



# THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

February 2016

## Observing Lent

*"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of holy Lent...."*

Every year on Ash Wednesday, this invitation (or a version thereof) is offered to millions of Christians around the world. It is a reminder that Lent is a special and sacred time, and that we participate in Lent not just as individuals but as members of the whole Church.

With Lent right on our doorstep, now is a good time to decide how we are going to observe our holy Lent. Will we make an effort to pray more, to attend worship more often? Will we fast from Facebook or a favorite food? Will we monitor our use of natural resources? Will we take on an entirely new spiritual practice?

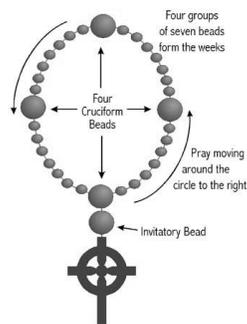
This is, of course, an important decision -- the individual "how" of Lent. But I ask each of you to also consider this question: How can I observe Lent in a way that is communal, through which I am united more fully with the Body of Christ that is the Church?

As one possible answer to this question, each Wednesday during Lent will include an opportunity to share in praying with Anglican Prayer Beads (also called the Anglican Rosary), a depiction of which is below. Leaders will offer the prayers for each bead out loud as those present pray their own set of beads.

The process provides a brief, contemplative practice -- a quiet and shared respite in the midst of daily life. We will begin at 11:45 a.m. and be done in time for the noon Holy Eucharist. And please don't worry if you don't have beads or haven't used them before! Sets of beads and instructions will be provided.

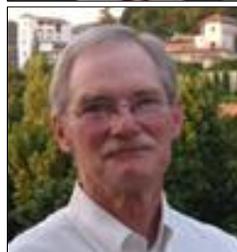
Whatever your Lenten practice, may God bless your 40 days, and may you find yourself moved to a deeper appreciation of this holy time.

*Mother Julie+*



*Pictured left is a diagram of Anglican Prayer Beads (also called the Anglican Rosary)*

## Congratulations to Our New Vestry Members



On January 31 we had our Annual Parish Meeting. One order of business was to elect four new members to our Vestry. They are (pictured above from left to right, then below) Matt Heiskell, Florita Montgomery, Beth Royall, and Tom Waggoner.

Our annual meeting was made very enjoyable thanks to the wonderful meal provided by the Fellowship Committee. Our thanks go to the new Fellowship Committee heads Marty French and Cary Johnson and all those on the committee who helped.

Roberta Dean, our parish treasurer, spoke about our budget for 2016, and handouts with this information were also available on each table. Russ Dean spoke on behalf of our Finance Committee about expenditures and our finances. Mother Julie and Grace Ayscue spoke about our parish and being involved, and each thanked staff and leaders for their hard work this year.

Finally, many thanks were expressed to outgoing Vestry members Grace Ayscue, Carol Beall, Jeff Fedan, and Cary Johnson for their diligence and hard work over the last three years.



**ECM Pancake Supper**

**February 9, 2016**

**from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

Cost will be \$6.00 per person regardless of age.

Funds from the supper are used to provide scholarships for Peterkin Summer Camps.

## ERD Aiding Syrians, 4 in 5 Live in Poverty

by the Outreach Committee

*This article is an excerpt from "Stepping Up Our Support for Displaced Syrians," which was featured in the fall 2015 issue of Episcopal Relief and Development's publication Seek and Serve.*

Since the civil war broke out in Syria more than four years ago, nearly 4 million people have fled Syria and another 7.6 million have been internally displaced within the country, bringing the total number forced to flee their homes to more than 11 million -- half of the country's pre-crisis population.

As the crisis has escalated, so too has Episcopal Relief & Development's response. Most recently, we have partnered with the Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches -- of which the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem is a member -- to assist internally displaced people. Right now the emphasis is on helping communities in relatively safe areas that become beacons for those who have been driven from their homes by bombings, terrorism, and other violence.

As the conflict continues to escalate, these communities are struggling to absorb the influx of people looking for shelter. Very little housing is available, and the costs have skyrocketed, leaving the newly displaced to take residence in schools, unfinished buildings, and other outdoor spaces. To address these critical and rapidly growing needs, Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting efforts to provide cash aid to help displaced individuals and families access safe and adequate shelter. Cash is the most practical form of assistance considering current circumstances. To ensure security and accountability, our partners on the ground work closely with local clergy to distribute these funds for rent and fuel.

Because we're tapping into church infrastructure covering almost all of the governorates in Syria, there is already a large volunteer network of church youth and local coordinators serving in various logistical roles in the target areas. That network is key when trying to reach people in the midst of growing chaos and is what allows us to provide those in need with cash aid and, when possible, items such as food, fuel, heaters, kitchen utensils, and bedding.

The need for this aid is exacerbated by the economic devastation that has accompanied the conflict. Unemployment rates are now as high as 85 percent in some areas and family savings have been depleted, leaving many to rely on assistance from local churches and humanitarian agencies.

Many of the displaced in Syria lack the resources to leave the country and are unable to provide for their families. According to the U.N., four in every five Syrians now live in poverty.

With no resolution to the civil war in sight, the need for Episcopal Relief & Development -- and for our community -- to do more will only grow. Members of the Episcopal Church in the U.S. are encouraged to pray for the people of

Syria -- including the minority Christian population, which faces additional threats -- and to support efforts to alleviate the suffering of those left without homes or even hometowns.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

by Amy Robbins, Director of Children's Programs

**"Souper" Bowl of Caring** is February 7! Each parishioner is asked to give one dollar as he or she leaves worship, voting for the team he or she thinks (or hopes!) will win the Super Bowl, the Denver Broncos or the Carolina Panthers. The money will be sent to our local Community Kitchen.

Also the Sunday School will be collecting **cans of soup** through February 7. You may leave your soup donations on the table in the Sunday School room.

Additionally, the Sunday School children will be collecting **toothbrushes and toothpaste** this month; feel free to drop off donations in the SS room.

Thank you in advance for your support!!



### Empty Bowls Time!

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Empty Bowls

Soup and Bread Luncheon

Saturday, Feb. 27, at Mylan Park

### Buy Your Tickets Here!

Get Them During Coffee Hour

Tickets: Still \$15 Each

Children 10 and younger eat for free!

Questions? See Deacon Al Prichard or  
visit [www.EBmon.org](http://www.EBmon.org)

## Pantry Volunteers Say 'Thank You'

*The two volunteers who run the Rock Forge Food Pantry sent this note of gratitude to our parishioners.*

Thank you so very much for the generous donation (\$500) to our food pantry.

With partners like you, we are able to provide needed items to our clients and to carry out our mission for Christ.

God Bless.



# February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Centering Prayer 9 a.m.  Acolyte Training 10 a.m.
<b>7</b> Evolution Sunday 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. <b>Sp. Events Committee Mtg.</b>  "Souper" Bowl Sunday!	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> ECM Pancake Supper 5:30 - 7 p.m.	<b>10</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Services: 7 a.m.  Noon 7 p.m.	<b>11</b>   <b>Vestry Mtg.</b> 7 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>   <b>Valentine Flower Pick-up 2-4 p.m.</b>
<b>14</b> 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>  <b>Valentine Flower pick- up continued</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Anglican Rosary 11:45 a.m.  Noon Eucharist in Chapel  Embracing Forgiveness Discussion Group 12:30 & 6:30 p.m.	<b>18</b>   <b>Clergy Day at St. Thomas</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>   Centering Prayer 9 a.m.
<b>21</b> 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. <b>Stewardship Comm. Mtg.</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Anglican Rosary 11:45 a.m.  Noon Eucharist in Chapel  Embracing Forgiveness Discussion Group 12:30 & 6:30 p.m.	<b>25</b>   <b>Women's Grief Support Group 6 p.m.</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>   <b>Empty Bowls 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Mylan Park</b>
<b>28</b> 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch.	<b>29</b>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES</b>  Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at each service.  <b>7:00 a.m.</b>  <b>12:00 Noon</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> (The evening service will include music.)				

## *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)

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

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Morgantown, WV 26508

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



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