



# THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

December 2017

## ***2017 Christmas Season at St. Thomas à Becket***

***Sunday, December 17***

*Greening of the church  
(Immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service)*

***Sunday, December 24,  
the Fourth Sunday of Advent:***

*9:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer Rite II  
(Finish decorating the church)*

***Sunday, 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*

***Monday, December 25, Christmas Day***

*No services on Christmas Day*

***Sunday, December 31, Lessons and Carols***

*9:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II*



## **Keep on Giving**

*A stewardship message by Bill French*

*Marty French's husband, the late Bill French, wrote a series of newsletter articles in 2009 reminding us why we give. As we begin the Advent season and celebrate our stewardship Ingathering Day on December 3, with Marty's permission we share here one of Bill's articles.*

Here's an important point in the words of St. Paul:

*"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).*

We need to give not only because St. Thomas à Becket and our outreach programs depend on our giving, but because we need to give; our spirits are being shaped by the Holy Spirit, which leads us to reflect the generosity of God's nature. As we give, we experience the deeper joy of growing into the full stature of Christ.

*[Continued on page 2]*

## **New Children's Ministry Leaders: Sally Tolka and Angela Carver**

Sally Tolka is our new Sunday School leader, and Angela Carver will be our new Youth Development leader. Both have been involved with teaching the parish children.



**Sally Tolka** has a degree in finance from Fairmont State University. She is a substitute school teacher and a long-time yoga instructor.

Sally's goal is to create a place that is inviting by using art, play, and music. She will teach fundamental principles of the

Episcopal faith through this fun and inspiring environment. Children will also learn the guiding principles of serving others, caring for others, and respecting all individuals.

Sally plans to team up with Angela to foster the spirit of a church family amongst the children of St. Thomas à Becket. She invites parishioners to observe or help out with the upcoming projects taking place in the Sunday School.

Starting Sunday, Dec 3, one activity planned for Advent is a poster coloring activity that both the adults and children can enjoy together at coffee hour. Look for the Advent poster in the Parish Hall after the services. Coloring pencils and markers will be available. Everyone is invited to color with the kids and share in their journey through the Advent season, helping the adults and kids to prepare spiritually for Christmas.



**Angela Carver** will be the new Youth Development leader. She will officially take over in January and is excited to build on the program led by Ann Claycomb the last five years.

Angela hopes to pull in the middle and high school students of our parish

by exploring today's music and media and connecting it to what our youth face in their lives. Through service and social activities, the growing adults of St. Thomas will hopefully grow as a group and prepare themselves for the decision of confirmation.

She will be looking for parishioners willing to share their experiences and assist in the growth of the young people of our parish. Please feel free to contact her at [mamacarver@gmail.com](mailto:mamacarver@gmail.com) or 309-287-6271 (and, yes, the area code is 309).

*NOTE: Sally and Angela have begun working on the Sunday School room, sprucing things up for the new year. Take time to notice their hard work. Watch for an opportunity to volunteer to help in the future.*

## Keep on Giving

*[Continued from page 1]*

Take action and review your giving, setting it in the context of your income. Do you know what percentage of your income you give back? If we give cheerfully, our joy will only increase: We become aware of how our purpose is aligned with God’s purpose of shalom, the Biblical understanding of peace that comes from living in right relationship with each other and with all of creation. Understanding our purpose leads to joyful giving.

## Here’s Our Angel Tree Family Requests

*by Grace Ayscue*

Our Salvation Army Angel Tree parents — Duane and Tiffany — have six children. Demetrius, the oldest, is 13 years old. Jayden, 11, is the only girl. Jayontae is 9; Terrance, 6; and Kameryn, 2. Jayceon, the youngest, is 3 months old. Our parish will provide Christmas dinner for the family along with gifts for everyone.

The Angel Tree with gift tags will be set up for two Sundays, Nov. 26 and Dec. 3. As in past years, we will have a quick turn-around. All gifts must be brought to church by the beginning of the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 10.

If purchasing clothes or shoes, please include gift receipts in the event the gifts need to be returned for different sizes. Please attach the gift tag selected from the tree to your gift. As always, gifts are to be brought in unwrapped.

There are instructions by the Angel Tree and a separate signup sheet for each family member. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Grace Ayscue at 304-276-8037 or Anne Greza at 304-685-0675.

## Introducing Gordon Podsh

*By Beth Royall*



The Becket Choir basses are happy to welcome a new singer to their ranks. Gordon Podsh is a Ph.D. student in economics, arriving at WVU from Russia, by way of Alabama, Georgia, and — most recently — Oxford, MS.

Gordon has been singing for as long as he can remember.

He earned a degree in music history in Russia before switching to economics.

Gordon likes to travel and has visited 31 states. His goal is to visit all 50!

## Thank You for Providing SRSB Families All They Needed for Thanksgiving Meals

*by Aurie Acciavatti*

The Outreach Committee, Sunday School, and Youth Church would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the once again successful SRSB Thanksgiving basket program.

If you purchased food, you helped provide enough food to fill baskets for 34 SRSB families (108 people), a basket for the Salvation Army Angel Tree family, and an empty food shelf at the SRSB 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 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 SRSB clients, you made 34 families feel welcomed. One person asked if we had any croutons or stuffing and when I told her what was in her basket she was very surprised with how much food she would be receiving. 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.”



*Members of our church family prepare Thanksgiving baskets for others.*

## Becket Arts: Sunday, December 3

Be at St. Thomas at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, for another unusual Becket Arts.

“Saturday Night and Sunday Morning” features Dr. William Haller performing on organ and piano with West Virginia University students: Elijah Bui on violin, Shane Mercy on alto saxophone, Grant Adams on trombone, and Gloria Garner on marimba.

Each student artist will perform one composition religiously themed and one secular work. Tickets are available at the door (\$8 adults, \$6 seniors, students free).



# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>On Dec. 24, there will be one morning service at 9:30 a.m. for 4 Advent.</b>  <b>The Christmas Eve evening services will be at 5 and 10 p.m.</b>  <b>There will be no service on Christmas Day.</b>  <b>On Dec. 31, there will be one service at 9:30 a.m. of Lessons and Carols for 1 Christmas.</b></p>					1	2
<p><b>3 1 Advent</b>            The Rev. Helen Van Koevering            8 a.m. Rite I            9:15 a.m. Becket Choir            10:30 a.m. Rite II            Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch.</p>	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p><b>10 2 Advent</b>            The Rev. Helen Van Koevering            8 a.m. Rite I            9:15 a.m. Becket Choir  <b>Outreach Comm. Mtg.</b>            10:30 a.m. Rite II            Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch.  <b>Finance Comm. Mtg.</b></p>	11	12	<p>13            Backpack Feeding Program at SRSH            12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>14            Vestry Mtg.            7 p.m.</p>	15	16
<p><b>17 3 Advent</b>            The Rev. Helen Van Koevering            8 a.m. Rite I            9:15 a.m. Becket Choir            10:30 a.m. Rite II            Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch.  <b>Hanging of the Greens</b>  <b>Sunday School Sandwich Sale</b></p>	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p><b>24 4 Advent</b>            9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer            The Rev. Dn. Al Prichard    <b>Christmas Eve</b>            Family Service 5 p.m.            Festive Service 10 p.m.            The Rev. Tony Setley</p>	<p>25  <b>Christmas Day</b>            (no church service)  </p>	<p>26            Church Office Closed    <b>Newsletter Articles Deadline</b></p>	<p>27            Backpack Feeding Program at SRSH            12:30 p.m.</p>	28	29	30
<p><b>31 1 Christmas Lessons and Carols</b>            The Rev. Tony Setley            9:30 a.m. Rite II</p>	<p><b>Please note the times for the 4 Advent and 1 Christmas (Lessons and Carols) are at 9:30 a.m.</b>  <b>Also there will be no service on Christmas Day.</b></p>					

## *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

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304-296-0270

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

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