Raphael's.

Children's Activity Bags show creativity of our kids!

Nancy Christiano put together some wonderful quiet activity bags for children to use during services. Recently, Nancy was updating the bags and found this wonderful creation made of Kleenex on one of the Barbie dolls. It spawned an idea: anyone who likes to knit, crochet or sew and would like to make some clothes for our Barbie's, please contact Nancy: she has some patterns. The girls seem to really enjoy them and some outfits would be nice. Maybe even a female priest Alb, choir robes or other professions' attire would be fun to have!



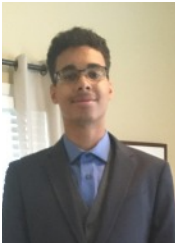
Additionally if anyone would like to donate small quiet toys, books, coloring books, small simple puzzles(5-10 PCs), colored pencils (the crayons are all broken to bits) beanies etc, they can contact Nancy to do so and she will periodically refresh the bags and change them up to keep them interesting. We try to make them work for a range of age groups/gender so nothing with sharp edges or small parts that could break off and get swallowed or things that could scratch the pews or make a lot of noise or hurt someone if launched from a pew. Thanks for your help in keeping these bags up to date with materials.

Congratulations to our Graduates!



Thomas Bollinger, son of Dr. Christopher Bollinger and Amy Smerick, will graduate from Lafayette High School's Pre-Engineering program on May 31st and will be attending Kenyon College in Gambler, Ohio this fall to study Economics.

Kacie Brockman, granddaughter of Paula Brockman will graduate from Western University, Bowling Green, KY on May 12 with a BA in Journalism.



Justin Kirk, nephew of Roger & Doey Kirk will be graduating from Lafayette High School, May 31st and plans to attend the University of KY, majoring in Education. (No picture available)

Tristan Basil, grandson of Benice wood graduates from UK with a degree in Computer Engineering , with honors.



Owyn Faith, grandson of Bernice Wood, is graduating from Perry County High School in southern Indiana. (No Picture available).

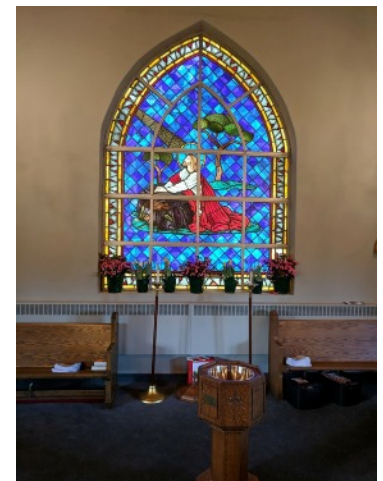
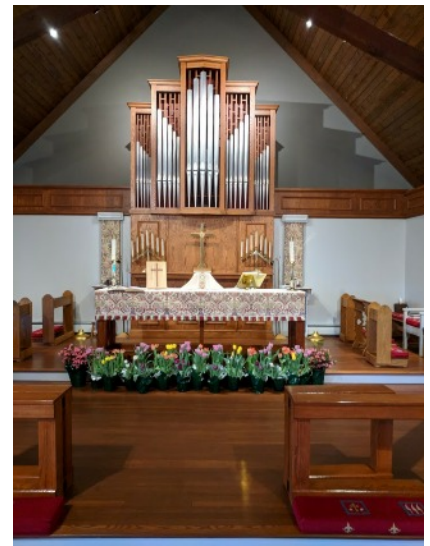


Helen Kathryn Emmons, daughter of Marguerite & Jim Emmons, graduates from ECU with a MPA degree on May 19.

Emma Rose Gaitley Mathews, daughter of Hunter Mathews will graduate from Chesham Grammar School, Chesham, UK, and will be attending either Kings College, London or the University of Edinburgh.



Easter Egg Hunt



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