

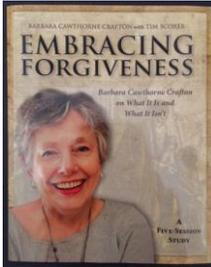


# THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

October 2015

## *Embracing Forgiveness*



Forgiveness is a topic many, if not most, people wrestle with at some point in their lives. As Christians we are called to be forgiving, but understanding what “forgiving” means and how to accomplish forgiveness can be daunting. That’s why our adult faith formation class beginning in

mid-November will focus on these very issues.

Rather than a classic book study, we will be using the “Embracing Forgiveness” program -- a DVD/workbook program developed by noted author and Episcopal priest Barbara Cawthorne Crafton. Through short video presentations and follow-on discussion questions, participants will explore what forgiveness is, and (perhaps just as important) what it is not.

The Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold, 25th Presiding Bishop, when endorsing the program states:

With wisdom, wit, and theological depth Barbara Cawthorne Crafton explores the perennial topic of forgiveness from the perspective of gift rather than duty. ... Her informal and accessible style, together with the questions and responses of those taking part in the video recorded sessions, open the way for groups, aided by the accompanying workbook, to expand the exploration with their own insights and reflections. This study is both timely and urgently needed in a world in which judgment again and again trumps forgiveness, and Christ’s work of reconciliation is held at bay.

The course takes five sessions and will take place on Wednesdays, November 4, 11, 18, and December 2 and 9. If there’s sufficient interest, we will have both daytime and evening sessions. If you are interested in participating, please sign up on the form in the Narthex, or contact the Church Office ([thomasabecket.wv@gmail.com](mailto:thomasabecket.wv@gmail.com) or 304-296-0270).

*Mother Julie+*

## Stay Tuned!

Major construction work on our parking lot is scheduled to begin later in October. Keep reading our weekly Parish Posts for news and updates on the project. This may or may not have an affect on our worship services during that time.

## The Warden’s Corner

*by Grace Ayscue, Senior Warden*

### Turning the Tables: Small Changes

If you attended the Parish Luncheon last weekend, you probably noticed that the long serving table was not its usual place at the end of the Parish Hall. Instead, it was smack in the middle of the room.

The new table arrangement arose from a question the Vestry and Mother Julie asked ourselves: How can we be more welcoming to newcomers? Someone observed that for a newcomer, entering the Parish Hall from the narthex at Coffee Hour to see people at the far end of the room with their backs to the door was not the most welcoming sight. So as an experiment that we thought might or might not work, we rearranged the furniture.

The feedback I heard Sunday was largely positive. People pointed out advantages the Vestry had not envisioned: less crowding at the coffee station, faster-moving lines. A few people pointed out logistical problems that might arise, for instance, when cords are needed for a soup luncheon. But no one said: We need to move the tables back.

One might worry, especially in an Episcopal church, about making even small changes. But the mostly positive response should not be surprising. Moving the tables is a small thing that actually builds on a deep tradition at St. Thomas: the tradition of hospitality, of getting people together around food.

It turns out that when the Vestry and priest discussed a different question (how to get parishioners more excited and involved in church activities), many of the ideas involved food: revitalizing foyer groups and making them attractive and accessible to more people; serving burgers or having a potluck on Blue Jean Sunday. Similarly, many of our Outreach activities involve food: packing weekend food for school children, serving lunch to Habitat for Humanity volunteers, and the now-suspended Saturday Community Kitchen.

All this concern with serving food may seem worldly and only incidental to our faith. But the Last Supper, which we commemorate and reenact in Holy Communion, was a shared meal. Some of Jesus’ most memorable miracles, including his first, involved food and drink. Food is necessary for sustaining our life, of course. But even more, sharing food together among ourselves, with people who visit our church, and with the larger community is a vehicle for fellowship, hospitality, service, grace.

(Just keep in mind, we need folks to help clean up afterwards.)

## Bread for the World Letter-Writing Campaign Update

Thank you to those who responded to the Outreach Committee's request to join the letter-writing campaign. We appreciate your willingness to write to your representatives urging renewal of the 2010 Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act.

Our Bread for the World contact, Matt Gross in Chicago, reported the bill was scheduled to be voted on by September 30; however, there is -- as of September 30 -- no word on the progress of the bill.

The Outreach Committee will report to the congregation as soon as we know something for sure.

## Blessing of the Animals



The annual **Blessing of the Animals** will take place on **Sunday, October 4, at 2:00 p.m.** All pets are welcome to come and receive an individual blessing, whether their humans attend St. Thomas or not.

As part of the event, we will be gathering pet food and other new pet supplies for the Scott's Run Settlement House (SRSB) Pet Pantry -- one of the few places in Monongalia County where our neighbors who need a little help can obtain assistance for their furry (or finned or feathered!) family members.

Even if you won't be attending the Blessing service, you are encouraged to bring pet food/supplies on or before October 5 and put them in the SRSB bin in the Narthex.

## Stewardship Kickoff

It's that time of year again. Stewardship shouldn't be a sometimes thing; it should be an all-the-time thing. However, for bookkeeping purposes, we look to the latter quarter of the year so that we can determine who has interest in specific committees, possible leadership changes, and of course, the ever-present budget.

While people don't like to talk about money, or hear about it for that matter, the fact is we have to talk about it. If we want to keep the lights on, pay our rector, fix issues inside and outside our building, we need money. But money is only a part of what stewardship is. It's taking ownership of our place of worship.

We kick off on Sunday, October 18, with a special guest preacher followed by coffee hour sponsored by the Stewardship Committee. We hope that you will join us in celebrating the life of St. Thomas à Becket.

## *Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) Offers Ways to Help the Syrian Refugees*

The Episcopal Migration Ministries (Episcopal Relief and Development) had been monitoring the Syrian refugee situation and suggests **three things Episcopalians can do** to take action:

1. Volunteer with one of ERD's local resettlement partners to welcome new Americans: <http://bit.ly/EMMpartners>
2. Join the **#Refugees Welcome** global social media campaign urging governments to welcome refugees to their countries by using the hashtag **#Refugees Welcome** on your social media channels.
3. Sign the White House petition asking the President and the government to pledge to resettle at least 65,000 Syrians by 2016: <http://1.usa.gov/1L6zh9L>.

Also give to the Syria Response Fund to help Syrian fleeing violence as the country's civil war enters its fifth year. Your contribution will support ERD's collaborations with agencies providing food, water, medical supplies, and other emergency support. Donate at [www.episcopalrelief.org/syria-response](http://www.episcopalrelief.org/syria-response).

Please continue to pray for all those displaced by violence and conflict.

## *Scott's Run Settlement House Thanksgiving Basket Schedule*

The Sunday School and the Outreach Committee will again be preparing Thanksgiving baskets for Scott's Run Settlement House (SRSB) families. Please note our list of dates and activities.

**At this time, We are in need of computer paper boxes or banker boxes** that will be decorated and filled with food. If you can contribute any boxes, please leave them in the Sunday School room by November 2.

**Nov. 1** First distribution of food bags after church services.

**Nov. 8** Second distribution of food bags after church services.

**Nov. 10 & Nov. 12** (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon) Cover boxes with paper in preparation for decorating.

**Nov. 15** ALL FOOD MUST BE RETURNED AND SORTED.

**Nov. 17 & Nov. 19** (if needed) Cover boxes with paper in preparation for decorating.

**Nov. 20** (6:00 p.m.) Decorate and box up food. Pizza and juice to be served.

**Nov. 23** (9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) Clients pick up boxes at St. Thomas à Becket.

**Stay tuned for next month's newsletter article about this annual Sunday School and Outreach Committee project!**

## Sunday School Activities for October

The Sunday School will be collecting diapers for Scott's Run Settlement House in October. Our goal is 1000 diapers. Please help with this necessary outreach!

The Sunday School will have our Pumpkin Raffle and fall bake sale to support UNICEF on Sunday, October 25; thank you for your support!!

## Empty Bowls Past Presidents Honored

Two parishioners of St. Thomas à Becket were recently honored for their service as presidents of Empty Bowls Monongalia. EBMon has become an essential component in combatting food insecurity in our county. The efforts of Margot Racin and Corey Farris have been essential in the organization's increasing visibility and success. Both were honored at EBMon's September 16 kickoff reception, leading up to the 2016 luncheon.

Margot Racin was EBMon's second president, serving from 2009-2012. During her tenure, the organization expanded its initiatives from a single soup and bread luncheon to a broader range of educational and fundraising efforts. These efforts were geared toward increasing awareness about food insecurity, as well as improving EBMon's ability to raise funds. Margot was also instrumental in helping EBMon move its annual luncheon to the Hazel and JW Ruby Community Center at Mylan Park, which improved both the capacity and the efficiency of the event.

Before Margot's term ended, she successfully recruited another St. Thomas à Becket parishioner, Corey Farris, to take over as president. Under Corey's leadership, EBMon continued its growth, formalizing its organizational structure, obtaining a broader range of support from throughout the community, and expanding educational and funding opportunities. Of greatest significance, with Corey's encouragement and direction, EBMon has become a year-round organization, with board members and other volunteers engaged in planning, publicity, and other activities on an ongoing basis.

Congratulations to Margot and Corey on their dedication and successful presidential tenures. Both St. Thomas à Becket and the greater community are fortunate to have such willing and capable leaders.



Receiving recognition for their service as past presidents of Empty Bowls are Corey Farris, in the picture above left, and Margot Racin, in the picture on the right.

## BBQ Luncheon Is Successful

The Special Events Committee would like to thank all volunteers and diners for a great BBQ chicken luncheon on Sunday September 27. We had a wonderful turnout, and the only items left after everyone had eaten were a bottle of sauce and a little bit of lemonade. We raised over \$500 for the Capital Projects Fund!

Keep an eye out for the next luncheon featuring homemade soups in November. The Special Events Committee will meet Sunday, October 4, after the 10:30 a.m. service.

## St. Thomas Prepares and Delivers Meal to Habitat Workers



Above left: Parishioners from St. Thomas prepare the lunches for Habitat volunteers. Pictured from left to right are Grace Ayscue, Ann Pahl, Carolyn Zinn, and Christine Tall.

Above right: Delivering Habitat meal, starting on the left are Bob Acciavatti, Grace Ayscue, Joyce Smyth, Al Prichard, and Ann Pahl.

## Kroger Community Rewards Update

The Kroger Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to local communities. They do this through a variety of activities -- including the Community Rewards Program, of which St. Thomas à Becket is a participant.

Our parishioners (52 households) who shopped at Kroger between June and August have contributed \$708.64 to our recent donation from Kroger. The more parishioners who sign up for the program and who shop with Kroger, the more money our parish will earn! Thanks so much to all of you!

## All Saints' Sunday - November 1, 2015

All Saints' Day is Sunday, November 1. On that Sunday, there will be an insert in the bulletin with a list of names of those who have died whom we wish in particular to remember.

**Please send any names you wish to have included on the insert to the Church Office.** You can prepare a list. **Please print.** Put the list in the collection plate, or you may send an email to the Office at [thomasabecket.wv@gmail.com](mailto:thomasabecket.wv@gmail.com). Please have your list of names into the Office before Wednesday, October 28. This will allow enough time for the bulletin insert to be formatted and printed for the service.

## *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)

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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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Morgantown, WV

26508



# October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Clergy Day 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Christ Church, Fairmont)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Centering Prayer 9 a.m. Chapel
<b>4</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir <b>Property Comm Mtg</b> 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. <b>Special Events Comm Mtg</b>  <b>Blessing of the Animals</b> 2 p.m.	<b>5</b> <i>"Coconuts"</i> Group 10 - 11:30 a.m.  <b>P Hall Rsvd</b> 11 a.m - 5 p.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel	<b>8</b>  <b>Vestry Mtg</b> 7 p.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Acolyte Training 10 a.m.
<b>11</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir <b>Outreach Comm. Mtg</b> 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. <b>Finance Comm. Mtg</b> <b>Spiritual Parenting Mtg</b>	<b>12</b> <i>"Coconuts"</i> Group 10 - 11:30 a.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel  <b>SRSB Backpack            Feeding Program</b> 1 p.m.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Centering Prayer 9 a.m. in Chapel
<b>18</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 Sch. / Youth Ch. <b>Columbarium Comm Mtg</b>	<b>19</b> <i>"Coconuts"</i> Group 10 - 11:30 a.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel	<b>22</b>  <b>Women's Grief            Support Group</b> 6 p.m.	<b>23</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             Diocesan Convention           </div>	<b>24</b>  <b>St. Thomas            Craft Fair</b>
<b>25</b> 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch.  <b>UNICEF Pumpkin Raffle</b> <b>Sunday School Bake Sale</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px;">             Convention Continued           </div>	<b>26</b> <i>"Coconuts"</i> Group 10 - 11:30 a.m.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Noon Eucharist in Chapel	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Centering Prayer 9 a.m. in Chapel