



Believe it or not, I've now been here at St Raphael's for six months. I think Fall may possibly be my favorite season in USA – it's all about the coolness and turning colors! A new season is now beginning with the shorter days coming in, with our children's programs starting up again, the choir back in full swing, and plans of all sorts underway. And I would like to thank you all for your part and your work in all that we have done and for your welcome of me and this new season in the life of St Raphael's.

Amongst other things, I'd like to thank all those that have been involved in our Dinner Church times together. We have begun something that has good potential for many things: to have some fun together, eat, talk about some serious things, eat, consider our involvement in social justice in Lexington, make new friends and hear new views, eat & drink, pray together.

We had a 'Season of Creation' during September, looking at God through the lens of creation, specifically Earth, Humanity, Sky and Mountains. Diane and Melinda brought us some wonderfully creative work!

We are moving forward with growing a Justice Ministry team involved with BUILD (Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct action), and joining in with the diocesan prayer and action towards developing a unifying vision for all in our diocese.

St Raphael's recently hosted the Diocesan Fall Retreat of the Daughters of the King (and I began as their chaplain), and Bonnie, Dana and I have been working on tidying up our church administration. I can now (almost) confidently say in our parish reports that we have a membership of 189 and an average Sunday attendance of 90. Next is to recreate a pastoral care team after training on October 13, and also to focus on the development of



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen
Van Koevering

our youth and children's work – young people aren't just the future of the church: they are the church already amongst us!

Thanks for being the welcoming, friendly, supportive community that you are. Thanks for all that I am learning with you. Thanks for being open to new things, for inviting your friends and neighbors, for being there for each other. Thanks for being who you all are in your different and diverse ways. It's great looking out on all your smiles on a Sunday morning!

And having just been reminded of 1 Corinthians 14:1 whilst making plans, let me offer that verse for October: "make love your aim."

Peace and blessings,

Helen

Senior Warden's Corner

Some set us aside

because they see in us
Something they do not
understand,

How can one be full of joy in this
world?

How can one be peaceful when the world is so unsettled?
How can one be calm when danger seems so near?

"Wake up" some say, "WAKE UP",
Don't you know what's happening?!"

We do, of course,

Our answer is in mission and ministry,
We choose to love,

Forgiveness and compassion is our way,
We find our answer plainly writ upon our hearts.

Ah, Autumn is upon us and we turn our thoughts to Teams. Football, basketball and school competitions become important to us. There are other teams we can join, ourselves, though. We need teams in our very own church family. We have our Rector, but alas, we cannot clone her. Since we are growing, the need for Pastoral Care is more important than ever. We need a Team to share the visiting and care that is needed for those who are shut-ins or in a hospital, or facility, or ill at home. As some of our members age they are unable to get around and need transportation to appointments, etc. We need other teams to address the work that keeps St. Raphael humming and growing with Outreach projects and activities. The Sunday School and children's activities need help. It would be wonderful to have a Kitchen Team so that a few people are not always responsible for our yummy gatherings and times of hospitality. I'm sure this all sounds overwhelming, but what my mother always told me is true. **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK.** Please look into your hearts and souls and discern how you are able to spend some time in service to our St. Raphael congregation and to take Jesus seriously. He told the Disciples to "Go". Spreading His love for us to others in our church family and the community will lift you in ways you cannot imagine.

Faithfully yours,

CC



Stewardship Report

Thanks for joining us again at the Stewardship Corner! Stewardship is back from mental vacation in August this year.

Every year starting about this time, we come up with a theme and implement it for St. Raphael. Yes, some of that theme will involve pledging (please pray for me as I just said a dirty word).

Still the vast bulk of that theme will address stewardship in broader, and more important strokes.

We will listen to a couple of speakers and what stewardship means to them. Speakers that are St. Raphael "locals" and well known to the congregation. We will talk about one of our most pressing needs, and no, contrary to public opinion, it is not money. It is members of the congregations being willing to move out of your comfort zone and come **HELP** our church with its various duties and tasks. In other words, we need some **NEW** volunteers.

Look, if you are an 8:30 or an 11:00, 90% of you can list who are the prominent "volunteers" in this church. Speaking only for myself, we are getting old. I may do a cartwheel if we have a volunteer come in that has children still at home or someone who still has their full head of hair (well, some other act of joy, like shouting or clapping my hands. A cartwheel from me will instantly involve a bus, the ones with big lights on top and not the ones that I manage every day).

And amazingly in the last few years, we are no longer a "small" church. We have grown to the point where the old ways and processes are no longer sufficient. I have had plenty of "education" on that matter from our Rector, and I say that in the most loving manner. Pretty sure I have your attention. And, yes, in answer to some, there will be visual aids and some laughter involved in this year's stewardship campaign. I will only stop having levity in my life when the Lord decides my life has served its purpose!

So, as we embark on another stewardship campaign for 2019, keep all these treasured moments locked away in your heart. We are indeed a very **GENEROUS** church, and I am proud of each and everyone of us, including our Rector.

Roger L Kirk

A View from the Pew

WHACK! A loud crashing sound interrupted my evening TV reverie. It sounded like it came from outside, but I looked around and all was calm. Seeing nothing unusual, I went back to my “Curb Your Enthusiasm” episodes.



The next morning, I walked into my living room and found a journal laying on the floor that had fallen off the shelf.

I realized that THIS was the source of the sound the night before. Sensing there might be some meaning in this random volume, for years firmly ensconced between others on the bookshelf now laying in the middle of the floor, I picked it up and started reading it.

It was a journal I had bought in 2003 from Joseph-Beth to pen my perceptions, insights and random thoughts. My first entry was on July 19, 2003 on one of my many flights to New York when I was in the retail business. It tells of our Indian limo driver taking us to the city from the airport. Inevitably the conversation went to politics. I was (and still am) one of the most outspoken critics of the then president and all his men (and woman) and the neocons and their immoral, illegal and counterproductive war in Iraq.

The man from India was animated in his shock at the lies and bellicosity coming from the White House. He said it only made those who already disliked and distrusted us to hate us even more. “If the leaders were truthful and fair I would be the FIRST to fight for America, even though I am from India. But with what they are doing, no!”

He acknowledged with us that it was a time of fear. In fact, the pervasive sense of fear--and its erstwhile companion, hate--was crowding out FAITH, which was and is the one and only true pathway to peace and justice. Faith gives space for reason and rationality, instead of the raw emotions that often push us into the abyss. It's not much better now, in many ways it's even worse.

I wasn't sure if THIS was the entry the spirit deigned for me to see upon splatting the journal on my hardwood floor, so I kept reading. My next entry was on a buying trip in August. I had commented on something I had apparently just read: “If you want to build a ship, don't just hire men, give them tools, organization and orders. Rather, get them to want to explore the sea!” I then applied that concept to our present-day political system and overall society.

So if we could get others to want to experience a society with true “liberty and justice for all,” where the least of us had dignity, health care, a nice, if humble, abode, where we all felt safer, happier and with more goodwill to friends here, and half a way around the world—what kind of vehicle—what kind of “statecraft,” would we construct to achieve that?

What we have now is not getting us all the way there. Close, and better than most alternatives, (not all, check out Canada, the Scandinavian countries, the Netherlands, Germany, Australia) but not ideal. And we are certainly not close to the biblical imperative, the Way of Jesus as practiced by the disciples in Acts 4:32-35—“Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.”³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”

But then I was off to my next entry. This one about George Orwell. I had read “Orwell's Politics.” Orwell was a middle-class Brit who after college served as a military policeman in Burma. For five years his job was to keep ironclad Brit control over the subject population. His witness to the sorry unjust imperialist system so sickened him that he spent the rest of his life writing against imperialism and capitalism (at least the capitalist system as practiced that fostered that unjust and cruel imperialism) and any form of man's dominion over man.

Orwell left Burma and lived among the poor in Paris and London. He empathized, saw reality and was then able to tell his middle-class readers about the horrible reality of poverty and class prejudice. He wanted to eliminate the middle-class misperception that the poor were a “smelly, different race” of people. They were in fact, he said, the same as anybody, but without the means, the money, the food, the health, the opportunity, and this made the poor different.

So...there but for the grace of God go we all, I thought after reading that. But is that realization and form of

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Fall Clean-up Day

Oct. 13

Please plan on joining us for our semiannual cleanup at the church beginning at 8:30am until 2:30pm. Please mark that day on your calendar. We will be working on a list of items to clean, but please let the office or Dave Sevigny know if there is anything that you think should be addressed during this cleanup. There is a wedding at the church that evening, so we will want to be sure that everything is spiffed up by 2:30! Many hands will make the work go faster!

Feel free to bring cleaning rags, brooms, and other supplies to make the work easier!

Crafters' Circle invites you to join!

The St. Raphael Crafters' Circle invites you to join us every other Saturday from 10:00 - 12:00 for fellowship and creativity! We have knitters, crocheters, and quilters working on prayer shawls, quilts and other items to be used to bring a little extra comfort to those who are suffering! All ages are welcome - even if you don't know how to knit, crochet or quilt! Come and learn!

Our meetings in October will be on the 6th and the 20th. We will gladly accept donations of yarn, needles, crochet hooks or quilt fabrics, especially muslin for backing, and batting. Call Dana Berry, 859-381-1830, or Nancy Christiano 502-641-5431 for more info!

Nursery Attendants Needed

Our current Nursery Attendants, Marla Fox, and Diane Whorley have asked to be replaced in the Nursery so that they can once again attend church services. Marla has served over five years taking care of our little ones and Diane has been helping for the past year. We are so grateful for their care and love in helping keep our youngest children safe and happy while learning about

A View from the Pew

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gratitude enough? When I meet my maker some day will God say, "Hey Rich, good job, you saw the injustice, the way some rich and powerful people lorded it over others to their misfortune and you realized that but for birth and other happenstance you weren't in the poor's pitiful position, and you expressed gratitude for that. Well done my good and faithful servant."?"

I believe that God might find this a tad insufficient. Something more is demanded, and I'm trying to figure that out. Do something that would be effective and do it in the way that Jesus, and all the other sages of peace and justice, would promote.

I then found a personal reflection, made in 2004. I ended it by saying that my life was a piece of clay, and still being formed. It is ever thus. I have faith and am excited about how God continues to form me!

Richard Dawahare

Jesus. They have asked to be replaced by the end of October.

We are in need of two people to take over these paid positions. The Diocese requires that the attendants take an online course on "Keeping God's Children Safe" which takes about 3-4 hrs, and to be at least 18 years of age. The attendants must be willing to be at church from 10:00am to approximately 12:30 each Sunday, and be responsible for children - infants up to 6 years of age.

They will also be responsible for keeping the nursery room picked up of toys after each service, and reporting any issues that need to be addressed for repairs or cleaning to the Jr. Warden.

If you, or someone you know would be willing to take over this ministry, please let Rev. Helen know as soon as possible.



Visiting Canterbury Cathedral

Amy Smerick & Chris Bollinger

Canterbury Cathedral is the Mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion and seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury. We didn't get there last time we were in England, and it was a priority to visit this time. During the summer we scheduled a trip there for Chris' birthday weekend.

As we passed through the West Gate to the city, built by the Romans around 300 AD, it felt like we had gone back in time. The narrow cobblestone streets were full of tourists, with only an occasional car interrupting the ambience. The cathedral is an imposing structure, and we caught



major cleaning and renovation of the stonework.

To enter the Cathedral grounds, there is another gate to pass through. This one is ornately carved and has traces of paint. (We were reminded on our tour that at one time the interiors of many stone

churches were embellished with brightly painted decorations, Bible scenes, and portraits of saints.)

Our tour guide led us through the cathedral, pointing out highlights from its 1400 years of history.

The building has endured fires, wars, politically motivated destruction.

It would be fascinating to be able to step back a hundred years at a time and see what the structure looked like at various points in time. Maybe someday this will be possible. For now, to experience the Canterbury Cathedral is to walk through a patchwork of rounded Norman-era archways, pointed Gothic archways, stained glass from the medieval era to 1950's, Victorian woodwork, 1990's stacking chairs, and brand-new installation art recognizing the upcoming 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. Underneath it all is a stone floor and stone stairs which in most places are at least 1400 years old if not older, worn in places by thousands of footsteps by thousands of people over time.

At Evensong and again at a regular Sunday Sung Eucharist, we had the opportunity to experience Canterbury Cathedral as worshippers. We were welcomed warmly by

the ushers, who wanted to know where we were from. Seats were reserved for a large group of Friends of Julian of Norwich, but also for some elderly members who weren't able to climb steps for Communion. The Choirs were wonderful. The pipe organ is undergoing a two-year renovation but the interim organ sounded fine. The service was familiar, just slightly different in spots. The Peace was a little shorter than St. R's. Announcements included an upcoming meeting of the Film Club, a farewell reception for Canon Clare, and request for volunteer help to prepare coloring sheets for children's worship. We knew all the hymns. It was great to be able to experience worship as well as the history of this amazing place.



September Photos

Diocesan Daughters of the King Fall Retreat



Choir Notes

After a comparatively leisurely summer, we are off to a busy start at St. Raphael with meetings, classes, projects, and above all, worship. Our choir has returned to provide music of praise and thanksgiving; music to strengthen our faith; music to inspire. We have three new members in our ensemble this fall, much appreciated and needed to fill the spaces left vacant when Thomas Bollinger left Lexington to attend college (Kenyon, Ohio) and Amy Smereck accompanied her husband to England on his sabbatical.

If you see a familiar face in our group, it just might be Michael Cannon, formerly a choir scholar at St. Raphael. Michael has graciously volunteered to add his lovely tenor voice to our choir. It is such a delight to have Michael singing with us again. Michael and his husband, Jake, live in Georgetown. Kim Applegate and George Parker (wife and husband) are also singing with us this fall (when their busy schedules permit.) Kim is an alto and George a bass. It is a real pleasure to have them singing with us; both have beautiful voices and are excellent sight readers! Welcome to these new members, and welcome back to our beloved, devoted previous singers: Marguerite Emmons, Junghyun Lee, Joan Schmidt, Carolina Fernandez, Dana Berry, Kris Olson, and Clement Baloyi. We still have plenty of space in the choir if anyone else would like to join us! Please be sure you will receive a warm welcome from our group.

Heartfelt thanks to our Friends of Music contributors for their continuing financial support of our choir scholar/staff singer program. The need is on-going, as our staff singers are not funded through the church budget. If you would like to contribute, just indicate "Friends of Music" on your check. Every penny goes to support our choir scholars and staff singers. Thanks also to everyone who takes the time to speak to our singers and offer appreciation and encouragement to our choir. It makes a difference and is greatly appreciated.

Blessings on our congregation for a beautiful fall season,

Melinda Storey, Organist/Choirmaster

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Articles and news information for September must be submitted by **Friday, Oct. 22, 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)