



The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church
Vol. 59 No. 5 Pentecost 2024

Worship

Ordinary Time

Sundays

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

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

Wednesdays

Eucharist with Healing, Noon

Compline

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

Special Events

Bishop's Visitation

Sunday June 9; brunch between services

Church Picnic

Sunday August 18, 12 pm – 3 pm

Amadeus Lex

Sunday August 18, 3 pm

From Our Rector

Dear St Raphaelites and friends,

On Sunday afternoon of June 9, after celebrating confirmations and the Bishop's visit, I shall be beginning a short sabbatical. After six years of ministry, there is the possibility to take a three-month sabbatical to renew, revive and reflect on the journey. I will be taking seven weeks of that time to do a variety of things: attend a London meeting of the Anglican Communion's International Anglican Women's Network of which I have been a part for several years; enjoy our grandson's first birthday and baptism in London; take a week's retreat; walk the Portuguese Camino from Porto to Santiago de Compostela with my husband; and spend time with my daughter and her wedding preparations. I shall return at the end of July. In January 2025, I shall be taking another couple of weeks for the second part of the wedding, taking place in Rajkot, India. I'm so glad that I am able, with your support and love, to connect with my widespread family at this time in their lives. Thank you!



*Rev. Canon Dr.
Helen Van Koevering*

Amy and I have been talking about how a sabbatical can be more than beneficial to the priest. The church remains. There are, of course, supply clergy in place for every Sunday and ready to meet pastoral needs, but I thought it might be good to look again at our lectionary readings during Eastertide from 1 John and John Chapter 15-17. These have focused on John's vision and call: being a community of love. Perhaps you'd like to look back over the sermons of Eastertide whilst I'm away?

They are recorded by our Mevo team and can be found on our parish FB page.

Love is at the heart of discipleship, and our belief shapes how we love others. When we know our eternal belovedness to be our life's anchor and let that knowledge engage us with new perspective and spiritual vision, perhaps we shall realize a new relationship to our needs and resources is there for us to create a community of love in our neighborhood, our part of Lexington. I've been reminded of the Greek words lost in translating the word 'love' to English: storge (familial affection and likened also to "I love ice cream"!), philia (friendship, brotherhood/sisterhood); eros (romantic love); and agape (divine love, modelled by Jesus in his intercessory prayer of John 17). Every Christian virtue we hold dear seems to be defined by John as an expression of God's love. So, as I said on 6th Sunday of Easter, "justice without love is legalism; faith without love is ideology or dogma; hope without love is self-centredness; forgiveness without love is fake; generosity without love is extravagance; care without love is mere duty."

Jesus embodied agape love in washing the feet of his disciples, in calling them friends, and in interceding for them with the Father as they go and embody works of love for the world that God loves without limit. Love that is interceding, giving, friendship will sustain our witness of love from our beautiful church amongst us and outside in our world. The gift of the Holy Spirit is alongside, revealing and enabling us to learn of agape: love that is 'just as' the Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father, and leads us into what we can't know without watching, listening, and interceding for our community. It is the Holy Spirit that calls us to build communities of love, and we, with gifts of the Spirit, are all in this together. We are gathered as one on the holy ground of God's generous love towards us with much to offer our neighbors, families and friends. Our calling is to make visible both the kingdom that is already amongst us, and the unbounded grace of God at work in the world. And to be known as a community of love.

With much love and prayers as I travel,

Rev Helen



Bom caminho!

Senior Warden's Corner

After Pentecost begins the long church season sometimes called Ordinary Time. Don't let week after week of the "Umpteenth Sunday after Pentecost" and green altar cloths fool you into thinking you should forgo church services and hide at home on Sunday mornings! Here are some things to appreciate about church during the late spring and early summer:



Amy Smereck

1. Bishop Mark will be visiting St. Raphael June 9. We'll have a potluck brunch between the services (9:30 - 10:45 am) so bring a dish and enjoy some fellowship.
2. After Godly Play wraps up for the school year, our youngest members are encouraged to either avail themselves of the quiet activities on the table in the back of the Nave, or sit with their grownups. There are even cards for doodling on in the pews. It's nice to share in worship with our young people and get to know them.
3. The altar flowers are especially beautiful in the summer. Some are cut from the gardens around St. Raphael.
4. Stay after service for coffee and conversation, which sometimes spills out onto the front lawn on sunny summer days. Community is an important part of church life, so please try striking up a conversation with someone you don't know. We are better together. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." —Proverbs 27:17
5. Vicki Bell will continue as our organist through the summer at the 11 am service. Though the choir is taking a break, most of its members continue to attend church in the summer and sing from the pews. Most Sundays a Cantor will sing the hymns and occasional anthem. Summer is a lovely time to be a little bit braver with your own singing in the congregation.
6. Before or after the service walk through Tobit's Trace. Visit the newly refreshed kiosk for information about accessing the guided hikes on the church website. Partway down the hill there are some benches where you can rest and enjoy a bit of nature, ponder the day's lectionary readings, or meditate.

In general things seem more relaxed at church during the summer, so come as you are and enjoy the pleasures of Ordinary Time at St. Raphael. Hope to see you there.

Greater Gardenside Farmers' Market
Wednesdays, 4 – 7 pm
Starting June 5!

Property Report

On April 20th, a small working group spent the day improving the walking path in Tobit's Trace and sprucing up the kiosk, all with funds awarded to us by the Lexington Parks Equity Accelerator. Many thanks to John Hazlett, Dave Sevigny, and Mike Hart for their hard work. Take a moment to walk the path and enjoy our lovely woods! And check out the kiosk for a copy of Jean Ellen Melton's beautiful painting of Tobit's Trace (see below)! Thank you, Jean Ellen!



Laurie Daugherty

You may notice some new tech appearing around and in our building. Last month we had new exterior motion-sensor flood lights installed to make our building safer after dark. New security cameras were recently installed as well. In the next few weeks, we will have new doors installed and a new door access system. This is all through a grant we received from the Department of Homeland Security. Once everything is up and working, we will no longer utilize door codes for entry. We will have a process to make the transition as easy as possible. Plenty of details will follow when we are ready to roll out the new system.

And finally, if you notice how nice our gardens are looking, please thank our new garden volunteers – Alison Cledenden, Hella Robbins, Dina Mullins, and Bev Bouse.



A Musical Note

CHOOSING HYMNS



Dr. Vicki Bell

A main objective of any sacred music program is to enrich the life and worship of the church, rooted in a biblical mandate to sing. A portion of my responsibilities as your interim organist / choirmaster is the selection of hymns, anthems, and service music that support the assigned scriptures of the day. This thoughtful task is one that I take seriously and enjoy immensely.

Thankfully, we have a framework for organization. Our lectionary is constructed in a three-year cycle (Year A, Year B, and Year C) that facilitates the choice of hymns to support and amplify the implications of the assigned scriptures. This organization is most obvious to congregants in seasons like Easter and Christmas when we sing carols and hymns that clearly amplify the readings. In seasons like Pentecost, however, the connection may seem more tenuous. Thanks to publications like **The Choirmaster's Handbook**, the process of choosing hymns that correlate with lectionary-assigned readings is simplified. For example, on Pentecost Sunday (2024), the first reading is from the book of Acts, and describes God's outpouring of the Spirit on His people. In support of this reading, the Handbook suggests "Hail thee, festival day!" which references the apostles' preaching in "myriad tongues" as the Holy Ghost "shone in the world with God's grace."

A final thought: if you have a favorite hymn that has not been recently sung, please feel free to leave a "special request" note on the organ console, along with your name. I'll do my best to incorporate your requests into our Pentecost season services.

BUILD

"To do what is Right, what is Fair, and what is Just."

Thanks to all who joined the Nehemiah Action Assembly on April 30th. Your presence was greatly appreciated. There were just over 1,000 in attendance. Clergy, Lexington friends, neighbors, and Justice Ministers shared messages, testimonies, and ongoing commitments of hope to improve our city for the benefit of all.

The Good News

The Affordable Housing Fund, celebrating 10 years of success, has provided 3,080 families with a safe, decent, affordable place to call home.

Although the city did not adopt the National Network for Safe Communities program; BUILD did push city officials to act. In the Fall of 2022, the CURE Violence Reduction Strategy and P.I.E.R. approach was implemented. BUILD will continue to monitor the results.

Seven council members including our own Dave Sevigny, replied "YES" to approving the \$75K allocation for a Micro transit feasibility study.

The Elder Care research process identified 3 themes: 90% of older adults want to age in their homes, numerous barriers exist in accessing resources, the impact is detrimental to overall health and wellness. The Village-to-Village Network model which restores connections, neighborhoods and neighborliness may be a solution for the care, support and safety net of elders in our community. The Commissioner of Social Services and Mayor Gorton have been approached to take the first steps towards forming a village by completing a survey.

Next Up

Your BUILD team members will attend the Celebration and Investment Drive Kickoff on Thursday, June 6 at Mary Queen. We'll celebrate our accomplishments and have the opportunity to invest in the work of the organization. If you would like to learn more, contact Rev. Helen or Diane Whorley.

--Diane Worley

A View from the Pew



Anemones

Genesis 2 tells us the Lord God created the first garden and put Adam to work in it. Every garden since then has been planned, planted, and cared for by people.

When I was doing an altar arrangement using flowers from the churchyard, I began thinking about how our gardens got like they are. From the Lenten roses by the red door that always bloom in time for Lent to the maples with their displays of fall color, they give us beauty. This did not happen by accident. It was designed and carried out with purpose. It has a history.

My knowledge dates from 1986 when I came to St. Raphael's. From then until 2008, plants were randomly added to the garden. Someone who loved plants would bring one and plant it, usually with permission of the Property Commission or the priest. I think this is when the oakleaf hydrangeas were planted,

such a wonderful contributor to altar flowers. I planted a Lenten rose (*helleborus orientalis*) by the red door when the church had an interim rector and wasn't in good financial shape. I thought this isn't what the church needs most right now, but we ought to have a Lenten rose. Another woman planted one on the opposite side of the sidewalk. The red rose near the office door was donated by Jackie Laborda in memory of her husband, Maurice.

In September 2008 the church called an enthusiastic gardener, Fr. Johnnie Ross, as rector. Almost at once he brought plants from his garden in Prestonsburg, some of which came from his grandmother's garden. These included the white peonies in front and back that gladden our hearts in May, irises, redhot poker, wild geraniums, and the gorgeous white anemones that bloom in front of the church in later summer when other flowers are done. He started a group called Gardening Angels (I told him I was a gardener but not an angel) and asked Nancy Bell to chair the group. We all agreed that any planting would have to be approved by the group. No more chaos.

The vestry appropriated money to completely redo the plantings in front of the church. Much thought and discussion went into design and choice of plants. The Angels obtained, dug, and planted. An automatic watering system was installed. Laurel, nandina, holly and magnolia provide greenery at Christmas. Daffodil bulbs and perennials were planted and there was space for annuals.

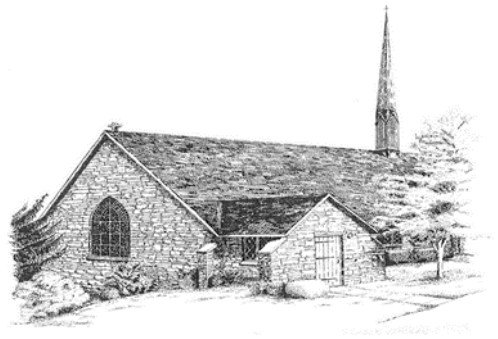
Later the Angels added another bed in back of the church. Teams were assigned to different areas for maintenance. We bought urns for seasonal plants and raised money with sales of plants, cards, and wreaths. At times the group consisted of 10 or more people. Fr. Johnnie alone planted the butterfly garden behind the columbarium.

Natural attrition is what happened to the Angels—we aged, became disabled, three died, others moved. The gardens are still here and still need maintenance. Junior Warden Laurie Daugherty is in charge, assisted by Alison Clendenen, Hella Robbins, Bev Bouse, and Dina Mullins. If you can help, contact Laurie. A few hours occasionally can make a difference.

--Rose Canon



Peonies



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