



The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol. 59 No. 6 September 2024

From Our Rector

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 (Facebook)

Seasons of Creation

September

St. Francis of Assisi

Blessing of the Animals, October 6

All Saints' & All Souls'

November 3

Annual Parish Meeting

November 17

Dear Friends of St Raphael's!

I hope you all have had a blessed summer! As you all know, I took a short sabbatical, mostly to enable me to visit my ever-expanding family and take a Camino pilgrimage with my husband. By now, you will have heard quite a bit about the Camino, something we had dreamt of doing for many years. You will also have heard that we spent time with our grandson in London, and that I was there to celebrate his first birthday and for us both to baptize him. I am so glad that the Microsoft glitch that caused chaos for airlines (and my return to the US), but it did mean I got to spend a few good days with Kylie – her wedding is just two months away, and the excitement builds!



Rev. Canon Dr.
Helen Van Koevering

It is interesting how the church seasons follow and add to the year's seasons. The Pentecost season of 26 weeks (the green season after Pentecost through to Christ the King on the last Sunday before Advent) reflects our growth towards the heart of faith in Jesus Christ. The lectionary seems to shift from personally turning more and more to Jesus, and then shifts again as we move into September towards our action for peace and justice in our world. For the last few years, we have joined in with a global and ecumenical 'Seasons of Creation' through September to St Francis Day on October 4. This year, we shall be hearing from six women bishops around the Anglican Communion on the 2024 international theme of 'Hope and Act with Creation'. This

will be our small way of joining in the celebration of 80 years of women's ordination, recognized around the Communion throughout 2024.

One of the things I enjoy most about living in the US and northern hemisphere are the changing seasons. Each season brings its fun and joy, hope that moves us forward, and new events to share with friends and family. Encourage your friends and family to join you at church as we keep the faith together during the coming season!

May we walk in peace as we love and serve God together!

With my love and prayers,

Rev Helen

Senior Warden's Corner



Amy Smereck

As we warmly welcome Reverend Helen back from her sabbatical, and kick off the new academic year, I extend a heartfelt welcome to all as we return from summer vacations. It is a joy to see our church community coming together once again, filled with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

We are thrilled that our Godly Play program has resumed, offering a nurturing environment for children aged three and up to explore their faith through storytelling, art, and play. Our choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday,

September 5 at 7 pm and there is room for some additional singers. Participation in the choir is a wonderful avenue to express your love of our music traditions and get to know each other as we learn each Sunday's hymns and anthems.

In addition to these programs, I encourage you to actively get involved in our church community by joining a group study or volunteering your time to serve on one of our committees. There are numerous opportunities to serve and connect with other members of our faith family. Read this newsletter to learn more, and if you have questions or suggestions, please share them with Rev. Helen or myself. Whether you are new to St. Raphael or have been with us for years, there is a place for you here where you can make a meaningful contribution.

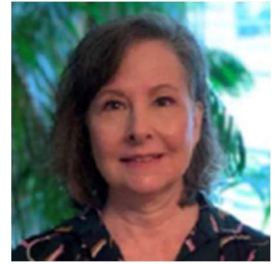
Let's embrace this opportunity to deepen our faith, strengthen our relationships, and serve our community with compassion and love. Together, we have the power to make a positive difference in the world.

Please join us for our weekly worship services on Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 am and Wednesdays at noon. We eagerly anticipate seeing you there as we celebrate our faith and grow together in spirit.

From the Junior Warden

NEW TECH!

Some of you may have noticed the new tech around St. Raphael. Last Fall, St. Raphael was approved for a Department of Homeland Security grant to allow us to upgrade our building security following a national trend of increased acts of violence by far-right perpetrators against certain places of worship. Here's a summary of the what and why:



Laurie Daugherty

New Door Entry System. The old keypad locks have been removed and replaced with a software-based key fob access system. The new system allows us to track when fobs are used and doors are opened, as well as when doors are propped open. The new system gives us better control over use of the building by outside groups. Key fobs are issued to church members as needed based on their volunteer duties. For most of us, nothing changes about getting into the building on Sundays and for meetings and events.

Cameras. Motion sensors and CCTV cameras (video only, no sound) in public areas of the building will help us identify perpetrators if anything happens in the building or on the grounds.

Alarm. There is an alarm system to alert us if there is an unauthorized intrusion.

To manage the tech, Laurie Daugherty, Amy Smereck, and Mike Booth are the inaugural security team. Feel free to ask them questions.

St. Raphael's **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held **Sunday, November 17. Please plan to attend.** Your participation at this special meeting helps the church to be canonically compliant and parish leadership to share important information and receive your feedback on church business and committee activities. If you are able to participate in a leadership role in 2025, please let Rev. Helen know. We will need to elect new Vestry members and deputies to our 2025 Diocesan Convention. We also need new members for the following committees: Mission & Ministry Committee, Parish Life and Communications Committee, Finance Committee, Property Committee.

A Musical Note

ST. RAPHAEL CHORISTERS



Dr. Vicki Bell

Church musicians have many responsibilities, some of which are quietly accomplished throughout the week. We choose hymns, weekly choral anthems/solos/voluntaries for the prelude and postlude, and we spend time in practice and rehearsal for upcoming musical contributions to our worship. Of course, rehearsals with the St. Raphael Choir top my list of favorite activities.

St. Raphael choristers are some of the most dedicated musicians that I know. They work hard! They rehearse, they attend services, and they help lead the congregation in worship. Our choristers are patient, reliable, supportive, empathetic, thoughtful, and consistently present when needed. In other words, they show up! If you have musical gifts, join us this fall as we sing together for God's glory.

For several years, our choir has been supported by staff singers who are usually college students with musical gifts and financial needs. I plan to continue this practice, and I invite your help. A monetary contribution to our staff singer support fund would be greatly appreciated by our choir and your organist/choirmaster. We hope to continue to provide beautiful choral contributions for our upcoming services.

Interested in joining the choir? Rehearsals are 7 pm Thursdays and 10 am on Sundays. Talk to Dr. Vicki Bell, or just drop in at our first rehearsal Thursday, September 5.

Daughters of the King

Celebrating 139 years of Prayer, Service & Evangelism

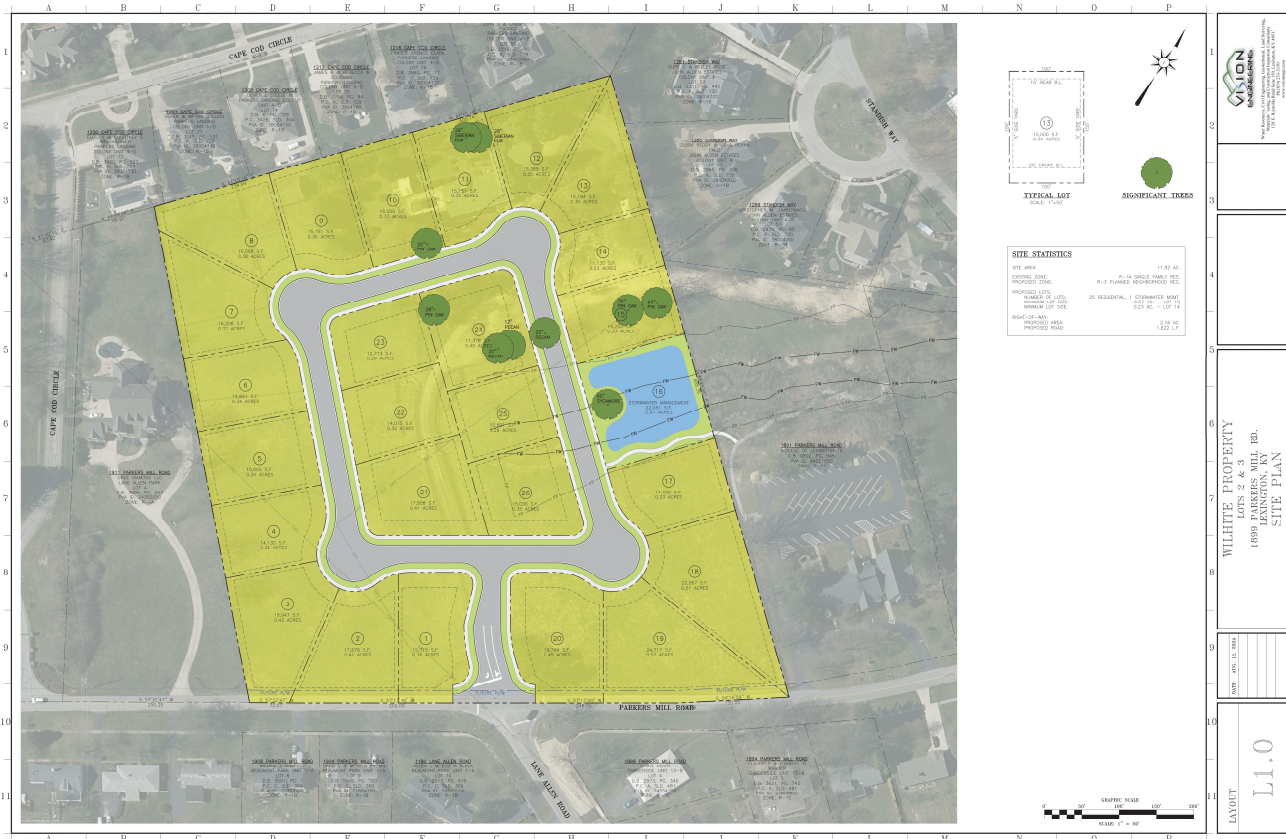
St. Raphael Chapter of DOK was founded in 1984 by C.C. Johnson. We were delighted to enjoy lunch & fellowship with C.C. in June. She is an excellent example of what a daughter exemplifies.

Thanks to all who made a prayer flag for display on our front lawn. Our flags, similar to Tibetan prayer flags, are religious symbols that carry messages of peace, compassion, love & goodwill to all corners of the world. Some of our flags were made several years ago during the Season of Creation. Thank you, Carol Summers, for providing the fabric & materials for this project.

Diane Whorley

Changes are coming across the fence!

The property of St. Raphael's next-door neighbor, 1899 Parkers Mill Rd, has been sold to Rose Holdings – Lexington LLC and plans are underway to develop the parcel with 26 single-family houses. The proposed houses would be comparable to the houses in the adjoining subdivisions Parkers Landing and Colony I and II. The developers hope to get through the rezoning process in time for approval at the October planning commission and city council meetings. This process involves several meetings at which it would be very beneficial to have interested church members attend and advocate for our church.



At the August Vestry meeting Rev. Helen and the vestry members in attendance discussed the impact the changes will have on our church. We identified three primary areas of concern in no particular order of priority:

1. the potential impact the development will have on the visibility of the traffic on Parkers Mill and the ability to enter and exit the church property safely by car and on foot;
2. the environmental impact to water quality in the creek behind the church in Tobit's Trace due to added run-off and diversion of the natural spring on the neighboring property; and
3. the aesthetic impact of homes backing up to the church property and the need for a fence and/or landscape screening along the property line.

The vestry will vote on a formal resolution at the next meeting to formalize the position St. Raphael will take on the development and authorize identified persons to act officially on behalf of the Church. Rev. Helen has asked that we gather feedback from members. If you have thoughts about the proposed development, how it might impact our church, and what action you would like to see the church take, please let our Jr. Warden, Laurie Daugherty, know.

A View from the Pew

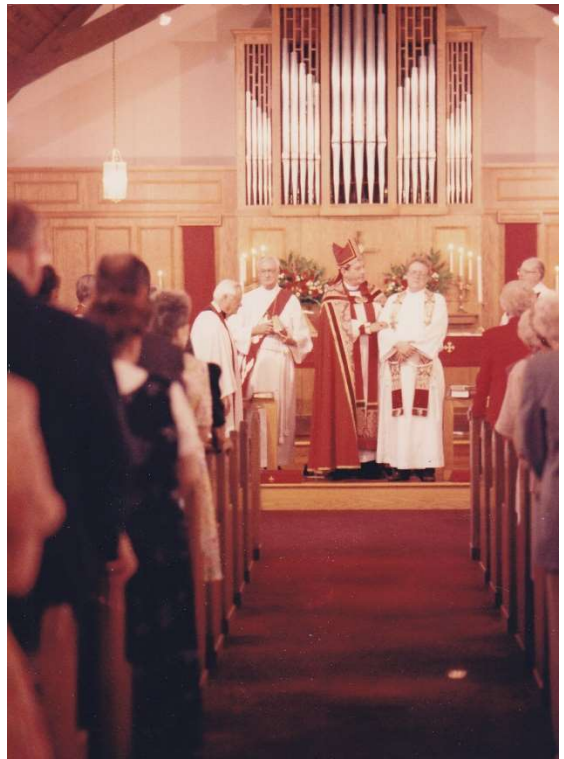
ABOUT THE REV. JOHN DEWS

It isn't likely that you will ever look at the right end of the altar rail but if you do, you will see a small brass plate that reads "to the glory of God and in memory of the Rev. John Dewes and in thanksgiving for the service of the Rev. Johnnie Ross." If you haven't been here long enough to remember John, you may wonder why he was honored along with a former rector. Let me tell you.

From the time he came to St. Raphael's with his parents, Dale and Betty Dewes," as a young man (from St. Matthew's, which had closed), he served the church in important, sometimes critical ways. He had a beautiful voice and sang in the choir. Although he didn't give himself airs and wasn't arrogant, his high intelligence and knowledge of many things was obvious. When I asked him who wrote Eucharistic Prayer D, he knew. When I asked him the meaning of a spiritual experience, he explained it.

Soon after Rev. Rob Matheus came as rector in 1987, the church embarked on a building program to enlarge and renovate the church. He asked John to chair the long-range planning committee. John agreed but only if the cost of a pipe organ was included in fund-raising. Rev. Matheus agreed, and that's why we have the wonderful organ.

In 1990, John let it be known that he wanted to be ordained a deacon. There was a problem. John was gay. He wasn't "out of the closet." Rev. Matheus and Bishop Wimberly knew it. The bishop required him to take a vow of celibacy and kept his orientation secret. John was ordained a deacon and immediately assigned to St. Raphael's by Wimberly. When Rev. Matheus went on a six-month sabbatical, he left John in charge of spiritual matters while Cathy Hunt, organist, was in charge of education. In 1995, John was ordained a priest. The Bishop had such a high opinion of him that he didn't require him to go



Ordination of John Dewes

theological seminary. He was immediately called to Ascension in Mount Sterling. He was a gifted preacher and excellent at pastoral care.

In 1999 Wimberly ordered the church to go through the painful discernment period (see previous column), he appointed John spiritual consultant. It was a thankless task. Whatever he did would offend somebody. I don't think anyone else could have gotten us through it as well as he did. When it was over, he said he knelt at the altar and asked God to please never ask him to do that again.

After an openly gay man (Gene Robinson) was elected bishop of New Hampshire, John thought it was safe to acknowledge his own gayness. It wasn't in Mount Sterling. He resigned and left the state for a while.

John's final service to St. Raphael was interim priest the year between Rev. Sally's resignation and Rev. Johnnie Ross's coming as rector. His health began to fail. He was diabetic and had congestive heart failure. After several hospitalizations and surgeries, he died in October 2014. His service was at St. Raphael's and he is buried in the columbarium.

Rose Canon

Get involved, deepen your faith, have some fun!

Study

9:45 am Sunday during September—Gender Justice: the Theology of Gender-based Violence.

10 am Sunday for 6 weeks beginning September 8—Rev. Helen will lead the course "Pilgrim." This course explores the traditions and practices of the Episcopal Church. Suitable for middle school to adult learners, this material can help prepare for Confirmation or serve as a refresher.

Crafts

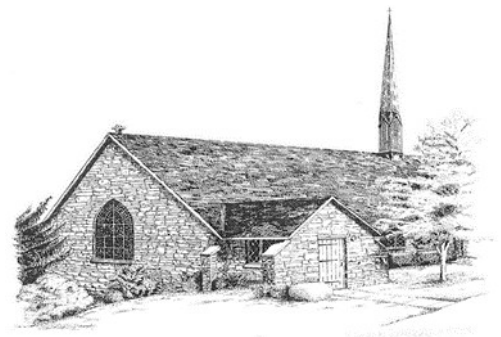
The Crafters group meets the third Saturday of each month from 10 am to 2 pm, usually in the parish hall. Bring a craft project you are working on or just sit and chat with the rest of us. All are welcome.

Fellowship

Sages & Friends meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:30 am at a local restaurant. The **September meeting is at 11:30 am September 19 at J Renders in Beaumont.** All are welcome and feel free to invite friends.

Sundays

Our regular services are enhanced by the participation of and assistance from volunteers. These roles include flower arranging, ushering, greeting parishioners, videographing the service, reading during the service, and tidying up the pews after services. Additionally, Lay Eucharistic Ministers pass the chalice at Communion, and Lay Eucharistic Visitors take the consecrated sacraments to homebound parishioners who request it. These latter two roles require licenses from the Diocese. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities please let Rev. Helen know.



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