



Dear St Raphael's community,

Summer is drawing to its end and a new season is in focus! Marked seasonal changes, as opposed to the dry and rainy seasons of life in southern Africa, change the pace and rhythm of life too.

Our lectionary readings and colors of worship are signs of our church celebration of seasonal changes in which, as Henri Nouwen writes, 'you will discover an order and a familiarity which deepens your longing to stay at home... God is not in the distant heavens or in the hidden depths of the future, but here and now. God has pitched a tent among us. Even more than that, God has made a home in us so that we can make God's home our home.' And then God invites us to follow Jesus, to 'come and see', listen, and dwell together.

Please accept my invitation to those of you who haven't been for a while, and any friends and neighbors that might be looking for community, to 'come and see'. Some good things are beginning – the plans and ideas for Tobit's Trace on the land behind the church, different ways to come together and know each other (book studies and conversations on Wednesdays, and Dinner Church on the last Saturday of the month), as well as our healing services on Wednesday noon and 6.30, and Sundays at 8.30 and 11.00.

New ideas and events need more volunteers – and plans for our work with children needs more helping hands, more services needs more volunteers for Altar Guild, sharing meals needs more cleaner-uppers. And let me know if you have any other ideas to build community here at St Raphael's and within our local community.

Nouwen has words of wisdom about our service:

'service is any small act of the kingdom through which we reach out to others with expressions of care ... to see people with new clarity – their struggles, their beauty, and their



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

kindness. The Spirit in us sees the Spirit in them. There is a mutuality of the Spirit seeing the Spirit, God praising God in acts of service for others. Therefore, we can say that it is good for us to be with those we serve because they are living reminders of God's love.'

Community and new life seems to be formed by acts of service and acts of gratitude. All vital to the Jesus Movement of which our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry speaks. Let's join in!

Blessings,
Helen

Senior Warden's Corner



It is the greatest adventure,
To reach for Jesus,
To step outside oneself
Begins the most exciting journey,
Talk about the wonders of the world,
All Creation shouts for joy!

Adventures come with danger and adversity. Pain and suffering are part of living and no one escapes unscathed. But, oh, the joy of walking all the way with the loving presence of our Brother Jesus is nourishment beyond describing. One finds the strength and energy to do more than ever dreamed at the beginning of the journey.

Believe it or not, August has come again. The children head back to school. Vacation time is waning for families and new adventures and challenges lie ahead. At St. Raphael we are visioning in order to plan our new journey as a parish family. Our months of searching are over and we have our new Rector.

As we look to the future of discovering ways to live up to our Motto, "Welcome Regardless", by reaching out to neighboring communities and supporting parish outreach activities, think about your own talents and gifts to share. I know you have them and prayer can help you find them.

CC

Stewardship Report

Thanks for joining us again at the Stewardship Corner!

What a month July was. Whew. Stewardship and Property opportunities were plentiful.

We have planning for Helen's installation going on in a big way. Please feel free to contribute to the expenses we expect. We only get to install her once, and we want to put our best St. Raphael face forward for all the clergy and West Virginia guests we are expecting. Please just put INSTALLATION on your donation and we will know what to do with it. Hats off to ECW for coordinating this effort at making this more of a reception than a "pot-luck."

Yet that was just one instance of stewardship in July. We had winged guests at one point; that was addressed and cleaned up. We had some legged pests bothering our pantry downstairs; that was addressed. We had door issues (mechanical and electronic mechanisms get old); those are in process, as some have been taken care of and others are being addressed. We had our annual audit of church processes and finances by the Diocese; Bonnie and Paula did a great job handling that.

We had a Tobit's Trace visioning session, with many new ideas for how to enhance that project. There are certain things we are committed to do, but many others either short term or long term to make St. Raphael a welcoming place with a quite unusual and wonderful outside area.

We had creeper vine issues, broken window issues, bird issues, and the Vestry filled their "extra" time with certain Diocesan trainings (most are well into or have completed these trainings).

Whew, you tired of reading all these activities and opportunities for stewardship yet? Imagine me typing them all out! Yes, most of these cost some of your precious stewardship dollars, but the BIG BULK of the stewardship commitment was by members of your and my church. People skills, people contacts, people pitching in, people doing their part. Sort of sounds like the idea that Jesus had some 2,000 + years ago, does it not?

The next time that you go to write your check or access your online banking for the much needed Stewardship giving, access the deep parts of your brain that Jesus would like for you to do. Make a mental note to seek out and thank your Vestry partners, your Property committee partners, your Stewardship committee partners, your Altar Guild partners, your Music program partners, and your ECW partners (or others I have forgotten to mention). These partners exemplify the true meaning of Stewardship as Jesus envisions it.

I am still amazed watching our church practicing Stewardship every day and every week. Keep it up, as we are all better for it.

Roger L Kirk

*The people of St. Raphael's Episcopal Church and the
Episcopal Diocese of Lexington*

Invite you to share in the Renewal of Ministry
together with

The Rev. Canon Helen Van Koevering, D. Min.

*As she is welcomed as the New Rector of
St. Raphael's Episcopal Church*

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, the twelfth of August,

The year of our Lord Two thousand eighteen

Three o'clock in the afternoon

1891 Parkers Mill Road
Lexington, Kentucky

Clergy: Cassock, surplice, and white stole

Rev Helen's Installation News:

The Reception following the Service will be held in the Parish Hall. We will need lots of help with both set up and clean up. We're also still requesting donations to help with the costs for the reception.

ECW is providing the food, and if you are willing to help with either clean up or set up, please let Dana Berry know- danabruceberry@gmail.com, or call 859-381-1830 by August 5.

It would be helpful to get an idea of how many people will be attending, so please let Dana know if you are planning to be there. You can email her or call at the above phone number. Please call by Aug. 5.

A View from the Pew

My credo-no credo

I've long cringed reciting the Nicene Creed, at least since I became a questioner and seeker of the highest truth. This post-adolescent yearning has me reaching for that celestial space beyond convention, beyond assumed truth and human hand-me-down traditions (the traditions of man Jesus warned about). My quest has, since that awakening, been to reconcile the true teachings of Jesus with the inconsistencies of the conventional practice of the religion ostensibly bearing his name.



Jesus stands for love for all, without condition, even and especially the manmade edict that people must admit and recognize Jesus as God. Jesus stands for truth, for peace, and whatever will promote peace, justice and nonviolence, for all. Not just all Christians, all. Everybody.

The fundamental problem with traditional Christianity (i.e., not—GASP—heretical Anglicans) or any religion with similar ideological constructs—is the belief that those who profess faith are “in,” saved, and therefore “worthy.” Those others are, depending on the individual Christian practitioner’s personality: a) to be pitied and prayed for until they do convert lest they die and be excluded from heaven, b) to be held in suspicion, initially at least, c) to be deemed unworthy of the equal rights of society (not unusual for if by their non-Christianity, they are not going to be worthy of heaven after life, why should they be as worthy during it), d) to be deemed a threat, if not danger, to Christian society.

The last two may for many be an unintentional, subconscious consequence of lifelong indoctrination, far different from the brazen belief system that led to such past atrocities as the Crusades, the Holocaust and countless other wars of worthy “Christian” nations against the heathen.

The absolutely beautiful thing about America is our Constitution and its theoretical submersion of religion to the rule of law, applied fairly and consistently across the board to all humans of every stripe, or none. I say theoretical because there is today a fundamentalist Christian push to instill a new Christian theocracy throughout our land, one that would subvert our constitution and the equal rights of all.

What will it take to ensure our holy secular state survives? What will ensure that our foundational values of liberty and justice for all will prevail? What can the followers of Jesus do to see this, his will, done?

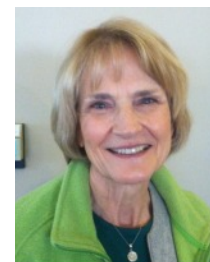
To be continued.....

Richard Dawahare

Music Notes

Sing With Us!

Our summer cantor program has been warmly received by the congregation, as our choir scholars/staff singers and other musicians have led the congregation in song this season. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the special gifts of our singers as well as to revisit some favorite hymns and solos. Special thanks also go out to Amy LoBianco, clarinet; Peggy Oakes, piano; Chris Young, piano, Kris Olson, guitar. Singers have been: Carolina Fernandez, Heather Matics, Junghyun Lee, Clement Baloyi, and Kris Olson. We are looking forward to a piano and flute duet with Peggy and her daughter, Sue Smith later in August.



Melinda Storey

The next big event is the Installation of our wonderful new Rector, the Rev. Canon Dr. Helen Van Koevinger, on August 12 at 3:00 p.m. Many of our choir members will be there to help celebrate, and you are invited to sing with us. We will rehearse on Thursday evening, August 9, at 7:15 p.m., with warm-ups at 2:00 p.m. on August 12. The music is not too difficult, and there is safety in numbers, so come out and join in making this a most festive occasion as we officially welcome our Pastor.

Dr. Ron Pen will be at the organ July 29 and August 4, thanks to a gracious donation from two members of our congregation. Dr. Pen is always a favorite, and a larger-than-life personality. Don't miss the opportunity to hear him and to speak to him after the services.

Regular choir rehearsals will resume Thursday after Labor Day, September 6, at 7:15 p.m., and the choir will sing together on the following Sunday, September 9, at the 11:00 service. Warm-up on Sunday morning begins at 10:00 a.m. With Thomas B. off at college and Amy S. in England, we need new members to step up to the plate! Come join us – our choir is a warm, welcoming group!

Best wishes for summer,
Melinda Storey, Organist/Choirmaster



A Church Mouse in God's House

Let's talk about ... genocide! Yeah, sorry, I mean I know this is a nice family newsletter and all, but what was I to think when I heard that the "Pest Control" service was coming? Is that what I am to you? A "Pest?" I thought we had something special...

O.k., o.k., I'm going to try to settle down. I don't want to be one of those flippant tweeter-leaders you all seem to have now and inadvertently escalate things with a "Mother of ALL WARS!!!!" kind of rant, even if it does seem like you've already fired the first shot. I still believe in diplomacy.

How can we work together? What can I offer to you and your people? Maybe that isn't in my best interest, as I think the answer would be, "very little." I admit it, you are the haves, we are the have nots. You are the providers, we are the consumers. You are the strong, we are the weak. But does that mean we are worthless? Mere "pests?" So... I have two lines of thought here... One: let's face it, you are all probably "pests" to each other from time to time. I've seen you and heard you talk... it's not love and peace all the time. So, if your strategy is to eradicate everyone you consider to be a pest, then we're all in danger. So, I say, "band together all ye pests!" And second, I simply appeal to your sense of mercy. That's in your books somewhere isn't it? Even the poor and outcast ... we need your love and shelter, right?



August Birthdays

Martha Helen Smith	August 1
Mason Whorley	August 1
Diane Davis	August 4
Kay Price	August 4
Ed Blackwell	August 9
Ava Curci	August 12
Meritt Anderson	August 25
Leslee Roberts	August 25
Steve Garvin	August 27
Ginger Garvin	August 29

August Anniversaries

Hunter Mathews & Nancy Christiano	2
Erica & Ron Formisano	6
Marguerite & Jim Emmons	7
Ray & Diane Davis	24
Diane & Larry Whorley	24
Rose & Brad Canon	26

Datebook

Sunday, August 12: 8:30 & 11:00 Back to school blessing at morning services

9:30 Property Meeting

3 PM - Installation of Rev. Helen

Tuesday, August 14: 6:30 PM Stewardship Meeting

Thursday, August 16: 11:30 Sages

Tuesday, August 21: 6:45 PM Vestry Meeting

Thursday, August 23 SAGES at 11:30am at the Woodford Inn in Versailles. To reach the inn, go straight into Versailles on US 60 (not the bypass), turn right in front of the courthouse, left at the next street, take the next left, and you will see it. Don and Gail are hosts. For reservation call Gail, 859-469-2489.

Saturday, August 25: 5:30 Dinner

Prayer Request Board

Beginning July 15, you may notice two changes.

Parishioner for which long term prayers are needed will not appear in the regular Sunday bulletin or announced individually during the Prayers of the People. Instead these names will be shown on a bulletin board in the chapel area. This Prayer Request Board has copies of those people with long term prayer needs and small prayer request forms for anyone wishing to add prayers for anyone not on either the bulletin or long-term prayer lists. Please feel free to take home one of lists from this new addition to our worship space.




July 26, 2018

Warmest Greetings,

I hope you are enjoying the summer and finding time to relax with friends and family. You will recall that we have reserved August 24 – September 1 as a time of intentional prayer to seek God's guidance for our diocese. The [*Novena for Vision*](#) was put together by Fr. Jeff Queen and invites us to Read, Look, Wait, Listen and then Respond to God's probing by answering daily questions included in the guide.

We recognize that some of our people do not enjoy the benefits of the internet and would prefer a hard copy of this guide. If you need assistance in producing hard copies for the people of God in your congregation, would you please follow this link [*Novena for Vision Survey*](#) and fill in the attached form by the 31st of July and we will make every effort to send the appropriate number of hard copies in time for you to distribute to your people.

Thank you for your cooperation,



NOTE: If you need a printed copy, please let Rev. Helen know and she will get one for you. Don't call the Diocese or use the link in the notice.

+Mark

The Rt. Rev. Mark Van Koevering
Bishop Provisional
The Episcopal Diocese of Lexington
P.O. Box 610
Lexington, KY 40588-0610
859-252-6527



Dinner Church & Summer Baptisms



Vance Family Baptism with Godparents, Brent & Natalie Bardin
Family with Rev. Helen

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Rev. Canon Dr. Helen Van Koevering, Rector
Phone: 859-255-4987
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Articles and news information for September must be submitted by **Friday, Aug. 24, 2018** to Dana Berry at danabruceberry@gmail.com

Sunday Services

8:30 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

Nursery provided from 10:45am to 12:15pm

service for children: infant to 2nd grade

11am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Wednesday

10:30 am Book Club & Cookies

12 Noon Holy Eucharist with Unction

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