



# The Herald

## St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

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October 2020

### From Our Rector & Deacon

October begins with a focus on St Francis as we round off our *Seasons of Creation* series, led by Deacon Charles and beautifully illustrated by Diane, and enter into a new season as the church together. As we remember St Francis' groundedness and stability in the ever-present love and mercy of God, his focus on the incarnation and his passion to follow Jesus' leading to "go, Francis, and repair my Church in ruins", we remember too the prayer attributed to Francis:

Lord, make me a channel of thy peace; that where there is hatred, I may bring love; that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness; that where there is discord, I may bring harmony; that where there is error, I may bring truth; that where there is doubt, I may bring faith; that where there is despair, I may bring hope; that where there are shadows, I may bring light; that where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted; To understand, than to be understood; To love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to eternal life. Amen.



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen Van Koevering

If you're like me, you know at least one tune to sing these (or similar) words! So why not let this be our song over the next few weeks as we head towards the nation's election days amidst these autumnal days that are as strange, uncertain and hard for so many as back in Spring? Ask God to comfort, give understanding, love, give humility, forgiveness and awaken us to 'look out freshly upon a fresh world that might have been made that morning', as GK Chesterton wrote of St Francis' vision. Ask God for grace that speaks of love and peace, courage and prayerful choices, and our ongoing story as witnesses to our faith and trust in Jesus.

We all live from a story, whether we recognize it or not. We might live from a story of fear or shame. Or a story that says the church is dying, closed or irrelevant. Or a story that our actions have no impact, or that we don't have enough. Our faith in these times opens opportunities to begin new narratives rather than think of 'getting back' to where we were. New creative ways have been tried, like reaching home-bound and new, more distant folk, that have proved the Spirit remains with us whether inside or far from our church on Parkers Mill. New skills have been discovered amongst our members, new opportunities for service re-imagined, new ways to look at how we are church together. Our Spiritual Inventory together has made us aware of important areas for us to remember, connect and grow. It was a process for me that spoke of both releasing and restoring what I have known into these new times of God's gift, promise and provision. I, like you, have had to take each day as it comes, which has reminded me of that passage in Exodus 16 when the Israelite's learnt a new practice of gathering daily food that fell from the sky! Could it be that God is shaping us, like the Israelites in the desert, into a community of greater trust and faith, sharing ourselves and our various resources differently, forming new stories even as we remember our shared stories, offering new commitments and ways as God's people together in this corner of Lexington and St Raphael's?

We are moving forward together. With our own resources, and with limited numbers and as much attention to safety and guidelines as we possible, able to provide worship from inside our church. During the summer, we have offered Eucharist services outside on our beautiful lawns. Now we are able to worship in our beautiful sanctuary, with live-streamed 11am Eucharist II services (to our Facebook and YouTube pages), and with 8.30am Eucharist I services. Please help us to keep safe by signing up for these services on eminders. During October we shall be focused on a new series as Keep up with news of events through eminders, bulletins, Facebook posts, and our website – we look forward to our Fall Festival on Oct 31 and Nov 1 (All Saints day), and to unfolding plans for Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and New Year.

You are all loved and missed, and I look forward to what God has in store ahead even as I welcome you home to St Raphael's!

Helen



Deacon Charles

#### What is Justice?

Justice is a word that we hear a lot these days. Activists press for justice on behalf of black people killed by police, we attend conferences on the topic of social justice, and op-eds are written which urge us to put our emotions in check and have faith in the justice system and its agents. But, what is justice? It is a word we use all the time, but what do we mean when we use it?

Different people have different definitions in mind, but I have observed that the most common meaning of justice, in American usage, is vengeance. That is, we see justice as the means by which we punish someone who has harmed us. We inflict hurt and loss onto someone who has caused an injury. In the United States, we are encouraged, through the institution of our laws, to seek this punishing vengeance through a system of courts, lawyers and police officers. We are not supposed to be vigilantes, seeking vengeance for ourselves. We appoint others, people who are hypothetically unbiased, to seek retribution on our behalf.

We also seek justice at the national level through the deployment of our military. After 9/11 our leaders swore that our government would never rest until those who aided the attack were "brought to justice." In this usage, "brought to justice" was an exalted way of saying, "we won't rest until we kill the \$%&'s who did this."

Vengeance and retribution are desires all of us have felt at various times in our lives. We should never confuse them, however, with the very different concept of justice.

In the Bible, justice has a profoundly different meaning. The Old and New Testaments use different words for justice but their meanings overlap considerably. Justice referred to making a situation right. Justice was a combination of restitution (making whole, as far as was possible, the injured person) and societal correction (changing the structure of society so the injury would not happen again). All of this was done so that shalom, or wholeness, would result.

Justice is not about extracting pain from someone who has cause me trauma. It is the act of working for a different world where the harms we experience today do not happen in the future.

As Christians, we are people who are committed to this work of making a different world, a world of shalom, of wholeness. A world where vengeance is put aside, but the status quo that produces harm is put aside as well and replaced with a system that produces fair and equitable outcomes.

My siblings in Christ, let us never tire of the work of justice, and let us always resist the temptation to replace justice with vengeance.

### Senior Warden's Corner



Dave Sevigny  
Sr. Warden

I am reading a book right now from Henri Nouwen entitled "A Spirituality of Fundraising". Its quite interesting and there are several topics that I have read and studied on before. One that has come up multiple times this year is defining "my money story". Nouwen suggests that we each have one and we might consider writing it down-or create a money autobiography. The reflection can help the writer become more comfortable with the subject of money. I encourage you each to think some about your own money story.

Here are a few of the questions I considered.

**Were your family conversations about money anxious, angry, hopeful or satisfied?** Growing up, I can't say we ever talked about it much. I never had a clue as to how much money my dad made, recall going to the drive thru bank with my mom writing checks to "cash" and watched my parents do the monthly bookkeeping at the kitchen table, carefully balancing their checkbook. We were not hungry, we wore hand me downs (mind you I had 3 older sisters and about 3 older neighbor boys-so I rarely got new clothes). When we turned twelve, we got 1.25 a week allowance, and we had our church envelop that my parents religiously made us put the .25 in. Back then, there wasn't a lot of reflection, just "do it because I said so". It wasn't a choice, but it did seem right. I never experienced my dad out of work or any real financial strain-but we were careful. I started working at 14-15 because I did want a bit more freedom to make my own decisions. You know, its not the coolest thing to wear your sister's bell bottoms. So, I worked after school 3-4 days a week so I could take care of some things myself-it just seemed like the right thing to do. I would say as a kid, my money conversations were "satisfied".

**How does money affect your self-esteem?** For a long period of time, I used money to build up my stock of "stuff". I subscribed to the "whoever has the most stuff at the end, wins" philosophy. We had a huge house and lots of things. About 8 years ago we moved to a condo and dumped a lot of it. Then when both my sister and mom died, I realized that their stuff just is another word for junk, and I had plenty of my own. So, I went through every drawer and closet and got rid of carloads of stuff. Who needs 3 drills? 3 crockpots? In this part of our lives, Paula and I are more into the

“experience” part of life than the “thing” part. We don’t need more stuff. But we use money to create experiences. Travel, date nights, music, boating etc. We also invest in political races, charitable events, charities in general and our church. Each investment we make is a hope for us that the experience is worth it, and it does tend to make us feel pretty good.

**How have the events of the last year made you think about money?** With the initial crash, I panicked. I was so worried that I had just exited my business and now didn’t have a steady income stream. Slowly that panic died away and what emerged had nothing to do with a fear about a lack of money. What I feared was for my lack of community. Money can’t buy community. To be in community with people I love. To work together, laugh, love and share life experiences. I was isolated from neighbors, friends and my extended and church family. I didn’t realize how important the regular interaction really was.

Nouwen states “to be human is to know and experience loneliness, and in that loneliness, the longing for connection and communion”. It is this longing for communion that continually brings me back to St. Raphael’s, and my guess is it is the same for many of you. I continue to be amazed by the spirit, efforts and support that each of you make to our little stone church, in the Diocese of Lexington on Parkers Mill Rd. Thank you all so much for investing your time, talents and treasures. You are my community and I am excited to be a part of yours!

Peace+  
Dave Seigny

## Finance Information

Roger Kirk, Finance Chair

Just today, for the first time since mid-spring, several of us were able to worship in person inside the church. Topping, that was the Bishop’s visit. It was so wonderful that to hear his sermon (or any sermon for that matter). The livestream of the service seemed to go well, meaning we touched many of those not able to make it to church. It was a wonderful day, with many more to come in this ever-changing world.

As a Parish, our end of August financials showed our Parish with a very slight deficit for the year. The entire Parish thanks you for your diligence in keeping up with our pledges. Keep in mind that your continued support to the Parish of your pledges 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.

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 Sundays—perhaps soon?

## A View from the Pew

Reconciling the irreconcilable

Love and hate. Truth and error. Certainty and doubt. Are these incompatible, or can each pair coexist, in harmony, within the bravehearted breast of the reconciler? September serendipity forced this question to the forefront of my mind. It started with yet more lies and arrogance from the man at the top, and I again felt compelled to speak out. I asked myself why I have always felt the need to confront liars, bullies and injustice and discovered that it was partly out of love for truth and justice, but also out of my hatred for wrong done. Then I start to feel uneasy at the accuser’s chant, “oh, you’re a hater, just like him.” I used to answer that it was the behavior I hate, not the person, but is that distinction to razor thin to matter?



Richard Dawahare

And so I do what I always do when faced with a dilemma, I prayed, “God help me understand how I can stand up for the good, YOUR good, for truth, for justice, for universal love, yet have such hatred for the opposites?” I then opened the Bible, randomly opened Psalms and uncannily my eyes rested on Psalm 97:10 “Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.”

Reading on I came across Psalm 139:

“You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar...If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

I instantly felt better, for there is no doubt that the hatred of evil is a full and equal part of loving God, and standing for truth and righteousness. But as Jesus taught, we are to love even our enemies, so I do that as well by praying for them and their families welfare, and of course, that they would turn around and do good. And I’d be there to help them were I in a position to do so.

The next day I read a piece on Warren Buffett. This legendary financial guru just turned 90 and recently shared six pieces of wisdom. He saved the best for last as number 6 was: “Remember that money isn’t everything, LOVE IS.” “Being given unconditional love is the greatest benefit you can ever get...The incredible thing about love is that you can’t get rid of it. If you try to give it away, you end up with twice as much, but if you try to hold onto it, it disappears. It is an extraordinary situation, where the people who just absolutely push it out, get it back tenfold.”

And then I watched Bishop Mark’s (Van Koevering, the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington) fireside chat. Bishop Mark addressed this political season and before observing that the church must not speak for or against any candidate or political party, he reflected on the role of Christians in the public sphere. He quoted the prophet Micah, who said, “He has told you oh mortal what is good. And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” This is our prophetic task, said Bishop Mark, and that while we often speak about mercy and justice, we tend to overlook humbleness. But humility is critical to our understanding and performing the task set before us, We must learn “to accept our imperfect judgment on each and every issue.”

He then quoted our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry: “The Episcopal Church must do more than just become another interest group—we must engage on the level of values and the commitments that come from Jesus of Nazareth and our tradition as Episcopal Anglican Christians,” which is our profession that Jesus as Lord.

Bishop Mark then correctly concluded, “And if Jesus is Lord, then Caesar is not, nor political parties, or governments, or nations. Proclaiming Jesus as Lord is an alignment that surpasses all other loyalties and unites us when others can only divide. As Christians we should avoid getting so entangled with partisan politics that they become our chief goal. Instead, TRUST IN GOD, discern the sign of the times with open curiosity and seek the common good. We are called not only to love our neighbor ourselves but even to love our enemies, which makes a mockery of the polarization that infects us today ... Our hope is in the name of the Lord. So let us do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.” [You can access Bishop Mark’s outstanding address here: <https://vimeo.com/user52363733>].

Wow, the Spirit’s really movin’ now, why not continue. And it did, for a few days later on Saturday evening I was walking from Good Foods Coop to Lafayette and high in the still-blue sky I could see a small bright white object quickly moving from left to right. There were no entrails and I knew this was something extraordinary. I whipped out my camera and tried to take photos, hoping it would capture this pinpoint of light. I then looked left and right for somebody to share this with, but nobody was around so I called my best friend. It was the night of Rosh Hashanah and he and his family had been celebrating. One thing he shared from their worship services was a quote by a man whose name I cannot recall that went something like this: “The atheist who stands on the porch in wonder at the world around him experiences more holiness than the [Christian/Jew/Muslim/any religion] trapped in their (holy books/doctrine/procedure).”

Yes, this was like the Native Americans and other ancients worshiped the Great Spirit by their humble reverence of nature. While the teachings of the Bible, and particularly of Jesus, help show us how to live, think, act and treat each other, and the earth (and beyond), I sometimes get the feeling we make an idol out of it all. I myself have very differing views, I’m not a trinitarian, don’t believe Jesus is God, don’t know or care about a virgin birth or physical resurrection, none of that is relevant to me.

So what is truth, what is error? Is “faith” that embraces such doubt and uncertainty faith at all?

TO BE CONTINUED (next month)....



# Announcements & Upcoming Events

## Build On-Line House Meeting

Join us on Saturday, October 3 at 1:00 for an online "house meeting" to help guide this year's work of BUILD, Lexington's interfaith, interracial coalition of 26 congregations that are committed to powerfully addressing community needs. We will share stories about what has been keeping us up at night and hear some updates on the impact of the BUILD Justice Ministry. Contact Rev. Helen to receive the Zoom login information.

## Harvest Festival and Rummage Sale

**Saturday, October 31**    **Sunday, November 1**  
9:00am - 3:00pm        12:30pm - 4:00pm

Please join us for our Harvest Festival in our large parking lot space behind the church at 1891 Parkers Mill Road. Church members will be donating gently used children's books, adult books, clothes and jewelry, masks, and other items for a yard sale, and we will be collecting donations for the God's Pantry Food Bank (receive \$1 off any three yard sale items for donation of cans and nonperishable food!). There will be candy, warm cider, and coffee as fall refreshments. Come out and enjoy spending time shopping and being in community!

For questions, call or text Amy Fowler at (859) 552-1424



## A Church Mouse in God's House



It's information overload! Yes, I've been playing with your electronic doo-hickeys. Wow, how do you keep up with it all? Is more going on than normal now, or am I just paying attention? The pandemic, election, wildfires, hurricanes, protests for this and against that, supreme court nominations, international treaties, football, basketball, hockey, baseball... and you keep this all straight in your big brains?

Of course, I've noticed one trick you all have: you find the information source you like best and you stick with it! And they in turn tell you what you want to hear – they'll tell you who to vote for (o.k., they won't 'technically' tell you, they'll just make the other guy look like a fool), if you prefer to think in terms of rioting and looting just watch one channel. Prefer to think of peaceful protests? No worries, there's a channel for that too! Wildfires and hurricanes just part of life on Earth? Flip! Caused by corporate irresponsibility? Flip again! Want your highlights without the sports? You're covered! Want hours of in depth analysis over a quarterback? No problem!

And here's the best part – if you don't even want to pay that much attention but still have a thoughtful, well formed opinion, there's SOCIAL MEDIA! Find people you agree with and take their thoughts. Find some you disagree with and argue with them.

Although our species inhabit the same world sometimes yours' seems so much bigger. I've gotta say, you have many, many ways to stay connected. Still... you seem pretty divided too. I think I'm just going to squeak to my family and friends more and leave the electronics to you.



## Love, by another way.

'I used to think that love was simple.  
You would know when you know,  
What was meant, would be.  
But I fell in love  
And it's not easy.  
It's compromise and identity,  
Mountains and valleys,  
Apologies and memories,  
Imbalance, recentring,  
It runs out,  
Love took reimagining.

I used to think church was simple.  
Church was community, not the walls,  
Faith and hope mixed with call.  
But then the world grew violently sick  
And the way to be church  
was to keep distance.  
So doors were closed,  
And people sent home.  
It was all love, by another way.  
And yet it was not how we imagined Sunday.

I used to think that justice was simple,  
That I could make a difference all by myself.  
There was a way I could help.  
But then I learned of privilege and bias  
And our Church's silence.  
And all at once, it wasn't easy.  
I needed to learn. I needed to listen.  
I needed to reframe my original vision.  
I guess what I am trying to say is  
Life will throw first drafts our way  
The chance to dream,  
To lead, to sing,  
To love, and give,  
To pray and be.  
But in order to grow,

To follow God's lead,  
We have to do the work -  
Reimagining.

And despite our best efforts,  
Live will fail.  
Churches will close.  
Justice will leave the vulnerable exposed.  
And when that happens,  
We must own our part.  
Say we're sorry  
And try to restart.

I am  
Starting to believe  
That what matters in life  
Will never be easy.  
So we must imagine and imagine again.  
We must dream and try, die and rise.  
And in our rising, may we see  
The next right reimagined thing  
Until step by step we are home.

Love, by another way. '

By Sarah Are.  
from Sanctify Arts

## RenewalWorks

The last six months have brought a lot of changes to our lives, including the way we worship at St. Raphael's. Yet, we know that with challenges come opportunities! Please help us discover the spiritual needs and opportunities for spiritual development in our parish by taking part in the RenewalWorks assessment. Please complete this online, anonymous, and confidential survey, which takes 30-45 minutes to finish in one sitting (you can't leave the survey and pick up where you left off), by this Sunday, October 4.

[Click Here to Take the Spiritual Life Inventory!](https://forms.gle/6tKVZKo5AyUYxzSv6)

After you complete the inventory: Please tell us what you thought about the experience:

<https://forms.gle/6tKVZKo5AyUYxzSv6>

It is important that all active parishioners age 14 and over participate in the survey to ensure we have the most accurate, complete information. If only one parishioner in your household receives this email, please share this link with them so that their views are considered. This survey can be completed from your computer or smartphone. Please let me know if you need a hard copy of the survey, but keep in mind that these hard-copy surveys will be entered online by someone else, so they are not confidential in the same way as they are when you complete the survey yourself online.



# Announcements - Continued

## New Office Hours

The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 10am-2pm, and is closed on Wednesday. The new hours will be posted on the church website and on the office answering machine as well in the bottom section of the E-minders. If you need assistance and call the office, please be sure to leave a voice mail so that your call may be returned if no one is immediately available.

## 4:00 p.m. St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals and Farewell Musical Soiree by Dr. Junghyun Lee

The Blessing of the Animals will be held outdoors at the altar by the columbarium. Please wear masks and keep socially distanced. No tickets are required. Animals need not wear masks. If you have any animal photos you would like for us to share on St. R's Facebook page leading up to St. Francis Day, please email a photo and brief description of your pet to Rev. Helen at [revhelen@sreclex.org](mailto:revhelen@sreclex.org).

## October Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Dick McNally	Oct 6
Matt Van Koevering	Oct 10
Franklin Matics	Oct 11
Ellie Matics	Oct. 13
Matthew Formisano	Oct 16
Don Colliver	Oct 19
Michelle Binkauskas	Oct 28
Lucy Mathews	Oct 31

### Anniversaries

Gail & Don Miller	Oct 3
Janet & Bob Morris	Oct 9
Liz & Carl Fosnaugh	Oct. 12
Carole Mize	Oct 16
Amy & David Fowler	Oct 23
Heidi & Joseph Hayse	Oct 29

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](mailto:danabruceberry@gmail.com)) or the parish office.

### Prayer Requests:

Prayers Requested: For the sick and the home bound, and especially James, Hilda, Art, Don, Gail, Millie, Mary, John, Jack, Jordan, Blake, Lee, Rose, and Joan.

## Services - Current Schedule

### Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Rite I Indoors

Limited Seating. Reserve your ticket by clicking on the link here:

<https://sreclex.org/worship/in-person-services/>

11:00 a.m. Rite II Indoors and overflow Outdoors

Limited Seating. Reserve your ticket by clicking on the link here:

<https://sreclex.org/worship/in-person-services/>

### St. Raphael Virtual Services

Each week the Wednesday Noon Healing Service will be published to the Facebook Page.

### Compline services

Deacon Charles and Rev. Helen will lead on alternate Sundays, Sister Becky Cooper and Rose Canon alternate Tuesdays, Erika Mayers and Diane Whorley will alternate on Fridays. Find the livestreams on our Facebook Page.



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Articles and news information for Nov. must be submitted by **Oct. 27, 2020** to Dana Berry at [danabruceberry@gmail.com](mailto:danabruceberry@gmail.com)

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