



## From Our Rector

Rev. Helen on Vacation

Rev. Helen is on vacation until September 3. For any unforeseeable pastoral emergencies, please contact either Dean Carol Wade or Rev Laurie Brock, or Sr. Warden Dave Sevigny.



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen Van Koevering

## Senior Warden's Corner

### Mission Work-CASA of Lexington



Dave Sevigny  
Sr. Warden

September marks the equinox-the time in the year when day and night are at equilibrium, or balance. Rev. Helen and others have suggested that church needs to be a balance of mission (helping those outside our church), ministry (helping/forming those inside the church) and worship (rich liturgy and practice) at St. Raphael's.

A few months ago, our mission committee at St. Raphael decided to have several of us write about things we do outside the church and asked me to talk about my involvement and calling with CASA (court appointed special advocates). It truly has been a calling that included a dinner church at St. Raphael's where CASA presented to us their mission.

I truly believe God put a bunch of people in my path to do this. St. Raphael members, Margaret McGladrey (former CASA employee), Amy Fowler (court clerk), 2 unrelated individuals approached me to be a volunteer at separate times over a year, and CASA was the Commerce Lexington's nonprofit of the year for 2020. To put an exclamation mark on my call, God had a business friend who I hadn't spoken to in 5 years call me out of the blue, we caught up, and he told me he was volunteering for CASA in Cincinnati. OK God, I got the message.

CASA is an organization that supports children that are generally part of the foster system. For one reason or another, their parents find themselves in court and a child is involved whose welfare is at stake. The courts can request a CASA volunteer be assigned to the case, with the intention that the CASA volunteer can get more eyes and ears on the child and his/her support system and help navigate the best possible outcome for the child. When I signed up to be a volunteer, little did I know what a transformative experience it would be and how I would become more aware of the system that provides for these kids.

I went through about 6 weeks of training and got sworn in by the courts in May 2021. I got my first case a week later, a middle school boy whose parents had already lost parental rights, who was in his second foster placement, and was about to be juggled to another one. When you get a case, you get it until the child reaches permanency or age 18 (or 21). You stick with them through the process. This could be a 7-10-year project for me. I visited him and his foster mom several times over the last few months to get to know him better and try to figure out how to best help him, to get him the best possible outcome-permanency of placement. I have talked to his doctors, therapists, teachers, obtained medical records-all in the hope of getting to know what makes this little guy tick, and how I can best serve him.

What I didn't realize as I dug deeper into this case was that this young man and his situation were forming me, shaping me. I sat in the living room of his home and watched the struggle that he and his foster mom have. I've gotten the gift of seeing into another part of life that I haven't seen before, firsthand. A friend of mine is a child psychiatrist and told me "The fact is, all it takes generally for these kids to change their outcome is for one, yes, just one adult to care enough to stick with a kid through all of this". I guess for my young guy, he's stuck with me.

If any of you are interested in CASA or being a volunteer, give me a call or email me. Or just pray for me and this young man and his family. For me, I continue to move forward with my case knowing that quite possibly, with God's help and guidance, I can help change the outcome for at least one young man. It's challenging and can be a struggle, but with God grace I'm finding that is worth doing.

God's peace-Dave Sevigny, Sr. Warden

## A View from the Pew

### Why I church

As I ponder my views so at odds with Christian theology/doctrine/dogma a question popped in my head (or did God put it there?): why do I church? Answers flooded in. The first was "It's a habit", a good habit, I added. The reasons why it is a good habit comprise the next few answers. Church embodies, encourages, and exudes goodness. Whether through the sermons, the lessons, the interaction with others, OR the Spirit and mysterious touch of God, goodness flows. I believe that church helps, has always helped, me be a better person, more like Jesus, more apt to think and act as Jesus taught, and not just the teachings of Jesus but also those of other prophets and sages in and out of religion with similar messages of universal morality.



Richard Dawahare

I believe, I KNOW, that church has incubated epiphanies, in fact, the very enlightenments that cumulatively have carried me beyond theology/doctrine/dogma of this or any and all religion have been birthed in church, often after prayer, after earnest seeking. Jesus was right, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." MT 7:7. Thank you, Jesus!

I sought, I found, and sometimes I (and others) frown. It's all right, and it is ALL right. Another reason I church is humility and to honor my mother and father. They raised us in church, and taught to us to take the goodness of church out into the world. Humility keeps me grounded. I can still get too set in my thinking, satisfied that my take on truth is sacrosanct. Intentional prayers for humility help me to stay open to a higher truth, to new ploppings from the Holy Spirit, God, Jesus, or the overheard quip from the kid with a kite that went kaput.

But I try not to church, or pray, out of fear or favor. Not so much in the Episcopal church but with religion generally, so much is fear or favor based. Do this, believe that, or you will be "out" of God's favor. Conversely, so many exhortations to believe are promoted with assurance of some blessing or goodie that will not come without the belief. That seems selfish. For me, best to ask and thank God for God's help, direction, and protection, for myself, my family and friends, and equally for everybody everywhere.

## A Church Mouse in God's House



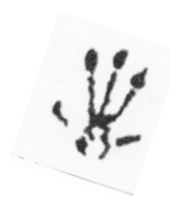
I overheard some of you talking about "volunteering" recently. It sounded like a good and noble thing, so I brought it back to my mouse friends and tried to get them interested. It didn't go well.

I tried to explain how volunteering meant doing good things for your community. They pointed out that we already did that, and that as far as they could tell even you humans did. So then I threw out what I thought would be the real kicker: **but they don't get paid for it.** Their unanimously pointed out that they don't get paid for anything, and that it is really just the humans that seem to care about money. Mice don't even have a concept of money. Fair point, I conceded.

A few days later one of our group approached me and said that even though he didn't really understand this idea of "volunteering" he still was wondering what exactly it was that you all were planning to do. I tried to explain that at least this particular instance involved being an advocate for kids who often don't have as much support as other kids. I could tell that my friend was struggling with this idea, but still seemed intrigued by it.

You see, to our species it is just unfathomable that we wouldn't come together as a community to help one of our young. I mean, yes, sometimes things happen, but every decision, even every instinct we have is based on the good of the community. And that's what I don't think my friend understood - that this isn't always the case for your species.

I think deep down your species does try to look out for each other. You build up very fancy government structures and community programs which all seem designed to protect yourselves from your instincts of individualism. But that 'money' thing you are so in love with rears its ugly head again, and the result is that programs are often underfunded. And so what do you need to do to escape that vicious cycle? Volunteer! Or, to put it another way: align yourself more with the rest of God's creation. Be more like mice.



## Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King, "Welcoming the Stranger"

The Daughters of the King is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church and churches in communion with it. Our membership includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, and Lutheran churches. We are women, both lay and ordained, who pledge ourselves to a life-long program of prayer, service, and evangelism. St. Raphael's is one of many chapters in the Diocese of Lexington. Our chapter was founded on May 25, 1984 and has seven members. Rev. Helen currently serves as our diocesan chaplain.

On Saturday, September 11th, from 9:30am - 12noon, St. Raphael's will host the Lexington Diocese of DOK for its Fall Assembly. We will celebrate Holy Eucharist and hear a presentation from the Kentucky Refugees Ministry. The assembly will be in person and online. All women of the church are invited to attend. Bring a sack lunch and join us for fellowship in the parish hall following the assembly. Contact Diane Whorley 859-884-4762, or [diane.whorley@outlook.com](mailto:diane.whorley@outlook.com) for more information.

## Announcements

### 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/sreclx>

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

### FISHES AND LOAVES NEEDS YOUR HELP

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

**Dinner Church Sept. 18th** with Greg Campbell from the Lexington Church

Please join us for an in-person pizza + salad + dessert dinner with Eucharist. Our speaker will be Pastor Greg Campbell from the Lexington Church. Invite friends and neighbors.

<https://sreclx.org/september-2021-dinner-church-community-justice>

### Save these Dates!

September 2: Choir rehearsal, 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall

September 5: Start of Choir season

September 12: Start of Children's Chapel

September 18: Dinner Church, 5:30 p.m.

September 25: Amadeus Lex performance 7:30 p.m. General Admission \$20

<https://amadeuslex.com/>

### BUILD

Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct-action - Please mark your calendars & join St. Raphael's Justice Ministry by attending one of the two House Meetings scheduled September 20th & 22th, at 6:30pm. We'll discuss the serious issues impacting our community. Refreshments will be served. Contact Diane Whorley for more information. cell: 859-224-4762/[diane.whorley@outlook.com](mailto:diane.whorley@outlook.com)

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

## September Birthdays & Anniversaries

### September Birthdays

Kym H. An Dedman	Sept 2
Mark Van Koevering	Sept 6
Mike Gilmore	Sept 7
Kevin Davis	Sept 12
Alberto Mazzoleni	Sept 12
Chris Bollinger	Sept 14
Steve Krolak	Sept 15
Beth Bollinger	Sept 16
Don Miller	Sept 19
Michael Binkauskas	Sept 20
Steffen Wilson	Sept 21
Stephanie Fox	Sept 22
Vicki Stevens	Sept 25

### September Anniversaries

Kevin & Afsi Davis	Sept 6
Bill & Debbie Emrick	Sept 12
Dick & Doris McNally	Sept 16
Kym & David Dedman	Sept 29
Jean Ellen & Jonathan Melton	Sept 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:

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

Currently in need of prayer: Kenneth, Bob, Seth, Hendree, Becky, Alison, Dana, Chris, Patricia, Ron, Conor, Bill, Brad and family, Trudy, Margaret, Matt and the Wells family.

Recently deceased: Paul Wells.

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.

## HEY KIDS!! WHAT IS INCREDIBLY WONDERFUL??

Starting in September, you will have your very own chapel service.

Yes, away from your parents!!

Yes, you could carry the cross to bring all the kids together for our own special time.

Yes, you could be the reader of the lessons about Jesus!

Plus, we will sing, play instruments, and have fun together.

On September 5, Reverend Helen will bring all the kids to the front of the church to explain how this special time is going to work.

Then on Sunday, September 12, we will begin! Right after the opening prayer, Xavier will be the first crucifer – he will process down the aisle holding the wooden cross high, to let the kids know follow him downstairs.

We have a special room all set up for our chapel service. The service is pretty short. Isaac is the reader for that Sunday. He will read the bible story for our service. We will sing and play instruments, and have a pretty great time. We will come back to the church in time for communion.

The younger kids (like Xavier and Naz) will take turns being the CRUCIFER (cross carrier). Older kids (those that can read well), will sign up to be our official READER. Ask your parents to let Janis Rosebrook know which Sunday you would like to help.

Parents, grandparents, and adult friends, you can also sign up to help. The more the merrier!

Last, but not least, parents should save Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> for our performance in church. We will have costumes and instruments and will sing a wonderful song for the congregation.

The Chapel team includes:

Chris Young

Sr. Becky Collins

Diane Whorley

Janis Rosebrook

...and any other adult or older teen who would like to help!

Yeah!! Chapel Service starts on September 12 during the 11:00 am service.

### Reminder:

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

## Services - Current Schedule

### Sunday Services

In Person worship 8:30 & 11:00 (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

**Rev. Helen will lead on 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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