



# *The Herald*

**St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church**

**Vol 54 Issue 2**

**February, 2019**

February is St Valentine's month.

The Feast of St Valentine is celebrated annually and variously on February 14 around the world and the Anglican Communion. It initiated with honoring two Valentines: St Valentine of Rome, who was martyred in 269 for performing weddings for soldiers (forbidden to marry), and for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire. During his imprisonment, he is said to have restored sight to the blind daughter of his judge, and before his execution he wrote her a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell. The other Valentine (of Terni) was martyred in 273 in Africa with 'a number of companions', and little else is known about him. Apparently, abstracts of both Valentines are in many European churches and monasteries.

The day first became associated with romantic love within the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it became an occasion for lovers to present each other with flowers, confectionery, and greeting cards ("valentines") adorned with hearts, doves, keys and winged cupids. Since the 19th century, St Valentine's day evolved into today's global cultural, commercial celebration of romantic love.

I've had some fun Googling the different traditions held on Valentine's Day around the world. Some associate this day with the advent of Spring. Ancient Rome had linked the celebration of this saint to fertility, and Shakespeare's 'Hamlet', John Donne's poetry and Charles Dickens carried forward Chaucer's romantic approach. In the US, the first mass-produced Valentines of embossed paper lace appeared after 1847, and now the US Greeting Card Association estimates 190 million valentines are sent each year, half of which go to children. In 2010, a further 15 million e-valentines were sent. Who knows how many in 2019?

Yes, we could call this a 'Hallmark' holiday. But let it remind us of the focus of the Christian gospel and the way of love opened to us that calls us back to the counter-cultural, sacrificial example of love of Jesus. And to that offertory prayer I have the honor to announce each Sunday: 'Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God' (Eph 5:2). And let us love one another every day.

Helen



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen  
Van Koevering

# *Vestry News*

The 2019 Vestry consists of the following people:

Sr. Warden: Tony LoBianco

Jr. Warden: Hunter Mathews

Clerk: Roger Kirk

Assisting Clerk: Dana Berry

Treasurer: Paula Sevigny

Members at large:

Amanda Vance

Christopher Young

Jonathon Melton

C.C. Johnson

Jesus Huertes was elected, but has moved away from St. Raphael. His term was to fill a 2 year remaining term. No action taken as yet on filling this term.

The vestry will meet the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Any member of the parish is welcome to attend Vestry Meetings - you may have voice, but not vote.

# *Stewardship Corner*

Thanks for joining us again at the Stewardship Corner!

Well, we sure saw a doozy of an ice and snow storm in January, did we not? Did you ever think how God sends us all this good precipitation, so we don't have droughts much anymore? Ok, well I was not really thinking that either.

That is the thing about God's blessings, just like Reverend Helen's sermon to 11 of us (really, that is a true number). God gives us so many blessings, some we know about; some we do not. Let's just review a few of our blessings from 2018.

Does anyone like the new lighting downstairs? Isn't our facility so bright and cheerful now? And how about those new easy to move chairs?

Major progress was made on Tobit's Trace, with an actual trail blazed. Not that any of us are brave enough to go take an in depth look with Kentucky winter weather upon us; it is there though. Most of the invasive vegetation is gone. And most importantly, once the weather breaks, Tobit's Trace progress will shift into high gear. We hope to close out the initial work from the grant money by Memorial Day.

So what will 2019 bring our congregation, you ask? Yes, there will be challenges, as the budget is tight. Still there are several things "afoot" either in the Standing Committees or before the Vestry. Likely, these initiatives might cost some unbudgeted dollars. Decisions will have to be made.

The great news is two-fold. First, our congregation has risen to every single challenge in my years here. Second, as I began this column, I firmly believe that God has many stewardship blessings in store for us in 2019. Since almost everyone missed Reverend Helen's message on the ice storm week-end, not all blessings are the same. Yes, some involve money, but many more involve stewardship and gifts of a non-remunerative nature for all of us.

Please join me in a shared prayer for all the new members of the Vestry, the Senior Warden, and the Junior Warden, as well as our new Administrative Assistant to the Rector, Carl! See, blessings are rolling already, just from the prior sentence.

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*

## PRESS FORWARD WITH FAITH!

One of my fondest father-son memories was playing golf with my dad and his cronies during college summer breaks. They'd always play for money and I'd be partnered up with one of them. It wasn't for big stakes, but I was a bogey golfer, so the pressure was on.



Dad's good friend Gino Ravel, a spry, slender, twinkle-eyed New Yorker who seemed to dance whenever he moved and who fittingly owned the Arthur Murray dance studio, was a great partner. Gino was an encourager and a great teacher, often showing me how to hit chip shots—one of the most important parts of the game. He'd show me where to aim, how far back to swing, and how hard to swing, reminding me to “keep your head down, Rich,” which I did and BOOM! The shots were always accurate.

Yet whenever we found ourselves down after a few holes Gino—or my dad, when he was my partner—would take advantage of the “press.” The press is basically a new bet starting with the hole on which you claim it. So, if we were behind a few strokes after let's say 5 holes, we'd press and start a new bet for holes 6-18. It's like a new start. And if we fell behind again, we'd do another press. Always a new start, as if to say, “hey, the past is the past and the next hole is a new day—You can do it!

Invariably, we'd prosper with the press. The concept of a new start, a new opportunity somehow buoyed our spirits and increased our confidence, mine at least.

I often remember the press during the bogeys of my life, the mistakes, the setbacks, and disappointments. No matter what, I pray, put it in God's hands, wake up the next day and PRESS on!

The Press in life is an acknowledgment that God is in control and that it is all good with God. We need only focus on being the best people we can be, following the teachings of Jesus the best we can, and to always remember that no matter the circumstance, no matter what others may do, no matter what happens (most all of which is beyond our control) we can never go wrong by doing right,

and we can improve any situation with love, care, compassion and empathy.

Regardless of the emotions or turmoil of the moment, just the act of remembering this truth will improve our play in this game of life. Our next swing will be better, our aim truer, we will do better, feel better and help others do the same.

I am no saint, far from it. But sainthood is not a prerequisite for experiencing an epiphany. Nor for God's grace to have some understanding of the Way, and to follow it though imperfectly and while often going astray, nor for documenting and sharing such insights as God's grace may enable.

And so I say to you who may be under it a little or a lot, who may have been knocked around or down, who may be experiencing irritation or grief...PRESS ON! Pray, then press on with faith! Shout “FORE!” If you must but keep pressing on! God rescues us from the traps of life. We need only believe and press on with faith.

Richard Dawahare

## *Sages Upcoming Luncheons*

Sages will meet for the February luncheon 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 for February*

We will be meeting the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of Feb downstairs beginning at 10:00 AM to work on various projects such as lap quilts, crochet and knitted shawls to be given to local nursing homes or hospitals to provide a little extra love to those who are ill, or facing end of life.

If anyone has leftover fabric, batting, yarn or thread they'd like to donate, we would be happy to take it off your hands! We especially could use white or pastel colored sewing thread.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

## *Dinner Church Resumes in February!*

Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> will be our first Dinner Church for 2019 at 5:30 pm. LeTonya Jones, a Mitigation Specialist with Defense Based Advocacy Services will once again be our featured speaker. Potluck dinner will be coordinated by Amanda Vance, so please call or email to save your place!

Phone: 502-333-8773 to reserve your place, or email Amanda at [alvance13@gmail.com](mailto:alvance13@gmail.com)



## *Help keep the church clean!*

We are seeing an increase in mice signs downstairs, so please help us keep the area clean by not leaving out food items - make sure they are in a hard plastic container rather than just boxes or bags. Donations to the food pantry go upstairs in the closet by the office. The only food items downstairs in the big closet are for the backpack program.

Also - if you make coffee downstairs after church or at meetings, please clean up after you are through by washing out the coffee pot, dumping out the used grounds, and put the coffee cups and spoons in the dishwasher.

## *Rise Up and BUILD*

Micah 6:8 and Matthew 23:23-24 state that God requires up "to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God." The justice done in BUILD is to hold our elected officials accountable to meet our community's needs. This year BUILD has three campaigns concerning the violence in our city, the drug epidemic, and the education needs of our youth. Please mark your calendars for April 9th, a rally at Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary at 7pm, May 7th, BUILD's Nehemiah Action Assembly at Heritage Hall at 7pm, and June 10th, Justice Ministry Celebration at Mary Queen of the Rosary. More dates concerning our education/youth and anti-drug campaigns will be announced in the future.

## *The Greater Gardenside Association*

Greater Gardenside is an organization of business people and residents working together to re-energize the Alexandria-Lane Allen corridor and the surrounding neighborhoods. Help give St. Raphael's a voice in the neighborhood. Please mark your calendars and consider attending the Feb. 25th board meeting at Gardenside Christian Church at 6:30, interested people are invited, and the 'On the Table' talks on Mar. 27th at the Lexington Diner at 9am and at the El Gran Tako at 6pm.



# A Church Mouse in God's House

February. The word nauseates me. It's a reminder of how humans refuse to spell words the way you pronounce them. Do you know how many more doughnuts I could have eaten if I realized that sometimes it's spelled that way? Not always, of course ... you have to change things up just to confuse us. And don't even get me started on the whole "there they're their" thing. Honestly it just seems like another way to lord your superiority over any of us with smaller brains. Like, "oh, the mouse gets confused by things that don't make any sense.

Oh, but you think you have it all figured out. I do live in a church, you know, so I hear you talk about "God" a lot. It's hysterical... one of you will call God "He" and then someone else will say, "but referring to God as 'He' offends me." And so the first person will say "She." But then everybody cringes. So someone will propose "It" but then you all cringe even more. Inevitably some bearded bloke in a tweed jacket will say, "the problem with the English language is the lack of a gender-neutral first-person pronoun." And you'll all be like, "yes, he speaks the truth" and then you'll start worshipping him! But really, that's *the one* problem with your language? Ha! So I'll sneak over to the after-discussion. Don't act like you don't know what that is, you're not fooling anyone. And someone will say, "I think of God as the ground of our being." And another will say, "Yeah, like the sound of one hand clapping" as if that was an agreement. Meanwhile some third person is trying to get out the phrase "it's like, all there is is energy, you know?" Oh for the love of the Great Mouse, just say it – you don't have a freaking clue what you're talking about!

You know how mice deal with the subtle nuances of language? We say "Squeek." And we don't have many disagreements. Probably because we are "squeeking" with love to each other. We're not trying to best someone is some esoteric argument. Maybe it's not going to help us build the Hadron Collider, but I'm willing to sacrifice a bit of techno-babble for peace and community. I mean, really, what do you think this God of your's wants anyway – language that brings us together or that tears us apart?

Anyway, as painful as it is I do like to communicate with you, so squeek and happy February.



## February Birthdays

Thomas Bollinger	Feb 2
Joseph Hayse	Feb 2
Mark Matics	Feb 2
Natalie Fagan	Feb 3
Hunter Mathews	Feb 4
Kim Lorton	Feb 5
Bill Thompson	Feb 7
Ray Davis	Feb 8
Jodell Massaquoi	Feb 14
Jennifer Krolak	Feb 15
Mynam Melendez	Feb 16
Lee Davis	Feb 17
Marthanne Manion	Feb 21
Sandra Keller	Feb 22
Diane Whorley	Feb 23
Bill Emrick	Feb 25
Lucinda England	Feb 25
John Lorton	Feb 28
Barbara Connell	Feb 29



## February Anniversaries

Bill & Sharon Thompson	Feb 6
John & Kim Lorton	Feb 12
Bill & Kay Price	Feb 17

## February Datebook

Feb 9	Crafter's Circle	10:00 am	Undercroft
Feb 10	Property Committee	9:30 am	Conference room
	Daughters of the King	12:30 pm	Conference room
Feb 12	Stewardship meeting	6:30 pm	Conference room
Feb 16	Christian Education Meeting & lunch	11:30	Undercroft
Feb 19	Vestry Meeting	6:30 pm	Conference room
Feb 21	Sages	11:30 am	Olive Garden
Feb 23	Crafter's Circle	10:00 am	Undercroft
	Dinner Church Potluck	5:30 pm	

Every Wednesday: Holy Eucharist with Healing Service - Chapel  
12:00 pm & 6:30 pm



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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, Feb. 21, 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)