



THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

June 2015

The Warden's Corner

by Grace Ayscue, Senior Warden

Pentecost Monday begins the period in the Church year called "Ordinary Time," but for many of us the weeks that follow are anything but ordinary. The university has moved to its summer schedule, and the last day of public school classes is less than two weeks after the Annual Church Picnic. Children head off to camps or to visit relatives, families travel, and some church members relocate to another part of the country for the summer months. But as Mother Julie is fond of reminding us, "God does not take summer vacation." This has been reflected in recent years at St. Thomas à Becket in continued attendance at services and participation in service projects and continued offerings of gifts and time.

I would encourage members of the congregation who find their routines altered to view the summer as a time to try something different at church. Sign up to teach Summer Sunday School alongside an experienced teacher or to work on an Outreach ministry such as Habitat for Humanity or the Community Kitchen. If you enjoy singing, talk to Michael Ibrahim about joining the choir for a few weeks or months while regular singers are on vacation. Get together with a friend and sign up to bring Coffee Hour refreshments. Consider even waking up early -- or sleeping late -- on Sunday morning and attending the "other" service from the one you usually attend.

A newly repurposed bulletin board to the left of the door to the kitchen is now available for posting "housekeeping," maintenance, and office jobs around the church that committees or individuals need help with. This board is intended for such things as office tasks and upkeep of the building and grounds -- anything from folding papers and stuffing envelopes to weeding the garden or mowing the grass. Signups for Outreach, classes, and the like will continue to be on the table in the foyer.

If you are someone who regularly performs a task for the church and would like assistance with the work or a substitute during a vacation, or even a chance to train a replacement should you feel ready to pass along the job, you may post a note on this board to let others know. Please include your name and contact information so that anyone interested in helping will be able to reach you to learn more.

Committee chairpersons, please use this space to post a "task list" if appropriate. Again, please include contact information so that potential volunteers know whom to call. On the other hand, if you would like to help more around the church but are unsure what is needed,

or if you have limited time and would prefer to commit to a one-time or well-defined task, please check the board to see if there are jobs that would suit you. Once a task is done or "claimed," please remove the notice or cross the task off (if it's part of a list). Our hope is that this bulletin board can be used to get done some of the sorts of things done that might normally wait for Blue Jeans Sunday and also give people who need help with something specific a place to try to recruit. It will work best if folks check it regularly, for instance during Coffee Hour, and also remember to remove or cross out outdated messages.

In case anyone is wondering, the photos of Vestry members that were previously on this board have migrated across the hallway next to where minutes from Vestry meetings and Treasurer's Reports are posted. We hope that having our pictures next to these reports will make it easier to connect names to faces and for folks to find a Vestry member to discuss any questions or concerns they may have.

An Important Message About the Parking Lot and Drainage

I would like to call everyone's attention to the document attached to this newsletter concerning the rebuilding of the church's parking lot and drainage. As anyone who has visited the church recently is probably aware, the surface of the parking lot is in bad shape, its deteriorating condition hastened by harsh winters and misdirected trucks turning around.

More concerning, but less obvious, is that the church building itself has been adversely affected by water draining downhill from the existing parking lot. The Vestry, following input from the Property Committee, the Finance Committee, and several experts, has come to believe that the parking lot and a section of the driveway need to be rebuilt and the drainage redirected to an existing culvert.

This is a large job, and because the Capital Fund has largely been used to replace the roof (also a necessary measure), the church will need to take out a loan in order to pay for the project. The Bishop is aware and the Diocese is moving toward granting the parish approval to encumber the property with a loan. We are well into the required audit of our books, a necessary step in gaining this approval.

The Vestry does not take this step lightly, and it is essential that we do it with the knowledge and support of the congregation—and in particular continued support of the Capital Fund. We hope that the attached FAQs will answer many questions that people may have about the project. Please look them over, and if you have additional thoughts or questions, please bring them to a member of the Vestry (or Property or Finance Committee).

Elewana Helps Kenyans Pay High School Tuition

by Florita Stubbs Montgomery

A free high school education? No big deal—at least, not in America. That’s one of the many opportunities available to young people in our communities. But that’s not an opportunity blessing students in many areas throughout the world, including in Kenya.

To cover their tuition, books, and school uniforms, high school students in rural Kenya need at least \$500 a year—which exceeds a family’s average annual income. In addition, some students are members of families that have lost one or both parents to AIDS or other diseases.

As a partner in the Elewana Education Project in Kenya, St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church is continuing its \$500 annual commitment to help Kenyan youths with their expenses.

However, this year that \$500 will help two high school students, according to the Rev. Zach Drennen, Elewana’s executive director and founder.

At a May 5 parish dinner sponsored by the Outreach Committee, the Rev. Drennen thanked our congregation for assisting a student each year. He then explained that our contribution now means more because the new policy provides only \$250 per eligible student and requires families to locate community donors to match the Elewana scholarship.

This is the second year for the policy. Last year, students were able to meet that challenge, he said.

This school year, which runs from January through December, Elewana is sponsoring more than 200 high school students.

Rev. Drennen also described a new initiative that—in partnership with World Reader—is placing e-reader libraries in high schools. Each library will receive 30 e-readers preloaded with the entire high school curricula. The cost for each library is \$5,000; World Reader matches \$2,500 for each \$2,500 Elewana raises.

Besides its scholarships and computer-based learning programs, Elewana pursues two other priorities: six two-week academic camps and a service and leadership academy for U.S. and Kenyan high school students.

Following his informal presentation, Rev. Drennen invited our parishioners to admire (and purchase!) some of the masks, carvings, paintings, and other products created by Kenyan artists. During his sessions in Lewisburg and Charleston, he auctioned the arts and crafts.

All the proceeds from the dinners, auctions, and sales will support Elewana’s mission of improving the quality of and access to secondary education in rural Kenya.

Learn about other Elewana projects—including opportunities for Americans to be volunteer teachers or trainers—by checking the website at elewana.org.



Above left: Parishioners share a meal with Zach Drennen as he provided information about Elewana.



Above right: An example of a Kenyan artist's work that was available for purchase.

Ronald McDonald House: 'Be a Summer Volunteer'

by the Outreach Committee

Morgantown’s Ronald McDonald House needs summer volunteers—be they individual workers or organized group members.

According to volunteer coordinator Megan Pitrolo, Ronald McDonald House maintains a “home away from home for families of seriously ill children receiving medical treatment” at area hospitals.

“Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, we are open to serve those traveling from West Virginia and surrounding states as well as internationally,” she explained.

Every day, she said, the house has different needs and volunteer opportunities.

Projects range from helping with outside projects to preparing rooms for families. Times range from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

Three examples are:

Breakfast: 8 a.m. every day

Family Dinners: 5 p.m. every day

Baker’s Club: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. every day

To explore how to hold an activity day at Ronald McDonald House or to learn more about other summer volunteer opportunities, contact Megan Pitrolo at mpitrolo@rmhcmgtn.org or at 304-598-0050.



Nepal Needs Relief Dollars

by *The Outreach Committee*

The earthquakes in Nepal have left many dead and far more homeless and in need of rapid support from around the world.

One relief organization, Shree Pashupatinath Foundation, USA, has a personal connection with a family in our parish. Sean and Melina Flanagan's sister-in-law, Sunita Choudhary, who is Nepali, has been volunteering with SPFU for the past four years. She has put out an appeal for immediate support. The link to the SPFU website is www.pashupatinathfoundation.org.

A second organization to which we could send our support is the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. ERD has set up a specific Nepal relief fund at www.episcopalrelief.org/NepalRelief.

With both of these sites, we can make a direct contribution via credit card. Please consider helping.

Youth Church Ends Second Year and Makes Plans for Fall

by *Ann Claycomb*

Hello Everyone. We've had a wonderful second year of Youth Church, serving grades 4-8, with sometimes as few as 3 children in attendance and sometimes upwards of 12-15.

The kids have been engaged, energetic, and also tremendously responsive to instruction about outreach, love in action as the basis of our Faith, etc. (In case you missed it, our bake sale a few months ago, featuring all kid-produced goodies, raised more than \$170!)

This fall, we are going to shift to a new plan for a few months, hoping to improve the children's basic Biblical "vocabulary" and find a way for all teachers to engage directly with the kids.

We will break the kids into small groups or 2-3 kids and each group will pick an Old Testament figure who not only figures prominently in his own story, but who resonates in the New Testament. Examples: Moses, Abraham, Noah, Jonah, David, Ruth and Naomi, Esther, and others. (There is some consensus that the women of the Old Testament need to be powerfully represented here, or at least offered as choices.)

The kids will spend about 2 months on this, eventually producing a presentation and display that we can all enjoy. We look forward to sharing these projects with the parish.

Busy Start to Summer for Special Events

On May 9th, Linda Yost provided flower-arranging advice and parishioners made flower arrangements for their loved ones. 15 parishioners participated, making 10 arrangements. A total of \$210.00 was collected from this event. Minus the cost of the flowers, the event made \$110.00 for the Capital Projects Fund.

We want to thank Aurie Acciavatti, Cary Johnson and Carol Brown for helping. The event was so well-received that we will be doing it again in the fall! Keep a lookout for further updates.

The second parish lunch of the year, "Steeple People's Recipes", will take place on Sunday June 14th after the 10:30 service. We will be asking for people to make a recipe that they have contributed to one of the cookbooks for this lunch. Please contact Cary Johnson (cary_j99@yahoo.com or [304-291-6971](tel:304-291-6971)) if you would like to make and share your specialty!

Keep an eye out for a sign-up board near the Parish Hall. The next Special Events meeting will be on Sunday June 7, following the 10:30 a.m. service.



Above left: Jeffery Carver helps daughters Samantha and Madelyn make an arrangement for their mother Angela.



Above right: Lynn Broadman works on his flower arrangement. He said that he enjoyed this event and we need to do this again!

Congratulations 2015 Graduates!

Ben Bradford is graduating from MHS and will be attending WVU. His father Geoff claims to have chosen his classes for him and all of his professors will be from St. Thomas à Becket! What a character that Geoff Bradford!!!

Rebecca Broadman is graduating from Morgantown High on May 30th. She will be attending High Point University in High Point NC.

Lauren Mattozzi, granddaughter of Bob and Aurie Acciavatti, will finish up 8th grade at Mountaineer Middle School. She will then move to Florida where the rest of her family resides. St. Thomas a Becket will miss her as an acolyte.



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)

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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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Noon Eucharist in Chapel Episcopal Basics Class 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.	4	5	6 <i>Interfaith Habitat Build</i> 9 am - 4 pm
7 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Property Comm. Mtg 10:30 a.m. Rite II Special Events Comm. Mtg 4-S Starts	8	9	10 Noon Eucharist in Chapel SRSB Backpack Feeding Program 1 p.m.	11 Vestry Mtg. 7 p.m.	12	13 Community Kitchen (Trinity)
14 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Outreach Comm. Mtg 10:30 a.m. Rite II 4-S Finance Comm. Mtg. Parish Luncheon	15	16	17 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	18	19	20
21 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 9:30 a.m. Stewardship Comm. Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Rite II 4-S Spiritual Parenting Mtg.	22	23	24 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	25 Women's Grief Support Group 6 p.m.	26	27
28 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School	29	30	Join Us June 14, 2015 Steeple People Parish Luncheon <i>featuring recipes from our own St. Thomas à Becket Cookbook</i>			