



THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

November 2015

New Ideas in Stewardship

by Vicki Iber, Stewardship Chair

One of the topics at the recent Diocesan Convention was stewardship. We often talk about the Three Ts of Stewardship -- Time, Talent, and Treasure -- but there were four more Ts added at Convention: Terrain, Transmission, Tribulation, and Temple.

Terrain includes what are we doing with our property, building, and grounds? Do we have a soup kitchen or clothes pantry? Are we welcoming?

Transmission depicts how we share the Good News. Are we ready with our testimony? Are we extroverted about our faith?

Tribulation can go along with transmission in that it is how we use our sufferings to comfort others. Frequently, it takes someone who has gone through something to help another. Empathy is a wonderful tool of our faith. Jesus was a great example of being empathetic. He went through trials and tribulations, just like we do.

The last "T" is Temple, which is our bodies. Do we volunteer to help others? Small gestures can make the difference in someone's life; making a meal, raking leaves, building a ramp, etc. No matter what our financial situation is, we can practice stewardship in small ways.

The Stewardship mailings have been mailed, and should have arrived at your homes. I ask that you please complete the offering forms and bring them to **In-Gathering Sunday, on November 15**. Thank you for all you do.

The Saints of St. Thomas à Becket Church

As we celebrate the Feast of All Saints and the baptism of Dominic Rorabaugh and give thanks for the birth of Ryleigh Anderson on Sunday, November 1, we also remember and honor the members of our congregation who have joined the great Communion of Saints.

The Columbarium Committee is creating a display in honor of departed members of our congregation in the Parish Hall. The display will include memorial and columbarium books from our Chapel. These include pictures of and information about the many Saints of our parish. A bouquet of white flowers will be placed on a table along with information about the Columbarium.



A Stewardship Message

by Ann Pahl

As a cradle Episcopalian, I attended Trinity Episcopal Church in Martinsburg, WV, with my mother. As happens to many young adults, I drifted away from my faith. Then in 1985, I lost my mother, and in 1987 our son was born. These two events quickly brought me back to my faith. We visited the two Episcopal churches in Morgantown and decided upon Becket.

After several months of attending Becket, the Stewardship Committee initiated a pledge drive (25 years ago that was how we referred to our annual offering). At that time, we spent a wonderful evening with Sylvia and Charlie Sperow talking about Becket. We made our first offering.

In 2012, my feelings for this church and its congregation further deepened, when I suffered a severe hemorrhagic stroke. The many gifts from Becket (clergy, staff, and parishioners) are gifts that my family and I can never repay. The greatest gifts that I received were the prayers from the wonderful parishioners of Becket.

After my discharge from Ruby Hospital and HealthSouth, something had changed for me. My realization that one of the reasons we are here is to help others was further clarified by this experience. It became clear to me that, in order to fulfill a mission of help to others, one must first ensure the proper maintenance of oneself. During my recovery, I was forced (painfully so) to limit what I did for others to ensure that I was whole and capable.

Becket is no different. Not only must we, in service to others, support our clergy, staff, and fellow parishioners, but we must support our physical church home. Both the spiritual and the physical make us feel welcome and comfortable whenever we come through the doors. And, in concert, they both provide us with the necessary infrastructure to pursue our mission of service to others.

Through stewardship, we also support those who live beyond the walls of Becket. This is what God calls us to do. Many congregational members may not be aware that a portion of the offering collected helps to support some of our Outreach projects.

As each of you continues your thoughts about stewardship, please take the time to pray about what this church really means to each of you, as well as those in the local, regional, and global world that we help to support through some of our stewardship funds. We may no longer participate in "pledge drives," but our Church's needs and those of others still exist.

Special Events Committee Plans for November

Parish Soup Luncheon: The Special Events Committee will have its annual Soup Luncheon on Sunday, November 15. So far, our menu is chicken noodle soup, chili, tomato ginger soup, dilled salmon chowder, and scones.

We still have room for more if you would like to make a soup! If you would like to make a soup but need a suggestion or a recipe, the committee would be happy to provide you with one. We also need people to help with setup and cleanup. If you are interested or available to help, please contact Laura Christian (laura.manno@gmail.com) or Cary Johnson (cary_j99@yahoo.com).

Thanksgiving Flower Arrangements: Linda Yost will make and sell fresh floral arrangements on Sunday, November 22, just before the Thanksgiving holiday! These will be available after both the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services in the Parish Hall. The arrangements should stay fresh (with possible change of water and storage in a cool spot) for your Thanksgiving table. They will also make a lovely thank-you gift for friends or family who share their dinner with your family!

There will be a variety of designs! Arrangements will be placed in everything from vases with a fall theme to baskets or fall containers. These fresh flowers will come from the wholesale company used by the Altar Guild for Sunday arrangements, so we know the quality and freshness of the flowers. Arrangements will be sold on a first-come basis. Linda hopes to make at least 10 arrangements, so be warned they may go quick!

The costs of the arrangements will be between \$35 and \$45 (depending on size and style). All proceeds will go to the St. Thomas Capital Projects Fund.

St. Thomas Craft Fair: We've got so many crafts (and other exciting merchandise just in time for the holidays) that we are holding a Craft Sale at St. Thomas on **Saturday, November 28**, and **Sunday, November 29**. Saturday's will be open to the public. On Sunday, we'll just have the merchandise on sale for the parish between services and after the 10:30 a.m. service. Please mark your calendars for those dates.

You can expect quilted items, cardstock items, original paintings, lip gloss and other homemade beauty products, potholders, some donated jewelry and framed art, and photography. If parishioners are willing to donate baked goods, we'll also have a bake sale that weekend.

Volunteers for setup, selling, baking, crafting, etc., will be gladly welcomed! Contact Ann Claycomb at [304-276-2012](tel:304-276-2012) or annclaycomb@hotmail.com, but please do be patient in regards to a return call or email, as the 9-to-5 is very busy at WVU these days and the evenings with three kids are not much less busy.

Sunday School and Outreach Prepare Thanksgiving Boxes

by *Aurie Acciavatti*



It all started way back in 2003 when the Sunday School and Outreach Committee prepared Thanksgiving baskets for six families for Scott's Run Settlement House. This year (as we have for past few years) we will be preparing and distributing baskets to 35 families, with a cap of 100 people. The help of everyone in the congregation to accomplish this feat is needed.

Grocery bags with the list of recommended items were distributed **Oct. 18** and **Oct. 25**. Buy what you can from the list, and return the food no later than **Nov. 15**, earlier if possible. Gift certificates/cards (in \$5 and \$10 denominations) toward the purchase of a turkey from Kroger or Giant Eagle are requested. Please write on the each gift card the amount of the card. That will help us to distribute the cards to the families. Although extra food is appreciated, please donate only what is on the list as time, space, and boxes are at a premium. This is not the time to clean out the pantry. Please do not bring in food with expired dates.

All food must be returned by **Nov. 15**, so that volunteers can sort the food to see what extra food needs to be bought. On Friday, **Nov. 20**, beginning at 6 p.m., the Sunday School children, and anyone else who is willing to give a hand, will meet at the church to help fill the Thanksgiving totes. This is the 13th year we have done this project, and it is such a rewarding and fun time. Pizza and juice will be served.

The SRSB clients will come to St. Thomas à Becket to pick up their boxes on Monday, November 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be opportunities for members of St. Thomas to help the clients take their boxes to cars. Look for further information in the Parish Posts in the coming weeks and a volunteer signup sheet on the table in the Narthex. This is going to be a big challenge again this year. Anyone can help with this project, not just Sunday School and Outreach members.

Add Angel Tree to Your Shopping List



No, Thanksgiving isn't even here yet. But, yes, it's time to make some plans for Christmas. Please plan to be prepared to shop for our annual Salvation Army Angel Tree family.

Every year, we have a very short turnaround time between when the Salvation Army gives us a list of our family's needed items and when we must deliver the purchased clothes, toys, and other Christmas gifts to the Salvation Army's office. Sometime after Thanksgiving, we will get the list. Sometime during the first 10 days of December, we must deliver the gifts. We don't know the dates or the needed gifts, but we do know that St. Thomas à Becket again this Christmas will be a blessing for a family in need.

Becket Arts! Begins New Season

The 2015-16 Becket Arts season kicks off Sunday, November 22, with performances by flautist Alison Hamilton and pianist Carol Beall. Other performers (all flautists) will be Linda Christian, Dorothy Skidmore, and Nina Assimakopoulos. The concert will begin at 3 p.m. with the usual ticket policy in effect: season tickets, \$60 (with unlimited guests); single ticket, \$8; and seniors' tickets, \$6. Students of all ages will be admitted free of charge. A reception to meet the artists will follow.

Other concerts in this season's series are a barbershop quartet concert on December 13, the Graduate String Quartet on January 17, 2016, and a brass quintet on March 6, 2016. Our thanks to John Beall for planning and coordinating our Becket Arts! series.

Sunday School Holds Annual Pumpkin Raffle for UNICEF



Congratulations to Christopher Murdoch! He is pictured left with James Robbins, who is holding the pumpkin. He was the winner of this year's pumpkin raffle with the closest guess to the pumpkin's weight of 12.4 pounds!

Thanks to the Ibers for the pumpkin donation and to the

congregation for their support. The proceeds from the raffle go to UNICEF.

The Sunday School would also like to thank everyone who donated diapers during the month of October. Scott's Run Settlement House deeply appreciates our support. The total number of diapers collected will be announced in next month's Sunday School news.

A Note of Thanks ...

Once again we have received a note of thanks from Debbie Ventura for our support of the Church Periodical Club with our "Browse and Buy" bookshelves in the Library. Debbie said:

Please extend my heartfelt thanks to your congregation for their ongoing support of CPC!

Joyce Smyth who tends to the books and money, reports that we collected \$84.25 this year! We extend our thanks to Joyce for all her hard work maintaining this ministry.

The "Browse and Buy" bookshelves are located in the Library, next to the church office.

A Note about Diocesan Convention

by Vicki Iber, Convention Delegate

I love going to the annual Convention of the Diocese. I know that a lot of people think that's nuts, but I do love it. I enjoy interacting with people around the diocese that I normally don't get to see and meeting new people. The discussion on the budget was lively and informative. The setting (Pipestem Resort) was amazing. It was a lot of fun.

One of the orders of business was Bishop Mike sharing his decision to allow same-sex marriages to be performed by priests in the Diocese, beginning on the first Sunday in Advent. Mother Julie will provide more details regarding the Bishop's requirements for such marriages in the December newsletter.

As parishioners, we should be interested in the goings-on in the Diocese. The Convention is a great way to stay plugged in. There is also a sense of ownership when you are a delegate because you represent your parish in the business decisions of the diocese. Next year's Diocesan Convention will be here in Morgantown, hosted by Trinity Church.



Bishop Mike "photo bombs" our delegates at the Convention!

Pictured are (from left to right) Jeff Fedan, Vicki Iber, Mother Julie, Bishop Mike, and Al Prichard.

Blessing of the Animals at St. Thomas

Here are a few pictures, thanks to Jeff O'Neil, from our Blessing of the Animals service this year. The service was on October 4, and there were dogs, cats, and a bird!

All the animals were very well-mannered, and the treats made by our Sunday School kids were a big hit!



Above left: Anna Robbins leads her family's dog at the Blessing of the Animals service.



Above right: Beth O'Neil takes the O'Neils' feathered family member to be blessed by Mother Julie.

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 All Saints' Day 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Property Comm Mtg 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. Special Events Comm Mtg <i>Daylight Savings Ends</i>	2 P Hall (rsvd) 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	3	4 Noon Eucharist in Chapel	5	6	7
8 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Outreach Comm Mtg 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch / Youth Ch Finance Comm Mtg Spiritual Parenting Mtg Girl Scouts 5-8 p.m.	9 <i>"Coconuts"</i> <i>Group</i> <i>10 -11:30 a.m.</i>	10	11 Noon Eucharist in Chapel SRSB Backpack Feeding Program 1 p.m. Embracing Forgiveness Class 12:30 and 6:30 p.m.	12 Vestry Mtg 7 p.m.	13	14 Centering Prayer 9 a.m. Chapel
15 Ingathering 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 Sch / Youth Ch Parish Soup Luncheon CIP- 4 p.m.	16 <i>"Coconuts"</i> <i>Group</i> <i>10 -11:30 a.m.</i>	17	18 Noon Eucharist in Chapel Embracing Forgiveness Class 12:30 and 6:30 p.m.	19 Women's Grief Support Group 6 p.m.	20	21 Sanctuary (rsvd) 10 a.m. - noon
22 Christ the King 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch / Youth Ch Thanksgiving Flower Arrangement Sale Becket Arts! 3 p.m.	23	24	24	26 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Office Closed for Holiday</div>	27	28 Centering Prayer 9 a.m. in Chapel St. Thomas Craft Sale
29 1 Advent (5th Sunday) 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite I Sunday Sch / Youth Ch St. Thomas Craft Sale	30 <i>"Coconuts"</i> <i>Group</i> <i>10 -11:30 a.m.</i>	SRSB Thanksgiving Basket Reminder Nov. 15: ALL FOOD MUST BE RETURNED AND SORTED. (Earlier if possible!) Nov. 20: (6 p.m.) Decorate and box up food. Pizza and juice to be served. Nov. 23: (9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.) Clients pick up boxes at St Thomas à Becket.				