



THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

June 2016

Welcome Bishop Mark!

On June 26, 2016,

**The Right Reverend Mark Van Koevering,
Assistant Bishop of West Virginia,
will make his first Episcopal visitation to
St. Thomas à Becket!**

Good news and bad news

I am happy to share the good news that WVU has fully recognized that our Director of Music Michael Ibrahim is a truly excellent teacher, performer, and administrator. This recognition has translated into increased opportunities for Michael -- and also (as these things do) into increased responsibilities as well.

The bad news is that these new responsibilities, which consume ever more of Michael's time, make it impossible for Michael to continue as our Director of Music. As we can all understand, Michael's career and family must take priority, and he also wants to ensure that St. Thomas à Becket has a director who can give the position all of the necessary time and attention required to continue our tradition of great music. Therefore, Michael has tendered his resignation, effective upon identification of his replacement or the end of the summer, whichever comes first.

I have greatly enjoyed working with Michael, and while I completely understand and support his decision, I am of course saddened that he cannot continue to serve. However, I'm delighted to let you know that he, Allie, and Elle will continue to be members of St. Thomas à Becket.

During this time of transition, please pray for our Michael and for our parish. The new Director of Music will have very big shoes to fill, but I am confident we will find someone outstanding.

Mother Julie+

June 5 and Aug. 14 Come Learn More About Syrian Refugees

by the Outreach Committee

What can we do *right now* for Syrian refugees?

Sunday, June 5, we can begin to learn more about the plight of the refugees.

Then—change theorists tell us—as we learn more, we can begin discovering ways to advocate for change and to make change.

Accordingly, on **June 5**—which is Refugee Sunday in the Greater Morgantown Area—many houses of worship will focus on and pray for Syrian refugees. Among them will be St. Thomas à Becket, where we also will extend that focus into our coffee hour.

After coffee hour, parishioners are invited to join other area “learners” in an Outdoor Bazaar at the Marketplace Pavilion on Spruce Street. The bazaar closes at 5 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., all are welcome to participate in a Middle Eastern Cuisine Buffet at Wesley United Methodist Church, 503 N. High St. Although no one will be turned away, the organizers of the “free will donation” fundraiser would be pleased to receive dinner reservations. Call 304-292-9485 or send an email (wesleychurch@wesleymorgantown.org).

At 6:30 p.m., diners will turn their attention to the evening's guest speaker, Imam Dr. Mohamad Jamal Daoudi of the Islamic Society of Augusta, Ga.

The next formal learning opportunity for St. Thomas parishioners will be during coffee hour Sunday, **Aug. 14**, when local organizers Mavis Grant-Lilley and Colleen S. Good will discuss the evolving plans to prepare communities to receive Syrian refugees.

These advocacy and fundraising activities are among those being sponsored by the Interfaith Committee of the West Virginia Friends of Syrian Refugees and the Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association. St. Thomas parishioners are working with the two groups.

Help Needed at Scott's Run Settlement House

by Aurie Acciavatti

June 8 will be St. Thomas à Becket's last day to pack for the summer backpack feeding program. It is hoped that 1,000 bags could be packed that day; so extra help is going to be needed.

There is no school that day. So perhaps some of our young people could help.

If you are available, please add your name to the signup sheet in the Narthex. Because parking is at a premium, carpooling would be a good idea.

If you have any questions or want to know more, please see Aurie Acciavatti.

New Church Directory with Photos

by Vicki Iber

It's that time again! We've had many new people choose to worship at St. Thomas à Becket; so we need to update our church directory with current pictures.

For those of you who don't like having your picture taken, we want to implore you to please consider doing so for this directory. It is so helpful for people to have photographs to refer back to or reference as they are learning the names of people they meet. We've all been in the situation where we can't remember someone's name. It would be nice to be able to go look and refresh without being embarrassed or having to acknowledge we forgot.

The process is going to be a little different than before. We'd like to start with having parishioners send pictures to a dedicated email address -- becketphotos@gmail.com. In addition to the photo, if you have any changes to your existing information (*i.e.*, phone number, email, etc.) please include those details as well. If you would like to have us take your picture instead, we will have several days where that will be possible.

If you have any questions, please send them to the same email address.

Summer Plans for Sunday School

by Amy Robbins, Director of Children's Programs

4-S has started, and we need more volunteers to help our teachers this summer. Sunday School teachers will lead, but we need you to help supervise in the room. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex for a Sunday to spend an hour with our children ... it is fun and enlightening! Thank you so much to the parishioners who have already signed up to help.

The Sunday School will be collecting backpacks to donate to Scott's Run Settlement House this summer. School supplies are also appreciated for their collection. These should all be dropped off in the Sunday School room no later than **July 24**. Thank you for your support!

Please ink in **August 19 at 7:05 p.m.** on your calendars for our annual baseball outing! We will attend a Black Bears game together; more details will be coming soon! Please contact Amy Robbins with questions at amyLmrobbins@comcast.net

Fall Prevention Clinic at St. Thomas

by Carol and Roy Spears

On Sunday, May 1, Ann Devine-King, of Health South, gave a Balance Clinic and Fall Prevention Class to interested parishioners at St. Thomas à Becket. She demonstrated numerous balance techniques and encouraged participants to practice techniques at home often.

She also discussed various ways to avoid falling and tripping hazards in our homes. She emphasized the importance of staying active, and observing and avoiding those areas that are more likely to cause tripping and falling.

As we all get older, she said it becomes increasingly important to be aware of our surroundings so we can avoid injury from falling.

Keeping Up Our Church Home . . .

Flower Sales Net \$880 For Capital Projects Fund

by Florita S. Montgomery

Our mortgage may be paid off. But, just like any other property, our church home has monthly bills and special repair and replacement expenses.

Remember: "We had to reconstruct the driveway and parking lot."

Then, remember: "We had to sign for a \$200,000 construction loan."

How are we keeping up our church home? How do we pay these bills? We "make ends meet" because you and other parishioners continue to be generous with your time, talents, and dollars.

We're reminded of that generosity during the offertory each Sunday. But our church home needs—and receives—much more from parishioners at other times and in many creative ways. Beginning with this edition of the newsletter, we will encourage, nurture, promote, acknowledge, and congratulate as many of those efforts as we can.

In February, Linda Yost created arrangements and took orders for the Valentine's Day Flower Sale. Several weeks later, Patti Kisner harnessed her flower arranging skills for the Spring Bouquet Flower Sale, while Linda organized and taught Spring Bouquet Flower Arrangement classes for eager do-it-yourself youths and adults.

Those beautiful flowers blossomed into bill-paying green for St. Thomas: The fresh flower bouquet sales and flower arrangement classes netted \$880 that was donated to our capital projects fund.

Linda and Patti, who are grateful for your purchases, are already thinking about the holidays: Fresh flower arrangements for you to buy for family and friends at Thanksgiving; wreaths and artificial flower arrangements for you to add to your Christmas décor.

Their work is just one example of parishioners' time and talents being dedicated to enhancing and preserving our church home. We know of other efforts that have been completed or are underway. We hope to express gratitude for that generosity in future newsletters.

We also hope such examples will generate additional productive ideas (either money-saving or money-making) for "keeping up our church home."

Empty Bowls Says 'Thank You'

St. Thomas à Becket is helping the “15,300 citizens in Monongalia County who may not know where their next meal will come from.”

That’s part of the thank-you letter our parish received from Zacary Tardiff, president of Empty Bowls Monongalia. On behalf of the families who are receiving meals and the EMB board of directors who are fighting local food insecurity, Tardiff thanked parishioners for the \$1,000 donated to the February 2016 fundraising luncheon.

“The primary goal of Empty Bowls is to raise as much money as possible to feed the hungry in Monongalia County. We are the only agency that raises money exclusively for the food insecure in Monongalia County,” he said.

Tardiff closed his letter with an additional note of appreciation: “Your care and concern for our neighbors who are not as fortunate as us is greatly appreciated.”

To learn more about Empty Bowls in Monongalia County, visit the website at www.cbmon.org.

Sunday School Fun and Games

This year our Sunday School celebrated the end of the regular season with fun and games during Sunday School instead of after. This made for a safe environment, with no cars trying to leave around them and allowed them to enjoy the annual picnic with their parents.

Many of them stayed to help with Blue Jean Sunday. Thank you so much for your hard work.



The Sunday School children enjoy the various games, including the very popular donut eating contest!

Congratulations to Chris and Amy Harp on the birth of their daughter!



Adaline Beatrice-Jean Harp was born May 19, 2016, at 2:31 a.m. at Mon General Hospital. She weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long.

Congratulations to Our 2016 Graduates!

Edward Stone French

This spring, Edward Stone French earned a Masters of Fine Arts in video production from Long Island University in New York

Katherine Henneberger



Katherine Henneberger was baptized and confirmed at St. Thomas à Becket. Over the years she has attended Sunday School, served as acolyte, assisted teaching Sunday School, and provided solo violin music during services.

Katherine attended Mountainview Elementary School (with brief stints at ABC All About Children in Gothenburg, Sweden, and Benjamin Franklin International School in Barcelona, Spain) and South Middle School.

At Morgantown High School, she has been active in student council, Morgantown Hi-Y, and Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association Youth in Government. Katherine is a member of National Honor Society and serves as president of the local chapter of Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (National Spanish Honor Society).

In 2015, she was named an AP Scholar With Distinction, and during her senior year she enjoyed attending advanced Spanish classes at West Virginia University. Outside the classroom, from the age of 3, she studied violin through the WVU Community Music Program and danced at Morgantown Dance Studio. Katherine will attend Bowdoin College, where she plans to study mathematics and Spanish.

Kasey Yost



Kasey Yost was baptized at St. Thomas à Becket. She served as an acolyte for three years and was a volunteer during Vacation Bible School for two years.

During all four years at Morgantown High School, she played clarinet in the Red and Blue Marching Band and was a member of the Girls Soccer Team.

She has been awarded the Presidential and Dean Scholarships at Radford University as well as accepted into the honors program. She is planning to major in nutrition and dietetics.

Conner Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations also to Katherine Henneberger and Kasey Yost on being awarded the Mark Conner Memorial Scholarship at St. Thomas on May 22. Each year Marian Conner is pleased to give this award to help students in our parish further their education.

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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June 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Noon Eucharist in Chapel Episcopal 101 Class 6 p.m.	2	3 Parish Hall Rsvd (All Day)	4 <i>Hadaway Ordination, Christ Church Fairmont 11 a.m.</i> Harward Funeral, St. Thomas 3 p.m.
5 Refugee Sunday 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II 4-S	6	7 Chinese Comm. Singing Group 6 - 9 p.m.	8 Noon Eucharist in Chapel Backpack Feeding Program at SRSB 12:30 p.m. Episcopal 101 Class 6 p.m.	9 Vestry Mtg. 7 p.m.	10	11 Centering Prayer 9 a.m.
12 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. Sp. Events Comm. Mtg.	13	14	15 Noon Eucharist in Chapel Episcopal 101 Class 6 p.m.	16	17	18 Becket Cooks Class 3 p.m.
19 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II 4-S Columbarium Comm. Mtg.	20 Parish Hall Rsvd	21	22 Noon Eucharist in Chapel Episcopal 101 Class 6 p.m.	23 Women's Grief Support Group 6 p.m.	24	25 Centering Prayer 9 a.m.
26 Bishop Mark's Visitation 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II 4-S	27	28 Chinese Comm. Singing Group 6 - 9 p.m. Newsletter Article Deadline	29 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	30		