



THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

March 2015

Service Schedule for Holy Week and Easter

March 29 - Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Holy Eucharist - 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

April 2 - Maundy Thursday

Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing - 7:00 p.m.

Followed by the Stripping of the Altar and Overnight Vigil

April 3 - Good Friday

Stations of the Cross - 12:00 noon

Good Friday Liturgy - 7:00 p.m.

April 4 - Holy Saturday

The Great Vigil of Easter

Lutheran/Episcopal Joint Liturgy - 8:00 p.m.

April 5 - Easter Day

Holy Eucharist - 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour after each service

Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:30 a.m. service!

Episcopalians and Lutherans to Celebrate The Great Vigil Together

One of the most festive and meaningful liturgies in our Christian tradition is The Great Vigil of Easter. The Vigil can take place any time between sundown on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Sunday. Here at St. Thomas à Becket, we have traditionally held the Vigil on Saturday evening.

This year, St. Thomas will be joining Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and the Lutheran Campus Ministry for a combined observation of the Great Vigil, at 8:00 p.m., on April 4. The service will begin with the Lighting of the New Fire and the Service of the Word by candlelight at the LCM Chapel (1497 University Ave.), with chanting of the Exultet by Deacon Al. Then, we will process, also by candlelight, to Trinity (corner of Willey and Spruce Streets) where the Right Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer -- Bishop Mike -- will preside over Holy Communion.

Our joint celebration of The Great Vigil promises to be a joyful and holy occasion. I hope to see many St. Thomas folks there!

Mother Julie+

Weekend Homework? OK Weekend Hunger? Never OK

by Aurie Acciavatti and Florita Montgomery

A hungry stomach doesn't stop growling just because public school feeding programs are not open on Saturday and Sunday. Only food stops hunger. So every Wednesday afternoon at Scott's Run Settlement House (SRSB), volunteers pack bags of food for school children to take home for weekend meals.

Some of the volunteers are from church organizations. Some represent service groups. Others are university students. St. Thomas à Becket's volunteers have designated dates to work. The volunteers fill food bags on the second and fifth Wednesday of each month.



Top left: Barbara Eller and Byron Nelson prepare to pack bags for the children to take home on the weekend.



Top right: Some of the food SRSB sends home as part of the Backpack Feeding Program.

The filled bags contain a can of Spaghetti O's, two packages of Ramen noodles, a box of macaroni and cheese, and packets for hot and cold cereals. Also included, of course, are a fruit cup and two snacks. Sometimes a service organization donates raisins, apples, and carrots to supplement the children's meals.

Introduced in 2011 at Mylan Park Elementary with 212 children, SRSB's "Backpack Feeding Program" currently serves 869 children at Brookhaven, Cheat Lake, Mason-Dixon, Mountainview, Mylan Park, and North elementary schools.

Our own Amy Robbins heads up volunteers who pick up bins filled with the food bags from SRSB, deliver the bins to Cheat Lake Elementary School, and help distribute food bags to the teachers who then give out the food for the weekend.

Volunteers from other churches pack food bags for Eastwood, Ridgedale, and Skyview schools as an outreach mission of their churches.

The weekend backpack feeding program even continues during the summer for children enrolled in designated summer learning programs.

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Backpack Feeding Program

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How much does this cost? With its food expenses running about \$100 a year per child, SRSB needs about \$90,000 each year. Yet, the SRSB backpack program, the largest in the state, receives no money from the state or federal government. Neither does SRSB receive funds from the Monongalia County Board of Education or Monongalia County Commission.

However, the program does rely heavily on financial donations from Empty Bowls and United Way, grants, and monetary contributions as well as donated foods. Also, the program can only work with plenty of volunteers. Learn more about how you can help by contacting Aurie Acciavatti (auriebob@comcast.net).

Property Committee Report

by Jeff Fedan, Chair

As you can tell, Jim Brock Construction has been working on the roof over the past few weeks but the snow and cold temperatures have brought the project to a standstill. There are parts of the roof that are finished, and you can see that if you look for regions that are no longer terribly discolored. What do you think?

We now have in hand three bids for the multi-part paving project. The parking lot and driveway will be re-done. Steps will also be taken to improve water drainage around the paved areas, making the entrance to our Church compliant with ADA regulations, and re-locating the garbage can area. The Property Committee will be making its recommendation to the Vestry on the choice of vendor. We want to remind you that a substantial loan will have to be taken out to finance these improvements, as there is not enough money in reserves to pay for all the work. (Have you turned in your Offering Form? It's not too late!) Prior to obtaining a loan an audit must be done. Roberta Dean, Linda Yost, and others have been tirelessly assembling the endless details that are needed for the auditor's evaluation. Additionally, the Diocese (Bishop and Standing Committee) must approve the plan; we are not worried about this necessarily, but it is just one more step in a lengthy process.

Still ahead is the renovation of the altar area...walls, carpeting, speaker cover, etc. In conjunction with this will be replacement of the carpeting in the Parish Hall. (Have you turned in your Offering Form?)

While the renovations might seem more than is necessary, each has been carefully considered by the Property Committee and the Vestry, and each is needed. We need to ensure that our building and grounds are safe, well-maintained, and accessible for all people. Care of our sacred space -- buildings and property -- is something we need to do as part of our fiduciary responsibility, but it is also something we do in order to ensure that this place of sanctuary and spiritual sustenance continues to thrive.

Lastly, at Mother Julie's suggestion a snow shoveling "ministry" was established. This winter it has certainly been

needed. Please take a moment to thank Tim Pahl, Bob Acciavatti, Richard Morris, Ed Kohout, Scott Murdoch, Michael Ibrahim, and Matt Heiskell for coming to the church to shovel snow and apply salt before going to work (OK, some of the squad is retired, but they also were there early in the morning) so that the rest of us could safely enter the Church.

Children's Programs News

The Sunday School is collecting items this month to help fill Easter baskets to donate to children in need through Scott's Run Settlement House. Donations can be left on the table in the Sunday School room -- items might include candy, small toys, small journals or books, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, socks, etc.

March 8 is Girl Scout Sunday -- be on the lookout for girls from Troop 54522 who will be helping with the service and hosting Coffee Hour that morning!!

Save the date!! Secret Agent VBS lock-in will be June 27-28. Volunteers are needed to help make this successful -- let Amy know if you are interested in donating items, food or time! Contact Amy know if you have any questions at amyLmrobbins@comcast.net.

Youth Church

Youth Church has had a tremendously busy few weeks, including the most successful bake sale I can recall--thanks to Parish generosity (and the kids' exceptional baking skills), we raised \$175, which we split between Doctors Without Borders and the local animal shelter. Thank you all!

I also want to take this opportunity to tell you about a scientific principle called osmosis--and no, don't worry; I'm not going to explain it, as I know that everyone knows what it means. But with Youth Church lately, I've really had the unique opportunity to see this principle in action in absolutely the best (metaphorical) way possible. As both a teacher and a parent, I've had several striking encounters recently.

Collin mentions casually all the time that not only does he want to give water to those who have no clean water, but that he might want to give money to this cause when he is a (rich) adult. This is all thanks to Florita Montgomery's impassioned discussions of Water.org with the kids.

Lilah and Collin and I also saw *McFarland, USA* last weekend and I mentioned (perhaps a little too casually) that in some ways that story echoed our Youth Church lesson, because it told the truth about how hard training for a big race was and yet it still made the audience want to do that hard work--just as Jesus' truth-telling about his mission doesn't need to scare us off. They rolled their eyes (I could feel it from the backseat.) "Mom," Lilah said, "EVERYTHING can be like something Jesus said. And there's ALWAYS a landowner and the landowner is always God."

We look forward to the next few months of more Bible study and activities with these great kids--thanks for sharing yours with us!

Mark Conner Scholarship Sunday
March 16, 2014

Since the fall of 2006, scholarships from the Mark Conner Memorial Scholarship have been awarded to members of St. Thomas à Becket to help continue their respective post-secondary education plans.

The Mark Conner Memorial Scholarship is funded primarily by donations from the Conner family with additional gifts from individual St. Thomas parishioners. Marian says that she is happy to be able to help students from the family of Becket. She refers to this as being one way to keep a dream of Mark's alive.

On Sunday, March 15, 2015, the loose offering as well as any checks designated for the Mark Conner Memorial Scholarship will go to the support of this effort. (Please write "Conner Scholarship" in the memo of your check.)

Scholarship applications with instructions will be available Starting April 5, 2014 on the table in the narthex. Applications will be due May 20, 2014.

St. Thomas Parishioners Again Strongly Supported Empty Bowls Monongalia

St Thomas à Becket played a large part in helping and supporting Empty Bowls, Monongalia on Saturday, February 28. "Thank You" to everyone who contributed from St. Thomas à Becket. Your work is so important and appreciated by the EB Board! Whether it was setting up, serving soup, selling tickets, cleaning up or just making a donation and enjoying the great soup and seeing everyone there, St. Thomas parishioners were there!



St Thomas parishioners volunteer at Empty Bowls Monongalia.
 Top left: Matt Iber slices bread for the tables. Top right: Becky Hoyt serves soup.



Top left: The Robbins children enjoy the luncheon. Pictured from left to right are Kate Robbins, James Robbins, and Anna Robbins.
 Top right: The Murdoch family at Empty Bowls. Pictured are (left to right) Mother Julie, Christopher, and Scott Murdoch.

Parish Luncheon
March 15, 2015

Breakfast for Lunch

- Turkey Bacon and Hashbrown Bake
- Torta
- Strata
- Stuffed French Toast Casserole
- Sausage, Hashbrowns
- Coffee Cake, Scones
- Biscuits
- Fruit
- Coffee

Orange and Apple Juice

\$10 per person, kids under 12 free

Bishop Mike Visits St. Thomas!

This year Bishop Mike came to visit St. Thomas à Becket on February 15. During his visit, the bishop baptized Leah Brooke Christian who was born in November.

The parish also had a cleaning day on February 8 in preparation for the bishop's visit and the now anxiously awaited spring season. (It does not seem to be getting here soon enough!) Thank you to everyone who helped with the cleaning and all the other preparations for Bishop Mike's visit.



Far left: Jason Robbins cleans Parish Hall window.

Immediate left: Bob Acciavatti and Tim Pahl work on tightening up the loose door handles at the main entrance of the church.



Above left: The Christians pose with the bishop after the service; (back row, left to right) Mother Julie, Bishop Mike, Deacon Al Prichard, (front left to right) Laura Christian and John Christian holding baby Leah.

Above right: Bishop Mike lets James Robbins try on his mitre and pretend to be bishop for a moment!

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)

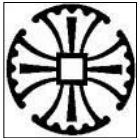
Please contact us at

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March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Property Comm. Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School Special Events Comm. Mtg Compline 7p.m.	2 <i>"Coconuts" Group</i> <i>10 -11:30 a.m.</i>	3	4 Noon Eucharist in Chapel Lenten Book Study 5:45 p.m	5	6	7 Centering Prayer 9 a.m. <i>P Hall Rsvd for</i> <i>Girl Scouts</i> <i>Lock-In</i>
8 Girl Scouts Sunday 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. Spiritual Parenting Mtg. Special Vestry Mtg. Compline 7 p.m.	9 <i>"Coconuts" Group</i> <i>10 -11:30 a.m.</i>	10	11 Noon Eucharist in Chapel SRSB Backpack Feeding Program 1 p.m. Lenten Book Study 5:45 p.m.	12 Vestry Mtg. 7 p.m.	13	14 Community Kitchen (Trinity)
15 Conner Memorial Sunday 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 9:30 a.m. Stewardship Comm. Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School Parish Luncheon Compline 7 p.m.	16 <i>"Coconuts" Group</i> <i>10 -11:30 a.m.</i>	17	18 Noon Eucharist in Chapel Lenten Book Study 5:45 p.m	19 Retirees' Luncheon 11:30 a.m. <i>(The Pines)</i>	20	21 Centering Prayer 9 a.m. Altar Guild Mtg. 11 a.m.
22 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School Columbarium Comm. Mtg Compline 7 p.m.	23 <i>"Coconuts" Group</i> <i>10 -11:30 a.m.</i>	24	25 Noon Eucharist in Chapel Lenten Book Study 5:45 p.m	26 Women's Grief Support Group 6 p.m.	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School	30 <i>"Coconuts" Group</i> <i>10 -11:30 a.m.</i>	31	Sunday Events in March: March 8 - Girls Scouts Sunday March 15 - Conner Memorial Sunday Parish Luncheon <i>"Breakfast for Lunch"</i> March 29 - Palm Sunday			