



THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

January 2015

The Warden's Corner

by *Grace Ayscue, Senior Warden*

This is just a brief word to encourage everyone who attends St. Thomas à Becket Church to participate in the Annual Meeting on January 18.

At the parish meeting you can learn about what is happening with various church ministries, see how the church plans to use its financial resources in the coming year, and vote for new members of the Vestry and people in several other positions in the church. Because everyone worships at a single service at 9:15 a.m. and then eats and meets together, it's also a chance to see -- or to meet for the first time -- people who attend the "other" service.

Finally it will be a chance to thank publicly those members of the Vestry who will have completed their three years of service: Gwen Anderson (the current Secretary), Becky Dinsmore, Cary Johnson, and Alice Meehan. It's hard for me to imagine being on the Vestry without these four thoughtful, encouraging, and hardworking people.

Coming to a meeting is not the same as attending a worship service or working on an outreach project, I know. But for people who are relatively new to the church, it is an opportunity to become more knowledgeable about and more appreciative of the many aspects of church life at St. Thomas à Becket as well as to participate directly in the church's business. And we need the presence of people who have been attending our church for many years, even from its beginning: you bring the congregation's memory as well as the wisdom to point our way into the future.

Hope to see you all there!

A Message from Our Stewardship Committee:

It is not too late to turn in your 2015 Offering and/or your Ministry and Gifts Forms!

We are hoping to get as many in as possible before the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 18. This information is needed to help us know where we stand for 2015.

Thank you to everyone who has already made an offering of your financial and personal gifts.

Coming Up at St. Thomas à Becket in January!

Epiphanytide Burning of the Greens

Sunday, January 11, 2015

4:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

followed by a pot luck meal and burning of the greens!

Our Annual Parish Meeting

January 18, 2015.

*There will be **one service at 9:15 a.m.**, followed by a meal provided by the Fellowship Committee.*

Our 2015 St. Thomas à Becket Vestry Candidates

This year we will be voting for 5 members because of a vacancy made last year. Those running for Vestry this year include:

Corey Farris



Corey Farris is a cradle Episcopalian. Baptized at St. John's in Charleston, he served as an acolyte and attended Sunday School there until he graduated from high school. He still attends St. John's services when visiting family living in Charleston.

Every Sunday at St. John's, Corey is reminded at the close of the recessional, "the mass has ended, let the service begin."

Upon entering WVU he joined Snork Robert's campus mission, Canterbury Student Fellowship that was based out of Trinity. Snork introduced him to serving as a lesson reader as well as being a Eucharistic minister.

After graduating from WVU, Corey attended Episcopal churches in Columbus, OH, and Iowa City, IA, where he furthered his education and worked full time. When he returned to Morgantown in 1991, it was only natural for him to settle eventually at St. Thomas where he now serves as lesson reader, Eucharistic Minister, and Usher/Greeter Coordinator.

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Our 2015 St. Thomas à Becket Vestry Candidates

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It was growing up in the Episcopal Church that Corey learned about our loving God urging us to open our hearts, church, and associated outreach to all people in our community. Currently Corey's passion is in serving those living with food insecurity. For the past several years Corey has served on the Empty Bowls Board of Directors. He is employed as Dean of Students at WVU.

On the Vestry, Corey looks forward to continuing the tradition of taking St. Thomas to new heights that the founding mothers and fathers started and have been supported by subsequent vestries and parishioners.

Anne Harman Greza



Anne Harman Greza was baptized at Trinity Episcopal Church, Parkersburg, and has been an active member of St. Thomas à Becket since she was a young child. While growing up, she was a member of the Sunday School.

She then transitioned into an acolyte and chalice bearer. She now serves on Altar Guild and teaches Sunday School.

Anne received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from West Virginia Wesleyan College where she held several leadership roles in both sports and Greek Life. She is currently working for the Job Accommodation Network and is an active volunteer in the community.

Anne feels honored to be considered for Vestry and hopes to bring fresh perspectives and ideas, while engaging members of all ages.

Matthew Iber



Matthew Iber is a cradle Episcopalian. He has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and has worked for the government for 25 years. He has been a member of St. Thomas à Becket for 7 years.

During this time he has served on the Outreach, Property, and Fellowship committees. He is a member of Altar Guild and he teaches Sunday School and Youth Church.

In addition, he volunteers regularly for activities and events both in the local community and remotely. Since September of this year, he has graciously filled in for a departing member of the Vestry, and as such is still eligible to serve a full term.

He looks forward to serving on the vestry in an effort to continue the good foundation of church operations that have been established by previous vestries.

Beth O'Neil



Beth is originally from Moundsville, WV and while attending WVU she met the love of her life, Jeff O'Neil. She graduated WVU with a bachelor degree in Medical Technology and currently works at WVU Hospital as a Histotechnologist in the pathology department.

Beth was raised in, and faithfully attended, the Methodist Church but in recent years became disgruntled with the internal politics. Wanting to find a church where both she and Jeff could feel comfortable in, they began their search. Jeff, an English teacher at University High School, recalled attending a few Eagle Scout ceremonies, for several of his former students, at St Thomas à Becket and remembered the beautiful sanctuary, so he suggested they give it a try.

They attended the family Christmas Eve service in 2012 and finding it a refreshing experience, they decided to give the Sunday worship a try. While quite a bit different from a Methodist service, Jeff and Beth fell in love with their new Family and both were confirmed into the Episcopal faith in spring 2014. In these short two years, Beth has helped with the Fellowship committee, attended several evening group worship activities, and (her greatest accomplishment) completed the Read the Bible in One Year activity.

Beth would like to become a member of the Vestry at St Thomas so that she can gain a deeper insight into the workings of the Episcopal Church and learn how she can better serve her church family.

Jason Robbins



Jason Robbins has been a member of St. Thomas à Becket for 7 years. His family moved to Morgantown in November 2006 and they were instantly impressed with the warm welcome they received at St. Thomas and quickly realized they wanted to become active members of this church.

While at St. Thomas à Becket, he has served on the Vestry and Search Committee, and he is currently on the Finance Committee. He has an MBA and a MS and BS in Environmental Policy. He works for Petitto Mine Equipment, Inc. in Morgantown.

He has enjoyed his time working with the members the church, and he is looking forward to new opportunities to serve God.

A Thank You Message from Water. Org

St. Thomas à Becket received this recent email from Morée Scofield at Water.org: *Thank you for hosting a fundraiser on Give.Water.org. It is an honor to have great people like you taking it upon themselves to help others get access to safe water. We cannot do this life-giving work without the support of people like you.*

CHRISTMAS AT ST. THOMAS À BECKET CHURCH!

9th Annual Empty Bowls Monongalia Soup & Bread Luncheon

Empty Bowls Monongalia (EBM) is gearing up for its annual soup and bread luncheon to combat local hunger. This year's event will be held on Saturday February 28, at Mylan Park from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The basic premise of an Empty Bowls event is simple: guests get to choose a ceramic bowl crafted by WVU students, local potters, and area school children to take home with them. At the luncheon, guests may enjoy a choice of hot soup, bread, homemade cookies, and the pleasure of greeting many friends from the community. The bowl can be kept as a reminder of the meal's purpose to fight hunger. Guests at the luncheon will also be entertained by strolling musicians.

All proceeds from the event are donated to feeding programs and food pantries in Monongalia County. EBM has grown into a community-wide effort aimed at helping the hungry and educating the public. The \$89,000 raised from last year's event provided \$77,750 to seven feeding programs, serving an estimated 140,582 meals in the previous years, to eleven food pantries that provided groceries to 22,855 individuals who do not have the resources to purchase them, and to three weekend backpack feeding programs that provided an estimated 7,000 backpacks during the 2014 school year. We invite you to join in this worthwhile community effort to combat hunger.

Tickets are \$15.00, and children 10 and under eat for free (children eating for free do not receive a handmade ceramic bowl). At St Thomas à Becket, José Fernando Oquendo is in charge of tickets sales this year; he also has the sign-up sheets for cookie bakers and volunteers (Please note that volunteers working at the luncheon must be 14 or older and that the majority of volunteers also support Empty Bowls by purchasing a luncheon ticket). José will have tickets every Sunday through February 15, at the 10:30AM Sunday service. Volunteers and cookie bakers are encouraged to sign up by February 1.

Tickets are also available at the Appalachian Gallery, the WOW! Factory, Slight Indulgence, Classic Furniture, The Flying Fish, The Elegant Alley Cat, Brad Reed Salon, First United Bank and Trust, and at Dynamic Physical Therapy, or at <http://emptybowlsmon.org>

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

by Amy Robbins Coordinator of Children's Programs

This month, the Sunday School will be collecting cans of soup through "Souper" Bowl Sunday on February 1. You may leave your soup donations on the table in the Sunday School room.

Twenty baby layette items were donated to Scott's Run Settlement House as white gifts to celebrate Christmas. Thank you to all who donated!

The Sunday School wants to thank all of the parents and children who helped make the Christmas Eve service so special. It was a joint effort and everyone did a great job — thank you!! Amy especially wanted to say thank you for the card signed by all of the children and the generous gift!

Girls Clothes Needed: Ben Taylor is working in India and has requested our help. 25 girls that live permanently at the school where he works, Little Stars School of Varanasi, are in need of clothing. Anyone who might have outgrown girls clothes (or unisex) age 4 to 16 would be greatly appreciated.

Warm weather clothes would get the most wear, but there's no heat in winter so people wear sweaters all the time as buildings can be in the low 50's. Please bring any donations to the Sunday School room by January 11. Thank you for helping with this if possible!

Jerrey Hoyt Named United Way's Volunteer of the Month

Jerrey Hoyt has been named United Way's Volunteer of the Month for December. In their announcement, United Way identified many of the ways in which Jerrey is involved serving our community:

Jerrey Hoyt has worked with the Empty Bowls program for the past 4 years, going to monthly meetings on top of organization meetings. He currently serves on the Finance/Fundraising and Public Relations committee and is responsible for raising money, recruiting volunteers, and publicity for their annual luncheon.

Jerrey also works in the chaplain office at Mon General, is a Rotarian and puts in endless hours doing fundraisers, working with the soup kitchen, helping with scholarships, and participating in church programs; he is everywhere helping someone.

He is always looking for ways to give back to the community. Jerrey puts service above self, he gives back to the community financially but more than that he gives his time. He is up at 2 am sending out emails to folks asking for donations for events, getting groups to paint bowls or simply trying to find a grant that might help a feeding program. He has never ending energy and puts it to work for others.

Congratulations, Jerrey, on an honor that is well-deserved!

Our Worship Schedule

The Very 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)

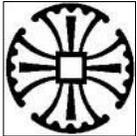
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January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Property Comm Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School <i>Girl Scouts (Robbins)</i> 6-8 p.m.	5	6	7 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	8	9	10 Community Kitchen (Trinity) Centering Prayer 9 a.m.
11 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Outreach Comm. Mtg 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School Finance Comm Mtg. Epiphany Service 4:30p.m. Pot Luck and Holy Burn Please bring a dinner item to share!	12 <i>"Coconuts" Group</i> <i>10 -11:30 a.m.</i>	13	14 Noon Eucharist in Chapel SRSB Backpack Feeding Program 1 p.m.	15 Retirees' Luncheon 11:30 a.m. <i>(The Pines)</i> Vestry Mtg. 7 p.m.	16	17
18 ANNUAL MEETING 9:15 a.m. Rite II Sunday School ONE SERVICE, beginning at 9:15 a.m. followed by the Meeting and a meal provided by Fellowship.	19 <i>"Coconuts" Group</i> <i>10 -11:30 a.m.</i>	20	21 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	22 6 p.m.	23	24 Centering Prayer 9 a.m.
25 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 930 a.m. Stewardship Comm. Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School	26 <i>"Coconuts" Group</i> <i>10 -11:30 a.m.</i>	27	28 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	29 <i>Sanctuary Rsvd</i> <i>Becket Arts</i> <i>Rehearsal</i>	30	31 <i>Sanctuary Rsvd</i> <i>Becket Arts</i> <i>Rehearsal</i>