



Summertime – whether in the city, at the beach or at home – holds special memories. My childhood memories are full of camping and caravanning trips with my family in the six weeks that we had off school in England. We did the same with our own children – camping in Italy and north Wales, caravanning (and youth hosteling) in Ireland – but then summer holidays in southern Africa were in the rainy season of Christmas, and dry, cold winter happened in July. I love that I now live in the seasons of the northern hemisphere again, and all the changes that brings around us as well as in the pace of our lives. Not that summer is all about sunshine and fun, but it is about children being out of school, about the meaning of summer in the city (nearly melted last weekend!), and preparing for the next season.



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen
Van Koevering

I'm looking forward to our VBS at St Raphael's August 5-8. Our family VBS day was so enjoyable back in June. Tom gave us such an informative exploration of our church 'backyard', Tobit's Trace, and it was a great opportunity to relax with each other over a picnic. For our VBS, a team of enthusiastic church members have been preparing their part in our program that will look at God's love & our responsibility for the world. Tom will return on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and Deacon Paula Ott is offering a Jewish 'seder' to all of us, adults and children, on the Thursday afternoon.

It's been good to see so many of you take part in the book study, 'Walk in Love'. About 40 of you have bought this book to read alone or with our group. We still have several weeks to go, so please consider joining in the conversation between the services and then how you might consider responding in ministry at St Raphael's. Please let me know if you are interested in reaffirmation and reception - especially confirmation as we shall spend a few weeks in preparation for that before the Bishop's visit in November.

We have lived life together in varying ways over this summer, whether at dinner church or our principal services on Sunday, over a book or coffee, in meetings, in the pews or outside, at BUILD meetings or vestry and committee meetings. But we have also shared sadness this summer, with the funeral and burial of Ed, Carol's mom, and Allison all in one weekend. A reminder that life is fleeting, impermanent and holy. And that the work and ministry of every one of us has to do with being God's holy people together, there for one another. No matter the season.

God's love and peace,

Helen

Sr Warden's Corner

I love to read during the Summer. To me there are few things greater than sitting on my back porch fully engrossed in a good novel. I probably spend as much time deciding what to read as I do actually reading. And being one to challenge clichés, I submit the following proposition: judge books by their cover. It's not like the cover just contains some disconnected artwork, it has lots of valuable information. For one thing, the author! Then there's the title, usually a synopsis, a list of awards won or nominated for, critical praise from authors that you may know something about. You can judge the length, the genre, and yes, even the artwork can tell you something. Is it a perfect system? No, of course not. What judgment criteria ever is. But short of actually reading the book, which kind of defeats the point if you're judging which book to read, I think the cover judgment is as good as any method.



Tony Lo Bianco

But what if I were trying to judge a church? Maybe as a potential newcomer, or maybe as someone interested in the health of the church? Would this be a good method? I know, we're the pretty little church off the beaten path that looks just lovely. Good cover might attract a few folks, but probably irrelevant.

But how about some of these things: Tobit's Trace, a revitalized parish hall, an active team of servers and altar guild members, a fantastic choir, a challenging adult ed class, a vibrant sermon, a place for groups to meet, ministries that touch thousands of lives. These are all things you might notice from even a casual visit.

And yes, they might be considered our cover, our outward appearance. But like the cover of a book, they don't just magically happen. I see the work that goes into these things. The love that people show for our church is reflected in these ministries. People don't donate their time, money and work to things that they don't care about, they do so because of how they feel about this place.

Are there places that we can improve? Absolutely. There are a few nicks in our cover. But I've read the book, and I have to say that overall I think our outward appearance reflects pretty accurately who we are. And I think who we are is a pretty great parish.

There are churches that focus too much on their covers. I think we've all seen them. We might be drawn in only to find that there is no real substance. But I think we have something real, fulfilling and meaningful here. And so for our newer folks, I would say give us a good thorough read. For our long-time members I'd say give us a re-read, I always learn something new when re-reading a good book. And while you're reading, remember that you are helping to write our story. We are constantly editing, revising, hopefully improving the chapters within our book. And as we do so we make both our story and our cover better.

Stewardship Corner

The Stewardship Corner still is open for the generally perceived last month of Summer!

So what does Stewardship mean? According to the Great cloud of Google: Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation." ... "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1).

Now on to the "Stewardship Spotlight". What does it mean to you and to me?

Stewardship comes in all forms and types. It comes in the form of the pledge that keeps our Rector employed and the building air conditioned. The pledge that keeps the Diocese up and running.

Stewardship also comes in the form of the time and effort that we give on handling what I will call "church business." Things like Altar Guild or Properties Committee or organizing Dinner Church. It could mean even serving for our church at the Diocesan convention or on the Vestry.

Stewardship also comes in the form of those unnoted and usually unnoticed things. Such as picking up the leftover bulletins from the pews after a service (don't think I don't notice what you do). Such as building bookcases for our newly modernized downstairs. Such as coming over and fixing rotted windows and frames.

Whatever this church and its members have has been given by the power and glory of the Lord.

Let us all use what we have been given wisely and manage all these wondrous resources that God has laid out for us!

Let us give thanks for God's summertime and for all the blessings of St. Raphael (with a bit of fun added in to show our humanity).

Roger L Kirk

Views from the Pews

We would like to encourage more parishioners to write articles for this column sharing their perspectives about the church, spiritual growth and other topics that may be of interest to our congregation. Submit your article to Dana Berry by the requested date on the back page to be include in the next month's issue

In Memory of Ed Blackwell

I don't think anyone at St. Raphael knew Ed Blackwell before he came here, so it seems best to start his story there. It was Sept. 14, 2008, which happened to be the first Sunday Fr. Johnnie Ross was here. Ed said he was driving down Parkers Mill Road and saw the church sign that said Soul Food Breakfast. At that time we were serving breakfast between services. Ed thought that sounded good and he stopped and came in. Now, it happened that Fr. Johnnie's father's name was Ed—a coincidence that they both thought was interesting.

Ed was really down on his luck at this time. He had worked for a printing company but was terminated when the recession hit. He was unemployed for more than a year. During this time the church and certain individuals in the church helped him. He wasn't old enough for Social Security and not strong enough to do heavy work. Some of us began paying him to do yardwork and other chores. Sometimes the church paid him for odd jobs. He was never entirely homeless but that was partly because the rector and the parish care commission helped him find housing.

Ed's situation improved when he became eligible for Soc Sec and Medicare. For a while he worked part-time at St. Paul's Catholic Church until the work became too hard for him. And some of us continued to pay him for work. As I became less able to take care of my own gardens and the plots I cared for at church, I relied more and more on Ed for help. He had grown up on a farm and knew plants, and liked working with them. Last year, when my husband was sick, Ed came to my house once a week to do the little necessary chores as well as yardwork.

It was during these times that I got to know Ed better. Despite his stutter and difficulty getting words out, he enjoyed talking when he had a good listener, which, even with my hearing loss, I was. He had lived in Lexington all his life and could talk about Old Lexington, the way it used to be. He was interested in politics and kept up with current affairs.

Ed's birth parents were killed in an accident when he was about a year and a half old. He was adopted by Edwin and Anna May Morehead Blackwell. His mother was a

hospital nurse, his father an accountant. They lived on a farm out Tates Creek Road. I don't know all the twists and turns that led Ed to where he was when we got to know him. He didn't talk much about some things. He was a musician, playing keyboard and the saxophone in a band, but he had given that up.

Sometimes Ed surprised me. While I was editing the Herald, he told Johnnie he wanted to write an article for the newsletter, and Johnnie agreed. I wasn't overjoyed to hear this. I fully expected that I would have to do heavy editing to make the article printable. I was completely wrong. He didn't have a computer, so he wrote it in longhand and I typed it. He wrote about prayer, and it was well written, thoughtful, and coherent. Later he wrote more articles, and they were all good.

Ed was intelligent but he also had—shall we say—a quirky mind that sometimes made me wonder why. There was the Sunday afternoon he called me from a country road out near Equus Run in Scott County. He had a flat tire. He asked if I had a road service that I could get to tow him into town. (Need I say, he didn't have a spare tire.) Well, I didn't. He called another church friend who did have road service and did get the car towed to a station on the northside. Then he called me again. It was Sunday, the car couldn't be fixed till Monday, would I come get him and take him home? I did. Next morning he called. Would I take him to the station to get his car? I did. Sometime in all this driving, I asked him, Why did he go out there?

He was going fishing. Did he notice the tire was low on air before he set out? Yes, he did. Why, I asked, didn't you go to a gas station and put air in it? Oh, he said, he did go by a station but it was crowded and he didn't want to wait.

The church helped Ed and Ed helped the church. He served on Vestry. In some intangible way, I think he helped us just by being part of us. More important than material help, we gave him acceptance, respect, dignity. We can do that for each other. When we kneel at the altar, we are all equal.

I don't have a very complicated theology. I don't know whether we have free will or why bad things happen to good people, or worse, why good things happen to bad people. I leave the hard questions to God. I do have one core belief: that God uses people to help people. He uses imperfect people because that's the only kind he has. If he wants you to help someone, better do it. Next time you might be the one that needs help.

At the end of the book *Charlotte's Web*, Wilbur the Pig says about Charlotte the Spider: "It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer." Ed was both.

Rose Canon

Views from the Pews

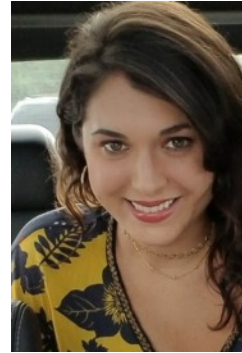
In Memory of Debora Allison Carter

Debora “Allison” Carter, 29, of Lexington, KY and currently residing in Asheville, NC transcended this life unexpectedly on July 10, 2019.

She is survived by her mother and father, Lora Shaffer Carter and Jeff Carter of Nicholasville, KY; one brother and her sister-in-law, Patrick Ryan Carter and Samantha Miller Carter of Lexington, KY; nephew, Cohen Ryan Carter and niece, Cori Elizabeth Carter, both of Lexington, KY; fiancé Tyler Sweet of Asheville, NC; Aunts and Uncles Karen Shaffer Waller of Portsmouth, OH; Debora Shaffer Hale & Paul Hale of Richmond, KY; Tom Shaffer of Portsmouth, OH; Huey & Debbie Tevis Carter of Port Isabel, TX; Randy & Lisa Fluty Carter of Indianapolis, IN, and a whole host of dear cousins. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Huite & Edith Logue Carter, and maternal grandparents Thomas Shaffer & Jane Lenamon.

Allison was an amazingly wonderful daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, niece, cousin and friend. She was a smart, caring, witty, funny and passionate person who dearly loved her family, fiancé, friends, and had an especially close relationship with her mother. She had a special way to avoid judging individuals and accepted people as they are, which is evidenced by her numerous friends from many different walks of life. She fought for those who needed a voice. She was a true lover and caretaker of animals, demonstrating that by volunteering and working at a big-animal rescue and zoo in Thailand, where she worked with big cats, apes, and various other exotic animals.

Art was a life-long passion and talent. She utilized her extreme creativity regularly with her visual creations. She also was a talented writer and had the ability to make her written word touch one's soul. She had many loves, but especially loved silly movies, bad jokes, cotton candy, going to the lake, intelligent sarcasm, the beach, trees, flowers, rocks, stuffed animals, good food, fashion, visiting new places, amusement parks, music, and vintage items. Cooking was a talent and she took great pride in presenting her delicious creations. She loved God and maintained faith in the ability of spirit to provide her what she needed. She could brighten a room with her infectious laugh and smile. As a fiercely independent thinker, she marched and danced to the beat of her own drum, while respecting the abilities of others to do the same.



She never judged others and was incredibly loyal to her friends and family, who loved her dearly and who will always remember her for her bravery, courage, tenacity, wit, charm, wonderful personality, and undying love for them.

Navajo Prayer

I will be happy forever

Nothing will hinder me.

I will walk with beauty before me

I will walk with beauty behind me

I will walk with beauty above me.

I will walk with beauty below me.

I will walk with beauty around me

...And my words will be beautiful.

A View from the Pew

In honor of my family

This is to honor my family. We just laid to rest Uncle A.F., the last of the Dawahare family's second generation. A.F. was the youngest of Srur and Selma Dawahare's eleven children. As a eulogizer observed, he was a composite of his elders, embodying all their best qualities.



Harvard-educated, yet humble, he was a savvy merchant, an astute horseman and an even better humanitarian. Like his siblings, he loved people, and was genuinely interested in whoever crossed his path. His friend marveled at A.F.'s ability to discuss anything with anybody. Were Americans to follow his civility and desire to truly understand opposing viewpoints, how much better our country would be, he concluded.

Indeed! So, to help make this happen I will share this brief history about our family. Along with my parents, and other uncles and aunts, A.F. reflects the one-word summary of the Dawahare heritage bequeathed by my grandparents: "Love." Our personal Greatest Generation loved all, respected all, and sought to serve all. Black and yellow, red and white, rich and poor, immigrant and native-born, those of any religion or of no religion, their love alighted on whoever providence placed before them.

They had good role models: a mother who bore eleven children and swept the home with love while their father tended the stores—first on his back, then a small dry goods shop, a bigger one, another, then another, all by himself until his children could help.

It was Srur's profound love and appreciation that fueled his passion and inspired his children. He was so grateful for America, the land of his salvation. Around the turn of the last century he came as a boy from his native Syria to escape religious persecution. Because the Ottoman Empire was crumbling the Turks issued an edict to dispatch all Christian political leaders, including Srur's father who was the mayor of a small village in what is now Syria. By custom they were looking to also dispatch his oldest son. Srur's mother hid him in a well, and when the Turks left town he got out and immigrated to America, via Mexico.

Damascus, Beirut, Marseilles, and Mexico before finally making it to New York. (Uncle Willie used to joke that Pancho Villa chased his dad across Mexico). Srur worked in the garment industry and as a busboy at a hotel. It was there that he met his future wife. Selma's father was holding a dinner for eligible suitors, but it was the young busboy who caught her eye. The coal rush was on, drawing people from the world over to the verdant mountains of Eastern Kentucky. Selma's brothers had opened a

successful store in Wise, Virginia, on the Kentucky border and Srur sought a similar opportunity on the Kentucky side.

He began as a pack peddler serving those in the hollers and coal camps of Letcher County. Srur cared for them and worked hard to satisfy their needs. In short, he loved them, and they him. Imagine that: America's most isolated backlands embracing this dark-skinned foreigner from half a world away. Proof positive that the human heart trumps everything--every preconception, stereotype, trait or tradition. Love indeed conquers all.

So great was Srur's love for American that he named three sons after presidents: Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, and Herbert Hoover. He infused his children with his love of family, community and country and taught them the value of unity. He gave each of them a stick and told them to break it, which they easily did. He then gave them eight sticks bundled together, which they could not break. The lesson: if you stick together you will never be broken. They did, and we do.

The Dawahare family values mirror those of our nation. We are the United States of America; we follow Kentucky's own motto "United we stand, divided we fall." And so, to honor my family's heritage and Uncle A.F.'s eulogizer I humbly propose that we follow the love-forged path of unity and reconciliation taught by my grandfather and carried forth by his children.

First, we must find a way to feel love/affection/human compassion for all, especially those who oppose us. Pray for it, work at it, concentrate on it. It may help to realize that we don't know what's going on in the other's life, nor what burdens they carry.

Second, we must change our approach to the issues now dividing us. We must stop digging in our heels for our position without a care for the other side. Instead we should see these issues as opportunities to build unity. Like Uncle A.F. we must be eager to learn the other's viewpoint, empathize and work for win/win compromises. Above all, we must strive for civility and treat others as we want to be treated.

This "Love" is nothing new for America's democracy. Our nation's laws, starting with the Constitution on down, are infused with "love," developed only after open dialogues of competing interests leading to compromise. Love is what keeps our nation United.

Whether for families or our nation, love truly is the only real path to peace, joy and freedom for all.

Richard Dawahare



A Church Mouse in God's House

So I read that your Sr. Warden was mouthing off about cheese in your last newsletter. In some circles those are considered fighting words. Like, my circle! Criticizing any type of cheese is pretty pompous. I'm sure it's nice to be able to have access to any cheese you want, in any form, at any time, and then complain about your least favorite. You know what I'd like? Not to worry about myself and my family starving to death!

I don't begrudge you all though. In fact, it seems like you are pretty generous. Really, I don't think you'd let me starve. I have seen the way you step up when one of you falls ill. You throw an impressive rally.

But let me ask you this: how do you know when it is time to start that rally? With mice, we can tell. But you all are much more private. Better at hiding things. Some of you could literally be dying and not let anyone know. or so constantly sad but covering it with a smile. Maybe in your culture it's considered 'tough' or admirable to not show any signs of weakness. But for us, even if we could it would seem disrespectful – we're like a team. We need each other to survive. We would never hide such critical information.

For that matter, how do you care for each other when you are well? I have sat through enough of your wedding ceremonies to know about the promise to be there for each other in sickness and in health. Well the sickness part's kind of obvious – of course you will be. But what about when you're well? Or appear to be?

Even mice that appear healthy need cheese too.



Birthdays for August

Martha Helen Smith	Aug. 1
Mason Whorley	Aug 1
Sue Smith	Aug 2
Diane Davis	Aug 4
Kay Price	Aug 4
Ava Curci	Aug 12
Danielle Binkauskas	Aug 20
Connor Krolak	Aug 21
Medina Mullins	Aug 21
Meritt Anderson	Aug 25
Leslee Roberts	Aug 25
Steve Garvin	Aug 27
Tyler Jacobs	Aug 27
Ginger Garvin	Aug 29
Shaunne Bourland	Aug 31

Anniversaries for August

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

Please let me know if we miss anyone's special day!
We'd hate to leave out anyone on their birthday or anniversary. Send an email to me at danabruceberry@gmail.com if we don't have your dates.

St. Raphael Vacation Bible School is August 5 - 8, 9am - 3 pm

"For God So Loved the World" is the theme.

We invite all children ages 5 - 16 to celebrate the opening of Tobit's Trace, to connect nature to faith, the Eucharist, and the Bible with Rev. Helen Van Koevering. What's Happening at VBS 2019?

Learning in Tobit's Trace

Dr. Tom Kimmerer will be teaching about nature and tree planting. Come plant trees with us in Tobit's Trace.

Healthy Living and Nature - Nancy Christiano Mathews is connecting fun with veggies, healthy eating, and the reuse of plastics. Discover composting and making worm farms with

Music & Crafts Carol Summers - Learn about music and its ability to heal with Chris Young

Bonnie Conaway will put your creativity and artistry to the test

Enjoy storytelling with Carl Fosnaugh IV

Lunch provided daily. Deacon Paula Ott will lead children and adults in a Jewish Seder meal on the last day.

Download and share the [brochure](#) below. Contact us to sign-up, volunteer, and/or donate: email revhelen@sreclex.org or call 859-255-4987.

Saint Raphael's Episcopal Church
and
The Church of the Resurrection, Lexington
invite you to something different...

Joining in with God's Life for the World

We invite all children ages 5 – 16 to celebrate the opening of Tobit's Trace, to connect nature to faith, the Eucharist, and the Bible with Rev. Helen Van Koevering

What's Happening at VBS 2019?

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Music & Crafts
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Bonnie Conaway will put your creativity and artistry to the test
Enjoy story-telling with Carl Fosnaugh IV

Lunch provided daily
Deacon Paula Ott will lead children and adults in a Jewish Seder meal on the last day

August 5-9, 2019
9:00 am – 3:00 pm daily

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Saint Raphael's Episcopal Church
1891 Parker's Mill Rd, Lexington, KY 40504

Contact us to sign up, volunteer, and/or donate
revhelen@sreclex.org | office: 859.255.4987

Stay up to date at St. Raphael's

There's always a lot going on at St. Raphael Episcopal Church. Thankfully, there are a lot of ways to find out about news and events.

Monthly

The Herald, the St. Raphael Episcopal Church newsletter, is published monthly. Paper copies are mailed to a small list who don't use email, due to the high cost of printing and postage. Some paper copies are also available at church. The electronic version is emailed to those who have subscribed to receive emails from the church. See subscription info below. The Herald is also available at sreclex.org/news.

Weekly

Service bulletin - contains info about upcoming events

Verbal announcements at services - news about anything and everything

Weekly Eminders - sent to the email subscriber list on Mailchimp. See subscription info below.

As news happens

Saint Raphael the Archangel Facebook Page contains updates, photos, event info. Check it out any time at <https://www.facebook.com/sreclex/>. If you "Like" the page then updates will show up in your News feed.

Email updates are sent out to those who have subscribed to receive emails. See subscription info below.

Calendar

Events are posted to the St. Raphael Episcopal Church calendar which can be viewed on the website at sreclex.org and sreclex.org/calendar

If you aren't already receiving emails from St. Raphael's and would like to, please subscribe to the email list using the button on our website, sreclex.org. When you sign up you will fill out a short form asking about your interests and confirming whether you would also like to receive the monthly newsletter. After you submit the form, you will receive a confirmation email. Click on the link in that email to confirm your subscription. If you aren't receiving emails from sroffice@sreclex.org, they could be going to your Spam or Promotions folder. You can always Unsubscribe by clicking on the Unsubscribe link on any email you receive. If you have unsubscribed in the past and change your mind, you will have to re-subscribe using the button on the website. The administrator cannot add you manually after you have unsubscribed.

Crafter's Circle

The Circle will be taking a break in August and will not meet again until the 2nd Saturday in September. Everyone is welcome to join us at that time.

Sages to meet on Aug 15

*Olive Garden Nicholasville Rd
in Fayette Mall*

RSVP to canonrose@twc.com or
859-312-6156

Note from the Office

It is was great apologies that there was no printed July Herald. With a new printer comes new formatting changes. These changes have been seen in the new bulletin. These changes have also come to the Herald.

Fraud Scam Warning

It appears that a messaging account of Rev. Helen's has been hacked. Be wary of any suspicious messages.

Someone has received a message on their phone appearing to be from Rev. Helen asking them to purchase an Ebay token for her and send it to an address which is not hers. It was from an 859 number.

If you receive a similar message asking you to purchase something or do something suspicious, please ignore it and do not click on any links in the message. Notify Rev. Helen at RevHelen@sreclex.org. If you have any questions about whether a message from her is real, email her at the same address. Rev. Helen would not ask for a favor like this in this way.

Dinner Church and Tobit's Trace Photos



The Vance Children enjoying the new benches in Tobit's Trace



Dr. Tom talked about nature during the one day VBS in July



Tree Planting in Tobit's Trace



Sister Becky - Mothers of the Church



Dinner Church - July 27

St Raphael Episcopal Church
1891 Parkers Mill Rd
Lexington, KY 40504
Rev. Canon Dr. Helen Van Koevering, Rector
Phone: 859-255-4987
Email: Office: revhelen@sreclex.org or SRoffice@sreclex.org
Website: www.sreclex.org



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, Aug. 21, 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

12 Noon Holy Eucharist with Unction

6:30 pm Holy Eucharist with Unction