



The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol 54 Issue 5

May 2019



The month of May continues the Easter season of the church. We continue to celebrate with the world church the life that the resurrection of Jesus makes possible and new. We are opened up to new ideas, new views and new community, and we continue to share Easter joy, hope and love.

One of my favorite theologian/poets is Walter Bruggemann. He writes of the Easter season as 'a habitat of newness and goodness'. He writes,

'make new, and we will be in Easter joy
Unafraid and unwearied,
Your glad people,
Carrying among us the marks of death
And the new life of Jesus in whose name we pray.'

May is also the month of Mother's Day here in the US. We will celebrate that day as always, mother's and fathers alongside children. I wonder whether, in our 'habitat of newness and goodness' we need to recognize what we can learn from children. As Bruggemann goes on to say,

'We submit all the treasured children of the world to you,
That they may prosper, and that we may become more fully
Your daughters and sons,
Children of your commandments,
Recipients of your gifts,
Beaters of your hope.'

You have said, "let the little children come."
Here we are- yours...
That we may receive your nurture
and your discipline.'

God bless,

Helen



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen
Van Koevering

Upcoming Events of Interest

Reading Camp Volunteers needed

June 17-21 - Church of the Resurrection
Nicholasville

June 24-28 - Mission House Lexington

July 7-13 (Overnight) Irvine

Volunteer Roles - Counselors, Teachers,
Buddy Readers, Food Coordinators, Bus
Monitors. Go to

www.readingcamprocks.org or call Sarah
Watts at 859-252-6527. Email:
info@readingcamprocks.org

Free camp for 3rd - 5th Graders.

Evening Farmers Market

Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 3:00 PM
1801 Alexandria Dr, Lexington, KY
40504-3113

Gardenside at Sunset

Friday, August 23, 2019 at 6:00 PM
Gardenside Plaza Party

Sr Warden's Corner

Tony Lo Bianco

Quick question: which is longer, Lent or Easter? O.k., yes, I know you all got it right. But how many of you have thought very much about the fact that Easter wins by a score of 50-40? I know that I don't think of it very often. When we ask each other what we are doing for Lent we usually mean how we are going to torture ourselves for 40 days. But when asked about Easter I often just think of brunch. Well, the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, but then: brunch.

Maybe I just play to my strengths. I can do mourning. I'll take a horror movie over any movie defined as "inspirational." I'm way more comfortable at funerals than at weddings. This is usually the point where I would write, "and I don't think I'm alone here," but in this case I am probably pretty close.

So why does it seldom feel like Easter is a 50-day celebration? I don't mean shouting "ALLELUIA!" at the end of each service, I know that we have that part down. I mean acting like we are part of the resurrected body of Christ. Isn't that what we are? Isn't the resurrection what we just celebrated? I am unaware of any gospel account in which Jesus emerges from his tomb, looks around and says, "boy, that crucifixion was rough, I think I'm going to need a few weeks off."

So, assuming that you've made your way through the buffet line, I'll ask you this: what are you going to do for Easter? I don't think it's a coincidence that Easter takes place in the Spring, and a walk through Tobit's Trace could be a good start. If you're new to the Church think about preparing for confirmation. Join a new ministry – to prisoners, students, refugees, the list could go on. I trust that you have done a good job of self-examination during Lent, so now can be the time to cash in on it. And don't worry – you can keep on with it during Pentecost as well.

Stewardship

Thanks for joining us again at the Stewardship Corner!

Rejoice, as May flowers are upon us after April (and March and February) showers. College basketball seasons are behind us, while we look forward to college football and basketball seasons this fall. Tobit's Trace is shaping up beautifully. Easter celebrations were awesome and inspiring.

The renewal and renovation of the downstairs living space is underway. Has anyone been spotted taking a nap on those new couches? The area is well lit now, and just shouts out our "welcoming" status.

God's bountiful grace is abundant and present in our midst. We just need to slow down and perhaps even stop for a few moments and take it all in.

Your stewardship is also a driving factor. Whether that is in the form of volunteering for clean up day or helping to put on an Easter breakfast or faithfully sending in your pledge dollars matters little. What does matter is finding your personal path to stewardship.

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

Christian Education News

We're going to do something different now for Christian Education for our young people. We will no longer be holding "Sunday School" classes at 10:00. We've been unable to find a Nursery Attendant, and not enough volunteers to help staff each Sunday, so the Nursery will be closed during services. The Coloring Table at the back of the church will have posters and activities for the children to do during services, and we are inviting all children, regardless the age to participate in Sunday Services in any capacity they would like. They can be assistant Ushers, Altar Servers, Greeters or just about any other ministry of the church. We want to emphasize that they are important to the body of Christ and we want them to be involved in ministry.

During the sermon time, Rev. Helen will continue to share the Gospel with the children on the altar steps. Members of the congregation are invited to help share their walk in Christ with the children during this time. Just let Helen know when you would like to lead a Children's Sermon during the 11:00 service.

A View from the Pew

Is anything Holy?

Is anything Holy? Christians were taught that God's forgiveness only comes through Jesus. We just celebrated Easter, a remembrance of the physical resurrection of Jesus without which the whole entirety of the Christian experience would collapse like a house of cards (not for me, though, because my faith is in the truth of Jesus's teachings, including that God is spirit and that the kingdom of God lies within).



So according to Christian dogma a belief in the physical RISEN Jesus is sufficient for: 1. Forgiveness of sins (through the atonement of Jesus's willing sacrifice on the cross) and 2. The promise of our own physical resurrection to heaven on judgment day (by his post-crucifixion appearances and apparent physical ascension to the right hand of God). And this will be in our body, somewhere up there, where Jesus, in his physical body is resting on the right hand of God. [Query, if God is Spirit as Jesus said, God cannot be a stationary physical being on some celestial throne, so yeah, the mystery of God will have to overcome a lot of seemingly inconsistent, illogical and plainly impossible realities, most of which result from the traditions of man, not from Jesus himself, who almost always spoke in allegories.]

But perhaps the traditional Christian dogma that Jesus is the only way to heaven is not bedrock truth. A couple of issues ago I noted that Psalm 51 that David wrote in 991 BC, referred to the "Holy Spirit" (11 Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me).

And now something more astounding: Psalm 103, a Psalm of David:

- 1 Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- 2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—
- 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,
- 5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

For years I have wondered about various Old Testament references to heaven, divine forgiveness, and redemption, and how inconsistent that seemed with traditional Christianity. This was written a thousand years before the Gospels, yet speaks of divine realities Christianity deems possible only via belief in the physical resurrection of Jesus.

But is this not Holy Scripture? Did contemporaries of David and David himself have false hope? Were they denied heaven? Were the children of Abraham through his son Ishmael, today's Muslims, similarly excluded both then and now? What about followers of Jesus who hinge their hope on his teachings and spiritual domain, not on his physical resurrection? What about bolder believers who hide all outward indicia of their faith, the ones who truly "pray behind closed doors?"

And I don't even want to mention Psalm 80, from 979 BC. Nearly a thousand years before Jesus this Psalm of Asaph refers to a "son of man who sits on the right hand of God": 14 Return to us, God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this vine, 15 the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself. 16 Your vine is cut down; it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish. 17 Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself. 18 Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name. 19 Restore us, LORD God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

We need to de-complicate. Goodness and a childlike faith in God are all that matters. Beyond that, whatever gets you through the night. Believe whatever but be good, do good and rest easy in the healing spirit that forgives, revives, restores and renews.

As Jesus said, "Come unto me all who travail and are heavy laden and I will refresh you." Jesus promises his gift of relief NOW, in the spirit and through his spirit.

Alleluia!

Richard Dawahare

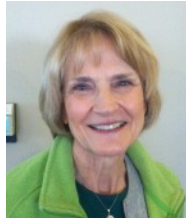
Update from the St. Raphael Art Space Committee

For our next art display in the St. Raphael Art Space, we are asking you to make bare the walls of your home to fill our church lobby. Something you've bought, or made, or someone has given you that brings you the joy of spring, rebirth, reawakening, and happiness. Please leave your pieces in the church office May 1st thru the 8th (make sure you tape your name on it!) We are going to have a special show-and-tell art reception between the services on Mothers Day.

Music Notes

“Good Christians, All, Rejoice and Sing”

My family teases me that I have a song for any subject or word that comes up. At St. Raphael, I believe we should “rejoice and sing” for the beautiful Easter celebration which just occurred at our church. It was so uplifting to see St. Raphael filled with members and visitors, and especially with children. Everything went well, including perfect Easter weather. There was a bountiful brunch downstairs, thanks to the work of Patty Bond, assisted by Chris Young. The children especially enjoyed the Easter egg hunt, and my grandsons were thrilled with their toys and candies. The sanctuary and grounds were beautiful, displaying the work of the Altar Guild/flower arrangers, as well as the Property Committee and volunteers. Helen delivered one excellent homily after another at throughout the week, and officiated at all the services, including singing the lovely “Exsultet” on Easter eve.



Thanks to our amazing choir, who sang for each and every service during Holy Week. In addition, our choir members read the Passion on Palm Sunday, with Kris Olson as Narrator and Michael Cannon taking the role of Jesus. Choir members read the nine Old Testament lessons at the beginning of the Easter Vigil service. On Good Friday, Carolina Fernandez and Clement Baloyi sang the deeply moving Spirituals, “Calvary” and “He Never Said a Mumbling Word;” and on Easter day, Junghyun Lee sang “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” by Handel. And at the conclusion of the 11:00 service, the congregation joined in singing the “Hallelujah Chorus” for a glorious finale. It was a week of inspirational preaching, music, and liturgy, culminating in celebration at the Resurrection of our Lord, the triumph of our King.

It is gratifying and marvelous to witness the manner in which the entire church comes together to make the feast days so very memorable. There is much to be done; it would be impossible for our small staff to carry out all the tasks which keep our church running smoothly on Holy Days and throughout the year in general. One special volunteer whom I would like to recognize is Joan Schmidt. Joan has been a volunteer in the church office since the days of Father Johnnie. She has been responsible for typing and printing the bulletins nearly every week for the past five years: no small task! Joan volunteered 15-20 hours per week during that time, assisting in whatever office chores needed to be done, as well as serving a term on the Vestry. Our new parish admin, Carl Fosnaugh, has taken over the bulletins now along with his many other responsibilities. But we owe Joan a debt of thanks for her devoted work through these past five

years. Please take a moment, when you see her, to thank Joan for her contribution to the running of our church. Joan continues to do Meals on Wheels, backpack program, Daughters of the King, and to sing in the choir.

A Blessed Easter Season,

Melinda Storey, Organist/Choirmaster

Crafter's Circle

The Circle will meet during May on the 11th and the 25th at 10:00 in the downstairs main room. Everyone is welcome to come and work on quilts, knitting or any other crafting items.

Sages to meet at Sedona Taphouse

Join us on Thursday, May 16 at 11:30 AM at Sedona Taphouse - 3600 Palomar Centre Dr. Corner of Wellington Way & Harrodsburg Rd. next to Chase Bank.

Hostess is Barbara Connell 278-0087. RSVP or sign up at the church by the Monday, May 13.

Yard Sale, Anyone?

There are some in the congregation who would like to have a yard sale to raise money for the downstairs renovation or other worthy endeavor. Possible dates are June 8, 15, or 22. We need to know who is willing to lead this and help, this is a big job that needs a team effort. If you are interested, please contact Carol Summers (859-227-1380) or at csmith@uky.edu



A Church Mouse in God's House

The other day I had some friends over to the hole and one said, "you know, in my next life I want to be a cat." Everybody started laughing hysterically, and I admit that I did too. It's not like I'd never heard the "in my next life ..." phrase before. You humans use it all the time.

But, really? You think you're going to have a next life? Or several next lives? I remember that you all were talking about the resurrection a few weeks ago, and so I thought maybe that was it. But that didn't seem very likely. For one thing it was a huge anomaly, not something everyone did. Second, it seems like he pretty much came back as himself. So, yeah, that couldn't be it.

I did some reading and found that (get this!) there are other religions in the world that do believe this. I had no idea! Practically my whole life has been spent in a church and so I just thought that all humans believed what you do. Mind blown!

Do you ever talk to these other groups? What are they like? I can see why you'd be a little scared of them with this whole 'next life' thing they proclaim, but just remember that as an outsider that whole drinking blood thing might look a bit weird to them too.

Anyway, it inspired me to ask more questions. How many other religions are there? What really does happen when we die? If I did come back as a cat would I have more empathy toward mice?

I used to think that it took a church to raise a mouse. Really, I think it takes a lot more. Maybe the whole world! I'm just going to put it out there and let it bother those who it will: I don't think you have all the answers!



Anniversary Dates

Jennifer & Steve Krolak	5/28
Amanda & Tom Vance	5/29

Birthdays for May

Ron Binkauskas	5/1
Pat Dinsmore	5/5
Tom Vance	5/5
Brandtly Jacobs	5/9
Marguerite Emmons	5/13
Rodney Glancy	5/13
Peggy Oaks	5/13
Rose Canon	5/18
Bonnie Conaway	5/18
CC Johnson	5/21
Lizzie Lorton	5/23
Logan Jacobs	5/24
Kayla Colliver	5/25
Rony Massaquoi	5/26
Emma Mathews	5/30
Melinda Storey	5/31

More Upcoming Events of Interest

BUILD event May 7 at 7 p.m. Pre-event pizza and carpool at 5:30.

Join in the fun of Nehemiah Action at Heritage Hall (Rupp Arena) at 7pm on May 7. We will gather at St R at 5.30 for pizza and then to carpool at 6pm to go downtown together, to join the conversation about drugs, violence and education with elected officials and 25 other communities of faith in Lexington.

St. Raphael's had a significant turnout to BUILD's Rally event on Tuesday. For a first-year church in BUILD we are showing great numbers. 12 attended the rally and already we have 60 commitments. We are doing our part to help BUILD reach its goal of 2250 participants at the Nehemiah Action on May 7th at Heritage Hall. Please consider adding your voice to the 60 of St. Raphael's and those from 26 other churches on May 7th. Parking is free at Rupp Arena for the Action (in the High Street lot). Carpools are encouraged.

Family VBS is June 11, "A Day in Tobit's Trace"

The day will start at 9 a.m. and end at 3 and include lunch. We will spend the day at Tobit's Trace exploring God's Creation using all of our senses. The experience of God in Nature is profound and will enrich our connections to the natural world and its Creator. Led by natural scientist Tom Kimmerer, we will see how our senses connect us with the natural world and the Holy Spirit. We will plant trees not only for the future, but also to enrich our connections to Nature. This course is suitable for all ages and abilities.

Junior Camp at Cathedral Domain

Rev. Helen will be the Chaplain for the June 23 - 29 session. Please join us! Contact Helen for more information.

Vacation Bible School August 5 - 8, 9am - 3 pm

"For God So Loved the World" is the theme. More details to follow in the Herald.

Walk the Stations of the Cross at Tobit's Trace

You are welcome to walk the Stations of the Cross at Tobit's Trace, You can follow along with the content on your smartphone. Go to <http://srclex.org/tobits-trace/stations-of-the-cross-track/> . Or go to <http://srclex.org/tobits-trace/explore-tracks/> and click Stations of the Cross. There are also printouts for those without smartphones. They are available in a box at the new Tobit's Trace sign.



Gardening Saints Needed

Our St. Raphael's "Gardening Angels" (who help organize the care for the plantings immediately around the church building) have slowly been retiring, and our gardens could use a few newly canonized "Gardening Saints" to help manage the care around the church. If your passion is working some in God's earth, we could use your energy, enthusiasm and leadership. Please contact the Properties chair, Dave Sevigny (thekydude@gmail.com or 859-312-5157) to share your enthusiasm!

Holy Week at St. Raphael's



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Articles and news information for September must be submitted by **Friday, May. 24, 2019** to Dana Berry at danabruceberry@gmail.com

Sunday Services

8:30 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

11am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Children are welcome during each service - there are activity sheets and coloring pages at the back of the church for their enjoyment.

Wednesday

10:30 am Book Club & Cookies

12 Noon Holy Eucharist with Unction

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