



# THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

January 2015

## The Warden's Corner

*by Grace Ayscne, Senior Warden*

First, I need to pass along a hearty Thank You from Deacon Al Pritchard to the parish for his Christmas gift and for all the support he receives as the parish deacon. Al's work in our parish is an act of love and dedication to God, and we owe him more than we could give.

Second, as you know the Annual Meeting will mark the end of the three-year term on the Vestry for Jeff Fedan, Carol Beall, Cary Johnson, and me. It has been both humbling and uplifting to serve alongside these three wise and dedicated people. I would also like to thank them, the other members of the Vestry and, especially, Mother Julie. I learned a great deal from all of you and am constantly amazed at the level of thoughtfulness and dedication to service that I see in this church – and the will and ability to get things done.

As a group the people on the Vestry are there as an extension of their service to God in the St. Thomas à Becket community – in worship and music, youth education, fellowship, and outreach, along with service on the committees that keep the church's finances and property in order. There is no one profile of a perfect Vestry member; the church benefits from having many parts of the Body represented.

I hope that each person in the parish will attend the Annual Parish Meeting January 24 to learn as well as to participate, and that you will support the Vestry, both those that will be newly elected from a slate of excellent candidates and the eight continuing members, in the coming year.

Finally, in the last three years I've learned the extent to which our church benefits from the quiet dedication of individuals who often work on their own with little thanks or recognition. You know who you are – and we thank you.

## Property Committee – Past and Future

*by Jeff Fedan, Junior Warden*

By now you will have seen that the parking lot and driveway have been excavated and re-paved. The asphalt is coarse, and a second, top coat, will be laid down in the spring after the temperatures have warmed. When that is completed new parking lines will be painted. The spaces designated for handicap parking will be moved to bring them closer to the new ADA-compliant sidewalk along the parlor window.

A new shed has been added to the driveway end of the parking lot. It has two interior spaces. The one on the left will be used for storage and kept locked; the key can be found on the right wall of the closet off the main hallway. The right

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## The Deacon's Update

Allow me to reflect a bit on my ministry as a deacon and my role at and for St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church. The most obvious role is my involvement with the worship services held each Sunday and on various special occasions. The opportunity to participate in the regular worship of God and to serve the parish as one of its clergy is fundamental to my existence. It, quite literally, recharges me. On average, I preach the sermon roughly once a month and lead Morning Prayer on occasion. I gain immensely from this, particularly from the preparation of the sermons. It provides me great insight and strengthens my relationship with God. I am, truly, thankful for this opportunity.

One of the charges given to the deacon by the bishop upon his or her ordination is “to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world.” Much of my ministry is rooted in this charge. In order to do that, I, first, involve myself in areas of service outside the parish and within the community. How could I have any appreciation for the “needs, concerns, and hopes of the world” without my presence and involvement to see firsthand what the problems and challenges are? Much of this involvement has centered on the issues of homelessness and food insecurity in our community. For instance, I am involved, to varying degrees, with the Bartlett House, Community Kitchen, and Empty Bowls Monongalia.

Such involvement is but step one in the bishop's charge to me. The second part is “to interpret to the Church” these needs and challenges so that the Church at large and our parish in particular can develop ways to address them. In order to help interpret such needs, I am active with the parish's Outreach Committee, serving currently as the chair. The members of the committee make up a vibrant group and each is involved with a variety of community service organizations. What is great about the folks of St. Thomas à Becket is that such involvement is not limited to the members of the Outreach Committee. It seems that all of our parishioners serve in one way or another.

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## An Important Message from Your Vestry

*The Vestry is still in the process of finalizing the slate of candidates for the election of four new members to the Vestry at our Annual Meeting on January 24. The names and biographies of the candidates will be sent in a parish email as well as included in the Parish Post. To make sure they are available to everyone, copies also will be placed on the table in the Narthex.*

## The Deacon's Update

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Another method for interpreting to the parish the “needs, concerns, and hopes of the world” and of our community is through the sermons I preach. You may have noted that frequently my sermons will touch on issues of social justice. I know that occasionally some members of the congregation find fault with what I say or are offended by it. I try my very best to listen to what God is attempting to convey to me through scripture and prayer, but it is process of discovery and enlightenment for me as well. If you see things differently, please convey that to me. I will deeply appreciate your thoughts on how we can best address the injustice that exists around us.

A new challenge facing us is a result of the turmoil in Syria and other Middle Eastern countries. It is quite possible that by this summer refugees from this region will be settled in West Virginia. I am a member of the Interfaith Committee of the Morgantown Chapter of WV Friends of Syrian Refugees. Our primary goal is to educate and mobilize churches, mosques, synagogues, and other faith-based and humanitarian groups to be ready to assist with the resettlement of the refugees. The first community informational meeting is Thursday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church on Spruce Street. Anyone interested in learning more and, possibly, being involved is invited to join me at this meeting.

Finally, I want to let you know that as time goes on and my family situation evolves, my role with the parish will evolve as well. Cheryl and I want to spend as much time as we can with our family. Now that both of our children are settled into their careers, they, like most, work throughout the week and have their weekends off. In order for us to spend time with them, we will be away from home more often on weekends than has been the custom for us. Therefore, do not be surprised that I will be absent from Sunday worship services somewhat more than in the past.

I close this article with the reminder that all of us, and not just the deacons, are asked by God to participate in addressing areas of need and social concerns. One of the dismissals used at the end of our Sunday services is “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” One bishop, I am told, had his own take on this and would dismiss the congregation with “Get up, get out, and get lost.” There is virtue in losing our comfort zone and our sense of importance and diving into the muck in order to advance the Kingdom through our words and deeds.

## Property Committee – Past and Future

*(Continued from page 1)*

space will be used for garbage cans and will remain unlocked. The shed will be primed and painted the dark brown color now adorning the old shed.

Several more projects for our church lie on the horizon. The first will involve landscaping; the harsh winter of 2014-2015

resulted in the demise of many of the plants by the stained glass window in the sanctuary, which were removed, leaving the bed in need of replanting. Second, the exterior wood and block walls will be painted. The third project will involve renovation of the altar area and replacement of the carpet in the parish hall. The last will involve replacement of the current incandescent ceiling lights in the parish hall with the LED type; this step will reduce our electric bill substantially.

Much ado!

## Stewardship Notes

*The prayers below were offered to help sustain our mission and ministries, and were received on Ingathering Sunday.*

O Father Almighty, who cares about all His children, help this parish to give and receive what is needed so that we can continue to help our neighbors in need, to be your hands, and to do your will as we do your work in the world; this we ask in the name of your son, our Lord. Amen.

St. Thomas à Becket has already effected great changes in my life. Please sustain the church so that it can make similar changes in even more lives. Amen.

Gracious Lord, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of the world, pour your loving grace on this place and these people. Empower us to do your work in a broken, needy world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear Lord, help us to follow you in all we do and say. May we reflect your love to reflect your love for us in our lives so that others will want to follow you, too. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

## IMPROVING OUR PARKING LOT AND DRIVE



*Above left is a picture of the construction crew laying the gravel on the drive. Above right is the stone base for our new parking lot.*



*The picture to the left is of Scott Murdoch standing on our beautiful newly paved driveway. It took a while but was worth the wait!*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

*by Amy Robbins Coordinator of Children's Programs*

Thank you to the Sharleys for donating the food and to the Beards for cooking the food for the December 20 Sandwich Sale. We collected \$178 for the Sunday School children to donate to Heifer International. Also, the Sunday School would like to thank the Carver, Pahl, and Robbins families for their donations to the sale that day.

In January, the Sunday School will collect coats, hats, and mittens -- new or gently used -- to donate to Christian Help. Any items you may wish to donate should be left in the Sunday School room.

## A Message from Bishop Mike

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you know, at this past Diocesan Convention, I asked for the creation of the position of Assistant Bishop. This position is a Canonical position, and in order to create it, I needed to ask the Standing Committee for their consent to take it to Convention. At Convention, I asked for the creation of this position.

The Standing Committee gave its consent, unanimously. The Diocesan Convention approved the creation of the position by a 98 percent approval. From there, I returned to the Standing Committee, to ask their consent to appoint the Rt. Rev. Mark Van Koevering for the position of Assistant Bishop. The Standing Committee gave its unanimous approval. With this background, I contacted Bishop Van Koevering and asked him to join me in West Virginia as the Assistant Bishop.

Bishop Van Koevering was born in the United States and lived in the UK. He spent years as a missionary to Mozambique and was ordained priest. He married Helen, who is also ordained, where they both have served in Mozambique. About 13 years ago, he was consecrated Bishop of Niassa, where he has served since. Under his episcopacy, the Diocese has nearly doubled in size and has begun looking at creating new dioceses.

I ask your prayers for Mark and Helen, their family, and the Diocese of Niassa as we make this transition. I look forward to a great and warm welcome for them to West Virginia.



After they settle into Charleston, we will work on a schedule of visitations, which will come out in January. Welcome Bishop Mark and Helen!

*Pictured left: The Rt. Rev. Mark Van Koevering and his wife, Helen.*

## CHRISTMAS AT ST. THOMAS À BECKET CHURCH



*Pictured left are some of the children in the Christmas Eve Pageant including a very commanding James Robbins as Joseph.*



*Pictured right are the heavenly angels who are preparing to go into the church.*



*Pictured left are all of the children in the Christmas Eve pageant in front of the altar.*



*Welcome  
Kinsley Caroline  
Bostian!*

Congratulations to Amanda and Phillip Bostian on the birth of their daughter, Kinsley Caroline Bostian. In case you have not seen the local news, she is one of the first babies born in Morgantown in 2016, and she wasn't delivered in a hospital! In fact, the birth of Mon General Hospital's first baby of the new year actually happened in a parking lot!

Kinsley's mother, Amanda, and father, Phillip, pulled over into the BFS parking lot on Mileground Road around 4 a.m. Friday when they realized they likely wouldn't make it to Mon General Hospital in time. Phillip, a doctor-in-residence at Ruby Memorial Hospital, said he began to deliver the baby himself in the car.

Eventually an ambulance arrived to transport the family to Mon General Hospital, but crews had to deliver the baby inside the ambulance when they arrived at the hospital.

Thankfully she arrived safely and sound! She was born at 5:11 a.m. and weighs 8 pounds, 12 ounces.

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

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church

75 Old Cheat Road

Morgantown, WV 26508

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



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75 Old Cheat Road  
Morgantown, WV

26508





# January 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> New Year's Day  Church Office Closed	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Lessons and Canticles 8 a.m. Rite I <b>Lessons and Canticles</b> 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II <b>Lessons and Carols</b> Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. <b>Girl Scouts (Robbins)</b> 6-8 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Centering Prayer 9 a.m.
<b>10</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>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel  <b>Backpack Feeding Program at SRSB</b> 12:30 p.m.	<b>14</b>  <b>Vestry Mtg.</b> 7 p.m.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Sanctuary Rsvd for Becket Arts Rehearsal
<b>17</b> 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 9:30 a.m. <b>Stewardship Comm. Mtg.</b> 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. <b>Sp. Events Comm Mtg.</b> <b>Becket Arts! 3 p.m.</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Centering Prayer 9 a.m.  Acolyte Training 10 a.m.
<b>24</b> 9:15 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> NOTE: ONE SERVICE, beginning at 9:15 a.m. followed by the Meeting and a meal.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel	<b>28</b>  <b>Women's Grief Support Group</b> 6 p.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>(5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)</b> 8 a.m. Rite II 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite I Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch.						