



# The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol 56 Issue 6

June 2021

## *From our Rector & Deacon*

Church circles buzz at the moment about the effect of the past several months of COVID and how we are to move into the next several months with not just 'thoughts and prayers' for others, but healing for our wounded world in the Jesus' Way.

It isn't that the pandemic was unprecedented in the history of the world, just in our living memories: pandemics have existed through the centuries. The Bubonic Plague that began in 541 AD brought millions of deaths, as did small pox, cholera, yellow fever and the so-called Spanish flu in their times. The Black Death in the fourteenth century wiped out one-third of the global population.

The Christian community and leaders have always been at the forefront of bringing care and healing: St Ignatius used the term 'Christ the Physician' and offered the idea of pastors as 'spiritual physicians'; hospitals began in the fourth century with Basil the Great and John Chrysostom; Florence Nightingale took what she had learnt about being a deacon into nursing; Clara Barton founded the Red Cross; William and Catherine Booth started the Salvation Army. And look at the huge number of Christians today, influenced by the calling of their faith in Jesus, to become part of the healing of the world as medical, health, social, care and missionary professionals of all kinds.

Jesus came seeking to heal (as Luke the doctor recognizes in his gospel several times). The Bible was written to discouraged, displaced, distressed and oppressed people by those amongst them seeking to understand God's Way. Trauma and the shalom (wholeness, peace) of God are Biblical themes, and, as I heard someone say recently, the over-arching Biblical story is about the shalom-creating God, God's shalom-rejecting people, and healing by the shalom-bringing Jesus. What's sign of our need for healing? Frederick Buechner tells us to look for the tears:

*....Pay attention. They are not only telling you something about the secret of who you are, but more often than not God is speaking to you through them of the mystery of where you have come from and is summoning to where, if your soul is to be saved, you should go next.*

A wise woman once told me tears are 'liquid prayers' that are a blessing to share, whether as tears of pain or joy. And, as we said a lot in St Raphael's in that distant pre-COVID year of 2019,

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## From our Rector & Deacon Continued from page 1

we are blessed to be a blessing. May St Raphael's, whether on Sundays, in our midweek midday service of healing, Tobit's Trace, prayer labyrinth, being in the beauty (inside and out) of this place, as well as in the fun of our planned social gatherings, be a place we can share in the tears and healing of our world.

With love and prayers, Helen



We are now in a kind of lull in the cycle of the church year. We just completed Pentecost and there are no major feast days for a good stretch of months. People often travel in the Summer and church attendance dips a bit. Officially, this time is called The Season After Pentecost, but more colloquially it is termed Ordinary Time.

Deacon Charles

I love that designation, Ordinary Time. It reminds me that instead of being a sleepy period in the church calendar that we half-heartedly march through with our eyes set on Advent, Ordinary Time represents the center of our lives.

Reading the stories of Jesus within the Gospels can make it seem like the lives of the disciples were always buzzing, that they were jam-packed with constant action. Certainly, there were exciting moments. Jesus feeding crowds of people, tense encounters with religious authorities, and electrifying sermons. But more often than not a day in the life of a disciple was probably pretty mundane. It involved getting food and cooking it, finding a suitable place to sleep, listening to a teaching that Jesus had given at different locations ten times before, and enduring a toothache until they could scrounge up enough money to get it fixed.

The challenge the disciples had was the same that we have now, too—being attentive to God's presence in the ordinary rhythms and boredoms of life. To me, this is heartbeat of Christian life. It's fairly easy for me to recognize God's works when I am on vacation hiking through a national park. But those moments are very rare for me. Yet, God's invitation to relationship is always present, maybe even most particularly present in the so-called ordinary moments of life.

In this iteration of Ordinary Time I hope to encounter God in fresh ways—giving thanks for God's provision when I fill up the car with gas, seeing beauty within the chemical processes that cause bread to rise, and resting in moments when no big events are taking place and seeing those moments as mystically divine.

How will encounter God within this season of Ordinary Time?

## *Sr Warden's Corner*

As we enter June, the days are getting longer, and the night is over before we know it. I always found June to be an awesome month. Growing up in NY, school always ended in June, my birthday is in June (on the longest day of the year), and we began great summer evenings in the neighborhood playing outdoor games. My parents would remind us to "come home when the streetlights go on". It is a time for exploration of the outdoors and enjoying warm summer nights. We seem to stay up a bit later because its dusk so late and more people seem to be out and about in our neighborhoods enjoying the slightly cooler evening weather. Back in the day, the 3 television networks all ended their seasons in May, so June was just "reruns". June became the time to break routines.



Dave Sevigny  
Sr. Warden

Many of us have been stuck in the same routines for over 15 months. Paula and I went out to eat for the first time around May 1 and are now making sure we plan to go out every week. We are enjoying getting together with friends and family on a regular basis. In May, we went on our first vacation-it was awesome (although I really enjoyed getting back and relaxing).

St. Raphael's also was part of my routine for 15 months. Most Sundays during COVID, I would go to church, sometimes man the MEVO or count the collection of checks that you so graciously sent weekly by mail. I've started to break that routine as more people are showing up, doing more things to help us become an in-person church again. It's wonderful to just sit in the pews and worship. I even get to go to 8:30 service now and then and really enjoy the break in routine.

As we enter the Pentecost season, you'll have many opportunities at St. Raphael's to break your routine. Try to come as often as you can to see the subtle changes in routine that are happening each week. Last Sunday, we removed the "do not sit" on pews allowing new freedoms. My gut tells me that before the end of June, the St. Raphael's peace might end up being about the biggest hug fest you could imagine and you surely don't want to miss that!

May God continue to bless and allow us to break some old routines and witness the new mysteries of the summer season together.

Peace-

Dave Sevigny  
Sr. Warden

## *Views from the Pews*

The 'Mazing minstrels, ministers, saints and sages of St. Raphaels

Heroes today, gone tomorrow. But heroes are not “heroes” because they have been recognized, appreciated, or lauded as heroes during their lives of gallantry. Most never are. On the contrary, heroes are heroes because of the selfless good they do for others, day in, day out, without fear or favor and with not one ounce of care about whether they will be noticed for it. Our nonchalance to the heroes in our midst is not a new phenomenon. As Jesus noted, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.’



Richard Dawahar

This truth struck me as I was pondering, again, about the many heroes in our own house. So I want to shine the simple light of awareness on this reality and share my top of mind thoughts of just a few of the many minstrels, ministers, sages and saints at St. Raphael's. [Caveat: I am doing this despite the fact that I will have left off many deserving of this space. This is top of mind stuff, hopefully good, and I did not want the perfect to be the enemy of the good].

The first hero who pops in my mind is Tony LoBianco. What grace, what courage, what creativity, love and passion! Tony does so much good and is such an inspiration. He is the perfect reflection of the spirit, strength and power of God as he carries out his many roles: loving husband, father, friend, co-worker, philosopher and mouse-whisperer par excellence. No man is an island—Amy and John are also heroes, what a great family.

I think of C.C. Johnson. C.C. has done so much for so long, traveling the world on her missions. Going into the prison to share the word of God—how many souls has she touched, the Lord only knows, but a lot. Healer, poet, saint, C.C. And her brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Sharon Thompson, now risen to eternal bliss along with C.C.'s husband and son. Bill and Sharon, C.C., Dick (her late husband) are representative of so many saints I've known at St. Raphael's over the decades. Maybe it's their spirit that moves us forward? Angels, ever-present, but unseen except for the good fruits of their earthly charges.

I think of Rose Canon. Rose loves, loves, loves music and is a long time champion of our wonderful choir, Chris (Young) and Carolina (Hernandez) and Margaret (McGladrey) doing a great job. The spirit of our long-time now-retired organist, Melinda Storey, undoubtedly lives on. Rose loves words, too, and helped create the Herald and was its editor before Dana, who is also doing an outstanding job.

And Diane Whorley—look up 'saint' in the dictionary, Diane's face appears. Year in, year out, leading the Altar Guild, and doing so much more. With Larry by her side, Diane is an ever-present reminder of the love of Jesus. She also brings to mind Leslee Roberts, Mary Jane Amick, Carol Mize, Erika Mayers, Hunter and Nancy Christiano Mathews.

Steve and Ginger Garvin come to mind. For decades Steve and Ginger have done so much for our church. They continue to display every ounce of devotion possible, despite the medical obstacles. Others too, like Sonja Gaitskill. Sonja and her late husband and my good friend, Kent, were among the charter founders of good ol' St. R.! You'd have loved Kent, and his spirit no doubt is lifting us even now. And Patty Bond Supplee—a smiling countenance of positive joy, and her husband Jack Supplee.

Sage-saints like Lee Davis (mother of Dana Berry), Marie Sutton, Pat Dinsmore, Paula Brockman, Don and Gail Miller, Bonnie Conaway, Annette Bigler. So many others, please forgive me for my shortcomings here.

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## *Views from the Pew Continued from page 4*

And there's Dave Sevigny, a natural leader with vision and a can-do spirit, along with his wife, Paula. Right with them are Amy Smereck and Chris Bollinger, Jonathan and JeanEllen Melton, Steve and Jennifer Krolak, Ron and Michelle Binkauskas, Ray and Diane Davis. And their children, many now grown, a future generation of Godly leadership. Great job, parents--heroes all.

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### WHY IS THAT LADY STANDING?

Yes, that's me standing during part of the 11 AM Eucharist when others around me kneel. I have my theological reasons (despite having two knee replacements that make it difficult for me to kneel).



Janis Rosebrook

If you look at Rite I, page 334, the liturgy states that the people are to ***kneel or stand***. I believe that kneeling is the preferred direction. Rite I is penitential in language and helps the congregant to ask prayerfully and devoutly for the absolution of sin. This has been the language of the church for centuries and Rite I maintains that spiritual language.

Rite II, page 362, says the people ***stand or kneel***, giving preference to standing. My personal belief is that I am standing to proclaim my faith. Jesus instructed us to go forth and follow him. I want the world (and God) to know that I am ready to be his disciple on earth.

At St. Andrew & St. Charles Episcopal Church in Granada Hills, CA, my brother Tom (age 18), instigated the "standing movement." Soon, the youth began standing with him during the Rite II liturgy. Today the entire congregation stands and Tom, who is married to an Episcopal Priest, is 60 years old and is still standing. He and the retired Dean of the Episcopal Seminary have started a new movement to stand during the confession.

You may or may not agree with my personal theology, but you will know why that lady is standing during the liturgy.

Janis Rosebrook

# *A Church Mouse in God's House*



Mr Mouse is on vacation this month - so we'll see him next month!



## *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).

### **Christian Ed Request**

The Sunday School and VBS are in need of a Music CD player. If you have an extra one please contact Janis at 626-389-7474 or [Janis.Rosebrook@mac.com](mailto:Janis.Rosebrook@mac.com).

### **Upcoming Receptions and Confirmations**

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

### **Yarn needs a good home**

There are about 5 bags of yarn and a bag of material that were left in the corner of the Wedding Room downstairs. Amy Fowler and Janis Rosebrook are cleaning the room out. If the yarn and/or fabric belongs to you, please take it home by Palm Sunday (March 28). If no one claims the bags, then the contents will be donated. Please contact Janis Rosebrook at 626-389-7474 or email at [Janis.rosebrook@mac.com](mailto:Janis.rosebrook@mac.com) if you know who this "stuff" belongs to -- or -- you would like to claim some or all of it for yourself. We have a surplus of yarn for Vacation Bible School.

### **Costume Jewelry Needs a Good Home**

About 12 boxes of costume jewelry were left some time ago in one of the downstairs classrooms. The jewelry is new, all in plastic sleeves. Jewelry includes earrings, bracelets and

Continued on next page

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Please contact Janis Rosebrook at 626-389-7474 or email at [Janis.rosebrook@mac.com](mailto:Janis.rosebrook@mac.com) if you know who donated the jewelry. If we don't hear from anyone we will take care of re-homing the jewelry.

## **Summer Camps for Grades 1 - 12 at Cathedral Domain**

In lieu of having our own VBS we are encouraging our young people to attend Summer Camp at the Cathedral Domain. Go to <https://www.cathedraldomain.org/schedule> to see more info and to register

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## *Announcements Continued from page 7*

Senior Conference  
June 13th - 19th  
Graduates of Grades 9-12

Mini Camp I  
June 20th - 23rd  
Graduates of Grades 1 & 2

Mini Camp II  
June 23rd - 26th  
Graduates of Grades 1 & 2

Junior Conference  
June 27th - July 3rd  
Graduates of Grades 7 & 8

Reading Camp  
Graduates of Grades 3 & 4  
For dates and fee information,  
contact [readingcamp@diolex.org](mailto:readingcamp@diolex.org)

### **Celebrating our graduates**

If you have a graduate in your family you'd like us to recognize in the next Herald and eminders, please send their name, the milestone they reached, the name of the school, and if you'd like, a brief bio and digital picture. We'd like for our whole community to know about their accomplishment and share in their joy. Send the info to Amy at [amy.smereck@gmail.com](mailto:amy.smereck@gmail.com). If you include the word Graduate in the subject line that would help.

### **Save these Dates!**

June 20: Father's Day Celebration

July 4: Independence Day Celebration

July 17: Family Day at St. Raphael's

### **Welcoming our children**

We are offering take-home and in-service bags for all children attending services through Holy Week and beyond. We are renewing our young people's spaces downstairs.

**Mission Committee** - Margaret McGladrey, Chair

Green Dot Training

The Vestry took part in the Green Dot Violence Prevention program as part of their retreat. Be empowered to your part to step up and be an active bystander in the face of potentially harmful behaviors by others. We can end Domestic/Sexual Violence, Stalking and Child Abuse in Lexington, TOGETHER! Learn more and register using the link below:

Thursday, June 24 at 2pm-4pm: <http://bit.ly/GDCTNGJun21>



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Thursday, June 24 at 2pm-4pm: <http://bit.ly/GDCTNGJun21>

\*A zoom link to the training will arrive after the required registration is completed.

## **Welcome to Summer Festival at the Gardenside Farmers Market**

June 2, 2021 from 4 - 7 p.m. at Gardenside Plaza 1729 Alexandria Dr.

Free Activities for all ages. St. Raphael's will help staff the Greater Gardenside Association booth at the Farmers Markets all summer through August 25. More info including about the Power of Produce Club for kids ages 3 - 14 here.

## **Justice Ministry**

St. Raphael is one of 26 member congregations in the Lexington area that come together to do justice and powerfully address community problems.

# *June Birthdays and Anniversaries*

## **Birthdays**

Erica Formisano	June 5
Nick Jabobs	June 10
Mary Jane Amick	June 14
Afsi Davis	June 16
Robert Bouse	June 20
Jeff Carter	June 21
Dave Sevigny	June 21
Jack Supplee	June 21
Maggie Tyler-Aqniöh	June 23
Noah Tyler-Aqniöh	June 23
Mary Wilson	June 24
Whitney Curci	June 25
Moses Massaquoi	June 28
Jonathan Melton	June 28

## **Anniversaries**

Amy & Tony LoBianco	June 8
Kris & Katherine Olson	June 11
Logan & Marie Jacobs	June 14

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.

## *Congrats to our Graduates!*



Kylie Van Koevering Masters in Social Work at Loyola University, Chicago, IL. She graduated at the top of her year and begins work at the end of June in Chicago with a new start-up agency. Well done for all your devoted, hard work and passion for your vocation, Kylie!

Dante Grasso, grandson of Brad and Rose Canon, graduated with a B.S. degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Atmospheric Sciences. He will begin graduate school in meteorology at the University of Hawaii this fall.

## **Services - Current Schedule Sunday Services**

**In Person worship 8:30**

**& 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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Articles and news information for July. must be submitted by **July 25, 2020** to Dana Berry at [danabruceberry@gmail.com](mailto:danabruceberry@gmail.com).

*The Herald is a monthly publication of St Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church.*