



The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol. 58 - Issue 1 January 2023

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From Our Rector

Recently, CC wrote one of her beautiful poems from her heart on the meaning of church community:

To live in community
Love and compassion shared,
Gathered in concert
For mission and ministry,
Freedom transcending
All selfish desires,
Brings joy without
Boundaries and peace
In my soul.

Worship

Sundays

Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II with music, 11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays

Eucharist with Healing,
Noon

Compline

Sundays, Tuesdays, and
Fridays, 7:00 p.m.

We have had a few services recently that seem to me to have reflected a movement towards new life at St Raphael's after these past few crazy years. It is heart-warming to see us all together, doing what is at St Raphael's core: enjoying being together, involved in the church's projects and efforts, practising freedom from worldly boundaries, finding the Other as the One who draws us into friendships. It's been a busy Advent with some great events: a huge potluck with door prizes and raffles; Lessons & Carols; a Children's Pageant; and Christmas Eve carol services. We have provided gifts



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen
Van Koeving

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From Our Rector, continued

for 12 children at James Lane Allen (Thanksgiving Kroger cards too), become more involved with The Well through Sister Becky's massage and friendship, offered Christmas Eve baby gifts to The Nest, and our Food Pantry will now support needy neighbors. We have begun a Bible Study of Matthew's Gospel, had a day retreat to Gethsemane, invited our neighbors to our Advent and Christmas services, and returned to our pre-Covid pastoral and communion visits. It's good to be building all these things back up again at last! Thank you to all who have planned, supported and come along!

And, yes, we notice that our customary extended Peace has evolved into an extended fellowship time in church after services, connecting with one another after each week. We notice there are some great supporters of St Raphael's now missing from our pews, but new members are joining in with us, some because they have been connecting with us online. There are some new volunteers at services and on vestry and we have some great plans evolving for 2023 as we continue to focus on intergenerational and children's ministry.

It takes a community to build a church – a community that is diverse and open, willing to offer time, talent and treasure, and be involved in inviting, welcoming and connecting. It takes the eyes of faith to know that God is with us in building community together. See you in 2023! Happy New Year!

With love and prayers,

Helen

Rev. Helen

Ministry Notes

- Gospel of Matthew Book Study resumes Sunday January 8, 2023 with a discussion of Chapter 10. Meet in the Bride's Room at 10 a.m.
- Godly Play returns Sunday January 8, 2023 in the Children's Chapel room during our 11 a.m. service.

Senior Warden's Corner

Twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping The season of Christmas ends with a cacophony! The Magi visit the new-born Jesus. The season of Epiphany begins January 6 and spans seven Sundays. The lectionary readings during this season help us to know more about who Jesus is, and include some of Jesus' "greatest hits" like the Sermon on the Mount.



Amy Smereck

During the early weeks of the year the call to hibernate at home is strong. However, there are activities and events during this season that are calling out for your participation! As we learn about who Jesus is during worship, gathering together in person helps us to learn who we are as a church community and individually. Self-knowledge is power. The more we know about our own strengths and weaknesses, the more we effectively use our talents to work together and create positive change in our lives and the lives of others near and far.

The vestry retreat will take place on Martin Luther King Day. Rev. Helen and the vestry will meet for planning and team-building activities. If you have ideas for us, please contact Rev. Helen, Amy Smereck, or any vestry member. Learn more about the 2023 vestry at sreclx.org/vestry.

Our youth will be meeting January 6th for a King's Day celebration with food and fellowship. On January 14th, The Well has organized a Potluck Party fundraiser in the parish hall. You are invited to attend and to contribute a recipe for their cookbook. The Crafters group is back and will resume its 2nd-Saturday-of-the-month meetings on February 11. Please save the evening of February 25 for Dinner Church. Look for more details about these and other events in this issue! I hope to see you there.

—*Amy Smereck*

<A Brief Word from the (New) Editor>

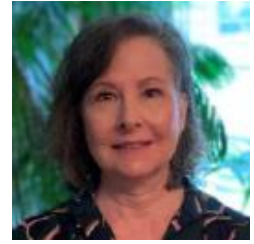
I have agreed to take over producing the Herald. Amy will continue to send out the weekly e-minder emails. I would love to hear from you with any suggestions and ideas for the Herald, and welcome brief articles of between 200-400 words. I would also welcome photos and brief write-ups of any activity. Contact me at john.daugherty1492@gmail.com or just grab me at the 11 am service.



—*John Daugherty*

From the Junior Warden

As the new Junior Warden, I am pleased to serve St. Raphael and our parish. I'm deeply grateful to Mike Booth for staying involved as sexton. He does a wonderful job of keeping our building well-maintained.



Laurie Daugherty

In the coming months you will see some landscaping activity in Tobit's Trace. St. Raphael received a grant from the diocese to improve the seating area along the path. Plans include an altar area, some additional benches, and a new wood-plank walkway with a handrail, stepping down the slope from the parking lot directly to the seating area. These improvements will make Tobit's Trace more accessible for weddings and other services.

—*Laurie Daugherty*

Money Talk

On December 13th, the Finance Committee presented the 2023 budget to the Vestry for their approval. Questions were answered and approval was obtained. Because of your continued support of St. Raphael's missions, our stewardship campaign thus far is at \$179,369 with an original goal of \$190,000. Fortunately, The Lexington Church plans to continue their relationship with us which helps close our income gap. Our 2023 budgeted income is \$220,479 and our budgeted expense is \$220,493.

Earlier this year, members from large and small churches formed a taskforce called by Bishop Mark to discuss our Fair Share Assessment process and propose a new approach to be presented to the Executive Council. The end result, approved at the Convention, was the replacement of the current process in Canon 28.02 with a Progressive Tier Assessment. Thus, our pledge to the Diocese is \$20,786 versus \$26,000 using the previous method. This difference will help us balance our budget in 2023.

Thank you for your support of St. Raphael. If you have questions about the church's finances, please contact me or Dave Sevigny.

—*Paula Sevigny*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2



Please continue to support St. Raphael Episcopal Church.

We use Engage for online giving. To access Engage and set up your user account, please click [here](#). You can also access the page via the menu on our website at sreclex.org



Church collection for students of James Lane Allen Elementary School

HAVE NEWS FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

Send ideas, articles, information, and pictures for our next issue to John Daugherty at john.daugherty1492@gmail.com. The submission deadline is Feb. 15.

Music, Live and Alive at St. Raphael's

The Hymns We Sing! or What Flavor Ice Cream Do You Like?

In many ways our hymnals are like walking into an ice cream store and seeing all the varieties to choose from. Of course, there are the favorites – vanilla, chocolate, strawberry. But there are also countless more (think Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream flavors). The same is true with hymns. There are chants, hymns, spirituals, Black gospel songs, etc. So how do I choose the "flavors of the week" when it comes to hymn selection.



Clif Cason

Everything I choose for worship – the hymns, the anthems, the preludes, and postludes – comes after studying the Lectionary scripture passages of the week. I plan four to eight weeks in advance primarily to give the choir plenty of time to learn their music. I try to close myself off for three days or so and focus on what needs to be done to make worship more cohesive.

I have served seven different churches from a wide variety of denominations – Baptist (both American and Southern), Congregationalist, Disciples of Christ, Lutheran, Episcopalian, and Presbyterian (USA). Each denomination has its own unique history of familiar hymns, some of which have been new to me. Across all those denominations, though, there were hymns like "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," or "Holy, Holy, Holy" that everyone knew and loved.

For me, the 1982 Hymnal and LEVAS II are mostly new resources though I became acquainted with them while serving as Choir Director and Organist at St. Peter's in Paris, KY, before Covid. I love these hymnals. I'm partial to some of the same hymns you know and love. But I occasionally step out of my comfort zone and challenge myself to learn new texts, new melodies, and in so doing, find new ways to hear the scriptures paraphrased by insightful lyricists.

When I started at St. Raphael's, I asked Melinda Storey if I could borrow her resources dating back to 2016. Those resources included the hymns she chose. What I have done is to record all hymns sung from 2016-2019 and from July 2021 through the end of 2022 in a "Master Hymnal" which I have at my home. Here is a breakdown of the information from that hymnal.

Continued on the next page

Music continued

- I have chosen 34 new hymns from the 1982 Hymnal over 18 months.
- 11 of the 34 are set to other texts in the hymnal which we know and have sung.
- 7 of the 34 are from the Holy Scripture section of the hymnal. We use those specifically for the introduction to the Gospel reading. Those seven have been sung multiple times so I would put them in the category of being very familiar hymns.
- If you add the hymns with multiple settings along with the seven Holy Scripture hymns, we have sung 16 new hymns since July 4, 2021, or less than one new hymn per month since I started.

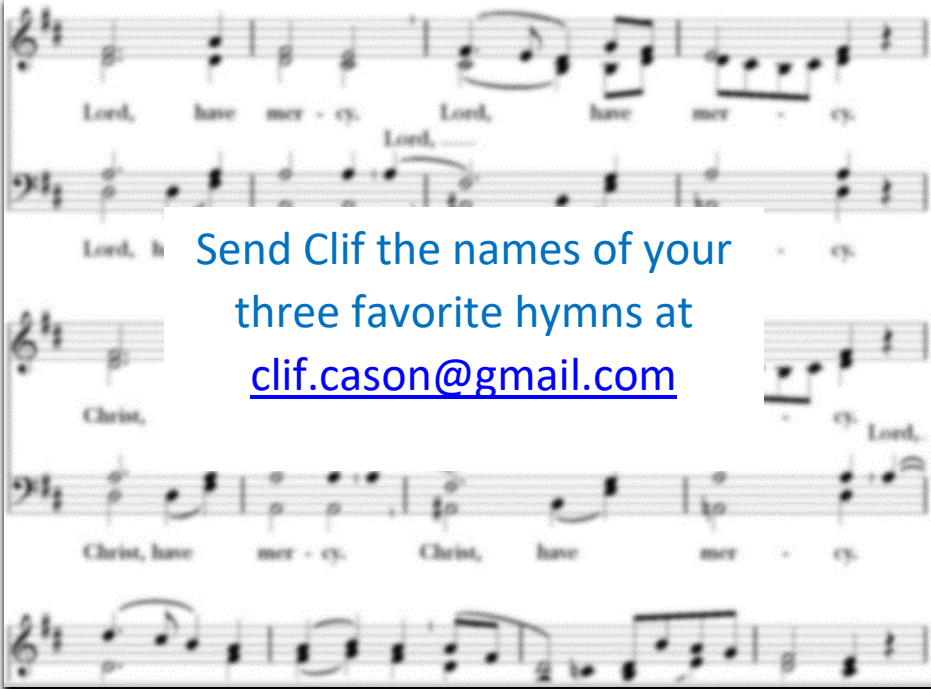
I know there are Sundays when a hymn may be an unfamiliar one to you. There is also the possibility that some of your favorites were sung on a Sunday when you may have been out of town or unable to attend worship.

We have 720 hymns in the 1982 Hymnal and 281 in LEVAS II. That's 1,001 hymns! Let's keep learning new ones, sing some familiar ones, and be good stewards of these magnificent resources.

In the meantime, I would like for you to share with me three of your favorite hymns. I can't promise they will be sung on a Sunday when you are in church but I will do my best to use them at some point.

Thanks

—Clif



Send Clif the names of your three favorite hymns at clif.cason@gmail.com

The Lay Preaching Initiative

Ministry is shared among bishops, priests, deacons, and lay people in the Episcopal Church. The changing contexts of many of our congregations have encouraged the discovery of gifts for preaching among laity in our Church.

Funded by a generous grant from Trinity Episcopal Church, Wall Street, the Lay Preacher Training Initiative is a two-year local formation experience designed to prepare effective, confident, and passionate preachers in the lay order of our Church.



Dave Sevigny

Under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Smith, this program partners with six pilot dioceses that have identified and raised up lay preachers. The Preaching Foundation envisions the broadening of partnerships and offering of formation as the gift of laity upholding their baptismal covenant through the ministry of preaching.

In the Diocese of Lexington, Dr. Mark Medley (Theologian-In-Residence at Good Shepherd) and the Rev. Laurie Brock (rector at St. Michael's) have been leading five of us in the diocese through the program, with the goal of completing the program during the summer of 2023.

I decided to follow this call a year ago, because I've always found that I learn more from my peers than I do in a formal education setting. And why would that be any different in listening to a preached sermon? To have a non-ordained peer witness what they think the gospel may be saying to them might be the best way for a congregation to take responsibility for the word itself – and provide their witness to others. I don't know exactly where this will lead, but I'm excited to give this new experience a try.

I'll be preaching at St. Raphael on Sunday Jan 1 at 10 a.m. and Sunday Jan 29 at both services. I'm a bit nervous –but would love to have you join me!

—*Dave Sevigny*

Lay Preacher in training

Three Kings Day Celebration for Youth

On the twelfth day of Christmas, January 6, we celebrate Three Kings Day! Celebrated most in Europe, Spain, and Latin America, 'El Dia de los Reyes', as it's called in Spanish, marks the glorification of baby Jesus by the Three Wise Men. Here at Saint Raphael, we will celebrate Kings Day with a special gathering for our teenagers and friends. All youth are invited to a celebration in Parish Hall from 6:00 - 8:00 pm on Friday, January 6. We will eat and play games, remembering 2022 and planning for 2023. Please let Sister Becky know who will be joining the fun by texting 606-594-8983 or by a phone call. Let's make this event a new tradition at Saint Raphael!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Mike B 1/5
Carol S 1/14
Patty B 1/15
Jennifer G 1/17
Michael S 1/19
Kylie VK 1/27
Drew A 1/28
Sonja G 1/29
Trevor K 1/29
Melissa B 1/31
Heather M 1/31

Thomas B 2/2
Joseph H 2/2
Hunter M 2/4
Ray D 2/8
Jenny K 2/15
Nazanin D 2/21

Anniversary:
Don and Vicki 1/1

Prayers Requested

Long term prayer list: Hilda, Mary Jane, Roy, Joan, Martha Helen, Pat Dinsmore, Steve & Ginger, Rose, Sonya, Sarah, Annette, Mary, Kenneth & Seth, Anisa, Mickie, Jim C, Andree, Sheenagh, Peggy and Sue, CC, Margaret G.

Currently in need of prayer: Hannah & Volodymr, Jerry & Trudy, Larry, Liz, David, Tony.

Pray for those who have died from Covid-19; for the people of Ukraine, Afghanistan, the military, and nations in conflict; and for victims of flooding (especially in Eastern Kentucky, Pakistan, India, Florida, and South Carolina).

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.

Our Diocese

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*.

POTLUCK PARTY TO BENEFIT THE WELL

St. Raphael Church
1891 Parkers Mill Rd
January 14, Saturday 6PM

Submit your recipe & receive a virtual
cookbook of all the submitted recipes!

CHANCE TO WIN RAFFLE PRIZES!
Donations support human trafficking survivors!

ENTRY DONATION:

Child <5: FREE

Student: \$10

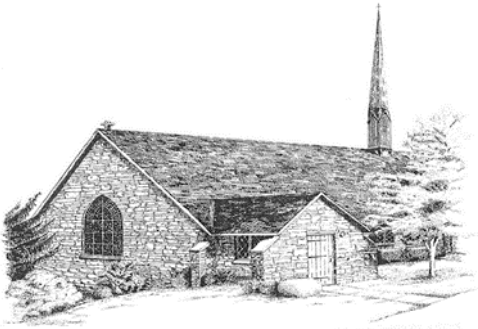
Adult: \$20

SCAN QR CODE
to **RSVP** and
submit your recipe!



Crafters Group Reforming

Attention all crafters, quilters, cross-stitches, or anyone who wants to learn from what others are doing. The second Saturday of every month (10 am - 2 pm) we will gather downstairs for an informal make and share. We start February 11.



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