



The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol 56 - Issue 11

November 2021

From Our Rector



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen Van Koevering

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I can hardly believe that the end of 2021 is already in view! Where has this year gone?

November means that Thanksgiving is coming up fast. That great holiday is so much more relaxed than Christmas, and I'm learning the table traditions of all our newly extended families of in-laws taking time to name their blessings and voice their hopes for the following year.

What have been my blessings this year? In my family, marriage, and church life, in my neighborhood and wider community. In the new things I've learnt and seen, through some difficult times and easier times. In the sunshine and the rain. What have been your blessings? One of my blessings this past year has been signs of remaking our community here on Parkers Mill Rd – old and new members, restarting Dinner Church, sharing our building with old groups and new churches, taking new steps in being 'greener' (supporting Farmer's Market and solar panels on our roof).

I have a little book called 'Common Prayer: a liturgy for ordinary radicals' by Shane Claiborne of The Simple Way, a community in inner city Philadelphia. Each short chapter is a reflection on a theme of the month and ends with a few points on 'Becoming the Answer to our Prayers'. For November, the theme is 'nurturing a common life', and these are some of the ideas on becoming:

- Spend the day baking cookies or bread. Give them to the person who delivers your mail or picks up your trash.
- Spend a day hiking in the woods. Consider how God cares for the lilies and the sparrows – and you.
- Gather some neighbors and plant a tree together.
- Write letters by hand for a month. Write to someone who needs encouragement. Invite them over.

Just a thought, but maybe thanksgiving really happens when we recognize the blessing of having others in our lives. And maybe we become the answer to the prayers of others as we learn to be a blessing with those others. You are all a blessing to St. Raphael! Thanks for being there and for all you do for us all!

God bless,

Helen

November 21

10:00 a.m.

End of 2022 Stewardship Campaign

Annual Parish Meeting Potluck

All volunteer dishes, coordinate with Amy Smereck.

Senior Warden's Corner

Like most Novembers before this one, this November marks the annual stewardship campaign. Each parishioner and newcomer should have received a letter asking for your continued commitment for St. Raphael's in 2022. The letter explained how we are doing and what are plans are for 2022. What a difference a year makes. Last year at this time, we were contemplating just when a vaccine would become available to relieve the stress of COVID. God works in miraculous ways and does provide. One year later, we are back in person in church, have just begun an energetic program for kids again at the 11 a.m. worship hour, and we've begun to see a turn again towards decreasing weekly COVID cases. Most of our church is eligible for boosters, and the process has begun. God is good to us.



**Dave Sevigny,
Sr. Warden**

Approximately 85% of our revenue comes from your pledges each year. In 2020 and 2021, we made ends meet in a few ways. We were able to lower our staff, cleaning, and organist/choirmaster costs thru generous time donations of parishioners to decrease expenses for most of 2020 and 2021. We also were fortunate to receive federal PPP loans, which became grants in both fiscal years, putting us on solid footing. Emerging strong on the tails of COVID, over the last few months, the vestry has reinstated a professional cleaning service, a new organist/choirmaster with new young choir scholars and guest instrumentalists and established a budget for some part time staff to support the needs of our church and rector. Our tentative 2022 budget supports a pledge campaign goal of approximately \$188,000 (in line with inflation as a 5% increase from 2021 pledged revenue of \$179,218) with pledged giving from about 52 families, representing 88 adult church members. Please prayerfully consider your 2022 pledge to St. Raphael's by November 14 by going online to complete your pledge form at www.sreclex.org/pledge2022/.

Please also join us for our annual meeting on November 21st-whether at home online or in the pews. We will celebrate election of new vestry members, share how we are doing, answer your questions, and explore ways that we can continue to live into our calling as God's church on Parkers Mill Road.

God is good, all the time.

Peace-

Dave

Our attendance at Chapel is growing! Your children are encouraged to bring friends and family (ages 3-12) to church. We are so fortunate to have Sister Becky Cooper as our new lead in sustaining out children's ministry program. Please contact Sister Becky if you have any questions.



**Children's
Chapel**

ALL THE CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US

Our performance of "Sing A Song of The Saints of God" was a wonderful success. The children enjoyed performing for the congregation and is clearly a warmup for the Pageant. The Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 19 a 11:00 a.m. If you have grandchildren, cousins, nephews, or nieces or just neighborhood kids that would enjoy performing, please contact Janis Rosebrook (626-389-7474) or Amy Fowler, Director (859-552-1424).

We have a team of seamstresses assembled to make new costumes! Please thank Nancy Christiano, Kimberly Siahkoohi, Mary Care, and Janis Rosebrook for volunteering their sewing skills. Costumes will be ready on December 11 for a dress rehearsal. Depending on the state of readiness, our rehearsal may be on Saturday, December 11. If you have children in Chapel, please block out midday on the 11th. More activities in November include making Christmas Cards for our Sages and Greening our Chapel area. In December comes Advent and the **PAGEANT**. Wow, a lot is happening in Chapel in the next two months.

Music Notes

Serving as your new Organist/Choir Director since July has been a great experience in so many ways. Getting to know some of you has been delightful. Working with Rev. Helen has been a joy. Enjoying the organ and selecting music for worship is rewarding. And now that the choir is back, it is a great joy to be making music again with a dedicated group of singers.

You may have noticed a few new faces in the choir even though they are partly hidden under masks. We are blessed to have three young people from the School for the Performing Arts which is located at Lafayette High School. The three seniors are Mason Franklin, Audrey Weber, and Sarah Wiseman. They bring that spirit of enthusiasm which you find in many young people. What makes them special to me is their dedication. They also understand the choir is a family and that they are a part of it. The choir is currently rehearsing in the Parish Hall and will continue to do so for the time being. The main reason for the move is spaciousness. The Choir Room would be fine under normal circumstances but with Covid we are taking extra precautions. I am very excited about the Vestry's decision to purchase two pianos, one for the Sanctuary and the second for choir rehearsals. The piano in the Sanctuary will be moved to the Choir Room and the upright currently in the Parish Hall will be provided to someone looking for a student instrument.

You will be hearing guest instrumentalists from time to time during the Fall season. Oboist, Allison Weitkamp, was featured in worship the first Sunday in October. There will be two guest trumpeters on November 21 as we gather for the Annual Meeting to celebrate the culmination of the pledge drive and to share a Thanksgiving meal afterwards.

Another highlight will be a guest harpist on Christmas Eve; Leah Schade will offer a Musical Prelude prior to the late service. She will accompany Michael Cannon as he sings "O Holy Night" and at the end of the service, "Silent Night" with the congregation. This is going to be a very special Christmas Eve and I hope you can attend. Bring family members, invite friends; share the news with acquaintances!

Take care and be safe,

Clif



Clif Cason, Choir & Music Director

A View from the Pew

MOM, DAD, COACH, AND LITTLE WILLIE

Today is the anniversary of my father's (Woody, short for Woodrow Wilson) passing. Coincidentally, my high school football coach, Jim Poynter, passed away last night, and in September we celebrated the birth date of my late mother, Genevieve, and my late younger brother, Willie. Also, a couple of weeks ago I spoke with my little league football coach, Dick Derrickson. A fine man, who I think about often, even though the last time I saw him was the day we Packers beat the Eagles for the crown, the same year the real Packers won the first Super Bowl, 1967. Coach remembered me, of course he said, "you played tackle." And he was absolutely right!



Richard Dawahare

All this had me musing about how each of these saints have been and remain vital to all that composes “me,” the motivations, the lessons, the purpose and mission, and the wherewithal to pursue it all with joy, confidence, faith, and favor.

Of course, first comes mom and dad. Nothing comes close to them. Like you, I was blessed to have wonderful parents. Mom and dad embodied the teachings of Jesus and the Way of God. They taught that Way by daily example in the way each lived their lives. Space will not permit the million ways my parents molded whatever good that is in me; and the much further way I must go will be more easily and successfully traversed because of the solid foundation they built for me. It is distilled to this one constant directive: “Richard, just trust in God.” Mom would preface every desire or anticipated event by saying “God willing.” Compassion, empathy, truth, justice, mercy, and love were givens, the basics of Life 101. It was as if they told me, “Son, if you can just stay true to these values, well, everything else will follow.” Yes, I quite agree, thanks mom and dad.

My brother Willie died in a car accident when he was three and I was five. Dad was driving from Whitesburg to Lexington on the twisty old road (this was 1960 before the Mountain Parkway, and before seat belts) for a doctor’s appointment, little Willie (he was named after dad’s brother, Uncle Willie) was playing with the back seat door, opened it, and slipped out of my dad’s frantic clutch to save him. I always thought little Willie was the best of us, the best. It pains me that his life was cut short. Oh God, please, please take care of little Willie, of mom, of dad, of all, please, please let us have that blissful, eternal heavenly reunion. Please, please let it all be alright, let it be that the unseen eternal truly IS the blessed reality and this time on earth a happenstance of science and biology, mere elements within the evolution of the cosmic universe. A trial run? Maybe, but in any case, nothing compared to the celestial reunion.

That is my hope. And it is my lifelong quest to carry forth the goodness of little Willie that fuels me. Little Willie inspires me, he urges me to do the good he would have done had he lived. I feel if I could be just fraction of the man he would have been, I would have done something. I live to make up for Little Willie in the world. I’ve never written it before now, but I’ve thought it often.

And who helps us to achieve, to have confidence, to have the grit, the courage, the stick-to-it-iveness to fight, to never give up, to learn, practice, flourish, and succeed? Coaches! Coach Derrickson was my first coach, but I remember his encouragement, his care for all his players. “Daw-hair, get in there,” he drawled. Then there was the late coach Bill Pieratt at Beaumont. “Best defense in Fayette County” he’d tell us. Again, his watchful eyes on ALL of us. He cared. Then at Lafayette came Coach Poynter. And not just him, but the assistants. All of them etched in my mind. Encouraging, teaching, clapping, inspiring, willing us to be the best we could be. I wanted my dad to name his new racehorse after coach Poynter, such was my reverence for him (coincidentally, Coach was a horseman himself, lived on a farm and delivered 2009 Horse of the Year and Preakness winner Rachel Alexandra!).

My class and teammate Don Reeves told me he helped bring Coach Poynter to God decades ago. He said Coach would call him in the wee hours and talk about watching Billy Graham and ask him questions about the Lord. I already knew the seeds of spirituality were within Coach, but this helps explain his gentle and humble nature.

On the eve of the season of thanks, I share my gratitude for my parents, my siblings, and my coaches. I would not be where I am now without them, nor the higher plane that I will reach only because of them.

We would like to encourage more parishioners to write articles for this column sharing their perspectives about the church, spiritual growth and other topics that may be of interest to our congregation. Submit your article to Dana Berry by the requested date on the back of the issue to be include in the next month’s edition.

October 25, 2021

A Church Mouse in God's House



Am I addicted to cheese? This is the thought that is going through my head this month. I've been thinking about addiction in general and then started wondering if it applies to me. I'm not sure. I mean, I like cheese. If there were cheese available to me, I don't know that I could forgo eating some. Once I have some I definitely want some more. But I don't think that it has had a negative effect on my life and it's not like I go through withdrawal when I stop eating some. I don't know if mice can even become addicted to something. I had a cousin who I was pretty sure was addicted to turkey after Thanksgiving one year. We thought maybe it was the tryptophan, and he did seem to go through withdrawal. But once all the humans took care of all the leftover turkey laying around, he just stopped. I guess you could say he quit cold turkey. Anyway, he was okay, and we were all grateful.

But addiction seems like a major issue for humans. I feel for you. I can't say that I really know what it is like, but that must be really tough to constantly need something or feel like you might die without it. I have been trying to figure out if this fits into your beliefs about social justice. It seems like a lot of humans view addiction as simply a "bad choice." I'm not so sure this is true though. I mean, frankly speaking, as an outside observer (oh who am I kidding, I am not an outside observer, I am your church mouse) it seems like you all assign a lot more personal agency to your choices than is really fair

anyway. And when it comes to addiction, I mean, yeah maybe somebody wanted something the first time or even a few times, but I doubt anyone chose to become addicted to anything. And even if they did would that make it less about social justice? It seems to me that you all talk a lot about wanting to help the less fortunate. Does it really matter what steps were taken to make them less fortunate?

Of course, all this philosophizing doesn't really get to the question of what we can do about it. I'd love to just say, "well I'm just a mouse there's not much I can do." But that's the easy way out. And isn't that how most of you rationalize not doing more yourselves anyway? Saying to yourselves, "well I'm just one person, what can I do?" And maybe you're right, but we can't deny that we are all part of the system that created issues such as this. I have noticed that humans tend to focus on individual behavior quite a bit and ignore larger systemic factors. It's really easy to punish a person, and it's a lot more difficult to fix a system. But doesn't it seem like that is what needs to happen?

Well, I am going to take the copout approach here and say that I'm just a mouse and don't know the answer. But your big brains are far more blessed with reason than we mice are. So, I hope that when you think about social justice you include addiction as one of the issues that needs to be researched and acted upon. There's a lot more to it than just giving up cold turkey.



Worship

Sunday in-person Rite I at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday in-person Rite II at 11:00 a.m. (livestreamed)
Wednesday in-person Healing Service at 12:00 p.m.

Virtual compline services 7:00 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays, and Fridays.

Livestreamed and pre-recorded services will be accessible on Facebook.

Ministry & Activities

EWC

The Lexington diocesan ECW board will hold its annual meeting and Eucharist on **Saturday, November 6**, beginning with meet-and-greet at 9:30 am. Following the service, lunch will be served with life coach Dawn Runyon as guest speaker. All women of the diocese are welcome. Please contact Carole Mize at (859) 537-6207 or carolj11@windstream.net for reservations.

St. Raphael's ECW will hold its annual Christmas lunch and ornament exchange on **Saturday, December 11**, at 12:00 p.m. at Sedona Tap House, 3600 Palomar Centre Drive, Lexington. Please be sure to bring an ornament to exchange for all diners in your party. Please RSVP to Carole Mize at (859) 537-6207 or carolj11@windstream.net.

BUILD - Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct action

We had two House Meetings in September at St. Raphael's. There was a total of 16 of us from St. R's & Christ Church Cathedral who agreed to be Justice Ministry Network members. We would love for you to join us. St. Raphael is one of 26 member congregations in the Lexington area that come together to do justice and powerfully address community problems. Contact Diane Whorley for more information at diane.whorley@outlook.com.

November 8: 7:00 p.m. BUILD Community Problems Assembly

November 14: Veteran's Day Brunch - We will honor our veterans during the services.

November 21: 10:00 a.m. End of Church Year, Annual Parish Meeting, Potluck Lunch

December 4: 5:30 p.m. Dinner Church 'Reconciliation & Justice' with Sharon and Gary Stewart

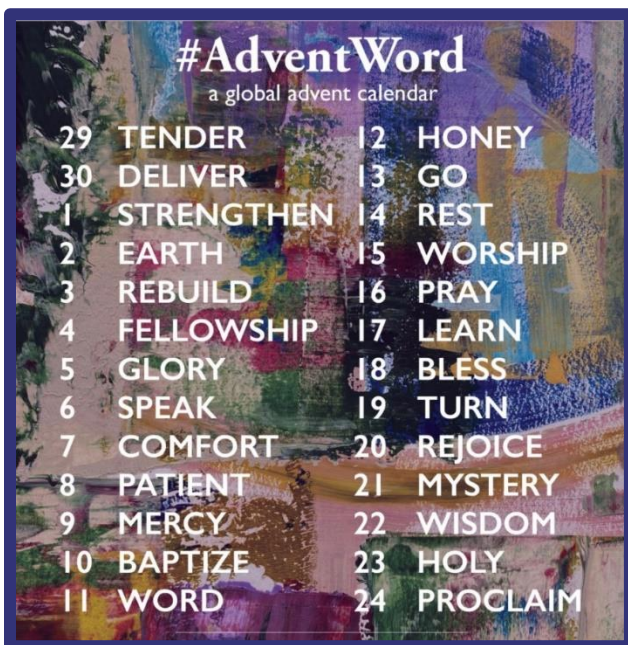
December 15: 12:00 p.m. Blue Christmas service

December 19: Celebrate Christmas with Lessons & Carols and Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve: 5:30 p.m. Family Service, 10:30 p.m. music Prelude, 11:00 p.m. Midnight Service

Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m. Eucharist Service

December 26: 10:00 a.m. Rite II Service



#ADVENT WORD

Each day of Advent this year, let's post a photo or thought (50 words or less) that each word might prompt gratitude in your heart or a memory to share with us all. Anyone may post to encourage us all this Advent towards hope, joy, peace and love as offered with each candle of our Advent wreath in this wonderful season.

I look forward to hearing from you all!

With love,

Rev Helen

Vestry Elections: We are electing 3 members to serve from Dec 1, 2021 - Dec 1, 2024. If you would like to be considered for the vestry open positions, please submit a short bio and picture prior to November 14 to revhelen@sreclex.org. The requirements are regular membership, contributors for at least 12 months, and over 18 years of age.

Vestry Nominees



Laurie Daugherty and her husband, John, joined St. Raphael in 2019. Previously they were members of Southern Hills United Methodist Church where Laurie taught children's Sunday school when her children were young. Their two daughters are now away at grad school. This past year Laurie has been a member of the Finance Committee and Property Committee. In her professional life, Laurie is an attorney with Montague Law, PLLC where she advises business clients and works with several nonprofit organizations. In her free time, Laurie enjoys gardening, yoga and traveling to new destinations. She has found a warm and welcoming church home at St Raphael and would be honored to serve on Vestry.



John Hazlett - I am a husband, father, teacher, Coach, Veteran, and Christian. I have been married for 29 years this November 4 to my lovely wife Leah Newsom, and my son, Brandon, who is currently stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. This will be my 25th year of teaching at Rosenwald-Dunbar Elementary in Nicholasville, a journey from the classroom to enjoying the last 11 years as the Physical Education Teacher. I have been an Assistant Coach in Youth Football and Cross Country. However, for the last 7 years I have been coaching wrestling in Jessamine County. I have also served 30 years in the Army, with time on active duty during Desert Storm, to the Army Reserve as a Drill Sergeant, and finally to the National Guard as a Senior Infantry Instructor and acting Command Sergeant Major with the 238th Regiment, before officially retiring in 2016 as a Master Sergeant. I also enjoy furry critters, sunsets, views of the landscapes, traveling, and coffee on cool mornings, well actually every morning. I tend to be shy and reserved, although you would never guess it. However, with all the success that I have enjoyed, it was St. Raphael's that took me in at the lowest and most troubled point of my life. The shelter and comfort that I have found at St. Raphael's gave me the opportunity to reconnect with my faith, and to serve others. I'm still learning and growing as a Christian and feel blessed to do so at St. Raphael's.



Amy Smereck has attended St. Raphael since spring of 1999 with husband Chris Bollinger and their two children, Beth and Thomas, now adults. She has served multiple stints on the Vestry and as Treasurer and was Sr. Warden in 2007. She has been involved in formation for children and youth, designed and maintains the church website and email lists, and sings in the choir. Amy has served on the Diocesan Budget Committee and was a co-chair in 2021. Amy is currently a self-employed freelance writer and marketer. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, traveling, crossword puzzles, and curling up with a good book.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

- Dec 1 - box of cereal
- Dec 2 - peanut butter
- Dec 3 - stuffing mix
- Dec 4 - boxed potatoes
- Dec 5 - new pillows
- Dec 6 - canned fruit
- Dec 7 - stamps
- Dec 8 - canned tuna
- Dec 9 - socks for survivors
- Dec 10 - jar of applesauce
- Dec 11- shampoo / conditioner
- Dec 12 - cranberry sauce
- Dec 13 - canned beans
- Dec 14 - toothpaste
- Dec 15 - package of rice
- Dec 16 - package of oatmeal
- Dec 17 - packaged pasta
- Dec 18 - spaghetti sauce
- Dec 19 - canned soup
- Dec 20 - laundry detergent
- Dec 21 - new twin sheet sets
- Dec 22 - canned mixed vegetables
- Dec 23 - slipper socks
- Dec 24 - items for newborn babies
wrapped in white tissue

The Reverse Advent Calendar was a huge success last year, so we are bringing it back to help our organizations in need.



the
nest



the well
OF LEXINGTON

Green  House17

Mission Opportunities

Sister Becky has been appointed St. Raphael's Mission & Ministry coordinator. Please reach out to her if you'd like to participate in any of the following opportunities.



James Lane Allen and The Well have requested monetary donations or Kroger gift cards for families this Holiday season.



Please continue to support St. Raphael's.

We are now using Engage for online giving. To access Engage and setup your user account, please click [here](#). You can also access this page via the menu on our website at sreclx.org.

Kroger Community Rewards Fundraiser

St. Raphael participates in the Kroger Community Rewards Fundraiser. Find out how to enroll [here](#).

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls, increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations.

Whilst the 16 Days call for the end of this violence, there are local organizations we support who work with victims of domestic violence: the Greenhouse is one. Whilst we shall be adding these needs to our Advent appeal this year, please feel free to donate at any time. Bring donations to Sister Becky or Rev Helen at church during office hours or at Sunday services.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Harwell Smith - November 1
Tony LoBianco - November 2
Kris Olsen - November 2
Luna England - November 8
Roger Kirk - November 11
Alaina Whorley - November 11
Guy Hamilton-Smith - November 16
Nancy Christiano Mathews - November 21
Ann Rogness - November 22
Michael Cannon - November 23

ANNIVERSARIES

Steve & Ginger Garvin - November 11
Patty & Jack Supplee - November 30

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!
Contact SRoffice@sreclex.org.

Prayer Requests

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

Currently in need of prayer: Dana, Neil & Janet, Kenneth, Bob, Seth, Conor, Ron, Bill, Brad & family, Tommy, Elizabeth & Dan, Nancy, Margaret, Anisa, Jake, Nathan, Amanda, John, Dan, Don and family of Gail, and Jake.

Please contact Rev. Helen for prayer list changes.

DioLex News

Happening at the Cathedral Domain a Christian Experience for youth grades 10 - 12
November 12 - 14. Info and registration here: <https://www.cathedraldomain.org/>

Diocesan News

Subscribe to the Diocesan email newsletter using the form found at <http://diolink.org/diolex/index.php/newsandevents/>.

DIOCESAN VISION PRAYER

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

Pre-Convention Hearing Responses

Thank you to the more than 100 of you who participated in the pre-convention hearings. The conversations were good and the questions probing. As each hearing covered quite different issues, I thought it would be helpful to bring the results together in one place to better enable us to have a fruitful convention. In November 2019, we agreed on our diocesan vision: Be the Church Be the Change. It was the beginning of a movement toward a wholistic investment in worship, ministry, and mission. Of course, the pandemic arrived in February 2020 and pushed us off course as we focused on keeping healthy together during this tumultuous time. We are weathering that storm, but the landscape now looks very different. We cannot just go back to the way things were. We must continue to be adaptive learners

leaning forward in hope. I believe the foundation of our vision still holds true, although some of the ways we implement it will need to contour around this new landscape. This is the first budget that moves into the life of our vision and so, there are several significant changes to acknowledge. Let's look at some of the main points.

In 2019, we proposed selling Mission House and running a capital campaign to decrease our costs, broaden our revenue streams, and lesson or dependency on fair share assessments. The Taskforce for Business Management 2020 also recommended several efficiencies and staff transitions to move us in this direction.

We have made significant progress:

- **MISSION HOUSE**

- We have a contract for the sale of Mission House and expect to close in 60 days.

- **REVENUE STREAMS**

- We have grown our investments by approximately \$2.7 million and with the sale of Mission House, we will surpass our goal of \$3 million without the need of a capital campaign.
- The development committee will change its focus from a diocesan capital campaign to supporting our faith communities' stewardship and planned giving activities.

- **REDUCE ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES**

- We will eliminate the Archdeacon for Administration and Receptionist positions.
- We will replace the Missioner for Finance position with a Missioner for Operations and Finance, who will assume both the administrative responsibilities of the archdeacon and oversight of finances.
- A financial firm has been contracted to do the bookkeeping.
- We will rent office space.

- **INVESTING IN MISSION**

- We will triple our investment in support of our 11 faith communities located in the Mountain Region. As well as ensuring that the sacraments are celebrated, an Archdeacon will now work full-time in the Mountain Region to coordinate a holistic approach. A taskforce is putting together a strategic plan and we have adequate working capital reserves to support this new ministry for the next 3 years; In 2023, it is planned that the Mountain Ministry will begin to bring in additional outside financial resources.
- We propose creating a new position of Canon Missioner to work directly with all our faith communities to promote discipleship, evangelism, and church growth. This means that we will have two Canons supporting Faith Communities: Amy Cortright, Canon to the Ordinary and the new Canon Missioner, yet to be employed.

- **FAIR SHARE ASSESSMENT**

- A review of the fair share assessment was taken at diocesan convention 2015 and put into operation on 1 January 2016. This is our current policy and includes a graduated assessment rate of 10%, 14% and 18% depending on operational revenue.
- Discounts were provided and PPP loans/grants awarded in:
 - § 2016 - faith communities at the 18% rate were reduced to 17%;
 - § 2020 - 16 faith communities received PPP loans/grants;
 - § 2021 - all faith communities were offered an 8.3% discount on assessment.
- According to Canon 28, the Executive Council is charged with reviewing fair share assessments periodically. Considering the progress described above, it would be timely to offer a thorough review of assessments to be presented to Executive Council no later than May 2022, to coincide with the 2023 budget cycle.

I believe it is time to act, to step out in faith and to grow our church. This chronic decline needs to come to an end, and we are well placed to respond to the questions being raised in our society today, particularly among the young. Our rich liturgical tradition, Scriptural foundation, and social Gospel can give purpose and lead us into action. This is not wishful thinking but gospel hope and the courage to invest in our Church.

It is time. Let us Be the Church and Be the Change.

Bishop Mark



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

- REMINDER -

Articles and information for December
must be submitted by
NOVEMBER 20, 2021, to Dana Berry at
danabruceberry@gmail.com.