



# THE CANTERBURY CROSS

## January 2019

St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church | Morgantown, WV

### THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR ANGEL TREE FAMILY

By Grace Ayscue



(From left) Patty Harman, Fr. Tony Setley, and Grace Ayscue deliver Angel Tree items to the Salvation Army.

A warm “Thank you” to everyone who contributed to the parish’s 2018 Salvation Army Angel Tree! We were able to provide an abundant Christmas to a young family who had been homeless, lacking the most basic possessions, and had just received a HUD voucher for an apartment and assistance with furniture.

Patty Harman made the original contact with the Salvation Army and together with Anne Greza set up the Angel Tree in the Parish Hall. Members of our congregation, as usual, stepped up to select gift tags and purchase Christmas presents for parents Candice and Mark, girls Aubrey (6) and Eleanor (2), and baby boy Titus. We provided shoes, clothing, undergarments, and outerwear for everyone. We also gave books and toys for the children; kitchen, dining, and bathroom necessities; decorations for the new home; a vacuum cleaner; and equipment and wood for Candice’s hobby of wood burning. In addition, we donated a box of food remaining from the Thanksgiving Basket collection and \$325 in gift cards for Walmart and Kroger.

When Patty, Father Tony, and I delivered two carloads of gifts to the Salvation Army on December 10, April from the Salvation Army explained how the Angel Tree program works and the special role of churches like St. Thomas à Becket. Each year the Salvation Army identifies children among their Food Pantry families and obtains information from child. Sometimes the Salvation Army determines that a whole

household, not only the children, is especially needy, and one parents—sizes and toy preferences for each such family becomes the St. Thomas à Becket Angel Tree family. Again we are grateful to have this opportunity to serve the most needy people in our community.

### 2019 VESTRY NOMINEES

Carol Beall has been a member of St. Thomas since it began in 1979. Her participation in the life of the church has included organist, vestry member, Senior Warden, search committee chair, lay reader,



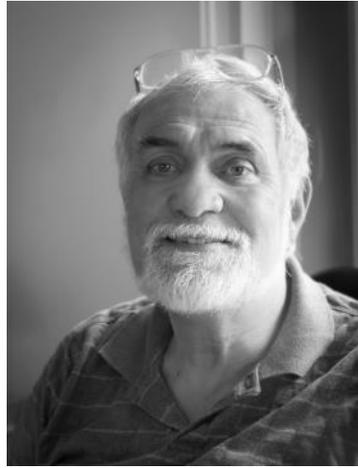
Eucharistic Minister, and Sunday School teacher. She also sits on the diocesan Commission on Ministry. Our Becket family is important to her. If elected, she will especially support the activities of the church which deepen our spiritual life together, those which support our outreach beyond our walls, and those which support our care and ministry to each other. She is active in the Morgantown music community as a piano teacher and performer, appearing regularly with the Allegheny Chamber Players. She is married to John Beall and has two adult children and two grandsons.



Rebecca Krehbiel is originally from Columbus, Ohio. She was baptized Episcopalian and grew up in the Episcopal Church. She and her husband, Jay, moved to Morgantown in the Fall of 2016 when her husband started a job teaching at WVU. A graduate of Davidson College (2009) and Washington University in St.

Louis School of Law (2014), Rebecca is a trusts and estates and tax attorney at Jackson Kelly in their Morgantown and Bridgeport offices. She has been attending St. Thomas for the past two years and is grateful for such a welcoming and nurturing spiritual community. Rebecca is honored to be considered for Vestry and hopes that, if given the opportunity, she can serve the church community faithfully and help to grow and strengthen the parish.

## 2019 VESTRY NOMINEES



**Greg Elmes** was born in Brighton, England and came to the United States in 1972 as a graduate student. He has a Ph.D. in geography and was professor at WVU from 1979 until 2015, when he retired.

Greg initially attended church at Trinity Morgantown and came to St. Thomas when his wife Jeanne was hired as music director about 20 years ago. He served on the vestry and was Senior Warden when the Rev. Dorothy Brown was

rector. Greg was a long time leader of a reading group between services. Jeanne and Greg have four children.

Greg is honored to be nominated for vestry and looks forward to help shepherd the St. Thomas community while we seek to hire a new permanent rector.

**Mark Dutkevich** was raised in Akron, Ohio. He has been a resident of West Virginia since 2014 when he came here after being recruited for a position at United Hospital Center with Dr. Grant Franklin. Mark has been employed as a Physician Assistant at UHC since 2013. His wife Rose came to join him in West Virginia soon after. Initially residing in Fairmont where they attended Christ Episcopal Church, they purchased a home in the Brookhaven area in 2015 and soon after began attending St



Thomas à Becket. While living in Akron, Mark was the adult leader for the youth group at First United Methodist Church in downtown Akron. Mark and his family moved to Toledo, Ohio where Mark was employed as a staff PA at Toledo Hospital. He left that position after 14 years to come to West Virginia. Both of their adult children are graduates of the University of Toledo and now live in the Cincinnati area. In his spare time Mark enjoys movies and theater, history both in books and travel, the ocean and gardening. Mark is honored to be a candidate for the Vestry.

Although confirmed in the Lutheran Church, **Kathy Fedan's** faith journey brought her to St. Thomas à Becket in 1999 and she was received in the Episcopal Church by Bishop Klusmeyer soon thereafter. She currently serves on the Outreach and Fellowship Committees, is a member of the Altar Guild, and also is a greeter, usher, and reader at worship services. Kathy has been involved in numerous special events that have been held to raise funds to retire the church's



mortgage or raise funds for Capital Improvements. She has held her "day job" as a research statistician at CDC/NIOSH for 34 years. Kathy previously served on Vestry from 2009-2011, and was the Senior Warden during her last year on Vestry. Kathy feels privileged to be nominated for the next Vestry; she loves this congregation and would be honored to represent it as it continues to grow spiritually and literally.

**Brenda Swearingen** was born and reared in Shreveport, LA. Upon moving with her family to Morgantown in 1984, she joined St. Thomas à Becket, and has been an active member ever since. Brenda was on the inaugural committee for "Christmas in October," and served on that committee to reduce the church's mortgage for as long as the event was relative. She served two terms as Treasurer of the church and started the

Ministry to Each Other committee. She has also been a licensed Eucharist layperson to serve shut-ins, and has volunteered as a reader.

Brenda has served with multiple groups in town

including Service League, Soup Kitchen at Trinity, assisting one of the collegiate chapters on the WVU campus as an advisor and The Medical Auxiliary. She has been a member of St. Thomas for 34 years and is excited to see what is in store for the next chapter of our church's life. It would be an honor to serve on the Vestry of our church.



Christian Help has gratefully received our donations to the "Warm Coats from Warm Hearts" collection spearheaded by Neha Lal and Marlin Dehoff. Parish members have been generous with

donations, and Christian Help is able quickly to place our gently used, clean coats and winter clothing into the hands of people who need them. The wintertime need in our community is ongoing and great. Please continue to place your donations in the bin in the Narthex. Thank you!

## BEHIND THE SCENES

By Annette Buchanan

Republished with permission from the [Episcopal Church Foundation Vital Practices](#), with St. Thomas à Becket's Stewardship Committee's answers in the boxes.

This Thanksgiving I visited my young cousin who was hosting his first dinner. Just before leaving he said to me, "I now really appreciate all the dinners you've hosted over the years. *I did not realize what happened behind the scenes* as I always arrive in time to eat and then leave after an evening of fun. It's a lot of work!"

For many years at our church, five large containers of bread and pastries are donated weekly by a local restaurant to our Feeding Outreach Ministry. A new vestry member was surprised on discovering that behind the scenes each week someone had to pick up the containers and bread, and others had to sort and bag the bread and clean the containers, in addition to completing an annual application. We laughed and asked if she thought the "Bread Fairy" did all the work. **[Aurie and Bob Acciavatti transport the donations to Scotts Run Settlement House each month when they go to help fill weekend backpacks of snacks for the school children eligible for the free/reduced lunch program.]**

There are so many places in our church life where members of our congregations do not know or have not been told what happens behind the scenes. If we characterize this obliviousness in stewardship language, knowing what is going on behind the scenes with our time, talent and treasure is critical to the health of our congregations.

For example, with regard to time and talent, do we know who is opening [Deacon Al and Fr. Tony] and closing the church [vestry members in rotation], planting the flowers [Alice Frost, Neha Lal and Marlin Dehoff], changing the lightbulbs [Bob Acciavatti], replacing the torn hymnals, balancing the checkbook [PJ Henry], counting the offering [counters led by Dede Burnell], ordering the wine and the wafers [Alice Meehan and Linda Yost], and creating and printing the bulletins? If there is paid staff for all these tasks that's great, but increasingly congregations need volunteer

help to complete these duties.

Additionally, with regard to treasure, do we know how the money we tithe to the church is being used [[see the "Where Does My Pledge Go?" infographic from last month's newsletter](#)], do we know if it is enough [not quite], how much others are giving [highest annual pledge is \$22,100, lowest annual pledge is \$500, mean (average) is \$3,828.10], whether the church is meeting its financial obligation each month [yes] and when it doesn't, how do we handle the shortfall? [we have accumulated a small cash reserve, thanks in part to the lack of a full-time rector].



Photo by Jeff Fedan

It is important that members are active in the life of the church - it prevents burnout of volunteers, rebuilds the talent pool, encourages shared leadership and a sense of ownership as problems and solutions are recognized and discussed. Likewise, leaders should endeavor to communicate information to congregations, removing the mystique and asking for help when needed. These collaborations will help us to progress toward a stronger worshipping community.



Members of the altar and flower guilds enjoy a brunch in December. From left: Susan Butler, Joyce Smyth, Debbie Zaniwski, Linda Yost, Patti Kisner, Alice Meehan, Cheryl Prichard, Lynn Harper. Photo by Margot Racin.

## Our Worship Schedule

The Rev. Tony Setley, Interim Rector  
The Rev. Al Prichard, Deacon



### Sunday

8:00 a.m. (Rite I, spoken)

10:30 a.m. (Rite II, with music)

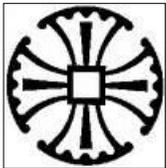
*Nursery care and Sunday School with children's worship are offered during the 10:30 a.m. service.*

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