



# The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol 56 Issue 7

July 2021

## From Our Rector & Deacon

As we now focus on rebuilding all the teams of people that in-person worship opens up, I am reminded of the description offered in our Prayer Book (p855):

Q. Who are the ministers of the Church?

A. The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons.

Q. What is the ministry of the laity?

A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen Van Koevering

By the sacrament of Holy Baptism, all are full members of the Church. With 'membership' comes responsibility, and for the Church this involves participating in God's mission of restoration and reconciliation, inside and outside the Church. Prayer, worship, proclaiming the gospel, and promoting justice, peace and love in a life-long living out of our Baptismal Covenant. Or, simply put, participate as Church in worship, ministry and mission – more simply put, participate as you can in Sunday worship, join in a ministry that offers formation and spiritual growth, and be involved with the Church outside the building and for others.

We are formed by liturgy and repetition, and we learn by doing. Frank Griswold, a former Presiding Bishop of our Episcopal Church, once wrote, "Sacramental worship requires repetition because grace is developmental over time." We have been through a strange 18 months when communal worship has been adjusted to the reality, but forms and traditions are now returning. Being shaped and reshaped by prayer and ritual created throughout the ages is beautiful, but needs our willingness to participate for us to become what the Spirit would have us become – vessels of God's love.

As we consider what team of mission and ministry we want to join at church, It's worth remembering that there's a difference between 'volunteering' and 'discerning a call' that recognizes God at the center of what we do and why we are doing it. Being a part of a team that supports the worship, ministry and mission of our church is a reminder to all of us that through our baptism we are all called to service, to the rhythm of worship, and the life of the community. What we are able to do at different stages of our lives changes, but simply being present encourages others - like me. I love seeing all your faces on Sunday mornings, or coming out for one of our social events, or supporting the needy together! See you all soon!

Helen



Deacon Charles

As I write this is, my last article in the Herald, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for the entire community of St. Raphael's. You have been such a wonderful and loving place for me to serve as a deacon this past year. Rev. Helen generously gave me her time and wisdom, forming and teaching me through instruction and example how to be a priest. I've watched her minister to you through what has likely been the most challenging year for church life in a generation. She has gone about it with such kindness and grace as well as a mentality of flexibility and adaptation. It's been a difficult year in so many ways, but Rev. Helen's example has inspired me and will forever mark my own ministry.

Each of you have encouraged and formed me as well. You've had me to your homes, shared yourself through conversations at church, you've prayed for me and I've prayed for you, we produced films and livestreams, we've enjoyed concerts on the back lawn, we've had Eucharist together on the front lawn, we've eaten donuts during book study discussions, we've searched for our callings, and lately I've even seen your faces as we have been able to meet without masks! It's been a year I will never forget.

As I finish up my transitional year and take on a new call, I'm grateful that your love and wisdom will accompany me wherever I go. And, all the blessings you have given me will grow and bloom as I pass them along to those I meet. My time at St. Raphael's reminds me of Paul's greeting to the Philippians when he said: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."

Thank you all so much.

Charles Halton

## Senior Warden's Corner



Dave Seigny  
Sr. Warden

Its hard to believe we are halfway through the year. Half time. Time to take a moment, figure out how we have done in the first half and create a strategy for the second half. And of course, there is food and entertainment. All of this happens in July at St. Raphael's.

First, as we say thank you to Melinda Storey, our choirmaster/organist for the last 10 years. Melinda has been a true gift to St. Raphael's. I was here when she started, sang with her for many years, and I must say that she made it a joy to sing each week. We welcome Clif Cason who starts the first Sunday in July. He's extremely talented, has some new energizing ideas, and really embraces congregational singing.

Second, we welcome our annual visit from Bishop Mark on July 25. We will gather for our first meal together with a brunch to honor his visit. He will formalize the service of lay eucharistic ministers, chalice bearers and those who serve at the altar for the second half of 2021.

Third, we say farewell to Deacon Charles Halton at his last service with St. Raphael's on the same day, July 25, a week before his ordination to the priesthood as he transitions to our Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Lexington. Our celebration brunch on July 25 also will honor his great service to us over the last year.

Lastly, we begin our strategy for the second half with renewed engagement of the congregation. There will be activities each month, personal invitations for you to join us, and renewed focus on events and activities to get us together post covid. We're also going to experiment with some new methods of reaching out and informing you of what is going on at church to try to supercharge the second half.

We hope you'll join us and be part of the best second half ever!

Peace-

Dave Seigny

### Save these Dates!

July 4: Independence Day Celebration, Baptism, New music season with Clif Cason

July 15: Sages

July 17: Family Day at St. Raphael's (outdoors)

July 25: Bishop Mark's Visitation and Commissioning, Charles' last day with us. **Come for Brunch with the Bishop at 10:00am. Watch the weekly eminder for more information.**

July 31: Deacon Charles' Ordination

August 8: Back to School Blessings and Ice Cream Social

## A View from the Pew

World of Worth

Picture your childhood: the friends you laughed with, played with, celebrated birthdays with. Can you picture them? Your best friend perhaps, or family member. College, your friends, your fraternity brothers and sisters, others you befriended and became close to. Do you remember the good times? Remember pizzas, parties, pre-final dinners together? Are they with you now, in spirit or in person? That's love. Forever love. And forever compassion.



Richard Dawahare

Now, picture the billions of humans across the globe who you don't know, and who don't know you. Strangers, right? They mean nothing to you--no emotion, no memories, no warm glow of shared brotherly/sisterly love. Perfectly understandable.

NOW, picture the POSSIBILITY that had the happenstance of your birth, the year or location of your birth, been different, i.e. FATE, you may well have been in that emotion-laden relationship with any one or more of the billions now reckoned as strangers.

That realization should open our minds and our hearts to the warm feeling of brotherhood/sisterhood with every person on this planet (and beyond, who knows!). Picture your best friend in the ghetto of Calcutta, the desert in Chad, the high-rise office tower of Shanghai, or the neighborhood on the other side of the tracks. You can be sure that they all have friends and family, and the exact same feelings of brotherhood/sisterhood that you just imagined. They are just as important, just as worthy, just as deserving as us and any one we know and love. And this is true regardless of race, religion/no religion, gender, sexual orientation, social status, and all the other isms humans have created to limit love and mold God.

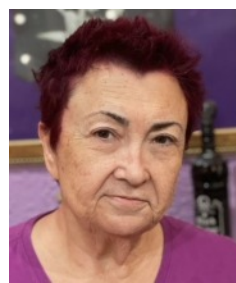
There is no doubt, NO DOUBT, the more we will ourselves to feel the warm glow of brotherhood for the stranger--both in our midst or half a world away--the more peaceful a place the world will be. That is my religion.

Richard Dawahare June 27, 2021

## Christian Formation Committee

### Children – *even the ones that can't sit still* – Are Welcome at St. Raphael

A word to parents with small children. Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. We've heard that some parents are reluctant to bring little ones to our 11 AM service because we are recording the service. NO PROBLEM!! The ministers are mic'ed and noise from behind the recording area is not really heard on the broadcast.



Janis Rosebrook

And even if your child is being a bit “active”, then that's totally OK. Children are the future of our Church. They are welcome “as is.”

Parents, sit wherever you prefer – at the front it is easier for children to see and hear what is going on, but maybe they'd prefer to be closer to our activity table at the back. Children are as welcome here as all the adults!

Explain the parts of the service and actions of the priest, ushers, choir, and the other people who make worship happen in our church. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice your responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

At the back of the church are several boxes with age-appropriate books and activities for the children. Feel free to let your child pick a book and take it home. Your child is welcome to bring soft toys/stuffed animals to church – but please no action figures.

If you need to leave the service with your child, feel free, and please come back. As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me.”

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to The Church, to God, to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in this house of worship. The presence of your child is a gift to St Raphael, and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing.

We are blessed to welcome and worship with our children. We know that it took a lot of work to get to church on a Sunday morning; you are doing a great job!

## Music Notes

By Ben Harper.

As a member of the Ad Hoc committee for music, along with Rev. Helen and Melinda Storey, I am honored and happy to introduce Clif Cason as the Choir and Music Director, whose first Sunday at the organ console is Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

*Q: Welcome, Clif. Being an Organist/Choirmaster is an important position in the Episcopal Church. Did it find you or did you find it?*

A: My experience in church music has been varied including positions in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Disciples of Christ, Lutheran and Congregationalist traditions. But of all the traditions, the Episcopal Church spoke to me at the deepest level, most notably, the liturgy. I guess you could say it found me.

*Q: Tell me a little bit about your background as a musician.*

A: Music has been a part of my life from an early age. In third grade I started studying piano with Nancie Field. My first organ teacher was Richard Dwyer. Both played an important part in my music interests during those formative years. After graduating from Bates Creek High School I went to the University of Kentucky and graduated with a Bachelors of Music in 1977. At UK I studied piano with Nathaniel Patch and organ with Arnold Blackburn. From there, I went to the University of Illinois and obtained a Masters of Music in 1979. This led to a year abroad, studying at the *Conservatoire National de Musique* in Rueil-Malmaison, just outside Paris. I was awarded the *Premiér Prix*, which is an impressive way to say I passed the final test along with several other young organists in the same class. When I returned to Lexington there was a Choir Director position opening at Maxwell Street Presbyterian church. After a few years of part-time work at Maxwell Street coupled with a part-time position as Church Music Lecturer, Choir Director and Organist at the Lexington Theological Seminary, I decided to pursue a Doctorate in Music at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Life has its twists and turns and my wife, Shari, and I decided to start a family. We bought a home and then our perspectives changed. I decided to stay home with Claire, the first of three children. After a few months of being Mr. Mom I decided to take a different career path and started on a Masters Degree in Library Science (MLS). Upon completion of my MLS degree, my old job at Maxwell Street Presbyterian opened and I was fortunate to be rehired. The position was part-time, so I worked as a part-time research librarian at UK's School of Engineering. In 2014 I decided to take a break from church music and stepped down at Maxwell Street after twenty-seven years. My semi-retirement lasted two months. From October of 2014 through May 2015, I served as Interim Director of Music at Faith Lutheran on Bates Creek Rd. In 2017 I was called by First Congregational Church in Akron, OH. I commuted there and spent four days in Akron and three in Lexington. That only lasted one year. By May of 2018, I was back on the bench, first at St. John's in Versailles for a short while and then a permanent position at St. Peter's in Paris, KY.

*A: That sounds like a great series of achievements.*

Q: Well, my greatest achievement is being married for 39 years this July to my lovely wife, Shari, and being blessed with three wonderful young adults, Claire (29), Brad (26), and Holly (18).

*Q: It sounds like you are truly blessed. Turning to the music programs here St. Raphael's, we have been blessed with 10 years of service as Music Director and Choirmaster Melinda Storey, and more recently, with the talents of Chris Young, organist during the trying times brought on by the pandemic-caused lockdown and early stages of slowly reopening. As we continue the reopening and rebuilding of the choir and music program here, we are also blessed with your coming. So, starting from scratch, if you will, how do you see this happening?*

A: Well, first, we are experiencing a change from those days when shutdowns were common. As opportunities for safe, communal worship have begun, and a sense of normalcy is beginning to sink in, I am excited to return to my call at St. Raphael Episcopal. As for the choir, I invite all who want to participate in rebuilding the choir to leave the doubts of their abilities at home, bring their talents, and climb on board. We will have fun at the same time as singing good music. The plan is to rehearse on Sunday mornings starting at 9:30am and then once a month, on the first Thursday eve-



# Music Notes Continued

ning, have a potluck starting at 6:30pm followed by a rehearsal. The first potluck/rehearsal will be Thursday, September 2. If you are interested in joining or have been a part of the choir for years, then mark your calendar. The music of the church has a wide diversity and I look forward to exploring it with you and all who want to make a joyful noise to the Lord. I look forward to meeting you, if not on July 4<sup>th</sup>, then soon thereafter.

Psalms for the People - Sung by the People

Thoughts from your new Organist/Choir Director

On July 4, which is my first Sunday on the organ bench, we are going to begin singing verses from the Psalms. Rev. Helen and I hope this will become a tradition at St. Raphael, a tradition which can trace its roots back several thousand years.



Clif Cason, Music Director

At the beginning, as we all are learning how to do this, the cantor will sing most of the verses and the congregation just two. Over time, the congregation will sing three, four or five verses and eventually the entire psalm.

Depending on how much space is available, the music example you see below is what you might see in the bulletin on a Sunday morning. In fact, this is the music insert for July 4. Minimally the music for the congregation will be provided. If there is enough space, the verses sung by the cantor will also be printed.

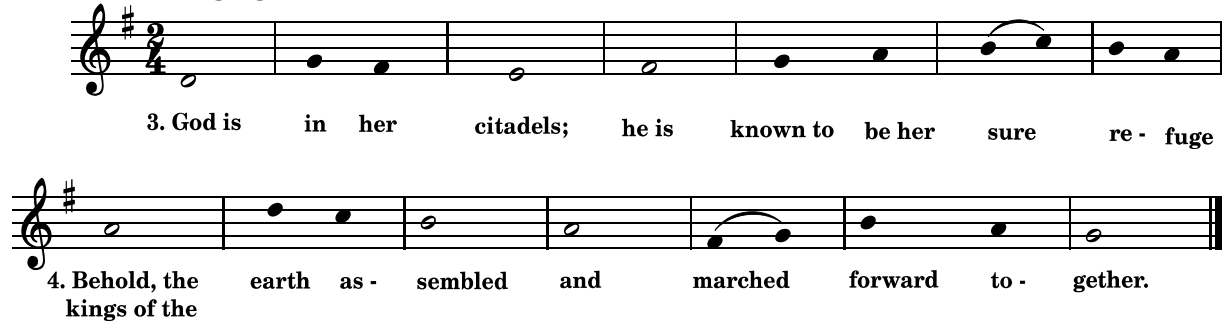
If you will notice, there are no stems on the noteheads. That is because the singing of chant doesn't always translate into one note for one word. It is more akin to reading a Psalm and putting the emphasis on certain points in the text. For Example? The LORD is my SHEPHERD I SHALL not WANT.

The Psalms were written for the people to sing. Let us “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord” and learn to sing the Psalms with praise and gratitude.

Cantor:

1. Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; in the city of our God is his holy hill.
2. Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion, the very center of the world and the city of the great King.

**Congregation:**



Cantor:

5. They looked and were astounded; they retreated and fled in terror. 6. Trembling seized them there; they writhed like a woman in childbirth, like ships of the sea when the east wind shatters them.
7. As we have heard, so we have seen, in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God; God has established her for ever.
8. We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.
9. Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to the world's end; your right hand is full of justice.
10. Let Mount Zion be glad and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments.
11. Make the circuit of Zion; walk round about her; count the number of her towers.
12. Consider well her bulwarks; examine her strongholds; that you may tell those who come after.
13. This God is our God for ever and ever; he shall be our guide for ever more.

## July Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Pat Peterson	July 3
Ian Rainey	July 5
Diana Trapp	July 6
Bernice Wood	July 10
Michael Curci	July 11
Rose Conley	July 15
Jack Cochran	July 17
Joan Schmidt	July 21
Carole Mize	July 22
Ron Vittitoe	July 22
Anna Peterson	July 23
Amy Smereck	July 25
Olivia Vance	July 25
Sam Lorton	July 31

### Anniversaries

Chris Bollinger & Amy Smereck	July 8
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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:

Long term prayer list: Art, Jack, Hilda, Lee, Mary Jane, Roy, Joan, Martha-Helen, Pat Dinsmore, Steve & Ginger, Rose, Sonya, Don & Gail, Sarah & Jeannie, and Annette.

Currently in need of prayer: Angela, Erika, Diane, Kenneth, Bob, Seth, Elaine, Eloise, Amanda, Hendree, Becky, Alison, Leigha, Dana, Chris, Marthanne, Patricia, the family of Norma Miller, and Brooklyn.

Please keep in your prayers all who have fallen ill from Covid-19. Please stay safe and find ways to stay connected and express love for one another while following recommended health guidelines.

## Announcements & Upcoming Events

**Please continue to support St. Raphael Episcopal Church.**

Introducing a new online giving portal in 2021 - Engage

To access Engage and setup your user account, please go to <https://engage.suran.com/sreclex>

You can also access this page via the menu on our website at [sreclex.org](http://sreclex.org).

### Upcoming Receptions and Confirmations

If you are interested in being Confirmed, or Received into the Episcopal church from another denomination, please contact Rev. Helen.

### FISHES AND LOAVES NEEDS YOUR HELP

On the Bishop's Annual Visitation, Sept. 25, we will be designating the loose plate offering to go to the worthy ministry. Please be generous.

### FOOD PANTRY LOCATION:

2702 S. Lake Drive  
Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653

### DONATIONS:

100% of your donation stays local. All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to:

Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry  
2702 S. Lake Drive  
Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653

A ministry of St. James Episcopal Church Episcopal Diocese of Lexington

# Mission Ministry

## A Moment for Mission,

Jesus has much to say to his disciples about our lives together in service to one another, and he draws particular attention to our collective call to mission with those who are imprisoned:

MATTHEW 25:34-40: “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, **I was in prison and you came to visit me.**” Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? **When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?**’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

HEBREWS 13:1-3: “Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. **Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison,** and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”

As the bolded text in these scripture passages highlights, Christians have a clear mission to minister to the incarcerated, even more so because of the strong correlation between poverty and incarceration. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, at least 4.9 million people go to county and city jails each year in the U.S., and people who go to jail, particularly those who go more than once a year, are disproportionately likely to have annual incomes under \$10,000. In my work as the criminal justice project director for the University of Kentucky’s NIH-funded HEALing Communities Study – the single largest grant UK has ever received with the ambitious goal of reducing opioid overdose deaths by 40% in three years – I work with criminal justice professionals in Kentucky county jails, probation and parole offices, pretrial services, and drug courts to implement evidence-based practices to break the cycle of poverty, addiction, and justice-system involvement through access to effective treatment and life-saving Narcan to reverse opioid overdoses. According to the Bureau of Justice, more than half of the state prison population and two-thirds of the sentenced jail population report drug dependence or abuse, compared to just 5% of the adult general population. Despite this tremendous need, few criminal justice agencies have the resources and expertise to provide level and quality of treatment required to address overdoses in facilities and after release as people return to use after withdrawal, support clients as they experience the harrowing symptoms of opioid withdrawal, and prevent recidivism by linking clients to treatment and recovery support at release. Because of the overwhelming poverty experienced by people who are incarcerated, release back to the community too often involves homelessness and joblessness, especially given the challenges of securing employment with a criminal record. Substance use disorder and poverty also are associated with family violence and child abuse and neglect; Kentucky has the highest rate of child maltreatment in the U.S. according to the U.S. Children’s Bureau as well as the third-highest rate of maternal incarceration in the U.S. per the National Survey of Children’s Health, with the majority of imprisoned Kentucky women involved in the justice system as a result of drug-related offenses, according to Kentucky Youth Advocates.

Although so many criminal justice professionals and advocates truly want the best for their clients and work tirelessly on their behalf, I remain shocked and disappointed when I hear doctors with contracts to care for the imprisoned say that their patients “deserve” to suffer from withdrawal and without access to the medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) that clinical researchers know reduce mortality rates by 50%. My colleagues and I also hear from well-meaning folks in Christian-affiliated recovery communities for people experiencing addiction that MOUD is “trading a drug for a drug,” applying a judgement that we would never give to diabetics’ “dependence” on insulin. As Jesus’s disciples in a state with an incarceration rate of 869 per 100,000 people (meaning that Kentucky locks up a higher percentage of its people than the U.S. as a whole and many wealthy democracies do), there is so much we can do to combat the stigma and disinvestment facing incarcerated people who bear such a disproportionate burden of the fallout from the opioid crisis and systemic poverty. In fact, the scope and interconnectedness of addiction, poverty, trauma, and child maltreatment in Kentucky can seem so imposing that it’s hard to know where to start and how to continue. Yet Jesus gives us not only the call to mission but also the inspiration and energy to follow through with many opportunities to be the body of the church in the world that don’t require us to solve it all by ourselves. Many hands make light work, and there are fantastic local and national organizations offering a wide variety of ways to use the many gifts of the one spirit in mission to people affected by the connections between incarceration and the opioid crisis.

**Give to, Volunteer with, and Follow Social Media for the Nonprofit Organizations Featured in the St. Raphael Dinner Church Series.** St. Raphael offers a regular “dinner church” on Saturday evenings featuring a community speaker who helps us understand the relationship between scripture and mission. During the pandemic, we offered Dinner Church virtually (see links to recordings below), and in-person dinner churches will resume on September 18. Although we come together to enjoy a potluck and Eucharist during these special Saturday evenings, the opportunity to hear and learn from nonprofit organizations engaged in direct services to the poor, the prisoners, and the orphaned is the main event! These organizations featured in the virtual dinner churches offer practical ways to explore your gifts in mission:

- o [Court Appointed Special Advocates of Lexington](https://casaoflexington.org/) trains and supervises community volunteers to advocate in family court for the best interests of children experiencing abuse and neglect. Many of the children and families served by CASA of Lexington are involved in the child welfare system due to the effects of substance use disorders. <https://casaoflexington.org/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxhYvzBISFI&list=PLWY3-FLjgdKbXlIK9EjhoYX8pMYS26-O&index=4>
- o [Circles of Support](https://www.jcflowersfoundation.org/circles-of-support.html) in Harlem, part of the JC Flowers Foundation, uses proven practices, family involvement and a “ministry of presence” approach to help re-integrate recent parolees into Harlem’s vibrant community. By involving the parolee’s family members and faith-based volunteers, they foster informal social networks to support successful re-entry, a more effective means of changing behavior than the formal controls offered by law enforcement. <https://www.jcflowersfoundation.org/circles-of-support.html> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRTMQVZFXDc&list=PLWY3-FLjgdKbXlIK9EjhoYX8pMYS26-O&index=3>
- o [The Nest](https://thenestlexington.org/) provides a safe place for education, counseling, and support to children and families in crisis. Their programs focus on the prevention of physical and sexual abuse, neglect of children, and the stabilization of the family unit. The Nest uses a holistic approach to help the family unit in crisis regain stability through parenting education and advocacy, domestic violence counseling and advocacy, crisis care for basic human needs, and child care services for children birth to age five. <https://thenestlexington.org/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0zaziTBDp4&list=PLWY3-FLjgdKbXlIK9EjhoYX8pMYS26-O&index=3>
- o [The Hope Center](https://www.hopectr.org/) provides a wide array of services to persons who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. These services include food, shelter, clothing, recovery from addiction, mental health diagnosis and treatment, transitional housing, permanent housing, employment assistance, social services, support for veterans, mobile and street outreach, housing first, and more. The Hope Center also provides management, administration, and development services to One Parent Scholar House, an organization that helps single parents obtain higher education. <https://www.hopectr.org/> and click on the Virtual Tour and Meet Our Clients videos.

**Get Involved with the Prison Fellowship, Prison Visitation and Support, and Bluegrass Reentry Council.** Last summer, several St. Raphaelites convened every week on Zoom to discuss the free six-week “Outrageous Justice” small-group study program that explores the criminal justice system through a biblical lens, current events, and personal stories offered by the Prison Fellowship: <https://www.prisonfellowship.org/about/justicereform/landing-pages/outrageous-justice/>. Several St. Raphaelites also serve as visitors to people incarcerated in the federal prison located in Lexington through the Prison Visitation and Support program: <https://www.prisonervisitation.org/>. To support people during the perilous time of reentering their communities after incarceration, attend meetings of the Bluegrass Reentry Council, which brings together businesses, non-profit organizations, local governmental bodies, faith-based organizations, and individuals who offer returning citizens support, assistance, and resources in job acquisition, transportation, child care, education, and housing: <https://www.kentuckyreentry.org/regional-groups/bluegrass-reentry-council/>

**Join BUILD (Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct-action).** St. Raphael is one of 26 member congregations in the Lexington area that come together to do justice and powerfully address community problems. The current platform issues for BUILD are closely related to issues of substance use disorder and incarceration: violence, mental health, the school-to-prison pipeline, and affordable housing. Contact Rev. Helen to join: [revhelen@sreclex.org](mailto:revhelen@sreclex.org)

**Receive Green Dot Training from the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.** The Vestry took part in the Green Dot Violence Prevention program as part of their January 2021 retreat. Be empowered to do your part to step up and be an active bystander in the face of domestic and sexual violence, staling, and child abuse. potentially harmful behaviors. Learn more and sign up for a training here: <https://www.lexingtonky.gov/greendot>

I invite you to pray on how this message stirs your heart and spirit to mission and ministry with these final words from Isaiah 61:1-2 showing the glory of God’s kingdom come:



## Mission Continued

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair."

Margaret McGladrey, Mission Chair

## A Church Mouse in God's House



Hello! Sorry that I didn't check in with you last month, the Mrs. and I were taking a bit of a vacation. Granted, the type of vacations that our species take are generally quite a bit different than the types that your's take. We basically just scurried around town, checked out some newly opened restaurants, ran through a few houses and watched the sunset from our favorite trash heap. Still, it's what we enjoy and it's been a while since we had done so.

I have noticed that you are all getting out and about more these days as well. It's good to see you slowly returning to normal, but I have to admit it's a little bit funny too. It kind of looks like you've all been trapped inside for the past 18 months and forgotten how to interact with each other in person. Granted, that's probably because you've all been trapped inside for the past 18 months and forgotten how to interact with each other in person. But you are usually the kings and queens of social interaction and it's kind of nice to be reminded of what a gift that is.

I wonder how you will navigate this new world. Will some of you refuse to ever reengage with it? Will you show some grace to those who are still suffering from that difficult time in their lives? Will you lash out with all of your pent-up frustrations? Will there be more opportunities available for those who don't want to or can't participate in person now?

All in all, I think you are pretty resilient. You may not be as resilient as some other species that you typically don't give credit to, but you're still pretty good. I think there are real opportunities for you all to turn your recent situation into something with positive outcomes. But I don't think it's just going to happen naturally for you, I think you're going to have to put a lot of thought and work into it.

As for me and my species we will be watching you and as always, cheering you on. So don't screw it up!



### Reminder:

Articles and news information for August must be submitted by **July 25, 2021** to Dana Berry at [danabruceberry@gmail.com](mailto:danabruceberry@gmail.com)

## Services - Current Schedule

### Sunday Services

**In Person worship 8:30 (Outdoor weather permitting)**

**& 11:00 indoors with music**

**Virtual Worship on Facebook & You Tube**

**11:00 a.m. Rite II**

**Come early for coffee! We now have speakers to broadcast the service outside. Sitting outside will be an option for all indoor services. We have some new tables and chairs by the front entrance. If sitting outdoors you can take part in Communion.**

**Livestreams are available on demand afterwards and are posted on our website when available at <https://sreclex.org/virtual>**

**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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