



THE CANTERBURY CROSS

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Morgantown, WV

January 2018

Important Dates in January

The Rt. Rev Mark Van Koevering will be visiting St. Thomas à Becket on January 14.

He will preside at both the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services, with a coffee hour in his honor following the 10:30 service.

Our Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 21, following a single service at 9:30 a.m.

We will get our annual reports and vote for our new Vestry members for the next term.

(Biographies and pictures begin on page 2 of this newsletter.)

Don't forget to bring a covered dish to share!

St. Thomas à Becket Acquires \$3,000 Grant for Meals on Wheels

by The Rev. Dn. Al Prichard

This past September, St. Thomas à Becket applied to our diocese for a grant on behalf of Morgantown Area Meals on Wheels. The fund established for this grant is to promote support for agencies and organizations addressing problems facing senior citizens.

The Outreach Committee decided to apply for \$5,000, the maximum amount permitted, which Meals on Wheels could use to offset the cost of their daily food preparation. Outreach Committee chairperson Grace Ayscue prepared the grant application after consulting with Janice Christopher, president of Meals on Wheels.



In October, the parish was notified that we had been awarded a grant of \$3,000 for Meals on Wheels. Shortly thereafter Grace (on the right) and Deacon Al Prichard (on

left) presented the check to Janice Christopher (center).

In a thank-you letter to the parish, Janice Christopher commented that “community support makes our Meals on Wheels service possible...Your support affirms this mission as a valuable service to the community enabling our clients to remain in a familiar home environment.”

It should be noted that a significant number of our parishioners currently are assisting—and in the past have assisted—Meals on Wheels as drivers and as board members. Former parishioner Scott Murdock is currently a director.

McCutcheon Opens Outreach Fund

by The Rev. Dn. Al Prichard

This past year, Bill McCutcheon established the St. Thomas à Becket Outreach Fund. It is a permanent endowment fund to provide support to our parish, specifically for the purchase of goods and services for our community outreach efforts in Monongalia County or contiguous counties. The funds shall be prioritized for use to support:

1. Basic needs such as adequate food, shelter, and clothing.
2. Access to adequate health care.
3. Where applicable, access to basic education.
4. Any future, as yet undetermined, needs approved by our Outreach Committee as being within the original spirit and intent of the endowment.

The fund shall not support administrative expenses and shall be independent from the parish's annual budget as established by our Vestry and Finance Committee for community outreach.

This fund has been established at Your Community Foundation of North Central West Virginia, Inc. (YCF). The principal is invested, and the annual earnings may be used for our outreach efforts. The fund was established at \$10,000.

We have the opportunity to make this fund grow through any of the following ways:

- A personal contribution, perhaps in memory of a loved one
- Special event proceeds
- A gift in your estate plans
- IRA distribution
- Stock transfer

For questions about YCF or information on how to contribute to the fund, please contact Patty Showers Ryan, YCF president, at (304) 296-3433 or patty@ycfwb.org.

Thank You, Ann Claycomb



Our parish thanks Ann Claycomb for her five years of voluntary service as the director of the Youth Church. Her dedication to creating a program for the children in 4th through 8th grades has allowed those involved to continue learning and growing in their faith.

Ann developed intellectual discussions and innovative activities. St. Thomas would like to acknowledge her passion and her foresight in creating the program our parish needed. We will honor Ann in person in January.

Read About Vestry Candidates, Vote at Annual Meeting January 21, 2018



Amanda Bostian

Amanda is originally from Charlotte, NC, and has been an active member of several Lutheran churches throughout North Carolina. She moved to Morgantown in 2014 when her husband, Phillip, matched

for his orthopedic surgery residency at West Virginia University (WVU).

Amanda and Phillip have two children—Reed (5) and Kinsley (2)—and reside in the Cheat Lake area. The family has been attending St. Thomas à Becket since 2015.

Amanda graduated in 2007 from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with a B.S. degree in business administration. She was the president of her sorority and involved in the community. She has been working in banking at BB&T since 2010 and currently serves as an audit manager for an operational risk audit team.

Amanda feels privileged to be considered for a position in the Vestry and hopes that she can contribute to the congregation in a positive way.



Linda Durfee

Linda and her husband, Paul Henneberger, have attended St. Thomas à Becket since January 1996. Their daughter, Katherine, was baptized and confirmed here.

She was privileged to serve as a Vestry member from 1997 through 2000. During that time she helped renovate and organize the church nursery, plan our first “Mayhem” auction, design the new *Canterbury Cross* newsletter, and establish outreach activities with the Salvation Army and Mon County Habitat for Humanity.

After moving to Morgantown from the Boston area, she began work as a freelance copyeditor; she also worked part-time for 10 years as a reference librarian in the WVU libraries. She is an active community volunteer: She sat on the Parents’ Place board for three years, volunteered for nine years in the Monongalia County schools, was a founding member of the Morgantown Municipal Green Team, and is currently serving her third five-year term on the Morgantown Public Library System Board of Trustees.

As a “cradle” Episcopalian, over the years she has been a member of a variety of parishes—in small towns and big cities, from Massachusetts to Illinois to Colorado. Most notably, she sang in the St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral choir in Denver for four years and served a Vestry term at Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester, MA. In addition, she attended Bishop Barbara C. Harris’s historic consecration in Boston in 1989!

This is an exciting time for our church, and she is honored to be a Vestry candidate. If elected to the St. Thomas à Becket Vestry in January, she hopes to begin a Vestry conversation regarding ways in which we might implement additional

“sustainable” practices and activities, and thus improve our parish’s stewardship of God’s creation.



Stacey Elza

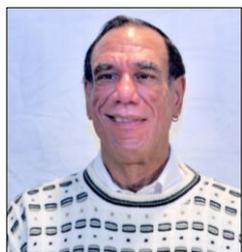
When Stacey first attended St. Thomas in 2015, it was the first time she’d attended church in at least a decade. (She was raised Methodist but had been an atheist since college.

As she says, “the joke’s on me!”)

Her husband, Adam Komisaruk, is an associate professor of English at WVU and a member of the Tree of Life Synagogue. Their daughters are Josephine (7) and Alice (4). She works at the WVU Health Sciences Center as a research writer, composing news stories about research in the schools of medicine, pharmacy, nursing, public health, and dentistry.

She is a member of the St. Thomas à Becket Outreach Committee. She is in her second year of the four-year Education for Ministry course offered by Sewanee University. She earned her master’s in fine arts (in creative writing) from WVU.

If she were elected, she would look forward to learning more about the inner workings of St. Thomas and the role it plays in our diocese. She also—idiosyncratically enough—looks forward to locking up the church after everyone has left on Sunday. To her, that seems so peaceful, straightforward, and practical, unlike much of her day-to-day life!



Cary Johnson

Cary is a lifelong Episcopalian. He was baptized and confirmed at St. James, North Charleston. He went to Peterkin from 8th through 12th grade.

He first met the Rev. Charles “Snork” Roberts (our first rector) during his time in Episcopal Youth Conference. When he came to finish his education at WVU and later met his partner, Michael, he attended Christ Church, Fairmont, from 1985 through 1989. He then started attending St. Thomas. He and Michael found a communal and spiritual home at St. Thomas.

He served on the Vestry in the mid '90s, and more recently from 2013 through 2015. He was in the choir for several years and then joined the Special Events Committee. He is also currently an acolyte and an usher. His passion for cooking allowed him to coordinate the church luncheons for the Special Events Committee. He assisted in making them successful, thus helping to pay off the mortgage. He is now using this talent in his position as chair of the Fellowship Committee.

He looks forward to continuing to serve St. Thomas as a Vestry member, finding a new priest for our congregation, increasing pledges, and continuing the good works of our church.

CENTERING PRAYER TO RESTART

by Tom Waggoner

St. Thomas à Becket is resurrecting regular meetings in the Columbarium of the church to practice Centering Prayer starting Saturday, January 13, at 9 a.m.

At this first meeting, we will discuss the nature of Centering Prayer and how to get started. We will engage in one or two short meditations. In the past, we met every other Saturday at 9 a.m., but that is all subject to review.

Call Tom Waggoner at (412) 691-4106 with any questions.

Letters from Bishop Alex Black

Although Bishop Alex Black has moved away and is no longer supply clergy for us at St. Thomas, he certainly has not forgotten us. Soon after his move to Mars, PA, this fall he sent the church a little note with his new address. In the note he thanked us for our gift and the coffee hour we held in his honor.

He will be “doing” some worship services for the Lutherans in his new community. But with his typical good humor, he says that after 16 years of supplying for us, he may find them “to be dull and stodgy.”

In December, he sent a Christmas letter to us and to all his family, friends, and former neighbors. In it he spoke of the move last fall and his family’s activities.

He and Eleanor are now members of the St. John Community, a Lutheran retirement center in Mars. They “have begun life there in a lovely apartment building.” Their apartment has two bedrooms and two bathrooms and is located “right down the hall from the dining room.”

As circumstances change, they will have the ability to move on to various levels of care. Thankfully, health-wise, they have had nothing new or dramatic going on. Just like others, they have “adapted to this senior citizen business of dilapidation and deterioration.”

For those who may wish to write him, his new address is 1500 Graham Way, Apt. #111, Mars, PA 16046.

A THANK-YOU NOTE TO THE PARISH

Thank you to everyone who purchased gifts for our Angel Tree Family. You helped us to provide a family of eight with a Christmas dinner and with gifts for everyone.

The Angel Tree with gift tags was set up again on Sunday, Dec. 3. As in past years, we had a quick turn-around. But, thanks to you, we were able to get this accomplished in time to deliver everything to the Salvation Army for Christmas.

Our thanks also to Patty Harman, Anne Greza, and Grace Ayscue for coordinating this annual outreach effort.



Neha Lal

Neha, who is originally from India, moved to Morgantown in the summer of 2012. She and her husband, Marlin Dehoff, have been active members of St. Thomas à Becket since then. She was baptized and confirmed here in 2016.

She has been a part of the Special Events Committee and Fellowship Committee, and has enjoyed planning events for the parish.

Neha has a master’s degree in neuroscience from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and a master’s in integrated biology from the Pasteur Institute in Paris. She currently works in research at WVU, as well as farms with her husband. They grow organic heirloom vegetables.

Neha is honored to be considered for the Vestry. She and her husband adore being a part of this warm community. She looks forward to being a voice for the members of St. Thomas, especially through the pastoral search process.



John Pearson

John, who was born in England, has lived in many places around the world and in the United States. A retired physician, he has B.A., M.A., and M.B. degrees from Cambridge and an M.P.H.

degree from Yale. He has been on the faculty of Yale, Manchester, Brown, Ottawa, and West Virginia universities.

He has lived in Morgantown for 41 years. After being members of Trinity Episcopal Church for more than a year, John and his wife, Joyce, joined St. Thomas a Becket “soon after it began operations.” He has three children: Dan, Jeff, and Amy.

At St. Thomas he has been a member of the choir for many years. He has no specific goals while on the Vestry; however, he does expect to learn a great deal.



SOUP AND BREAD LUNCHEON

February 24, 2018

11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Hazel & JW Ruby Community Center
500 Mylan Park Lane - Chaplin Hill Road
Morgantown, West Virginia

*Tickets on sale now for a minimum donation of \$20 each.
Children under 10 eat free, but do not receive a ceramic bowl.*

Our Worship Schedule

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.

Please contact us at

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church

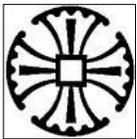
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January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Epiphany (No service)
7 Rev. Tony Setley 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir Outreach Comm. Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch.	8 Parish Hall RSVD Spears	9	10 Backpack Feeding Program at SRSB 12:30 p.m.	11 Vestry Mtg. 7 p.m.	12	13 Centering Prayer 9 a.m.
14 Bishop Mark Van Koevering 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch.	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Rev. Tony Setley (One service) 9:30 a.m. Rite II ANNUAL MEETING With Pot Luck Brunch (immediately after service)	22 <i>New Deadline:</i> <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Articles Due</i>	23	24	25	26	27
28 Rev. Elizabeth Hadaway 8 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Becket Choir 10:30 a.m. Rite II Sunday Sch. / Youth Ch. Becket Arts! 3 p.m.	29	30	31	<i>Remember these important dates:</i> <i>Bishop Mark's Episcopal Visitation</i> January 14 <i>Our Annual Parish Meeting</i> January 21		