



THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

April 2016

The Wardens' Corner

by Corey Farris, Senior Warden

He is Risen! And, dare I say a belated Happy New Year! Go ahead a check your calendars. No, it is not January 1. No, it's not July 1 and the start of the state fiscal new year or October 1 meaning the start of the federal fiscal year. What is it that I'm referencing? It is the church new year (sort of!). Did you know that the sequence of Sundays, moveable feasts, and holy days is based on Easter?

Eastertide is another reminder of new beginnings all around us. After the gray months of winter, early flowers and trees are blooming. Cool weather garden vegetables are popping out of the ground. And, if you are like me, you might be looking around your house or yard to evaluate what you might refresh, renew, and change.

Your Vestry is doing the same. At recent meetings, we have had conversations on what we can do differently to make the St. Thomas community stronger. We've asked how we can become a more inviting and welcoming. As a parish, it seems we invite our friends and neighbors to our weekly services, Becket Arts, and our other outreach events.

But it is not enough to be inviting. Equally important is being welcoming. Welcoming not to just our visitors but welcoming to our ongoing members. To me, when I'm invited to dinner or an event, I feel honored that someone thought of me. However, when I am truly welcomed, I feel loved and part of the "family." To that end, your vestry wants to make sure *you* and all members of parish feel not only invited but also welcome into the daily life of this church.

In the coming weeks, your Vestry will be reaching out, by email or phone, to the active membership of the church. (Vestry members will have a designated list of parishioners.) For the initial call, your Vestry member will contact each person/family to introduce him/herself to you. Subsequent calls to you will be quarterly to check in and to let you know that the vestry member is there for you should they have any concerns to share.

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A Message from Our Junior Warden

Junior Warden Tim Pahl is seeking parishioners willing to serve on the Property Committee. A few small projects have been identified that should be addressed over the next year.

A meeting of the Property Committee is scheduled for Sunday, April 17, 2016, at 9:15 am in the Parlor. All who are interested are encouraged to attend. Participation provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship through mission.

A Message from Laura Jones, Executive Director of Health Right

Some mornings, when I'm in my office, I hear singing. My office is located very near the shower room where every day, people come to freshen up and enjoy a moment of privacy. People, whose life situations are far different from my own and from many of us, sing in the shower. I wonder, what do people down on their luck, struggling with unemployment; family issues, food insecurity, lack of affordable housing, and no health insurance have to sing about? Perhaps it's the warm water and a safe place that elicit the songbirds or maybe a dose of denial that helps people survive or maybe there is something about Health Right that elicits that eternal hope that we all cling to everyday.

After all, Health Right represents a community that cares. We care about people with chronic illnesses; we care about making sure everyone in our community has a flu shot, we care about those who are living on the street or in a shelter. We care about those who are working in our community and still struggle to make ends meet. Everyone needs to be cared about in some way in order to experience hope for the future.

When I was practicing as a counselor in this clinic and in a local mental health center, people often presented with unfathomable pain and obstacles in their lives and really the most important and effective "treatment" was caring which, to me, was the key to hope.

Caring is an action. Caring is a challenge to listen more, search for understanding, let go of stereotypes, volunteer, donate, support, and advocate. A colleague of mine told me a powerful story about an experience she had many years ago during her social work internship. She was standing with her supervisor on a sidewalk in downtown Baltimore and her boss asked her to look up at the large HUD supported housing unit (then known as "the projects") and then her boss said, "See that window way up there among all those dirty windows? See that one that's spotless? Hope lives there."

Hope lives at Health Right.



Boxes of supplies for Health Right's showering program - SHINE - collected during Lent by our parish.

Wardens' Corner

(Continued from page 1.)

Please be assured that during this outreach to you we want to engage our parishioners on a regular basis without being intrusive. At no point during this new initiative will you be asked for money, time, or talent. Quite simply we want to open a line of communication with you. Your vestry wants to begin serving you in a new way in our roles as active leaders of the parish.

Over time, we hope that through these conversations with you, we will develop ideas to make St. Thomas a stronger, inviting, and welcoming family.

The Lord is risen indeed!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

by Amy Robbins, Director of Children's Programs

The Sunday School children will be collecting pennies for Miles of Pennies on Sunday, May 1. Also, save the date for Vacation Bible School (VBS) on June 24 and 25.

Thank you to Ann Pahl and Patty Harman for filling eggs and to Christopher Murdoch, Anne and Lucas Greza for hiding the eggs for our annual egg hunt on Easter -- the kids enjoyed it so much!!



The Sunday School and Youth Church children participate in "flowering" our altar and the cross on Easter Sunday. Pictured right are the all the children who participated in this event.

PARISH LUNCHEON AROUND THE WORLD



APRIL 17, 2016

Take your senses on a delightful culinary tour of the world - with featured dishes from China, Thailand, the Cajun-Creole Deep South, India, the Middle East and more!

This is a fund-raising event towards our Capital Funds, and the luncheon will be \$10 for adults, and free for kids under the age of 12.

Come enjoy this culinary feast with us!

Special Events Begins New Series: "Becket Cooks!"

The Special Events Committee invites you to our new series, Becket Cooks! With a nod to our successful program Becket Arts, this series feature members of the parish offering a wide variety of kitchen instruction, and take-home goodies! Our first class on Saturday, April 30, will be on canning. It will be taught by Neha Lal and Marlin Dehoff. In advance of the 2016 growing season they will teach you how to preserve produce for year-round enjoyment. The class begins at 3:00 p.m.

The next class, on Saturday, May 21, will feature baklava. Laura Christian will teach you her family recipe for this decadent, delicious dessert. You will be able to take home some of the food from each class. The cost for these classes is still to be determined, but should stay under \$15, with all proceeds going to the Capital Projects Fund.

Some future classes might include Sushi making, and Samosa making. The series will be open to parishioners and friends, but as space is limited, sign - up sheets will be available. We hope to see you there!



Upcoming Opportunities in Our Diocese

So many opportunities are being offered by our diocese in the coming months that we would like to take this opportunity to put them all in the newsletter for you to see what is available. Some of these have already appeared in our weekly Parish Post and some will pop up in future Posts throughout April and May as a reminder.

Invite - Welcome - Connect: This evangelism workshop will be held April 23, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., at the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd in Parkersburg. Mary Parmer, a nationally acclaimed Episcopal speaker on Evangelism and Newcomer Ministries, is the workshop leader.

Cost of the workshop is \$45 per person, or \$35 per person for groups of three or more from the same congregation. To register, please send your check, along with your name, contact information, and church name to Diocese of WV, PO Box 5400, Charleston, WV 25361. Note 'Evangelism Workshop' in the memo line.

2016 Women’s Conference: The theme of the 2016 Women’s Conference is “The Courage to Grow Old.” The Rev. Barbara Crafton will lead this informative and entertaining conference May 20-22 at Peterkin in Romney.

The conference will help older participants better understand their own aging process and give young ones insight on how to deal with aging parents and grandparents. You’ll learn – and laugh – a lot, so don’t miss it!

Silent Retreat at WV Institute of Spirituality: The WV Institute of Spirituality, located at the corner of Elizabeth and Virginia Streets in Charleston, invites you to attend an “Almost Heaven” silent retreat this summer. You can register for a three, five, eight or thirty day retreat anytime from May 27 through July 17.

The retreats are an opportunity for participants to pray and reflect in silence and then discuss their thoughts and reflections with a trained spiritual director. The spiritual director will meet with individuals daily to listen and provide scriptures tailored to specific needs.

If you are trying to make a decision, struggling through a difficult time, or wishing simply to spend some special time with God, the elegant and spacious house and peaceful surroundings are the perfect setting. For more information or to register, please visit <http://wvis.org/2016/02/almost-heaven-retreats> or call (304) 345-0926.

2016 Easter Flowers Dedications

In memory of our parents
by Joe and Beth Hestick

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In thanksgiving for our extended family
by the Murdoch Family

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In memory of our parents
by the Meehan family

~

In memory of Bob Eskew (uncle Bob)
by Scott Chapman

~

For the Pearson Family
by John Pearson

~

In memory of our parents
by Dorothy and Bill Skidmore

~

In honor of our grandparents, Buck and Betty O’Neil
by Jeff and Beth O’Neil

~

In memory of our parents
by Chuck and Patty Harman

~

In celebration of our children
by Ann and Tim Pahl

~

In memory of Jack and Isabelle Taylor
by Grace Ayscue and John Taylor

~

In memory of Laurie and Linda Acciavatti, Joseph and Natalie Acciavatti, Marion and Willard Murphy, Clara Wodehouse.

by Aurie and Bob Acciavatti

~

In memory of our parents
by Jeff and Kathy Fedan

~

In memory of our daughter Christy Moses Svanemyr
by George and Holly Moses

~

In memory of my parents and grandparents
by Brenda Shafer

~

In memory of our son Thom
by Tom and Lynda Waggoner

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In thanksgiving for all our blessings
by the Yost Family

□



Thank you to everyone who donated to our Easter flowers and helped to make our church beautiful!

Our Worship Schedule

The Very Rev. Julie B. Murdoch, Rector
The Rev. Dn. Al Prichard



Sunday

8:00 a.m. (Rite I, spoken)

10:30 a.m. (Rite II, with music)

Nursery care and Sunday School with children's worship are offered during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Tuesday - Saturday

Morning Prayer, 8:30 a.m. *(except in the Rector's absence)*

Wednesday

Holy Eucharist, 12:00 noon (Chapel)

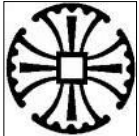
Please contact us at

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church

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304-296-0270 (emergencies: 304-282-4241)



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26508





April 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Centering Prayer 9 a.m.
3 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. Sp. Events Comm. Mtg. <i>Girl Scouts (Robbins)</i> 5-8 p.m.	4	5	6 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	7	8	9
10 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Outreach Comm. Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. Finance Comm. Mtg.	11	12	13 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	14 Vestry Mtg. 7 p.m.	15	16 Centering Prayer 9 a.m.
17 8: a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Property Comm. Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. Stewardship Comm. Mtg. Parish Luncheon (Around the World)	18	19	20 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	21	22	23
24 8: a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch.	25	26 *Newsletter Article Deadline	27 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	28 Women's Grief Support Group 6 p.m.	29	30 Centering Prayer 9 a.m. Becket Cooks Class 3 p.m.