



# The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol. 58 No. 4 May 2023 Pentecost

## 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

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

**Pentecost** is May 28

## From Our Rector

"Our business is building bridges with our questions of one another and the world." This is a quote from Rowan Williams, the previous Archbishop of Canterbury. You heard it in a recent sermon and it has stuck with me since. I wonder if it isn't a question to take into the long, green Pentecost season as a church.



Rev. Canon Dr.  
Helen Van Koevering

As I said in that same sermon, I remember the question of my spiritual director at some point more than 20 years ago in my ordination process: "how will ordination change the relationship you have with the women you work alongside?" And my response, God-given I believe, "I will be a bridge." As a deacon, I was very aware of being the bridge between the church and the world, the local church that knows you and the living community in which it finds itself. The bridge that brings the world

to the church and the church to the world. And once a deacon, always a deacon, whatever else may come.

It is "our business" to bridge the concerns of those inside and outside the walls of the church. We can do that in many ways, though primarily in listening to voiced needs and concerns, and joining in with how we understand God is present and calling us to respond. Mostly, we can bridge in prayer. Prayer that sometimes means silence, takes time, grows, develops through listening and knowledge of God's character always at work and not only in ourselves. I know we sometimes take our business to mean "fix it", or "Sunday attendance", or amplifying our voice in the world. I know the value of practical help, statistics, speaking up for the voiceless, but think about it: we don't

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## *From Our Rector, continued*

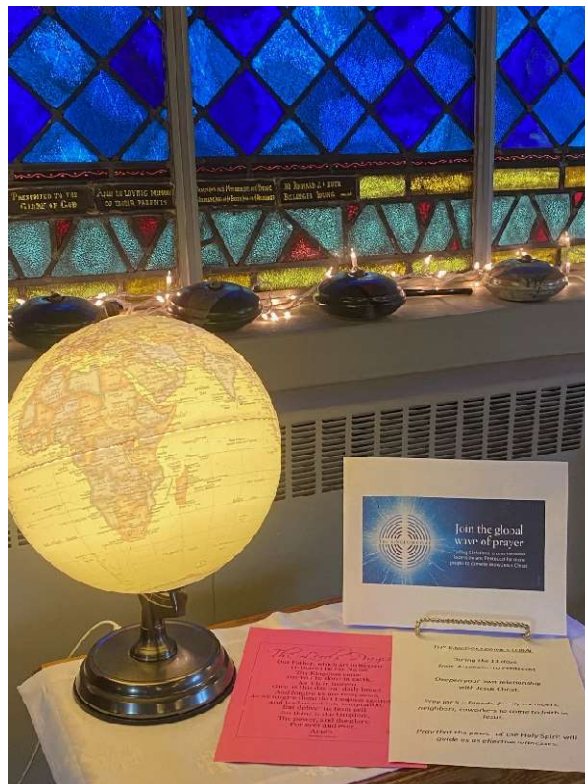
need to be the church to do those things or even to see change. The church is to follow Jesus: be his hands and feet; learn and be encouraged by others following him (those in the pews with us, the saints and theological thinkers we read, as well as those who left their learning and letters in the Bible; and we hear from neighbors when we go and listen. None of us has perfected this 'following Jesus' life: none of us is an island, entire in ourselves (to coin John Donne!). Connection is through our questions of one another and the world. And our prayers.

Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, has recently been talking about his travel experiences around the Episcopal Church (which, remember, includes 108 dioceses and three mission areas in 22 nations or territories). He is finding Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday Resurrection happening all at this same time all over, and sees churches creatively re-inventing themselves once they recognize their age-old purpose of bridging the world and the church, church and the world.

So maybe my question for prayer and discussion in this season of Pentecost might be formed by the words of PB Michael Curry: where do we see Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday Resurrection happening amongst us, in & at St Raphael, in the communities we find ourselves living, moving and being as followers of Jesus? Let me know your thoughts!

Holding you all in my love and prayers.

Rev. Helen

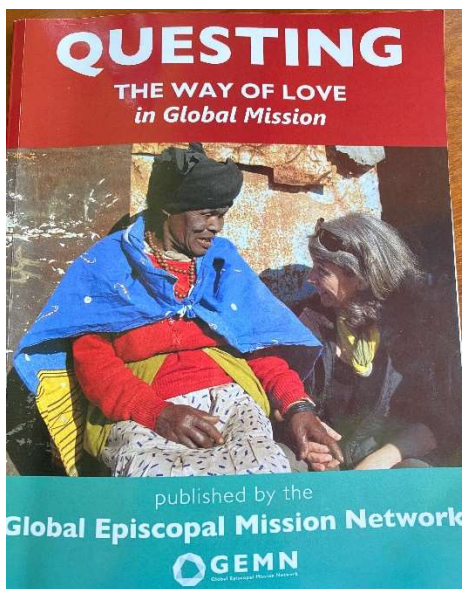


## Mission Training Retreat

From 7pm Friday June 23 through 3pm Saturday June 24 at St Raphael, led by Rev Helen.

The way of love, the vision of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, is well known to you all. He invites all Episcopalians to claim our place in the Jesus Movement, and has offered seven spiritual practices – Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest – for us all to be drawn ever more deeply into the love of Jesus *and* sent into the world to join in God's mission "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ" as our Prayer Book reminds us in the catechism (p. 855).

We are preparing a retreat at church. It isn't about growing our church or following a program to reinvigorate our church – it is primarily about faithfulness as followers of Jesus sent to God's restoring, reconciling action in the world. It is for us to learn about being both disciples and reflecting the apostolic 'sending' of each one of us into the mission of God. Pentecost is the celebration of the birthday of the Church, and much more – the coming of the Holy Spirit in a tangible and visible way brought the early Christians together and empowered them to go out into the world in response to Jesus sending them to be his witnesses. The first gift of the Holy Spirit to this early community was the gift of language and understanding, a promise that as the church spread throughout the world, the Spirit would enable people to work together. In mission companionship. We share lives, friendship, learning, joys and sorrows, and see healing happen



Before a mission trip, whether to our backyard or across oceans, it is good to learn and reflect on mission experience and relationships, and consider how we are to share and enter into mission with others. There is always a dimension of difference in mission activities, and hearing other's experience of the gospel can provide an opportunity for insight for our own growth too. We are looking at entering into some mission opportunities at St Raphael, and would like the opportunity to reflect and learn about the Way of Love in this context of mission. The Global Episcopal Mission network (GEMN) has put together some materials to offer this reflection, based on the seven spiritual practices above. The materials are gathered into a workbook called 'Questing: the Way of Love in Global Mission', and will form the

framework of our time together. You do not need to buy the book.

Please let our office, or members of our mission committee, or Senior Warden Amy Smereck know if you are interested in participating in this mini retreat on June 23 and 24.

Rev Helen

## Senior Warden's Corner

In her sermon on May 14 Rev. Helen asked us: "What is God doing amongst us today at and in the community of St. Raphael's? Where do we see Jesus, God with us? And how is the Spirit active in our life together?"

There is no right answer to these questions. This isn't about trying to please our Rector with our clever answers. There are no grades given for this assignment. What is the point of this exercise? We are the Body of Christ, co-creators with God to help bring about the evolution of our parish as we meet the challenges of the future. We are reassured by the following prayer that God's got this, that there's a plan and progress is being made:



Amy Smereck

"O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*" (*Book of Common Prayer*).

We can be part of this process, accelerating it, or we can thwart it. How do we know what to do? The Holy Spirit comes to us, individually and collectively, to guide us. In our noisy and confusing world we need more ears to be tuned in, more hearts to feel what we are being called to do. It's clear that more people in our community and world need to hear and feel the Good News and to be transformed by the healing power of Christ's love and compassion. This Pentecost season, look for the Holy Spirit at work and share your answers to Rev. Helen's questions.

— Amy Smereck

### Discernment for Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it. The Mission of The Order is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through Prayer, Service and Evangelism. St. Raphael's had a vibrant chapter but numbers have dwindled. If you are interested in learning more about Daughters of the King please contact Diane Whorley at (859) 224-4762 or [diane.whorley@outlook.com](mailto:diane.whorley@outlook.com).

## *From the Junior Warden*

A number of exciting projects are going on around our grounds:

Tobit's Trace: A diocesan grant has allowed us to build stairs and handrail from the parking lot (planter area) directly down to the seating area. Soon two new benches will be placed at the top so that people can sit and enjoy the peaceful serenity of God's creation. The wood planters have been populated with variety of pollinator perennials for beautiful blooms throughout the summer and fall while supporting a habitat for butterflies and bees.



*Laurie Daugherty*

Side Yard: Our neighbor is graciously donating new landscaping along the stonewall "fence" along the far side of our property. You will soon see new evergreens and magnolias in that area.

Columbarium: We are re-landscaping the Columbarium area along the walkway and side yard. The invasive vines will be removed and new plants installed to provide color year-round.

—Laurie Daugherty

### **Gardening volunteers needed!**

Past years of neglect have allowed invasive vines and other weeds to flourish. To protect our new investment in landscaping we need to keep our flower beds free of weeds and vines on a regular basis. No gardening experience required - I can teach you which plants to remove and how to do it. There are tools at the church. It's very easy! You can spend an hour or two a few times a month on your own schedule tending to God's creation. It's a therapeutic and rewarding way to spend time with nature – and its great exercise! Please contact Laurie (lcdaugh@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping.



## *Finance Committee*

As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, St. Raphael's is operating pretty much at breakeven. Year-to-date, we had \$63,340 in total income and \$63,646 in total expenses.

New Roof. You may have noticed the missing roof shingles! We suffered significant roof damage in the March 3<sup>rd</sup> storms. An insurance claim was filed and a new roof will soon be installed (including removal and re-installation of the solar panels). The only cost to us is the deductible (\$1,000).

Air-conditioning Units. Another major capital project is replacing our ancient air-conditioning units. St. Raphael has a total of seven AC units of which five were installed in 1989 and 1990. The three 1989 units need to be replaced now. Continuing to repair these units is no longer feasible. Units of this age use Freon, a substance no longer allowed by the EPA. These units have an efficiency rating of SEER 7. The current minimum SEER is now 15. The improved efficiency of new units should reduce our electric bills and significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We need to be good stewards of both our building and the environment! Vestry has approved a bid in the amount of \$19,300 to replace the two 5-ton units serving the sanctuary and one 4-ton unit serving the Parish Hall. This expense will nearly entirely deplete our Capital Improvement Fund. As a result, we will not have funds for emergencies such as a repair to another AC unit or a boiler. And the two 1990 units will need to be replaced in the near future.

**Please consider making a special contribution towards the new AC units. Any amount is welcomed! Please earmark your donation for the "Capital Improvement Fund."** Contact Dave Sevigny with your questions about these expenses or making a special contribution.



**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 [sreclx.org](http://sreclx.org).

## Music—Alive and Live

Memorial Day weekend is the kick-off to summertime and a change of pace in our busy lives. Before you settle into a more relaxed mode though, you need to see what lies ahead at St. Raphael's.

The first special Sunday is May 28, Pentecost Sunday. Several singers will be joining our choir to present an anthem using a text by Thomas Troeger with music by Christopher Tin. This will be the last Sunday in our celebration of Asian and Pacific composers.



Clif Cason

That same day we will be using a new hymnal given to St. Raphael's by First Presbyterian Church. There are over one hundred hymns in this new source that are not included in *The 1982 Hymnal* or *LEVAS II*. Some of those have been sung in the past at St. Raphael's. With the new hymnal, we will not need to make individual copies of a hymn.

June is Pride Month and we will be recognizing composers from the LGBTQ community. July will continue to feature some of our vocal scholars while the choir is down. August will have Chris Young at the organ for the first three Sundays while I am away. Gospel hymns and hymns that came from your suggestions will be featured throughout the month.

Enjoy your summer but come to worship on Sunday. You will enjoy hearing the wide variety of hymns and solos from Pentecost Sunday through the end of August.

—Clif

**The Kentuckians Chorus performed on May 20.** St. Raphael Choir alumnus Kris Olson is the Musical Director!



## Children's Ministry

### Ghost Town?

When I was a kid, growing up in California, my dad took us to a Ghost Town. Bodie is a real old west ghost town with saloons, and a jail, and was quite interesting for an 8-year-old.



*Bodie State Historic Park is a genuine California gold-mining ghost town. Visitors can walk down the deserted streets of a town that once had a population of nearly 10,000 people. The town is named for Waterman S. Body (William Bodey), who had discovered small amounts of gold in hills north of Mono Lake. In 1875, a mine cave-in revealed pay dirt, which led to purchase of the mine by the Standard Company in 1877. People flocked to Bodie and transformed it from a town of a few dozen to a boomtown.*

The question for us, at St. Raphael's, is are we turning into a ghost town this summer?

The teachers and children are enjoying Godly Play each week. The stories are fun and appeal to all ages. Our children's ages range from 2 years to 14 years. It is very hard to plan if we don't know if the children will be present. They really don't control their attendance – YOU, the parents do.

**PARENTS: Will you be bringing your child(ren) on a regular basis to church in the summer?**

We have a tentative program planned:

- June – the story of Paul and his conversion and Baptism

On June 25 we will surround the baptismal font as Adrienne is baptized.

- July – Open for now; waiting to see what children commit to attend. We are discussing teaching some of the older children how to teach Godly Play during the month of July.



## *Children's Ministry continued*

- August – The story of Ruth, Samuel, the Circle of the Church Year, and exploring the structure and books of the Bible.
- September – The Holy Family, Creation, the Ark, and the Flood

The teaching staff: Amanda Whorley, Diane Whorley, Tim Allen, and I (Janis Rosebrook) need to hear from each family unit about your summer plans. If there is not enough interest to continue Godly Play in the summer, there will be activities in the back of the church for our children.

Children's Chapel will officially kick off the year on **August 20**. Please mark the date on your calendar.

Kindly text Janis Rosebrook at 626-389-7474 to confirm whether your child(ren) will attend Summer Chapel, and if so, what dates do you anticipate they will be present.

Hoping that St. Raphael Children's Chapel does not become, like Bodie, a ghost town this summer.

—*Janis Rosebrook*

## *The Mission Team*

St. Raphael's has been doing great mission work with many groups surrounding St. Raphael including Build, Stonewall Terrace as well as Greater Gardenside, James Lane Allen, and the St. Raphael food pantry. Mission is looking forward to learning more about another mission opportunity: Mrs. Diane Vego with the Christian Appalachian Project will visit on **July 16** at the 11 am service to explain about the wonderful mission opportunities available for St. Raphael to take part in through the Christian Appalachian Project.

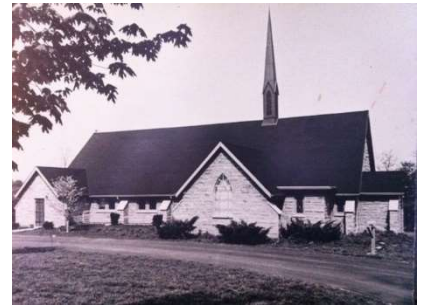
Thank you,

—*Amanda Whorley with the Mission Team*

## *A View from the Pew*

**Dr. Page, the first Rector** (part of a series on the history of St. Raphael)

The man Bishop Moody chose to lead the new St. Raphael's parish was Dr. Willard D. Page. The fact that Page was an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church was an obstacle that could be overcome but not without delay. Not even the Pope himself, if he decided to join the Episcopal Church, could be ordained without going through the same process as other priests.



*The church before renovation*

A native of Rochester, NY, Dr. Page was pastor of an ecumenical downtown church called Everybody's Church. It had no official connection with the Diocese of Lexington. Everybody's Church was founded by a Presbyterian minister whose congregation thought he spent too much time helping the poor. Although it was a downtown church, it drew members from literally "everywhere." Dr. Page, who was head of the Kentucky Council of Churches, became friends with Bishop Moody who invited him to be Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Lexington. Page later became dean of the seminary. His decision to leave his denomination and become a priest in the Episcopal Church surprised and shocked many people. Page had come to admire the Episcopal form of government with authority vested in a bishop and its traditions, and wanted that discipline and structure for himself. He was ordained in January 1964.

Only a very few parishioners today remember Dr. Page. Nobody called him Fr. Willard. The Collivers were married by him. Sonya Gaitskill recalled that his sermons were "scholarly" but everyone loved and respected him. He was a tall man who usually wore a gray suit and smoked a pipe, even in class. Barbara Hall remembers he played the piano and often played "jazzy" tunes. He was a generous man. When the church gave him a cash Christmas gift, he used the money to buy one of the silver chalices that we still use in Communion. The stained glass window in the chapel was given by the Tarkingtons in thanksgiving for his service. He died on Halloween 1975 of a heart attack.

Dr. Page did one thing that I doubt many people today know about but it's in the Parish Register, the book in which all services are recorded by the priest. He blessed the union of two men. The ceremony wasn't held in the church but he recorded it in the marriage section of the register. He couldn't marry them. It would have been illegal. He was an Old Testament scholar. He knew the Scriptures as well as anybody. He had come to this position decades before the Church did. Did Bishop Moody, known to be conservative, know about this? I wish I could ask him.

—Rose Canon

# BUILD

Thanks to all who attended the Nehemiah Action Assembly on April 24th. There were 18 representing St. Raphael with over 1000 attendees from the 26 congregations comprising BUILD. We heard powerful messages from our clergy, heartfelt testimonies from our neighbors struggling with injustice, and won strong commitments from our officials. We received good news for Affordable Housing from the seven council members in attendance, including our own Dave Sevigny, in support of the 1% affordable housing ordinance when it comes before the full council. Councilmember James Brown agreed to work with BUILD in identifying a dedicated source & clear plan for funding affordable housing by October 1st. The work of justice continues for those who sacrifice their mental health and general well-being due to lack of reliable transportation. Councilmember Ellinger has agreed to work with BUILD and others to hear more about micro transit programs that can benefit our community. Lastly, BUILD will continue to advocate for programs that will address the crisis of gun violence in our community.

As a member of BUILD, I, along with other St. Raphael's members, have been investing in this justice ministry for several years. It is one way we can do justice by serving those in need in our community. Many commit to a \$200 investment to help in the work of this organization. Any amount, small or large, is greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute to St. Raphael's BUILD fund, you may do so by writing a check to St. Raphael's with BUILD noted in the memo. Please contact Rev. Helen, Rev. Nancy Turner Jones, Tim Allen, or me for more information.

—Diane Whorley

## **BUILD Celebration & Investment Drive Kick-off**

**Thursday, June 8th** at Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 601 Hill N Dale Road, Lexington.

Food served at 6:30 p.m. and program begins at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited! Join us as we celebrate our accomplishments this year.

## Prayers Requested

*Long term prayer list:* Hilda, Steve and Ginger, Rose, Sonya, Kenneth & Seth, Mickie, Jim C, Sheenagh, Mary-Ann, Stacey, Hannah & Volodymyr

*Currently in need of prayer:* Liz, Larry, Elizabeth, Betty, Thelma and Doug, Jeffrey, Amber, Paula B, Janis, Nikky, Zach, Don Jr.

*Recently deceased:* Flor

We keep in our prayers those who died from or bereaved from Covid-19. We pray for victims of storms in Mozambique and east Africa, floods around the world, and earthquakes in Syria and Turkey. We pray for those affected by the current violent clashes in Jerusalem, Sudan, Ukraine, and Russia.

Please contact Rev. Helen for prayer list changes.

### Walk in Love: Preparation for Confirmation, Reaffirmation, & Reception

Bishop Mark's annual visit to St. Raphael's is October 8. While that seems a long way off, if you are considering Confirmation, Reception into the Episcopal Church, or Reaffirmation of your faith on that day, there is some preparation involved. Rev. Helen will be meeting with those who will be confirmed, reaffirmed, or received as they read *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices* by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. Meetings will be held **June 25, July 16, July 30, August 27, September 10 and September 24** at 10 am (between the services). Please let Rev. Helen know if you are interested. The books are available at church.



## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### **Birthdays:**

**June 1** Harvey S

**June 5** Erika

**June 7** Eli B

**June 16** Afsi D

**June 18** Ben H

**June 20** Bob B

**June 21** Jeff C, Dave S, Jack S

**June 23** Isaac F, Maggie & Noah

**June 28** Jonathon M

**July 5** Ian R

**July 10** Bernice W

**July 15** Rose Conley

**July 17** Jack C

**July 22** Carole M & Ron V

**July 25** Amy S

**July 26** Aaron S

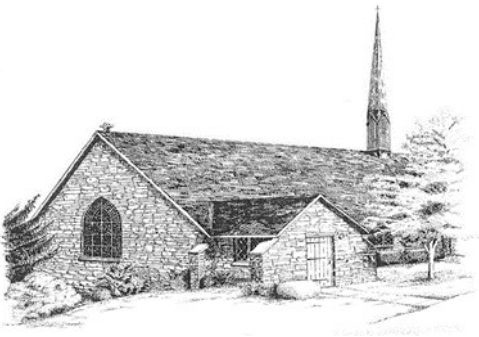
### **Anniversaries:**

**June 8** Bev & Bob B

**July 8** Chris & Amy B

**The Crafters** plan to meet on the third Saturday of the month. Below is one of their recent projects: a friendship quilt for the first VK grandchild (due June 10). Contact Carols Summers at [bspscarol@aol.com](mailto:bspscarol@aol.com) for more information.





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