

# The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol 54 Issue 1

January, 2019



Happy New Year!

What a great Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we all had together, with so many of our extended families, neighbors and friends joining us, especially on Christmas Eve. We are a welcoming community, but we're also open to inviting others to join in with what we have. And that reflects the love of God - inviting and welcoming others as we have been invited and welcomed by God in God's Son.

Remember that Christmas continues into the 12 day season of Christmas until Epiphany, when we remember the gifts of the Wise Men as gifts for a King, a Savior and the Gods Son. And remember too that the work of Christmas extends into the months, days and hours of this New Year - inviting, welcoming and sharing Love. Many saints have pointed to a spirituality of growing thankfulness as opening us more and more to God. May the season of Christmas be a time to remember signs of God's life and love amongst us, just as in the well-known French poem that follows:

On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
A partridge in a pear tree.

On the second day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

On the third day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
Three French hens,  
Two turtle doves,  
And a partridge in a pear tree.

Subsequent verses follow the same pattern, each adding one new gift and repeating all the earlier gifts so that each verse is one line longer than its predecessor:

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 4 calling birds      | 5 gold rings       |
| 6 geese a-laying     | 7 swans a-swimming |
| 8 maids a-milking    | 9 ladies dancing   |
| 10 lords a-leaping   | 11 pipers piping   |
| 12 drummers drumming |                    |

Love and peace,

Helen



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen  
Van Koevering



# *The Senior Warden's Corner*



But something beckons  
down that path untrodden.  
that God has planted deep within,  
One finds oneself in answer  
to that music,  
A new song in the heart  
begins to sing,  
And that which must be left behind  
though bittersweet in parting,  
Cannot match the call from God  
to journey on.

I think there is a world of joy and spiritual growth waiting for us if we dare to let ourselves be vulnerable in answering God's call to new service in His name. The new year opens new possibilities and challenges for turning our resolutions into action. Some of us are aging and new members will one day need to step up to carry on the programs that make St. Raphael tick. There is no doubt that we are a loving and friendly congregation. Please consider carefully how you might help carry on that tradition. Happy New Year to you all!

CC

# *Stewardship Corner*

Thanks for joining us again at the Stewardship Corner!

Can any of you count how many blessings that we had in 2018? Try. Just take a few moments and try! Last month, I updated you on the Parish's Stewardship Pledge goal of \$160,000, with an observation that around 20 or so pledge units were yet to deliver their pledge. I am pleased to say that that this Parish delivered in excess of that amount, to the tune of just over \$161,000. May we all remain positively blessed as we enter into this New Year.

To my knowledge, this is the FIRST time that the Parish (and others with which I have been involved) surpassed their goal before the first of the New Year, as usually there are a few stragglers and hagglers who come in during the month of January. By the way, if you are one of the "few stragglers and hagglers", we will still take your 2019 pledge! It never hurts to go over the goal and give us a bit of a cushion for a rainy day (and boy, there were a few of those in 2018).

Look out back the next time the weather is decent and you get a chance. Tobit's Trace is moving along in its development!

How about our Christmas Services' music? Was that not terrific?

How about the Rector's whole family being able to come in and join with us in Christmas services? Was that not a cool thing? (Although, family rumblings have it that she should leave stories about her children out of the sermon while they are present.) Just rumblings mind you; they probably loved it!

Let us give thanks for all that God has bestowed upon us and give thanks and praise to the Lord for all those things he is about to bestow upon us in 2019.

Roger L Kirk

# *A View from the Pew*

The shepherds were gone. The wise men too. Joseph and Mary were now alone with their baby. Joseph named his newborn son Jesus, for as the angel directed him, this infant will save people from their sins (MT 1:21). Heralded, proclaimed as king, a savior to the whole world, God's own son, the object of adoration from esteemed and learned orient kings, expectations were understandably high for Jesus's doting parents.



Ever humble, Joseph and Mary stayed grounded. It was all such a mystery. How, why was this possible, and why to them? This child may be destined for greatness someday, but now he was anything but an all-saving human, king-of-kings deity. He was as helpless as a, a, uh, well, a baby. He was a baby and did all the same things babies did. He ate, slept, gurgled, and excreted. His parents did everything for him. Mary nursed him, Joseph clothed him, both cleaned up after him.

Joseph followed the angel's directive and took Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Now this was a daunting trip, for Egypt was the land from which his Jewish ancestors were so anxious to flee and did some 1400 years earlier. Would Egypt let them in, what were their laws, how would they be treated?

Of course, this was a family of faith, so they did not dwell on such questions, nor did they worry. They knew God would protect them. One thing in their favor was that Egypt was now under Roman control. Centuries of inequity had finally led to Egypt's defeat by the Romans about 30 years earlier.

Egypt had degenerated into a country of vast inequality, with the poor doing the work and paying the taxes, and the rich in total control. Walls abounded to keep the poor from the privileged elite. Borders were closed as well, for Egypt had plenty of poor to do the work, with no one or no laws to protect them.

But the new Roman leadership brought more openness and allowed movement within their empire. But this was not universal, for while Roman sentries patrolled most outposts, they also delegated some of these duties to the citizens of the countries that they made part of its empire.

Joseph's entry point was manned by just such an Egyptian, one who in the prior era would have been an aristocrat. Once at the border crossing, they were greeted with

menace: "Who goes there, and what business do you have in Egypt?" said the Egyptian guard. Joseph replied, "We are here with our newborn son and seek protection from King Herod. Will you please let us in?" "Do you have papers, where is your authorization to enter?" "We have none, sir, we are seeking refuge."

The Egyptian, looking down his once imperious nose, sternly stated, "NO, you cannot enter. Perhaps if you were a man of great learning and had great riches, but if not, you must leave now or be arrested, caged and returned to Herod!" Now Joseph did have some wealth: the gifts from the three wise men, which were most valuable. But he knew in his heart and soul that it was wrong and contrary to the will of God, and particularly to the Way he knew his newborn son would one day define, so Joseph said nothing about their treasure.

Joseph had no choice. He left, but on the road back to Judea an angel of the lord returned to him: "Joseph, do not give up. There are other entry points, go south to Clysma and enter there." Joseph was delighted to find a Roman sentry who welcomed him and his family. Sensing a kindred soul, the spirit moved Joseph to tell this Roman about his earlier attempt to enter and the cruel Egyptian who threatened to cage him and his family. The Roman thanked him and wished them well. The rest as they say, is history.

What has not been reported, however, is the Roman centurion's action on Joseph's report. The Roman reported to his superiors, the Egyptian was brought before them. The Consulate General removed the Egyptian from that post, but not before admonishing him: "You and your people will never learn. You built a flawed empire on the backs of the poor, you despised them, and the poor of every land. You mistreated them. You wrongly blamed your problems on the poor and the foreigner. That is the old way, the way of narrow minds and narrow hearts. We bring a new way, a way of openness and equal treatment of people no matter where they are from." [To this the Consulate General added after his death and from his heavenly perspective: "Of course while what we Romans brought was progressive for its time it was woefully short of the ideal of a humane

Continued on page 4

## *Sages Upcoming Luncheons*

Sages will meet Jan 17<sup>th</sup> (Thursday), at O'Charley's on Harrodsburg Rd at 11:30 am. Please sign up on the sheets upstairs or downstairs.

The February luncheon will be on the 21<sup>st</sup>, at Olive Garden, Fayette Mall at 11:30. Please sign up there as well. Jackie Murphy will be the hostess.

## *Crafter's Circle Starts Back Up in January!*

The Crafter's Circle starts up again on Jan. 12, 2019 at 10:00 and all are invited to come and join us as we work on Quilts, Knitting or Crocheting shawls or lap robes for those who are homebound, or in need of a little extra warmth. Even if you don't know how to do any of these things - come and learn! We meet every other Saturday of the month in the basement fellowship hall.

## *A View From the Pew*

continued from page 3

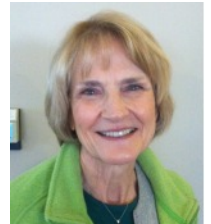
and just society; future generations continue to make progress towards this ideal.”]

I dedicate this new year to positivity, faith and persistence. And to overcoming the hypocrisy of feigning faith in God and Jesus, while putting immense wealth, power and privilege behind walls, weapons and war—combined, the foul fruits of faithlessness.

I wish us all everywhere a Happy New Year! May 2019 be our best year ever!

Richard Dawahare December 30, 2018

## *Music Notes*



Epiphany: The Season of Light

Christmas is so beautiful – I always hate to see this relatively short season come to an end. Our Christmas Eve services at St. Raphael were well-attended, with many new faces as well as our faithful members in attendance. The Altar Guild and Flower Guild deserve special recognition for their wonderful work in decorating the sanctuary. The message was delivered by Helen, artfully tied into the Nativity story, of the Christian imperative to welcome strangers. Our choir was present for both services, singing ever so many Christmas carols, anthems, hymns, service music, solos, plus instrumental music from Amy LoBianco (clarinet) and Kris Olson (classical guitar.) Special thanks also to Chris Young, who provided hymns and carols on piano for the Christmas morning service.

Now we will be moving into Epiphany, the season of light, as Christ's gift of salvation is revealed to the Gentiles. It is such a lovely season that it compensates for the closing of Christmas!

As we enter the New Year now, perhaps some of us are in the process of selecting a resolution. If you are not already active in our parish, consider resolving to do so. There are many opportunities, and the need for additional hands is great! St. Raphael Episcopal Church offers a warm, welcoming environment for people of all ages. There are classes to attend, Bible study, social opportunities, meals together, community outreach, music, flower and altar preparation, pastoral care, and above all, worship. Come join us: you'll be most welcome!

Best wishes for a Blessed Epiphany and a very happy New Year,

Melinda Storey, Organist/Choirmaster



# A Church Mouse in God's House

I've said before that January is a rough month. As mice, we're lucky that it doesn't kill us all. I've often prided us as being a very resilient species. But then I was reading one of your books (*There, There*, by Tommy Orange), and he wrote, "Don't make the mistake of calling us resilient. To not have been destroyed, to not have given up, to have survived, is no badge of honor. Would you call an attempted murder victim resilient?" Of course, he was talking about your native American people, but I think it's true for us too.

Are we resilient because we just do what we are supposed to do? I never thought about mice as resilient until I started comparing us to humans. Then I thought, "wow, they definitely couldn't take everything we do." Like try scavenging for food in freezing weather with no shelter and predators everywhere. That's just what we do. And, I guess in a way maybe some of you do too. But are we resilient because the world tried to kill us and failed? I never really even thought of us as victims, or even as wounded until I met you all. Mostly I just thought of us as cold and hungry.

Are you cold and hungry? It seems like your church takes care of those needs pretty well. You keep each other warm and safe when needed. You provide opportunities to satisfy your hunger (and yeah, I'm getting all metaphorical here... I may be hungry for cheese but maybe you're hungry for social justice ... I know, give a mouse a book and he's Shakespeare, right? Deal with it). So, are mice resilient? Are people? I really don't know. But I do think that we all get difficult things thrown our way, and that we have different resources available to handle those things. All of us need those resources from time to time, and I've noticed that many of you give those resources. This winter is going to be tough... but I think that I am inhabiting the correct church.



|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Gilbert Booth       | Jan 5  |
| Allison Carter      | Jan 7  |
| Dana Berry          | Jan 9  |
| Al Smith            | Jan 9  |
| Amanda Vance        | Jan 13 |
| Carol Summers       | Jan 14 |
| Patty Bond          | Jan 15 |
| Paul Wilson         | Jan 18 |
| Lauren Sevigny      | Jan 19 |
| Michael Summers     | Jan 19 |
| Natey Peterson      | Jan 20 |
| Laura Vance         | Jan 26 |
| Kylie Van Koevering | Jan 27 |
| Drew Anderson       | Jan 28 |
| Sonja Gaitskill     | Jan 29 |
| Trevor Krolak       | Jan 29 |
| Katherine Olson     | Jan 29 |
| Mellisa Booth       | Jan 31 |
| Heather Matics      | Jan 31 |

## Anniversary:

Don & Vicki Colliver Jan 1

## Datebook for January

Jan. 8 6:30pm Stewardship Meeting

Jan. 12 10:00 - Crafter's Circle reconvenes

Jan. 13 12:00pm Daughters of the King

Jan 17 11:30am Olive Garden, Sages

Jan. 20 12:15pm Vestry Meeting

Jan. 26 10:00am Crafter's Circle



# Changes in the Parish Office

Bonnie Conaway has been our Parish Administrator the past couple of years, having stepped in to help out when our Interim Priest, Rev. Karen Booth came to St. Raphael's two years ago. Bonnie was instrumental in helping Mother Karen organize the parish to be ready to accept our new Rector. Bonnie has decided that the time has come for her to step back into the role of parishioner instead of Parish Administrator. We are deeply thankful for all her hard work and wish her the very best.

To that end, we are pleased to announce that the role of Parish Administrator has been revamped a bit, and our new Parish Administrative Assistant will begin work on Jan. 7, 2019. Carl Fosnaugh will be filling this position and has been working with Bonnie for the past week or so, and will continue to work with her for a few more days until he becomes completely familiar with all the ins and outs of making sure things are accounted for properly, and the needs of the parish office are met. So, meet Carl and welcome him to the parish! Rev. Helen says "I am delighted to have Carl as I think not only does he have the right skills for a church office, but he's also keen to help grow our parish spiritual life."

## *Here's all about Carl!*

I was born on December 31st, 1984 to Carl "CJ" John Fosnaugh III and Karen Marie Fosnaugh. My younger siblings are Allen Gregory (4 1/2 years younger) and Margaret Ruth (11 1/2 years younger).

I most recently attended St. James Episcopal Church in Zanesville, OH. I moved to Lexington at the beginning of November to start my new job of Faith Formation Ministries Director at Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA). It is part time and affords me the opportunity to work for St. Raphael's as your new admin assistant to Rev. Helen.

I am a member of BUILD through Faith Lutheran Church. I am also in formation to become a monk of the Anamchara Fellowship, a new monastic community in the Episcopal Church. Anamchara is the Celtic (Gaelic) word for soul friend.

Advent Blessings,

Carl IV

Christmas Pageant Photos





# *Children's Christmas Pageant & Christmas Decorations*





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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 September must be submitted by **Friday, Jan. 25, 2019** to Dana Berry at [danabruceberry@gmail.com](mailto: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)**