



THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

December 2016

2016 Christmas Season at St. Thomas à Becket

***Sunday, December 18,
the Fourth Sunday of Advent:***

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II

11:45 a.m. - Decorating the church for Christmas

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve:

*5:00 p.m. - Festive Holy Eucharist Rite II
with the Children's Christmas Play*

*10:00 p.m. - Festive Holy Eucharist Rite II,
beginning with an extended prelude
of carols and other seasonal music*

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day:

9:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, January 1, New Year's Day

9:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II



A Message From the Church Office

by Linda Yost, Parish Administrator

We are still waiting (somewhat anxiously) to hear from Bishop Mike about a new priest-in-charge for St. Thomas. After last week, probably none was more anxious than the Parish Administrator. I owe a big debt of gratitude to all who are helping out during this time without a rector.

I would like especially to thank Corey Farris (our Senior Warden) and Al Prichard (our Deacon). Without their guidance and the help of others in the office, I could not keep the church run smoothly as possible with a rector.

That being said, finding a priest may take a while. But, in the meantime, let's continue to say the prayer we use every first Sunday of the month.

Please pray for our church:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church. During this time of transition, give us freedom from anxiety and continued joy in your service. Guide the minds of those who shall choose a priest for this parish that we may receive a faithful pastor who will further the good work of this congregation, care for your people, and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. – Amen.

Ingathering Sunday: A Banner Day

by Beth Royall, Stewardship Chair

November 20 was a banner day at Becket. It made for a busy and crowded parish hall, but distributing Thanksgiving dinner baskets to 34 families and celebrating Becket's Ingathering Sunday simultaneously was very appropriate.

Ingathering Sunday is all about bringing our best in order to do God's work in the world. The Stewardship Committee is deeply grateful to all of you who turned in an offering form. Every gift is valued. Every gift counts.

A generous gift of time was given by Richard Morris, who preached the sermon at both services, sharing his personal view of stewardship. He reminded us of the power of the witness of God's love through our nearest and dearest.

Another major gift of time was unveiled on November 20 with the premier of the St. Thomas à Becket Stewardship Video, produced by Liza Gangi Heiskell, Park Street Productions. When you watch it, if you find yourself getting a little choked up, you're not alone. Stewardship as seen through the eyes of our young people is powerful.

Again, thank you all for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure this past year, and a sincere thank you to the 37 of you who have returned your Ministries and Gifts Surveys. That subtotal gets us half way to our 2017 goal. If you haven't turned in your survey, it's not too late—drop it by the office or mail it in.

Thank you from your Stewardship Committee—Megan Henry, Beth Royall (chair), Kristina Smith, and Lynda Waggoner.

Angel Tree Family Gifts Due Sunday

Our Angel Tree family this year includes four young boys—ages 9 months, 2 years, 4 years, and 8 years old. The boys have recently moved in with their grandparents. Although very willing to take the boys in, the grandparents were not financially prepared for the expanded family. Thank you for making their Christmas brighter. If you don't have a gift tag, but still wish to donate, buy the family gift cards at Target, Walmart, or Kroger.

All gifts must be dropped off **unwrapped** at the church absolutely no later than Sunday, December 11, by the 10:30 a.m. service. That is our extended deadline! Patty Harman must deliver the gifts to the Salvation Army by Monday morning.



Saving Becket Memories

by Beth Royall, Stewardship Chair

On October 16, the Stewardship Committee hosted the first of what we hope will be a series of Memories Meetings. A group of founding and long-term Becket parishioners shared recollections of the early years. The purpose of the Memories Meetings is simply to collect some informal oral history as part of our celebration of the time, talents, and treasures that have gone into making Becket the parish it is today. Here's one of the stories shared. The Stewardship Committee welcomes recollections from other parishioners, too! Send memories to Beth Royall at bethroyall@gmail.com

The Christmas Eve Snow

It takes a lot to discourage the parishioners of Becket, but one snowfall in the mid-1980s proved challenging. The Rev. Charles E. (Snork) Roberts Jr. was rector, and the sanctuary was in what is now the Sunday School room. Bob and Aurie Acciavatti set out to get their daughter, Kathy, there in time to serve as acolyte, but got no farther than a ditch in Marion Meadows.

Margot Racin and her father made it part way up the driveway to the church. John Whitty, in his dress shoes, pushed their car up and around the sharp, steep curve of the old road, through the deep snow to get to the late service on time. Margot's father said: "I can see why you love your church in the woods."

The organist and many choir members were also blocked by the snow. Among the small, but valiant, congregation were Tom Brown and his mother, Marjorie Brown, from Hot Springs, S.D. (If you attend the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service today you will hear Tom Brown's strong bass carrying from the Gospel side of the sanctuary.) Marjorie, also musical, had experience playing the organ. She and Tom stepped forward to lead the Christmas Eve music. Unfortunately, the music rack on the Becket organ was placed high—too high for Marjorie's bifocals. Nonetheless, she played and Tom sang, and, according to Tom, the result "sounded like hell!"

Help Save Habitat's Grant: Finish the House! Save the Grant!

Mon County Habitat for Humanity must finish the fifth home in the Decker's Court Development by January 15, 2017, to comply with and KEEP its grant.

Both unskilled and skilled hands are needed for all types of interior projects.

If you are interested in helping, you can sign up on line to volunteer at <http://moncountyhfh.org/> and click at the VolunteerHub Link the Volunteer Now! button. It will take you directly to the volunteer page where you will select the "Build Site" button, and you're on your way.

Becket's Big Hearts, Many Hands Created Thanksgiving for Families

by Aurie Acciavatti

THANK YOU! That big thank-you shout out comes to you from the Outreach Committee, Youth Church, and the Sunday School for the many ways you contributed to the church's annual Scott's Run Settlement House (SRSRH) Thanksgiving Basket Program.

The planners and workers send their gratitude to everyone who contributed in any way to the "once-again successful" Thanksgiving basket program:

If you purchased food, you helped provide enough food to fill baskets for 34 SRSRH families, a basket for the Salvation Army Angel Tree family, and an empty food shelf at the SRSRH pantry. THANK YOU.

If you provided a gift card, you helped each family receive enough gift cards to purchase the meat (or protein) of their choice. THANK YOU.

If you were one of the people who made a donation to the Sunday School fund-raiser for fruit, you helped each family receive a bag of oranges and a bag of apples. THANK YOU.

If you were one of the people who came that Friday evening to help sort and fill the food bins and bag the onions, celery, and eggs, you turned a few days of solitary toil into just a few hours of enjoyable family-style service. THANK YOU.

If you were one of the people who stayed Sunday afternoon to distribute the Thanksgiving basket bins to the SRSRH clients, you made 34 families feel welcomed. Those folks were very appreciative of all we did. THANK YOU.

Without everyone's help, this outreach project could never have happened. St. Thomas à Becket has a wonderful and caring congregation.

Jesus said, "I will tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these . . . you did for me."



Jeff Fedan (left) and Bob Acciavatti divide the onions for each basket given out by the Outreach, Youth Church, and Sunday School to Scott's Run Settlement House families.

Handing out the baskets on Sunday, November 20, to the Scott's Run Settlement House clients are (left to right) Aurie Acciavatti, Grace Ayscue, Sarah Knox, and Charlie Heiskell.



Special Events Committee Thanks You

by *Laura Christian, Special Events Chair*

The Special Events committee would like to thank everyone who supported our efforts during this busy year, either through volunteering or through their attendance and participation in our events.

In 2016, the committee members and volunteers organized and ran two parish luncheons, one gourmet farm-to-table dinner, five *Becket Arts!* concerts, three flower sales, two *Becket Cooks!* courses, and one silent service auction. The proceeds went to the church's Capital Improvement Fund.

We are also always looking for new committee members! If you are interested in helping us at any stage (from planning through execution), please contact Laura Christian (laura.manno@gmail.com). We are looking forward to more great events next year.



More to Come: Thank you to all who bought flower arrangements during the fall sale. The Flower Guild plans to make more artificial and live arrangements for you to buy as Christmas gifts.

Keep watching the Thursday Parish Post for more details and announcements about the sale. All proceeds from the sale go to the Capital Improvement Fund.

Youth Church, Sunday School: Coffee Hour, Empty Bowls Plans

by *Amy Robbins, Director of Children's Programs*

The Sunday School and Youth Church will host a "free-will-offering" coffee hour on Sunday, December 18, before the Greening of the Church.

We will have our annual donation-based lunch of sausage sandwiches, sides, and desserts to help purchase infant "white gifts" to donate to the Scott's Run Settlement House baby pantry. Thank you all for your help and continual support!

Dress for Success to Paint Bowls

On Sunday, January 8, the children (and interested adults) will be painting bowls for the Empty Bowls soup luncheon fundraiser in February 2017. Please have children wear clothes appropriate for this activity (the paint is washable, ...BUT?). A \$5 donation per bowl would be appreciated to help cover the expense of this project.

If any adult wants bowls to paint for \$5 each at church that day, please let Amy Robbins know (amylmrobbins@comcast.net) by January 2.

A REMINDER OF THE CONTINUING OUTREACH PROJECTS AT ST. THOMAS

HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR HOMELESS: Please bring toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, shower gel, feminine hygiene products, and other general hygiene products for our Let's Shower Health Right project, which benefits the clients at Health Right.

Learn more about the homeless clients' hygiene needs when you stop by the Health Right exhibit in the Parish Hall. That's where you can pick up a shopping list!

Our Next Becket Arts!

Solos and Duets, an R & R Cabaret



Join us on December 11 for the next performance in our Becket Arts series. The title is "Solos and Duets, an R and R Cabaret." Singers Rebecca Valentine (right) and Rosemary Hathaway (left) will

be accompanied by our director of music, Dr. William Haller, on the Clavinova.

The performance will be held in our Parish Hall at 3 p.m. There will be light refreshments provided. Creating a cabaret feel, songs will include *If I Were a Bell; Sisters; Someone Is Sending Me Flowers; 'Zat you, Santa Clause?; Peel Me a Grape; Skylark; Count Your Blessings; That's Him; and Without a Song.*

Tickets will be available at the door. The cost is \$8 for a general ticket, \$6 for seniors, and free for students.

Organ Repaired, Ready for Holidays

In case you've been concerned about the condition of our church's beautiful Rodgers organ, worry no more.

The organ has been "blessed" by the knowledge and skills of a Maryland-based Rodgers-certified professional.

Dr. William Haller, our director of music, reports:

"After two visits by Rodgers serviceman Dave Yoder (from Jessup, MD) the organ is in good condition."

Music to—and for—our ears!

Haller said Yoder addressed the following problems: "Two capacitors had blown. There was a dirty 'pot.' The pedalboard has been adjusted to make each respond the same way. The speakers were relined in order to enhance the lower frequencies, and the reeds were revoiced."

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.

Please contact us at

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church

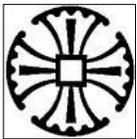
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December 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Hoyt Funeral 1 p.m.	3 Altar Guild Brunch 11 a.m.
4 <i>2 Advent</i> The Rev. John Bethell 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch.	5	6	7	8 Vestry Mtg. 7 p.m.	9	10
11 <i>3 Advent</i> The Rev. John Bethell 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Outreach Comm. Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. Becket Arts! 3 p.m.	12 Parish Hall RSVD- Spears	13 Parish Hall RSVD PEO Meeting 4 - 9 p.m.	14 Backpack Feeding Program at SRSH 12:30 p.m.	15 Women's Grief Support Group 6 p.m.	16	17
18 <i>4 Advent</i> The Rev. John Bethell 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. Hangin' of the Greens S.S. Sandwich Sale	19	20	21	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Family Service 5 p.m. Festive Service 10 p.m.
25 The Rev. John Bethell  Christmas Day Christmas Day Service 9:15 a.m.	26	27 Newsletter Articles Deadline	28	29	30	31