



THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

August 2015

Introducing Presiding Bishop-Elect Michael Curry



[Episcopal News] The Episcopal Church made a historic choice by electing its first African-American presiding bishop. Michael Curry, 62, of the Diocese of North Carolina was elected by a landslide at the Episcopal General Convention in Salt Lake City.

His election is a second historic choice for the New York-based church of about 1.9 million members. He is succeeding Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, who was the first female presiding bishop and the first woman to lead an Anglican national church. During a news conference at the convention, Curry said his selection was “a sign of our church growing more deeply in the spirit of God and in the movement of God’s spirit in our world.”

Curry is taking charge at a time when fewer Americans are formally affiliating with a particular religious group, a trend that contributes to steady membership declines in the Episcopal Church and in other liberal Protestant groups. Membership in the Episcopal Church has dropped by 18 percent over the past decade. Curry supports gay rights and has spoken against North Carolina’s 2012 constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, now invalid, and has allowed same-sex church weddings in the North Carolina diocese.

He is known for his emphasis on evangelism, public service and social justice and is the author of “Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus.” The bishop has said he prays “for a church passionately committed to making disciples. At a deep level I am suggesting a church-wide spiritual revival of the Christian faith in the Episcopal way of being disciples of Jesus.”

Curry was consecrated in 2000 at Duke Chapel in Durham. During the years as he has visited churches across the diocese, he seemed to bring joy, hope and good will. His sermons, with just enough of his “black preaching tradition” to keep a congregation on the edge of the pew, were from the heart, not the head. He sometimes came down from the pulpit into the congregation, suggesting that he might be wearing the mitre (the hat worn by Christian bishops to symbolize their spiritual authority), but he was a shepherd, not a figurehead.

Bishop Curry will be installed Nov. 1 in a service at the Washington National Cathedral, the day Bishop Jefferts Schori completes her nine-year term.

Amy and Kate Robbins Go to Washington

by Amy Robbins



Above left (from left to right): Amy Robbins, Kate Robbins, Catey Thurston, Mallory Vallano, and Gabby Garrison pose in front of the White House.

Above right: First Lady Michelle Obama with some of the Girl Scouts.

“She’s so nice,” replied Kate Robbins when asked what she thought of meeting First Lady Michelle Obama. Kate, along with three other Cheat Lake Elementary fourth grade Girl Scouts, were invited to attend the first-ever White House Campout on June 30. I was lucky to be invited as their chaperone, and it was an absolutely amazing experience!!

Fifty scouts from Oklahoma, Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and West Virginia, along with about 20 volunteers and Girl Scout employees, were in attendance. It was a girl-centered event with many activities like a rock climbing wall and orienteering. In our group, we had four girls from inner-city Baltimore who had never once been on a campout. They were nervous about sleeping in a tent for the first time, but Kate and her friends reassured them that this would be easy camping with no bears to worry about.

Mrs. Obama joined each group and spent about 25 minutes with each small group learning new skills and talking with the girls. Kate and her group taught her to use a compass. One treasure they were looking for was about 20 feet from the Oval Office and was quickly moved about 50 feet away by the Secret Service.

Dinner was served inside the State Dining Room due to threats of rain—the first time this summer I was happy with that weather report! We were able to see many official first lady portraits while using the facilities on the first floor, which were beautiful.

After dinner, small groups were taken to the East Wing for a special tour and guess who joined us? Bo and Sunny, the First Dogs! They were adorably sweet, and I am happy to report the two played with each other and jumped on each other just as any regular dogs would—they just smelled better!!

(continued on page 2)

Amy and Kate Robbins

(continued from page 1)

After dinner, we toured the White House gardens and, wow, we were impressed! Along with numerous vegetable and herb beds, they have a huge bee hive and their compost bins were unbelievable! I was told they use as much food as possible in the White House from the garden and any other leftover food is donated to local food pantries.

We had a few extra minutes before our campfire, and our girls were super curious about the Secret Service. So, I told them they could ask our “Guy in Charge” (we were never formally introduced, but he was with us the entire time for security) if he minded answering questions, and he agreed. It was hilarious! They asked him if he had a gun (yes), where he was hiding it (in a couple of places), if he had handcuffs (yes), if he could use them on a girl (no, bad PR), and they went on and on (later, he stopped me to tell me the he felt like he was under a polygraph test and was sweating it with their questions).

Finally, we sat down for our campfire of lanterns. We sang several Girl Scout songs and then off to our right came the President and First Lady! They sat down and chatted with the girls for a bit then sang a song with us. President Obama took a few questions from the girls, and the last question was if he would give them a hug—he responded that they could do a group hug. Obviously, he has never been around 50 super-loving girls because they all jumped up and ran toward him to give hugs, which was not what he had in mind at all; the look on his face was priceless. Security quickly helped him get to his feet to hug the girls in a more orderly and secure, manner. He and Mrs. Obama then came around to each of the volunteers, shook our hands and thanked us for bringing the girls and volunteering our time with them.

The rest of the evening consisted of stargazing with NASA, sleeping in our tents for about an hour, moving around 1:00 a.m. in a thunderstorm to the Eisenhower building to sleep some more, packing up, getting a breakfast bag to go and leaving the White House by 7:00 a.m.

It was a whirlwind of a trip, and honestly one of the most amazing experiences of my life and I know in the lives of the 50 girls! The Obamas and their staff were unbelievably friendly, warm and made us all truly feel like we were welcomed guests. I sure hope they offer us a return invitation!!

Hot Chili Means Cold Cash For Empty Bowls



Saturday, August 22, 2015, the inaugural Heat in the Hills Chili Cook-Off will be held at Camp Muffly. Total cash prizes of more than \$2,000, in four categories -- Red Chili, Green Chili, Salsa, and People’s Choice -- will be awarded to the winning cooks. First time entrants as well as veteran cooks from across West Virginia and surrounding states are encouraged to register and participate. The cook-off is a sanctioned International Chili Society (ICS) event.

We hope that a number of folks from St. Thomas will make plans to attend the event, sample the chili, and vote for a favorite. Everyone can delight in the live music, enjoy cold beverages, and appreciate and purchase the wares of local craft vendors. The children can entertain themselves with the supervised activities. Our own Amy Robbins is coordinating the Kids Area; so we know it will be special. Finally, if you have a special chili recipe you want to enter, we still have room for more cooks.

Tickets will be available at the gate. Adult tickets are \$10; children’s tickets for ages 6 to 18 are \$8; children 5 and under have free admission. Gate opens to the public at 11:00 am. Event proceeds will benefit Empty Bowls Monongalia. Currently, Empty Bowls Mon is supporting 21 different food programs in Monongalia County. For additional event information email heatinthehills@comcast.net, visit the website heatinthehills.com, or contact Rob Wolfe by calling 304.290.0360.

Sunday School Children Collect Backpacks

The Sunday School Children took 153 backpacks and 8 bags of supplies to Scott’s Run Settlement House (SRSH) for the start of the school year. They would like to thank all who donated.

Regular Sunday School starts August 30. There will be a quick Sunday School teacher meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service on August 30 to plan for the upcoming year. Please contact Amy Robbins (amylmrobbins@comcast.net) if you have questions.



Above left: The Sunday School kids bring in the backpacks to be blessed during the 10:30 a.m. service on July 26.

Above right: Kate and James Robbins help load up the backpacks and supplies to be taken to Scott’s Run.

Still Time to Write Letters To Save Hunger-Free Kids Act

If you haven’t written letters to your U.S. senators and representatives to save the Hunger-Free Kids Act, you still have time to do so. Use the materials—including a sample letter, address labels, and envelopes—provided on the supply table in the Parish Hall.

If possible, please prepare and send a hand-written letter. We are told that hand-written letters have more influence than typed letters. Edit and/or shorten the sample letter to reflect your style. **Critical Note:** Your full name and address are required on each letter.

Address each legislator by name. See the legislative list (provided on the labels) to determine the names and addresses of the West Virginia legislators who represent this community in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.

If you wish, St. Thomas à Becket's Outreach Committee will stuff, stamp, and mail your letters. Deposit your completed letters in the designated basket in the Parish Hall.

Our Outreach Committee is leading St. Thomas à Becket's advocacy for the Hunger-Free Kids Act. At risk are federal funds for free and reduced-fee school breakfast and lunch programs, the summer food service program, and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program.

Sign Up in August for Habitat's Build on Faith Week Next Month

Your hands are needed Sept. 5-12 when area houses of faith will come together to focus their time and talents on Habitat for Humanity's current home construction project.

You have the opportunity to do everything from hammer nails to make sandwiches as the faith communities help make the Decker's Court (Jerome Park) home a reality. Soon, the Narthex table will have three Habitat volunteer sign-up sheets:

Saturday Shifts: From 8 a.m. to noon and/or 12:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, and Saturday, Sept. 12.

Weekday Shifts: From noon to 4 p.m. and/or from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (Sept. 8-11). (No building will take place on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7.).

One Saturday Lunch Shift: Helpers will make and/or serve lunch for the volunteers at Decker's Court Saturday, Sept. 12. (Lunch will be prepared at St. Thomas and delivered by noon.)

For more information, contact Kathy Fedan (intothewoods@frontiernet.net); also check Mon Habitat's website (<http://moncountyhfh.org/>).

14-Year-Old Kenyan Student: 'God Bless You Abundantly'



We have received a letter of appreciation from Ekakoro Elly (pictured left) - a scholarship student in the Elewana Education Project in rural Kenya. Each year, St. Thomas à Becket's outreach budget designates \$500

for the scholarship program. Learn more about Elewana on Facebook and at www.elewana.org. Here are excerpts from Ekakoro's letter:

First and foremost, I would like to take this golden opportunity to pass my greetings to you. I hope you are fine and you are faring well. I am faring well together with our family.

*My name is **Ekakoro Elly**. I am 14 years old. I school in Nairobi School in Nairobi County. We are eight in number in our family, and I being ranked at the sixth position. I have a sickling mother who has a health problem of heart attack, pressure, and coughing since the year 2012.*

We did our examinations. . . . I was position 22 out of 371 students. I am going to double my efforts and achieve my goals. . . . I play football, cricket, and rugby for my school.

I want to thank the Elewana Education programme for giving me this golden chance. It saw me in the hardship and wanting situation. May God bless you abundantly.

Congratulations!!

Friend of St. Thomas à Becket (and regular supply clergy) The Rev. Matthew Riegel was recently elected to a six-year term as bishop of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He will be installed as bishop on September 26, 2015 at Wesley Chapel of West Virginia Wesleyan University.



Although we will miss Father Matt's visits to St. Thomas, we wish him all the best in his new endeavors. The Synod made a great choice!

Kids from St. Thomas at Peterkin

Thanks to Amy Robbins for sharing pictures of the kids from St. Thomas à Becket who enjoyed going to Junior Camp at Peterkin!

Pictured right (from left to right) are Kate Robbins, Lilah Claycomb, Samantha Carver, Collin Claycomb; and Madelyn Carver. They look like they're havin' fun!



JOIN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 | BEGINNING @ 5

Mon County Habitat for Humanity needs your help to raise \$10,000 to place roofs on two homes in our Deckers Court development in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Drink specials, games, prizes and plenty of Habitat info!

Sponsored by **impakt**

RAISE THE ROOF

AT

TERRA CAFE

425 INDUSTRIAL AVE. MORGANTOWN, WV 26505

Our Worship Schedule

The 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

75 Old Cheat Road

Morgantown, WV 26508

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



St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church
75 Old Cheat Road
Morgantown, WV

26508



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>August 2015</h1>						1
2 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Property Comm. Mtg 10:30 a.m. Rite II 4-S Special Events Comm Mtg Writing for Kids' Food	3	4	5 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	6	7	8 [NO COMMUNITY KITCHEN THIS MONTH]
9 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Outreach Comm. Mtg 10:30 a.m. Rite II 4-S Finance Comm. Mtg. Spiritual Parenting Mtg. Writing for Kids' Food	10	11	12 Noon Eucharist in Chapel [NO BACKPACK FEEDING PROGRAM THIS MONTH]	13 Vestry Mtg. 7 p.m.	14	15
16 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 9:30 a.m. Stewardship Comm. Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Rite II 4-S Columbarium Comm. Mtg. Writing for Kids' Food	17	18	19 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	20 Women's Grief Support Group 6 p.m.	21	22
23 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School Writing for Kids' Food	24	25	26 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	27	28	29
30 (5th Sunday) 8 a.m. Rite II 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite I Sunday School Writing for Kids' Food	31	<div data-bbox="699 1675 1377 1955" data-label="Complex-Block" style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;">  <p>MONONGALIA COUNTY COMMISSION PARKS AND RECREATION HOST</p> <p>HEAT IN THE HILLS CHILI COOK OFF</p> <p>SPONSORED BY: </p> <p>SAVE THE DATE Saturday, August 22nd Camp Muffly Morgantown, WV</p> <p>Proceeds will benefit Empty Bowls Mon</p>  </div>				