



# The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church  
Vol. 59 No. 4 Easter 2024

## Worship

### Holy Week & Easter

**Mar. 24 Palm Sunday** 8:30  
am (*spoken*) and 11:00 am (*w/music*)

**Mar. 25 Monday**  
Eucharist (*spoken*) Noon

**Mar. 26 Tuesday**  
Eucharist (*spoken*) Noon

**Mar. 27 Wednesday**  
Eucharist (*spoken*) Noon

**Mar. 28 Maundy Thursday**  
Eucharist (*w/music*) 6:30 pm

**Mar. 29 Good Friday**  
Stations of the Cross Noon  
Good Friday Service 6:30 pm

**Mar. 30 Easter Vigil** (*w/music,*  
*baptisms*) 6:30 pm

**Mar. 31 Easter**  
Easter Brunch 9:30 am (*Bring a dish to*  
*share!*)  
Eucharist (*w/music*) 11 am (*Yes, one*  
*service!*)

## From Our Rector

And here we are at Holy week again! The week that commemorates the last eight days of Jesus' life. Somehow, this sacred time fits well into the seasons of both the northern and southern hemispheres when new life is happening in creation—the new birth of Spring and sunlight in the north, and the new harvests ready to bring in in the south. I invite you all to make space to celebrate this week together!



*Rev. Canon Dr.  
Helen Van Koevering*

Palm Sunday honors the day when Jesus humbly rode into Israel's capital city, cheered as the new King of the Jews. On Maundy Thursday, Jesus showed the meaning of servant leadership and his life emptied out. A handful of days later, many who misinterpreted His mission called for His death by crucifixion on Friday. And on Easter morning, He resurrected to new life, the Savior of the world with power over death and the power of love to welcome us to new and eternal life.

We all know about Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, the bookend services for Holy week. I invite you to more! There will be services every day during Holy Week. With short midday services on Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, we shall follow the movements of Jesus. On Monday, Jesus taught in the temple, intensifying his public teaching and then spending the evening reconnecting with his friends, Lazarus, Mary and Martha in Bethany. On Tuesday, the readings have Jesus return to the Temple to share parables around the now and not yet Kingdom of God, inviting recognition of who He is. On Wednesday, we hear of the plans to have Jesus killed.

# Worship

## Eastertide

### Sundays

Holy Eucharist

Rite I, 8:30 a.m.

Rite II w/music, 11:00 a.m.

### Wednesdays

Eucharist with Healing, Noon

### Compline

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

online

Jesus is anointed by Mary at Bethany, with an expensive jar of perfume in preparation, Jesus says, for His burial. Some churches call this day 'Spy Wednesday' as we also hear of Judas' betrayal.

If you have never participated in the next three days, called the Triduum, plan to this year. Each of the services (all at 6.30pm on each of the days) are powerful in meaning and visual drama, and seen as one service with parts drawn together in one story. We shall move from a Eucharist service with foot washing on Thursday, to the stripping of the altar, to reflection on the Stations of the Cross and contemplation on the Cross, to the quietness of the new light spreading into church as we are reminded of the whole history of salvation with baptisms and then the beautiful first Eucharist of Easter! And then Easter Sunday, which we shall celebrate with a beautiful sanctuary, joyous music and a meal together as the people of God in this part of Lexington! This is one of the most important celebrations of the Christian faith and we invite you all to share it at one service this year: 11am. All are welcome – and we mean all at St Raphael's!

And we then move forward into the Easter season, encouraged by the Easter belief of which Archbishop Tutu wrote:

Goodness is stronger than evil;  
Love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness;  
Life is stronger than death;  
Victory is ours through Him who loved us.

I so look forward to seeing you all during this holiest of weeks, and especially altogether on Easter Sunday!

Much love and every blessing,

**Rev Helen**

### Sages & Friends

Thursday, April 18 at 11:30 am, location TBA

Thursday, May 16 at 11:30 am, location TBA

## Senior Warden's Corner



Amy Smereck

“Almighty God ... Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found...”

These words are from the Collect for the 5th Sunday in Lent, Year B, which was last Sunday's Collect as I am writing this. Two phrases jumped out at me. The first is “swift and varied changes of the world.” Doesn't it feel like the world is always in a frenzied state of constant change these days? It sometimes feels like there are destructive and hate-filled forces at work which are like a tractor-beam, forces that can seem difficult, even impossible to overcome. (Are they?)

The second is “love what you command and desire what you promise.” *What does God command?* During Lent our Eucharists have included the Decalogue, the ten commandments. We also have heard from the Gospel of Mark that the two greatest commandments are the first two, love God and love your neighbor as yourself.

*What does our triune God promise us?* According to our Catechism, in the New Covenant “Christ promised to bring us into the kingdom of God and give life in all its fullness.” What is meant by the kingdom of God and this full life where true joys are found? We are invited and encouraged, via Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter services, to *walk with Jesus* as he explains this, through His words and actions, to the Apostles.

Please take part in as many services as you are able to! Even if you believe you have already worked out all of these Holy mysteries long ago, you might find that these services touch you in new ways, because though God's love is unchanging, we, and the world, and our congregation are continually changing. Your presence at these services is important to the rest of us; we are on this faith journey together! During the Easter Vigil service Rev. Helen will baptize several folks, and they will thus be formally welcomed into the household of God and into our care to support them in their life in Christ. Please be there to show your support from this important starting place of Baptism.

You will find the Holy Week and Easter schedule in this issue of the Herald. Hope to see you at St. Raphael's!

### Crafter's Group

Saturday, April 20 at 10:00 am

Saturday, May 18 at 10:00 am

## *A Musical Note*

Let me be honest; I LOVE to sing. My voice is not particularly strong, but I love to sing, especially when joined by a choir and / or congregation. As we sing communally, we fulfill a sacramental role in worship as we offer to God the gifts of our voices. We also preserve our heritage as we sing hymns that have sustained congregants for hundreds of years.



*Dr. Vicki Bell*

The mission of any sacred music program is to enrich the life and worship of the church, rooted in a biblical mandate to sing. Both the Old and New Testaments contain references to song. David, the master musician of the Old Testament, urges us to “Sing praises to God, sing praises; Sing praises to our King, sing praises” (Psalm 47:6). In the New Testament, we are encouraged to “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16).

Our Episcopal church has nurtured this mission for many years, and I can assure you that the St. Raphael choir and I are sincerely committed to leading our worship through the singing of hymns, anthems, psalms, and service music. We strive to sustain our Episcopal tradition, as we guide future generations to be able inheritors.

## *Children's Ministry*

**SECRET FRIENDS:** The program we initiated this Lent appears to be going well. During Lent, the children were assigned a “secret friend” to send positive thoughts, prayers and small gifts or cards to. We offered the congregation a chance to join in. People who wished to contribute, were given a child’s name and address to allow them to send cards. The names of secret friends will be announced in the Easter Bulletin.

The idea for this program comes from some new ideas about Lent. Instead of giving up something for Lent – that you may take up again after Easter, another thought is that it might be better to take something positive “on”. Our children were encouraged to be nice to a church friend, to take on responsibilities at home without being asked, and to try thinking of someone else’s needs in addition to their own.

**EASTER DECORATIONS:** Look for art pieces the children made to decorate the church at Easter. We sponge painted 8”x10” canvasses, added stencils pictures and butterflies. They were not finished in time for a photo for this month’s Herald. If you can, please remark to the children how beautiful their addition is to our Easter decorations.

*--Janis Rosebrook*

# BUILD

BUILD - Building a United interfaith Lexington through Direct-Action

On March 12th, your St. R's team joined BUILD churches at the Justice Ministry Team Assembly to prepare for the upcoming Rally and Nehemiah Action.

St. Raphael's has two very important events scheduled in April. The first is the BUILD Rally, Tuesday, April 9th at Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary. The program begins at 7 pm and is perfect for those wanting to know what to expect at the Nehemiah Action. In addition to testimonials, Issue Committee Reports will be presented on Housing, Micro transit & Elder Care.

On Tuesday, April 30th at 7 pm the Nehemiah Action will be held at Central Bank Center. This event brings together BUILD leaders with our local officials to ask for changes that will support a fairer and more just Lexington for all citizens. We will need you with us.

Your team,  
Rev. Helen, Rev. Nancy, Amy, Tim, Amanda, Diane

## *The Altar Guild Ministry*

The Altar Guild Ministry is in need of new members to help with Sunday & special services. We are an important ministry working closely with Rev. Helen to prepare the altar for the people of St. Raphael's. It is both an honor and privilege to serve.

We are members of an unbroken tradition going back to the apostles when followers of Christ met in private homes to break bread together and share memories of Him. Over the years the Altar Guild has developed into the ministry it is today, serving in every Episcopal Church.

As members of the AG, we've had the pleasure of working with many wonderful priests and forming lasting friendships with other members. There are no special skills required. We learn as we go, always work together, keep it fun and faithful, & stay very flexible, understanding we all have busy lives.

Please feel free to contact Rev. Helen or Diane Whorley (text or call 859-224-4762 with any questions).

--Diane Whorley

### **Alice Garrick from Church of Pakistan Women's Department to Speak at Dinner Church April 20**

Our next St. Raphael Dinner Church will take place Saturday, April 20 at 5:30 pm. Alice is a longtime friend of Rev. Helen's through their work on women's issues in the Anglican Communion. She will talk about her work, the situation in Pakistan, and also bring crafts and clothing for sale from a women's group in the Department. Please don't miss this opportunity to meet her and hear from another part of our Anglican communion! Please bring a dish to share, and invite friends to share in this casual dinner Eucharist service.



### **Call to Compassion: An Interfaith Seder Sunday April 21 following the 11 am service**

Led by Rev. Helen Van Koevering & Aaron Guldenschuh-Gatten, the CEO of Recovery Cafe and Nathaniel Mission, this luncheon event will explore the traditions and rituals of the Jewish Festival of Passover. Learn about the Seder and contemplate how Passover might inform our lives today. The menu will include a full lunch with Jewish delights. All are welcome, but advance reservation is required. Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 16. Register by sending an email to Aaron at [agoldenshoe@icloud.com](mailto:agoldenshoe@icloud.com). Kindly include any food allergies or dietary restrictions of which we should be aware.

### **Daughters of the King**

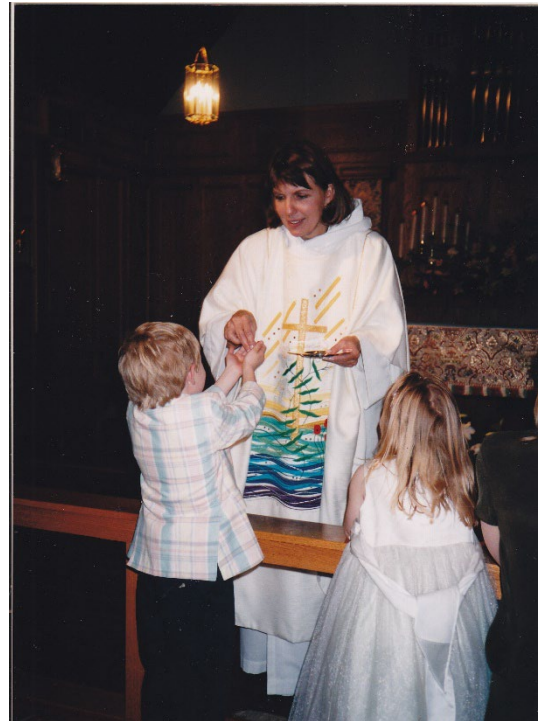
The DOK Spring Assembly will be held on Saturday, April 13 at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, from 9:30 am to 3 pm. Rev. Anisa Willis will be celebrating the Eucharist and Canon Rev. Amy Chambers Cortright will also be joining us. For more information contact D. Whorley.

## *A View from the Pew*

This is not the time or place to discuss the discernment period imposed by the bishop that led to resignation of the Rev. Rob Matheus in October 1999. What is important for us today is knowing how the church recovered from the time of trial and became again a healthy, loving community of worshippers.

The search for a new rector stretched longer than usual—over two years, partly because the Diocese was searching for a new bishop. Bishop Wimberly had resigned and gone to Texas. When the search committee submitted a list of names of possible new rectors to the new bishop, Stacy Sauls, he rejected all of them as not being good enough for St. Raphael's! The committee searched again.

What happened next is enough to make us believe that God really does know what he's doing. In Michigan, Sarah J. Boelter was retiring as a junior high school teacher. She was ordained and had been an associate priest, but now she was ready to be a fulltime rector. She accepted a call to St. Raphael's. Her first service was in August 2002. She was exactly what this church, in a state of malaise, needed to be restored to health.



*Rev. Sarah J. Boelter*

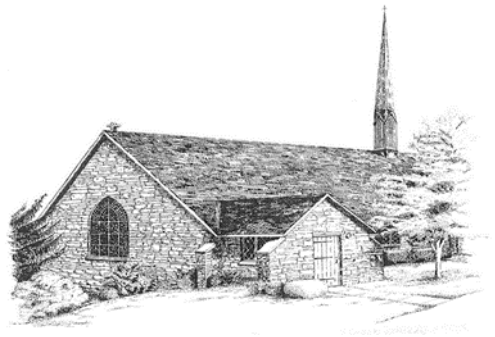
We had been told by bishops and consultants that we should love each other. A loving and giving person, Sally (we called her) showed us how by loving us and telling us she did. She reorganized the healing team. She loved old, sick people (not everyone does). Having been raised Roman Catholic, she added some "High Church" practices to worship. She installed prints of the Stations of the Cross (later replaced with carved wood stations) and began having a Stations of the Cross service on Good Friday. Knowing the importance of music as an evangelistic tool, she found money to pay choir scholars—a custom continued today. She loved children. She liked religious drama and used it.

I have my own memories of Sally. One is that when I had emergency surgery, she got to the Emergency Room in half an hour from her home in Jessamine County to pray for me before I went into surgery. She asked God to give me patience. She knew me well.

Another is when the church was getting a new roof. I arrived on a Saturday to help set up the altar and saw that roofing material had fallen on a large Hosta in the garden. I went inside and before I could say anything, she said "We're just glad nobody got hurt." After that, what could I say?

After five years as our priest, she resigned to accept a call to a church in California, wanting to be near her daughter.

*--Rose Canon*



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