



# THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV August / September 2017

## Hiring 2 for Children's Ministry

*from the Vestry*

As many of you know, we have many energetic children of all ages in our parish, and not only are they all growing, but their numbers are growing as well. As an Episcopal faith community, we are committed to the religious education of our young people according to the Church's [Five Marks of Mission](#).

To this end, we recently polled both children and parents in the parish about their needs/wishes in Children's Ministry, then convened a Vestry sub-committee (three parents of a total of 10 children and a former Children's Ministry participant) to develop a new comprehensive program. The results are attached in the form of two paid position descriptions, one for a Sunday School Teacher (pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade) and one for a Youth Development Leader (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade). We strongly encourage everyone to review these descriptions, share them as seems appropriate, and consider applying if you feel called to do so.

For first consideration, please send a resume and cover letter to [annehgreza@gmail.com](mailto:annehgreza@gmail.com) by Friday, August 25.

We hope to fill both positions by the end of September if not before. Until then, Ann Claycomb has agreed to continue to work with the children in grades 4-12 (the current "Youth Church" model) and Angela Carver has agreed to continue to lead and coordinate volunteers for Sunday School.

Descriptions and details for each position can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. Any questions about these positions or about Children's Ministry at St. Thomas should be directed to Ann Claycomb ([annclaycomb@hotmail.com](mailto:annclaycomb@hotmail.com) or 304-276-2012).

## Becket Blessings: Share the Love

*from the Stewardship Committee*

What do you love most about St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church? To put it another way: What would you miss most if this parish didn't exist?

Beginning Sunday, August 20, the Stewardship Committee will be gathering "Becket Blessings," our statements about what is most important to us.

God calls us to worship in community. What does our community mean to you?

Our fall pledge campaign will officially kick off on September 24. Cheryl Prichard will be sharing her thoughts on giving and community at both services and the Stewardship Committee will be hosting coffee hour.

*[Continued on page 2]*

## Easton Hill Is Open!



The route to St. Thomas is much nicer now with the Easton Hill road construction project completed. It was difficult getting to the church only by way of Old Cheat Road.

Now it is much easier and less hazardous with the new road and turning lanes. We hope that those who were a bit hesitant about the construction will be more comfortable traveling the new road.

## Parishioners Enjoy Leadership Retreat

*by Stacey Elza and Vicki Iber*



*The Leadership Retreat at Sandscrest was an enlightening experience and was shared by two of our own parishioners, Stacey Elza (left) and Vicki Iber (right). Here are their thoughts.*

There could be a misconception that the retreats are only for those considering an ordination call, whether deacon or priest.

The fact is, leadership comes from both the ordained and the laity. Whether we are certified or not, we are mandated, by Jesus, to be ready with an answer to why we believe what we believe.

We are all leaders of something, whether we realize it or not.

Throughout the weekend, we were pulled outside of our comfort zones and made to think about our beliefs in ways that we had not considered previously.

The presentations (one from our very own, Deacon Al) were educational, provoking, and engaging. In addition to the materials, we began friendships that we look forward to nurturing.

It was a wonderful time of reflection, laughter, soul-searching, and relaxation. We would encourage anyone who is interested in exploring leadership of any kind, to attend these retreats.

You will not be disappointed.

## Becket Blessings

*[Continued from page 1]*

But first we'll begin at the heart of it all with an examination of why we give our time, talent, and treasure.

Becket Blessings slips will be available at the services on August 20. If you can't make it to church that day, not to worry: There will be an online form available that week to gather your insights.

Prepare to share the love!

## *St. Thomas Kids Worship at Peterkin*

Peterkin was once again a vital part of the summer for some of the kids at St. Thomas à Becket. This year kids from the Claycomb, Carver, and Robbins families got to experience faith and friendship at Peterkin. Our thanks go to the Episcopal Church Men, who raise money at their annual Shrove Tuesday Supper to help with camp expenses.



*Left: Madelyn Carver (right) assists with one of the services bringing up the elements for the Eucharist. Right: Kids from our parish participate in worship, including (from left to right) Lilah Claycomb, Collin Claycomb, James Robbins, and Kate Robbins.*



## Introducing Rebeckah

You may have noticed a new voice in the St. Thomas à Becket choir. Rebeckah Valentine joined the choir in May, swelling the ranks of sopranos.

Becky, as she likes to be called, is the mom of three teenagers.

She has a master's in vocal performance from Indiana University and is currently studying special education at West Virginia University.

An anonymous donor provided a restricted gift to the choir for one year, and Director of Music Bill Haller recruited Becky to the position.

## **Thank You Note From Fire Victims**

*To all the members of St. Thomas à Becket Church, Brenda and I thank you very much for all you have done for us in our time of need. God bless you all.*

*Thank you all,  
Jack and Brenda Lambert*

## Free Money: Time to Renew or Join Kroger Community Rewards Program

*by Grace Ayscue*

August is time for everyone who has not already done so to renew participation in the Kroger Community Rewards program. And it's always a good time for more parishioners who shop at Kroger to join the program.

Thank you to the many folks who have participated in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. This program (previously called Kroger Cares) allows people to link their Kroger rewards card to St. Thomas à Becket Church so that a portion of Kroger's charitable giving is directed to our church each quarter. Over the past several years, the Kroger fund has allowed the Vestry to meet many small occasional expenses without tapping into funds budgeted for other things. The more people we have participating and the more those people use their Kroger Rewards card, the larger our check from Kroger.

To join or renew, you will first need a Kroger Rewards card (which gives you discounts on sale items and points toward gasoline purchases). Go online to the Kroger.com website and either create a new account or log into your existing account. If you have forgotten your login information, you can retrieve it by using your card number. If you are creating a new account, you'll need to have the number on your Kroger card.

From your account page, select "Community" in the toolbar near the top.

If you are renewing a Community Rewards account, click "View your rewards details." This will take you to a screen that will allow you to verify your enrollment and renew it.

If you are not actively participating in Kroger Community Rewards (which could happen either because your participation expired or because you have never joined) from the Community page, select "Apply now." You can either search for our church from an alphabetical list or type in the name. Note that the church is listed as "St Thomas A Becket Episcopal Church." There is no period after "St," and the "A" is capitalized.

If you have a problem enrolling, please ask Grace Ayscue [grace.ayscue@gmail.com](mailto:grace.ayscue@gmail.com) or Linda Yost for help. If there is sufficient demand, we can arrange a Sunday in September to have people available at coffee hour to sign folks up for the program.

## Our Naval Chaplain



On August 8, the Rev. John Bethell was commissioned as a lieutenant junior grade in the Navy. After a few months of school, he will be stationed in Souda Bay on the island of Crete, Greece. Our thoughts and prayers go with him as he starts this new chapter in his life in service to God.

### Sunday School Leader

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church seeks a Sunday School Teacher (grades pre-K-5; ages 3-11), for a term of employment to begin no later than Sunday, September 3. No weekly teaching is expected during the summer (June-August) but curriculum development and/or lesson plan preparation might be done during those months. Total annual stipend associated with this position: \$5100 (pre-tax).

#### Qualifications:

- Practicing Episcopalian
- St. Thomas à Becket parishioner strongly preferred
- Teaching or childcare experience preferred (any grade level) but not required
- Must have completed *Safeguarding God's Children* and *Seeing the Face of God in Each Other* training before beginning teaching (need not have completed either training before accepting position)
- Excellent organizational skills
- Demonstrated leadership abilities with both adults and children
- Creative and collaborative approach to young children's religious education

#### Duties/Responsibilities:

- In consultation with the Vestry and parish community of St. Thomas, develop and implement an engaging, substantive, flexible Sunday School program.
- Teach regularly at Sunday 10:30 service. Ideally, the Sunday School teacher will attend church regularly throughout the school/teaching year and arrange for a substitute teacher (trained parishioner volunteer is acceptable) when he/she cannot be in attendance.
- Lead the "mini-Liturgy" format currently in place at St. Thomas. *A survey of parents and children indicates that the parish community overwhelmingly wants to maintain this structure, although new music, readings, etc. can certainly be introduced.*
- Design weekly activities to follow and build upon the lessons of the mini-Liturgy each week, with different, age-appropriate activities for children grades K-3 and children grades 4-5.
- Implement weekly activities (e.g. crafts, Bible study): arranging for needed materials, showing children how to proceed, answering questions, supervising clean-up, etc.
- Lead/oversee parish volunteers who assist with and/or lead these activities.
- Organize and maintain Sunday School space, including supply cabinets, pews, curricular materials, etc.
- Coordinate with Nursery volunteers regarding the transition of very young children (ages 3-5) from the Nursery to Sunday School, such that individual children move when they are deemed ready and are provided with a transition foundation (e.g. tour of the Sunday School space, several Sundays with parent in attendance, etc.)
- Communicate regularly with parish, parents, children, and Sunday School volunteers as appropriate and requested, regarding Sunday School activities, service projects, schedule, etc. This communication might take a variety of forms, including email, newsletter updates, or announcements during church service.
- Perform other duties as necessary and appropriate to provide a positive Sunday School program for the parish, often working closely with the Youth Development Leader and/or the Vestry.

### Youth Development Leader

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church seeks a Youth Development Leader (grades 6-12), for a term of employment to begin no later than Sunday, September 3. No weekly teaching is expected during the summer (June-August) but curriculum development and/or lesson plan preparation might be done during those months. Total annual stipend associated with this position: \$5100 (pre-tax).

#### Qualifications:

- Practicing Episcopalian
- St. Thomas à Becket parishioner strongly preferred
- Teaching experience preferred but not required
- Must have completed *Safeguarding God's Children* and *Seeing the Face of God in Each Other* training before teaching (need not have completed either training before accepting position)
- Excellent organizational skills
- Demonstrated leadership abilities with both adults and children
- Creative and collaborative approach to pre-teen and teenagers' religious education

#### Duties/Responsibilities:

- In consultation with the Vestry and parish community of St. Thomas, develop and implement an engaging, substantive, flexible Youth Development program, with a focus on integrating young people into the parish community as young adults as they age and mature.
- Teach regularly at or in conjunction with the Sunday 10:30 service. Ideally, the Youth Development leader will attend church regularly throughout the school/teaching year and arrange for a substitute teacher (trained parishioner volunteer is acceptable) when he/she cannot be in attendance.
- Implement and lead a Confirmation curriculum at St. Thomas. *A survey of parents and young people indicates that the parish community overwhelmingly wants to introduce this spiritual practice into the parish.*
- Design weekly activities to precede and/or build upon Confirmation curriculum, with different, age-appropriate activities for young people who are either pre- or post- Confirmation.
- Implement these weekly activities: arranging for needed materials, showing youth how to proceed, answering questions, supervising clean-up, etc.
- Lead/oversee parish volunteers who assist with these activities and/or who engage with youth as speakers/experts, service project leaders, and social activity coordinators.
- Organize and maintain Youth Development space. *The Vestry is currently considering a proposal to reconfigure the existing Sunday School room such that a portion of that space can be used by Youth Development program.*
- Coordinate with Ministry leaders (Acolyte Coordinator, Deacon, Outreach Committee Chair) regarding the optimal ways to utilize the talents and energy of our young people for the benefit of the parish and its programs, while also nurturing the spiritual growth of the youth.
- Communicate regularly with parish, parents, children, and Youth Development volunteers as appropriate and requested, regarding Youth Development activities, service projects, schedule, etc. This communication might take a variety of forms, including email, newsletter updates, or announcements during church service.
- Perform other duties as necessary and appropriate to provide a positive Youth Development program for the parish, often working closely with the Sunday School Teacher and/or the Vestry.

## *Our Worship Schedule*

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.*

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#### **Please contact us at**

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church

75 Old Cheat Road

Morgantown, WV 26508

304-296-0270

[thomasabecket.wv@gmail.com](mailto:thomasabecket.wv@gmail.com)

[www.thomasabecket.org](http://www.thomasabecket.org)



**St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church**

**75 Old Cheat Road**

**Morgantown, WV**

**26508**





# AUGUST 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Bishop Black</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II 4-S	<b>7</b> Parish Hall Reserved	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Vestry Mtg. 7 p.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13 Bishop Black</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir <b>Outreach Comm. Mtg.</b> 10:30 a.m. Rite II 4-S	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Newsletter Articles Deadline	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20 Bishop Black</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II 4-S <b>Stewardship Committee Mtg.</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Women's Grief Support Group 1 p.m.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  Children's Ministry Applications Due	<b>26</b>
<b>27 Bishop Black</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II  Regular Sunday School Resumes	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Backpack Feeding Program at SRSB 12:30 p.m.	<b>31</b>		



# SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3 Bishop Black</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School /Youth Church	<b>4 Labor Day</b> Church Office Closed	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">WV Women's Conference South Charleston</div>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 Bishop Black</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir <b>Outreach Comm. Mtg.</b> 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School /Youth Church	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Girl Scout Leader Meeting 5-8 p.m.	<b>13</b>  Backpack Feeding Program at SRSB 12:30 p.m.	<b>14</b>  Vestry Mtg. 7 p.m.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17 Bishop Black</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School /Youth Church  <b>WV Day of Hope</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Bishop Black</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School /Youth Church	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>Newsletter Articles Deadline</b>	<b>27</b>  Women's Grief Support Group 1 p.m.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Acolyte Training 10 a.m.