



# The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

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December 2021

## From Our Rector



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen Van Koevering

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Dear St Raphaelites,  
 I'm so looking forward to a mini silent retreat December 2-4, and a morning's retreat with the daughters of the King on December 11. Retreats may not be possible for us all. It gets so busy, I know, but I hope you will all be able to find some way to reflect on the 'Reason for the season' this Advent.

The Advent journey can be likened to 'coming home for Christmas' (cue for a song!). Over the weeks of Advent, you will hear me speak quite a bit (because the Luke readings lend themselves to the theme) of 'home'. Homesickness, coming home, invited home, home by another way. Luke offers us the widest of the Gospels' nativity story, and there are lots of travelers in the frame. A season of the church is a great opportunity to follow a theme that helps us see the story from different angles, and perhaps envision ourselves in the picture.

I have found a little devotional that picks up on all the singing around the birth of Jesus: songs from Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon and Anna, and an angel choir. It's called 'Heaven and Nature Sing' and goes through Advent to the Christmas season and beyond to Epiphany on January 6. In the family and shut-in Sage's gift bags for Advent, there will be chalk so that you might also mark the entrances to your home and bless your homes with your families. Just like the families of Israel marked their doors at the time of Exodus from Egypt and slavery, so we ask God to protect and bless us in 2022. In this little book are other table prayers and blessings for you to use during this season.

Devotions are not just found in books. A friend recently sent me a link to a wonderful website for devotionals on the life of Hildegard de Bingen, a German 12th century woman mystic, poet, composer, philosopher, artist, ecologist. Take a look at some of these readings here: [www.livinghildegard.com/blog](http://www.livinghildegard.com/blog). If you click on one blog you will be able to sign up for ongoing Advent devotionals related to this visionary woman, providing for a different angle on Advent.

And if all of this seems like too much for this busy season, another friend offers Advent calendars that give the briefest of thoughts for each day. See this link: <https://thomasmousin.com>. He adds his own poetry, and this year's follows:

Take winter greens and form a wreath,  
 with candles set to light.  
 Then listen to the prophets' words  
 however long the night.  
 Come, sing with them their songs of hope,  
 the coming of God's reign.  
 And with them dare to listen for  
 a mother's birthing pain.

For not by power or by might  
 shall come the Promised Day,  
 But rather from a helpless child  
 upon a bed of hay.  
 So listen for the sound of love,  
 as Word enfleshed becomes,  
 Our Way and Truth, our song to sing  
 so that God's will is done.

Have a blessed Advent and joy-filled Christmas!

*Rev. Helen*

## Senior Warden's Corner

Dear friends-

We've just finished the church year and have turned our eyes toward Advent and the birth of our Savior. We've also just finished our Thanksgiving weekend and church annual meeting, and there is much to be thankful for. Our annual meeting elected 4 new vestry members (3 haven't ever served on the vestry of St. Raphael's!) and I'm so excited about welcoming them this month as people that will help shepherd our church over the next 3 years. We are in great hands!



**Dave Sevigny,  
Sr. Warden**

In my last article this year as Sr. Warden, and coming off our annual meeting, I wanted to re-emphasize the accomplishments of this past year. We welcomed a new choirmaster/organist, Clif, who is incredibly talented, and we are so lucky that our past choirmaster/organist, Melinda, continues to join us in the pews each Sunday. Chris Young did an awesome job this year filling the gaps and played some beautiful music in our Sunday services. Our choir is really starting to sound great again as we emerge from COVID, and we are supporting several new high school aged scholars as they save for college. We've had several guest instrumentalists and received several new (to us) pianos that are very high-quality instruments. We now regularly have about 8-10 kids in our children's chapel each Sunday, with 4-5 awesome volunteers leading them as we invest in our children's formation. We're getting an additional group of solar panels in these next few months to help expand our care of creation and lower our annual costs. We have started to do things like potlucks, dinner church, breakfasts, concerts, bible study and other things that intentionally get us together more. We've hired a part time person (Thank you Sr. Becky for answering this call!) to help with mission/outreach, and other programming. We are getting the church cleaned professionally again after many weeks of great volunteers chipping in. Tobit's Trace also received several grants this year and there will be a bigger project come Spring 2022. The grounds look awesome thanks for some great support from parishioners. Our building is getting used daily by different outreach groups and a new church that is incredibly diverse and active. We were extremely careful during COVID and because of our parishioners, friends, and building users, financially, we are about as strong as we've been in a long time.

Although sometimes I find myself complaining about 2020 and 2021, I do realize that God has been good to us on Parkers Mill Rd. May the wonder of the birth of the Christ child capture you this season and continue to keep you faithful and active in our little part of God's kingdom at St. Raphael's. See ya in the pews!

Peace-

*Dave*



**Children's  
Chapel**

ALL THE CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US

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### **CHILDRENS CHAPEL PRESENTS: A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER**

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 19, during the 11:00am service, for a presentation of the Christmas Story. Our children are rehearsing to bring you the story of the birth of our Lord. Sewers are making new costumes for all the children! The play, directed by Amy Fowler, will prove to be a wonderful and warm remembrance of this special time of year.

## Music Notes

### Music for the Advent and Christmas Season

Before I talk about the special seasons coming up, I want to thank Laurie and John Daugherty for giving us the Boston/Steinway piano which is currently located in the Parish Hall. The piano has a rich sound and is beautiful in appearance. The church is blessed to add this new instrument to the Baldwin baby grand in the Sanctuary.

Music is a vital part of worship especially in the Advent and Christmas seasons. The choir will be leading worship on December 5 in an Advent Lessons and Carols service. Amy LoBianco will be playing a Prelude for solo clarinet. Michael Cannon, our "artist in residence," will be singing one of the great movements from Handel's Messiah. The choir will be presenting anthems from the Renaissance and Baroque periods as well as compositions by current composers. The congregation will join in singing hymns such as "Lo, How A Rose e'er Blooming" and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

The late service on Christmas Eve begins at 10:00pm featuring Linda Schade on harp. Ms. Schade will also be accompanying the congregation on two hymns, "What Child is This?" and "Silent Night." Michael will be singing "O Holy Night" with the harpist. It will be a very special service and I hope all of you can attend.

Bring a friend; let's fill the pews on December 5 and Christmas Eve!

*Clif*



**Clif Cason, Choir & Music Director**

## A View from the Pew

### The Notes of Christmas Past

Christmas! No word better stirs instantaneous joy, hope, and happiness than "Christmas." It's universal. People the world over, regardless of religion, celebrate the joy, the hope, and the happiness that is Christmas. It is real, the Spirit is real, the reason for the season is real, and the supreme author of it all is... REAL. This soul-stirring immensity of God's reality and God's goodness surges forth creative human expression in all its forms—art, structures/cathedrals/churches/temples/Wats, writings, and SONG. Music is the natural expression of the human soul that crescendos at Christmas.



**Richard Dawahare**

Do you remember your first conscious click of Christmas? Mine was when I was four and half (halves are way more important at that age than at 66, nobody says, "Oh, I'm 66 and a half years old."). We were in our new home Uncle Joe built for us on Hayes Street deep within the verdant mountain majesty of eastern Kentucky in the Mayberry-like hamlet of Whitesburg, my childhood wonderland, and the origin of my song.

The mountains enveloped us and sang to us, embarking us to go tell it on top of ol' Smokey for He has the whole world in His hands. Our big picture window looked across the way to the home my grandfather built for his wife and eleven children, which was next to the Methodist church on a wide and open block. Across from that was

Main Street, where Dawahare's second store stood until our closing in the fall of 2008. Nothing was ever more Americana than Main Street in Whitesburg, especially at Christmas time in the 'fifties. Plastic Santa's, tinsel, garland, candles, star, and angel-topped trees with those mighty C-7 Christmas bulbs lighting every step along the way. And of course, the music. Oh my, the music!

My most vivid and cherished memory is the day the delivery men hoisted mom's new piano up the steep incline of the steps into the front door and right into the middle of our living room, in front of the big window with the church, the store and the mountains in full view. We—little sister Mimi, little brother Willie, and me—were all giggling with excitement as mom took her seat on the bench, Christmas songbook in place. We gathered around her as she started to play—just like in the movies, but real, but REAL! "Frosty the snowman was a jolly happy soul with a corncob pipe and a button nose, and two eyes made of coal..." we wailed with celestial joy.

Tears well now at the memory, for little Willie would not see the next yuletide. But sorrow lasts a season, God's joy a lifetime. Every Christmas has been a blessed combination of song, cheer, reverence, and love, thanks to parents with steadfast faith, and always, thanks to God.

Every year new notes join the old, creating new memories and lifting the soul ever upwards. From the day mom first played the Andy Williams Christmas Album, to the ethereal sounds of Percy Faith's orchestra, the Salvation Army brass band blaring Good King Wenceslas, to jazz, classical and pop-fueled standards, and especially to the music of St. Raphael's Christmas Eve midnight (10:00 pm) service!

After a two-year hiatus the angelic voices of St. Raphael's Choir will sing praises to heaven once again. With breathtaking organ accompaniment—and this year joined by a HARPIS—the choir will hark traditional Christmas favorites, herald the coming of Jesus throughout the service, lead congregants in a candlelit reverence of Silent Night, and rouse us into the most Holy night with Handel's majestic Hallelujah Chorus, proving once again that music does indeed meld Christmas magic.

The musical notes of Christmas past bring joy to Christmas present and hope for Christmas tomorrow.

All the best to all of you for the holidays and beyond!

## *A Church Mouse in God's House*



I don't even know why I am writing this. There's a good chance that no one will ever see it. I mean, I guess if you are reading it then that is evidence that it did get out. You see, for years I have been using a secret back channel to get these messages to you. But I guess there's no reason to keep it a secret anymore, that channel was Dana. Now that she is no longer with us, I can't really be sure what will happen.

Dana and I developed what I like to think of as a very strong professional relationship over the years. I have

always been a writer, but very few humans take seriously the words of a mouse. But one day, many years ago I accidentally left some of my writings out in the open. Only a few days later I learned that they had been included in the church's monthly newsletter. I wasn't sure how this happened, but I tried again the following month and lo and behold there they were again. Eventually I discovered that Dana had been the one that it made this happen.

Dana was someone who amplified the voices of those whose voices are often not heard. I mean, seriously, how many churches do you know that have a mouse

writing for their newsletter? But I think Dana saw something in my writings and wanted to make sure they got out there. She was a true ally. She never substituted her words for mine and valued having the perspective of a different species. I know that she didn't just do this for me but did so for many others whose stories would have otherwise gone untold. It's not that she didn't have opinions of her own, it's that she understood the value of having different opinions expressed in a public forum.

But now... What will happen? What does the community do when one of its members leaves? I suppose for some communities it is enough to break them. If someone leaves, they simply can't function. Other communities perhaps try to "replace" the person. Find someone else

and try to mold them into who the other person was. But that hardly ever works either. I think a strong community learns from those who have gone before them but doesn't try to re-create that person. I think your congregation is in this third category. I believe you've been given a good example in Dana, and that you will continue to be strong allies for the marginalized, to be thoughtful and strong in your opinions but respectful of others.

And I kind of think that if I leave these mouse scratchings laying around somewhere that someone will pick them up and put them in the newsletter. I guess we'll see...



# 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.



ONE SUNDAY IN ADVENT



ONE MONDAY IN ADVENT

# Ministry & Activities

## **EWC**

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](mailto:carolj11@windstream.net).

## **BUILD - Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct action**

There are 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](mailto:diane.whorley@outlook.com).

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

Please join us for Dinner Church on Saturday, December 4 at 5:30pm in the parish hall. We will eat together, celebrate the Eucharist, and listen to our guest speakers. Our speakers are Gary and Sharon Stewart from Christ Church Cathedral. The topic is "Reconciliation and Justice." We will hear about their experience leading 'Sacred Ground'. They have hosted this 10-week course twice at the Cathedral online during Covid and have found it to be both community/small group building as well as individually life-changing in how participants relate to others. It is a course offered by the Episcopal Church in their racial reconciliation and Beloved Community focus, and St. Raphael will have a small group (10-12) participate in this from Jan-April 2022, meeting every two weeks. There is reading prep to do between each meeting. There are several members our church who would enjoy joining this study (those who have participated in EfM especially). Spaces are limited. Sign-ups will start at Dinner Church. Rev. Helen will be joining to learn with the group. We are planning a menu of lasagna, salad, and dessert. Please RSVP to Sister Becky at [sroffice@sreclex.org](mailto:sroffice@sreclex.org).

## **December 15:** 12:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

Feeling blue this Christmas? The Blue Christmas service is for you. Christmas can be a difficult time for those who are grieving or suffering from depression, addiction, or other personal issues. There is a lot of social pressure to be merry, jolly, and of good cheer. Sometimes feeling merely ambivalent instead of downright upset or weepy can be a huge effort. During the contemplative and supportive Blue Christmas service we will invite Christ to touch our hearts and bring peace during this season of preparation for His birth. If you are able, you are encouraged to attend in person so we can all experience the shared support of our faith community more deeply.

## **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

## **Poinsettia Appeal for Christmas**

Please help St. Raphael decorate the sanctuary and nave with poinsettias for Christmas Eve and the days following. Poinsettias are \$20 each or 2 for \$30 and may be given memory, thanksgiving, or honor of someone(s). Sentiments will be published in the Christmas Eve service bulletin. Using the Online Giving form for this is convenient for all; please use the "Weekly Flowers" designation and record your messages in the Gift Memo area of the final screen. Thanks for your support!





## 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 [srexlex.org](http://srexlex.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

December 3 Sarah Edmundson  
December 6 Beverly Bouse  
December 7 James Matics  
December 15 Amy LoBianco  
December 21 Paula Brockman  
December 21 Rev. Helen  
December 25 Jeannie Graham  
December 26 Marie Sutton  
December 30 Terri Bey  
December 30 Paula Seigny

## ANNIVERSARIES

December 17 Helen & Moses Massaquoi

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 day with you!  
Contact [SRoffice@sreclex.org](mailto: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, Don, Sarah, Annette, and Mary.*

*Currently in need of prayer: Neil & Janet, Kenneth, Bob, Seth, Bill, Tommy, Anisa, Hilda, Amanda, Lee, Barbara, Mitch & Gail, and Bessie.*

*Recently deceased: Mary Wareing, Joanne Furlan, John, Richard, Brandon, Dana Berry.*

Please contact Rev. Helen for prayer list changes.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Marion Gail Miller, Oct. 16, 2021

We might say that Gail married into the church family when she married Don Miller, who has been a member of St. Raphael's since its beginning in 1962. Gail quickly found her own place in the church, becoming a friend to many. With Don, she was active in Sages. She was also in Episcopal Church Women. She took a friendly interest in what was going on in the lives of other members and her sympathetic manner was much appreciated.

Gail was born in Owensboro, KY in 1936 and graduated from Owensboro Catholic High School. She was a long-time resident of Lexington. Her three sons, Michael, Stephen, and David Tewell, were with her when she died. She is also survived by her husband Don, grandchildren Michael, Mackenzie Rae, Lindsey, and Zach Tewell, and Heather Borman; stepson Jeff Miller, and step-grandson Adam Miller; and four great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life was held Tuesday, November 23, at St. Raphael's.

### Dana Bruce Berry, Nov. 11, 2021

Dana and her mother Leila Davis joined St. Raphael's after moving to Lexington from Ohio. They quickly proved to be the kind of church members who are willing to work and take responsibility. They were soon joined by Dana's daughter, Amanda Vance, son-in-law Tom Vance, and their three lively daughters Olivia, Alex, and Laura, becoming four generations of one family in the church. Dana sang in the choir, was on Altar Guild, worked with children and served on Vestry. She edited the church newsletter, the Herald, for several years.

Dana was born in 1956 in Lafayette, Ga. to Lelia and Lloyd Richard Davis Sr. She had a BA degree in Education, associate degree in paralegal studies, and Masters in organizational management. She had been a high school teacher, paralegal in a public defender's



office, and worked in the telecommunications fraud management industry.

Besides Lee and the Vances, Dana is survived by her sister Claire Leonard, brother Geoffrey Ndungu, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her father and brothers, Lloyd Jr. and Warren Edward Davis. A Celebration of Life was held Tuesday, Nov. 16. A poem by Granddaughter Olivia was read at the service.

*"I am resurrection, and I am life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life even though he died." John 11:25*

## DioLex

### 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*.



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### - REMINDER -

Articles and information for January must be submitted by **December 20, 2021**, to Afsi Davis at [afsileigh@gmail.com](mailto:afsileigh@gmail.com).