



# THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

May 2015

## *Liturgy Lessons: Worshipping on Wednesdays*

Here's something you might not know: at St. Thomas à Becket, every Wednesday (unless Wednesday happens to be a major holiday) there is worship at noon. Usually, the service is Holy Eucharist, but if I'm not around, Deacon Al leads Noonday Prayer. And usually, we worship in the Chapel, a lovely and intimate setting for a service that, while reverent, is quite a bit less formal than Sunday worship.

Worshipping on Wednesday is not unique to St. Thomas; to the contrary, congregations of many denominations have worship services and/or theological education on Wednesdays. That fact is not coincidental. Besides the obvious logistical placement of Wednesday in the middle of the week, there are historical reasons for setting Wednesday apart for worship. The primary reason for marking Wednesdays as special is that for centuries, Wednesdays were observed as fast days to remember the betrayal of Jesus Christ by Judas. Vestiges of those centuries of practice are seen today in the normative use of Wednesday as a day for worship, teaching, or both.

Although as a Roman Catholic kid I had spent years attending Wednesday catechism classes, the practice of Wednesday worship was not something I thought much about until my adult years. Specifically, when I was working in Rockville (miles away from my home parish), I realized that my spiritual life needed something more than just Sunday worship and private prayer. My rector suggested I hunt up an Episcopal church near my office, and thus I ended up attending Wednesday noon mass at St. Luke's in Bethesda. I found gathering together for midweek Holy Eucharist to be a great source of spiritual nourishment -- even if it did mean giving up my literal lunch!

Given the benefits I'd found in regular midweek worship as a lay person, I have continued the practice as a priest. To this day, I find gathering together in a small, informal setting to provide a time of joy, refreshment, and spiritual growth.

But, of course, Wednesday services aren't just for clergy! Midweek worship is a wonderful way for *any* person to step out of the busyness of daily life and take a spiritual break. Even though the service only lasts at most half an hour, the practice of regular midweek corporate prayer allows God and our faith community to become woven ever more deeply into the fabric of our daily lives.

So ... give your soul a midweek refresher -- come to worship on Wednesdays. Everyone is welcome!

*Mother Julie+*

## **A Note from the Finance Committee**

*by Russ Dean, Chair*

The St. Thomas à Becket Finance Committee has good news to share with the parish. When we presented the 2015 operating budget at the annual meeting this past January, we indicated that we would report our status as of the end of the first quarter of 2015. We proposed and the Vestry approved the 2015 budget with expectations of an increase of about \$16,000 in contributions over the 2014 budget in order to continue expanding our ministries, address inflationary increases to operational costs and to give employees a cost of living adjustment.

We appreciate the commitment of the parish to further expand our ministries and support our employees! As of the end of the first quarter, we are running slightly ahead of the contributions needed to be in balance for the year. We still have a long way to go until the end of the year, but we are right on track for a successful year. This will be quite important as we consider taking on a mortgage to rebuild/repair our parking lot and driveway. The bank will surely want to see that our finances are healthy.

The Finance Committee has also been asked by Vestry and the Property Committee to review possible financing options needed to support our parking lot/drainage correction project. The total expected costs are in the neighborhood of \$183,000. MVB bank has able to offer a 4.5%, 15-year fixed rate loan with no penalty for early payoff. These are very favorable conditions and other banks were not competitive. Given our current operating and capital project contributions, the Finance Committee is comfortable endorsing this plan.

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*FYI: If you have questions about the drainage/parking project, feel free to talk to members of the Vestry and Finance Committee. Many of the Vestry/Finance members will be available at Coffee Hour on May 3.*

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The Chapel is prepared for Worship on Wednesday!



### *St. Thomas Helps Bless First Interfaith Home Site*

*by Outreach Committee*

As they participated in the ground blessing of Habitat for Humanity's newest project, members of our congregation wrote their petitions for God's blessings on support beams of Monongalia County's first Interfaith Home Build project. Besides members from St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, the 35 participants included representatives from Muslim, Hindu, Protestant, and Catholic faith communities.

Our parishioners at the April 11 historic event in Jerome Park were Aurie and Bob Acciavatti, Jeff and Kathy Fedan, Ann and Tim Pahl, and the Rev. Julie Murdoch. They accepted a board from the construction site for potential use in a future fundraising event for the Interfaith Build.

Our Outreach Committee is inviting your suggestions for a fundraising project to help Habitat reach the last \$20,000 needed to reach the \$80,000 cost of the home.

To learn more about the new project, check Habitat's website (<http://moncountyhfh.org/about/habitat-for-humanity-a-christian-ministry/interfaith/>).

When can you work at the home site? Check the dates on the Interfaith Build calendar. It's posted next to Outreach bulletin board in the main hallway.

What are other ways our congregation can be involved? How can we raise money to help fund the project? Kathy Fedan invites you to talk to her either at church or by email ([intothewoods@frontiernet.net](mailto:intothewoods@frontiernet.net)).

The Outreach Committee meets again to discuss a variety of issues at 9:15 a.m., on Sunday, May 10. You're invited.



Jeff Fedan's camera captured a blessing written in Arabic script (while Tim Pahl watched in the background).

The Rev. Julie Murdoch asked for peace for the home's family and their guests.

### *6 Children, 3 Families Receive Easter Fun, Food*

For Easter, our Sunday School families and parish Outreach Committee combined resources to provide both food and fun to families selected by Scott's Run Settlement House.

Three families received food baskets filled with bread, tuna, coffee, flour, sugar, pasta, and other commodities purchased by Aurie Acciavatti and Ann Pahl. Eventually, the food baskets also overflowed with complete dinner and dessert "fixings," and each had a \$30 food card to pay for fresh meat. The two moms also tucked in toothpaste and toothbrushes!

They also stuffed toothpaste, toothbrushes, and granola bars into the children's baskets. Most of those baskets' bounty, however, was chosen by the Sunday School children, who selected stuffed animals, pencils, games, and -- of course -- candy for the six colorful Easter baskets.

"Thanks to the generosity of people like you," wrote Shay Niland, SRSB executive director, "we were able to provide 40 food baskets and 112 children's baskets to families in need in Monongalia County. Thanks again for your incredible generosity."

According to Shay, our congregation's continued support "is vital in making ends meet" for 8,000 individuals -- children, seniors, and families -- who Scott's Run serves each year.



Aurie Acciavatti (left) and Ann Pahl survey two of the three Easter family food baskets they organized for Scott's Run.

Six Easter baskets filled with stuffed animals and healthy snacks await delivery to Scott's Run.

### *Easter at St Thomas à Becket*



Preparing flowers to decorate the church.

Children and the beautiful Flowered Cross.

## Youth Church News

by *Gabriel Flanagan*

In Youth Church, we have a lot of fun. Sometimes the way we describe the Bible verses is not the way the Bible would have put it. We ask a lot of random things like why people would pour oil on other peoples' heads. We talked about how when there are things that are so important to us -- like Flemish bunnies, or mountaintop mining, or good books -- we want everyone to know about them. So we talked about how we tell people about things we are excited about.

Then last week we talked about Jesus as the shepherd, and how shepherds take care of sheep and protect them from wolves. We talked about how we are shepherds of things or people that matter to us, and how we are also sheep. All in all Youth Church is a more fun kid-a-fied version of church.

## Sunday School

by *Amy Robbins, Director of Children's Programs*

**Miles of Pennies:** The Sunday School and Youth Church children will be participating in Miles of Pennies on Sunday, May 3. Please bring any pennies you want to donate to the Sunday School room before the 10:30 a.m. service. Donations will be sent to The Church Periodical Club to help fund scholarships.

**Picnic Desserts:** The Sunday School children will provide donation-based desserts at our picnic on May 31. These donations will be sent to Scott's Run Settlement House for the Backpack Feeding Program. Thank you for your support!!

**Summer Session Sunday School (4S):** Our Sunday School continues year 'round, using a somewhat different format that involves (and requires) assistance from more parishioners than regular Sunday School.

Look for the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex and more information in future Parish Posts. The 4S Lessons are already planned and the teachers are already signed up - we just need volunteers from the parish to assist the teachers.

## Surprised by Grace:

*Encountering God in the Unexpected*

**The 2015 Women's Conference**  
**Friday, May 15 - Sunday, May 17**  
**Peterkin Camp and Conference Center**  
**Presented by Women's Ministries of**  
**the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia**

For registration information, please see the brochures on the table in the Narthex or [www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org).

## Our Angel Tree Family says 'Thank you'

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE'S NOTE:** *The following letter was written to the anonymous donors who "adopted" a family of two parents and 10 children during the Salvation Army's Angel Tree project in December 2014. The members of St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church are the anonymous donors. The mother of the family wrote the letter and gave it to the Salvation Army, which sent it to us.*

Our family thanks you for the special Christmas you provided. We were overwhelmed with your generosity. I thought about mentioning everyone's favorite gifts; but there was so much, and everything was so appreciated, I couldn't.

All of us are using and enjoying everything -- the household items, dishtowels, coffee and tea pots, knife sharpening kit, clothes, shoes, gloves, camping supplies, stethoscope, bicycles, toys, and crafts (just to name a few).

As a mother, I am thankful for the kids' new shoes and coats. They all fit and look so nice when we go out.

I wish there was some way to share the excitement on Christmas morning -- but words cannot express. Thank you, and we wish you a very blessed year.

### *Thank You from the Roberts Family - by Linda Yost*

While cleaning out old parish files, I came across some correspondence to Fr. Charles "Snork" Roberts (our first rector at St. Thomas à Becket). I mailed the letters to his son, Luke Roberts, and received a wonderful card from his family. Apparently my mail to him was well timed! Extended family from Colorado was visiting for Easter and all were able to share the old letters. In fact, "little" brother Andy was mentioned in some of the letters and he was visiting and able to read them also! The letters will join their families many treasures and history that they hold so dear.

### *A Heartfelt Thank You from the Frost Family*

*Alice Frost would like to express her gratitude to all the members of our parish who have visited Jack at Mapleshire, sent Get Well cards, and kept Jack and Alice in their prayers. She is thankful for the outpouring of well wishes from St. Thomas parishioners. Jack is on the mend and with continued rehab will recover soon from his broken femur.*

*Congratulations to Blair and Andrew Rorabaugh on the birth of their son Dominic Giles Rorabaugh! He was born at 11:26pm on April 15, weighing 7lbs. 13 oz. The family is happy and healthy.*



## *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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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2015</h1>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Centering Prayer 9 a.m. <i>Interfaith Habitat Build</i> 9 am - 4 pm
<b>3 Miles of Pennies</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School <b>Special Events Mtg</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>Dinner with Zach Drennen</b> 6 p.m.	<b>6</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel  <b>Episcopal Basics Class</b> 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.	<b>7</b>  <b>Girl Scouts (Fisher)</b> 5:30 - 8 p.m.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Community Kitchen (Trinity)</b>  <b>Flower Arranging Class 1 1 p.m.</b>
<b>10</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir <b>Outreach Comm. Mtg</b> <b>Property Comm. Mtg</b> 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School <b>Finance Comm. Mtg.</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel  <b>SRSH Backpack Feeding Program</b> 1 p.m.  <b>Episcopal Basics Class</b> 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.	<b>14</b>  <b>Vestry Mtg.</b> 7 p.m.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Centering Prayer 9 a.m.
<b>17</b> 8 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 School <b>Spiritual Parenting Mtg.</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Parish Hall Rsvd WV Quilters Guild	<b>20</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel  <b>Episcopal Basics Class</b> 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 PENTECOST</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday School	<b>25</b>  <b>Memorial Day</b> Church Office closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel  <b>Episcopal Basics Class</b> 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.	<b>28</b>  <b>Women's Grief Support Group</b> 6 p.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Centering Prayer 9 a.m.
<b>31 TRINITY SUNDAY (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite I Sunday School <b>Annual Picnic and SS Bake Sale</b>	<p><b>Make something special for mom, the graduate, or another someone special!</b></p> <p><b>Come to our Flower Arranging Class at St. Thomas à Becket, in the Parish Hall Saturday, May 9, beginning at 1 p.m.</b></p> <p>(\$20.00 per arrangement -- includes the vase!)</p>					

