



From the Rector

Happy Pentecost season!

By the time you all read this, we will have celebrated this new season of the church. I hope you are able to keep alongside all that your church is involved with during this strange time. The Spirit and the church is alive - in different ways, but still reaching out, drawing in, sharing good news, active in God's mission. No one would say it is what we have been used to before, but we have also seen a certain creative adaptiveness that has been enabled by a sure loving of others as ourselves. I am so grateful to those who have continued as stewards of their gifts, time, talents during this time, those who have stepped up, those who are waiting patiently, and those who have joined me in prayer. None of us has experienced such a time as this. I have been on several steep learning curves at once, have appreciated those signs of life outside more than ever, and still haven't got used to the crazy day-long rhythm of work, zooms, recordings, talking and listening.



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen
Van Koevering

But I know for sure that all will be well. I am in the midst of a process that involves circles of various people (from the governor, TEC, NGO's through to the diocese, other churches, clergy and our own vestry), all concerned with the how, what, when, where and why's of re-entering church for services. The Church has not closed - it's life-blood is very present in the community, us, that has left the building and in its life of prayer. We have opened up mission and outreach, ministry to shut-ins and families, prayer and worship by our online presence and this will continue into the future.

With the unknown nature of the corona virus and the progress of this pandemic, I welcome the opportunity and possibilities that God has given us to safely serve God's people in this way. I encourage you all to invite and share our online presence just as you always welcomed everyone into our church for services.

We are part of a worldwide liturgical church that celebrates Word and Sacrament. These times have presented an opportunity to focus on the Word, and now we are working on how to open up an opportunity to safely receive the sacraments. Many of us have discovered a forgotten heritage of 'spiritual communion', which emphasizes the Spirit remaining and infilling always. Our theological tradition and practice of the Eucharist is communal: gathering, blessing and sharing thanks, taking and breaking, eating and drinking, together around God's Table. And, from there, renewed inwardly, going out to love and serve the world. This is a work of the Spirit to 'build us together spiritually into a dwelling -place for God' (Ephesians 2:22). We at St Raphael's are blessed with beautiful grounds that present us with fresh ways to explore safely coming together, even whilst trusting in the present collegial approach to the process of re-entry of following guidelines and being well-prepared. And in all the planning, I trust in your prayers:

'O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen' Benedict of Nursia ca. 480-550

Sr Warden's Corner



Dave Sevigny
Sr. Warden

Last year, the diocese launched the "Be the church, be the change" movement, which was a blueprint for our diocesan faith communities to consider different aspects of ministry over a course of 3-4 years. Each year, we would take on a few of these aspects and put our own, St Raphael's spin, on them.

In January, the vestry retreat provided us with some goals for 2020 that aligned with the diocese goals. One of which pertains to "visioning" for our church. Our diocese has provided some excellent materials for us to consider as we reimagine what being church really means to each of its faith communities.

Back in the day prior to Google maps, my dad would sit with us prior to summer vacation with the Rand McNally Road Atlas, and we would plot a course for a summer trip. They were not grand long road trips usually, just a quick canoe trip on the Delaware, hiking in the Catskill Mountains, going to some museum where people made wax candles, and churned butter. The important thing, is that the trip was planned, considered, and plotted so that we could arrive at our destination ready for adventure, and even enjoy parts of the journey along the way.

The vestry decided last night to move forward with our own journey mapping or visioning process as we'd planned in January. Four months later we find the world is much different then when we met on that cold wintery weekend. Who would consider a visioning exercise for the parish during COVID? We would. Let's face it, we've had countless hours of being stuck indoors, with the same people, with the same routine. Plenty of time to think and imagine what life will be like after COVID. We decided to throw church life into the mix.

The vestry decided on a platform called Renewalworks (www.renewalworks.org) from Forward Movement. The process begins this September much like a rector search process-with a questionnaire for the entire parish. Then, a group of up to 25 of us review the responses and go through a series of discussions over a few months, answer the following questions: Where have we been? Where are we now? Where do we feel called to go? And lastly, How will we get there? The process will take from the beginning of September into Advent, and finish with a parish meeting (virtual and in person if possible) sometime before Christmas.

What can you do to help? First off, like an election, your voice matters. Make sure you take the survey when it becomes available in September. Secondly, if you are inclined to be one of the up to 25 folks processing the information and discussing the results, please contact me. We do want to make sure that the people in the discussion are a good cross section of our demographic, so we will be asking parishioners as well. If you are asked, please consider the call. Participation will require 4-5 Zoom (over the internet) meetings in October and November, spaced about 2-3 weeks apart-and attendance is important.

The whole process will finalize prior to 2021, so that the incoming vestry has a map of where we want to go, and can take the first steps of our next adventure together, prepping for the journey we will embark on to "Be the church, be the change".

2020 Vestry Members & Commission Members

Sr, Warden: **Dave Sevigny** Jr. Warden: **Mike Booth** Clerk: **Dana Berry** Treasurer: **Paula Sevigny**
Assistant Treasurer: **Roger Kirk**
Property - Nancy Christiano Chair. Members - Mike Booth, Mike Hart, Ken Cotrell, Jack Supplee, CC Johnson, & Roger Kirk
b. Christian Formation/Stewardship Chair - **Amy Fowler**, Members: Dana Berry, Dave Sevigny, **Amanda Vance**
c. Finance - Roger K Chair Members - Amanda Vance, Afsi Davis, Patty Bond, Paula Sevigny., Janis Rosebrook
d. Mission - Chair - **Afsi Davis**, Member: **Chris Young**, Margaret McLandry, Amanda Vance (dinner church food coordination)
e. Parish Life / Care - **Carol Summers** Chair; members - Chris Young, Dave Sevigny

Finance Corner

Roger Kirk, Finance Chair

The New Normal continues!

Please lift your hearts in prayer to those affected, either by sickness or job loss or, heaven help us, death.

I want to thank all members of the Parish, as the end of April financial's indicated that we are on track with your pledge dollars. Your continued support to the Parish of your pledges warms my heart and allows us to continue doing God's work in the best way we can, given the circumstances. Please continue to contribute to other areas as you are able.

Rev Helen has been working with the Diocesan guidelines and process to plan our safe re-entry to church for in-person worship. As I type, the vestry are looking at how to implement these plans. What we do anticipate is some increased expenses, particularly regarding cleaning supplies and expenses. Keeping all of us safe is the top priority from the Bishop all throughout the organization.

This Parish is resilient and like our Episcopal leaders, strong and mindful that we need to stay safe! And most importantly, strong in the Lord, as He has commanded us. One day, we ARE going to have a joyous reunion to celebrate our passion for the Lord and this Parish.

See you on soon.

A Collect for our Diocesan Vision

Gracious Father, your Spirit connects and restores all life to unity with you and each other in Christ Jesus. Energize our faith so that we may courageously live into our calling to be the church by praising your Holy Name, making disciples and discovering your presence at work in our neighborhoods. Shape us to be the change that brings hope and joy to an aching world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

A View from the Pew

A serendipitous sojourn to YESTERDAY, with a renewed appreciation for TODAY, and HOPE for TOMORROW!

It all started with my need to get a new car. I have, well had, a 12-year-old Toyota Camry Hybrid with 172,000 miles that I was still happy with, BUT it was burning oil. I still hesitated to spring for a new car because it seemed wasteful, why not drive what I had till it dropped. Anticipating that I might have to get a new car, I began shopping online for the exact color and price I wanted to pay if and when the time came, I had to do something.

Finally, my best friend tells me of a story, a few years ago his car was totaled in an accident with a young female college student. Her dad said to him, "Look, we don't need to get our insurance companies involved, you don't know me but I'm one of the biggest car dealers on in the east, and I can really treat you right." My friend was delighted with the car (and care) he got from his new friend. THEN, over the next few years, his wife, his brother, and nephew bought cars from him.



Richard Dawahare

So, I was chatting with my friend a couple of weeks ago and when he found out I was needing a new car he told me about his contact, he called the gentleman who then called me! It all fell together--I felt comfortable, they were so trustworthy and bent over backwards so I bought this new Camry Hybrid, and they delivered the car to me from their Maryland showroom (about 12 hours away, I am in Lexington, Kentucky) this past Thursday.

Well, I couldn't believe how much I was missing all these years. The technology, the radio with 32 presents instead of my old 6, and particularly, my new fave discovery of SIRIUS XM! I didn't even fully explore it until today, when I discovered THE BEATLES CHANNEL and a gentleman named Peter Asher was counting down the top 100 Beatles songs as voted upon by the fans. It turns out Peter Asher lived across the hall from Paul McCartney in their teens for a couple of years. Further, this is Peter of Peter and Gordon, who did the top hit of 1964 "A World Without Love," a song Paul wrote but gave to Peter because John did not like the first line and the Beatles were not going to use it. Wow!

I parked to go in the grocery store when "She's Leaving Home" came on, so I listened to it following his excellent intro. This song always makes me tear up a little, but today I just broke down in tears sitting in the car. I guess the other Beatles songs he was playing had set me back in my formative years in the 1960's growing up with them (I was born in 1955). I remember clearly their American "invasion" with "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "I Saw Her Standing There," "Love me Do" and all those early songs, and I especially remember the young girls CRYING THEIR EYES OUT, pulling their hair, unbridled frantic, hysteria-- a phenomena I had never seen before in my young life and never have since!

Anyway, all these memories of my time growing up in the 60's, my family, most of them now deceased, my developing from grade school to starting high school (of course, they broke up just as I was starting high school so new groups got me fired up to play football, court girls, etc., such groups as Chicago, Blood, Sweat and Tears, James Taylor, Sly and the Family Stone, Stevie Wonder, Carole King, Elton, Steely Dan, America, The Temptations, the Spinners and well, SO MANY in so many genres--there was never a period of so much musical diversity and quality than the 1960's and 70's, but PARTICULARLY the 60's).

Music truly is, as Dick Clark said, the soundtrack of our lives. My grandmother comes to mind: As a young teen I remember grandma smile as I sang one of the songs of the day, and I asked why, and she said she was so happy I liked music. I said, "But grandma, this is [____] fill in the blank], I don't remember but some popular youth song in the 60's, certainly not one from my immigrant grandmother's genre--but to my surprise and DELIGHT, she said, "That doesn't matter, honey, it's only important that you LIKE MUSIC." I'll never forget the joy on grandma's face just because I liked music, MY music! This helped give me hope, and later kind of a license TO PAR-TEE!

Music amazes me, the people who create and perform it all amazes me. When you're younger you just listen and enjoy, oblivious. But with age comes an appreciation and deep wonder about the process. Mr. Asher's stories served to heighten that wonder and appreciation.--just HOW did they do it--were they just born with it? I know they worked HARD on their craft, but I can't help but feel a higher power fueled them as well.

I loved/love the Beatles--John, Paul, George, Ringo, AND the team behind them, George Martin, and others, so many others. They were always a kind of angelic presence to me, the "good guys" as compared to, for instance, the Stones, and later heavy-metal counter-culture songs (although I grooved to the tune of a lot of that too--the Woodstock lineup and such). "John, Paul, George and Ringo"--their very names reminiscent of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the four Gospels, I mused as a 10-year old going to Good Shepard Episcopal Church.

The Beatles. Unquestionably, they are the greatest artistic influence since Shakespeare. The ways that they influenced our culture and cultures still to come are immeasurable. Or maybe they were just so much a part of MY young life I am putting more meaning and consequence on their existence than it warrants.

Regardless, we can comfortably conclude that they were blessed to be a blessing to the world, the whole wide world. They had ZERO ego, none. Two gave their lives, George, and John most tragically and brutally murdered. pure souls reaching the heights of their earthly state of consciousness, nearing Nirvana, presaged by their earlier discovery--led by George--of India, Transcendental Meditation with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. In fact, now that I think about it, their earthly deaths are but a part of the inevitable change we will all undertake and perhaps that was just their time, that they indeed HAD reached the Nirvanic soul-freeing state of non-existence.

Ringo and Paul are with us, yet they just live, non-pretentiously, always available to answer interview requests, and still sharing their love, the love they felt, the love they lived, and the love they taught through their music and dedication (it took a TON OF WORK to get their finished product).

CONFUCIUS and JESUS: "Treat others as you would want to be treated."

JOHN, PAUL, GEORGE, AND RINGO: "The love you take is equal to the love you make."

Amen, hallelujah, and ROCK ON!

OH, and p.s.: the NUMBER ONE song as rated by the fans--YESTERDAY". But as Peter Asher said, it's not the order that matters, it is the joy, the meaning, the philosophy, the love, and FUN of the entire body of work we know as "The Beatles" that counts.

Richard Dawahare 5/27/20

Announcements



Connor Krolak graduated from Vanderbilt University on May 8, 2020 earning a Bachelor of Engineering degree in both Biomedical Engineering and Electrical Engineering with Cum Laude honors. He will begin graduate study at the University of Washington in Seattle this fall, where he was awarded the Dean's Scholarship for the College of Engineering. He will pursue his PhD in Biomedical Engineering and hopes to ultimately pursue a career in scientific research.



Kylie Van Koevinger has graduated with a BSW in Social Work (Magna Cum Laude) from Loyola University Chicago. She will return in August to continue her studies For one more year towards a Masters in Social Work.



SFC Roger Thomas Vance, Jr has graduated from Excelsior College with an MBA. He is an active duty KY National Guardsman stationed at the state headquarters, Boone Center, in Frankfurt. He is married to Amanda, and father to Olivia, Alexandra and Laura.



Announcements Continued

Virtual Sunday School

We will continue with Sunday School readings and resources for kids each Sunday. Check for them at <https://srclex.org/for-children/> and on our Facebook page.

"Walk in Love" - preparation for Confirmation or Reception

Those interested in Confirmation or Reception should read 'Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices' by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. Study of this book and conversation with Rev Helen are part of the steps towards reception, confirmation or renewal of faith that Bishop Mark will bless in his visitation in September.

Gardening Angels past and future!



Now would be an opportune time to get out your house while maintaining your social distance. The church grounds are bursting forth with growth and we need willing hands and healthy knees to participate in policing unwelcome invaders.

If you have questions, or need supplies, please let Kim know - siahkoohik@gmail.com



Mission Committee - St. Raphael Cookbook

Afsi Davis, chair

Last call for submissions for the Parish Cookbook. So far we have not received any entries - we need to know if there is any interest in doing this. We are asking for contributions for the following categories: Appetizers & Beverages, Soups & Salads, Vegetables & Side Dishes, Main Dishes, Bread & Rolls, Ethnic Cuisine, and Desserts. Please send all contributions to Afsi Davis afsileigh@gmail.com.

Parish Life/Pastoral Care Committee

Carol Summers, chair

Crafter's Circle mobilizing for mask making

Do you or a loved one need a fabric mask to wear when going out? The St. Raphael Crafters are making masks for those who need them. If you are in need of a mask,

please contact Dana Berry at danabruceberry@gmail.com or call 859-381-1830.

If you'd like to help with mask-making, you sew, and have supplies, there are a lot of different patterns for masks floating around the internet. Contact Dana for advice and to be added to the list to help with requests. If you don't sew but have fabric, thread, or other supplies to donate, the Crafters could use them. If you can cut out fabric for others to sew, that is helpful also. Contact Dana to work out the logistics. (The Crafters are working at their own homes and not gathering in person to make the masks.)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

June Birthdays

Erica Formisano	6/5
Nick Jacobs	6/10
Mary Jane Amick	6/14
Afsi Davis	6/16
Bill Farhoff	6/16
Robert Bouse	6/20
Jeff Carter	6/21
Dave Sevigny	6/21
Jack Supplee	6/21
Maggie Tyler-Aqniob	6/23
Noah Tyler-Aqniob	6/23
Mary Wilson	6/24
Whitney Curci	6/25
Moses Massaquoi	6/28
Jonathon Melton	6/28

June Anniversaries

Amy & Tony LoBianco	6/8
Katherine & Kris Olson	6/11
Marie & Logan Jacobs	6/14
Martha Helen & Al Smith	6/17

Please let us know if we missed a birthday or anniversary! We try to keep the records up to date, but if you've recently joined the parish, we want to celebrate your special days with you! So, let us know! Contact Dana Berry, (danabruceberry@gmail.com) or the parish office.

Thought for the day.... Be Kind

Author Unknown

Just a thought... As we are trying to figure out how to ease back in to a new normal, please keep in mind no one has ever done this before, so please remember:

Some people don't agree with re-opening businesses and re-entering churches (nor understand that some never stopped working and churches never closed) right now - that's okay. Be kind.

Some people are still planning to stay home (maybe as the best way to show love for neighbor) that's okay. Be kind.

Some are still scared of getting the virus and a second wave happening....that's okay. Be kind.

Some are sighing with relief to go back to work knowing they may not lose their business, family relationships, or their homes....that's okay. Be kind.

Some are thankful they can finally have that surgery they have put off....that's okay. Be kind.

Some will be able to attend interviews after weeks without a job....that's okay. Be kind.

Some will wear masks for weeks.. maybe even months....that's okay. Be kind.

Some people will rush out to get their hair or nails done.... that's okay. Be kind.

The point is, everyone has different viewpoints/feelings/information/or priorities and that's okay. Be kind. Love one another as you love yourself, Jesus said.

We each have a different story. If you need to stay home, stay home. But be kind .

If you need to go out, just respect others when in public and on social media - and be kind!

Don't judge and don't make space for hate for what fellow humans do or don't do.... you don't know their story. We all are in a different mental state than we were months ago. So remember, be kind.



Dinner Church Series

Healing and Justice for Families

Saturday, June 27,

6:00pm

Please join us again on the St. Raphael's Facebook Page for Virtual Dinner Church on Saturday, June 27, 6:00pm. We will learn about the local experiences of ex-incarcerated returning citizens, how families are affected by incarceration, and what we can do, with God's help.

A Church Mouse in God's House



I know that I have said it before, but I have been a student of your language for many years and it never ceases to amaze me. Up until a few months ago the most common phrases I heard were things like, "good morning", "peace be with you", "how about that weather", "the Lord be with you", and "see you next week."

But lately that has all changed. Now it seems to involve references to the "new normal" or the "new abnormal." My own personal favorite is "during these difficult and trying times." And of course there are rampant references to things that are

"unprecedented" people who are "heroes" and the usually muffled statement "I'm wearing this to protect you because I love you."

And then there appears to be a backlash against people saying any of these things. We can't say "unprecedented" anymore because it's been overused. As if that is ever stopped you in the past. Human language, I'll tell you... Damned if you do, damned if you don't, damned if you say damned.

Really, I think a lot of it gets back to the fact that you lead such busy lives, or at least used to. You love telling each other stories about the exciting things happening in your lives. And you love listening to stories of what is going on in other people's lives. But now, for most of you there is a lot less to talk about. And a lot less opportunity to do the talking. We mice are social creatures, and I think you are too. But what does it mean to be social? Does it mean having a new story to tell, a new experience to relate? Or does it just mean to be there for each other? I realize that even that has changed. You can't physically be there for each other the way that you are so used to being there. But I also know that you are a creative species, your use of technology amazes us.

When I think about us mice I think about how little we actually say to each other compared to you. I think for us it is just enough to know that we are there for each other. I wonder how that would work for us if we had to do so in some virtual way. But I think like you, we are pretty resilient. I hope you let each other know that you still care about each other. As opportunities grow to get together in the same physical space I hope you do so, but do so cautiously and wisely. I'm not going to call you my heroes or anything, but really your species has been pretty inspiring throughout your latest calamity.



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Articles and news information for July must be submitted by **June 24, 2020** to Dana Berry at danabruceberry@gmail.com

Services - Current Schedule

Sunday

8:30am Morning Prayer - [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

Wednesday

12:00pm Morning Prayer - [Facebook](#)

Nightly

7:00pm Evening Prayer - [Facebook](#)

Search: St Raphael The Archangel Episcopal Church on either/both platforms to find the videos